Capture of Murderer

Slayer of Tom Netes Found in Woodshed in Rock Bay District.

Police Were Informed of His Whereabouts and Surrounded Him.

Partner Charged With Being Accessary to His Attempt to Escape.

Frank Nicholes, the murderer of Tom Netes, was captured at 7:45 p.m. on Sunday. He was found hiding behind a pile of sacks in the woodshed of Mr. and Mrs. Gill, in Rock Bay district, near the corner of Henry and Turner streets. He had some years ago rescued Mr. Gill's son from drowning off the Dallas road, near where the steamer San Pedro lay so long. Instead of being landed at Port Angeles by Katchules—whose efforts to throw the police off the trail have resulted in his arrest for assisting the murderer to escape—Nicholes was landed at the back of Albert Head and had been hiding at Sooke until he came to the city on Sunday at 5:10 p.m., and soon afterwards was captured. On Sunday, leaving Sooke, where he had slept in a barn for two nights, Nicholes crossed over to the Saanich road, where he was seen near Porter's on Sunday morning. When nearing the Rock Bay district, he met a young man who some time ago went fishing with him, and asked him to secret him, but the young man refused, and leaving him, Nicholes went to the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Gill, thinking, no doubt, that gratitude for the rescue of the son would result in his finding a place of refuge there. Arriving there, he hid in the woodshed, where he was found by the police, who, while he was hiding there, were informed by the young man to whom Nicholes had spoken a short time before. Instead of finding his former companion in fishing a source of rescue, the murderer found him to be quite the reverse, for immediately the murderer turned towards the Gill house, the young man jumped on his wheel and hurried to the police station to inform the police of where he had seen Nicholes.

The jailer at once telephoned to Chief Langley and efforts were made to reach Superintendent Hussey, of the provincial police, by telephone. Chief Langley hurried to the station, and in quick time messengers and hacks had called out the whole police squad. Before long Rock Bay bridge was besieged, as it were, by the police, both bridges and, in fact, all avenues of escape being blocked. Point Ellice bridge was guarded by Officers Carson and O'Leary, and at Rock Bay bridges Constables J. Woods and J. Northcott were on guard, while other officers patrolled Craigflower road and other points.

Then Chief Langley, Sergt. Redgrave and Detective Palmer went to the front door of the Gill residence and asked leave to search the premises, while Sergt. Walker and Constables Jackson and Carlow went to the rear of the house to prevent the possible escape of the fugitive. Mrs. Gill came to the door when Chief Langley rang the bell, and in response to his request to search the house, said that he could do so, but did not think it worth while. In the meantime Mr. Gill came, and to him the Chief said that he had reason to believe that Frank Nicholes was hidden somewhere about the premises, and he would like to search for him. Gill replied that the officers were welcome to enter and make a search, but he did not think their search would be successful.

Just then the officers heard a click at the back, as though of a bolt being shot, and quickly the trio of officers at the rear vaulted over the fence, and while Chief Laugley, Sergt. Redgrave and Detective Palmer were atetnding to the search of the house from cellar to roof, one of them clamboring right to the roof, Sergt. