

## FARMER KILLED BY ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGE

Joseph Evans Receives Full Charge of Buck Shot in Body

By the accidental discharge of a shot gun which he was carrying, the muzzle Joseph Evans, residing near Elk lake, South Saanich, was almost instantly killed on Sunday afternoon about 2 o'clock. The full charge of buckshot struck him in the side causing a hideous wound from the effects of which he expired before aid could be summoned.

According to the story told by James Pidgeon, a blacksmith of Keatings Crossing, and a friend of Evans, the two had met at a short distance from Evans' place of abode. The latter had heard a shot fired in the immediate neighborhood and thinking that possibly there would be an opportunity of getting a shot at some quail had taken his gun and come outside. He was about to return to his house when Pidgeon came along the road and the two conversed for some time, Evans asking Pidgeon to come into the house and spend a few minutes. The latter consented and the two walked towards the house, Evans holding the gun by the muzzle. He was in the lead and as he started up the steps leading to the front door the butt of the gun struck the steps, the force of the blow discharging it. From the position of the gun the muzzle was turned almost directly towards Evans' body into which the full charge was poured. Without a word Evans fell to the veranda and when Pidgeon rushed up to him he was covered with blood and unable to speak. He died a few minutes before Pidgeon, who had run for assistance, returned.

The municipal constable was notified and Dr. Hart summoned but by the time he arrived Evans had been dead some time. An inquest will be held this afternoon at the city hall.

Joseph Evans has resided near Elk Lake for some two or three years. He was a single man and lived alone in a cabin near the lake. He was about 38 years of age. He was the man who was instrumental in capturing the hold-up man, White, in the Elk lake district and under the pretence of taking him to a neighbor's, Mr. Cadham, where he could secure a meal, left him there while he (Evans) notified the police authorities, who captured White while the latter was eating at Cadham's. Evans leaves surviving him a sister, Mrs. Gunter, residing in Oak Bay.

The withdrawal of Reeve Oliver and the appointment to his place of Councilor Henderson, who will give a vacancy in the north ward. In the centre ward Councilor Noble, it is understood, will again be a candidate, while Councilor Fernie will retire. Thus there will be another place to fill. Both Councilors Newton and Pemberton intend allowing the election to be placed in nomination for another term of office and, as far as can be gathered, they will not be opposed.

In the speech to be delivered by Acting Reeve Henderson on the occasion of next month's public meeting, he will outline the important public duties of the council during the last twelve months, dwelling particularly on the improvements to the main thoroughfares and the construction of a new sewerage system. The new sewerage system is expected, will be made to the purchase of machinery which will facilitate the repairing of the streets in the future.

In all probability the Acting Reeve will discuss the works to be undertaken next year and under this heading will be the installation of a water distribution system, which will meet all present requirements, but will also be so arranged as to provide for the needs of the community as it becomes more thickly populated.

For in far foreign fields, from Dunkirk to the soldiers and chiefs of the Irish Brigade.

Two brothers, James and Andrew, already lie at St. Owen after the war of 1870. But for all that I'm not browned. After all, it is only a duty to the country and we do not forget that the French came over to fight for us. I fear, however, the war is only out of the German mind, seeking a quarrel, and the French won't stand any more nonsense."

Austria, says the Daily Mail, seems determined to persist in the dangerous game of keeping alive the controversy in the Near East. Her attitude towards Turkey and Serbia approaches without measurable distance of provocation. Not content with depriving the Sultan of sovereign rights over Bosnia and Herzegovina, Austria resents the form in which the Emperor Franz-Joseph has expressed his displeasure and threatens to suspend diplomatic relations with Constantinople. We can hardly believe that the Emperor Franz-Joseph will signalise the sixtieth anniversary of his reign by giving his sanction to a step so insensate. To demand that the Government of Turkey should insist on its subjects wearing the red turban of Austrian manufacture when they have decided on the use of local make is to set for the new year in Turkey a problem which might well baffle the authority of an older and more settled Constitution. Encompassed by difficulties at home and abroad, the Ottoman Empire is in a position to make the most of a moderation that ought to appeal to the good sense, if not to the justice, of Baron von Aehrenthal. He has tried bullying and lecturing and the menace of withdrawing the Ambassador has been appealed to France to use her friendly offices. But he has neglected the obvious fact that the Austrian authorities give assurance of the regularization of their annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the problem of the bazaar would solve itself.

