

The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

THIRTY-EIGHTH YEAR.

VICTORIA BRITISH COLUMBIA MONDAY APRIL 13 1896.

VOLUME XXXVIII, NO. 39

NEWS OF THE PROVINCE

Vancouver to Send a Delegate to the Imperial Trade Conference.

Forthcoming Potlach—An Illegal Salmon Net—Opposition to C.P.R. Freight Rates.

(Special to the Colonist.)

VANCOUVER.

VANCOUVER, April 8.—The Revelstoke board of trade, which objects to the C. P. R. store car running between Donald and Kamloops, asked the co-operation of the Vancouver board to have it discontinued as a detriment to trade, and the board here passed a resolution to do all in their power to help the Revelstoke board. An official of the C. P. R. here, when interviewed by the Colonist representative, stated that the policy of the company was to do nothing in any town to interfere with trade. The store car would be discontinued if it was found that it was adversely affecting trade.

The British Columbia Dairymen's Association have asked the co-operation of the Vancouver board of trade in opposing the high rates charged by the C. P. R. on the Pacific division.

The board of trade will send a delegate to the chambers of commerce and boards of trade of the empire to be held in London in June next. Robert Ward was suggested, but the board decided to send a Vancouver citizen.

The license commissioners are appealing to the council to reduce the saloon licenses from \$600 to \$400, and wholesale house licenses from \$200 to \$100.

The report of the light committee recommending the acceptance of the Consolidated Tramway and Lighting Company's offer to light the city at 27 cents per light for 200 lights, or 27 cents for over 200 lights, was adopted last night by the council.

A hall storm with the sun brilliantly shining was a weather phenomenon of this morning.

VANCOUVER, April 9.—The body of J. Hampton, the account of whose disappearance at North Bend was published a few days ago, has been found in Salmon river. The man was got off the train in motion got on the steps of the express car which was locked. The whistling of the train for the bridge was mistaken by the lamented man for a station signal and he stepped off falling through the bridge 70 feet to the water. The late Mr. Hampton was a native of London, Ont., where he was very popular. His family were to have started from London for the coast at about the time of the accident.

VANCOUVER, April 10.—Contractor James Hartney left here last week. Creditors, whose claims aggregate \$10,000, are anxious as to his whereabouts.

The Bank of British Columbia has obtained a judgment against contractor Dan. McGillivray for \$65,000.

R. G. McKay has received word of the death of an uncle by which he receives one-fifth of an estate valued at \$300,000.

WESTMINSTER.

WESTMINSTER, April 8.—The examination of a suspected salmon net in the river disclosed a net with a small mesh net woven into the regular net. The two nets were confiscated. The boat from which the net was set had made three times the haul of any of the other boats, showing the efficacy of the law regarding the size of the mesh.

William Hogg was taken to Lytton today to stand trial for the alleged seduction of a 15-year-old girl.

The British Columbia Fruit-Growers' Association will hold a business meeting at New Westminster on Tuesday, the 14th inst.

The council of Westminster are considering the advisability of reducing the dog tax, while one Vancouver council member is formally discussing the advisability of killing off a hundred or so mongrel canines and putting up the tax on the remainder.

WESTMINSTER, April 9.—The recently formed co-operative creamery association at Langley is calling for tenders for the erection of a creamery scientific society will arrange this summer for a "thorough and systematic search" in the Indian mounds of the Mainland of British Columbia.

WESTMINSTER, April 10.—The C.P.R. are being largely petitioned to run a local train between Agassiz and Vancouver.

John Kelly, a man 50 years old, is missing. A fisherman living in a room moored at South Vancouver heard a man pass close by at one o'clock this morning singing. He then heard a splash in the water. He rushed out but saw no one. The theory is advanced that this was John Kelly who went to his death with a happy song on his lips.

NANAIMO.

NANAIMO, April 8.—The schooner Volunteer, now loading lumber at Chemainus, will have six feet of deck load. It is reported that several more vessels have been chartered.

A large number of Indians are preparing to leave for Kuper island, where a big potlach will be held on Thursday, at which all the chiefs of the different tribes will deliver speeches on the question of holding potlaches.

Mr. Chalmers is busy erecting a large hotel close to the water on the new townsite of Alberni, and it will not be long before the building is completed.

Last week the steam schooner Mischief from Victoria brought up a pile driver

and plant for erecting a large wharf here. Messrs. Waterous and Penny, who have the contract, will soon rush it to completion.

Messrs. Roberts and Pemberton, C.E.s., have finished plotting out the new townsite at the old mill, 1 1/2 miles south of the present town of Alberni and a number of choice lots have already been sold.

The police commissioners met yesterday, and a deadlock arose from Mayor Davison stating that the presence of the chief of police was not required. Mr. Simpson took exception to this decision and refused to be bound by it. A third member of the board is now more necessary than ever.

NANAIMO, April 10.—At the annual Easter meeting for St. Alban's parish the financial statement presented proved to be a very satisfactory one, the liabilities outside the mortgage debt being only about \$50. The officers of the church were thanked for their negotiations with the Sun Life Assurance Company, which have resulted in a reduction of the rate of interest on the church mortgage to 3 per cent. The rector announced that he had obtained leave of absence from the bishop from June 1 to October 1, during which time the parish will be in charge of the Ven. Archdeacon Scriven. The following elections and appointments were made: Churchwardens—Messrs. R. Jamieson and E. E. Taylor. Delegates to Synod—Messrs. Potts and Rendell and the wardens. Church committee—Messrs. Brooks, Nevins, H. Cooper, Kirkham, O. Bandle, Rummings, Avero and Captain Land, in addition to the churchwardens and delegates to the Synod.

The inquest on the body of the infant found on the beach on Tuesday has been adjourned until Thursday, and in the meantime Dr. O'Brien will make a post mortem examination.

ROSSLAND. (From the Rossland Miner.) The phenomenal extent of the ore body, accompanied by its high grade in gold value, discovered in the Jumbo, has added tremendously to the value of all that area of Red mountain lying between the Jumbo on the west and the War Eagle, Le Roi, Josie, Nickel Plate, North Bend, Centre Star, and Cliff on the east. It has also awakened new interest in all the adjoining claims, including the Nevada, Gold King, Victor and High Ore. A heavy offer was made for the Nevada but it was declined. The Gold King has been sold for \$15,000 on a year bond to D. M. Linnard for the E. C. syndicate.

Another and decidedly surprising turn in the kaleidoscope of the Iron Horse deal was made this week. E. A. Humphreys now holds a 60-day option on the property at the price of \$51,000. After some complicated negotiations Mr. Humphreys has purchased the Nevada and Cabana \$2,000 each and signed with them an agreement which stipulated that in consideration of the payment by Humphreys of the said \$2,000 he should have the option to purchase the Iron Horse group at any time before May 31, 1896, at the price of \$51,000 the \$2,000 cash to be deducted, leaving \$49,000 to be paid.

QUESNELLE FORKS. (QUESNELLE FORKS, April 3.—Mr. Hobson, Mr. Barker and others of the Cariboo company are expected in a few days to get matters in order for commencing operations. A detachment of eighteen miners arrived a day or two ago at the Cariboo company's claim and it is stated that the remaining part of an import of 60 men from California may be bringing in one hundred men from California—50 for the Cariboo claim and 50 for the Horseshoe company's work.

Mr. Plewman, cashier of the Victoria Consolidated Hydraulic Mining Co., has gone forward to Keithly Point on the north fork of the Quesnelle river, where the company's works are located, and Mr. Brigham, who is to superintend operations this season, is expected in a day or two.

Freight teams are endeavoring to make the most of the snow for sleighing. Fine and generally mild weather for the season may be said to have prevailed during the last fortnight with the exception of the nights of Sunday and Monday last, when the thermometer registered 20 degrees of frost. Snow on the sunny sides of the hills has nearly all gone, but on the flats and in the shade there are still something like two feet left.

Numerous new buildings are being erected.

VERNON. (From the News.) Some excellent specimens of gold-bearing quartz have recently been brought up from the Stag claim at Camp Hewitt, on which work will be vigorously prosecuted this summer.

Judge Spinks intends experimenting on grape culture to a considerable extent, and daily expects a shipment of 500 vines from New York, embracing twelve of the best known and most reliable varieties.

J. R. Alcock, of Vancouver, is here in the interests of a mining and prospecting syndicate, which he organized during a recent trip to Ontario. He will spend some time in the district looking over claims in the different camps, with the view of making investments for the company.

There are few idle men in town this spring, most of them having either found work on the ranches or gone prospecting. Business in consequence is reported dull by city merchants, as the farmers and their employes are too busy with spring work to visit town very frequently.

The catch of marten this year has been fairly large, and a good many fine skins have been purchased from local trappers by W. C. Pountney. The price paid is slightly higher than that of the past two or three years, and some of the trappers have realized comfortable little sums from their winter's work. Beaver are getting scarcer every year, but lynx and wolverine seem to be on the increase.

A number of fishing and picnic parties

took advantage of Good Friday and spent the day at Long lake. The weather was fine, and some good sport was enjoyed. Charles Simms captured a magnificent red trout which turned the scales at thirteen pounds.

The incoming freight and way traffic on the S. & O. branch has been considerably larger for the past two months than during the same period last year, while a falling off is noticeable in freight sent out, there being less hay, flour and stove stock shipped during March from this station by several cars than was the case in March 1895.

H. Craven, with whom the owners of the Swan lake group of mineral claims have been negotiating with view of having a working bond placed on their property, will leave England about the middle of this month, and is expected to be in this city about the first of May. The English company which he represents has not yet been completed, but it will probably be placed on a definite basis as soon as he arrives.

The Columbia river and the Revelstoke down, but it is stated that the large boats of the C. & K. company will make Arrowhead their northern terminus during the summer, whence freight will be transferred to the new thirty-mile railway running from Revelstoke to the head of Arrow lake.

The area of land under wheat crop this year exceeds to a considerable extent that of any previous season. The wheat of the Okanagan and Spallumcheen districts, and with a favorable season the total amount harvested will, it is thought, be about a fifth more than last year.

A heavy fall of rain in Vancouver night was the first of any consequence this spring, and farmers would not object to seeing a good deal more of it, as the fall wheat and ranges would be the better of a good soaking.

Fall wheat in some parts of the Mission valley suffered somewhat from the scarcity of snow, and some of the ground is being reseeded this spring.

Farmers are well advanced with their spring work in most parts of the district, though through Spallumcheen the season has been a little more backward than in the neighborhood of this city.

REVELSTOKE. REVELSTOKE, April 8.—The ore shipments through here during the week ending this day are as follows:

Mine	Weight	Value
Idaho	40,000	\$2,204
Slocan Star	150,000	6,345
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Total	400,000	\$17,189

KAMLOOPS. (From the Sentinel.) Conductor Ristein, recently relieved from duty on account of the Gladwin accident, has been re-employed by the company as a freight conductor of the Slocan line, and will have his first place for promotion to his old position.

Fire obtained a lodgement in the planing under the engine of the electric light and water works power house, but was fortunately discovered before any serious damage had been caused.

R. C. Townley, of Vancouver, the leading promoter of the Allison Rancho Hydraulic Mining Syndicate is in town. The syndicate was formed with a capital of \$250,000 and is situated at the junction of the Similkameen and Tulameen rivers, adjacent to the townsite of Princeton and consists of 640 acres of auriferous gravels.

Mr. Townley says East in a few days to complete the subscription of the necessary capital, and will then proceed with the work of development, which will take up most of the present season.

Further particulars regarding the freight train accident on the C.P.R., 2 1/2 miles this side of North Bend, show that the train was passing through a cut, and immediately on emerging from it encountered a rock that had dropped on the track from the wheels of a freight engine which was lifted from the rails, and after bumping along on the ties for a short distance, the engine and thirteen cars plunged forty feet down a rather steep embankment, and were very nearly smashed. All the workmen on the train found that their workmen produced more in the eight hours than they did formerly in nine. The government's decision will go into effect on the 1st of next month.

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OUR OTTAWA LETTER.

Opposition Obstruction to Remedial Bill Places Quebec Liberals in an Awkward Position.

The Eight-Hour Day—Exports of Agricultural Products—Analysis of Soils.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, April 4.—At the present time of writing the house is engaged in its first Saturday sitting and the process of insidious obstruction on the part of the opposition, assisted by Messrs. McCarthy and O'Brien, is in progress. The Liberals are very careful to disavow any intention on their part to retard the progress of the remedial bill—that is the English-speaking Liberals.

