er Ltd.
STORE

ND CLUB

ime Has

capital city has a
should be proud of.
we will have one of
ast.

Easter Display of
omen's Suits & Coats

ments that possess the master
uch of elegance and refinement,
at appeal to women who require
d demand something different
om the ordinary factory made
its and coats. We will put into
ock on Monday fifty new models
o two alike). Prices $20.00 to
5.00.

ES

ove all other days of the year.
ial than bonnet, suit of clothes or
ren's.
varied. Patent leathers still hold
wide ribbon ties predominate in

Women's Lace Boots

MEN'S PATENT COLT, turn sole,
ouis XV. extra high heel, lace
oot.
MEN'S CHOCOLATE, viel kid lace
oot, Blucher front, military heel.
MEN'S RUSSIAN LEATHER,
lucher cut lace boot, extension
ige, welted sole, military heel. A
plendid walking boot.
MEN'S PATENT COLT BUTTON
OOT, dull kid top, college last,
elt sole, military heel, ¾ seam-
ss foxing, extra outside extension
le, large buttons.
MEN'S WHITE KID TOP BUT-
ON BOOT, patent leather vamp,
elted sole, Cuban heel, opera toe.

Men's Shoes

N'S CHOCOLATE COLORED KID,
lucher cut, low lace shoe, Melted
le, Fenway last, stamped Keith's
onqueror, $6.00.
N'S PATENT COLT LOW LACE
HOE, welt sole, very dressy.
N'S BUTTON BOOTS, patent colt,
elt sole, $6.00.
N'S PATENT COLT, HIGH LACE
OOT, welt sole.
N'S RUSSIAN CALF, HIGH LACE
OOT, welt sole.

Misses' Shoes

SES' CHOCOLATE KID OX-
ORDS, turn sole, low heel, Bluch-
cut.
SES' HIGH LACE SHOE, Bluch-
r cut, welted sole, very dressy,
w heel, black, vici kid.
SES' CHOCOLATE HIGH LACE
HOE, Blucher cut, welted sole,
w heel.
SES' CHOCOLATE KID ONE
TRAP SLIPPERS.
SES' DONGOLA KID ONE
TRAP SLIPPERS.

yard.....$1.25

on dollars a year for efficiency, and
had a right to know if they were
ng value for it.
e speaker of the evening was
ly applauded.

The Celebrated
English Cocoa.
EPPS'S
n admirable food, with all
e natural qualities intact.
his excellent Cocoa main-
ins the system in robust
ealth, and enables it to resist
winter's extreme cold.
COCOA
The Most Nutritious
and Economical.

The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

VOL. XLVIII., NO. 15 — VICTORIA, B.C., FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 1906. — FORTY-EIGHTH YEAR.

TWO CONTRACTS LET FOR G. T. P.

Middle and Eastern Section of The Transcontinental Line Awarded.

MANY MILLIONS INVOLVED

Alleged Sale of Girls in B. C. Subject of Inquiry in the Commons.

OTTAWA, April 12.—(Special.)—At today's meeting of the cabinet, contracts for two sections of National Transcontinental railway were awarded respectively to J. D. McArthur, of Winnipeg for the western section from Winnipeg, 245 miles to Lake Superior junction and to Hogan and McDonald, for the eastern section of Quebec, northwesterly to La Tuque, 145 miles. McArthur's tender figured out on the basis of quantities as furnished by government engineers approximates $13,300,000 or about $250,000 less than the engineers' estimates. Hogan and McDonald's offer is in the neighborhood of $5,700,000 or nearly $750,000 lower than the engineers' estimates. It was this disparity which led Chairman Parent to stick out for a higher offer and for a while, the cabinet was pretty evenly divided upon the matter. Hogan and McDonald as well as McArthur, have each such splendid reputation as contractors that finally the government had no other alternative than to award the tenders to them, thus following the recommendation of the majority of the G. T. R. commission and

Turning Down Mr. Parent

The contracts cover grading, culverts, bridging and all other work, except the steel rails and ties, tenders for which will be asked shortly. The contractors are bound to use, as far as practicable, only material, machinery, plant, supplies and rolling stock manufactured or produced in Canada provided the same can be obtained as cheaply and upon as good terms in Canada as elsewhere, having a gap of about a thousand miles between La Tuque and Lake Superior junction, but it will be some time before the commissioners can ask for tenders for this section. Much depends upon rapidity with which construction is pushed upon the T. & N. O. railway to Abittibi, as this line will have to be utilized largely to reach the northern districts. It is reported tonight that there is some arrangements between Hogan and MacDonald and M. P. Davis to divide work on the eastern section, but if so, it is a private matter between them.

A contract for the 3,000-foot steel viaduct across Cap Rouge valley has been awarded to the Dominion Bridge company of Montreal, whose tender was approximately $250,000.

Female Slaves in British Columbia

Mr. Borden will move for a return of all correspondence between the minister of the interior and the superintendent under the Children's Protection act of British Columbia respecting the alleged sale and slavery in that province of young Indian girls.

The Fast Atlantic Service

H. A. Allan, who was in town again today, confirmed the report of an arrangement between the Allan line and the Canadian Pacific railway for the carriage of mails between Canada and Great Britain jointly by vessels of the two companies. The government will ratify the arrangement this week.

Oppose Klondike Railway

There was an interesting argument before the board of railway commissioners this morning on the application of the Klondike Mines Railway company for approval of its location plans between Grand Forks and Silver Springs, Y.T. Messrs. McGiverin and Hayden, of Ottawa, appeared for the company, which consists principally of English capitalists. A. N. C. Treadgold, the owner of the well known Treadgold concession, strongly opposed the application. Commissioner McInnes and J. W. Boyle were interested onlookers. Mr. McGiverin stated that the location plans had been on view in the city of Dawson, and the line was strongly endorsed by the miners, to whom it would be of great benefit when completed. Among other things, it would settle the question of the

Fuel Supply for Dawson

as in addition to tapping a well-wooded country it would facilitate the development of extensive coal measures at Indian River. Mr. Treadgold opposed the application on the ground that it would hamper the operation of his company, not only with regard to the supplying of water to the mines, but actually in mining operation of his company's concession. They would require to utilize a portion of the bed of Bonanza creek for dumping purposes, and if the line were authorized as shown in the plans, it would simply mean that his company would have no dumping ground. Decision was reserved.

The Oriental Mail Service

The contract between the Canadian Pacific Railway company and the Imperial government for the carriage of mails between Victoria and the Orient expired this week. The department of trade and commerce was notified today by cable from Lord Strathcona that negotiations for a renewal of the contract are progressing satisfactorily.

GRAIN ELEVATOR DESTROYED.

Fire Consumes $25,000 Structure at Wallaceburg.

Wallaceburg, Ont., April 12.—Fire today destroyed W. D. O'Leary's grain elevator. Loss, $25,000, partly covered by insurance.

THEIR GOLDEN WEDDING.

Well Known American Couple Receive Congratulations.

New York, April 11.—The Tribune says: The 50th wedding anniversary of Sir William Crooke and Lady Crooke was celebrated yesterday in London Congratulatory telegrams were sent to the couple by the American Chemical society, New York section, and the society of Chemical Industry, New York section. Prof. Crooke is considered the greatest living chemist and his discoveries were celebrated at Sir William's London house and at the Chemist club here last night. A prominent chemist, considered one of the greatest American mineral experts, who received an invitation to the London celebration said yesterday: "Sir Wm. Crooke has made possible the transmutation of metals, a very valuable discovery. He is the leader of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, is recognized by the learning chemists in this country. He is the discoverer of the rare metal called victorium. Only last week he showed by the spectrum that when this metal is mixed with calcium it will give different spectrum." Lady Crooke was Miss Ellen Humphrey of Middlesex.

STRUCK OIL GUSHER.

Well Near Merlin Flows a Hundred Barrels a Day.

Chatham, Ont., April 12.—The recently struck gusher on the farm of J. W. Smith near Merlin, is flowing a hundred barrels of oil a day.

NINE HUNDRED IMMIGRANTS.

Allan Liner Reaches Halifax With Crowds for Prairies.

Halifax, N. S., April 12.—Allan liner Corinthian arrived from Glasgow this morning with over nine hundred passengers, over eight hundred of whom will settle in western and eastern Canada. Malcolm MacLeod, a Scotchman, who had been in Canada for forty years and had been to his old home on a visit, died of pneumonia when the steamer was a week out. His home was at Prince Albert.

HAPPENINGS OF THE PACIFIC COAST

Racing Man Victim of a Bold Holdup in a 'Frisco Hotel.