Mr. Charles Willard and Miss Ella Sotherton, of New York, are stopping at the Empress.

## BONDS CLAIM TO SEATTLE SYNDICATE

Captain Locke and J. H. Gordon Obtain Good Sum For Proposition The Black Prince mining claim on Bear Creek, Collinson bay Queen Charlotte Islands, was bonded yesterday by Capt. L. E. Locke, master of the C.P.R. steamer Amur, and J. H. Gordon, of Vancouver, to a Seattle syndicate, for \$50,000. The deal was put through by Morris Davis, who is at the King Edward hotel, representing the syndicate. The Black Prince claim was located about fourteen months ago and became the property of Capt. Locke. He sold a half interest in it to J. H. Gordon for less than a thousand dollars. Gordon ran a tunnel into the claim and struck oil. It was the examination of this ore by an expert sent to the claim by the syndicate that induced the Seattle men to purchase the property for the price named, and Gordon is \$24,000 richer as a result of his purchase.

## PUBLIC MEETING AT OAK BAY NEXT MONTH

Acting Reeve Henderson Will Outline Work of Past Year—The Elections

On January 6th, according to present intentions a public meeting will be held at the new schoolhouse, Oak Bay, at which the councillors will address the ratepayers on the public work of the past year and the plans for the new term. There will be one more regular session of the body presided over by Acting Reeve Henderson before that date, at which the business still in abeyance will be cleared up as far as possible and definite arrangements made for the gathering mentioned.

While no resident of the district, apart from the present representatives, has declared his intention to become a candidate at the elections of the municipality which take place on the 19th of next month, there are rumors about indicating that contests will be in at least one or two of the wards.

Oak Bay is divided into three sections, the north, central and south wards. The former embraces all that property lying north of Bowker creek, and now represented by Acting Reeve Henderson and Councilor Herick McGregor. The central takes in that situated between Bowker Creek and McNeill and Saratoga Avenues. Those elected there last year were Councilors Fernie and Noble. The south ward includes that part of the Oak Bay municipality lying south of the central district. It is represented on the council by Messrs. Newton and Pemberton.

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## THOMAS TAYLOR M.P.P. A CABINET MINISTER

Appointment Announced After Yesterday's Meeting of the Executive

Thomas Taylor, M. P. P. for Revelstoke has been chosen to fill the much discussed vacancy in the cabinet created by the provision of an additional portfolio at the last session of the legislature. There has been a general belief for some time that Taylor, who is usually well informed as to the affairs of the province, would be selected by Mr. McBride as his most recent colleague, but this matter was not officially settled until the executive meeting held yesterday, after which it was given out that Mr. Taylor would be the new minister of Works, and that he would take the oath of office today.

Mr. Taylor was born in London, Ont., in 1865 and there received his education. In 1897 he married Miss George Larson, and at one time held the position of mayor of Revelstoke. He has been a member of the legislature since 1900. He was elected as a member of the general elections of 1903 and 1907. At the last session of the legislature, acts were passed separating the portfolio of lands and works. The development of the province had so increased the business of the department that the change was necessary. Hon. F. J. Fulton will be Chief Commissioner of Lands.

## BRITISH OPINION

In his speech at Warrington, says the Morning Post, the Irish Secretary emphasized the necessity of rapidly completing the process of transferring the land in Ireland from the hands of the landlords to those of the tenants. As to the expediency of effecting this great revolution there can hardly be two opinions. Now that the operation has commenced there could hardly be any attempt to impede its being continued without seriously aggravating the present evils and increasing the potential danger of a social disorder. But, while there will be general agreement as to the need for promoting the transfer of land, it is by no means certain that the Irish Secretary's new Bill will serve to advance this object. Apart from the merits of the scheme, the fact that it has been introduced so late in the session has been introduced so late in the session is distinctly unfortunate. By postponing so long his measure for dealing with the questions involved, Mr. Birrell has encouraged the belief in Ireland that it was only the cattle-drying agitation and the threat of more serious trouble that have spurred him to action. Confirmation has thus been given to the vicious opinion that to obtain attention from an English Government it is first necessary to plunge Ireland into disorder. Again, the late introduction of the measure gives ground for the suspicion that it is put forward as a sign of goodwill, not as a serious effort to settle the difficult problems of rural Ireland. The measure is thus found to be handicapped from the start.

The Dublin Evening Telegraph, publishes the following:—A propos of the news published in these columns that 200,000 German troops are being massed in Alsace-Lorraine, the following extract, taken from a letter to one of our readers, is quite alive to the possibility of having to meet another Teutonic invasion. The writer of the letter referred to is an eminent Irishman, who has been in exile since 1848, and resident in France since that period. In the course of his letter the writer says:—"I am once more very much downhearted. My eldest son, Patrick, has joined the army, and has been away on the frontier—where it is fearfully cold—for the past six weeks, right in front of the Germans, and at a moment's notice, and at the moment when war was on the point of breaking out. So you may imagine I have been in a state of terror ever since. I would not mind much if he had training enough to use the French Lebel gun. To cap all, the other boy, Alexander, is ordered out for next year. Glory be to the Lord! I think I am getting up a small Irish Brigade on my own account. Hoping I won't have to realise Davis's lines—

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## Seasonable Greetings to Friends and Patrons

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## BISHOP OF COLUMBIA AT COURT OF REVISION

Men Over Fifty Years of Age Will Take Appeal to Police Magistrate

(From Thursday's Daily) The Right Reverend Bishop of Columbia put himself on record yesterday before the court of revision by paying the \$2 tax for which he was exempt by law as a very back-stair way of getting a vote. Bishop Birrell, apparently, is entitled to a vote as a representative of the clergy, but he is not a household name. He said that he was perfectly willing to pay the \$2 tax if necessary, but being over the required age he had been informed that it could not be received. Eventually his lordship decided to test the matter by an appeal to the magistrate.

Joseph Pelton was another of the protesters against the ruling of the court of revision which denies the vote to men over fifty, who have not paid the \$2 tax, and he quoted an opinion of Judge Spinks, the county court judge at Vernon, who had decided that the Bishop of Columbia was entitled to the vote. He thought the law should be the same all over the province, and remarked that it was ridiculous that votes should be sold for \$2 while a vicar who was over the law now amounted to. He considered that the widest possible interpretation should be given to the act.

The court yesterday dealt with a number of protests against names on the list brought by the city road tax collector, who had a list of all the applicants who had not paid the tax, there were also a number of people who appeared in support of their right to vote in response to notices which had been sent them.

Not Due Till Demanded.

The city collector advised the court on several points that he believed that owing to the wording of the by-law the road tax was not due, and so not a debt, until it was demanded. In compliance with the court's order the collector's list who had not been asked for the tax were struck off and their names were left on the list. He further pointed out that if a man had made the required declaration that he had paid the taxes due by him to an amount of not less than \$2, but had not paid the road tax, he was entitled to remain on the list, if the road tax had not been demanded, for from him there was evidence before the court that he had paid the taxes. His affidavit must be taken as evidence that he had filled the conditions until it was disproved. The city's tax records were not produced and a number of names were thus allowed to remain on the list. Mr. Mann also pointed out that the striking off of a name was in any event a matter about which they could exercise their discretion. They were not obliged to do so if they did not want to.

A letter was read from Mr. Gallet, of the tax of local make is to set for the new year in Turkey a problem which might well baffle the authority of an older and more settled Constitution. Encompassed by difficulties at home and abroad, the Ottoman Empire is in a position to make the most of a moderation that ought to appeal to the good sense, if not to the justice, of Baron von Aehrenthal. He has tried bullying and lecturing and the menace of withdrawing the Ambassador has been appealed to France to use her friendly offices. But he has neglected the obvious fact that the Austrian authorities give assurance of the regularization of their annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the problem of the bazaar would solve itself.

Belfast Whig—If the government refuse to go to the country this resolution will be susceptible of no other explanation than this—that it has no

confidence that it has the country behind it. Mr. Birrell said one thing at least to which it is possible unreservedly to subscribe. He observed that it was no use barking unless you were going to bite. It was very characteristic of Mr. Birrell to put this weapon into the hands of the critics of the government. Mr. Birrell and his friends have a peculiar predilection for barking, and they are already in full chorus in regard to the Licensing Bill. But are they going to bite? In other words, are they going to appeal to the country, for it is only upon condition that they do this, and that they secure a verdict, that they can bring the House of Lords into submission. It is not at all clear that Mr. Birrell and his friends ponder it well—it is the only way. Barking, however loud, prolonged, and ill-natured, will avail nothing. What, then, does the government mean to do? There are some things in Mr. Birrell's speech which point at least to the possibility of an early dissolution. Of course there is a Land Bill, of which only on Monday last Mr. Birrell professed himself so greatly enamoured—that so an unsophisticated person might suppose it would cut him to the heart and abandon it. The bill was to be carried forward to next session, he said on Monday, but on Saturday he talked ominously of affording the people an opportunity of giving effect to their wishes at the polling booths. Are we to infer that in the interval the chief secretary's affection for the Land Bill has become so far cooled that he is now reconciled to the dropping of a bill which was never meant to pass? But there is another measure upon which the government is supposed to have staked its reputation, which it is going to force through the House of Commons in accordance with a rigorous time-table which prescribes to a second the time that is to be allotted to each section. A general election before the Education Bill has become law would bring to naught one more attempt to solve the problem with which three years ago it solved a special mandate to deal. There are reasons, however, which might induce the abandonment of this measure, even as Mr. Birrell has to all intents and purposes abandoned the Land Bill. The compromise has inspired no enthusiasm. The carrying of the measure will bring no glory to the government, for neither the Unionist nor non-Unionist are at all likely to be grateful for a settlement under which both will have conceded the positions which they used to hold, as most vital. It is already apparent that the bill which is being rushed through the House of Commons will effect no settlement, but merely a temporary respite from strife. A general election would deliver the government from an impossible situation, and it is at least conceivable that for this reason, if for no other, the government may resort to it. Unionists contemplate the possibility with cheerfulness, for they are well assured that the country will mete out its deserts to a government which has proved signally incompetent.

Celebrate Silver Wedding (From Thursday's Daily)

Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Allan, 549 Niagara street, were yesterday the recipients of congratulations from a host of friends on the occasion of the celebration of their silver wedding. Twenty-five years ago Mr. and Mrs. Allan were married at Plymouth, England, and four years later came to Victoria, where they have resided ever since. For twenty years Mr. Allan has been a member of the local police force, and both Mrs. Allan and himself have a host of friends, who will congratulate them on the completion of their quarter of a century of married life. Last evening Mr. and Mrs. Allan entertained a number of their intimate friends at their home on Niagara street, when a delightful evening was spent. Many valuable presents were received by them from their friends.

Lady Northcliffe's box, worth \$75, was stolen from her trunk in the St. Regis, New York, and the clumsy thief smashed several hats.

## Holiday Attire

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High grade, select patterns, but owing to their late arrival we have priced these vests at one-fourth less than their regular values .....\$2.00 to \$7.00

Gift Umbrellas  
For Lady or Gentleman, a really good umbrella makes a most acceptable present. We invite you to call and inspect our umbrellas—note the quality and save twenty per cent on your purchase. ....\$3.00 to \$15.00

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