

NEW HOME OF THE IMPERIAL BANK

PREPARATIONS WERE STARTED YESTERDAY

The Entire Pritchard Corner Will Be Altered and Substantial Accommodation Provided.

The work of altering and renovating the Pritchard block on the corner of Yates and Government streets for the accommodation of the Imperial Bank of Canada was started Friday, and will be carried on with all possible dispatch. The entire building will be altered and it is the intention to make the interior equipment for banking purposes second to none in the city.

The chamber will be fitted up with fine antique oak counters and copper grills. It will have a tile floor and heavy plaster beam ceiling, with enriched cornices. The walls will be covered with burlesque. From the ground floor a broad stairway will ascend to the first and second floors, which will be divided into business offices, five on each floor. The premises will be heated with steam.

The site of the Imperial Bank's new quarters is one of the finest in the city, commanding the intersection of two of its main arteries. The fact that such premises are required reflects the marked progress in the bank's business under the able management of Mr. Gibson.

Reference was made in the Times the other day to contemplated improvements to the Dawson hotel building, for which D. F. McCrimmon has the contract. Work on this undertaking commenced yesterday, and, judging by the plans, the contract is more extensive than first announced. The entire interior is to be taken out and accommodation for a first class private hotel business installed.

Up-to-date suites of rooms, with necessary accessories, will be provided, and every convenience furnished. As in the case of the Pritchard block, both interior and exterior will be redecorated and replastered. The hotel premises when completed will also include the upper part of the new building adjoining, which is occupied by Westcott Bros. As already stated, Mr. McCrimmon has the contract for the general alterations. John Coughlan has the contract for the heating. Mr. Rattenbury is the architect for this work also.

In this connection it might be mentioned that the business of the Orpheum theatre has been purchased by Mr. Boyd, of Vancouver, from the Seattle people who have been operating it. The entire place will be renovated and rearranged so as to completely comply with the city ordinance for fire protection. The cost of this work will be a thousand dollars.

It is gratifying to note that Messrs. Carruthers, Dickson & Howe, a firm who have secured the contract for the bank fittings, are working up a fine trade with the Northwest in competition with Eastern houses. In Edmonton, particularly, they are doing well, having recently captured a three thousand dollar contract from that place, despite the fact that firms in the East were hot after it.

"THE BONNIE BRIAR BUSH." Second Production at the Victoria of the Stoddard-Fax Company.

J. H. Stoddard, Reuben Fax and company closed a two-night engagement at the Victoria Thursday with a second very finished production of "The Bonnie Briar Bush." There was a rather good attendance and the performance was greatly enjoyed.

Perhaps no other company in years has succeeded in awakening so general an interest in a theatrical production as Messrs. Stoddard, Fax and their company, and in the audience last night, as in the previous night, there were scenes not usually seen at plays. This fact is undoubtedly due to the reputation which Mr. Stoddard has gained for himself during more than half a century's experience on the stage, and the popularity of the very quaint Scotch stories of Ian MacLaren, dramatized by James McArthur.

Extended notice was given in Thursday's Times of the character of the play, and that the company pleased equally well Thursday was manifested by the very strong hold which it had on the audience from the rise of the curtain. There is something pathetically touching in Lachlan Campbell's story of life related to the bairns. Miss Mabel Brownell, as Flora Campbell, also played strongly on the feelings of her audience and gave a most faithful and realistic portrayal of an exacting role.

Mr. Fax made an excellent Archibald McKittick as that character is known, and, in fact, throughout the whole performance none but the best in art is presented.

FRENCH CO-OPERATION.

Reports That France Desires Settlement of Manchurian Question According to Russian Demands.

Arrivals from the Far East by the R. M. S. Empress of Japan Thursday evening had little if any news to tell of prospective hostilities. Preparations were being made throughout Japan for war and there was certain excitement in consequence, but beyond this there was nothing more on which the consul observer passing through the country might form a conclusion as to the general situation.

A correspondent writing to a Shanghai paper from Peking last month says: "France now shows a determination to support the Russian demands on China, and is encouraging Russia to take permanent possession of Manchuria. The French minister called on Prince Ching and other ministers, and urged them to grant some of the Russian proposals in regard to Manchuria, if not all; to withdraw their undertaking to open Moukden and Tatum-kao; to guarantee that no concessions shall be made to any other powers in Manchuria; to consent to the Russian administration of districts traversed by the Eastern Chinese railway; to postpone the date of the Russian withdrawal to March next, and to guarantee all the privileges granted to Russia up to the present time. The French minister further proposed to advance twenty million francs in order that the government might have funds for military operations in Kiangsif. If this plan was not acceptable he offered to send French troops to suppress the rioters. It is thus evident that France is taking up a menacing attitude toward China, and is co-operating with Russia. Prince Ching, Na Tung and other high officials meet daily to consider measures for the future. Na Tung called at the Japanese legation and laid a resolution before Mr. Uchida. Na Tung sought the final assent of the Chinese minister to the Chinese. A certain minister here states that Germany will soon join the Russo-French combination."

Manchurian Brigands. The Sin Wan Pao is informed by its Peking correspondent that the brigands of Manchuria who have been enlisted into the services of the Russians are faring exceedingly well with them. The Russians have granted them medals and are paying them handsome compensations for each brigand receiving about twenty roubles per month. Russia's first intention was by no means so generous, in fact they intend to exterminate them, but they found that was an easy task. They often met the brigands in lonely spots where they deprived them of their arms and other provisions, but as soon as a large body of Russian soldiers appeared on the scene, the brigands disappeared among the woods and mountains which they knew so well. Therefore the Russians thought it would be wiser to ask them to surrender and enlist them into their services. At the same time they would not allow the Chinese to exterminate those brigands who had not joined them, in fact they preferred to have some left to cause disorders in the three eastern provinces, so that they might have a pretext for continuing their occupation of Manchuria. Officially the Russian papers state that the Chinese of Manchuria with scant courtesy. Many of the Manchou officials returning to Peking had their women folks molested by the Russian soldiers.

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RESERVISTS NOW IN THIS COUNTRY

EXPECT WORD FROM CONSUL AT ANY TIME

About Five Hundred in Western Canada - A Number Are in Victoria - All Waiting.

In conversation with a prominent local Japanese merchant Thursday afternoon a Times representative learned that there were quite a number—perhaps five hundred—of the Mikado's army and navy reservists in Western Canada anxiously awaiting from their country's consul the word which they were to go back to Japan. This, of course, may come at any time, and not a few veterans of Ping Ping and other battles of Japan's last war are making arrangements for departure at a moment's notice. Some of these are in Victoria and they seem impatient to have a check at what they regard as their hereditary foe.

Enlightened Japanese of this city, quite naturally, have been sizing up the situation as closely as the rather long range will permit, and express no hope of a peaceful solution of the difficulties between their country and Russia. The merchant already alluded to yesterday explained that ever since Japan's triumph over China she and her ally, both she and Russia have realized that sooner or later the tug-of-war between them would come, the prize being the mastery over the East. Each, therefore, has been incessantly preparing, and in that preparation the Island Kingdom has not been backward. Realizing that Korea would become the key to the situation, she said, Japan has been limited in his English, having only worked a short time ago, but he knew what the word "war" stood for, as he smelt most smelt when he heard it and it suggested most pleasant thoughts. He served with a cavalry division in the war with China, and took part in some of the principal battles. He said that it was estimated that there were about five hundred reservists in Canada, and five thousand or more in the United States. It was in the Hawaiian Islands, however, where there was the greatest number. Although the word was given there should be a hundred thousand reservists responding to their country's call. A number of the Japanese fishermen at Stoveston are naval reserve men.

Besides the men belonging to the army and navy reserves, there will be an exodus of thousands of loyal soldiers from the Mikado from the States who will enroll themselves in volunteer regiments. The Japanese reserve man whom the Times man ran across yesterday said that he could put about seven hundred thousand men in the field, which might possibly be increased to a million. But all intelligent local Japanese agree that their country is prepared, that they are in the right, and they seem to have no fear of the outcome.

PLEASANT DANCE. Children Had the Floor Until 10 O'clock, Followed by Adults.

The Cinderella dance given in Assembly hall last evening by Mrs. Lester proved a great attraction and well on to 400 spent a most enjoyable evening. The children were given the floor until 10 o'clock, and most of them appeared in fancy costume and presented a beautiful spectacle. Miss Gertrude Moore, of Skagway, dressed to represent a pink rose, was a great attraction and the adults took the floor and spent an enjoyable night. Fin's orchestra provided the music. Refreshments were served during the evening.

The ladies of the New Westminster basketball team were present by invitation and enjoyed a few hours at the ball. With their match coming on this evening they left early however.

Assembly hall was beautifully decorated for the occasion. The floor was in excellent shape and there was nothing to mar the thorough enjoyment throughout the night.

FIVE CANDIDATES For the Rhodes Scholarships Have Announced Themselves.

The Rhodes scholarship committee, consisting of His Honor the Lieut.-Governor, Chief Justice Hunter and Superintendent Robinson, of the school, at a meeting last evening at Government House to initiate arrangements for the examinations to be held here. The qualifying examination will be conducted about the end of next March, as it is expected that the examination papers will be received from London in a few days. At the meeting last evening five candidates announced themselves. They are: Mr. J. H. Mansell, of P. C. W. Powell, the Lieut.-Governor's private secretary.

Israel Rubinowitsch, a student at McGill University in his fourth year. H. Bray, Nanaimo, in his second year at Toronto University. Edwin K. Debeck and William A. Donaldson, of Vancouver, now completing their second year at Vancouver College.

ROXBURGH BECOMES INDEPENDENT. London, Jan. 5.—The Duke of Roxburgh has resigned his commission as a Lieutenant in the Royal Horse Guards, known as "The Blues."

THE SCHOOL FIRE.

Children Marched Out of Building in Two Minutes.

Toronto, Jan. 5.—The fire which destroyed Hamilton street public school broke out just when the work of the day had been started. Thanks to the efficiency of the fire drill the children, 500 or 600 in number, were all got safely out of the building without injury in two minutes. Fire started—in the furnace room, probably due to overheating on account of cold weather. The loss is placed at \$25,000. Most of the children lost their winter clothing. The school officials say that but for the splendid manner in which the fire drill was carried out there would have been a loss of life.

For East Kent. East Kent Conservatives nominated ex-Mayor B. Wilson, of Ridgeway. More Candidates.

Winnipeg, Jan. 5.—Marquette Liberals nominated S. L. Head, of Rapid City. West Huron Liberals nominated R. Holmes, M. P., for the Commons. North Grey Conservatives nominated T. I. Thompson, M. P. Qu'Appelle Liberals, L. Thompson, of Wolsley.

North Oxford Vacancy. Woodstock, Ont., Jan. 6.—Announcement was made today that G. W. Nesbitt would be a candidate for North Oxford vacancy in the Ontario House caused by the late Andrew Pattullo's death.

HOMESTEADERS IN THE NORTHWEST

OVER FIVE HUNDRED ENTER IN ONE WEEK

Ogilvie Company May Build Large Elevator at Fort William—Two Destructive Fires.

Winnipeg, Jan. 8.—During the third week in December heavy homesteading went on in Regina, there being 503 entries. Mild Weather. The weather is comparatively mild here to-day. New Elevators. J. A. Macdonald, president of the Macdonald Elevator Construction Company, Chicago, which built the elevator for the C. P. R. at Fort William, of two million bushel capacity, is in the city signing up the contract. His company is figuring on a tender to build a hundred thousand bushels receiving and exporting elevator for the Ogilvie Company at Fort William. Mr. Macdonald intends visiting Montreal before returning to Chicago.