HAVE TO PROCEED CAREFULLY. The Quebec Liberals admit themselves that they are now "between the devil and the deep sea." They plainly foresee that from the attitude assumed by their leader there is nothing for them at the coming general elections but almost total annihilation. So exasperated are they at the turn which events have taken that they have intimated to their leader that if this obstruction on the bill is continued, thereby rendering any chance of re-election for them all the more difficult, they will formally secede from the Liberal ranks in the house on this measure.

Indeed, on Thursday, on the vote as to whether or not the house should rise at 6 o'clock to-day, 15 Liberals voted with the government, and this morning when Mr. Charlton commenced his obstructive tactics and Sir Charles Tupper called a division, simply for the purpose of putting the Liberals on record and "rubbing it in," only six other members were found to support the member for North Newton. The coming week will, it is expected, witness

A TEST OF PHYSICAL ENDURANCE. As between the government and the opposition. Wednesday is to be taken as a government day so that the government now will have about two clear weeks or say, twelve days in which to get the bill through the committee stage and give it its third reading. Up to the present three out of the 112 clauses have been passed and unless a change comes over the minds of the parliamentarian dream and members are in a more tractable frame of mind the bill cannot assuredly become law this session. Half a dozen determined men can thwart the government in this respect.

The difficulty of the government, as explained in previous letters, is that during the committee stage a member can speak as long as he pleases and as often as he pleases. Even though Mr. Laurier might be a sambo of assisting the bill, yet there is nothing to prevent Mr. McCarthy, Mr. Mulock and Mr. Edgar and others from opposing it "off their own bat."

THE EIGHT HOUR DAY. The announcement by the government yesterday of their intention to make a trial of the eight hour day without reduction of wages, in the government work shops and printing bureau is hailed with delight by friends of organized labor. In the old country the system was adopted by the Imperial government in the Woolwich Arsenal with the most satisfactory results. It has been found that the United States Consul General is inquiring into the matter.

A Havana dispatch says the insurgents at Remedios have burned three settlements and 9,400 tons of cane. At San Felipe, Havana, they have burned the fine plantation of San Felipe, together with the buildings and machinery, 25,000 tons of cane and 400 tons of kindling wood.

The Queen of Spain has offered her felicitations to Captain General Weyler and to the army on the operations recently conducted by General Luque.

INHUMAN INSURGENTS. HAVANA, April 9.—The insurgents have burned the cane fields and 17,000 tons of sugar at the plantation of Santa Rita de Bare, province of Matanzas. Near Jovellanos the insurgents are reported to have killed four laborers with their machetes, and at Tapaste they are announced to have hanged a local guerilla. A dispatch from Trinidad says that Manuel Gonzalez, the insurgent leader, has been killed and a telegram from Oliver says that four insurgents have been captured and that in addition the authorities have made prisoner of the mistress of the well known insurgent leader, Blas Hernandez. At the farm of El Portuguese near Palos, province of Matanzas, the insurgents captured the proprietor, Joaquin Martinez, and in the presence of his daughters, who were crying and begging them not to kill their father, carried the unfortunate man to the woods. His daughter Amelia followed her father and thereupon the insurgents fastened her to a tree, and in her presence cut off her father's arm and slashed his neck. This, according to the story, caused the young girl to faint and she was outraged by the insurgents, who afterwards burned the farm house.

Among other things he said: "I should say much about the merits of our existing method of the virgin soils of Canada. During the past year this has been restricted to certain soils from the province of British Columbia. Without going into the details I would say as far as I am concerned that the alluvial soils of certain river valleys in that province are exceedingly rich in plant food. I refer especially to the soils of the Fraser and the Pitt river valleys. These are found to be exceedingly fertile, but that is only as might be expected. Another class of soils in British Columbia are known as the bench soils. These differ very much in their constituents from the soils just mentioned. They are very much poorer; considerably inferior in quality. They are soils formed by the detritus of the rivers. As a class I have

found them to be so far sandy and by no means comparable to our richer Canadian virgin soils in other provinces and to those

to which reference has been made. Mr. McDonald, of Assiniboia, put the question whether an analysis had been made of the reclaimed lands on the coast of British Columbia, that is, the dyke lands. To this Mr. Shutt replied: "One of the soils I have referred to—that is the Pitt meadows—is one. It is an exceedingly fertile soil." "More so than the Fraser valley?" asked Mr. McDonald. Mr. Shutt replied: "The soils are very similar, and without referring particularly to the figures, I would say that it is an exceedingly fertile soil."

Dealing with the second class of B. C. soils, known as the bench soil, which is light and sandy as to their character, Mr. Shutt said in connection with that fact, notwithstanding their constitution, many of them have produced excellent crops. This is probably due as much to the favorable climate of the province as to the soil. In fact, the fertility of the soil is not entirely dependent upon its chemical composition. The

FACTORS OF FERTILITY are favorable climate, proper condition of tilth on mechanical condition, and thirdly, the elements of plant food. In British Columbia there is a large amount of fish waste and there are also on the shores of that province large amounts of sea weed that could be collected. In these two substances we have those elements which would be necessary to increase the fertility of these soils. In the fish waste we have nitrogen and phosphoric acid, both in a form which could be made readily available, while in the sea weed we have the material which now goes to waste every year, and representing thousands of dollars of

PLANT FOOD, by the intelligent application of these materials, the light soils of British Columbia might be made to produce much more than they do now, especially when we consider the very favorable climate of the province." Mr. Carpenter asked: "Is there a sufficient quantity of fish waste available?" Mr. Shutt replied: "I am informed that there are hundreds of tons of fish offal from canneries that is more or less wasted every year. The same is more or less true of the Maritime provinces. British Columbia also contains certain river valleys known as mucky, and towards the reformations of these for their mechanical treatment I have been making a series of experiments."

"CUBA BELLIGERENTA." LONDON, April 9.—The Morning Post, in an editorial, assumes that President Cleveland will do nothing in regard to the Cuban revolution, and that it is merely election tactics. "A very serious condition of things exists in Cuba," says the Post, but it is not one that is likely to be improved by the continuous interference of American jingimism.

A Paris dispatch to the Daily News says: "A French resident of Cuba, writing to Le Soir draws a lamentable picture of the ferocious character of the war between the Cuban rebels and the Spanish troops. He believes, however, that the rebels will eventually shake off the Spanish rule. He states that Weyler allows the troops to shoot and bayonet villagers suspected of harboring insurgents." "A few days ago," he continues, "a band of volunteers infuriated by the resolutions of the United States Congress, shot six sons of an American farmer at Carigua. The United States Consul General is inquiring into the matter."

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WITH FATAL RESULTS.

Terrible Explosion of Nitro-Glycerine on the Departure Bay Road.

Albert Stevenson of the Hamilton Powder Co.'s Staff Blown to Atoms.

NANAIMO, April 9.—(Special)—Austin Stevenson, an employee of the Hamilton Powder Company, met death this afternoon in a sudden and terrible manner. He was driving a one-horse express wagon containing 400 pounds of nitro-glycerine from the company's lower works to the mill, and had taken the Departure Bay road from Northfield. This road is extremely rough in places, and to this fact the awful sequel must be attributed. When Stevenson had covered part of the distance the nitro-glycerine exploded with such terrific effect that man and wagon were literally blown into nothingness, while the horse was horribly mutilated, its head and legs being torn from the body, and the latter disembowelled. The ground within a circle of fully fifty yards in diameter looks as if a cyclone had recently struck it. Trees are torn up by the roots in all directions, and the few houses in the vicinity are badly shaken and their windows shattered into fragments; the small cottage of A. E. Dougan, situated about 200 yards away from the scene of the tragedy sustained the greatest damage in this respect though none of the occupants are injured.

The explosion was so violent as to be distinctly heard and felt in this city, the old court house, in which an inquest on the body of an infant found dead on the beach last Tuesday was in progress at the time, sustained a severe shaking and one window in the Green block and another at St. Anne's convent were broken.

Stevenson was an unmarried man, 30 years of age and a native of Quebec. He worked at a livery stable here till about six months ago, when he was employed by the powder company as a teamster.

Mr. H. J. Scott, the company's manager, can add nothing to the information contained in the above dispatch, which he was shown last evening, and which gave him the first particulars of the disastrous accident. Every possible precaution was exercised, he says, in the handling of the explosive, the wagon being one specially built for the purpose in which it was used, and each of the packages of explosive being carefully packed in wicker lining. So severe was the shock and so loud the report of the explosion that they were heard and felt distinctly in Chemainus, 25 miles or more away.

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