LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL

News of the Day Selected from Thursday's Evening Times.

Chinese Peddlers.

Police Magistrate Macrae was on the bench at the police court all day hearing the evidence in the cases in which Chinese peddlers are charged with refusing to pay a license. No decision was arrived at in any of the cases.

St. Andrew's Church.

The authorities of St. Andrew's Presbyterian church are looking about for a new pastor to occupy the pulpit after the 6th proximo. It is stated that already some leading eastern divines are likely to come west to visit Victoria.

False Alarm.

The fire department was called out this morning by a mistake. A gentleman living on Rae street telephoned that the hydrant on that street was broken. The firemen understood the gentleman to say that there was a fire and the whole department turned out.

The Dog Poisoned.

An Irish setter dog, valued at $100, the property of W. G. Stevenson, was poisoned last night near Mr. Stevenson's home, corner of Carr and Rithet streets. Mr. Stevenson does not believe the poison was intended for his dog, but it did its deadly work just the same.

Off for Australia.

The steamship Miowera, of the Canadian-Australian steamship line, departed for Honolulu and Australia this afternoon. She took a large number of passengers and a heavy freight. Amongst the cargo was a lot of Sound freight brought over by the Kingston a few evenings ago.

For California.

The steamer Walla Walla, Capt. Wallace, sailed for San Francisco this morning with the following cabin passengers from Victoria: Fred Young and wife, D. O. Roblin and wife, R. Davis and wife, F. G. Dexter, Mrs. Waldeck, Mrs. R. Horton, Miss R. Horton, Miss L. McGibbon, Mrs. Stanley, F. Freer, wife and child, A. S. Netherby, L. Archer, D. J. Edwards, John Smith, F. B. Livingston, L. J. Thompson, W. C. Codbett, R. P. Jones, W. P. Hammett, George Liebes, Mrs. T. Howard, Mrs. Cassebon and George Hackett.

"Hunting for Gold."

Major Downie, the veteran prospector, has arrived from California with the advance copies of his book, entitled "Hunting for Gold." It is a history of the major's experiences among the mines of California, British Columbia, Alaska and Mexico, extending over nearly fifty years. The book is well printed and contains many handsome engravings. It is undoubtedly the most interesting and instructive book that has been written about mining on the Pacific coast.

Of all the "49ers" not one, perhaps, has had a more varied experience or been more the sport of fortune than Major Downie, who is now laying this record of his adventure life before the public. From poverty to wealth and back to poverty again—such has been his journey, like thousands of others who have devoted their lives to the fascinating pursuit of the yellow metal. Major Downie is personally known to a multitude of people on this Pacific coast who will be eager to read his book without any recommendation other than their acquaintance with its author. To all those who have not the advantage of acquaintance with the veteran it should be necessary only to say that his story is of unusual fascination for even a pioneer miner to have to tell. His description of the romantic gold-seeking days of 1849 in California follows a great many other such descriptions, nevertheless it has its new points of interest. Yuba creek and Downieville and other scenes of the major's early labors are set before the reader in a most interesting fashion. British Columbians will naturally take still greater interest in that part of the story which relates to their own province. Major Downie spent much time in exploring portions of British Columbia and Alaska in his quest for gold, and was instrumental in adding to the stock of knowledge of this northern country. The record of his hardships and adventures will be of interest not only to those who indulge in thoughts of gold, but to the many who are fascinated by the stories of pioneers' wanderings. The concluding chapter deals with the major's expedition to Panama in prosecution of his favorite pursuit. The book is written in a simple but graphic style, and should at once find favor with the reading public.

Y.M.C.A. CONVENTION OPENED

Reviewing the Work of the Year Which Has Just Closed.

BUSINESS OF THE MORNING SESSION

There Are Not as Many Delegates Present as Were Last Year—Financial Situation Has Hampered the Work—Future Prospects Are Good.

The 10th annual convention of the Young Men's Christian Association of the Pacific Northwest opened this morning at 9:30. Although there were delegates present from 10 associations, distributed through three states on the other side and British Columbia, and an enthusiastic start was made with the work, there was a falling off in the attendance compared with last year noted, and it was gleaned from what was said and reported that financial matters had in a way hampered and curtailed the work. However, what is lacking in that direction is made up in a general spirit to carry the work through every obstacle to success. There were probably 40 delegates and 100 visitors in the hall when proceedings opened with a prayer and song service led by Noel H. Jacks, secretary at Portland. J. A. Dummett, travelling secretary, called the meeting to order in the absence of H. Allen Shorey of Portland, president of the last convention. The election of officers resulted as follows:

President, A. M. Muir of Vancouver; vice-presidents, A. C. Brydone-Jacks of New Westminster and A. Caldwell of New Whatcom; secretaries, John Baikie, Portland, W. H. Wilcox, Tacoma, and Colvin W. Stewart, Whitworth College, Sumner, Washington.

Then followed the reading of short written reports from the ten associations. The principal feature of these reports was the scarcity of funds. However, withall there was a spirit to go ahead and encouragement to be found in future prospects. Reports from districts were then received as follows: District No. 1, F. W. Teague, Victoria, chairman; district No. 2, A. V. Belle, Seattle, chairman; district No. 3, L. N. Gross, Portland, chairman.

Under the head of suggestions on district work by visitors from the east Mr. C. J. Hicks of New York, international secretary, Sec. Ober of Omaha and Prof. W. H. Williams of Wisconsin spoke. All three made very interesting talks, and a variety of valuable suggestions founded on past experience in larger fields thrown out for the benefit of the local workers.

At noon time a collation was served to the delegates at Temperance Hall, the ladies of the Presbyterian and Baptist churches being in charge. There was a large attendance at the dinner and a very pleasant time was had. The delegates were all introduced, made at home and a substantial welcome to Victoria extended. A number of talks all in a happy vein were made by different ones around the board.

The afternoon session began at 2 o'clock with Bible reading and the programme for the rest of the day is to be as follows: 2:45—"College Association Work in the Pacific Northwest," with report of second college conference, Prof. W. H. Lee, chairman of the committee on college work, Albany, Ore. Greetings from the college workers in the east, Prof. W. H. Williams, University of Wisconsin. 3:30—"Volunteer Work, the Strength of Our Associations; How Can We Promote its Efficiency?" Frank W. Ober, general secretary, Omaha, Nebraska. 4—"Possibilities for Development in Work for Boys," John Boyd, Victoria, followed by discussion. 4:45—Question drawer, in charge of the international secretary, Clarence J. Hicks, New York city. The paper by Mr. Boyd and the question drawer were looked forward to with pleasure by those present. At 7:30 o'clock this evening there will be a social at the rooms of the association, and with an excellent programme arranged and other amusements promised all will enjoy themselves.

The programme for to-morrow is as followe:

9:30—Bible reading, John H. Elliott. 10—"The Physical Department as a Factor in Association Work," Noel H. Jacks, general secretary, Portland, Ore., followed by discussion. 11—Conference on Bible study and classes; four ten-minute papers, followed by a ten-minute discussion. (a) "How to Prepare a Bible Lesson," John H. Elliott; (b) "Bible Study for Personal Growth, or the Secretary and His Bible," Prof. W. H. Williams, University of Wisconsin; (c) "Courses of Study for Bible Classes Which Have Been Found Useful," Frank W. Ober; (d) "How Can We Make Our Bible Training Classes More Productive of Personal Work," George Carter, general secretary, Seattle. 12—Another big collation by the ladies from the Methodist churches. Note—Delegates are requested to eat a light breakfast; music; more speeches; royal time.

Afternoon—2—Bible reading, Prof. W. H. Williams, University of Wisconsin. 2:45—"What Ought to be the Scope of Our Educational Work?" Frederick B. Pratt, Brooklyn, N. Y. 3:15—Question drawer, in charge of John H. Elliott. 3:30—Parlor conferences. I. For directors and business men, F. H. Worlock, Esq. (a) "How Far are the Directors Responsible for the Business Management of the Association?" John Bain, Portland, Ore.; (b) "How to Create and Maintain a Financial Constituency," L. J. Coleman, Seattle, Wash.; (c) "Responsibility of the Directors for the Spiritual Work of the Association—Obstacles—Encouragements," W. S. Hampson, Victoria. II. For delegates who are interested in committee work, local and district, L. Goodacre, Esq. (a) "The Selection and Training of Committeemen," E. W. Freure, general secretary, Nanaimo; (b) "The Claims of District Work Upon the Local Associations," W. S. Terry, Victoria; (c) Conversation; questions on the past year's experiences in committee work, conducted by Joseph R. Wetherbee, general secretary, Salem, Ore. III. For pastors and general secretaries; Mrs. Williams. (a) "How Can Pastors, if They Desire it, Make Themselves Felt as Helpers of the Association?" Rev. E. Robson, Victoria; (b) "The Association as an Agency in Developing Young Men as Workers in the Church," M. M. Meyers, general secretary, Tacoma, Wash.; (c) Conversation; the mutual relationship of pastors and general secretaries. Note—The ladies interested in the auxiliary work will have, during the day, their first annual convention of the Ladies' Auxiliaries of the Pacific Northwest. A special programme will be arranged for the occasion.

Evening, St. Andrew's Presbyterian church—7:30—Song service, 7:45—Brief reports in writing from parlor conferences. 8—"The Work of the Pacific Northwest for the Past Year," E. C. Frost, chairman, John W. Gwilt, treasurer; James A. Dummett, travelling secretary. 8:30—Address, "Young Men for the New Era," Rev. Dean Richmond Babitt, D. D., rector Trinity Episcopal church, Tacoma, Wash.

THE ARBITRATION.

Total Number of Seizures Made in Behring Sea Since 1886.

The result of the arbitration and the conditions prescribed by the arbitrators are still the sole topic of conversation among the sealing men. There seems to be a disposition to await the receipt of the full text of the decision before expressing any further opinion or deciding upon any plan of action for the future. The fact that no mention has been made of restrictions on the islands where the rookeries are situated has caused considerable surprise. Speaking on that point W. A. Ward, of the firm of Robert Ward & Co., said: "I am certain that the fur company has been restricted in some way or other, or that the matter was at least dealt with by the arbitrators. The reports received so far have not been very full, and I think we will have reason to change some of the ideas which we now hold. At all events, it will be for us to reserve our opinions until we know just what we are talking about." Mr. Ward expresses the opinion of a number of those interested in the trade.

"The total number of seizures made since 1886," said Mr. Munsie this morning, "is eighteen. My schooner, the Carolina, was, by the way, the first vessel ever seized in the sea. The total amount of indemnity for all the schooners seized would not be over $500,000. There is another point in connection with the arbitration which has not been settled as far as I have seen, and it is this: It was agreed that the arbitrators should determine the number of seals the pelagic sealers could have killed in the sea in 1891, 1892 and 1893 without injury to seal life in general, and the sealers were to be indemnified if it were allowed that they could have killed seals there without injury to the herds. Now, on that point I have heard nothing."

An Easy Job.

A. B. Erskine's store at the corner of Johnson and Government streets, was entered last night by a back window and some money and a number of pairs of shoes were stolen. The safe was left open in the evening so the burglars had no trouble in cleaning that out.

Ledingham Improving.

George Ledingham, whose horse slipped while he was on his way to a fire yesterday, is recovering. The horse slipped on a tramway rail and Mr. Ledingham was thrown off, his head striking on the rail. It was thought last evening that the injuries were fatal.

The Money is Here.

Collector A. R. Milne received the following telegram from Ottawa to-day:—

Sum of $25,234 placed to your credit 2nd instant.

(Signed) WM. SMITH.
Deputy Minister of Marine.

This is the money due the hunters and seamen under the awards for losses under the modus vivendi of 1891. The sum of $75,000 has already been paid to owners and captains. The payment of the money will begin at 2 o'clock to-morrow and will continue every day thereafter at that hour until it is all paid. To get a claim it will be necessary to produce the evidence of the master, mate or owner of the schooner in which the applicant sailed. A terrible time is expected in paying the Indians.

Maltreating Vice-Royalty.

The first thing that is to be done to Lord Aberdeen when he reaches Canada is to stand him up against the wall and read an address to him telling him what a fine fellow he is and how much everybody likes him. If this sort of thing would stop short with one address it wouldn't be so bad, but the trouble is that now that one society has set the ball rolling, half a dozen others will want to join in the fun, until poor Aberdeen will begin to feel as if they had taken him out on a vacant lot and were using him for a target in a rifle shooting match.—Hamilton Herald.

—The sergeants of G Battery are to be entertained this evening at the Hotel Victoria by the sergeants' mess B.C.B.G.A.

SEIZED BY THE RUSSIANS

Victoria Schooners Ainoka and Minnie Taken by the Bear.

CLAIMED THEY BROKE THE RULES

Laid Down by the Anglo-Russian Agreement—Schooner Viva Brought the News to the City—Two Unknown American Vessels Arrested.

The Victoria sealing schooners Ainoka and Minnie have been seized by the Russians for alleged infractions of the Anglo-Russian agreement for the establishment of a protective zone of 30 miles around the Copper Island. The foregoing news was brought to the city this morning by the sealing schooner Viva, Captain Anderson, from her cruise in Japanese waters. Two American sealers, the names unknown, were also taken in charge by the Russians and will keep the Canadians company in their misery. The papers of the Ainoka and Minnie were taken from them and in accordance with the terms of the Anglo-Russian treaty were ordered to proceed to Yokohama to go before the British consul or an admiralty court for trial. That they will obey is not believed by the crew of the Viva, who expect to see them run home to Victoria. The seizure of the Minnie is said to be unwarranted and Captain Anderson says it can be shown to the satisfaction of any reasonable person that she broke no regulation. As to the Ainoka the particulars of her seizure are not known.

The schooner Viva entered the harbor at 11:30 and at noon was at anchor off the custom house. Captain Anderson was soon ashore and giving his information to sealing men along Wharf street. Said he, in speaking about the case, "The seizures were made the last week in July. I myself saw the Minnie taken. A Russian cutter came out from the Islands and boarded her. I was about five miles farther off and plainly saw the transaction. My reckoning for that day showed me to be 50 miles off shore, but the next day when we fell in with the Minnie they said the captain of the cutter had claimed he had only come out 22 miles from the land. My chronometer agreed with the Minnie's and taking the time given to her by the cutter I worked with it and my own coming home. I found it thirty miles out. The same night the Minnie was taken we ourselves narrowly escaped being overhauled. We put out the lights and lowered our sails, and the cutter passed about 1000 yards astern of us. The papers of the Minnie were taken from her and she was directed to proceed to Yokohama. Whether she will go there is another story. I know the Minnie was 45 miles off the land, for she was not over five mile inside of me, and I am sure of my location. I heard of the seizure of the Ainoka on board of the South Bend, which I boarded. I was also on the Agnes Macdonald and a number of others and picked up the information about the capture of the American schooners. Their names I did not hear. I fear that other seizures will be made if the Russians claim jurisdiction outside of the thirty-mile limit agreed upon by the two nations. They are all cruising about just outside of the limit.

"None of the vessels had done anything around the islands up to the time I had left. The weather had been terribly rough and the seals were not over plentiful. In fact, the catches were about the same as that with which the schooners left for the other side. I expect a number of them home shortly. My schooner took about 1,500 skins, nearly all of which I shipped home some time since on the schooner May Belle."

Capt. Anderson has been in consultation with Collector Milne this afternoon and will probably make a few statements under oath on the circumstances surrounding the seizure of the schooner Minnie. There will also be an official report on the whole transaction forwarded to Ottawa.

The schooner Ainoko was owned by Capt. Grant and had a catch of about 1,400 skins. She was reported lost this summer when the Mary Blum went to pieces on Cape St. Elias. She is a first-class schooner, and with her outfit easily worth $10,000. The Minnie was owned by Victor Jacobson. She is a good boat, worth probably the same money. She had a fair catch of sealskins.

BOARD OF TRADE.

Meeting of the Council—Various Subjects Under Discussion.

The council of the board of trade met at 11 a.m. to-day, primarily to discuss with Captain Irving and others the question of cold storage for the Australian trade, which is expected to follow the establishment of the new steamship line. There were present: President Flummerfelt in the chair, Messrs. Renouf, Ker, Prior, Hall, Marvin, Gray, Worlock, Connon, Heisterman, Templeman, Irving and Rithet.

The question of freight rates to the Mainland, introduced at a former meeting by Mr. Gus Leiser, was brought to the attention of Captain Irving and the informal discussion ensued.

Mr. Rithet thought the rate was so low new that it could not be reduced. All freight was handled twice.

Captain Irving said they paid 35 cents a ton to handle freight each time, or 70 cents for the trip, and in some cases they only get $1 for carrying it. A reduction in such a case would mean an actual loss to his company.

Mr. Ker pointed out that Vancouver got a dollar a ton better on flour from Winnipeg than Victoria.

The rate charged on Nanaimo and northern route was also discussed, and while it was pointed out that the Messrs. Dunsmuir stood in their own light in not reducing the rate per ton to Nanaimo to $1.50 as the trade was undoubtedly leaving Victoria.

The matter of rates was allowed to drop without any action being taken.

Wharfage and cartage charges, which are considered by merchants who purchase from Victoria to be very vexatious, it was claimed by Messrs. Irving and Rithet, were not greater than in other places on the coast.

The proposition to establish a cold storage warehouse, was informally debated, the opinion of Messrs. Irving, Rithet and others being that a capital of not less than $50,000 or $100,000 would be necessary to establish the plant and control a trade to make the business profitable. It was a question yet to be solved, if Australian mutton could be sold in Victoria at a profit; and especially at this time of business depression, it was thought by the gentlemen named, great difficulty would be encountered in procuring the necessary capital. After a general talk, the question was dropped without any definite line of policy being marked out and after the transaction of routine business the meeting adjourned.

THE MARKETS.

A Short Summary Covering Articles Produced by the Farmer.

There are a few small changes in farm produce to note this week, as far as prices go, but as far as the general condition of the trade is concerned, there is but little new. The situation locally remains the same as last reported. Fruit and vegetables enjoy a splendid demand just now, and fair prices rule. Below are retail quotations of to-day:

Salem	5 75
Ogilvie's (Hungarian)	6 00
Lake of the Woods (Hungarian)	6 00
Premier	6 00
Three Star	5 75
Victoria	5 75
Lion	5 75
Royal	5 50
Wheat, per ton	30 00@40 00
Oats, per ton	32 50@35 00
Barley, per ton	32 00@35 00
Middlings, per ton	32 00@35 00
Bran, per ton	27 00@30 00
Ground Feed, per ton	30 00@35 00
Corn, whole	45 00
" cracked	50 00
Cornmeal, per 10 lbs	40
Oatmeal, per 10 lb	50
Rolled Oats, per lb	6
New Potatoes, per bag	1 50@2 00
Honolulu sweet potatoes	5c per lb
Cabbage	3@3 1-2
Cauliflowers, per doz	1 25
Hay, baled, per ton	18 00@20 00
Straw, per bale	1 00
Onions, per lb	4
Eggs, Island, per dozen	35@40
Imported eggs	25
Butter, Island roll, (2 lbs)	60@70
" Creamery, per 3 lbs	1 00
Cheese, Canadian, per lb, retail	20
" American, per lb	20@25
Hams, American, per lb	20@25
" Canadian, per lb	17@22
Bacon, American, per lb	20@25
" Rolled, per lb	18
" Long clear, per lb	17
Shoulders, per lb	14
Lard, per lb	18@25
Golden Cottolene, per lb	20
Meats—Beef, per lb	10@18
Sides, per lb	9@11
Mutton, per lb	12@20
Pork, fresh, per lb	12@18
Chickens, per pair	1 75@2 00
Turkeys, per lb	30
Geese, per lb	25
Fish—Salmon (Spring), per lb	10@12
Salmon (Smoked), per lb	8@10
Halibut	10@12
Cod, per lb	8@10
" (Nfld), per lb	12 1-2
Small fish	5@8
Smelts, per lb	10@12
Sturgeon, per lb	7@8
Herring (Labrador), per doz	50
" (smoked) "	50
Fruits—Apples, per lb	5@06
Oranges (navel), per doz	50@50
" (Riverside), per doz	25@30
" (Australian)	25@30
Lemons, California, per doz	35@40
" (Australian)	25@30
Bananas, per doz	20@30
Rhubarb, per lb	05
Apricots, per lb	10
Tomatoes, per lb	06@8
Peaches, per lb	8@12
Pears, per lb	06@8
Pine apples, apiece	25@50
Plums, per lb	10@12
Water melons	40@75
Musk melons	25

SHORT LOCALS.