PENDLETON, Ore., April 12.—(Special)—Major O. C. Edwards, superintendent of the Umatilla Indian reservation, has requisitioned the war department that soldiers be sent to Pendleton from Walla Walla barracks. Major Edwards declared there is no danger of an Indian outbreak, but that the troops are necessary to keep cattlemen from entering the reservation. The only force now available is four Indians, who guard many miles of road. Several cattlemen slipped into the restricted district last night.

Uncle Sam's Sailor Smugglers

Seattle, April 12.—(Special)—United States customs officers today proceeded to the Bremerton navy yard, in response to a request from Captain J. P. Merrill, commander of the battleship Oregon, who in a letter to Albert P. Mittel, deputy collector of customs at Seattle, stated that a complete list of all the goods held by the sailors would be furnished the authorities on demand. The customs officers here state that once the list is complete the goods will be appraised, after which those wishing to keep them can do so by paying the duty.

Bold Robbery in 'Frisco

San Francisco, April 12.—(Special)—Charles Carson, well known among racing men, was called to the door of a room in the Ashworth Hotel early today by two well dressed men. He noticed a third man standing in the hall. In an instant the two men who had knocked entered the room, placed black masks over their faces, and, pointing revolvers, commanded Carson to hold up his hands. He tried to call help, but was grasped by the throat and severely beaten on the head. He fell to the floor unconscious and was quickly robbed of $500 in cash, a watch worth $600 and some jewelry. The robbers made their escape before Carson had fully recovered consciousness.

SECOND PEACE CONFERENCE.

Russia Perfectly Willing to Accede to Roosevelt's Proposal.

Washington, April 12.—Baron Rosen, the Russian ambassador advised Secretary of State Root today, that the Russian government was entirely willing to have the meeting of the second Hague conference postponed.

MEETS GERMAN VETERANS.

Large Delegation Introduced to President Roosevelt.

Washington, April 12.—Ambassador Sternburg of Germany today presented to President Roosevelt at the White House, a delegation of about fifty officers, ex-soldiers and veterans of the German army. Many of them now are American citizens. They were accorded a cordial reception by the president who embraced the opportunity to deliver a brief but important speech to his callers. In his remarks, he made reference to the Moroccan conference which recently was successfully concluded. He extended to the German Emperor hearty personal felicitations and congratulation of the German people on the work accomplished at Algeciras. He expressed the belief that the result of the conference would be to render the more friendly relations between Germany and France.

DAY'S DOINGS AT FEDERAL CAPITAL

Witness Refuses to Divulge the Members of North Atlantic Trading Co.

V. AND W. Y. BILL READ

A Movement to Secure Renewal of Bonus on Iron and Steel Productions.

OTTAWA, April 11.—(Special)—The Vancouver, Westminster & Yukon Railway bill was read a third time, also the Crawford Bay & St. Mary's.

Considerable interest was manifested in the meeting of the committee on agriculture this morning. J. A. Smart, ex-deputy minister of the interior, had been summoned to be present to testify as to the affairs of the North Atlantic Trading Company, of which organization he is the Canadian agent. Mr. Monk conducted the examination. Mr. Smart said his work for the company consisted principally of transactions with the department of the interior. He was the original promoter of the company, but modestly ascribed its inception to W. T. R. Preston, Canadian emigration agent in London. In 1899 Mr. Preston had pointed out to him the opportunity for a successful propaganda on the continent of Europe. The company was formed and is at present composed of wealthy men all the continent. He declined to say who composed the company. In many European countries, he stated, it was forbidden by law to promote emigration, and he had therefore made a solemn promise to these gentlemen that their

Names Should Not Be Revealed

under any circumstances. It would embarrass them and destroy their work to have their identity known.

Mr. Monk insisted upon the information, and Mr. Sproule, suggested that the witness might submit his answers to a sub-committee, who would hold their discretion about reporting them to the committee.

Mr. Smart declined to do either. He said if the news were given by him he knew from experience what would happen. His testimony would be cabled to Europe and the company would suffer. He had given his solemn promise and was resolved to keep it.

Mr. Mackenzie, chairman, ruled that the witness be not required to answer.

Mr. Monk, seconded by Mr. Sproule, appealed from the ruling of the chair, but the appeal was lost by a party vote—yeas 24, nays 20.

In answer to other questions the witness stated that he did not know who was president, secretary or manager of the company. He stated, however, that to the best of his knowledge and belief neither Mr. Sifton nor Mr. Preston were interested in the company.

Fast Atlantic Service

H. A. Allan of the Allan line was here today to see the government in connection with an arrangement for dividing the trans-Atlantic mail service between the Allans and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. The idea is for the Allans to put on the Victorian and the Virginian, and the C. P. R. the two new Empresses.

Iron and Steel Bonus

Mr. Conmee, M. P. for Rainy River, will move a resolution in favor of renewing the bonus upon the production of iron and steel in Canada, but confining it to the product of Canadian ores or ores from any other British possession, thus shutting out American ores. He will also move that the duty be remitted upon coal coked in Canada and used for smelting purposes.

MINNESOTA REPORTS A DERELICT OFF FLATTERY

Great Northern Liner Sighted a Dismantled Ship Yesterday Afternoon.

PORT TOWNSEND, April 12.—(Special.)—The Great Northern liner Minnesota, which arrived here this evening at ten from Yokohama, reports having sighted a vessel in distress this afternoon off the Vancouver coast. The vessel was of four mast type and was dismantled to the lower masts. The Minnesota signaled the derelict at 2:50 p. m. in the position 18 west 1-4 south, true Cape Flattery. At that time a tug was seen near the vessel and soon after the tug was observed steaming in that direction. Owing to thick weather and a light gale prevailing, the Minnesota was unable to read the vessel's name and no signals were seen flying. The identity of the dismantled vessel is a matter of speculation as number of vessels of that rig are due on the Sound.

A Gale Prevailed

off the coast a few days ago and the unfortunate vessel was possibly caught at that time.

The Minnesota is anchored here awaiting quarantine inspection at daylight, as a case of smallpox developed on the Minnesota, while on the run between China and Yokohama where the victim was landed. It is not improbable that the big steamer will be sent to Diamond Point quarantine station in the morning. The ship's doctor, however, reports all well on board, the contagion not having spread. The quarantine officials have been very particular of late since the plague was reported, from South American ports and it would not be surprising if the big liner was sent to the smoke house for at least 24 hours. The Minnesota reports fair weather en route.

ABSENTEES DISCHARGED.

Workmen at Kingston Lose Jobs Through Absence Without Leave.

Kingston, April 11.—Twenty-five workmen were discharged from Kingston locomotive works this morning for remaining away from work yesterday, in order to take part in a reception tendered to Archbishop Gauthier. The men left without arranging with the foreman for absence. Other employees out of sympathy threatened to go on a strike unless the discharged men are reinstated.

VENEZUELA'S PRESIDENT.

Reported Retirement of Castro Is Not Officially Announced.

London, April 12.—The Venezuelan officials here have not been notified officially of the retirement of President Castro. To those who are interested financially in Venezuela, change in the presidency is not unwelcome. It is believed that Vice President Gomez who is acting as president will bring about better conditions in the republic by avoiding the dangers which threatened General Castro. On the stock exchange today, Venezuela bonds opened a quarter higher.

MISS EVA BOOTH RECOVERED.

New York, April 11.—Miss Eva Booth of the Salvation Army, who was recently reported to have been seized with a severe illness, has completely recovered. Her malady was tonsilitis.

SEEDING IN PROGRESS THROUGHOUT NORTHWEST

Prospects Most Favorable and Operations are Now General.

WINNIPEG, April 11.—James Murray, B. S. A., western representative of the seed grain division, has been appointed superintendent of fairs and institutes in Saskatchewan.

The Manitoba government has advanced the price of provincial lands from $4 and $5 per acre to $8 per acre.

Building permits issued this year to date total 630 buildings, costing $1,500,000. The corresponding figures last year were 487 buildings costing $1,136,000, and advance of $622,000.

The first report from Canadian Pacific agents regarding the progress of seeding operations was received today. The report of the agents indicates that seeding operations, while not in full blast, may be said to be general throughout the western provinces, and in some portions the work is far advanced on the main line west. Seeding has begun at many points, Burnside being the first district to

Report Operations as General

The conditions throughout the country are somewhat uniform, taken as a whole, and no large portion can be said to be much in advance of any other. On the whole, the spring is opening in a way quite satisfactory to those deeply concerned in the grain crop, in which number all Western Canada people may be said to be included. In addition to the report on the work of seeding, statistics are secured by the company showing the increase or decrease in acreage, a large majority of agents reporting an increase of from 5 to 10 per cent. In rare cases an increase of 25 per cent. is reported, and in a few instances there is a small decrease. At certain comparatively new points the increase is still larger. Weyburn, for instance, reports an increase of 40 per cent., Macoun 65 per cent., Dundurn on the Prince Albert line 50 per cent., and Stoughton on the Moose Mountain 35 per cent.

