From THE DAILY COLONIST, July 19.

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

The B. C. University.

The date for closing the Register of members of Convocation under the British Columbia Act was stated in the account of the meeting at the City Hall as the 20th. The proper date is the 29th.

Good Prospects.

It is reported that the farmers up Saanich way are jubilant over their hay crop, which is very heavy. They are hard at work getting it in, and hope that the weather conditions will continue favorable.

"Where are They Now?"

Three "C" battery men in plain clothes, hired a boat from the ferryman at the foot of Johnson street on the evening of the 16th, and went up the Gorge in her. They have not since been heard of, neither has the boat.

Sons of England.

The newly-formed lodge of Sons of England held a very satisfactory and enthusiastic meeting in St. George's hall last night. A number of new candidates were initiated and a quantity of other important business was disposed of.

Died at Sea.

H. M. S. Warspite, which arrived yesterday from Acapulco, lost only one man during the voyage from England. He was Thomas Wallis, a ship steward for the Daphne, and his life was terminated by consumption. He was buried at sea on Saturday last.

New Steam Launch.

Mr. W. J. Stevens is busily engaged building a steam launch, on the bank near Spratt's wharf. It is for several gentlemen in town, and is for private use. When completed it will be 50 feet over all, nine feet beam, and five feet hold. It is built of natural crooks, white cedar and oak. It is to have twin screws, will have powerful engine power, and is consequently intended to be very fast. As for its cabin accommodations they are to be extra fine.

Desirable Emigrants.

The Manchester, England, Young Men's Christian Association, recently sent out its 112th party of young men, their destination being Canada. So far this association has sent out to the Dominion over 1,000 persons, the majority of them having become happy and prosperous here. The emigration work was only begun in 1882, since which time it has been vigorously prosecuted under the direction of Mr. Newett, the secretary, who has always endeavored to give his proteges the benefit of a good physical, intellectual and spiritual outfit.

It Grew as it Went.

The accident at Winnipeg to the Ferguson family would seem to have been "extended" in its transmission over the wires. A member of the family residing in Victoria received a letter yesterday stating that but one of the children, Edith, aged eight years, was killed. She had the misfortune in falling to strike her head on the curbstone, and met with instant death. The remainder of the party were badly shaken up, but not injured. The cause of the accident is attributed to some fault in the working of one of the wheels, and the horse got frightened at the scraping of the tire, and bolted. Victoria friends will (although the real facts are sad enough) be pleased to learn that things are not so bad as set forth.

Rice on the Rise.

Latest advices from the East report that the price of rice is going away up almost out of sight, notwithstanding its present high value. This is particularly due to the shortness of the crop in Japan and the scanty stocks that are held. The Japanese are importing rice in large quantities from Saigon and Bangkok. It is about 50 per cent. higher than usual. A Hong Kong letter of the 12th ult. says: "A further advance in price is certain because of the shipments to Japan." The Victoria rice mills have, in the meantime, large demands upon them for present and prospective consumption. At Kobe, rice is at the highest figure known, and when our information left had reached $5.30 per picul. A picul is 133 pounds.

A Probable Accident Averted.

Sergeant Langley, of the Provincial police, was, a day or so since, probably instrumental in preventing another of those sad and too frequent accidents explained by the words, "didn't know it was loaded." He was out about Macaulay's Point on some official duty when he noticed a party of boys camping, and, having to pass close to the youngsters, he saw one of them trying to tug a revolver out of his breast coat pocket. It seemed to be a difficult task, and the Sergeant became interested. He shuddered, however, when he saw the muzzle pointing towards the lad's face, and the trigger entangled in the lining. The lad made very light of the thing when remonstrated with, but he got a severe lecture for his foolishness, and he forfeited the pistol, which is one of those common articles which will go off almost if looked at.

A Well Tried Equipment.

Spencer, who so simply placed his neck in the noose, has but three more days to exist. It will be remembered that Spencer killed a man in Vancouver in 1887 and escaped to the other side. After some time he returned to Vancouver thinking he was safe, but he was readily identified, and was convicted before Judge Walkem. He will hang on the 21st from a Victoria scaffold which has done similar duty before both on the mainland and the island. The rope which Provincial Police Sergeant Langley has sent up with the scaffold is also weirdly historic. It hanged Sproule who was reprieved no less than thirteen times owing to conflicting evidence, but he was finally executed. It also choked a half breed named Leman for a murder in Cowichan, and it swung into eternity Roberts who killed his brother guardian at the penitentiary in an outburst of temper at being called by a dirty name. Two Celestial necks were enclosed in its embrace, so that it is altogether a well-tried rope.

Covering His Family.

Yesterday afternoon, while two gentlemen were engaged in conversation on Spratt's wharf, one of them bewailed certain misfortunes to which he had latterly been subjected. Said the other to him, that reminds me of a good story that is applicable to you and has a moral. When I was down south during the war a former rich planter was bewailing the wreck that had been made of his fine old mansion, the freeing of his slaves—his goods and chattels—and the general loss to which he had been subjected. Then the party to whom he was talking said "That's nothing; I have no property at all, and when I reckon things up at night I say to myself, "Well, old boy, you've been fed; you're clothed; you've had your drinks and your smokes, and when your hat's on, your family are all covered; what more do you want?"

The Kootenay Country.

A gentleman just down from the Kootenay country reports that cattle there are in splendid condition; that there is plenty of fodder and that there will be a very large shipment thence of fat stock. Everything appears to have gone on most satisfactorily and the crops are excellent. Inquiries are continually being made from outsiders as to what lands can be taken up and on what conditions.

And There Was Light.

A Chinaman whose knowledge of science, so far as combustion is concerned does not extend even to the elementary, got tampering with a coal-oil can last night full of inflammable fluid. He tried to carry on his operations by means of a light, and the first thing he knew was that he had too much light, all of which he brought out in the street to the imminent risk of numerous houses adjoining. He was espied by Chief Deasy, who seized the can and the Chinaman, who will appear before the police magistrate this morning.

The Barnard Castle.

The wrecking steamer Whitelaw and her crew are still hard at work upon the wreck of the steamship Barnard Castle, which lies off Race Rocks, and considerable quantities of old material have been recovered, though possibly hardly as much as had been expected. A quantity of coal has been brought up, but the person who has undertaken to work upon it on shares has been rather slow in carrying out his share of the work, and in consequence there has been some delay. However, all things considered, a good amount of progress has been made with the work.

On Pleasure Bent.

H. H. Browning's party of Chicagoans and Seattleites left by the Kingston last evening after a brief but pleasant stay in Victoria. It was composed of Mr. Gardner, of the Wells Fargo Company, Chicago; Joseph Shepard, assistant general manager of the United States Express Company, Chicago; Judge John Summerfield, alderman, and chairman of the World's Fair committee, Chicago; W. D. Ewart, E. F. Garton, and W. A. Fox, of Chicago; Major Hayden and J. Keighler of Seattle. Their trip was one merely of pleasure, they being the guests of Mr. Browning. All were pleased with Victoria.

The Disposal of Garbage.

The city of Seattle has adopted the following method for the disposal of garbage: A contract has been awarded for the construction of a large wharf. The dimensions of the dock which is to be built are 120 feet long and 30 feet wide. Sixty feet of the dock will be arranged so as to admit the garbage scow to pass under, and in the centre of this dock a large trap-door will be placed, so as to allow the garbage to fall through into the scow. The scow will then be towed to the Duwamish heads and the garbage dumped out. The outward current here is a very strong, and all the refuse will be carried out to sea.

A Human Wave Westward.

Charles S. Fee, of St. Paul, general ticket and passenger agent of the Northern Pacific, left last night by the Queen for Alaska. "The Northern Pacific, he said, will bring over 50,000 settlers into Oregon, Washington and Idaho territories during the current year. The great question for the people to solve is how to keep them there and make them satisfied and prosperous. The passenger agents of other lines all say to me that wherever they go to colonies about to come west, and endeavor to locate them in the southwest they find that the leaders of such colonies are fully bent on coming to the Pacific Northwest, on account of a certainty of crops, the mildness of climate, and the wide range of resources. Mr. Fee is accompanied by his wife and a party of lady friends.

A Peculiar Passenger.

The Olympian brought over a youthful and a lovely passenger on Tuesday. She was a little girl of 13 or 14 years, known at her home in Seattle as Dovey Macguire, and she is a peculiar conglomeration of childish precocity and womanish forwardness. She told a story of a widowed mother marrying again, and the usual result of a cruel stepfather, added to which evil is a Godless home with consequent discord. She has been cloyed in Portland while here, and to prevent the possibility of straying from the path of rectitude she was taken up by Sergeant Walker and shipped back to Seattle last evening. She left home, she said, about three months ago, and has spent the whole of the time in Portland. Her object in coming to Victoria is somewhat indefinite, but she must have been in no very desirable company part of her time, for she states that a person told her to assume a name well known in Victoria, and whose owner is not respectably associated. If the girl is good, and there is no reason to believe her bad, it may have been some cruel joke that was practised on her.

And Only a Piece of Wire.

The fire alarm rang out at 9 o'clock last evening, and everything was made ready in the fire stations for a turn out, but the firemen were disappointed. The disturbance was caused by a "cross" which was being fixed when the alarm sounded. The electrician, Mr. Whitney, with Mr. Hutcheson, of the Langley street electric light company, were at work on the wires and cut the incandescent wire in front of the new addition to the City Hall. The cut wire fell across the fire alarm wire and the latter dropped on the street car wire. The electric fluid ran up the fire alarm wire and caused several bright flashes. The fire bell and gongs struck in the engine-houses, and it is not known whether the boxes are burned out. The system was immediately disconnected and an effort will be made to right everything to-day. Should the alarm be in working order three taps will be sent in. If a fire should occur during the day the telephone will be utilized. An investigation into the cause of the trouble will be made this morning. Fortunately no person received any injuries, although a large crowd assembled on Douglas street and watched the sparks fly as the wires were being cut. One driver of a carriage insisted on driving his horses towards the wires on the street, but was prevented by a fireman. The street car service was shut down for half an hour.

TO WRITE US UP.

Messrs. Julian Ralph and Frederick Remington, of "Frank Leslie's," Arrived Here on Special Business.

Last night, among the passengers by the steamer Yosemite, from Vancouver, were Mr. Julian Ralph and Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Remington, of New York. The two gentlemen are members of the staff of "Frank Leslie's" and have, it is said, come to write up the city of Victoria and the Province of British Columbia, the first named doing the literary work and the other furnishing illustrations and sketches. It is said also to be the intention to visit Esquimalt as an early day and take stock of the Pacific squadron and its equipment. It is reported that, while on this side, the "specials" may avail themselves of the opportunity to work up the sealing war matter both with pen and pencil. No doubt the subject is as interesting to our neighbors as it is to ourselves, and as far as ability is concerned, the reputation of the parties gives ample ground for the expectation that they will acquit themselves of this task in a manner that from artistical and professional point of view, will do themselves justice, no matter how satisfactory their conclusions may be to the parties to the existing controversy.

RAILWAY AND FINANCE.

Mr. Chas. L. Colby and Party Arrive Yesterday and Leave This Morning for Alaska.

Mr. Chas. L. Colby, of New York, is one of the most prominent men in the railway and financial world. He is chairman of the executive committee of the Northern Pacific Railway, and is vice-president of the North American Co., the largest financial corporation ever established in America. It has a paid up capital of fifty million dollars, its chief shareholder being the millionaire Rockefeller. The company replaces the O. & T. Co., and is in a position to buy or build any railway scheme. Mr. C. H. Ropes is a member of the party. He is a director of the North American Co., and is a business associate of Mr. Colby. Although Mr. Colby has given out that the trip is one of pleasure solely, it is believed that he is taking notes by the way, and that before his return east some most important arrangements concerning railway building in Washington will be entered into.

Following are the members of the party: Mr. and Mrs. Chas. L. Colby, Everett and Howard Colby, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. H. Ropes and Miss Fanny Ropes, Dr. G. G. Shelton, Mr. Hicks Herrick, Miss Bessie Dashiel, Miss Bessie Simpson, Miss Anna Knowlton, of New York; Miss Alice Graves and Mr. Sidney Shephard, Milwaukee, Wis., and Mr. H. C. Davis, of St. Paul.

ALMOST DISMANTLED.

What Captain Whitelaw is Doing with the Alexandra—Her Future Destiny.

Yesterday a COLONIST reporter while in conversation with "Captain Mike" at Spratt's wharf, encountered Captain Whitelaw, who was just about putting off to the dismantled steamer Alexandra. In reply to the question "What are you doing?" he received the reply, "Come and see; I'll send you back again from the vessel as soon as you want to get back." Accordingly the reporter climbed down the side of the wharf into a boat that lay alongside, and off they started. On the way across Captain Whitelaw observed that big work had been made upon the vessel. Her partitions and much of her inside wood work had been removed and in a few days her machinery would be taken out. The houses have been taken off the deck. Below everything has been cleared both fore and aft, enabling those engaged upon the work to satisfy themselves that the hull is perfectly sound, and that all her supports and beams are none the worse for their age. The machinery has all been disconnected. Some of it will be used again while other portions will be unceremoniously broken up. Captain Whitelaw considers the vessel to have been unusually well built. It is the intention to convert the Alexandra into a 500 ton barge with four masts and the necessary amount of derricks. She will be partly fitted up here and will be completed in San Francisco, where it is believed there is plenty of work for her to do at remunerative rates.

MAKING A SEWAGE SURVEY.

The Sewage Committee, With Mr. Hering, Make a Preliminary Survey Before Proceeding to Practical Business.

Rudolph Hering was quite at home in the city surveyor's office at an early hour, yesterday morning, and talked about sewage and sewage plans quite freely. He said he wanted first to get thoroughly acquainted with the topographical conditions of the place before he took up any consideration. His last visit to Victoria was merely that which any tourist might make, and he then had no time to make any observations.

As to the cost of establishing a system of sewage here, Mr. Hering will look over the plans and estimates which have been submitted; but he always advocates local engineers making their own estimates. He will compare ours with those of eastern cities. Speaking of the question of contract or day work in this undertaking, Mr. Hering said that it is sometimes better to work by contract than by day, and often it is the reverse. Again it is found often in the same city that it is better to do part of the work by contract and part not, as in Boston, where the rule is followed that if the work is all plain sailing it is done by contract; but where there is a great deal of uncertainty the city does the work itself, because the contractor in such a case will make a very high bid in order to protect himself. In such a case it is understood that the city will work in its own interest, and do the work as cheaply as possible. In New York there is no work done by the day.

At ten o'clock the sewage committee met, and Mr. Hering was introduced. After an informal talk, a tour of the city was made, and the various proposed outlets examined. The inspection will be concluded this morning, and the afternoon will be devoted to a discussion of the plans submitted. Mr. Hering proposes devoting fully a week to the question before giving his opinion.

THEIR REQUEST GRANTED.

Rt. Rev. Bishop Lemmens will Preach on the Labor Question in the B. C. Cathedral To-morrow Morning.

D. M. Carley, secretary of the Victoria Trades Assembly, last evening received a letter from Rt. Rev. Bishop Lemmens, acknowledging the receipt of the circular of the Trades' Assembly recently addressed to the clergy of the city. The Bishop said that he would have pleasure in speaking upon the labor question, and particularly the eight-hour movement, during High Mass, at 10:30 o'clock to-morrow (Sunday) morning.

This letter was laid before the Trades' Assembly at their meeting last evening, and the members present expressed themselves as much pleased at the courtesy shown by the prompt reply from the head of the Catholic church in British Columbia. On account of the short notice given it will be impossible to have an organized representation of labor at the church to listen to the sermon, but as many workingmen as possible will attend without doubt.

The consideration of the Chinese question occupied the major part of the time of the meeting, a committee being appointed to look through Chinatown and examine into the individual cases of over-crowding that were instanced.

From THE DAILY COLONIST, July 20.

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

Where is He?

The friends of LaBelle, the smuggler, have not seen him for a week or ten days and would like to know something of his whereabouts. They fear that he has been rash enough to cross the Sound, and has been taken in charge for past offences.

Not Forgotten.

The approach of the Great World's Fair at Chicago has not been forgotten by the provincial government, and in the collections of minerals, etc., now being made for the Imperial Institute, all specimens are being secured in duplicate and triplicate. The B. C. Court will be one of the best of all.

On the Trail.

The hunt for the robber of the Cariboo stage still continues, and yesterday the report came in that he had been tracked to a point 25 miles almost due north from the scene of his exploits. The iron safe has not yet been found, and it is presumed that it has been buried or cached somewhere, the robber being unable to open it.

The Northwest Central.

The first fifty miles of the Great Northwest Central railway, from Brandon north westward, has been completed, and Mr. Gifford, who represents the English syndicate who own the road, is going over it in company with the contractor, Mr. A. Clearleton, prior to opening it up for freight and passenger traffic.

Away.

The following were the Walla Walla's Victoria passengers for San Francisco yesterday: Miss Perkins, Geo. C. Shaw, F. H. Laundy, D. McLaren, Chas. Kalberg, J. E. Miller, Mrs. Campbell, Miss Dove, A. F. Bray and wife, J. D. Williams, A. G. Boggs and Miss Lord. The down freight consisted of twenty tons of rice and 150 of scrap iron.

Divisional Court.

Yesterday before Judges McCreight, Drake and Walkem a motion was made in the case of Wong Yee Chi vs. Wong Yek and Hip Lung, defendants to set aside the order of the Chief Justice in favor of Wong Yek and Hip Lung. Mr. Wilson represented the plaintiffs and Mr. Pooley the defendants. The court favored an amicable settlement and reserved judgment.

A Pointer.

Victoria has fewer houses of medium size to let to desirable tenants than any other city in Canada. The city also possesses considerable land on which cottage or storeys and a half homes could well be erected, and if enterprising capitalists would build fifty or a hundred neat homes for small families they could depend on reaping dividends that would make the holders of stock in many gold mining companies turn green with envy.

The Pleasant Part.

The most pleasant part of the session of the Teachers' Institute came yesterday, when about 75 of the fraternity, enjoyed a boating picnic at the Gorge, ate raspberry and ice cream, drank soda and lemonade, sang and enjoyed themselves as thoroughly as any congregation of pupils released from scholastic bondage. An enjoyable feature of Thursday evening's programme was a song by Miss Fraser, daughter of the Rev. D. Fraser, mention of which was unintentionally omitted yesterday.

Mr. Hering at Work.

Mr. Rudolph Hering, C.E., since his arrival has lost no time in procuring all the necessary information to enable him to report intelligently on the various sewerage plans offered for Victoria. He has gone thoroughly over the ground, and has noted the results obtained from Ald. Harrison's test holes, which will prove of considerable practical utility. Mr. Hering expects to have his report ready for presentation to the council, if not on Wednesday next, by a week from that date.

New Firm.

The firm of Lee & Co., who have just started as lumber and general commission brokers at the Janion wharf, Store street, consists of Mr. G. W. R. Lee and Mr. L. Leigh, both of them live, pushing fellows, who are already beginning to "hustle." They are among other connections agents for the Moresby Saw Mills, Vancouver, an establishment which is rapidly augmenting its business, both on the island and mainland, in view of the heavy demand that exists for lumber.

A Passing Episode.

A runaway horse is like a dream, it bursts on the mind, holds it for the time being, if it doesn't knock the owner down, and then fades away and is thought no more of. So it was with a fleeing horse last evening up Yates street and away out of sight, a boy in the wagon, holding on to the reins for dear life. The vehicle was apparently a mikman's but whose is not certain. The hope is entertained that the young occupant did not meet with any harm.

Prospects for B. C. Fruits.

According to the report of the secretary of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association, apples will be a short crop in the southern parts of Ontario and central New York, owing to the blight, but in the northern part, where the orchards are limited in extent, there will be heavy returns. Pears will also be scarce, and peaches will be a scant crop. Under conditions such as these, British Columbia fruit growers ought to have a good opportunity for disposing of a good portion of their abundant supply.

The Militia Act.

The provisions of the above act were put in force recently in the case of a large number of militia men for non-attendance at drill in Montreal and Toronto. It is to be regretted that such extreme measures should have to be taken, but such radical steps have been found to have a very wholesome effect upon the careless. When men join the volunteers they are well aware of the obligations they then assume and the least they can do is to give an account of themselves when called upon to do so.

B. C. Fruit Growers.

It is announced to be the intention of the directors to hold two meetings during the coming exhibition at New Westminster, for the discussion of subjects relating to fruit growing. The success attending the exhibition last August, and the importance which the association has obtained, has led the directors to materially extend their prize list in order to increase the interest in this important industry, and make the exhibition superior to anything of the same description ever before held in the province. The exhibition opens on the 2nd August.

In Sealing Circles.

There is a very general dullness prevalent at present, and particularly in sealing circles. The news of the government cutch cannot be received until the arrival of the Mischief, now due at any time, and that steamer will in all probability bring back the skins secured by each of the schooners. That's what she was sent north for. As soon as the Mischief arrives, it is expected that the sealers will call upon the Admiral and explain their case to him. Mr. Ross, of Ross & Hewlett, San Francisco, who was reported to be coming here shortly has not arrived, and it is thought that he has abandoned his projected trip.

A Good Sailor and Citizen.

Capt. D. W. Aden, who died Thursday evening, and whose funeral takes place this afternoon, was one of the first steamboat navigators in this province. He commanded the well-known Grappler and afterwards the Western Slope. As a seaman he was without a superior, and as a citizen he was widely and highly respected.

The C. P. R. and the Pacific Mail.

D. E. Brown, assistant general freight and passenger agent, C. P. R., says that the Canadian Pacific steamers are going to call at San Francisco regularly before very long. He has not received official notification that the Batavia will, but that arrangement is coming. The vessels will arrive at Vancouver, discharge, make the San Francisco trip and return to Vancouver to complete the cargo before leaving again for Yokohama.—World.

Business Office Changes.

Allson & Mason intend at an early date to take possession of the premises now occupied by the C.P.R. telegraph company, and, with the adjoining store, form one large office. There will be added to this portion of the block, two more stories which will make very handsome offices. For the present the telegraph company will move a little lower down but the change will be of a temporary nature only, as it is the intention to move to a more central location.

The Western World.

H. S. White, representing the "Western World," came over from the mainland last evening. Mr. White's object is to locate this rising journal in British Columbia, and he will be its permanent correspondent in this section of the country and will keep its interests before the readers of the Western World. It is the intention of Mr. White to devote each week to some special subject and thus cover a wide range without becoming tiresome.

Victoria Club.

The annual meeting of the Victoria Club was held last night. The financial report, which was satisfactory, one, having been read and adopted, the following officers were elected—President, L. G. McQuade; Vice President, J. S. Yates; Secretary-Treasurer, B. Williams; Committee, the president and vice-president, and Messrs. Heisternann, J. F. Jacks, A. L. Belyea, Joshua Holland, E. W. Matthews, John Winger, J. Partridge, and W. C. Hayward, sen.

A West Coast Gold Mine.

The Port Townsend Leader says: "It was stated a few weeks ago that Captain Ross, well known in shipping circles here, had gone north on a prospecting tour. He returned with news that he, with another skipper, had located a valuable gold mine on the west coast of Vancouver Island. A ledge was struck twenty feet wide, and 200 pounds of ore taken out. Captain Ross intends to resume operations in his mine shortly, and will charter a schooner at this port to take him to the mine.

Drowned in the Well.

News was received here, yesterday, of the death by drowning on Wednesday last of the little four-year-old grand-daughter of Mr. W. H. Curran, of Chemainus. Little Emma was standing by the well, looking down, when she either became dizzy or overbalanced herself on the curb, falling to the bottom of the well, a distance of some thirty feet. Her body was recovered apparently less than an hour after the accident, and it was deemed unnecessary to hold an inquest upon it.

The Olympian.

The Seattle Times announced on Thursday that the steamer Olympian was to go in the dry dock at Esquimalt, last evening, to be scraped, cleaned and painted, and that her place on the line would be taken by the Sehome. This story is partially true, but it is very probable that the point chosen as most convenient and central will be Plumpers Pass, and we quite agree with the brethren that no more fitting or lovely spot could possibly be chosen for the picnic. The steamer Yosemite will probably be chartered to carry the excursionists of this city and Vancouver to the Pass. A meeting of the lodge will be held on Monday night to make the final arrangements for the picnic.—Westminster Truth.

Father Van Nevel.

The many friends of Rev. Father Van Nevel, one of the priests of St. Andrew's pro-cathedral, have been pleased to learn of his transfer from this city to Quamichan, which mission has been placed under his pastoral supervision. His many qualities of heart, soul and intellect have endeared him to the entire congregation of the church, as well as to many outside of his own connection, and by them his departure is very much regretted. Their best wishes attend Father Van Nevel to his new home, and his career in this sphere will be watched with great interest. He had a special faculty for gaining the sympathy and confidence of the young men who, in their various institutions, would be extremely glad to welcome him back again.

The Westminster Court House.

The Columbian says: The work of digging for a solid bottom still goes on at Court House square. The quality of the material being taken out is not very satisfactory, consisting mainly of slate colored sand heavily charged with water. Some dry earth is encountered here and there, but the general form is the blue sand and plenty of moisture. The present appearance of the work is somewhat that of a labyrinth, the earth being taken out in sections like streets the sides of which are retained in place by strong cribbing. A depth of twelve feet has been reached in some parts of the square, and even at that distance down ominous looking pools of water form and the sand has the look of instability characteristic of a quicksand. The work is being conducted by a strong force of men and pushed with all despatch. It was stated to-day that a firm bottom was expected to be reached in a very short time; if this anticipation is not filled the contractors may have to resort to piling, an expensive but unsatisfactory substitute for hard pan and rubble stone foundations. The rock to be used in the basement is being deposited in large quantities around the square, and the mortar and cement are all ready mixed, only waiting the commencement of the masonry work. Part of the square, as is known, was once a deep ravine, and was filled in many years ago. This fact does not increase the desirability of the site, although no trouble is expected to enaue from building over it.