Gleanings of City and Provincial News in a Condensed Form.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

—Nanaimo is written up in the last number of Lewis & Dryden's guide.

—More reports are heard of the large number of dead salmon in the Straits.

—The total salmon pack on the Columbia is 375,000 cases, or just 100,000 cases short of last year.

—The finding of the hat belonging to Mrs. Emma McDonald is all that has so far rewarded the Lake Washington searchers.

—The five "swagger sticks" presented to Corp. McConnon, and Gunners Quigley, Booth, Johnston and Smith for the neatest tent during the recent camp at Macaulay Point have arrived from the east.

(From Wednesday's Daily.)

—An alarm from Box 31, was turned in at 11:45 a.m. to-day for a fire on the roof of C. A. Vernon's residence, Humboldt street. Ten dollars will cover the damage done. A spark from the kitchen stove was the cause of the fire.

—Yesterday afternoon a workman employed at the outer wharf had his hand smashed between a pile and a large stick of timber. It took several men with crowbars some time to pry open the timbers and release the crushed member.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

—The damage by fire at Mr. Charles Vernon's residence yesterday did not amount to $500, but $16. The house in which the fire alarm box key is kept was not closed, the door being wide open all afternoon.

—Quadra street from Topaz avenue through the Tolmie estate has been graded and is not in a passable condition. The government will shortly commence grading the portion of the street outside the city limits.

MR. GLADSTONE.

To the Editor: It is time that some one raised his voice in protest against the vicious, not to say unmanly, abuse contained in Mr. Phillipps Wolley's letters to the Colonist directed against one whom so many millions all over the world love and revere. It is true that Mr. Gladstone's moral and political personality rises high above the petty and vulgar rudeness of his opponents; but for all that I for one of his devoted adherents will not see him reviled and maligned without a "fling back." One certainly was astonished to read in Mr. Phillipps-Wolley's first letter approval of the conduct of the snobocracy at the reception at the Imperial Institute. If I invite a party of friends to dinner and one of them is grossly insulted by the others before my face, I would write them off my list of acquaintances as ill-mannered and ill-educated cads. And here we have an assembly of the gentlemen of England, forsooth, shouting insulting epithets at the premier of the empire, the Queen's trusted minister and the Prince of Wales' guest. In a second letter we heard how exemplary was the conduct of "the mob" during the wedding of the Duke of York. Let your readers compare the behavior of these two classes and let us see who are the gentlemen.

Yet it is because Mr. Gladstone declines to be made a tool of by the selfish, scheming habitues of clubdom, whose lives are a curse to themselves and all with whom they come in contact that he is "wicked," "deformed," "a wreck," and everything bad! And a Brummagem ex-mayor, who would never have emerged from the council-chamber had not Mr. Gladstone good-humoredly taken him by the hand on the advice of Sir Charles Dilke, is extolled to the skies. No, Mr. Gladstone's sin is that he is a Christian and carries his Christianity into his legislation. This is not likely to suit the tastes of "the gentlemen of England" or meet the approval of a gilded chamber full of peers, both spiritual and temporal, who, with a few honorable exceptions, have no Christ-like democratic sympathies.

W. H. P. ARDEN,
St. Mark's Church.

August 17th.

FAIR AND TRAMWAY.

To the Editor: A great deal has been said and written lately about the fair, and in connection therewith the tramway service has come in for a large share of abuse. Whether this was deserved or not it is not within my province to say, but a great deal could be said for and against both.

In the case of the former, holding the fair too early was purely experimental, and I believe myself would have panned out all right if the season had been as early as we have been accustomed to for a number of years; but unfortunately the spring and summer have been fully from four to five wees later than usual, and that, as you are aware, means a great deal, for just as the fair was being held all the farmers were busy making hay while the sun shone.

