M. WITTE CONFERS WITH THE KAISER

VISITED GERMAN EMPEROR ON WAY TO RUSSIA

Meeting Said to Have Been Arranged For Purpose of Discussing the "Yellow Peril."

New York, Sept. 27.—While the visit of M. Witte to the German Emperor is stated to be in connection with the coming peace conference at The Hague, the real object of the Russian statesman's interview with Prince Von Buelow, Baron Richthofen and Emperor William, is to arrange, declares a Herald dispatch from Berlin, somthing to stem the danger of the "yellow peril" in the Far East.

According to a Times dispatch from Berlin, the Tageblatt to-day asserts that the purpose of the recent visit of the Japanese minister to Chancellor Von Buelow was to request an explanation of Emperor William's reported remarks regarding the "yellow peril" to the visiting American congressmen. It is stated that the Japanese minister went away satisfied.

Interviewed the Kaiser.

Cross Rominten, Prussia, Sept. 27.—M. Witte, by invitation of Emperor William, spent the night at the Rominten hunting lodge. The Emperor and Prince Von Fulenburg brought the Russian statesman in an automobile to the railroad this morning. The special train was not quite ready, and the Emperor and M. Witte talked for twenty-five minutes in the waiting room and then parted.

Moroccan Affairs.

Berlin, Sept. 27.—The impression in some of the Paris newspapers that M. Witte has endeavored to assist France in persuading Chancellor Von Buelow and Foreign Secretary Von Richthofen to accept Premier Rouvier's Moroccan programme appears most unlikely, although inquiries made on the subject have not resulted in obtaining definite official information as to what took place at M. Witte's interviews with the chancellor and foreign secretary. It was learned, however, that Russia's policy at present tends to entire non-interference in French-German relations. France would naturally desire Russia's support against German diplomacy, but Russia's view is that France and Germany must settle their differences themselves.

CANADIAN TOBACCO.

Growers Desire Additional Protection—Agitation for Clear Field.

Toronto, Sept. 26.—At the convention of the Canadian Cigar Manufacturers' Association here yesterday Harold Cagnier said if the barriers were thrown down and Canadian-grown tobacco given a clear field half of the leaf used in the manufacture of cigars in this country would be grown in the Dominion. He said the consumption of Canadian leaf and smoking and chewing tobacco had increased by three million pounds since 1896, which he attributed to the duty of two cents per pound granted by the Dominion government. The clear field agitation resulted from a movement among tobacco growers, who claim that with additional protection and removal of the distinguishing stamp they can control the home market. The majority of the manufacturers started the movement, and it is likely the tariff commission will be memorialized to this effect.

ABANDONED LAND.

Locators Apparently Frightened by Prosecution of Fraud Cases.

Portland, Ore., Sept. 27.—A dispatch to the Oregonian from Salem, Ore., says that as a result of the vigorous prosecutions of land fraud cases in the state, about 20,000 acres of school land situated in the Blue Mountain's forest reserve in Eastern Oregon has been abandoned by locators who forfeited in the neighborhood of $10,000.

According to the correspondent, it is assumed that in most of these instances, the land had been located by dummies," and that the persons who provided the money became frightened and quietly abandoned all the claims, at the same time making no effort to recover the money invested.

MANY BUILDINGS DESTROYED.

Fire at Colon Which Resulted in Damage Estimated at $50,000.

Colon, Sept. 26.—1.45 p. m.—A terrific fire has started in Bolivia street, near the railroad buildings. Several valuable properties have already been destroyed. The railroad buildings so far are safe. The post office is destroyed and the fire is still raging and burning northward. If the wind shifts to the north the whole town will be imperilled.

Flames Extinguished.

Colon, Sept. 27.—6.30 a. m.—The fire was extinguished at 2.30 this morning. Over twenty houses were destroyed. The railroad property is intact. All the Panama government offices and leased buildings were burned to the ground. Hardly anything was saved. A conservative estimate places the damage done at $50,000.

MONTREAL STABBING AFFRAY.

Verdict of Manslaughter Brought Against Racco Caporale.

Montreal, Sept. 26.—The Court of King's Bench yesterday rendered a verdict of manslaughter against Racco Caporale, accused of causing the death of Constantino Dephtoris, a Greek, who was stabbed during a row in a restaurant on July 8th. The prosecution abandoned the charge of murder at the last moment.

