

HEARING OF WILL CASE CONTINUED

MRS. JOAN DUNSMUIR IS PARTY PLAINTIFF

Application to Allow Her to Intervene is Granted by Mr. Justice Drake.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

The cross-examination of H. Cole Skinner, barrister of the Occidental hotel, San Francisco, was read when the hearing of Hopper vs. Dunsmuir was resumed yesterday afternoon.

Geo. A. Koch, a mining engineer, knew Alexander Dunsmuir slightly, and met him in the Occidental hotel, San Francisco, in 1885 or 1886. He gave evidence as to Alexander Dunsmuir's drinking in the bar. Witness tried to get Dunsmuir interested in a mining deal, but he would talk on one subject for a while and then switch off to something else, till the conversation was led back to the first subject. He seemed to have no business qualification or keenness.

Angeline P. Douglas, a friend of Alexander and Mrs. Dunsmuir in San Francisco, gave evidence as to Alexander's drinking and foolish and silly ways in 1890.

Pat Rafferty gave instances of Alexander Dunsmuir's conduct at the Pacific Union Club of San Francisco. At one time he threw money by handfuls into the street through the window.

The case was further adjourned till 10.30 this morning.

To-Day's Proceedings.

The chief feature of the Hopper vs. Dunsmuir trial to-day was the adding as party plaintiff Mrs. Joan Olive Dunsmuir, mother of the defendant and of the late Alexander Dunsmuir.

When the court met this morning C. A. Bury and D. M. Rogers appeared on behalf of Mrs. Joan Olive Dunsmuir, and made application to have their client added as party plaintiff.

After Mr. Bury had made his application E. V. Bodwell, K. C., of counsel for plaintiff, took the view that in the interests of justice Mrs. Dunsmuir should be added otherwise it might result in her being estopped from taking action.

E. P. Davis, K. C., argued it was not necessary to add Mrs. Dunsmuir. The objection was that the delay for her addition could be settled without the intervention of Mrs. Joan Dunsmuir. She had had plenty of time to move to take part in the action before the trial commenced.

Mr. Bury argued the right of Mrs. Joan Dunsmuir to come in at any time during the action.

Mr. Justice Drake saw no objection to Mrs. Joan Dunsmuir being added as plaintiff, but this morning the delay for her addition was not considered.

Mr. Bury argued that the delay would be very brief, and while prepared to pay costs of any delay his client should not be obliged to pay for what had already been done.

Mr. Davis opposed an adjournment, and finally the court decided that the case should proceed without an adjournment, and that Mrs. Dunsmuir should have two days to put in her pleadings, the question of costs being left in abeyance till then.

The reading of the evidence taken in San Francisco was then resumed, that of Mr. McKee being the first. It dealt with Alexander Dunsmuir's excessive drinking at the Occidental hotel.

Harry H. J. Smith, elevator boy and bell boy at the Grand hotel, gave similar evidence to other witnesses regarding Alexander Dunsmuir's conduct and appearance at the Grand hotel.

This closed the reading of the San Francisco evidence, and the taking of oral testimony began.

Lewis Ginter, of San Francisco, was until lately bell boy and porter boy at the Grand hotel, San Francisco. At that time Alexander Dunsmuir had rooms at the Occidental hotel, but would come over evenings and stay at the Grand with Mrs. Wallace. Later in 1895 or 1896 he went to live at the Grand hotel altogether. Witness had performed various services for Alexander, such as taking up liquor to him, helping him to dress and other duties. He would give witness \$5 gold pieces to purchase a bottle of whiskey, and declined to accept the change. Witness stated Mr. Dunsmuir drank heavily, and gave similar evidence regarding a trip on which witness traveled with him as valet to Portland, Tacoma and Victoria in August, 1898.

In October they left Victoria for Vancouver, and thence to New York.

The court then adjourned for lunch. (From Wednesday's Daily.)

When the trial of Hopper vs. Dunsmuir was resumed yesterday afternoon, the examination of Louis Ginter, the valet, was continued.

The witness, in cross-examination by E. P. Davis, stated that he had written to James Dunsmuir offering to give him information regarding the trial. Mr. Dunsmuir did not make use of him, however. Witness did not offer to help the plaintiff's side; they had come to him.

Mr. Davis closely questioned him as to how he remembered the numerous dates so well. Witness replied that he had kept them in a memorandum book now at his hotel. On fishing trip they had, when Alexander was visiting Victoria, Alexander ate well and did not drink much, but that was the exception. He considered that during the early part of September Alexander was quite fit to carry on business. He would not swear that Alexander could not carry on business at some period of the day between August, 1898, to November, 1899.

To witness's knowledge Alexander did not mumble to himself when he was sober. Questioned as to the fishing trip, wit-

ness did not recollect telling anyone between October and December, 1901, that it was a shame Mrs. Hopper brought this action, and that she had no chance or chance of winning.

Asked if he had told a tailor named Daus in San Francisco that he had made \$500 last time this case was up, and would make \$3,000 or \$4,000 this time, witness did not recollect the conversation, but would not swear he had not had it.

Re-examined by L. P. Duff, K. C., witness said that last time he was up on the case he was paid \$20 a week for his time, and that was all he was paid.

Mamie Howe, lady's maid, was in Mrs. Hopper's employ. She saw Alexander at the Grand hotel, New York, in 1898, where he appeared ill, and in the summer of 1899 she saw him at San Leandro, California. He looked weaker then than in New York. He also acted in a queer way.

Then in the following January witness saw Alexander in New York at the Imperial hotel. He was very much worse in appearance. From September, 1900, to the time of Mrs. Dunsmuir's death, witness was her nurse. Witness also recalled instances of Mrs. Dunsmuir's change of disposition. James Dunsmuir's family visited San Leandro in November, 1900, and then Mrs. Alex. Dunsmuir and they went to San Francisco and stayed for a time at the Palace hotel. On a Saturday early in December Mrs. Alex. Dunsmuir told witness she had been at San Leandro, and she thought they had persuaded her not to fight James Dunsmuir, and she signed a paper making an arrangement for two years. Witness said she thought this strange, and she thought Wilson was acting for both parties. In the preceding June Mrs. Alex. Dunsmuir told her in New York that Russell Wilson did not want her to go back to San Leandro, as he feared she might sign some paper that would do her no good in regard to the will. Mrs. Alexander Dunsmuir, when she signed the agreement, had not been told that she would die shortly. Mrs. Dunsmuir a few weeks before she died asked that witness, where they had persuaded her not to fight James Dunsmuir's ghost, and asked to talk with him alongside the bed.

The court adjourned till 11 o'clock this morning before Mr. Davis began his cross-examination.

This Morning's Proceedings.

The array of counsel at the trial was increased this morning by the presence of Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, K. C., who, with Mr. Bury, appeared on behalf of Mrs. Joan Dunsmuir, the party plaintiff.

Before going on with the evidence, L. P. Duff, K. C., on behalf of plaintiff, asked that the evidence of Mrs. Louise Bailey might be taken in San Francisco. She had been maid to Mrs. Alexander Dunsmuir, and counsel read an affidavit stating that Louise Bailey had been refused permission by her husband to come to Victoria for the trial.

E. P. Davis, K. C., objected that the affidavit was made by Mamie Howe, one of the witnesses for the plaintiff, instead of by plaintiff's counsel in San Francisco, and that the affidavit stated that Mrs. Bailey's husband had told deponent that he would not allow his wife to come, if it did not show that deponent believed this. The affidavit he held did not show that it was impossible to secure the attendance of the witness in Canada. There was also unnecessary delay in making the application.

Mr. Duff argued that it was absolutely necessary to have the witness's testimony. He did not know what influences might have been brought on the husband to prevent his wife from coming here. The witness had been in the house at the time Alexander Dunsmuir's will was drawn up, and her evidence would be necessary to the case.

Mr. Justice Drake refused the application on the ground that the reasons given were not sufficient to delay the trial at this late date, and Mr. Duff said he would renew his application when Mr. Dunsmuir, the San Francisco counsel of the plaintiff, who had been telegraphed for, arrived from San Francisco.

The cross-examination of Mamie Howe, the lady's maid, was then begun by Mr. Duff. Witness stated that Alexander Dunsmuir at San Leandro, when she was there in 1899, did not require assistance to walk about the grounds. She had heard him talk intelligently at times, but would swear that at times when intoxicated he could not converse intelligently. She considered him too childish to conduct business.

