HOLD-UP.

bbery—Discredited Department.

el O'Connor called esterday afternoon h the rather alarm- e had been beaten Indian reservation. been indulging too fluid and being s to his ability to gravity while en on the reserve, a ed to escort him. reservation when h, struck O'Connor unt instrument. At man appeared on nor was robbed of ry.

gnomy certainly fact that he had hard, although it the blunt instru- he police bandaged were particularly inity of the eyes, sailant must have g one. Naturally etailed on the case, f the opinion that aken with a whole the first place the shed by O'Connor, n intelligent deduc- n the second, the was unable to tell d the $24, confirm- rding the credence ed to the story.

burglaries have is city during the hould be borne in munity from these ed. At this season large number of are continually ar- n in the last stages pse, robberies are to occur. Victoria and proof of this ires a comparison municipalities. It eral information, t during the past icious-looking char- n" out of the city t the formality of agrancy in the po- manner the police efficient work, and nipped in the bud, e, many a well laid

ALLIANCE.

Night to Secure of the Sabbath.

people attended the e Temperance hall Lord's Day Alliance ivocating the pass- rce a better observ- h day. The chair enator Macdonald, remarks, said that ng to have a law nsure a better ob- ath, did not intend hat British Colum- n that respect than ominion, but still a as necessary. d that about three was found neces- England in regard All pastimes, such prohibited, butchers sell meat, tradesmen sell wares, and no was allowed to be y. He then quoted regard to Sabbath The saloons were Saturday evening at not again open their on Monday morn- ay with the saloon ay. olumbia, Rev. E. S. Clay, C. H. Lugrin, and others gave ad-

then submitted by y, which was, in the Be it resolved that he forthcoming meet- e should pass legisla- er observance of the

s to have been sec- on, of the trades and n his absence Rev. ed the motion, which usly. nade a short speech, t it was intended to of the province in for the objects de-

f Mr. Shakespeare's l Anthem was sung e to a close.

ACQUITTED.

e to Convict—Montli's Two Offenders.

as this morning ac- of being in possession sses stolen from the gistrate pointing out adduced in evidence h his innocence. He Powell. as sentenced to one for being in unlaw- ad pipe belonging to The pipe was stolen hile it was lying on corner of Yates and tory to being carried Fanny Bradbery paid three months' inprisa- inmate of a bawdy ch was sentenced to onment for wilful He entered the Klon- erday afternoon and dishes and other ar-

BROTHER

rctic Explorer May rn.

3.—The brother of sing Arctic explorer, ch the North Pole in t Gothenburg, from nounced that, hoping om the Polar regions, ing the latter's testa-

s estimated to have f from £2,000,000 to n the diamond mines

Lumbermen's Grievances

Deputation From Their Association Lay Representations Before Cabinet Ministers.

A Complete Statement of Their Case Made and Rebate Requested.

The representatives of the B. C. Lumber and Shingle Manufacturers' Association met the government yesterday in reference to the rebate on lumber shipments. The conference lasted for over two hours, and the deputation went very fully into the matter.

The whole subject was fully discussed, and it was urged that a heavy share of the burden of this increased taxation would fall directly upon those engaged in the logging business, as the mills state they cannot possibly pay a higher price for their logs in the present condition of the lumber market. As regards the development of the shingle industry, it was pointed out that large quantities of shingle bolts are at present being taken from timber and from localities which are not suitable for logging, and which would be left in the bush unused if an additional 25 cents per cord were added to the cost. It was also pointed out that the royalty on shingle bolts grown on Dominion government land was only 25 cents per cord, so that by imposing the higher dues of 5 cents per cord, the provincial government is legislating in favor of the timber on Dominion government lands to the detriment of the province.

The shingle manufacturers stated that as they have to compete with American shingles they are unable to advance the prices. They pointed out in this respect that shingles are sold at the present time on Puget Sound at $1.40 per M., which is about the price obtained in British Columbia. The only means by which the British Columbia shingles are able to hold a market in Canada is on account of their superior manufacture to that of the American article. Another cause which militates against the British Columbia shingle manufacturers is that American shingles are admitted free of duty into British Columbia and Canada, while British Columbia shingles are subject to an American duty of 30 cents per M. upon all shingles imported to the United States. The effect of this is that American shingles have their own market reserved to them by a protective duty of 30 cents per M.; They have a decided advantage in shipping to Canada by purchasing their shingle bolts at from $1 to $1.50 per cord less than they can be purchased for in British Columbia; the British Columbia mills have to pay a duty averaging from 20 per cent. to 30 per cent. on all the machinery and mill supplies used in the manufacture of their shingles.

The position of the lumber mills is equally disadvantageous to that of the shingle manufacturers as compared with competing mills on Puget Sound. The cost of supplies is higher. The machinery pays a duty of about 30 per cent., and the provincial government has now imposed an increase of taxation equivalent to the average profit earned by many of the cargoes shipped during the past year.

Since the introduction of the rebate in 1893, and up to some twelve months past, the prices of export lumber have been excessively low. The average price of many cargoes does not show a profit of over 25 cents per M., while if the mills have to pay 50 cents instead of 25 cents for government stumpage, every cent of the profit will be wiped out.

The mill owners pointed out that they consider a great injustice is being done, as contracts for logging the timber limits have in many cases been let. Several of these contracts run for a considerable time, and to add 25 cents per M. upon such contracts is a great injustice to the mills, and detrimental to the lumber industry. By making the Order-in-Council retro-active, a still greater injustice is caused. It was also pointed out that many ship owners discriminate against British Columbia waters in their charter parties in favor of Puget Sound to the extent of £0:1:3 to £0:2:6 per M., and that this 30 to 60 cents per M. has to be allowed by the mill-man to secure the orders.

The export trade of this province has to compete with mills practically all over the world. In Norway, our chief competitor, they have a cheaper class of labor. In the eastern Canadian market the mills have to meet the competition of pitch pine from the Southern States, where they have competitive railway rates and cheap negro labor. In the Northwest Territories and Manitoba, there is competition from Minnesota which has a much cheaper railroad haul for their lumber. Rough lumber and shingles enter the Dominion free of duty, which leaves our markets at the mercy of the United States manufacturers, while the Canadian mills have to pay $2 per M. for lumber and 30 cents per M. on shingles as an American import duty. The effect of this is to limit the railway shipments from British Columbia to the Canadian markets, while leaving the markets of British Columbia and Canada open to American competition.

The case was promised consideration by the government.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

Winnipeg, Dec. 12.—John Arbuthnot was yesterday elected mayor by about 850 majority. D. A. Ross was second, and Mayor Wilson, the present incumbent, at the foot of the poll. The aldermen-elect are: Ward 1, B. E. Chaffey; Ward 2, John Russell; Ward 3, J. T. Latimer; Ward 4, J. G. Harvey; Ward 5, D. D. Woods; Ward 6, J. W. Cockburne.

The muncipal elections also took place in the Northwest Territories. J. S. Mackie was elected mayor of Calgary by 1 majority; at Lethbridge the vote for mayor was a tie between Mr. Oliver and John Kenny, and the returning officer cast his ballot for Oliver. W. T. Findlay was elected mayor of Medicine Hat, and John Rutherford mayor of Moosejaw.

THE PASSING THRONG.

Arrivals of the Day at City Hotels—Gossip of the Corridors.