From THE DAILY COLONIST, July 21.

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

A Curiosity.

There is at present on exhibition at Campbell's corner a genuine curiosity in the shape of a mummy plant, in full bloom; the seed from which the pretty, sweet pea blossom sprung being from seed found with an Egyptian mummy.

A Nasty Accident.

A man, familiarly known among his shop mates as the Albion Iron Works as "Admiral," got his hand in the way of a circular saw a day or two ago and had the little finger completely cut off, while the remaining three are so badly mutilated that amputation is imperatively necessary. This will render the limb useless.

Good Photography.

To photograph from a moving rowboat in rough water is something that few professionals even can accomplish. Mr. Jones, of Yates street, has given a creditable example of his skill with a camera in thus catching the Warspite as she lies at anchor in Esquimalt harbor. Not only does every line of the ship appear clear and sharp, but every wave is photographed with equal distinctness.

Visitors Are Welcome.

Esquimalt just now offers more than usual attractions to visitors. The flagship is of course the chief source of interest, and all yesterday she was thronged with the curious, all the visitors receiving the utmost courtesy and attention at the hands of the officers, who were unwearying in their explanations and attentions. To-day the Warspite will also be open to visitors. H. M. S. Espiegle, now in dock, is another object of interest.

Will Prove of Interest.

The August session of the County Court, which opens on Thursday the 7th prox., will contain one case that is destined to prove of considerable interest. It is that of C. E. Kellogg jointly against the proprietor of a well known Government street saloon, and a young man who has for the past two or three years been classed as a professional gambler. The plaintiff seeks to recover a considerable amount of money that he lost at cards, and eight or ten young men who took part in the game have been subpœnaed as witnesses.

Vancouver Public Schools.

Tenders are to be advertised for at once for the new public schools at Vancouver, to be erected on Princess Avenue, at a cost of about $18,000 to $20,000. The dimensions will be 172 by 82 feet. They will have stone foundations; the upper storeys being of brick. There will be about 16 rooms in the edifice, but only eight rooms and a teachers' room will be put up for the present, the remainder to be completed subsequently.

In Sympathy With Them.

In response to the recently issued circular of the Victoria Trades' Assembly, the secretary, Mr. D. M. Carley, yesterday received the following from Rev. P. McF. Macleod:

ST. ANDREWS MANSE,
Victoria, July 18th, 1890.

DEAR SIR:—In answer to the letter addressed to me by your assembly I may state that I am in hearty sympathy with your movement to reduce the hours of labor and that I propose to refer to the subject on Sunday evening, the 27th inst.

I am, yours truly,
P. McF. MACLEOD.

B. C. Agricultural Society.

Fully determined that the farmers of this province shall have the benefit of all the latest developments in agricultural science and practice, the British Columbia Agricultural Society have arranged that Mr. Johnson of the Dominion Experimental farm shall lecture on their auspices in Victoria, New Westminster and other places. The directors of the association have thus demonstrated their enterprise and energy and it is be hoped that the action they have taken will be reciprocated by the farmers themselves who have much to learn, their methods being by no means up to time.

The S. O. E. Excursion.

It has been learned that the Sons of England society in the four cities of New Westminster, Vancouver, Victoria and Nanaimo, will join together in a grand excursion to be given at no distant date when it is expected the public will be invited to attend. It is very probable that the point chosen as most convenient and central will be Plumpers Pass, and we quite agree with the brethren that no more fitting or lovely spot could possibly be chosen for the picnic. The steamer Yosemite will probably be chartered to carry the excursionists of this city and Vancouver to the Pass. A meeting of the lodge will be held on Monday night to make the final arrangements for the picnic.—Westminster Truth.

"Accurate."

Special attention is given to the prescription department at Cochrane & Munn's drug store, corner Yates and Douglas streets. Only the purest drug and chemicals are used in dispensing. Touch the electric bell after the store is closed at night. Sunday hours—9 to 10:30 a. m.; 2 to 5 p. m., and 8:30 to 10 p. m.

Insulting Chinamen.

Yesterday afternoon two ruffianly blackguards and well dressed at that, encountered an unoffending Chinaman on upper Pandora Avenue. Whilst they were annoying him they espied a COLONIST man upon which they exclaimed "there's a reporter" and after levelling a volley of oaths at the Chinaman who was more of a man than they were, they made off as fast as they could.

B. C. P., B. & P. Co.

Messrs. R. T. Williams, Geo. A. Fraser and J. H. Gray have been incorporated with a capital stock of $300,000, as "the British Columbia Printing, Binding and Publishing company, Limited Liability," "for the printing, binding and publishing, and the carrying on of the general business of printers, binders and publishers, and all such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the objects, or any of them." The company's place of business is to be at the city of Victoria.

Pleasure-Seekers on Tour.

A pleasant little party of American tourists from Ida Grove, Ia., got in by the Kingston last evening, and will resume their journeyings this evening. It is composed of Geo. T. Williams, editor of the "Ida County Watch;" Dr. M. R. Kashman; Geo. R. Long, A. Schluber, merchants; and O. Schluber, banker. All these gentlemen are travelling together and enjoying themselves as people can who set themselves down for pleasure. Their route is a circuitous one, as they "intend to visit creation" before they get home again. Victoria is in the domain of creation, and the party are of the united opinion that it is no means the least desirable portion of this mundane sphere. They visited all the most interesting spots last evening and spent a pleasant time generally.

Penny Wise, Pound Foolish.

As a rule, the sidewalks of Victoria are not in strict accord with the principles of spirit level, and one has often to suddenly climb a short but steep ascent on very short notice. If one is not paying the closest attention to his steps the result is sometimes painfully surprising. Added to this irregularity of surface is a system of extensive, but apparently useless, ventilation, in the shape of missing planks, large holes and gently poised boards. Of course, it is never the intention of the pedestrian to step into these cavities, but he nevertheless drops undignifiedly into them now and again, coming out with a broken shin if not a broken bone. The risk of descending these depressions is somewhat increased at night time, especially when the moon should be shining and is not doing her duty. When she is, by the calendar, on duty, it would be unreasonable to expect the electric light to take the spring queen's place; turn about is fairness to all; but despite all this penny wise and pound foolish economy, there will be a huge loss incurred some day through an action for damages against the city. Then the lights will be shining always, moon or no moon, and the sidewalks will be repaired, but when once the first action is taken, others will follow on the smallest pretext.

THEIR OBJECT.

Why Messrs. Ralph and Remington, of "Harper's," are Visiting This Province.

Yesterday morning a COLONIST reporter visited the Driard in order to have a talk with Mr. Julian Ralph, who has come here to "write up" British Columbia, not for "Frank Leslie's," as had been reported, but for those standard publications "Harper's Weekly" and "Harper's Monthly." Both Mr. Ralph and his associate, Mr. Frederick Remington, are comparatively young men, the former, until within the last two years having been on the staff of the New York Sun, which he served for fifteen years, and the latter an artist of considerable repute who has made the subject of the Indians of the continent his special study. He was enabled to better study the Indians, as he said, was perfectly acquainted with them and their habits. He had lived among them, hunted with them, and was the fortunate possessor of a large collection of Indian relics and other curiosities. He published some very interesting sketches, both in pen and pencil, of his favorite topic, and has now come to study for a short time with whom he is comparatively unacquainted. Mr. Remington is accompanied by his wife. Mr. Ralph severed his connection with the Sun because of his predilection for work of, in a sense, a more literary character. Since his connection with Harper's, Mr. Ralph has written a number of very able and interesting articles on English scenery and the English people. His descriptions, both of places and persons, are the best, as to both writing and illustration, that have appeared in "Harper's" for a long while. The volume which he published describing his visit to England and France, and indicating the difference between the manners, the customs and the systems of the new and old worlds is described by competent authority as exceedingly clever. The party stopped at Nepigon en route for the Pacific, in order to enjoy a few days fly fishing, but the flies and so they abandoned the "sport." They also went up the Mattawa in search of moose and their experiences of Canadian fish, flies and flies will doubtless form the subject of interesting articles. Now that they have arrived here they will, it is understood, visit H. M. S. squadron at Esquimalt, in order, as Mr. Ralph observed, to satisfy themselves as to what

THE NEW AMERICAN NAVY

will be like when it is formed, but, as to the fishery question, thought it may have incidental reference in their sketches, its national significance is likely to be treated by others. The resources, progress and prosperity of British Columbia, as one of the most important divisions of the American continent would be fully discussed by them, and for this purpose there will be an extended trip over the most accessible portion of it, while in pursuance of their ethnological studies, Queen Charlotte and other islands will be carfully prospected, the coast being traversed as far north-west as time will permit. It is manifest that the visitors consider they have entered upon an exceptionally fruitful field, and it will not be their fault, they say, if it be not well exploited.