The plaintiff, Edna Wallace Hopper, was the next witness. She had first known Alexander Dunsmuir when he was living with her parents in the seventies. Later her parents separated and afterwards she went to stay with her mother and Alexander Dunsmuir. Alexander had promised to take care of witness, and had sent her to a boarding school. He was very kind and affectionate to her. He went to see her at boarding school and wrote letters to her, taking an interest in her like an indulgent parent. In 1885 or 1886 witness went to live with her mother and Mr. Dunsmuir on Post street, San Francisco. About that time she noticed Alexander Dunsmuir was drinking, and frequently under the influence of liquor. He had hallucinations, and always wanted to sign cheques when in that condition.

Witness went through the various periods of the residence in San Francisco. When at school she had one day been sent home with a note, which she gave her mother. Her mother cried after reading it, and witness told Alexander that she was sent away from school because of her mother's name was Dunsmuir and his was Dunsmuir. He told her all would be right in the end; that both she and her mother must have patience. Witness told of some of the strange things Alexander would do sometimes. He would, when witness was a child, pick her out of bed when she was sound asleep and place her in a tub of cold water. Eventually witness told Alexander that under the circumstances of her mother not being acknowledged as Mrs. Dunsmuir, she would have to go away. He tried to persuade her not to do so, and offered her everything she wanted if she would only stay with them, but when Alexander was asked to go to New York, he went on the stage. She next saw Mr. Dunsmuir in 1892 in San Francisco

when she was playing an engagement. He was drinking then very heavily. In 1895 in San Francisco he was not strong enough to romp with her like he did several years before. In 1897 she saw him again at San Francisco when she was there for two weeks. He was then weaker and the doctor went to see him every day. His speech was affected and muttering at times. Most of the time at that period he spoke in baby talk.

At this point the court rose for lunch. (From Thursday's Daily.)

The afternoon's sitting of the Hopper vs. Dunsmuir case opened yesterday with the plaintiff in the witness box, her examination being opened in the morning being resumed by L. P. Duff, K. C. The public are taking a great interest in the trial, the court room being crowded, many of those present being of the fair sex.

Referring to the visit of her mother and Alexander Dunsmuir to New York in 1898, the plaintiff told of a shopping expedition she had with Alex. Dunsmuir, in which he made many extravagant purchases. Among them he wanted to buy her a \$22,000 diamond bracelet, but she persuaded him to take one that only cost \$4,000. He also bought her a doll in a toyshop, and made her carry it home, saying she was a little girl and should carry her doll. At this time he would begin to talk on some subject, and then forget what he had started out to say. At San Leandro she saw him next year. He had fallen away in flesh and was feeble in his walk. He was also weak mentally, not being able to converse intelligently for any length of time, and seemed childish. At that time he was allowed a certain quantity of liquor by the doctors.

Coming to the time of Alexander's visit to New York in December, 1899, witness saw Alexander lying on the sofa when she visited her mother at the Imperial, and was quite shocked to find he did not know her. A few days before witness's birthday, January 17th, Alexander went with her to Tiffany's to purchase her some pearls, but before he could make the purchase he sank into a chair and had to be carried home and put to bed. He never rose from it again. After Alexander's death, the doctor told James Dunsmuir that Mrs. Dunsmuir should not take the trip West, but should be operated upon at once for cancer, that delay was dangerous.

Witness told about her mother's subsequent visit to New York for operation in the spring of 1900. Her mother had become changed in disposition, and among other things spent money foolishly. As an instance she purchased a library for \$30,000 that she had no funds to pay for, and it had never been paid for yet. Witness was being sued for it now. Her mother in the period before Alexander's death in January, 1900, to her own death in June, 1901, incurred \$50,000 of debts. Mr. Wilson, her mother's lawyer, told her mother in New York she should not go to San Francisco as James Dunsmuir might do something to prejudice her case. This was decided upon, but her mother shifted and changed her mind, and finally went to San Francisco. Her mother never knew that Wilson & Wilson acted for James Dunsmuir. Witness went to San Leandro with her mother. At that time witness did not know Wilson & Wilson acted for both James Dunsmuir and her mother. It was Robin Dunsmuir who gave her the information in New York that Wilson & Wilson were acting for both parties. Witness went back to New York and her mother followed her in November. Her mother told her she had signed a paper in California to the effect that a division would be made of the property in two years, that James Dunsmuir had stated that there was a large debt to pay, and if she had patience it would come all right, and she could have her share of the estate.

This finished the examination in chief of the plaintiff, and the court adjourned till this morning.

Before the cross-examination of the plaintiff was commenced this morning, Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, K. C., brought to the court's attention the fact that the order setting the terms of Mrs. Joan Dunsmuir being added as party plaintiff, stated that no postponement of the action could take place in consequence of her being sick. He is being shackled with a condition that might preclude an adjournment, that without such a condition might very well be granted.

Mr. Justice Drake remarked that should anything come up that made it necessary to take an adjournment the order would not preclude this.

The cross-examination of the plaintiff was then begun by E. P. Davis, K. C. Her father had not been a man of financial standing, and could not prove it for her so well as Alexander Dunsmuir, who gave her everything she wished for when she went to live with him.

Questioned as to the value of the estate at San Leandro, plaintiff stated that she would accept \$200,000 for it, but she had once made arrangements to sell it to the late Mr. Fair for \$350,000, but he died before the sale was completed. It was on the same day, December 21st, 1899, that he had married her mother that Alexander Dunsmuir had made the will.

Plaintiff was questioned very closely by Mr. Davis as to what construction she put upon Alexander Dunsmuir carrying around a pillow and calling it "baby." She said she put it down to a fancy of Alexander's, and had mentioned to show that it was one of his peculiarities and weaknesses. She did not think that in December, 1899, Alexander could transact any business that would require the exercise of brains, though he might do things that were matters of habit in business.

Mr. Davis questioned plaintiff as to what she meant, and to give a particular instance.

Plaintiff said she could not do this, as she did not know what business Alexander had to transact, but as an instance in her own case she could play the harp mechanically, and think of something else, the action not taking the same mental exercise as when she was learning the instrument. She had also sung on the stage when she was thinking of something else. In 1897 Alexander's condition of inability to do business might have been due to intoxication, but in 1898 she did not consider he could attend to business owing to weakness of

mind that affected him even when he was not intoxicated.

Questioned as to her mother's purchase of a library, she believed the books had been bought on time.

In reference to the will contest, she said that Mr. Wilson, her mother's lawyer in San Francisco, stated that James Dunsmuir had said that if the will was contested he would take the trial and business away from San Francisco, and she would have to go to Victoria to fight; as James Dunsmuir was Premier, represented the Queen, who owned the courts, she would have no chance against him. Plaintiff knew Lord Francis Hope and his wife (May Yeo). They had stayed at her mother's house for four weeks. The day they were leaving her mother told witness to tell Lady Hope, and asked them to leave. This was during her mother's last illness, and plaintiff knew no reason for her mother taking the sudden prejudice against Lady Hope, in redirecting her against her.

K. C., plaintiff stated that Wilson & Wilson had told her mother that the will could be set aside. The San Leandro property was taken over by a shopkeeper brought in an income of about \$9,000 a year, and during that time \$25,000 had been expended on it by plaintiff, consequently the estate was a great source of income, and did not nearly pay for itself.

The examination of witness being ended the court rose for lunch.

VANCOUVER NEWS.

Mrs. Mary Rebecca Churchill, wife of A. Churchill, of 731 Richards street, died on Wednesday. The deceased lady was 29 years of age, and had been ill but a short time. She was a native of the United States, and resided in the city but a few months, having come from Nanaimo. She leaves a husband and four children to mourn her loss.

At the regular quarterly meeting of the Westminster Presbytery Rev. Thos. Oswald, of Ladner, was elected moderator for the ensuing year, and Rev. Dr. Armstrong, of Ottawa, was nominated as moderator for the general assembly.

Rev. John Macdonald, minister from North Dakota, presided over the details, and it was agreed to apply to the general assembly to receive him into the Canadian church. Mr. Fernie was appointed to the charge of Fort Haney and associated missions. Rev. J. Knox Wright gave notice of a motion to apply to the general assembly for the formation of a new Presbytery, to be called the Presbytery of Yukon, composed of non-resident churches, viz., White Horse, Bonanza and Dawson.

At the monthly meeting of the board of trade E. Waterman, secretary of the Princeton Board of Trade, wrote asking the board to support efforts to obtain the direct route for the coast to the Similkamen and enclosed copies of petitions to the Dominion and provincial governments for signatures. The secretary drew attention to the resolution already passed by the board, expressing its hearty support of a request for government subsidy for a Coast-Kootenay railway. It was accordingly decided to forward a copy of this resolution to the board.

By permission A. B. Cleburne, chairman of the Board of Health, briefly addressed the meeting regarding the Similkamen country, through which he had recently travelled. The people there, he said, were keenly interested in the proposed railway facilities and thought the government should render them more assistance. If the Coast-Kootenay direct line were not possible for financial reasons, every effort should be made to obtain the Spence's Bridge line. The chairman said he had been through the district and had been much impressed by two things, its extreme isolation and its vast possibilities. If only it had railway communications. Mr. Morrison, chairman of the remarks and urged the members to make the Spence's Bridge, Nicola Lake and Coast-Kootenay railway live issues and keep them before the public mind. He said he had brought a special committee he named by the president to draw up a resolution calling the government's attention to the need of the construction of the railway, which was unanimously adopted.

THE ATHLETIC COMMITTEE OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY, which was asked by the faculty of arts and science to report whether the big college football contests should be discontinued, has reported that it is not advisable at present to stop football games between university elevens.

Dr. S. P. Langley, the secretary of Smithsonian Institute, whose aerolone failed to fly on Tuesday, said that he did not know what caused the accident. E. M. Manley, who was with the machine, said that it was impossible to tell when the experiments would be resumed. "The engines worked beautifully," said he, "and everything seemed to be smooth until the rear end of the machine struck something and the frame work broke in half."

The Daily Mail's correspondent says it is reported by the Chinese representative in Tibet that the Russians are building two forts and are preparing to resist the British expedition. The locality in which these forts are being built is not definitely known.

CATARRH AND COLDS BELIEVED IN 10-60 MINUTES—One short puff of the medicine of Dr. Agnew's Catarrh Powder diffuses this powder over the surface of the nasal passages. Painless and delightful to use. It relieves instantly, and upon the cure of catarrh, hay fever, colds, headache, sore throat, tonsillitis and deafness. 50 cents. Sold by Jackson & Co. and Hall & Co.—41.

Miss Erline Sinclair, the 19-year-old school teacher of the Parks schoolhouse, in Sullivan county, Ind., was overpowered by her unruly pupils and tied in a pig trough with only her head above the surface of the water. She swore out warrants for assault and battery against six children.

THE ARNOTT INSTITUTE, BERLIN, ONTARIO, for the treatment of all forms of SPERMATOCYSTIC DEFECTS, and, of course, simply the habit, and therefore produce natural speech.

TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY. Take Laxative-Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. Wm. Groves's signature is on each box. 25c.

THE FLORA HAS BEEN FLOATED

PULLED OFF ROCK AT HIGH TIDE TO-DAY

Vessel to Be Slightly Repaired and Will Come South Under Her Own Steam.

Nanaimo, Dec. 10.—H. M. S. Flora was floated this morning at high tide. The Grafton, Egeria, and tugs all pulled together, and the Flora's own steam winches revolved. When all the power was put on the ship moved gracefully off the reef which she has occupied for a week, and plunged back into her element without accident.

She then proceeded under her own steam to Union Bay, where slight repairs will be made before she leaves for the dry dock at Esquimalt.

The machinery and internal works are uninjured, the bottom only having suffered by grinding on the rocks.

Cheers from a thousand bluejackets and whistles from the fleet steamers signalled the happy consummation of the work of floating the Flora.

A dispatch was received by the Admiral's secretary at Esquimalt this morning stating that the injured cruiser will probably come down here to-morrow.

PERSONAL.

Henry F. Pullen, provincial manager of the Woodmen of the World left Wednesday morning for Comox, where he will institute a new camp of his order. Incidentally he will also look up the camps at Nanaimo and Courtenay, returning the latter end of next week.

J. B. Hobson, general manager of the Cariboo Consolidated Hydraulic Gold Mining Company, has given notice to attend the annual meeting of the company's board, at which the report on the year's working will be prepared.

S. P. Malley, of Kamloops, arrived in the city Tuesday for the purpose of attending the semi-annual meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of British Columbia, which was held last evening.

Wm. Allen and wife left for England Tuesday. They took the steamer Claitan to Seattle, and will travel across the continent by the Great Northern railway.

THE SPANISH CABINET.

The resolution shown by the government during the recess and since at Bilbao in curbing the propaganda of disorder has favorably impressed the classes, who approached the cabinet with the modern, practical policy of the Prime Minister. While still suspicious as to how far the financial reforms may affect their personal and family interests, they are unable to reproach the government with any truckling to popular clamor. Wherever there was danger of a breach of public order the authorities acted promptly, avowedly under the direction of the cabinet, and the result has been made evident that in the discharge of the primary duty of a ministry, the protection of public liberty, Senor Villaverde will proceed without regard to the voting power of the Socialists or the Republicans, and this determined attitude has done much to clear the ground for the examination of the financial scheme now before the cortes.—Morning Post.

The athletic committee of Harvard university, which was asked by the faculty of arts and science to report whether the big college football contests should be discontinued, has reported that it is not advisable at present to stop football games between university elevens.

Dr. S. P. Langley, the secretary of Smithsonian Institute, whose aerolone failed to fly on Tuesday, said that he did not know what caused the accident. E. M. Manley, who was with the machine, said that it was impossible to tell when the experiments would be resumed. "The engines worked beautifully," said he, "and everything seemed to be smooth until the rear end of the machine struck something and the frame work broke in half."

The Daily Mail's correspondent says it is reported by the Chinese representative in Tibet that the Russians are building two forts and are preparing to resist the British expedition. The locality in which these forts are being built is not definitely known.

CATARRH AND COLDS BELIEVED IN 10-60 MINUTES—One short puff of the medicine of Dr. Agnew's Catarrh Powder diffuses this powder over the surface of the nasal passages. Painless and delightful to use. It relieves instantly, and upon the cure of catarrh, hay fever, colds, headache, sore throat, tonsillitis and deafness. 50 cents. Sold by Jackson & Co. and Hall & Co.—41.

Miss Erline Sinclair, the 19-year-old school teacher of the Parks schoolhouse, in Sullivan county, Ind., was overpowered by her unruly pupils and tied in a pig trough with only her head above the surface of the water. She swore out warrants for assault and battery against six children.

THE ARNOTT INSTITUTE, BERLIN, ONTARIO, for the treatment of all forms of SPERMATOCYSTIC DEFECTS, and, of course, simply the habit, and therefore produce natural speech.

TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY. Take Laxative-Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. Wm. Groves's signature is on each box. 25c.

AWAKE AT LAST.

THE FLORA HAS BEEN FLOATED

PULLED OFF ROCK AT HIGH TIDE TO-DAY

Vessel to Be Slightly Repaired and Will Come South Under Her Own Steam.

We are pleased to see that the Victoria Board of Trade has turned its attention to a brief survey of the political situation in British Columbia. It has been hitherto that this important commercial institution has put its strong hand to the plough before, generally when the implement was in the wrong furrow. This time we know the members are not in the wrong furrow, and we sincerely hope there shall be no turning back.

There can be no doubt whatever that the commercial interests of British Columbia are menaced by the measures now before the Legislature. There is good reason for the belief that the Finance Minister and his colleagues have been stampeded, by parties who hope to profit from their panic, into the course they have decided to adopt for the purpose of restoring a balance between revenue and expenditure in British Columbia. There is also good reason to believe that a mistake has been made in purposing to impose such an unnecessary burden upon our taxpayers as the million dollar loan, under the terms suggested, will be.

Good authorities venture to say that a short-term loan could be secured upon terms which would not involve the necessity of raising one hundred and fifty thousand dollars annually in addition to the heavy load of interest charges we are already under obligations to carry. If such be the case, a substantial measure of relief from the disabilities Finance Minister Tatlow proposes to impose upon the business of the province would at once be secured. Part of the cause of the heavy increase of taxation would at once be removed. Given a year or two of the activity in all lines of industry which would surely follow a restoration of confidence in the resources of British Columbia and her ability to meet all obligations, and the taxable assets would be so multiplied that a fair distribution of the burdens so injudiciously, and even dishonestly, heaped up would not be felt. Apart altogether from the ordinary progress of the province in the sections which have been opened up by the settler and the prospector, a new dominion will be practically created in the north by the construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway. In that territory, revived by the great business irrigator of the twentieth century, the railway, lies our ultimate hope of financial salvation. Let the government but exercise strict economy for a year or two, let it lop off all the mouldering branches, and there need be no necessity for the extraordinary, smothering burdens it seems determined to impose upon our small population.

In this connection, let it also be remembered that taxation is seldom reduced. There is no instance of such a movement on record in recent years in British Columbia. People become accustomed to toiling along under all sorts of disabilities, and finally conclude that such conditions are natural and inseparable from governments. Administrations have been led into temptations and extravagance by overflowing treasuries.

But the most serious aspect of the situation in this province, as created by the McBride government, is the possible effect of the increases in taxation upon business. The Socialist members comfort themselves with the delusion that the handicapping will not affect the people they represent. There is not an individual in the province who will not be affected. There is not an interest in the country that will not feel the effects of the changes. The business concerns of this province do not pay the taxes. Their customers are taxed to meet the demands of governments. If the taxes are elevated to an abnormal height and the goods become too expensive there are concerns in the East willing to step in and reap the harvest. That will be good for the railways, express companies, and the post office department, but it will be bad for business in British Columbia. This is the serious aspect of the matter. This is the means by which the industries of the province will be paralyzed. The business concerns of British Columbia report that they have to be on the alert to meet their competitors in the East. And the only remedy for the mal order habit is competition. The government of British Columbia proposes to add to the disadvantages business concerns here already labor under. We think if the McBride administration could be induced to reconsider its programme it might mend its ways. It started out on a wrong course. The foundations of its policy are not laid upon the rocks, but it will wreck the province if it persists in its purpose.

CONFEDERATION.

Canadians have been aroused to a real interest in the question of the involability of the Atlantic coast. Events of the present year have awakened them from their slumber. The United States has acquired a permanent title to a big slice of coast on the Pacific which should have been in possession of Canada. The consequence is that the natural passages to our great and wealthy "hinterland" are blocked up in a greater or lesser degree, and must forever remain partly or completely closed according to the amiability of mood or the reverse of our esteemed neighbors. This is the result of deliberately laid plans.

For more protection against foreign products have been "dumping" bounty fed iron into Great Britain. It appears the figures show that Canada dumped in Britain in the years 1901 and 1902 nearly as much iron as Germany, Holland, Belgium and the United States put together. The figures are: Germany, Holland and Belgium, 78,000 tons; the United States, 45,000 tons, and Canada 105,000 tons. Why should the men thus able to slaughter iron in Great Britain—iron for making which Canadians are taxed to pay bounties—cry for more duties?

Instead of expressing joy and exultation at the prospect of a general election and power, the Tory journals of the East are emitting howls of execration which indicate that they are extremely fearful of the result of an appeal to the people which will not be to their profit.

The Montreal-Gazette, from a long range view, concludes that the government of British Columbia is a "strong one." It is, very strong. And it has not yet attained the full measure of its strength.

Watches Free to Agents—Wanted, gentlemen and ladies to engage in the sale of our watches. We give our agents a free sample \$10 watch to take orders and a liberal commission. If you would like profitable employment for your spare time, write us at once for sample and full particulars. Ideal Watch Co., Dept. 18, Toronto, Ont.

BER... the City.

& CO.,... more not in

Nuts... SATY.

Co., Ltd. 41 JOHNSON STREET.

ry Co., Ltd. GOVERNMENT STREET.

TING OF REEVES.

Amendments to Municipal Act Decided Upon.

Meeting of the Reeves in

and Island was opened

at the city hall and adjourned

at 10 o'clock.

Man, Dec. 10.—A gas ma-

Revere hotel exploded this

Man, Dec. 10.—The West-

LOOK TO WEST.

Dec. 10.—At the annual

APPOINTMENT.

gover World's special

PE COMING AGAIN.

believe another epidemic

here, and already many are

since Catarrhoze was