The board of trade today decided to make representation to the Dominion government with a view to obtaining an improved mail service between Great Britain and Canada. The board also decided to inaugurate a public subscription from this city for the Japanese famine fund.

TO COPPER RIVER.

J. McDonell and party Left Last Evening on Steamer Camosun.

Among the passengers on the steamer Camosun sailing for the North last evening was J. McDonell and party, who are on their way to Copper River in the Bulkley Valley. The party includes J. McDonell and son, J. Bartley, J. E. Hally, John and Jabez Ashman.

The party will go direct to Copper River, where Mr. McDonell has several mining properties, on which it is intended to do assessment work. After this work has been completed Mr. McDonell will continue his journey further inland, where he has made an application for a section of 640 acres, which he will examine as to its possibilities.

The party intend being away for about five months, and on their return they expect to be able to say that their work has proved satisfactory.

Mr. McDonell has for some time past been connected with the Savoy Theatre, but on that place of amusement being transferred he withdrew so that he could make this trip

OREGON LEAKED LIKE A SIEVE

U. S. Battleship Reported to be Out of Commission For Three Years.

CREW ADMIT SMUGGLING

Mrs. Raymond Is Charged With Death of Son and Attempting Suicide.

SEATTLE, April 11.—(Special.)—It is stated the Oregon leaked like a sieve when en route from the Orient, and that she will be out of commission for almost three years.

Members of the crew of the United States battleship Oregon, which arrived at Bremerton navyyard this morning, admit having brought thousands of dollars worth of dutiable goods to this country from the Orient. Certain of the sailors state that the average of $15 per man would cover the individual value of the merchandise. The crew claims nearly all of the goods were sent ashore at San Francisco, and very little now remains on board the vessel. The sailors do not appear to care what action the government official will take, some expressing willingness to pay duty, while others will allow the property to be confiscated. It is further claimed by the crew that Captain Clover, of the battleship Wisconsin, shipped four boxes of silks and curios to Mrs. MacArthur, wife of the son of General MacArthur.

Killed by a Train

Tacoma, April 11.—(Special.)—Dr. Thomas McCracken was killed at Puyallup this morning by a Northern Pacific passenger train which he was trying to catch. As he crossed the track he was seen to reel and fall. A moment later the train ran over him. The body was horribly mangled. He had practised medicine in Puyallup for eighteen years.

Killed Her Own Son

Los Angeles, April 11.—(Special.)—Mrs. Kate P. Raymond, wife of Frank Kellogg Raymond, clerk in the interior department at Washington, D. C., who yesterday caused the death of her 14-year-old son by gas asphyxiation and all but took her own life in the same way is improved today and no doubt is now entertained by the attending physicians of her recovery. She is still at home in Hollywood, but if she continues to gain strength it is likely she will be removed to the county jail before evening.

NOVA SCOTIA'S DEBT.

Premier Murray Lays Statement Before the Legislature.

Halifax, N. S., April 11.—Premier Murray, in presenting the financial returns to the assembly today showed the gross public debt of Nova Scotia is over eight million dollars, but the assets, including mortgages on the Halifax and Southwestern railway and other items, reduces that amount by nearly five million dollars, leaving net debt at a little over three millions.

EXPRESS AGENTS' GRIEVANCE.

Employees in Maritime Provinces Threaten to Strike.

St. John, N. B., April 11.—The Canadian Express company has been formally notified that a strike of their agents who are also agents of the Intercolonial railway and of Prince Edward Island railway, had been ordered to go into effect next Saturday at midnight. The dispute is over a question of rate of the commission.

C. P. R. AND ALLANS WILL CARRY THE MAILS

Fast Atlantic Service Will be Divided Between Two Companies.

MONTREAL, April 11.—It is announced that an understanding has now been arrived at between the government, the Allan Steamship company and the Canadian Pacific railway with regard to the terms and conditions upon which the Canadian Pacific Railway Atlantic steamship service will be allowed to participate in the subvention from the Dominion treasury for the transportation of mails between Canada and the United Kingdom. Hugh Allan has gone to Ottawa today to attend a conference with the members of the ministry, who are handling the matter. According to the report current in railway and shipping circles, the matter has been practically arranged. The C. P. R. steamers Empress of Britain and Empress of Ireland will share with the Allan turbiners Victorian and Virginian the carrying of the mails.

The Allan Line Steamship company has let a contract for releasing the steamship Bavarian, ashore on Wye Rock, to a London salvage company. The company's agent arrived here today and operations will be begun as soon as the ice disappears from the river.

At a meeting of the corporation of McGill university this afternoon, it was decided to grant the honorary degree of L.L.D. to Andrew Carnegie. The degre will be conferred at special convocation to be held on May 1st, on which day Mr. Carnegie visits Montreal to address the Canadian club. The degree is conferred on the ground of his great public liberality, his thoughtful and well-directed endowment of higher education and his earnest efforts in the cause of international peace.

PROMINENT NOVA SCOTIAN DEAD

Brother of the Late Senator Primrose Passes Away Aged 74 Years.

Pictou, N. S., April 12.—Howard Primrose, a leading citizen is dead, aged seventy-four years. He was a brother of the late Senator Primrose and was for many years manager of the bank of Nova Scotia in Pictou.

MINERS AT WORK.

Complete Force Resumes Labors in Irwin Fields.

Irwin, Pa., April 12.—A general report of conditions in the Irwin coal fields received here today shows that almost complete forces are again at work at all the mines.

U. S. SENATORS' ELECTIONS.

Important Resolution Introduced in Committee of Congress.

Washington April 12.—A resolution providing for the election of senators by direct vote of people has been favorably passed upon by the house committee on election of president, vice president and representatives in congress. The resolution which was introduced by Mr. Morris of Nebraska makes the term of members of the house four years instead of two years. Both propositions are to be accomplished by amendments to the constitution. Reasons why the term of members should be four years are stated to be because no party can inaugurate its policy in two years.

PRINCE ARTHUR IN GREAT WHEAT BELT

His Royal Highness Fully Impressed With the Fertile Prairies.

BRANDON, Man., April 12.—After the entertainment at the government house, Regina, yesterday, and the inspection of the Royal Mounted Police with whose drill and expert horsemanship, His Royal Highness, Prince Arthur was highly pleased and interested, the royal party left in the magnificent royal train at 7 o'clock this morning, traveling through the fertile prairies of Saskatchewan and Manitoba on their return trip to Winnipeg.

All along the line the farmers were busy seeding the extensive areas of prepared ground. The Prince and suite were surprised at the evidence of wealth among the farmers and could scarcely credit the figures when told that last season six million bushels of wheat were marketed at a dozen stations along a little over a hundred miles of railway over which the train was passing.

At Elkhorn, the Prince was greeted by a large number of well dressed Indian children from the government Indian school. The school band playing the national anthem. A short stop was made at Brandon at 3 p. m. where the reception was most loyal and enthusiastic. So far the train arrangements of the C. P. R. have been carried out in a most satisfactory manner and without a hitch of any kind.

Again Reaches Winnipeg

Winnipeg, April 12.—Prince Arthur arrived here early this evening, and after a stay of about an hour left for the east.

He was met at the depot by Lieut.-Gov. McMillan, Col. Evans, D.O.C., and Mr. William Whyte, second vice-president of the C.P.R., whom he greeted cordially and engaged in animated conversation during stay. He was greatly interested in the rush of immigration apparent on all sides of him at the depot.

Tomorrow the royal party will spend three hours at Fort William inspecting many points of interest in the lake terminal town.

SPANISH KING'S MARRIAGE.

Auspicious Event Definitely Fixed for First of June.

Madrid, April 12.—The marriage of King Alfonso and Princess Ena of Battenburg has been definitely fixed for June 1st.

THE MUTUAL INSURANCE.

British Policyholders Call a Meeting to Consider Situation.

London, April 12.—A meeting of the British policyholders of the Mutual Life Insurance company has been called for April 20th, to consider the reply of Joseph Choate of counsel for the company, to the representations made in their behalf by D. Juillard, a trustee of the Mutual. The reply which was received this morning through Mr. Addison, counsel for the policyholders was not satisfactory to the policyholders who were seen today. Mr Choate says the proposals require careful legal consideration until that in the meantime trustees would be pleased to have the British policyholders appoint an actuary to verify the reserve and the liabilities. This, the policyholders say, is evading the issue. They are satisfied with the financial condition of the company, but demand a change in the management desiring particularly the retirement of the trustees, who were closely associated with the McCurdy's.

VOLCANO DISPLAYS LESS ACTIVITY

Conditions About Vesuvius are Still Improving and Worst Is Over.

KING REBUKES A PRIEST

Their Majesties Display Greatest Sympathy With the Poor Sufferers.

NAPLES, April 12.—While the news from Mount Vesuvius today is reassuring, the conditions here in Naples are such as make it difficult to realize that conditions are actually better. The wind is blowing from the volcano in the direction of Naples, carrying the ashes in this direction. Towards evening the fall of ashes and cinders here was worse than at any time since the eruption began.

The scenic effects vary from hour to hour. Now in the north, the sky is chocolate color, lowering and heavy, under which men and women with their hair and clothing covered with ashes, move about like gray ghosts. Fort San Martino as it towers above the town, can only just be seen, while Castell Dellove is boldly marked in light, seemingly like silver against the brown sky. To the south, beyond the smoke zone, lies smiling sunny Posillipo and its peninsula, while faraway glistens the sea, deep blue, on which the islands seem to float in

The Glow of the Setting Sun

Adding to the strange picture, one of the French men of war which arrived in the bay of Naples, today is placed as to be half in the glow and half obscured by the belt of falling ashes. From the observatory on Mount Vesuvius, where Director Matcentti is at work, the scene is one of great impressiveness. To reach the observatory, one must travel for miles over hardened, but hot lava, covered with sand until he comes to a point from whence nothing can be seen but vast gray reaches, sometimes fluctuated, sometimes gathered into huge mounds, which take on the semblances of human faces. Above, the heavens are gray like the earth beneath and seem just as hard and immovable. In all this waste there is no sign of life or vegetation and no sound is heard, except the muttering of the volcano. One seems almost

Impelled to Scream Aloud

to break the horrible stillness of a land seemingly forgotten both by God and man.

Every day that passes gives new evidences of the magnitude of the catastrophe. Today's visit of King Victor Emmanuel to Ottajano revealed new tragedies. At a certain point His Majesty was obliged to abandon his motor and went forward on horseback among constant dangers, his horse floundering through four feet of ashes, stumbling into holes, blinded by the fall of large cinders and a target for falling basaltic masses. In the presence of the King, 129 more bodies were extricated from the ruins, while ashes and red sand were falling as though they were determined not to relinquish their victims. The dead at Ottajano are said to number 550.

The King Was Deathly Pale

To a parish priest who came to him he said: "How did you escape." "I put myself in safety," replied the priest.

"What do you mean?" asked the King. "Realizing the danger," was the priest's reply. "I had left for Nota." The King flushed with anger. "What," he cried, "you, a minister of God, were not here to share the danger of your people and adminster the last sacraments? You did very wrong."

Queen Helena was with the King when he started for Ottajano, but she was obliged to turn back as the task was one not suitable for a woman. Her majesty spent the most of the day in visiting injured persons in Naples hospitals and inspecting the housing provided for refugees.

The Princess of Schleswig

Holstein set out in her automobile today to visit the desolate town but her motor car became disabled and she was forced to return on foot a distance of twelve miles, walking the distance through three feet of ashes. The Princess' endurance surprised the Neapolitans, some of whom declared, that she must have been aided by the saints.

There have been robberies of deserted houses in spite of the efforts of the authorities to protect property. The closing of a church at Torre Annunziata which was considered to be unsafe precipitated a riot.

Provisions being made for the feeding and sheltering of persons who have remained in their own towns.

It is estimated that 5,000 houses have been destroyed or rendered uninhabitable.

MOTOR TAX.

United States Senate Passes Bill to Collect Revenue From Automobiles.

Albany, N. Y. April 12.—The senate today passed a bill imposing a tax on motor vehicles of $1 per 500 pounds of freight.

KILLED BY A LOCOMOTIVE.

Car Inspector Struck by Shunting Engine Loses His Life.

Stellerton, N. S., April 12.—Edward Sproul, car inspector, fifty years old was struck by a shunting engine here yesterday. He died of shock a few minutes later. He leaves a widow and five children.