B. Lequine, of Kelowna, B. C., who arrived in the city some days ago, accompanied by his wife and family, left on a tour of California the other evening. Mr. Lequine, in an interview before leaving, gave some interesting facts regarding the cultivating of tobacco at Kelowna—the only district in British Columbia where farmers have attempted to grow that much desired weed. Mr. Lequine has himself 15 acres of land planted with tobacco, and says that there is as much as 50 acres in Kelowna used for the same purpose. The crop, he say, is better than it ever was before, and it is expected, by those interested, that as much as 30,000 pounds of tobacco leaf will be shipped in addition to what is sent to different parts of the Dominion and the United States, and used to supply their own manufacturing establishment at Kelowna. Before Mr. Lequine left Kelowna 4 tons of cuttings had been shipped to a Montreal manufacturing company, and, said Mr. Lequine, if it had been necessary, a carload could have been shipped. In speaking of the quality of the tobacco raised, Mr. Lequine said that when the tobacco was planted for the first time in British Columbia the cultivators were inexperienced, and therefore the tobacco raised was not of as good a quality as it might have been. But now all the schemes for the raising of first-class tobacco were utilized and the most modern machinery was used in the curing of the leaf. One of the best known cigar men of America, when expressing his opinion in regard to the quality of British Columbia tobacco, said that it is equal to, if it does not excel, any tobacco raised in Canada or the northern part of the States.

* * *

John Adams left last evening for New York, where he will take up a course of assaying for the next few months. Mr. Adams only recently returned from Dawson where he has been in the assaying department of the Canadian Bank of Commerce branch in the Klondike metropolis. He cast in his lot in the great North eighteen months ago, and is so well pleased with his prospects there that he intends to return immediately upon completing his course—probably during the early spring. His assaying duties did not monopolize his interest in its entirety, as he has become associated in the ownership of some property on Hunker creek. This has not been developed yet, and whether it contains extensive wealth or shattered hopes will be disclosed with the laborious research of the miner in his spring earth exploration.

* * *

Capt. Wm. Rant, recorder of the new Porcupine district, who is now in the city, says regarding that district: "The camp is undoubtedly destined to be a great gold producer. It is a wild-looking country, different from Atlin, and certainly richer. Just now there is a great deal of snow in the district, and little or no development work can be done this winter. Coming down the Chilkat we had a hard time. The river was open in several places, where we would have to climb around over rocks and fallen trees. In some places the trail is good, but for the most part of the distance travelling is very hard. Several men are going in shortly with provisions and they expect to do some work this winter, but as a rule I think but little development will be done until spring, and next summer I look for some wonderful reports."

* * *

Hector McKenzie, the erstwhile genial clerk at the Hotel Victoria, has returned from a fortnight's visit to San Francisco. Mr. McKenzie has evidently no inconsiderable regard for the Bay City, as he had only returned a few days from a former trip when an inherent restlessness prompted him to again make for the California metropolis. He asseverates that this is his last, and to counteract the effect of the whirl of San Francisco's commercial activity he intends spending a few weeks hunting on the West Coast, prior to returning to the North.

* * *

C. J. Good is among those registered at the Victoria hotel. Mr. Good is in the city awaiting the arrival of the steamer Olympia from the Orient. He expects several friends to arrive from China, where they have been investigating some property with a view to investment.

* * *

E. M. Molander, of Port Townsend, accompanied by Wm. Caton, of Seattle, are in the city. They will leave shortly for Mount Sicker to look at some property in that district, with the intention of purchasing.

* * *

A. E. Suckling, of Toronto, is in the city arranging for the delivery in Victoria of Frederick Hamilton's lecture, "With the Canadians From Quebec to Pretoria." Mr. Hamilton expects to reach here in February.

* * *

E. Dier left last evening for Philadelphia, where he will take up a course of dentistry in the dental institution there. Before entering on his studies he will make a preliminary tour of the Eastern cities.

* * *

B. Lequime, wife and family, of Kelowna, B. C., arrived in the city the other day and registered at the Dominion hotel. Mr. Lequime owns one of the large mills in that town.

* * *

Mrs. C. F. and Miss Hanington, of Fort Steele, arrived in the city the other day and will spend some time with Dr. Hanington.

* * *

W. Murray, manager of the Bank of British Columbia in Vancouver, arrived in the city last evening. He will spend a couple of days in Victoria.

* * *

Mrs. J. B. Leighton, of Savona, is spending a few days with her sister-in-law, Mrs. R. B. McMicking, of 17 Kingston street.

G. Koenig, the genial proprietor of Koenig's hotel, Shawnigan, is a guest at the Hotel Victoria.

Fred. Carne, jr., is confined to his residence, Yates street, with an attack of la grippe.

A. E. Barre, a well known jewellery man, is staying at the Driard.

E. W. Bickle, of Atlin, is a guest at the Driard.

The Emperor of Germany is a devotee to the automobile. The one which His Majesty uses was constructed at a cost of nearly £2,000. It is described as weighing 1½ tons, and as being propelled by a benzine motor, with which it is possible to obtain a speed of sixty miles per hour.

Provincial News.

GOLDEN.

The annual meeting of the Golden fire brigade was held last week, when the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Chief, R. M. Wilson; acting chief, J. C. Tom; captain, W. Alexander; 1st lieutenant, J. F. Nattrass; 2nd lieutenant, T. King. C. W. Field was re-elected as secretary-treasurer.

LADNER.

A quiet but very pretty wedding took place on Friday evening, the 7th inst., at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Ellis, Ladner, when the Rev. E. Manwell joined in the holy bonds of matrimony John Ellis, of Ladner, and Miss Emily Louise Brodie, of Markdale, Ont. Mr. and Mrs. Ellis will make their home at Ladner.

NEW WESTMINSTER.

The municipal elections passed off very quietly yesterday. This was accounted for to a large extent by there being no mayoralty contest, Mayor Scott having been elected by acclamation. The contest for aldermanic honors resulted as follows: J. C. Brown, 346; B. W. Shiles, 311; A. E. Woods, 276. W. Johnston, 274; W. H. Keary, 271; W. Forrester, 246, and George Adams, 231. Thos. Ovens, 226; Sinclair, 215; Jagger, 150; Calbrick, 148; Hancock, 51; Herring, 48, also ran. The following were elected as school trustees: Mrs. Agnes Hill, Messrs. J. Reid and J. Cunningham.

NANAIMO.

Mayor Bate has announced his intention to be a candidate in the approaching mayoralty contest. Aldermen Manson and Cocking are also candidates.

Yung Ning fell 100 feet into Millstream ravine off the railway trestle bridge yesterday morning, dislocating his hip.

The Alexandria mines, which closed down on Sunday owing to a misunderstanding between the men and Superintendent Faulds, will probably reopen in a day or two.

Since C. P. R. cars began to arrive at Ladysmith, real estate operations at Ladysmith have shown a most remarkable activity.

It is rumored that Mr. Hawthornthwaite is to have opposition in the bye-election.

Col. Hayes and party went through to the Hayes mining properties on Saturday, and development on a bigger scale than ever is to be begun at once.

Angus Hazenfratz, of the Lansdowne brewery, sustained terrible injuries to his face and eyes yesterday afternoon by the accidental upsetting of a barrel of boiling pitch, which splashed him. He may lose the sight of one eye.

VANCOUVER.

His Lordship Bishop Dontenwill, assisted by dignitaries and priests, celebrated the first mass in the new Church of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary on Sunday. The singing of the pontificial high mass was the closing of the ceremony of blessing, and was a fitting conclusion to the services dedicating the new building to the worship and glory of God.

Nothing definite resulted from the meeting of the city council on Monday afternoon, to consider propositions asking assistance in the establishment of a line of steamers on the Alaskan route. When the meeting was called to order it was found that the only proposition before the council was that of Messrs. Johnson & Burnett, who agreed to put on two good steamers on condition that the city guarantee 5 per cent. interest for seven years on $300,000. It was decided to call another meeting on Thursday afternoon next.

At Monday's council meeting the mayor called attention to the fact that prisoners in the city jail were fettered in irons, which in some cases were not removed during their term of office. This matter had been brought to his attention by the mother of one of the boys confined there, and His Worship thought it was a subject worthy of investigation. It certainly seemed inhumane that prisoners should be treated in that way. It was decided to bring the matter to the attention of the police committee at the next meeting.

Two Japanese, Hanay Sato and Mantoka Hamaguchi, were arrested on Monday, charged with uttering raised bills. A couple of weeks ago, it will be remembered, a Jap made some purchases at Mr. Moore's tobacco store on Cordova street, with a ten dollar American bill, which was afterwards found to be a one, very cleverly raised. The man was arrested, and after undergoing interrogation at the police station was released. His story was that a countryman of his had drawn the bill with some others from a bank at Nanaimo. The bill was retained, and the Jap allowed to depart pending investigation. A story now comes from Nanaimo that some Japs there have been passing raised bills in that town, and the circumstances connected with the matter led the police to become suspicious of the Jap who had similar money in his possession here. The two Japs named were, therefore, gathered in.

G. E. McKeag, of the Strathcona Horse, returned from South Africa on Sunday, having been invalided home with a bullet wound in the arm and a broken leg as the result of his share in the engagement at Carden Hill. After he had been shot through the arm, McKeag's horse was shot under him; horse and rider fell heavily to the ground, McKeag sustaining a broken leg in the fall. Thus after four months in the field, he was invalided out of active service, and inflammation setting in to add to his other troubles, McKeag has had a very long hospital experience since. Although a Vancouver man, McKeag joined the Strathcona Horse at Calgary, but now that he has returned he intends to settle down in the Terminal City.

J. Webb, hotel proprietor, North Bend, died on Saturday night in St. Paul's hospital after a brief illness. He leaves a widow and five children. Mr. Webb was well and favorably known in Vancouver.

TAKEN AT HER WORD.

The Heiress—The man I marry must be very handsome, afraid of nothing, and clever. Money's no object to me.

Mr. Broke—Doesn't it seem like fate that we should have met?

Mining News

Lardeau.

Foreman Sharpe, who had charge of the work on the Canadian Lardeau up the North Fork during the summer, now has men working on the Eclipse.

The Triune Fraction is located on the Silver Cup hill on the south fork of the Lardeau and is situated on the famous Triune lead, in fact it is the adjoining claim to the famous Triune mine. There are a number of wonderful claims located on this same mineral belt, such as the Nettie L., Brow, Towser, Silver Cup, Triune, Triune No. 2 and Cromwell. The owners while doing prospecting work on the property discovered a fine lead from three to four feet in width and well mineralized throughout, and one of the owners chipped a piece from the surface and brought down same to Assayer Shannoin, getting returns of $14 in gold and $10.07 in silver, besides copper and lead.

East Kootenay.

Paul Handley, who has the contract for hauling ore for the Sullivan company, is busy building sleighs for that purpose.

The Pollard boys, who have claims on Palmer mountain, adjoining the Hamilton boys, are running a 200-foot tunnel this winter on the property.

Work has been commenced on the Golden Fleece mineral claim, situate on Tracy creek. Wm. Forsyth will have charge of the work, which will consist of running a 100-foot tunnel.

The Boundary.

The Maud West, which adjoins the Bodie on the south, is still driving its crosscut tunnel. It is in over 250 feet. It is uncertain how much further it will have to be run to reach the ledge, but it is believed that not more than 50 feet will be necessary.

The Oxford is a prospect of merit. It is being developed by a crosscut tunnel, which has been driven 125 feet. Its face is still about 100 feet from the ledge. The outcrop is large and the ore of high grade. There has not been enough work done on the surface to determine the width of the ledge.

P. Porter, one of the heavy owners of the Betts and Hesperus group, on Hardy mountain, was in Grand Forks recently, looking after some business connected with the letting of a contract for a large amount of work to be done on that property. It is reported that the new work will consist of a long tunnel to tap the lead, but Mr. Porter was unwilling to make any definite announcements until the matter was finally decided.

The properties of the Dominion Copper Company—the Brooklyn, Stemwinder, Idaho, etc.—it is now given out are to be in operation on or before January 1st, says the Pioneer.

The machinery has been installed at the Carmi mine, and is working successfully. It is not yet known how many men will be employed at the property during the winter. This will largely depend upon whether the road is completed in order to admit of ore being hauled to Midway for shipment to the pyritic smelter. The management of the mine has just completed a sleigh road from the mine to a point opposite Rendell, and will continue it to meet with the West Fork wagon road should the survey party get within reasonable distance in the near future.

The Bodie mine, on Toroda creek, is to be worked on an extensive scale during the coming winter. The shaft will be continued down until it intersects the tunnel to ventilate the mine. The main tunnel has been driven 325 feet, and is being pushed about three feet each 24 hours. There are some stringers of quartz in the face of the tunnel, and it seems quite probable that the ledge may be cut at any time, though it may be possible that it is yet 30 or 40 feet away.

ENGLISH MINISTERIAL SALARIES.

There are some curious discrepancies about the salaries attaching to the offices in the ministry. Thus the most important of all, the Premiership, carries no emoument, and indeed no precedence, and the holder of it invariably fills some other position. Lord Salisbury has, except for a brief period when he was First Lord of the Treasury, always attached to the chieftainship the foreign office. Mr. Gladstone, when he was not First Lord of the Treasury, was generally Chancellor of the Exchequer, and in his last ministry he added to the former the sinecure of Lord Privy Seal (of course, without extra remuneration), which Lord Salisbury is now to occupy. Can any one explain that while the Secretary for War gets £5,000, the First Lord of the Admiralty receives £500 less, except on the ground that all Her Majesty's secretaries of state are paid the same salary? The most highly paid position is that of Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, £20,000, but then there are social duties attaching to that office and consequent expenses which do not apply in other cases.

The Lord Chancellor gets £10,000—half of which is as a judge of the highest Court of Appeal, and the other as chairman of the House of Lords—a generous remuneration. The Lord Chancellor of Ireland receives £2,000 less, and his duties are wholly judicial, unless he is in the cabinet, as the present occupant of the post is. Two thousand pounds is the usual salary for such minor posts as head of the Board of Trade, the Local Government Board, the Boards of Agriculture, Education and Works, while the Postmaster-General, the director of the biggest business in the kingdom, is repaid with £2,500. Gentlemen who hold the positions of under secretary in the various departments are paid from £1,500 to £2,000. On the whole, it cannot be said that we pay our professional politicians handsomely, unless they hold legal offices. Probably the whole amount paid to Mr. Gladstone during his parliamentary career from the exchequer would not have represented more than a few years' income if he had turned manufacturer instead of devoting his life to the service of his country. It is unnecessary to say that there are other compensations.—The London Chronicle.

Microbes have been found in queer places, and now Professor Hubener, of Breslau, detects them in—the doctor's beard. The latter performs his operation, and the evicted bacilli, rounding upon the victor, swarm into his beard, and by a stroke of genius nothing less than Machiavellian use the healer himself as a source of new contagion. The more handsomely full the whisker the deadlier its possibilities. On this discovery, says the Secolo, the professor formed a drastic conclusion. Masks, or washes of sublimate, are as nothing. The doctor must shave. Such is the microbe's dramatic vengeance.

Business Men's Backache

When a man get interested in his business he's apt to forget about himself.

When backache comes—when he feels depressed and out of sorts, he contents himself with the plea that he's worked too hard—he'll ease up some of these days.

But he doesn't let up—bachache gets worse and worse—kidneys can't stand the strain put upon them—they need help—must have it if serious kidney trouble is to be averted.

DOAN'S KIDNEY PILLS

have helped hundreds of business men to do their work and keep their health—ease their aching back and restored the natural blood filtering functions of their kidneys. Read the evidence:

"have had kidney and urinary trouble for some time past, with distressing pain in the small of my back, and indeed felt very miserable. I got one box of Doan's Kidney's Pills from Mason's drug store, and they cured me completely. I recommend them heartily as a splendid remedy for kidney or urinary difficulties, and as a cure for pain in the back they are certainly infallible." Frederick Ash, Merchant Tailor, Main street, Markham, Ont.

Always ask your druggist for Doan's Kidney Pills and refuse worthless substitutes and imitations. The Doan Kidney Pill Co., Toronto, Ont.

