

FATHER PAT'S DEATH

STATEMENT IN THE MONTREAL
FRENCH PAPER, LA
PATRIE.

THE REMAINS TO BE TAKEN TO
NEW WESTMINSTER
FOR BURIAL.

The story that "Father Pat" irwin died in the faith of the Roman Catholic church, as circulated through the Associated Press, is refuted in the story of his death as published in La Patrie, of Montreal, copies of which are just to hand. La Patrie states that the remains of the deceased clergyman were interred in Mount Royal cemetery, which is the Protestant burying ground. It is believed that the error on this point arose from the strong likelihood that when "Father Pat" was asked if he was a "Catholic," he responded in the affirmative, the term being common to all denominations in its technical sense.

La Patrie corroborates the statement that deceased was found in an unconscious condition near Sault aux Recllets, some miles from any road and in the vicinity of timber. The supposition is advanced that he was taking a short cut to Montreal when he was overcome by the cold. After being taken to the Hospital Hotel Dieu, he regained consciousness but refused to tell anything about himself to the hospital authorities. Later he was seen by a clergyman of his own denomination. Death followed in the course of a week, and "Father Pat" passed away in great agony.

The report concludes with the statement that arrangements were being made in Montreal to take a subscription locally for the purpose of having the remains taken to the coast for final interment. The Miner is informed locally that the final resting place of "Father Pat's" body will be at New Westminster, where his wife is buried.

RAN INTO DANGER.

Police Predicts Invaded by an Intoxicated Man.

Only rarely does a drunken man worry the police department in its own stronghold at the city hall, but this happened yesterday, and James Poitras was the man who did the bearding. It cost James a five dollar note.

The police court was in session for several hours on Wednesday, and half a dozen times while the session was on an unknown man plainly the worse of liquor entered the hall of justice and stamped about the section called off for the public. As he was not particularly objectionable to the court, the officers on duty paid no attention to his movements. Later in the day the man came in and asked for Chief Ingram with the object of talking over some matter he had in mind. Remarking his condition, the chief of police sent him home to sleep off his jag, telling him to come back when he was sober. This occurred at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and the man did not show up again until 11 p. m. when he was shown up by a lord. This time he seemed to think he was exalted above all the peace officers in the country, and was promptly locked up on the charge of being drunk and incapable. A night in the cells improved his condition and yesterday morning he was fined \$5. The fellow gave his name as James Poitras and described himself as a railroad laborer. He has probably learned the lesson that police headquarters are a mighty good place to stay away from when a man has more red eye than sense in his cranium.

The only other case coming up at yesterday's police court was the charge of disorderly conduct against Neil Fridmore. The defendant produced witnesses to substantiate his side of the story, and the charge was dismissed.

COMMUNICATIONS

To the Editor—The item referring to consular agency at this place in your issue of today is wholly unwarranted and without any foundation whatsoever, and whoever gave this information is certainly a liar or a fool. As for my trying to make any deal with any of the parties mentioned it is without any foundation. I have never mentioned any of their names to Colonel Dudley, U. S. consul at Vancouver, nor to any one else and if they were to have paid for the job they were certainly entitled to some efforts on my part to try to secure the agency to them.

I have lived in Rossland six years and no one who knows my reputation here will believe any such dirty contemptible trash as for the Nelson office it was Mr. Kenibbs himself who turned over the agency and who took a year to send in his resignation and prevented the appointment of a consular agent at that place. So Colonel Dudley had no hand in that job, and as soon as Mr. Kenibbs sent in his resignation an American citizen was appointed on Mr. Dudley's recommendation.

I have not resigned the office here and may have an opportunity to make this deal go yet. I will advertise for bids when I get ready.

JOHN JACKSON, Jr.

Rossland, February 14th.

THE FATHER PAT MEMORIAL.

To the Editor—Kindly permit me through your valuable paper to express an opinion as to the form which the memorial to the late "Father Pat" should take. I would like to see a fountain for the use of man and beast erected opposite the Hotel Allan, surmounted by a bust of the departed clergyman. Such a memorial would keep the memory of the late "Father Pat" green in the minds of his admirers in Rossland in a most effective manner.

A SUBSCRIBER.

J. Wilson, British Columbia manager of Canadian Pacific telegraphs, is in the city this morning.

THE NEW POSTOFFICE

END OF AUGUST NAMED AS PROBABLE DATE OF OCCUPATION.

WORK OF VARIOUS KINDS THAT WILL YET CONSUME SOME TIME.

Rossland's new postoffice will probably be ready for occupation by the end of August or the first week in September. This prediction is ventured by Robert W. Grigor, the clerk of the works under the department of public works at Ottawa. This is the first time that an approximate date has been set for the occupation of the handsome building, which has been in course of erection for the past ten months.

At the present time the building is in the hands principally of the plasterers. This work, with a proper allowance for drying, will occupy all of the next two months. The following month will be utilized for finishing the interior of the building, which includes the installation of heating apparatus, stairways, letter boxes and other essential features. Then the final touches require to be made, and the time estimated to be required for all the work enumerated brings the date of the opening to the end of August.

One of the features of the work about the postoffice will be the raising of the building just west of the postoffice proper. This structure stands on the ground to be utilized as a driveway. Vehicles conveying mails to and from the railroad depots will drive in on the west side of the office and discharge the mail sacks at the receiving room in the one-story stone annex to the rear. There is no special hurry for this work, and as Contractor Bradbury is using a portion of the premises as an office he will probably allow it to remain until the postoffice is about ready to turn over to the government.

While the postoffice building operations have already occupied a considerable time it is probable that the city will have the use of the premises eight to twelve months earlier than the time when the Nelson people will witness the opening of their \$65,000 Federal building, which was started about the same time.

VALENTINE SOCIAL.

Methodist Church Entertainment a Pronounced Success.

The Valentine social at Odd Fellows' hall last night under the auspices of the Methodist church was successful from every aspect. The attendance was large and the entertainment afforded proved most enjoyable. The special feature of the concert was the distribution early in the evening of valentines cut in two. Arrivals were expected to find the person carrying the other halves of the divided valentines, and in this way social intercourse was promoted.

Rev. A. M. Sanford, B. A., the popular pastor of the church, was indefatigable in promoting the pleasure of the large audience, and succeeded admirably in making all feel at home. Dainty refreshments were served during the evening by the ladies of the church, and this was one of the most pleasant features of the program.

A good program was presented, the list including the following numbers: Instrumental.....Miss McLean
Recitation.....Miss Ruby Hook
Song with Banjo Accompaniment.....Walter Herring
Recitation—"Life in the West".....Alex. Wilson
Club Singing Exercise.....Miss Adams
Song.....Mrs. Benny
Banjo Solo.....Miss Herring
Recitation.....Miss McLean
Nearly all of the numbers were enthusiastically enjoyed.

RESTLESS LITTLE ONES.

Peevishness and Sleeplessness a Sure Sign That Baby is Unwell.

When babies are restless, cross or peevish it is the surest possible sign of illness. Well babies sleep soundly and are cheerful and playful when awake. When baby is cross too many mothers give so-called "soothing" medicines, which contain opiates that deaden but do not remove the trouble. What is wanted is a medicine that will go right to the root of the trouble and make baby sleep well, eat well and be cheerful in a natural way. Such a medicine is Baby's Own Tablets, which are sold under an absolute guarantee that they contain neither opiates nor other harm-drugs. All mothers who have used them for their little ones speak of them in terms of warmest praise. Mrs. Albert Young, Stratford, says: "My baby, who is now five months old, has always been very cross and peevish. She was a thin, delicate looking child and cried nearly all the time. I did not know what to do with her. I tried several medicines, but they did her no good. A friend advised me to try them. I did so, and since using them baby has been quite well, her bowels are regular, and she has grown plump and good-natured. I am delighted with the Tablets and keep them on hand all the time, and whenever baby gets cross and feverish I give her a Tablet and she is all right."

These Tablets are the best medicine in the world for simple fevers, colic, diarrhoea, all stomach troubles, constipation and other minor ailments of little ones. They are for children of all ages, and dissolved in water or crushed to a powder may be given with absolute safety to the youngest infant. Mothers who once try them will never afterwards use any other medicine for their little ones. Sold by all dealers in medicine or sent post paid at 25 cents a box by addressing the Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

Joseph Carter, district passenger agent of the Canadian Pacific, is in the city today.

ACTIVITY IN LUMBER

PERIOD OF DEPRESSION IN THE TRADE NOW PRETTY WELL OVER.

MINES AND BUILDING DEMAND MUCH BRISKER THAN OF LATE.

The lumber conditions of Rossland are in a condition of rearrangement. For some years the demand for timber in its various shapes has been heavy in the Golden City, and several companies did a thriving business. The events of last summer inaugurated an unprecedented season of quietness in the building line, while the complete or partial cessation of work in a number of mines cut out another important market for the mills catering to local business. Recently conditions have altered for the better in several respects. The Rossland mines are consuming a large quantity of timbers, and the plants having these contracts are busy. Blue, Fisher & Jesschamps have a crew of 35 men employed at their camp some three miles north of the city, and are producing daily a large quantity of dressed and rough lumber of various kinds. The company has a number of teams working continuously on the excellent snow road between the plant and the city. The Rolf mill is running steadily to supply local trade, and the Yale company is also carrying to the building trade. The Porto Rico Lumber company is not shipping into the city extensively at this juncture, but will probably do so in the spring when business becomes brisker.

The statement is made that a considerable amount of lumber may be cut this year along the St. Thomas mountain wagon road. The construction of this road by the government last fall rendered available approximately 1000 acres of timber that is described as being one of the finest limits anywhere in the Trail mining division. The conditions are such also that the timber can be cut and brought to the Columbia & Western railroad at a comparatively low cost. The ground was staked under the provincial regulations before the road was completed.

SECURING SETTLERS

KASLO & SLOCAN RAILWAY LANDS NOW ATTRACT ATTENTION.

IMMIGRATION COMING FROM VARIOUS PARTS OF THE STATES.

While in Rossland yesterday on a business trip Colonel W. N. Brayton, of Kaslo, general and assistant commissioner for the Kaslo & Slocan railroad, gave the Miner some interesting details of the work accomplished by his company in securing settlers for the railroad reserves in East Kootenay. The Kaslo & Slocan road owns a large territory adjoining the Kootenay Reclamation lands, and stretching between Creston on the Crow's Nest road and Port Hill. For several years the company has been exerting itself to place settlers on the lands in question, but in the past twelve months they seem to have been more successful than at any previous juncture since the lands were thrown open.

"Last month we disposed of 27000 acres of ground in lots ranging from a section down, principally in quarter sections," remarked Colonel Brayton. "These are sold by the company at \$1 per acre and upward, although well worth considerably more. The company relinquishes to all settlers all timber rights also. The lots thus sold call for a one-third payment in cash at the time of sale, with the balance spread over a period of two years, and by this means we secure a superior class of settlers, as others are unable to produce the ready cash necessary to consummate deals."

"Among the last lot of settlers to determine to settle in British Columbia is a party of 40 families who move from Oklahoma, where they now reside. These people are first class farmers and will devote their attention largely after clearing their lands, to fruit raising, for which the ground is particularly well adapted, and for which a large market will be afforded in the Kootenays and the Territories. Other settlers are coming in constantly from the middle states, St. Paul being a favorite point for consigning settlers' effects west."

WHEN OUR EYES ARE TIRED.

People speak about their eyes being tired, meaning that the retina, or seeing portion of the eye, is fatigued; but such is not the case, as the retina hardly ever gets tired. The fatigue is in the inner and outer muscles attached to the eyeball, and the muscles of accommodation which surround the lens of the eye. When a near object is to be looked at this muscle relaxes and allows the lens to thicken, increasing its refractive power. The inner and outer muscles are used in covering the eye on the object to be looked at. It is in the three muscles mentioned that the fatigue is felt, and relief is secured temporarily by closing the eyes or gazing at far-distant objects. The usual indication of strain is a redness of the rim of the eyelid, betokening a congested state of the inner surface, accompanied by some pain. Sometimes this weariness indicates the need of glasses rightly adapted to the person, and in other cases the true remedy is to massage the eye and its surroundings, so far as may be, with the hand in cold water.—The Family Doctor.

SISTERS' HOSPITAL

FACTS AND FIGURES GIVEN IN THE REPORT FOR PAST YEAR.

THE INSTITUTION'S CLAIM ON THE PUBLIC FOR SUPPORT.

The yearly statement of the Sisters' hospital has been handed to the Miner for publication, and the figures adduced therein will be found of very considerable general interest. For reasons named below it is particularly desirable that the attention of the general public should be drawn to the admirable work that has been and is now being carried on by the hospital, and an idea of what is being accomplished can be gathered from the appended information. The figures as to finances and hospital statistics are:

Yearly statement of the Mater Misericordiae hospital Nov. 3, 1900, to Dec. 31, 1901.

RECEIPTS.	
Balance, cash in hand Nov. 3, 1900.....	3.54
From patients.....	5,733.24
City of Rossland (Health and Relief Committee).....	152.70
Payroll deductions.....	4,761.25
Provincial government grant.....	4,013.56
Donations.....	120.69
Miscellaneous sources.....	157.45
Total receipts.....	\$14,952.37

EXPENDITURES.	
To permanent improvements.....	\$1,470.90
To furniture.....	423.72
To hospital supplies.....	801.76
To doctor's fees for contract patients.....	1,641.15
To male nurses' fees.....	629.05
To groceries and provisions.....	2,663.44
To fuel, light, water and telephone.....	1,060.25
To insurance.....	1,796.12
To general expenses.....	255.11
To laundry.....	488.80
To dry goods.....	97.65
To sundries.....	2,568.35
To building fund.....	251.30
To note on Bank of Montreal.....	500.70
Total expenditures.....	\$14,441.07
Balance on hand Dec. 31, 1901.....	\$511.30
Total.....	\$14,952.37

Summary.

No. of patients on hand Nov. 3, 1900.....	21
No. received during fifth year ending Dec. 31, 1901.....	942
Total.....	963

No. of males.....	304
No. of females.....	38
Total number discharged.....	343
Total number of deaths.....	11
No. remaining in hospital Dec. 31, 1901.....	9

Total.....	363
No. died within 24 hours of admission.....	4
No. who died after a longer period.....	7
Total.....	11
Death rate, one per cent.	

One of the first facts that strikes the eye of the reader in connection with the foregoing statistics is that the death rate of one per cent is remarkably low. In fact it is probable that the record of the Rossland Sisters' hospital in this particular has never been approached in the province.

The total number of patients treated at the hospital since its inception on Nov. 4, 1899, up to December 31 last was 1,643, and the average death rate for this entire period was three per cent, the latter fact being a tribute to the care and intelligent treatment given patients brought to the institution. It will interest business men and citizens generally to learn that since the hospital was started it has been the means of collecting and distributing no less than \$75,675.41. Practically all of this amount has been disbursed within the city, as is always the case with such institutions. In a letter of acknowledgment of the last hospital report Hon. J. D. Prentice, provincial secretary, bore tribute in expressions of hearty good will to the admirable work of the institution.

Referring to the work of last year, the Miner is requested by the superior of the hospital to express her gratitude to the following: Resident physicians for gratuitous services to sick and injured indigent patients; the corporation of the city of Rossland for free water; the West Kootenay Power & Light company and the Vernon & Nelson Telephone company for reduction in rates; the postmaster for free use of box; Messrs. Daly & Hamilton for gratuitous legal services during the year; to the ladies of the city for flowers, fruit, books, clothing, etc.; to the local fraternal and labor organizations for fruit, wine, reading matter and clothing for the poor; to Messrs. D. Thomas, M. Shea, Hunter Brothers, Vaughan & Cook, Fox & Co. for liquors, groceries and fruit, and to P. Burns & Co. for \$800 check.

From figures placed before the city council some time since it was demonstrated that the corporation had been since the institution of the hospital in a particularly fortunate position with regard to the care of patients sent to the hospital. The city has only been at a cost of \$1.28 per patient, while in Victoria the expense to the corporation of that city was \$5.30 for each patient, in Vancouver \$9.45 and in Nelson \$3.35. Conditions are likely to be during the ensuing year such that the hospital will be compelled to depend in greater measure than heretofore upon the contributions of the general public, and the facts as adduced above should carry sufficient weight with the citizens of Rossland to guarantee the liberal support necessary to the conduct of the institution along lines that will assure a continuation of the splendid results achieved in the past.

MR. JACKSON LEAVES

A NEW INCUMBENT OF THE UNITED STATES CONSULAR AGENCY.

GEORGE A. OHREN TAKES CHARGE FROM THE PRESENT DATE.

Rossland has a new United States consular agent. Yesterday John Jackson, Jr., turned over his office to George A. Ohren, a young man who has been for the past three years in the office of Colonel Dudley, consul general for the province.

Mr. Jackson states that he leaves on three months' leave of absence from the consular general, and that pending his final resignation no permanent appointment will be made in connection with the local office. It is Mr. Jackson's intention to leave within a week for Kendall, Montana, where he will be identified with John R. Cook as townsie agent. He came to Rossland six years ago, and was with John Kirkup, government agent, for a year. Then Mr. Jackson represented John R. Cook as townsie agent for a couple of years, assuming charge of the consular agency three years ago. At that time the output of ore from the Rossland camp was substantially less than at the present time. The duties of consular agent in Rossland are principally in connection with the exportation of ore and matte. In addition he is the official representative of the United States government in the district. The local office is controlled through the consul general's headquarters at Vancouver.

THE ARENA LOSES.

Mr. Spicer Will Devote His Attention to the Tonsorial Art.

Ben Spicer, the well known local character of dusky hue, has gone into business on his own hook, having opened the barber shop on Spokane street a couple of doors above Columbia avenue. The premises are now open for business, and will doubtless be patronized by many of Ben's friends about the city.

An unfortunate feature of the case is that Spicer's entry into business will doubtless necessitate his withdrawal from the ring, and the noble art of self-defence as exemplified locally will thereby lose one of its brightest ornaments. It is even whispered that Ben will never again wear the bloomers with the enormous checks that were a feature of his summer attire in the halcyon days when he was ready to don the padded gloves at short notice. The latter report is not generally credited, however, and it is probable that the advent of the first robin and the other harbingers of gentle spring will see the lead checks resurrected from the red cedar chest for the adornment of Rossland's newest barber.

Ben Spicer gained undying fame laurels in his famous go with George Washington Brown. Both men are among the best known sons of Ham in the Golden City, and both are more or less handy with boxing gloves. Their friendship was unimpaired until the question of physical supremacy was mooted and talk of fights to finishes filled the air. Finally the men were found in shape to talk business and a mill was arranged. The match came off at short notice in the old Dominion hall, and is regarded by the score of sportsmen in attendance as one of the most enjoyable fistic encounters ever pulled off in Rossland. It lasted eight rounds and was declared a draw, although Ben always declared that "if I'd let him right out I'd have knocked that nigger's head clean off his shoulders." The match might have gone to a finish had the boxers been in shape, but as Ben afterwards said, "My training was six jolts of booze, and it wasn't enough for my wind." The Spicer-Brown fight is a treasured reminiscence of the party of jolly sportsmen who arranged and engineered the meeting.

WEDDING ON SATURDAY.

Miss McIntyre Married to Mr. McKelvie of Vernon.

The residence of William Martin, Spokane street, was the scene of a pretty wedding on Saturday afternoon when Miss Jessie Stewart McIntyre, fourth daughter of Mrs. McIntyre, of Vernon, and a relative of Mrs. Martin's, was united in marriage to John Armstrong McKelvie, manager and editor of the Vernon News.

The ceremony was performed at 3 o'clock by Rev. Dr. Robinson, pastor of St. Andrew's Presbyterian church, with the assistance of Rev. Charles W. Hedley, rector of St. George's Anglican church, in the presence of a gathering of the intimate friends of the contracting parties. The house was daintily decorated in rose and green. About the walls were festoons of greenery, while the predominating effect was gained by the liberal and artistic use of decorations in rose. This was maintained in the bride's attire. Miss McIntyre wore a becoming gown of old rose, handsomely trimmed with lace and set off by a picture hat. She was accompanied by Miss Marian Martin, who wore white silk and chiffon. The groom was assisted by Stewart Martin. The bride entered the drawing room leaning on the arm of William Martin.

Following the ceremony, the wedding party partook of breakfast, in the course of which the usual felicitations were exchanged and the hearts of bride and groom enthusiastically toasted.

Mr. and Mrs. McKelvie left on the evening Canadian Pacific train for Vernon, where they will reside. The bride has made her home in this city for some time, and numbers friends in Rossland by the score. These will join heartily with the Miner in extending congratulations.

CERTIFICATE OF IMPROVEMENTS

Notice.