Fire at Lethbridge. Morris & Roy, occupying Bruce's transfer stable at Lethbridge, suffered the loss of their premises by fire yesterday. Mayor Entertained. Citizens of Bat Portage tendered a banquet to retiring Mayor D. C. Cameron, M. P. P., last night. He was mayor for three years. Bank Manager Dead. Quebec, Jan. 8.—E. E. Webb, general manager of the Union Bank of Canada, died last night. Another iPre at Montreal. Montreal, Jan. 8.—Fire last night did damage to the extent of \$30,000 to the building of the Hotel de Ville, owned by the firm of Martel, Beaulieu, & Co., 187, Notre Dame street. An overheard stove is supposed to have been the cause of the fire.

North Oxford Election. Toronto, Jan. 8.—The writ for the local election in North Oxford, rendered necessary by the death of Alexander Patterson, has been issued. The nominations take place on January 10th and the election on January 20th.

ANOTHER DEATH. Victims of the Chicago Fire Now Number Five Hundred and Sixty-Six. (Associated Press.) Chicago, Jan. 8.—Miss Harriet Harbaugh, another victim of the Iroquois fire, is dead at the hospital as a result of her injuries. This brings the total of deaths to 566. Agnes Hopkins, 45 years old, has been declared insane as a result of incessant reading of accounts of the Iroquois fire horror.

Three more suits for a total of \$30,000 damages resulting from the fire have been filed. Building Commissioner Williams is made a party defendant. During all of the day and last night there were three or four policemen about the residence of Mayor Harrison, and the story was circulated that the mayor had received threatening letters on account of the Iroquois theatre disaster and had asked for a special detail of policemen. Mayor Harrison denied that he had asked for police protection.

Evidence at Inquest. Chicago, Jan. 8.—Robert E. Murray, stationary engineer of the Iroquois theatre, testified at the inquest to-day, and declared that there was no hose attached to any of the stand pipes in the theatre. Nobody had been instructed how to use the one coil of hose which was located in the smoking room at the front of the building. It was not his business, he said, to look after fire protection.

The word "loebing" comes from the German, eis, ice, and berg, a bill.

YOUNG MEN, Become Independent. Healthful and safe. Sold by all druggists or sent post paid in 25 cents a box by writing The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

SEALERS MAY NOT CROSS THE OCEAN

WAR IS FEARED AND VESSELS ARE HELD

Triumph and Casco Detained Until News is Received Respecting Far Eastern Situation.

Pending some definite information about the prospect of war between Russia and Japan, the sealing schooners Casco and Triumph, which have been fitted out by the Victoria Sealing Company for cruises in Asiatic coastal waters, are lying in James bay, awaiting orders. They have been there for the last few days, and will remain at anchor for a few days longer unless in the meanwhile the formal announcement of a declaration of war has been received, in which event the vessels will not cross the Pacific, but will sail far down the coast in company with others.

Capt. Burns, of the Triumph, when spoken to this morning about his plan, said the schooners were both awaiting instructions from the sealing company. "If war is declared," he stated, "I will not cross to the Japan coast. A conflict between Russia and Japan might not interfere with our operations, but there would be some danger, and we don't want to run any risk. Where we sail is almost immediately off the Korean coast, and here I expect will see the Russian gunboats, and in the event of war, the hunting grounds extend from a point off Vladivostok to the southern end of the Korean peninsula, and it would be very tempting to a Russian gunboat to overhail a schooner with guns and ammunition. In this way things could be made very disagreeable for us.

The Casco and Triumph are the only schooners of the Victoria fleet which the Victoria Sealing Company had intended sending to the Far East coast. They had been outfitted for an extended cruise and have full complements of white hunters.

But these two schooners will not be the only sealers which will be affected by a break of war in the Far East. There is a big fleet of schooners now operating out of Japan, which, unless some settlement is arrived at between Japan and Russia, will in all probability have to tie up for the year. In this way the Victoria sealers will again have control of the entire industry as conducted at sea.