HOW ANIMALS FIGHT.

The Elephant or the Grizzly Would Wear the Belt in a Go-as-You-Please.

Supposing all the animals in the Zoo, at Regent's Park, were to begin a fight to the death, who would be the ultimate victor.

A well known animal dealer votes for the elephant, which he calls the J. L. Sullivan of beasts. His trunk is his weapon, and he is the hardest hitter with it of all the animals. Furthermore, he gores with his mighty tusks and tramples beneath his huge feet his daring adversary.

A sporting writer would call the tiger a whirlwind fighter. He is very light on his feet, and his impetuous rush needs clever withstanding. With his heavy paw his favorite stroke is a lightning downward punch. With all his cleverness he soon tires if he meets a tough adversary.

The same remarks apply to the lion's style of fighting, though Leo has generally more grit than friend Stripes, and will last longer in a conflict. Still, in a lion-and-tiger fight one would hardly back Leo, for he is generally several stones lighter than the gentleman from Bengal. And it is generally admitted among students of the fistic art that "a good big one is better than a good little one." What Mr. Gilbert calls "an interesting Eastern potentate" often has lion pitted against tiger in the wild beast fights with which he beguiles his leisure, and almost invariably is the king of beasts subjected to an ignominious knockout.

The specialty of the giraffe is his enormous reach. He can deliver a nasty punch with his forelegs, and is not above biting his opponent when opportunity offers. Another long-range fighter is the deer, who is also very swift in his movements. Besides the quick punch with the forefoot, beware the sharp horns when you take on Br'er Deer. The buffalo, though his pet weapon is his great iron-clad head, is also good at a long, swinging blow with the forefoot.

The grizzly bear is a formidable foe. He can punch like no other animal save the elephant—one blow of his stupendous paw will break a horse's back—and when he clinches to avoid punishment, his hug will crush anything living. Besides this, nothing can break his pluck. He will fight as long as he can see or stand, and he is a glutton for punishment. None of the cat tribe could stand a tenth of the pounding which the grizzly takes without turning a hair. As an offset to the useful qualities I have enumerated, the bear is slow on his feet, and his eye is not good.

The snake is about the cruellest of fighters; he has not the advantage of legs, but he is armed with the deadliest poison, and once he has wound himself round his adversary's body, one swift movement of the head enables him to bite his victim.

The trickiest fighter is our colonial friend, Uncle Kangaroo. He bites when he can, and his powerful hind legs and tail are useful for dodging. The opponent who gets one of his forefoot blows seldom requires another, and a straight kick from him will rip a horse or another large animal wide open. He also is fond of hugging, and when pursued by dogs will take the faithful friend of man to his bosom in a terrible embrace that is generally fatal.

Thus, though each of the beasts has his own specialties in the way of fighting, we have come to the conclusion that either the elephant or the bear would wear the belt in a general fight among the happy family of Regent's Park.—London Express.

MISERABLE SQUILLACE.

"What do people do here?" I once asked at a little town between Rome and Naples, and the man with whom I talked, shrugging his shoulders, answered curtly, "C'e miseria"—there's nothing but poverty. The same reply would be given in towns and villages without number through the length of Italy. I had seen poverty enough, and squalid conditions of life, but the most ugly and repulsive collection of houses I ever came upon was the town of Squillace. I admit the depressing effect of rain and cloud and of hunger worse than unsatisfied; these things count emphatically in my case; but under no conditions could inhabited Squillace be other than an offence to eye and nostril. The houses are, with one or two exceptions, ground-floor hovels, scarce a weather-tight dwelling is discoverable; the general impression is that of dilapidated squalor. Streets, in the ordinary sense of the word, do not exist; irregular alleys climb about the rugged heights, often so steep as to be difficult of ascent; here and there a few boulders have been thrown together to afford a footing, and in some places the native rock lies bare, but for the most part one walks on the accumulation of filth of ages.—George Gissing in The Fortnightly Review.