Gigantic mineral claim, situate in the Trail Creek Mining Division of West Kootenay District. Where located: On Dominion mountain.

Take notice that I, Kenneth L. Burnet, agent for Charles Dundee, Esq., Free Miner's Certificate No. B. 56083, intend sixty days from the date hereof, to apply to the mining recorder for a certificate of improvements, for the purpose of obtaining a crown grant of the above claim.

And further take notice that action, under section 37, must be commenced before the issuance of such certificate of improvements.

Dated this Sixteenth day of January, A. D. 1902.

KENNETH L. BURNET.

CERTIFICATE OF IMPROVEMENTS

Notice.

Duke mineral claim, situate in the Trail Creek Mining Division of West Kootenay District. Where located: On the west slope of Sophie mountain.

Take notice that I, Kenneth L. Burnet, agent for Ne Allan G. White, Esq., Free Miner's Certificate No. B. 55807, and Nicholas Reuter, Free Miner's Certificate No. B. 42594, intend, sixty days from the date hereof, to apply to the mining recorder for a certificate of improvements, for the purpose of obtaining a crown grant of the above claim.

And further take notice that action, under section 37, must be commenced before the issuance of such certificate of improvements.

Dated this Twenty-second day of January, A. D. 1902.

KENNETH L. BURNET.

CERTIFICATE OF IMPROVEMENTS.

Notice.

Parrott and Gambetta mineral claims, situate in the Trail Creek Mining Division of West Kootenay District. Where located: On the south slope of Lake mountain.

Take notice that I, N. F. Townsend, acting as agent for Charles E. Bennett, free miner's certificate No. B. 4093, intend, sixty days from the date hereof, to apply to the mining recorder for a certificate of improvements, for the purpose of obtaining a crown grant of the above mineral claims.

And further take notice that action, under section 37, must be commenced before the issuance of such certificate of improvements.

Dated this 29th day of January, A. D. 1902.

N. F. TOWNSEND.

NOTICE.

TO DELINQUENT CO-OWNERS.

To Edna Langsberg and E. G. Parker, or any person or persons to whom they may have assigned their interests in the Violet mineral claim, situated on the north side of the Dewdney trail, on the west side of the Northport wagon road, in the Trail Creek Mining Division of West Kootenay and located the 30th day of July, A. D. 1896, and recorded at Rossland, B. C., on the 10th day of August, A. D. 1896.

You and each of you are hereby notified that I have expended in assessment work for the year ending August 10th, A. D. 1901, on the said Violet mineral claim the sum of \$102.50, in accordance with the provisions of the Mineral Act, and if within ninety days from the first publication of this notice you fail to contribute your share of the above expenditure, together with all costs of advertising, your interests in said claim will become the property of the subscriber under Section 4 of the Mineral Act, Amendment Act 1900.

Dated at Ymir, B. C., this 13th day of November, 1901.

SPENCER SANDERSON.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT AND AMENDMENTS THEREOF, AND IN THE MATTER OF CHANGING THE NAME OF THE "ST. LOUIS MINES, LIMITED."

NOTICE

Is hereby given that the Company intend to apply to the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to change the name of the "St. Louis Mines, Limited," to the name of "Consolidated Green Mountain St. Louis Mines, Limited."

WM. B. TOWNSEND,

Agent for the Company.

T. Mayne Daly, Q. C. C. R. Hamilton.

W. deV. le Maistre.

Daly, Hamilton & le Maistre

Barristers, Solicitors, Notaries.

Solicitors for the Bank of Montreal.

ROSSLAND, B. C.

A. E. OSLER & Co.

STOCK AND MINING BROKERS

35 ADELAIDE STREET EAST.

TORONTO.

Members Standard Stock and Mining Exchange.

Members Toronto Board of Trade.

British Columbia and Washington mining stocks a specialty.

Codes: Clough's, Moreing and Neal.

WRITE OR WIRE.

TELEPHONE MEN—

H. W. Kent, general manager of the Vernon & Nelson Telephone company, arrived in the city last night, accompanied by G. C. Hodges, district superintendent of the company. Mr. Kent will spend today in Rossland going over the business of the company in this district. He has just completed a tour of the Boundary country.

THE A

Statement

liame

The Fore

of the

LONDON,

tary secretary

Crabborne, re

commons today