NEW SYNAGOGUE.

Toronto, Sept. 26.—The dedication of the synagogue in McCaul street took place on Sunday afternoon and marked an important advance in the Hebrew annals of Toronto. The structure was once the Methodist church and cost nearly $100,000. It has been purchased by the Jewish community for $20,500.

NEW PEACE MOVEMENT.

Proposed Institution For Promotion of Harmony Among the Powers.

London, Sept. 27.—The Times announces that a project is on foot in Paris for the furtherance of international interests and for assisting in promoting harmony among the nations. It has been decided to call the organization the Roosevelt Institute, as a recognition of the services of the President of the United States for securing the peace of the world.

MAYOR ASSAULTED.

Riot at Manitowoc in Which an Alderman and Health Officer Were Also Injured.

Manitowoc, Wis., Sept. 26.—An attempt of the Manitowoc Waterworks Company to open a river intake pipe during a test of the plant yesterday precipitated a riot in which citizens offered armed resistance to the plan. Mayor Stolze, who answered that the test would continue after he had been informed that it would be necessary to open the river pipe, was assaulted by bystanders. Health Officer Staehle was injured by being struck in the face by a iron bar. Alderman Lorengan was also beaten. The riot is the culmination of a fight that started with the selection of Stolze as mayor on a platform of city ownership of the water plant.

LOOKING INTO GRAIN SITUATION

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY DIRECTORS ON TOUR

Officials From Glasgow Will Visit Various Parts of Canada and United States.

(Associated Press.)

New York, Sept. 27.—The Journal of Commerce says:

"Two visitors from the other side in New York this week are Director T. McNab and Commercial Manager W. F. Stewart, of the Scottish Co-Operative Wholesale Society, Ltd., whose head offices are in Glasgow. These gentlemen are the representatives of industry, which last year placed upon the market goods to the value of £608,081,272, and which gives constant employment to 7,000 persons. They are here primarily to look into the grain situation, and for the time being are the guests of John Gladden, the society's American buyer and general representative. Later they will visit all the large grain producing centres in the United States and Canada, returning to their homes in Scotland about December 1st.

"Discussing the purposes of his visit yesterday, Mr. Stewart said: 'We are here to seek additional knowledge in regard to the production and shipping of grain in the United States and Canada. The society is the owner of three flour mills with a weekly production of 10,500 sacks of 280 pounds each and as 95 per cent. of the grain consumed is foreign, it behooves us to keep in close touch with all markets.'

"During his stay here Mr. Stewart has talked with business men of all classes and also with workingmen, and already has arrived at the definite conclusion that the co-operative idea, as it is known in the United Kingdom, Holland and Belgium could not be worked out here with any degree of success. The country is too big in the first place, and besides there are too many discordant elements in the various communities, large and small, but in Scotland the case is different, and the co-operative idea is spreading like wildfire. Already it amounts to trade revolution. It is an absolute guarantee against trusts or combination control of prices such as often is the case in the United States according to his information.

"Mr. Stewart and Mr. McNab are both firm believers in the co-operative idea; and are very willing to talk of the success achieved by the Scottish society. It commenced business in 1868, and is a federation of the retail co-operative societies of Scotland."

BOMB OUTRAGE AT PEKIN.

Prince Tsai Tohe and Wu Ting Fang Injured—Four Minor Officials Killed.

Pekin, Sept. 25.—At the Pekin railway station yesterday, as the train carrying one of the four missions ordered abroad to study foreign political methods, was leaving, a bomb exploded inside a private car, killing four minor officials and wounding more than twenty other persons.

The wounded include Prince Tsai Tohe, who is the head of the most important of the missions, and Wu Ting Fang, former minister to the United States, both of whom received slight injuries. The perpetrator of the outrage, who was in the car, was blown to pieces.

The affair has created a profound sensation and causes apprehension regarding the safety of members of the court and leading officials of the government. The government officers and railways are now strongly guarded.

The edict appinting the missions mentioned in the foregoing dispatch was issued July 16th. A dispatch from Pekin August 29th says the missions were appointed to study foreign systems of government, because the dowager empress intended to issue a decree at the New Year for the establishment of a parliament twelve years hence.

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TREATY BETWEEN BRITAIN AND JAPAN

TEXT OF RECENTLY SIGNED AGREEMENT

One of Objects is to Maintain General Peace in Regions of Eastern Asia and India.

London, Sept. 27.—The text of the new treaty between Great Britain and Japan, which was signed by Lord Lansdowne, the British foreign secretary, and Baron Hayashi, the Japanese minister to Great Britain, on August 12th, was issued by the foreign office last evening. The momentous document is a brief one, comprising less than 800 words, including eight articles and a preamble.

The preamble reads: The governments of Great Britain and Japan, being desirous of replacing the agreement concluded between them January 30th, 1902, by fresh stipulations, have agreed upon the following articles, which have for their object—

(a) Consolidation and the maintenance of general peace in the regions of Eastern Asia and India.

(b) The preservation of the common interests of all the powers in China by ensuring the independence and integrity of the Chinese empire and the principle of equal opportunities for the commerce and industry of all nations in China.

(c) The maintenance of the territorial rights of the high contracting parties in the regions of Eastern Asia and of India, and the defence of their special interests in the said regions.

The text of the treaty follows:

Article I. It is agreed that whenever, in the opinion either of Great Britain or Japan, any of the rights and interests referred to in the preamble to this agreement are in jeopardy, the two governments will communicate with one another fully and frankly, and will consider in common the measures which should be taken to safeguard those menaced rights or interests.

Article II. Should either of the high contracting parties be involved in war in defence of its territorial rights or special interests, the other party will at once come to the assistance of its ally and both parties will conduct a war in common and make peace in mutual agreement with any power or powers involved in such war.

Article III. Japan possessing paramount political, military and economic interests in Korea, Great Britain recognizes Japan's right to take such measures for the guidance, control and protection of Korea as she may deem proper and necessary to safeguard and advance those interests, providing the measures so taken are not contrary to the principle of equal opportunities for the commerce and industry of all nations.

Article IV. Great Britain, having a special interest in all that concerns the security of the Indian frontier, Japan recognizes her right to take such measures in the proximity of that frontier as she may find necessary for the safeguarding of her Indian possessions.

Article V. The high contracting parties agree that neither will, without consulting the other, enter into a separate arrangement with another power to the prejudice of the objects described in the preamble.

Article VI. As regards the present war between Japan and Russia, Great Britain will continue to maintain strict neutrality unless some other power or powers join in hostilities against Japan, in which case Great Britain will come to the assistance of Japan, will conduct war in common and will make peace in mutual agreement with Japan.

Article VII. The conditions under which armed assistance shall be afforded by either power to the other in the circumstances mentioned in the present agreement, and the means by which such assistance shall be made available, will be arranged by the naval and military authorities of the contracting parties, who will from time to time consult one another fully and freely on all questions of mutual interests.

Article VIII. The present agreement shall be subject to the provisions of article 6 and come into effect immediately after the date of signature and remain in force for ten years from that date, in case neither of the parties shall have been notiefied twelve moths before the expiration of said ten years of an intention of terminating it. It shall remain binding until the expiration of one year from the day on which either of the parties shall have renounced it, but if when the date for the expiration arrives either ally is actually engaged in war, the alliance shall be ipso facto and continue until peace is concluded."

The treaty is signed by Foreign Secretary Lansdowne, on behalf of Great Britain, and by Baron Hayashi, the Japanese minister, on behalf of Japan.

Lansdowne's Dispatch.

With the treaty was issued a dispatch to the British ambassador at St. Petersburg, Sir Charles Hardinge, with the request that the treaty be communicated to the Russian government. This dispatch is explanatory of the delay in publishing the treaty, due to the progress of negotiations looking to peace between Russia and Japan.

In it Lord Lansdowne says: "The Russian government will, I trust, recognize that this new agreement is a international instrument to which no exception can be taken by any of the powers interested in the affairs of the Far East."

Continuing, Lord Lansdowne says: "Great Britain, I believe, may count on the good will and support of all the powers in endeavoring to maintain peace in the Orient and in seeking to uphold the dignity of the Chinese empire and the principal of equal opportunities for the military and economic interests in that empire. On the other hand the interests of the contracting parties are of a kind upon which they are fully entitled to insist, and the announcement that those interests must be safeguarded and are which can create no surprise and need give rise to no misgivings."

Special mention is made of articles 2 and 3. Of the latter, Lord Lansdowne says: "Recognizes in the clearest terms the paramount position which Japan at this moment occupies and must henceforth occupy in Korea in her right to take measures which she may find necessary for the protection of her political, military and economic interests in that country. It is, however, expressly provided that such measures must not be contrary to the principle of equal opportunities for the commerce and industry of other nations.

"The treaty at this point differs conspicuously from that of 1902. It has, however, become evident that Korea, owing to its close proximity to the Japanese empire, and to its inability to stand alone, must fall under the control and the tutelage of Japan. His Majesty's government observes with satisfaction that this point had been readily conceded by Russia in the treaty of Portsmouth, and there is every reason to believe that similar views are held by the powers with regard to the relations which should subsist between Korea and Japan. His Majesty's government ventures to anticipate that the alliance thus concluded, designed, as it is, for objects that are purely peaceful and for the protection of rights and interests, the validity of which cannot be contested, will be regarded with approval by the government to which you are accredited. The British governmnt is justifid in believing that the conclusion of this agreement may not have been without effect in facilitating the settlement by which the war was so happily brought to an end, and its members earnestly trust that the alliance may for years to come be instrumental in securing the peace of the world in those regions which come within its scope."

A similar dispatch was addressed to Sir Francis Bertie, the British ambassador at Paris.

THE CRUISE OF BRITISH SQUADRON

SHIPS WILL CALL AT JAPANESE PORTS

French Officials on Treaty — Republic Does Not Seek Territorial Expansion in Asia.

Hongkong, Sept. 27.—The British China squadron, commanded by Vice-Admiral Sir Gerard Noel, which is visiting Dalny, will proceed on October 2nd to the principal ports of Japan. The squadron consists of six cruisers and two divisions of torpedo boats.

The New Treaty.

Paris, Sept. 27.—The Anglo-Japanese treaty is widely commented upon to-day. The official view is that the treaty is conformable to French interests. It is pointed out particularly that France does not seek territorial expansion in Asia, and therefore the status quo provisions of the treaty will carry out French policies. The officials are equally hopeful that the treaty will prove satisfactory to Russia, but there appears to remain some doubt as to Russia's complete acquiescence, although the explanations tend to remove Russian opposition.

Britain's Strategic Base.

Paris, Sept. 26.—Admiral Furnier, in the course of an interview, said the British naval station at Singapore gives a setrategic base sufficient absolutely to prevent the passage of naval forces within the China Sea, and is capable of suppressing commercial communication between China and Europe. Thus Singapore becomes Great Britain's key to the door of the China Seas.

POLAR EXPLORATION.

Proposal to Place Expedition Under Control of International Body.

Mons, Belgium, Sept. 26.—The International Congress of Economic Expansion at its session here discussed a plan for placing polar exploration under international direction.

A motion to this effect was signed by the Duke of Abruzzi, the Duke of Orleans, Dr. Charcot, the French Antarctic explorer; Lieut. Gerlache, the Belgian Antarctic explorer; Dr. Nordenskjoid, the Swedish Arctic explorer, and many other explorers.

The signers are certain of the co-operation of Commander Perry and Dr. Nansen, and practically all the Arctic explorers. Dr. Nordenskjold, Lieut. Shackelton, of the British navy, the Antarctic explorer, and W. S. Bruce, were declared ready to take part in an international expedition.

A motion was adopted approving the plan for international direction of polar expeditions and asking Belgium to take the initiative in inviting other nations.

The congress also considered a proposition for the creation of an international ethnolo-geographic bureau, for the purpose of assembling the information gathered by all scientific missions. Frederick J. V. Smiff, of Chicago, was among the supporters of the proposal, which was adopted, and a committee was appointed to organize it.

WOMAN MURDERED.

Body Found Horribly Mutilated in a Railway Tunnel in England.

London, Sept. 26.—The Merstham tunnel of the London & South Eastern railway, where the brutal murder of Frederick Gold and Percy Lefroy, alias Mapleton, occurred on June 27th, 1881, has again been the scene of a mysterious tragedy, the details of which so far as ascertained are markedly similar to that of a quarter of a century ago.

In the present case the victim is a young woman, Mary Mooney, whose body was horribly mutilated. A long veil was tightly wedged in her mouth and the police are confident she was murdered in the compartment of a train on which she was traveling and her body thrown from the car.

The fact that all the doors of the train on its arrival at Redhill were closed is considered to prove conclusively that it was not a case of suicide. Miss Mooney left her home on Sunday evening, saying she would not be gone long.

UNCLE SAM WILL INCREASE FORCES

TWO CRUISER DIVISIONS PROPOSED FOR PACIFIC

Addition to Present Squadron Will Be Made at the Earliest Possible Date.

The Washington, D. C., correspondent of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer says:

"Naval forces on the Pacific station will be increased materially at the earliest possible date, according to a statement made at the navy department, but it was added that there is no possibility of assigning any number of new ships to the west coast at present.

"Until this announcement was made it was not generally known that the naval administration admitted even the desirability of maintaining a larger force on the Pacific coast of the United States, for it was supposed that the policy was to keep all but a few vessels in fleet formation either on the North Atlantic or the Asiatic stations.

"It is still the policy of the general board to maintain a preponderance of naval strength on opposite sides of the globe—one in the North Atlantic and the other in waters adjacent to our possessions in the Far East.

"The importance of the policy made known—or, in reality, simply reiterated—may be appreciated when it is said that the general board, of which Admiral Dewey is president, favors the organization of two cruiser squadrons on the Pacific coast, each of which would be considerably stronger than the entire naval force at present maintained in those waters.

"The general board's idea is that as soon as several of the cruisers now under construction are completed they should be sent to the west coast of the United States. The fulfillment of this plan, however, necessarily admits the completion of a number of vessels, for the administration is unwilling to reduce the squadrons in the North Atlantic or in the Orient.

"An official of the navy department thus describes what he calls the needs of the navy on the Pacific coast: 'The Pacific squadron, when fully organized, should be composed of two divisions. This squadron, according to the comprehensive plan of distribution which has been devised, will always be what is known as a cruiser squadron, and each division should consist of four or five vessels. Rear-Admiral Taylor, in his annual report as chief of the bureau of navigation, recommended that one division consist of four cruisers and the other of five. There would also be minor vessels, such as tor[illegible]ats and destroyers, and, of course, necessary colliers and auxiliary ships. Five of the cruisers should be of the improved Olympia type, Admiral Taylor recommended, and they should be of large size. Four cruisers should be for fast cruising in scout duty.'

"The new cruiser Charleston has been ordered to the Pacific coast, but beyond this addition to the Pacific squadron no enlargement of the forces on the coast is expected at present. Eventually the general board's plan will undoubtedly be carried out, and it is not too much to say that it will probably be within the next two years. There may even be a substantial increase in the Pacific squadron as early as the fall of 1906.

"It is proposed to give the two divisions of the new squadron practice in cruising, as far north as Behring sea and as far south as the Straits of Magellan, and to have interchanges made with the South Atlantic squadron at the extreme southern end of South America, and with the Asiatic fleet at Honolulu.

"The general board favors generous cruising, in order to give the vessels of the several squadrons a 'habit of mobility' this consideration being placed above that of familiarity with any particular part of the station."

SEVERE EARTHQUAKE.

Houses Severe Damaged and the Inmates Fled.

Gothenberg, Sept. 27.—A severe earthquake was felt at 1.30 p.m. yesterday at Lundby, Hisington island. It cracked the walls of houses and fissured the surface of the ground. Subterranean rumblings were quickly followed by violent rocking of houses and the splitting of inner and outer walls, driving the inmates to seek safety in the open air. In many places fissures of a foot wide were opened up, while the level of the ground in the eastern part of the island sank considerably. The disturbance lasted a minute.

TRAIN OVERTURNED.

Left Rails When Taking Sharp Curve—Thirty Passengers Injured.

Durango, Colo., Sept. 27.—News has reached here of the wreck of the eastbound Rio Grande passenger train at a point between Dolores and Glencoe, two miles west of the latter place. The train was taking a sharp curve when the baggage car left the track, taking with it both passenger coaches. The entire train was overturned and all of the passengers, about thirty in number, were bruised and shaken up.

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PRETTY WEDDING AT ST. SAVIOURS CHURCH

Dr. Herman Robertson and Miss Gertrude Lowen Joined in Matrimony —Marriage at Colwood.

Tuesday at St. Saviour's church, Victoria West, the marriage was solemnized of Dr. Hermann M. Robertson and Miss Gertrude Loewen, fifth daughter of Mrs. and the late Joseph Loewen. A large attendance of friends and relatives of the bride and bridegroom filled the church, which had been tastefully decorated with chrysanthemums and snowberries, skilfully arranged by Mrs. Pemberton and Mrs. Genge.

The bride, who was much admired by the brilliant company assembled, was very prettily gowned in white Duchesse satin, trimmed with Brussels point lace—presented by Mrs. Burrows—and carried a bonquet of white roses. She was attended by her sisters, the Misses Eva and Dolly Loewen, who looked very charming in white satin, trimmed with white pauve velvet, with tulle hats trimed with mink, and carried bouquets of pink roses.

The Rev. Canon Cooper officiated at the ceremony, assisted by the Rev. Percival Jenns. G. J. Burnett executed the duties of organist, accompanied by a choir made up of friends of the bride, assisted by Mr. Haskol, of London, England.

A brilliant reception was held after the ceremony at the bride's family residence on the Gorge road. The rooms had been tastefully decorated in honor of the auspicious occasion, the drawing-room in calla lilies and white chrysanthemums, while the reception room upstairs was devoted to the display of the numerous and beautiful wedding presents, which their many friends had showered upon the young couple. Prominent among these was the groom's gift to the bride—a magnificent gold pendant, set with pearls and emeralds; while gold safety-pin brooches, set with lucky stones, were also presented by the groom to the bridesmaids as a memento of the happy event.

After the reception the newly wedded pair left on their honeymoon trip, which will take in Portland, Spokane and Banff. On their return, they will make their home in Victoria.

Wale-Bennett.

Colwood church was the scene of a pretty wedding Tuesday afternoon, in which the principals were Albert Edward Wale, the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Wale, of Colwood, and Sarah Ellen Bennett, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Bennett, of the same place. Miss Daisy Wale, sister of the groom, was bridesmaid, and was very charmingly attired in white batiste, with pink tulle, and bore a bouquet of pink and white flowers. Mr. Donald Scaife supported the groom as best man. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Hall McKinney.

The bride, who was given away by her father, was beautifully dressed in ivory white nun's veiling, with silk ruchings in bon knots and silk Battenberg yoke and cuffs. In yoke and hair she wore orange blossoms, and a magnificently embroidered veil with doves and bow-knots, and bore a splendid bouquet of maidenhair fern and chrysanthemums.

A peculiar interest attaches itself to this ceremony, as it was the first wedding to occur in Colwood church, and the double importance of the event was marked by the tasteful and magnificent decorations of the sacred building, which were carried out under the capable management of Mrs. Demers and Miss Wale. Mrs. Clark gave great satisfaction as organist.

The ceremony over the newly wedded pair adjourned to the house of the bride's parents, where an enjoyable wedding supper was partaken of, after which the happy couple left for Portland, where they will spend their honeymoon. The bride wore for her journey a neat travelling dress of dark blue cloth, with hat to match.

The popularity of the young people was well attested by the numerous and costly presents with which their friends marked the occasion. On their return from Portland, Mr. and Mrs. Wale will take up their residence at Colwood.

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SALT SPRING ISLAND NOTES.

(Special Correspondence of the Times.)

W. A. McAfee, the popular blacksmith, returned on Monday from a visit to his home in New Brunswick. Mr. McAfee was greatly pleased with the changes that have taken place during his absence.

On Wednesday night an enjoyable dance was held in the public hall. A large number of people who had been at the exhibition during the day came up to enjoy themselves at night. The excellent music rendered by J. Blanchard, A. Douglas and L. King, kept the floor constantly full of dancers. Dancing ceased at 2 o'clock.

A number of local residents intend to take advantage of the cheap excursion by the steamer Iroquois to the Dominion exhibition on Saturday. The fare is $1.50 for the round trip.

Mr. and Mrs. S. Ritchie have returned to Salt Spring after their honeymoon trip. They intend to occupy the comfortable cottage that has been built for them.

The firm of Malcolm & Purvis are making extensive improvements to their store at Ganges Harbor.