Juvenile smoking seems rather approved of than otherwise in Australia. Incredible though it may appear, says the Cigarette World, they have already discussed the advisability of attaching smoking rooms to the schools.

REPTILES IN CAPTIVITY.

The most striking single feature of the Reptile House interior in the New York "Zoo" is the alligator pool, which is another new departure in the keeping of saurians. The pool is 35 by 9 feet, and contains four feet of water, heated to 90 degrees Fahrenheit. On the further side of the pool are spacious gravel banks, beyond which rises a dense maze of palms, Spanish bayonets, and other tropical plants, representing a living jungle. Leaning over the pools is a tree, resembling a live oak overgrown with tillandsias, orchids and Spanish moss from Florida. A flood of light streams down upon the pool and its banks, the water is warmed by concealed pipes, and the six alligators are so contented that they have long since ceased to be vicious. Being properly warmed, they feed freely, grow rapidly, and are always ready for a meal. The largest specimen, called "Jumbo," now 12 feet 6 inches in length, has added six inches to himself since he was placed in the pool last November.—Dr. T. W. Hornaday in the Century.

THE MAKERS OF BOOKS.

There can be no question that public events at home and abroad have seriously affected the sale of books during the past year. The other day one of the most popular of living novelists declared that the war had reduced his income at least 30 per cent., and what is true of him must be true of others. Yet the makers of books write as diligently as if wars and political tumults were unknown and the great indifferent public were waiting eagerly to buy and read each new work. Perhaps it is with literature as with virtue: the pleasure of literary composition may be its own reward. At anyrate, demand or no demand, literary toilers go on producing. Authors are probably the most sanguine race in existence; and it has to be added that publishers are hardly less hopeful. —The Publishers' Circular.

In the main, Corsica, where it has no French officials to leaven its politics, is still Corsican rather than French; and in the mountains the old spirit of independence is far from dead. For these and other obvious reasons, France is bound to keep active garrisons in the island, though she would do better by much with the more acceptable chains of a maternal administration. More railways, drained marches, increased education, and a daily steamboat service would bind the island to the continent in self-interest and gratitude. As it is, it is scarcely too much to say that Corsica is only kept from open revolt by the element of prosperity brought to her by the tourists of winter.—Chambers's Journal.

Major-General Baden-Powell is a non-smoker, and he has been elected a patron of the Anti-Smoking Society of Runcorn, the members of which guarantee not to smoke before they are twenty-one at least. In a characteristic letter of thanks to the society he writes: "A feeble youth who smokes because he thinks it is manly is just as liable to drink or to swear because he has known grown-up men do it—not because it is any pleasure to him. Then he gets into the habit of it, and the fault becomes part of him for the rest of his life."

A German inventor has hit upon a method of putting stone soles on boots and shoes. He mixes a waterproof glue with a suitable quantity of clean quartz sand, and spreads it over the leather sole used as a foundation. These quartz soles are said to be very flexible and practically indestructible, and to give the foot a firm hold, even on the most slippery surfaces.

Evelyn Baldwin, of the United States weather bureau, who is preparing an expedition in search of the north pole, has arrived in London to consult with scientists and inspect ships. He will go to the continent at the end of the week. The famous Russian ice-cracker Ermack, which is to attempt to reach the north pole in 1901, under the command of Vice-Admiral Makaroff, of the Imperial Russian navy, is now being fitted out at Newcastle for the expedition; and Capt. Bernier, the Canadian explorer, is busy in London fitting out the Scottish King.

The terrible consequences of an old woman smoking in bed were disclosed at an inquest in Hackney. Susan Webb Beckenham, 67, the victim, a wine merchant's widow, was found burned and suffocated in her bed. She had been secretly smoking a pipe. The coroner observed that many more women smoked than most people suspected. "Accidental death," was the verdict.

The annual consumption of meat in Australia is 276 pounds per inhabitant; in Great Britain, 118; in France, 77; in Germany, 64; in Austria, 61; in Russia, 51; in Italy, 26.