With regard to war risks taken on vessels going to Japan, a San Francisco paper says that the rates have about doubled within the last three or four months. The paper adds: "The risks to the Russian ports are, however, at prohibitory rates. The risks to Japan are confined to neutral goods. The policies warranting no declaration of war during January are quoted at 55 per cent."

SCOW OF LUMBER ASHORE. The Vancouver tug Edna Grace is reported to be in trouble again. It will be remembered that the tug struck the rocks some time ago and was hauled out on Turpe's ways for repairs. And now comes the news that the steamer's tow, a scow load of lumber which she was bringing in from Sidney, ran ashore off that point and refused to be moved. The tug came to yesterday for another scow, and with a crowd of men returned to the scene of the accident in the afternoon.

NO DECISION REACHED. When the R. M. S. Empress of Japan, which arrived in port the other day from the Orient, sailed from Shanghai on December 18th, no decision in the admiralty case of the Quantai and the Empress of India had been rendered. It will be remembered that the Imperial Chinese government is suing the Empress of India for the sinking of the cruiser Quantai off Hongkong several months ago. It was expected that the court would have rendered a decision long before this.

MOANA'S REPAIRS. To repair or replace the stern post and keel-piece of the steamer Moana it was necessary to send to San Francisco to have the part forged. The big piece of metal was received at Esquimalt some days ago. It was forged in separate pieces at first and then the whole welded together. It weighs in all ten tons. The Moana is now scheduled to sail for Sydney on January 29th, but it is questionable if she will be ready to depart on that date.

BEATEN TO DEATH. Budapest, Hungary, Jan. 5.—Paul Benedit, a Liberal member of the Hungarian Diet, was murdered at Nagy-Kikings, this morning by two peasants. He was first shot at and wounded, and was then beaten to death with iron bars. The motive of the crime was revenge for the loss of a law suit brought by the father of the murderers.

AN OPEN LETTER TO MOTHERS. "I cannot praise Baby's Own Tablets too highly," writes Mrs. James S. Beach, Campbell's Bay, Que. "From the time my baby was born he was troubled with pains in the stomach and bowels and a rash on his skin, which made him restless day and night. I got nothing to help him until I gave him Baby's Own Tablets, and under their use the trouble soon disappeared, and all my friends are now praising my baby, he looks so healthy and well. I give him an occasional Tablet, and they keep him well. I can heartily recommend the Tablets to any mother who has a young baby."

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He expressed the opinion that two countries such as Canada and the United States, whose commercial interests were identical in many ways, should be able to come to some satisfactory agreement which would allow Canadian goods to pass through American territory to the Yukon without hindrance. Speaking of the Grand Trunk railway, he said when constructed it would open up valuable mining country. "Prospectors," he said, "are already hurrying in to Cassiar in order to locate claims of which they already have a knowledge, but have not bothered with on account of the lack of transportation facilities." There were indications of some excitement among mining men when the route of the railway through northern parts of the province became known.

Referring to the Yukon, he said that the new diggings east of White Horse were looking well, and it was generally thought that they would be the centre of attraction next summer. Park Godwin, editor of the New York Evening Post, and well known as editor and author of several books, died on Wednesday, aged 88 years.

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CERTIFICATE OF IMPROVEMENTS. General French, Little Boba, Baden Neireid, General White Star, Miners Claims, situated in the Victoria Mining Division of Renfrew District. Where located, Bugaboo Creek, Port San Juan. Take notice that I, H. E. Newton, F. M. C. No. B79407, and as agent for R. T. Godman, F. M. C. No. B79408, intend, on or about 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 claims.

And further take notice that action, under section 57, must be commenced before the issuance of such certificate of improvements. Dated this twelfth day of November, A. D. 1903. I. GRIFFITHS

THE YUKON RAILWAY. Recent Arrival From North Does Not Think It a Business Proposition. "I don't think the proposed railway from Port Simpson or some other British