

the Range Suits to \$35.00

Fit-Reform standards.



it must Fit-Reform

economy of quality. You

Fit-Reform in guarantee

needs - be Fit-Reform

with what grade, hands.

Simply be you wish

friendship and

Prompt Attention Application.

Wardrobe

et, Victoria.

Vancouver ce Rupert.

TEA

Ceylon Tea

hear of a customer who is

back principle and we

order a pound when next

ND

h Grocery

GLAS STREETS

anges

Their cooking and baking

and beauty of design

COMPANY, Ltd.

Phone 82.

ity will shortly take a referendum

RIVAL FORCES MEET IN BATTLE

FALL OF BLUEFIELDS NOW SEEMS INEVITABLE

President Madrid Sends Reinforcement to Army Engaging Revolutionists Near Capital

(Times Leased Wire.) Bluefields, Nic., May 25.—(By wire to Colon.)—Juan J. Estrada, revolutionary leader, driven to the last ditch, is fighting desperately to-day to prevent the capture of the customs house on the bluffs overlooking Bluefields. This position is considered the key to the city.

A gunner's duel which began yesterday and continued throughout the night is still in progress, while the soldiers of Madrid to-day have made charge after charge on the Estrada soldiers.

Should Madrid force Estrada's surrender he will call on Commander Gilmer of the United States gunboat Paducah, for permission to enter the city. If permission is granted, Madrid probably will attempt to enter Bluefields by force.

The fall of Bluefields seems inevitable. The Madrid forces are fighting desperately against the machine guns of the army. Many of the Estrada's army have been repulsed, they are raising for another attack and reinforcements are being hurried up to add weight to the onslaught.

Five hundred men, landed last night by the gunboat Venus on the bluffs below Bluefields, are to-day bombarding the customs house and raking Estrada's forces with a heavy fire from light field guns.

Americans operating field guns are the main reliance of the Estrada forces. The deadly fire from the machine guns has turned many of the charges.

The roar of the battle can be plainly heard in Bluefields to-day and terror-stricken women and children are running through the streets. Many foreigners have gone to their consulates for protection and the consuls are ready to serve notice on Madrid should his forces finally reach the city, that they will not be responsible for any violation of neutrality will be considered as a warlike move by the nations they represent.

The gunboat Paducah is really the key to the situation to-day, with machine guns landed in the city and the guns of the gunboat commanding the harbor, it is expected the Paducah will be the only power that can maintain order and prevent the pillage of Bluefields if the Madrid forces win. American residents have been assured that they will be protected. Commander Gilmer is firm in his stand that the government troops must not enter the city.

News of the fighting is brought to the city by courier. The lines are drawn within the streets of Bluefields. The Madrid forces are superior in number and equipment, though the American-manned machine gun battery is a powerful factor in Estrada's favor.

Scrimishing which has been going on for three days and the heavy cannonading of yesterday with the repeated onslaughts to-day have wearied Madrid and Estrada's advantage in position is telling slightly in his favor. It is believed, however, that the defenders of the city cannot hold out much longer.

Heavy loss of life is reported in the fighting. Couriers declare that Madrid forces have suffered most, but many of Estrada's soldiers have been killed, and a little stream of wounded is being borne constantly to the city.

The landing of the flanking party by the Venus has greatly weakened Estrada's position. A concerted attack from the land force and the main force of the government soldiers, it is believed, would force Estrada to abandon the customs house and the defenders would be pushed to the very gates of the city.

TENDERS IN FOR ASPHALT

WERE CONSIDERED AT MONDAY NIGHT'S MEETING

Estimates Given of Cost of Paving Cook, St. Charles, Southgate Sts., and Linden Ave.

Much interest attaches to the tenders for the asphalt paving program which the city will carry out this season, which were considered at Monday evening's meeting of the city council. Bids were received from the Warwick Paving Company, the Barber Paving Company, of Seattle, the Pacific Paving Company, Albert Pike and City Engineer Smith. Previous to the tenders being opened J. H. Lawson, Jr., of Bodwell & Lawson, who was present, preferred a request that the time for receiving bids be extended a further period of ten days to suit the wishes of several clients. The council, on considering the matter, came to the conclusion that to extend the time would be unfair to those firms whose bids were already in, and the request was therefore refused.