I know for a certainty that a great many farmers on the island would have been present with their exhibits had the season been earlier. However, as there is no use in crying over spilt milk, and as the directors of the fair are not infallible, but are like most other people, let us give them credit for doing their best.

Now, a few words about the tramway company. I am awafe comment and fault-finding are all right at times, but chronic fault-finding becomes, as you know, tiresome. True, the tramway service might be better, but digging at Mr. Higgins, its manager, I am afraid won't improve matters, for I am satisfied none would be more pleased to see the service a success than he. But Mr. Higgins is a politician, and, strange to say, as far as Victoria is concerned, not a popular one. Why this should be so is a mystery, for he certainly has done much for Victoria, and a great deal more than some who were more able. But still the hard fact remains he is not popular. Higgins is a good man and an able one. He is a man I admire, if only for his independence, but for all that he is not a manager of man, and to run the tramway successfully there must be discipline, and this Mr. Higgins, I am afraid, has never acquired himself. But before concluding this I will say Mr. Higgins and the late James Fell deserve great credit, the one for his enterprise and the other for the interest he took in having the tramway started in Victoria.

INTERESTED.

Victoria, Aug. 17th.

"A HOLE THROUGH THE EARTH."

To the Editor: In your issue of a late date you copy a paragraph from the St. Louis Republican, headed as above.

Now, would not both you and your contemporary be surprised to hear that the iron ball dropped, as supposed, into the hole, instead of falling into the earth's centre and stopping there, would pass through that centre at a velocity of nearly five miles a second and rise to the opposite side of the earth, the other end of the hole, before stopping?

JOHN PHILLIPS.

Hatching Out a Python Family.

The python lately received at the Zoological Gardens in Leipsic completed its work of hatching its eggs on the 10th inst. This and a second sitting python of the Indian species were received a few weeks ago at Hamburg by the proprietor of the Leipsic Garden. They were sent to Leipsic carfully packed in chests, but one of them, disturbed by the jolting of the train, left her place on her eggs, and they were destroyed. The other python, who had laid several dozens of eggs as big as goose eggs and covered with a thick, leathery skin, remained lying upon them in a pyramidal coil, at the apex of which protruded her head. Both pythons were unusually angry, and tried to shoot forth their heads through every opening of the chest, uttering low hissing cries. On the 4th of this month, the first young snakes of the successfully hatched brood began to appear, creeping out between the coils of the python mother. Every day more appeared, until on the 10th (when the mother at last left her long-continued position, there were more than 30 young snakes. They were as thick as a man's thumb, about two feet long, and exquisitely marked, their light color contrasting strongly with the dark brown of their mother. The empty eggs, slit in a remarkable manner, looked like a heap of flat leather pockets of bags. The young pythons, which at first resembled a Medusa's head, began to creep away from their mother—some lying in a tangled heap under the blanket, some twisted separately into a small knot in the corners of the chest. The python whose eggs were destroyed by her forsaking her position has gone blind. The hatching of python snakes in confinement is of very rare occurrence, but the place the mother was kept in in the Leipsic Zoological Gardens is tropically hot. The occurrence proves the truth of the belief that it takes about two months to hatch such creatures.—St. James Gazette, July 22nd.

Remember

In all cooking receipts calling for Baking Powder, or Cream of Tartar and Soda,

Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder

Will give better results. Simply use one teaspoonful of **Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder** to each pint of flour, or in the proportion of two teaspoonfuls to every pound of flour.

How to avoid Alum and Ammonia Baking Powders:

First, All powders offered at twenty-five cents or less a pound can safely be discarded as Alum, for a Pure Cream of Tartar Powder cannot be sold at such price.

Second, Avoid all brands labeled "Absolutely Pure." Chemical analysis, as revealed by the *Scientific American* report, proved that brands so labeled contained, in every instance, either Ammonia or Alum. The first aim of a dishonest manufacturer is to deceive by his label.

Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder

not only does finer and better work, but its purity has never been questioned.

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report.

Royal Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE