The Colonist.

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PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY MORNING.

BY

W. H. ELLIS, A. G. SCRIMGEOUR. } ELLIS & CO.

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NEWS FROM THE INTERIOR.

(Inland Sentinel and Kootenay Star.)

REVELSTOKE.

The Chinese have opened a Masonic Lodge at Revelstoke.

Gerard B. Nagle has been appointed mining recorder and tax collector at Hot Springs in place of Henry Anderson, removed.

The steamer Marion is being put in readiness for business again. When the Lytton stops running, the Marion will keep up communication between here and Sproat as long as possible.

O. H. Allen has begun excavating for the foundation of a brewery which he will build on the north side of the railroad track. He will rush the work with all the force he can muster, and expects to be brewing within a month.

A sample lot of two tons of gold ore has been received at the smelter this week, shipped by M. S. Davys. It is from Rover Creek, which runs into the Kootenay River, between Sproat and Nelson. The sample runs high in the yellow metal.

P. M. Walker, Lochie McDonald, Jack Evans and Charles Holton are placer mining on the Lardeau. Two of them are sinking a shaft, and two are washing. They are believed to be doing well, and their long stay in that locality is proof of it. They have some nice coarse gold on hand. Mr. Stobart is washing by himself not far from the other party.

KAMLOOPS.

Mrs. Peterson, who has been living in a shack near the river during the summer months, was taken to jail on Thursday, she being in a destitute condition having no means of making a living.

The annual election of trustees for the R. C. church, Kamloops, was held on Sunday last, the following officers being elected for the ensuing year: Mr. Alfred Morris, president; J. F. Smith, secretary; and Messrs J. A. McDonald, J. E. Saucier and R. Hearn.

John Lewis, who was brought to the Royal Inland hospital from Golden some weeks ago, died at that institution on Sunday. He was afflicted with a complication of diseases, and was beyond hope of recovery when brought to the hospital. Lewis was about 40 years of age and a native of Scotland. He had no relatives in this country.

RICH MICA MINES.

On Thursday, the 6th inst., Louis Victor and a party of Indians returned from a seven weeks' prospecting trip up the North Thompson River. They had twenty-five horses with them, and although they had difficult work, made the up-journey of three hundred miles in less than two weeks. The country around the head waters of the river and the Tete Juane Cache was covered with a foot of snow. Notwithstanding this impediment to the work of prospecting, they located the mica mines in which they were in search of, camping at the mines three weeks, staking out claims.

The ledge they located shows forty feet wide and fifty feet high on the side of the mountain, and indications are that they have struck a mountain of mica. Some fine samples were secured and brought to town, the largest of which was about 10x18 inches surface, and almost as clear as crystal. Some cubes of almost two feet were exposed in places, a slice from one of which was broken in two in being brought to town. The mica splits readily to any thickness desired and is undoubtedly of as good quality as can be obtained anywhere, and its locators have evidently struck it rich.

There was four feet of snow on the level when the party left the camp for home, and they experienced terrible hardships on the return trip, their horses suffering most, six of the animals dying from want of proper nourishment. They found lots of grass, but it seemed to have no substance in it.

MORE ABOUT CHEMAINUS.

A person visiting Chemainus can at once see not only the natural beauty of the surroundings, the well sheltered bay affording ample room for ships and shipping, the romantic ledge of rocks on the opposite side designed by nature as a breakwater, the gently sloping flat overlooking the sea, with an abundant supply of pure water from the distant mountains, the facilities by water and rail; but also the actual development which is taking place in the construction of gigantic mills, workmen's houses, the eager demand for lots and building sites; and now, a little below the railway station and at the junction of two principal streets, we notice several men busy at work on a large structure, which upon enquiry we learn to be an Anglican Church, that is being erected through the joint efforts of the residents of Chemainus and numerous friends incited to this good work by the Rev. D. Holmes, who, a short time ago was appointed to mission work in the district. We were further informed that the contractor was Mr. Ford, and that this church promises to be one of the prettiest on the Island, which will greatly add to the appearance of the town, as well as make it more desirable as a residence for families. One thing we notice to be lacking in this otherwise thriving place, and that is the want of a public school-house. There is however a teacher, and a goodly number of pupils, which are at present accommodated by the use of the Court house, it being loaned for school purposes—but it appears to be small and inconvenient. No doubt when the Legislature meets the honorable members for the district will take care that ample provision is made on the estimates to supply the necessity.—COM.

AMERICAN NEWS.

A Shameful Proceeding.

NEW YORK, Nov. 18.—The World devotes three columns to the story of Louisa Lachat, the French maid who was thrown into prison on a charge of stealing a $12,000 bracelet from her mistress, Mrs. Commodore Bateman. The diamonds were found on Sunday, but the girl was not released until yesterday. Before she heard that the gems were recovered, the maid, who speaks no English, was told to sign her name to a paper and she would be released. She did so and Mrs. Bateman handed her $1. Then the mistress coolly told her maid that she had better change her name as she would have some difficulty in finding employment after being disgraced by her arrest. The paper the maid ignorantly signed was a release from all claims for false imprisonment.

In the Tombs.

NEW YORK, Nov. 18.—Albert H. Smith, the defaulter, through whose fraudulent practices the firm of Mill, Robertson & Smith, of which he was a member, was ruined, was arraigned in the Jefferson market police court to-day. He was held in $10,000 bail and locked up in the tombs. It is probable his bail will be increased to-morrow.

New Torpedo Cruisers.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18.—Secretary Tracy has in contemplation the building of two torpedo cruisers, one of 750 tons displacement, and one of 1,200 tons displacement. The plans will be drawn during the next few months, and congress will be asked to make an appropriation for the cruisers.

INDUSTRIOUS ICELANDERS.

The Colony in Victoria Growing in Numbers and in Importance.

How the Lutheran Church has Been Built—A Sober, Hard-Working People.

Perched on the top of Spring Ridge, with Mount Baker looming up clear and white on the one side, and the corporation gravel pits yawning, dismal, damp and dirty on the other is a little settlement, the existence of which, probably, not one of every hundred in Victoria is aware of. It is a settlement of industrious Icelanders, the majority of whom have come from the Northwest Territory of Canada, or the Western States. The Victoria colony now numbers about 90 souls, 15 families,—typical Icelanders, who cherish all the traditions of their fatherland, and keep alive in their daily conversation the old Norse tongue. They are sturdy, hard-working people, of medium height and substantial build, who would be creditable citizens of any community. It is said to their credit that they have not a drunkard in their ranks, or a man who fails to do his six days' work every week. The men find employment as carpenters, blacksmiths or laborers. They, with their families growing up about them, are happy, contented and prosperous.

The little body of Icelanders belong to the Lutheran Church—the national church of Iceland—and have recently organized under the name of the Icelandic Evangelical Lutheran congregation, belonging to the Icelandic Lutheran Synod in America which this summer held its sixth annual convention on Lake Winnipeg. Mr. S. Mrydal is the leader of the Victoria congregation, which is the first of its kind on the Pacific Coast. There is as yet no regular or ordained minister, and the colony is just now waiting for funds to complete their church. This edifice occupies the lot adjoining Mr. Myrdal's on the Fernwood road, and is now in an unfinished state. The building is neat, though small—it is only about 40 feet long by 20 feet wide—with three arched windows on either side, and a graceful little belfry. It is to be painted white when completed. At present operations are suspended owing to a shortage of funds, the plastering being in an unfinished state. For fifteen families, not in the best of circumstances, to undertake the building of a church, however humble, is a big undertaking, even when outside help is received, as in the case of the Icelanders. They expect, though, to have their church completed in time for the celebration of the Christmas festival.

Two meetings are at present held each Sunday at Mr. Myrdal's residence. In the morning there is scripture reading, and in the afternoon Sunday School. All services are in the Icelandic language, which the children are taught at home. As the youngsters of each family attend the city public schools, they are called upon to do double work—take the ordinary school course of education, and receive Icelantic instruction at home. The people of the settlement, for their class, are uncommonly well educated; they are fond of study, and receive frequent importations of standard works direct from Reikiavik. It is satisfactory to know that the settlement is growing steadily, not only in numbers, but in wealth and importance.

Drop in Sugar.

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 18.—A decline of ¼ cent per pound was made by the local sugar refineries today.

VICTORIA FLOUR MILLS.

The Character and Capacity of the Machinery—A Splendidly Appointed Concern.

Operations Inaugurated—A Highly Satisfactory Beginning Made.

The enterprise displayed by the Victoria Milling company in their effort to develop and extend the business of flour milling is one that in its various stages has attracted great attention. The new building which the company have put up is a handsome feature of Store street, while the improvements to the old structure, rendered necessary for its adaptation to the new machinery, have entailed no small amount of expense, and have materially added to the value of the premises. In order to provide for the extensive flour business which it was the intention to cultivate, the company at seed time distributed among the farmers of the Delta and other sections a large quantity of seed wheat, the returns from which have more than realized every anticipation. Moreover, they contracted with Messrs. Goldie & McCulloch, of Galt, Ont., for a complete set of the apparatus necessary to the output of 250 barrels per day upon their patent roller process. The machinery was put up under direction of the millwright, Mr. E. Rees, assisted by Mr. Townsley, under whom the actual work of milling is carried on. As a motive power, they obtained from Laurie Bros., of Montreal, a 100-horse-power engine of the Corliss type capable of being worked up to 150. Steam is obtained with the assistance of two immense boilers, with patent Jarvis' furnaces, the boiler room being fitted with a force pump, which draws from the harbor a full supply of water which it is able to throw all over the premises. The establishment will be lit with 100 electric lights upon the Crompton, (a well esteemed) English, principle.

Yesterday, everything having been thoroughly tested, the work of milling may be said to have definitely begun; and, everything in operation, a representative of THE COLONIST, by invitation of Mr. T. B. Hall, went through the establishment, accompanied by a member of the staff who is thoroughly posted in every branch of milling. "We will, if you please, begin at the beginning, and follow the wheat through the various processes until it is converted into the flour ready for market. We are making two descriptions—a straight grade and a superfine—the former being called the Delta, in recognition of the Fraser River farmers, from whom we have purchased large quantities of wheat, which in the future we expect to materially increase." From point to point and storey to storey the newspaper man accompanied his escort, an answer being ever ready to any question which he saw fit to put. On its arrival at the warehouse the wheat is received in the basement, where it is weighed on immense scales. It is then elevated into a bin on the third floor; thence it descends to the separators where it is "winnowed" and cleaned from short stuff. The cockle mill then takes out all the small grains and seeds. It is again "elevated" and this process is one well worth watching closely—this time to the smut machine, to be further relieved of deleterious matter, after which the brushing machine overhauls the grains and gives them a thorough scrubbing, turning them out as clean as clean can be. The grain then passes up the shutes to the upper storey in which it is deposited in a bin ready to come down into the hoppers to the rollers. Of these double rollers there are six double sets. Five of them break the wheat into a series of sizes, four of them make first class flour out of middlings and three reduce and finish it. The handling and separation of the flour is a very delicate process, as fully attested by the slight difference that is to be observed between the various products of the rollers, all of which have to be kept separate and distinct so as to secure the quality of flour that is desired. Thus far the machinery has dealt with the flour which is the natural first product of the rolled wheat.

On the second floor are the purifiers into which the middlings are put so as to secure every possible grain of flour. Moreover, the bran and shorts are put through the dusters and made to give their very utmost return; everything that is possible to save being economized and at the same time returning a flour which to all appearances is of the highest class, sound and sweet. On the upper floor are nine bolts—or silk bolting cloths—through which the flour has to pass before it is finished, and by which the grade of the flour is determined. It is then directed to four large packing bins, at whose mouths on the second floor the product is bagged and weighed for market. On the upper storey, which is the terminus of all the shafting and the elevators, are three Wilson's patent dust collectors, and one aspirator to separate the coarse germs from the middlings. There are in the establishment 30 sets of elevators, which cross and parallel each other in an almost interminable manner, nevertheless each one is as distinct and separate from its neighbor as can be, there being no waste of space or possibility of any difficulty in the way of handling the material or the product. Besides, the system is so arranged that any one branch of work can be entirely stopped while the other proceeds as usual. Mr. Hall is to be congratulated on the prospects of the enterprise, considerable orders being already on hand.

IT WAS A GREAT CEREMONY.

Laying the Corner Stone of the Most Imposing Structure.

CHICAGO, Nov. 15.—The corner stone of what, when completed, will be one of the grandest edifices in the country, dedicated to the use and purposes of the Masonic order, and was laid this week with solemn and impressive exercises. The structure is to occupy one-third of an entire block of ground at the intersection of State and Randolph streets, in the very heart of the city.

It will have a frontage of one hundred and twenty feet, and a depth of seventy, and will be twenty stories in height, the total height from the sidewalk to the upper cornice being in the neighborhood of 275 feet. The two lower stories will be of granite, and those above of ashen gray brick and terra cotta.

The structure will have a large interior court lined with white marble. Besides several hundred offices, it will have upwards of one hundred lodge rooms, some of them having a seating capacity of over one thousand, and magnificently decorated at enormous expense. The cost of the structure will be in the neighborhood of two millions of dollars and it is to be completed for dedication on May 1, 1892. It will have fifteen elevators, fourteen of which will run on the curve. These elevators will have the capacity of carrying forty thousand passengers daily. On the roof there will be located a pavillion garden, a mammoth restaurant and an all day orchestra. The floors of the building will not be numbered as in ordinary structures, but will be given appropriate names, such as Chicago-avenue, Boston street, Broadway, etc. The main drill hall will be large enough to drill a battalion of two thousand.

The formal exercises were preceded by one of the largest and most imposing processions of the Masonic fraternity that has been seen in the West since the national conclave of the Knights Templar in August, 1880. Hundreds of visiting brothers came from all parts of this and adjoining states to lend eclat to the occasion. Nearly forty lodges were in line, while harmony was furnished by fifteen bands of music. The brethren were attired in dark clothes and hats, with white gloves and aprons, each also wearing the collar and jewel of his office, the lodge furniture being carried at the head of each detachment. The Knights Templar, with their drawn swords, waving plumes and marshal tread, had the right of line. On arriving at the site of the temple the Knights Templar formed in a hollow square. As far as the eye could reach the adjacent streets, windows, and even roofs, were black with people.

SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

A Greenhorn From Montana Succeeds In Vanquishing the Much-feared Marine.

Boating on the Harbor Course and Boating in Australia—Peterson Asked to Meet McLean.

THE OAR.

There was little excitement and less betting, over the race in shells between Bush, of this city, and McLean, of Westminster, which was rowed on the Victoria harbor course, yesterday afternoon, for $100 a side. John Braden was agreed upon as starter and judge, and the crowd which had perched itself on the bank between the custom house and the boat house, amused itself by filling in the harbor, until the race was started at 3 o'clock. Bush took a slight lead from the pistol shot, pulling a long, sweeping stroke that was good to look at. They passed the railway bridge in the same order, and the next seen of either by the crowd at the starting point was about 20 minutes later, when McLean rowed leisurely in and reported that he had met with an accident. He said that he had been crowded out of his course by Bush, and ran into the ropes of one of the schooners anchored in the upper harbor, his shell partially filling with water. Bush, he stated, had fouled intentionally, and he should protest the race on that ground. The Victorian came in a few minutes later, denied getting into his opponent's water and said the race was his—he wasn't responsible for McLean running into schooners.

The judges promised to consider the protest in the evening, but had not made public their decision up to midnight.

AN INVITATION TO PETERSON.

A San Francisco despatch, under date of the 17th, says that Henry Peterson, the oarsman, has received a pressing invitation from Maurice H. Law to come to Victoria and have a rowing contest with McLean, of New Westminster. Peterson has not yet decided whether he will contest with the British Columbian or not.

ON THE PARAMATTA.

SYDNEY, Nov. 17.—McLean defeated Stansbury in a sculling race on the Paramatta, to-day.

THE RING.

BUTTE, Mont., Nov. 17.—The fight in this city to-day between George La Blanche and George Kessler, a local fighter of some repute, resulted in a victory for Kessler in the thirteenth round. The fight took place upon the race track near this city, and was witnessed by fully 2,000 people. The two men appeared in the ring about 4 o'clock, La Blanche looking too fleshy for heavy work, while Kessler was in perfect condition. The champion was over-confident from the start, and commenced with a "see-me-do-him" air that would have done credit to the Bowery.

The first round was spent in feeling at each other, but in the second the marine undertook one of his famous rushes, evidently satisfied it would finish the fight. To his surprise he was met by a stinger in the mouth, which spoiled the rush and set him to thinking he had no snap there, and he concluded to try wrestling, throwing Kessler and falling on him with all his weight.

In the fourth Kessler stopped another rush, this time practically closing the Marine's left eye.

In the fifth and sixth each fought hard for the other's wind, and in the seventh La Blanche threw Kessler again.

In the eighth Kessler began to make the fight, rushing the Marine upon the ropes, and neck-reaching his blood.

La Blanche won the first knock down in the ninth, and threw Kessler again in the tenth, but it did no good, as the Montana boy rushed him on the ropes three times in the next round.

In the thirteenth round La Blanche showed up so groggy that Kessler started in to finish him. Once he forced him on the ropes and again down in his own corner, when La Blanche, feeling that the fight was going against him, and preferring to lose on a foul to a knockout, deliberately kicked Kessler in the groin. This virtually ended the fight, as the referee gave it to Kessler on the foul.

If ever a man was fairly whipped in the ring, Kessler whipped La Blanche. The Marine had to be carried to his corner and helped to his dressing room, while the Montana pugilist, whom he was going to beat in two rounds, jumped up and ran to his room apparently as fresh as when he began.

HERE AND THERE.

The Nanaimo Association footballers are anxious for a game with Victoria.

A paper chase, two football games, and a baseball match are "on" for Saturday.

The professional team to represent Victoria in the Northwest league is believed to have fallen through.

AN UNFORTUNATE LETTER.

An Improper Reference in Mr. M. Connolly's Letter to Messrs. Baker and Shakespeare, ex-M. P's.

They are Said to Have Asked Money for Their Influence—The Two ex-Members Emphatically Deny the Statement—The Writer of the Letter Claims it was a Joke—Capt. Larkin also Denies that Money was Demanded or Offered.

In the Montreal and Toronto dailies which reached Victoria, a few days ago, appeared telegrams from Quebec concerning the publication by J. Israel Tarte, in Le Canadien, of letters received in January, 1886, from Mr. M. Connolly, one of the contractors for the building of the Esquimalt dock, which contained some unpleasant references to Messrs. Baker and Shakespeare, ex-members of parliament for this city. These letters were commented upon editorially by the Toronto Mail and Globe, and a parliamentary committee of enquiry, or royal commission, was suggested to enquire into the statements contained in the letters. Following are the letters:—

Larkin, Connolly & Co., Contractors Esquimalt Graving Dock.

January 15th, 1886.

Your favor of the 4th inst. came to hand the day before yesterday. We are all glad to hear that yourself and family are well. As soon as your letter came to hand, Nicholas and I went and had an interview with the two M.P.'s here, Mr. Shakespeare and Mr. Baker, who both said they have done everything in their power to induce Sir Hector to extend the dock, and at our urgent request they agreed to renew their efforts in this connection. I have prepared an article on the subject, which THE COLONIST will publish editorially or otherwise in a day or two, a few copies of which I will forward you. We will have the mayor and city council also move in the matter, and will cause such an urgent demand to be made that we trust the government will not ignore it. We have had a few stormy days recently, with snow, and a few nights of pretty hard frost for the country; otherwise they would have made considerable progress on the dock by the end of the present month. I think we will very shortly have about three hundred feet of the dock finished. I think there is no doubt whatever but we can have the whole thing finished by June or July, this far, has been a much better season for work here than last season was. We will soon be placing the machinery in position. Nick arrived with me, and [illegible] has a room close to the works where Nick and I see her often. I am glad to hear that mother is well. Whenever you have a little leisure please write to her, and if she needs any money give it to her and charge the same to me. I am glad to hear that Peter has got to be such a splendid penman; he writes beautifully and correctly, which does him much credit. Mr. McGreevy's boys are both well, though I have not seen Robert yet, as I have not been at the quarry, though James tells me he is quite well.

What about our "mutual friend" or "fraud" Pimparel? All the boys join in the kindest regards to you.

Trusting yourself and family are well, and with best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year, I remain

Yours very truly,

M. CONNOLLY.

Larkin, Connolly & Co, Contractors Esquimalt Graving Dock.

January 21st, 1886.

As you will see by the papers I have sent you we have been getting up all the excitement about the dock and its extension, &c., that we could. Nick and I saw the two M.P.'s, Shakespeare and Baker, and I tell you they are a brace of pirates. They thought they ought to have about five thousand dollars for their influence with the minister of Public Works, but we told them it made very little difference to us whether this dock was extended or not, but that having the plant, &c., in position, it would probably be a matter of four or perhaps five thousand dollars to us. Before parting with them, however, we agreed to give them five hundred dollars if they succeeded in their efforts with the minister. The editor of the Colonist is the decentest man we have met with here; he has given us the use of his columns and never asked for a cent. We intend to give him something, though. Baker and Shakespeare were to telegraph Sir Hector and Sir John yesterday, and impress upon them in the most forcible manner possible the importance of extending the dock. We have agreed to pay for the telegrams and all other expenses they incur in the matter. We sent to Mr. Perry, at his request, recently, a list of the materials the government turned over to us, which we decline taking and our reasons therefor. I think the amount of the rejected material will reach about twenty thousand dollars, so you see its worth looking after. We have had a week's very severe weather, with about six inches of snow, and have not been able to work in consequence. The weather is much more severe than it was last year, but there is not so much rain. This severe spell of weather will knock a few bottom out of the estimate for this month.

I trust yourself and family are well. The two Messrs. McGreevy's are quite well. Give my kindest regards to Mr. McGreevy and family, also to Messrs. Bowes, Langevin and Charles McGreevy. Yours truly,

M. CONNOLLY.

Messrs. Baker and Shakespeare received copies of Le Canadian, and also of the several papers commenting on the letters. Capt. P. Larkin, of Larkin, Connolly & Co., being in the city, they naturally asked that gentleman for an explanation of Mr. Connolly's letter. The captain telegraphed to his partner on the day last said on Saturday received a reply thereto, which, he says, Messrs. Baker and Shakespeare from the stigma contained in the letter. Following are the telegrams.

VICTORIA, B.C., Nov. 13th, 1890.

M. Conolly, Kingston, Ont.

Your letter published by Tarte, has excited the indignation of both Baker and Shakespeare. Did you write such a letter, if so, did you not exaggerate the statement as to promising five hundred dollars to them. That statement requires prompt denial on your part. Wire answer to me here.

P. LARKIN.

VICTORIA, B.C., Nov. 14th, 1890.

To Capt. P. Larkin, Victoria, B.C.

Through joke of Mr. Baker substance of such a letter was written, but no money was paid or asked by either Messrs. Baker or Shakespeare. Am writing both gentlemen fully in reference to matter. Your partner in Ottawa promised by subsequent letters such a statement had no foundation in fact. Messrs. Baker and Shakespeare know you are aware, never promised any money, never asked or received directly or indirectly one cent from us.

M. CONNOLLY.

Both gentlemen unqualifiedly deny having ever demanded, suggested or received a single cent from the dry dock contractors for their advocacy of the extension. In urging it upon the government, they were simply carrying out the wishes of their constituents. The board of trade and the newspapers at the time advocated the extension of the dock in the strongest terms, and it has since proved that what was then asked for was vitally necessary to the general usefulness of the dock.

Capt. P. Larkin, the senior member of the contracting firm, also states that no money was demanded or paid by his firm to either Messrs. Baker or Shakespeare, and that there was never any understanding or suggestion that such should be done.

A telegram was sent from Messrs. Baker and Shakespeare to the Minister of Public Works, in January, 1886, referred to in the letter of Mr. Connolly. Following is a copy of same, with the department's reply thereto:

VICTORIA, B. C., 20th January, 1886.

To Hon. Sir Hector Langevin, Minister of Public Works.

Board of Trade and constituents pressing us to strain every effort to secure increased length of the Esquimalt graving dock, while the same can be done with despatch and saving in expenditure of Government money. We therefore respectfully urge upon you and the Dominion Government the absolute necessity of authorizing the necessary length to at least five hundred feet, so as to avert the possibility in the future of vessels going to San Francisco due to dock. Recent visit of your engineer will enable him to place all facts before you as to its desirability and expediency. Such alteration will not delay completion beyond end of present year, and consequently cannot prejudice subsidy from Imperial Government. The main object of alteration now is to ultimately save expense of tearing out circular head which increased length of vessels will render imperative in the near future. We deem it our duty to place these views on record in the interests of all concerned and to save expense to the Federal Treasury.

F. CROW BAKER, M. P.
NOAH SHAKESPEARE, M. P.

F. Crow Baker, Esq., M. P., Victoria, B. C.

OTTAWA, 2nd February, 1886.

SIR,—Having reference to the telegram dated 20th ultc., signed by yourself and others, urging that the length of the Esquimalt Graving dock be increased to 500 feet, I am directed to inform you that it will not be possible to comply with the request, as the plans for the dock have been approved by the Lords of the Admiralty, and the payment of the £50,000 subsidy made conditional on the completion of the dock by the 1st January, 1887, which it may not be possible to accomplish if an addition of 70 feet was made to the dock. The plan has also been approved by parliament and money voted to construct a dock 450 feet in length, and before any change could be made it would be necessary to obtain the consent of parliament, and an additional grant.

I have the honor to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,
A. GOBEIL, secretary.

It will be seen that Mr. Connolly's little joke has created considerable commotion in the political world, is unjust to the two ex-members of parliament, and has placed them in a very unpleasant position.

A DASTARDLY CRIME.

A Wife Attempts to Kill Her Husband—When Detected She Suicides.

A Letter Betrays the Guilty Secret and Saves the Victim—A Love Match.

A Paris cable says Le Gaulois prints the following story:

M. Weiss, administrator of the commune of Ain-Pezza, in Algeria, received into his household, a few months ago, as a boarder, M. Roche, engineer in chief of the railways of the province. The latter soon became the lover of Madame Weiss, and the guilty pair resolved to rid themselves of the husband. During the absence of M. Roche in Spain, the faithless spouse proceeded to administer to her husband doses of arsenic in such quantities as should gradually undermine his health and eventually kill him without awakening suspicions that he was the victim of poison.

How was the infamous plot discovered?

The response to this query reads like a chapter from a novel by Gaboriau. The crime was discovered and its realization prevented by the vigilance de Guerry, the assistant of the administrator of the commune. The peculiar character of the maladdy of M. Weiss and the powerlessness of the doctors to combat it, aroused suspicions in the mind of M. de Guerry. One evening while he was in the dining room of M. Weiss, he was walking up and down the room talking to his chief, who being excessively weak and sick was reclining in an invalid's chair in the middle of the apartment. Madame Weiss was writing at a table near the window, and the Viscount, haunted by the strange suspicions he had in vain tried to banish, from his mind, ventured to look over the lady's shoulder at her letter. He was not detected, but his eye caught the following sentence: "I have no more poison; send me a supply with some playthings for the children." The husband's back was fortunately turned, and M. de Guerry, horrified as he was at having surprised the terrible secret of the malady of his chief, gave proof, nevertheless, of great presence of mind, for he continued the conversation that was in progress, at the same time racking his brain with a thousand calculations to invent a scheme by which he could obtain possession of the fatal tell-tale letter.

At this moment Madame Weiss was called out of the room. She rapidly put the letter into a white envelope, sealed it and went out. M. De Guerry instantly decided on what course to take. Without losing his self-possession for a moment, he unsealed the still damp envelope, took out the incriminating letter and substituted a blank sheet in its place. He had hardly resealed the envelope and placed it on the writing table, when Madame Weiss re-entered the room, and, suspecting nothing, proceeded to address it. M. de Guerry also succeeded by stealth in reading the name of the person to whom it was addressed. He immediately returned home and telegraphed to the Prefect of Oran, who at once transmitted orders to the procureur of the republic at Tlemeen to arrest the criminal.

Next evening he proceeded with the police to the house of M. Weiss. The lady vigorously denied the truth of the accusation, but when told she must accompany the officers of the law, she retired into an adjoining apartment, under pretext of attiring herself for the journey. Once there, however, she swallowed a strong dose of prussic acid, and came back with her lips foaming and her features contorted with agony. Advancing toward the horrified procureur, she cried: "Now, arrest me!" Then throwing herself at her husband's feet, she implored his pardon in the most moving terms. He was, however, obdurate, and repulsed her, while repeatedly exclaiming "Miserable, miserable!" (wretch, wretch!) The lover is said to be returning from Spain, in ignorance of what has happened, and he will be arrested on his arrival at Algeria. M. Weiss' marriage was a love match, and to obtain the object of his affection, who has proved so unworthy of his choice, he was compelled to resign his position as an officer of high rank in the engineers.

An Unsuccessful Case.

BERLIN, Nov. 18.—Prof. Koch is chagrined at the reappearance of lupin in a patient who was reported to have been cured by the use of his new lymph. This however is the only instance in which the treatment seems to have been unsuccessful.

A MUSICAL PRODIGY.

Playing the Piano Perfectly at Five Years of Age.

Little Elsa Breidt Astonishes Musicians by Her Remarkable Performances—How Her Genius Was Discovered by Her Mother.

Dressed in a light blue frock, a pretty straw hat and tiny boots, from the tops of which hung golden tassels, was gray-eyed Elsa Breidt, the five-year-old musical prodigy and daughter of Julius Breidt, of 3510 Cottage Grove avenue, says the Chicago Herald. She was ready to play for a party of musicians, and as she ran up to the piano in her home she laughed merrily at her mother, who was to assist her. Speaking in German, Mrs. Breidt asked the child to play something from Schumann. The child at once dashed into "The White Horseman," which she played in perfect time and tune. The execution of the little hands was marvelous, and as the child played piece after piece, finally closing her impromptu recital with a perfect little melody of her own composition, the musicians present wanted to catch her up in their arms and hug her. Then she played piano duets with her mother, and after a time Mr. Breidt, the watchmaker, came in, took down his old violin, put on a new string or two, and then father and daughter plunged into "The Boulanger March," the petite phenomenon playing a most perfect piano accompaniment to the air from the father's violin. The march finished, the father spoke of the "Ave Maria," and the child, without a word, began the introduction to the Bach-Gounod composition. Although it had been many weeks since father and child had played together, yet Elsa never missed a note or sounded a false one to the end of the difficult accompaniment. She played the music exactly as it is written and with wonderful taste and expression.

Little Elsa has been petted by Sherwood and Lilly Lehmann, raved over by D'Albert and marveled at by all who have seen and heard her. Only once or twice has she appeared in public, playing once for a class of pupils from one of the musical colleges and again at one of Mr. Sherwood's recitals. The latter often visits her at her humble home, and D'Albert wants her to come at once to his home in Germany and receive a thorough musical education.

"When Elsa was two years old, I one day found her singing the air I was playing at the piano," said her mother. "I tried another and found that with little effort she could follow any air. When she was large enough to sit alone on the piano stool I would let her strike the keys, and she immediately learned to play chords, and before she was three years of age could carry parts of airs correctly. When three and a half years old she was playing accompaniments to her father's violin, and very soon learned to play the accompaniments to the 'Ave Maria' which you have just heard. Then I noticed if I played sentimental or lively music it affected her strangely. In fact, we can not play pathetic airs, as the tears come to her eyes and she is much agitated. She is strong and healthy and has never been sick a day. She is also very full of life, and enjoys herself much as other children do, but if anybody is playing, wherever she is, she listens with mouth, eyes and ears wide open. She will play any ordinary composition almost absolutely correct after having heard it once.

"We never have to play a piece more than twice for her to learn it," said Mrs. Breidt. "While she is taking every note by ear she also closely watches the hands of the player. She does not seem to care for dance music. We have not permitted her to practice much this summer on account of the heat, and she never force her to do any thing.

"It has been about six months since she began to compose or improvise, continued the mother. "One day there was a terrible rain and thunder-storm, and when it was over she went to the piano and played the wildest sort of an air, which she made up. She can climb on to the stool and begin singing softly some measure or strain that has come into her head, and after humming it over several times she plays it. That's the way she composes her pieces."

Julius Breidt is a fine-looking German man, forty-three years old. He has lived in this city since he was five years old, and has been a watchmaker and jeweler since he was fourteen. Six years ago he married Miss Bertha Schoenfeld, a comely German girl, and on May 28, 1885, Elsa, the little musical genius, was born. She is their only child.

A Novel Wedding Journey.

A novel method of spending a honeymoon has recently been added to the list of unique wedding journeys—coaches, on house-boats or yachts. A young Viennese bridegroom procured for the trip a new furniture van with three horses and a driver. The interior he fitted up in a most daintily luxurious way with every comfort and convenience dear to the feminine heart. Just before the light was supplied is not easy conjecture, for the ordinary furniture van has no windows. Possibly electricity may have diffused its soft radiance from depending globes of roseate hue, or the isolated lovers may have lived only in the soft light of each other's eyes. The cooking problem would arise to any one but lovers, but with the driver united the culinary art with that of handling the reins, or with the young woman herself was a cooking school graduate is not known. Anyway, the pair expect to spend a few months' honeymoon at a cost of little more than $100 a month, rambling about the country in their own private conveyance, with buffet accommodations.

Curious Cause of Death.

A school-girl in France died recently from a curious cause. At the distribution of prizes she obtained a laurel wreath colored green. She thoughtlessly put the painted leaves in her mouth and died afterward from the effects of the poison.