The streets which it is intended to improve with asphalt pavements this year are Cook, the Parkington, the West St. Charles, from Fort to Rockland; avenue; Southgate, from Vancouver to Cook; and Linden avenue from Fort to Dallas road.

The Warwick Company submitted the following bids: Cook, \$30,850.07; St. Charles, \$12,904.50; Southgate, \$5,681.20; Linden avenue, \$42,966.72. Albert Pike tendered on but one street—St. Charles—at \$20,558.60.

The Pacific Paving Company did not submit a tender in bulk sum, but worked out the specifications in quantities. The work done under the direct supervision of that official, and the advocates of the day labor system on civic work would be prepared to have the city do the work, even if the cost were a little higher. Some, however, that the Warwick Company is much below the figures quoted by the city engineer on each street, it will be difficult for the council to show cause why a tender should not be awarded to that firm.

There is a conviction that the Warwick Company will be the lucky firm in respect to getting the first asphalt work to do for the city. It has been known for some time that the firm mentioned have been preparing to put up a large plant in the city, at an expenditure of about \$200,000, giving employment to a large force of men, and this fact will no doubt weigh with the board when awarding the contract.

PROSPECTOR'S SUICIDE. Kaso, May 24.—E. M. Harris was found dead in his cabin about one mile from the K. & S. track, near Spruce. The discovery was made by two hunters, who were travelling the hills in that neighborhood, and dropped in to see him. A horrible sight met their eyes. A gun was found near the body, one end of which was wound round the dead man's hand, bearing silent testimony as to how and where he died.

A gun was found near the body, one end of which was wound round the dead man's hand, bearing silent testimony as to how and where he died. The old prospector had not been seen around for about two weeks, but his absence did not occasion any comment. The unfortunate man was an old time prospector in this section and held a number of claims on Bear creek.

MESSAGES ISSUED BY KING GEORGE New Ruler Says He Will Follow in His Father's Footsteps

London, May 25.—On the occasion of the anniversary of Empire Day, King George issued two gracious messages to the colonies and India, somewhat similar in style to the message which he addressed to the nation.

In both he refers to his previous tours through the respective dominions, promises to follow in his father's footsteps, uphold constitutional government, safeguard the liberties of the colonial empire, and devote himself to the well-being of the Indian people.

With reference to the rumors that it is the intention of the Queen Mother Alexandra in the future to live in Denmark, a court circular announces that Alexandra will always look upon England as her home.

Will Not Celebrate Birthday. Ottawa, May 25.—A cablegram received by the secretary of state announces that his majesty the king has decided that his birthday shall not be celebrated this year, either in the United Kingdom or in the Dominions beyond the seas. The king's birthday occurs on June 3rd.



AN APPETISER. JOHN BULL—"Yes, I think a little jaunt like that next year will perhaps improve my appetite."

THREE WINS FOR VICTORIA TEAMS

RECORD IN ATHLETICS ESTABLISHED TUESDAY

Scottish Sports, Lacrosse and Ball Games Draw Big Holiday Crowds

Victoria athletes marked a new page in "Victoria Athletics" Tuesday, and placed a big mark against Victoria Day sports for future years to equal when they succeeded in winning the three games played in the city and equaling the mile record at the Nanaimo sports, where the track team that went up carried off a full share of the prizes and were winners of a large percentage of events.

The Victoria lacrosse team opened the day with a demonstration at the Royal Athletic park at the morning, defeating Vancouver's picked amateur team by eight goals to three and playing brilliantly in all four quarters.

In the afternoon the Victoria ball team trimmed the Mallanders handsomely by four to two, winning their first game this season, and after the game the third victory of the day was secured by the Beacon Hill team, which defeated the Clon nine by nine to two.

The local athletes at the Nanaimo sports secured a number of victories, the principal of which was John P. Sweeney's win in the mile event, at which he equalled the provincial track record for the distance.

The day passed off successfully, and without an accident of any kind being reported to the police. Threatening showers fell about mid-day, but the rain passed over.

The lacrosse game in the morning was witnessed by over 1,500 people, and the ball games in the afternoon drew upwards of two thousand.

At Oak Bay the St. Andrew's Society held their annual sports and carried out the programme in a most successful manner. There was an attendance of two thousand, all the events of the programme were well-filled and keenly contested, the prizes being valuable and eagerly sought after.

WOMAN REFUSES TO TELL HER AGE Faces Hearing on Charge of Declining to Answer Questions of Census Enumerator

WILL ABOLISH WARD SYSTEM

PREPARING BY-LAW TO EFFECT CHANGE

Oak Bay Council Receives Petition Signed by More Than Half Ratepayers

The collectors of the Oak Bay council have orders preparing a by-law providing for the abolition of the ward system of electing councillors in the municipality. This is the latest move in that district, which came up at Monday night's meeting as a report from the roads committee, and was passed without discussion.

A petition was circulated in the municipality asking for the abolition of the ward system, representing more than half the assessed value of the district. It is probable that the by-law will be passed in the near future and that at the next election there will be no wards, all the councillors being elected as the representatives of all the people of the district.

Considerable discussion took place over the matter of sewer and drainage systems. Councillors Hargreaves, and Sproule favored a combined system, while the rest of the council did not think this desirable. Councillor Hargreaves referred to a recent report of the sanitary committee, which recommended the combined system. This was common everywhere in England, where there were very few places that had separate systems. It was more convenient and gave less trouble.

In another matter the council was divided along the same lines. D. H. McDowell wrote to the council asking if they would sell the old school and the land on which it stands for the sum of \$2,000 cash.

Councillor Pemberton said that the land itself was worth \$2,000, and price which had been set on it by the council, and he favored sticking to that price. He moved that the offer be not accepted, the motion being seconded.

Councillor Sproule then moved, seconded by Councillor Hargreaves, that the matter be referred to the finance committee for report.

ACCEPTS VERNON CALL. Rev. G. Anderson of Glasgow, New Pastor of Baptist Church.

FAVORS SUNDAY GAMES. Boston, Mass., May 25.—Mayor John F. Fitzgerald announced that he will submit a bill to the next legislature providing that Sunday sports be declared legal and that playgrounds be kept open Sunday.

PLANT WRECKED BY EXPLOSION

FIRE BREAKS OUT IN HITT BROTHERS' FACTORY

Timely Alarm Enables Employees to Escape From Buildings—Located Near Seattle

(Times Leased Wire.) Seattle, Wash., May 25.—A busy workman in the Hitt Brothers fireworks plant at Columbia City, a suburb, fled from the place two minutes before an explosion and fire destroyed one half of the plant this morning.

One girl, Bessie Moore, employed in the pin wheel department, was badly cut in jumping through a window as the cry of "fire" was raised. She continued to run, however, and escaped the explosion.

A workman saw smoke coming from store room No. 2 at 10:25 this morning. He gave the alarm that vacated the plant. Two minutes later the store room blew up. A second later store room No. 3 exploded, then store room No. 2 with 250 pounds of powder, and finally the paint shop, where two minutes before Miss Moore with ten others had been making pin wheels. The force of the explosions were terrific. Fire followed and sky-rockets, pinwheels and various other pyrotechnics shot into the air in a brilliant display.

Every department of Seattle fire fighters answered the alarm and ambulances were hurried to Columbia City. No one ventured near the blazing plant until the arrival of the firemen. In the meantime rumors many being killed and injured were rife.

The main store room was saved by the firemen. The loss is \$10,000. Hitt Brothers, referred to in the above dispatch, are well known to Victorians, having been in business for a number of years here. They formerly manufactured fireworks at a factory on the Esquimalt road, and carried out several successful pyrotechnic displays at various celebrations in the city. They left here two years ago.

CANADA'S TRADE CONTINUES TO GROW Returns for April Show Increase of \$10,985,040 Over Same Month Last Year

Ottawa, May 25.—Canada's trade for April, the first month of the fiscal year, shows a great increase, totalling \$45,983,894, a betterment of \$10,985,040, or over 31 per cent compared with the same month last year. Imports for domestic consumption totalled \$30,682,438, a betterment of \$8,615,765, or 38 per cent. Domestic products exported amounted to \$14,907,681, a betterment of \$2,444,884, or 22 per cent.

ACCUSED OF MURDER. May's Landing, N. J., May 25.—A duplicate of the plea calling at Atlantic City, where Miss Agnes Adams lost her life while in the company of William Seyler, charged with her murder, was set up in the court room here to-day by the defence.

TRADE RELATIONS WITH STATES

NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING RECIPROCITY DELAYED

Canadian Ministers Will Not Deal With Matter Until Next Autumn

Ottawa, May 25.—Negotiations between Canada and the United States looking to reciprocity arrangements are likely to be taken up before next autumn. Before the conclusion of the tariff arrangements in March last the United States secretary of state, P. C. Knox, in a letter to the Canadian Minister of Finance expressing President Taft's satisfaction with the outcome, wrote:

"I am then taking this opportunity to express by his direction the desire of the president that your government find it convenient to take up with this government at such time and in such manner as may be mutually satisfactory, the consideration of a readjustment of our trade relations upon the broader and more liberal lines which should obtain between countries so closely related geographically and racially as indicated by the president in his recent public utterances."

These sentiments Hon. W. S. Fielding, in his reply, reply courteously reciprocated, yet it is an open secret that notwithstanding President Taft's "public utterances" it was tacitly understood that the United States government was in no hurry to proceed with reciprocity negotiations. The threatened difficulty over the situation created by the Payne-Aldrich tariff had been overcome, the administration at Washington was satisfied with the result for the time being and evidently had no desire to have a re-opening of the question.

But the issue was one which would not flow. Disatisfactions of the new tariff grew greater until it obtained recognition as one of the prime causes of the Republican revolt. Discontent with the pulp and paper subsidy was markedly manifest. It had worked out apparently to the disappointment of both paper consumer and paper manufacturer in the United States. In the case of the province of Ontario, the tariff on the export of pulp wood cut in crown land was penalized by the Payne-Aldrich tariff more heavily in the matter of retaliatory duty on paper than was the original provision. The result of a mere drawback of 25 cents a cord in favor of domestic manufacture of pulpwood.

Pressure seems to have been brought to bear on the United States government to re-open without delay negotiations with this country looking to readjustment of tariffs, hence the assertion in recent Washington press dispatches that an intimation had been conveyed to the government at Ottawa that the United States administration was ready to enter promptly upon negotiations with this country upon broad lines between the two countries.

It is not denied that such a communication has been received, but appearances are altogether unfavorable to the prospect of a definite compliance with this desire of the Washington authorities in this regard. In consequence it would seem of the original understanding that President Taft did not consider an early resort to reciprocity negotiation to be necessary or convenient, the Dominion proceeded to make "other arrangements," thus Mr. Fielding who has had charge of the Canadian end of the tariff discussions, planned a trip to England in the early days of June. Sir Wilfrid Laurier booked himself for an extended tour of the western provinces, and other ministers arranged for more or less lengthy periods of absence from the Capital. Reciprocity conferences will therefore have to be relegated to the list of later engagements. Meantime there are accumulating protests from many influential quarters against the conclusion of any reciprocity arrangements whatever with the United States.

CURTISS PREPARES FOR LONG FLIGHT Will Attempt to Fly 143 Miles in Aeroplane Which is Only 30 Feet Long

New York, May 25.—Glenn H. Curtiss to-day left for Poughkeepsie to select a safe landing place for the one stop he expects to make in his attempted aeroplane flight to-morrow from Albany to New York. Curtiss will make the flight in an effort to capture the \$10,000 prize offered by the New York World.

Under the terms of the prize offer, the aviator will be allowed to make two descents on the journey. Curtiss, however, expects to make only one. The distance by rail between New York and Albany is 143 miles.

The aviator plans to leave Albany at 4 o'clock in the morning and to drop into Poughkeepsie for petrol. He plans to make a final landing either at the Battery or on Governor's Island in New York bay.

Curtiss built his aeroplane especially for the Albany-New York flight. It is equipped with air-tight pontoons so that it will float should it fall into the river. The new machine is the smallest ever built for flight, according to Curtiss, the extreme length being 40 feet. An eight cylinder engine, one of the lightest ever constructed, will develop 60 horsepower to drive the shaft.

U. S. NAVY BILL. Washington, D. C., May 25.—The United States navy bill, carrying appropriations aggregating approximately \$130,000,000, which provision for two Dreadnought battleships, has been passed by the House. The measure carries \$3,000,000 more than the bill did as it passed the House.

PLOT TO KILL SPANISH RULERS

SUSPECTED CONSPIRATOR COMMITS SUICIDE

King's Bodyguards Have Been Doubled—Another Revolutionary Outbreak Feared

(Times Leased Wire.) Madrid, May 25.—The revelation of a formidable plot to assassinate King Alfonso and Queen Victoria of Spain caused the doubling of the king's bodyguard to-day.

The death of Callemayor, by his own hand, after the premature explosion of a bomb, is regretted by the police, as they believe it prevents them from learning the identity of persons now engaged in further plots to kill the Spanish rulers.

Callemayor accidentally dropped a bomb on Monday on the street where Alfonso and the Queen were to pass in a carriage upon the former's return from England. The bomb exploded and wounded him. The police started to arrest him, but he shot himself and died.

Following Callemayor's suicide, the police ransacked his rooms and gathered evidence showing that plans to kill Alfonso and the Queen are still under way. The evidence threw no light upon the identity of the persons engaged in the plot.

Although Callemayor was injured by his own bomb and then took his life to escape arrest, open threats of vengeance for his death have been made. The police attribute the anonymous letters they are receiving to anarchists who have become active since the return of Alfonso from England.

Anti-Government Demonstrations. Barcelona, May 25.—The barracks in Barcelona and vicinity were filled with additional troops to-day in anticipation of a revolutionary outbreak. The reinforcements arrived in time to quell several anti-government outbreaks that took place in the streets to-day.

The editor of "Land and Liberty," an anarchist newspaper, was placed in jail this afternoon, following the assertion in the periodical that the recent bomb that took place in the streets to-day. The statement removes all doubt of the existence of a plot to assassinate the king.

The boldness of the editor is known to have caused delight among the "reds" and consternation among the authorities. It is believed in some quarters that it foreshadows a revolutionary movement. The police are greatly worried.

EIGHTEEN PERSONS INJURED. Cuchara Junction, Colo., May 25.—Eighteen persons were injured when two outrages here and at Madrid were derailed near here to-day. A broken rail is believed to have caused the accident. No one sustained serious injury.

FIGHT FOR FAIR. New Orleans, La., May 25.—Headed by Governor Sanders and a dozen other state officials, the Louisiana legislative deputation is bowing toward Washington to-day in respect to a fight for fair wages in New Orleans as the site for the proposed exposition to celebrate the completion of the Panama canal.

The issue of the delegation will lay New Orleans' claims before various congressional committees. The other legislators will lobby for the success of their plan.

FREIGHT TRAIN RUNS DOWN AUTOMOBILE Five Occupants Hurlled From Machine—Three Injured, One Probably Fatally

Portland, Ore., May 25.—The automobile struck by a string of freight cars on the United Pennsylvania tracks at Front and Main streets, early today, was hurled into the air. All five occupants were injured, one of them, a woman, probably fatally.

There were five passengers in the car when the accident occurred. All were hurled to the pavement when the heavy freight cars struck the machine and ploughed through it.

The automobile was driven by C. H. Harry Cummings and was owned by Thomas Case, manager of the Rempfalz hotel. Case, his wife and Mr. and Mrs. William Webber was in the car with Cummings. Mrs. Case was the most seriously injured. When picked up at the roadside, she was found to be suffering from severe injuries about the body and head. She may die. Cummings was thrown clear across the road, against a brick building and sustained dangerous bruises on the body. Case was also painfully hurt. The three injured were taken once to St. Vincent's hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Webber, the other occupants of the automobile, could not be found after the accident. It is supposed that their wounds were slight and that they hurried away from the scene.

The train was backing down the street when the auto approached from the left side. The trainman saw the danger of a collision and tried to stop but were not quick enough.

ADVERTISING CRESTON. Creston, May 24.—An enthusiastic meeting of the board of trade was held in the old board of trade rooms. The matter of having the co-operation of the Farmers' Institute and the Fruit Growers' Associations had not been heard from yet. The fruit fair question was given a month's hold. At this meeting the issue of five thousand pamphlets was satisfactorily arranged and a committee was appointed to secure subscriptions to help along the publicity committee of the board of trade.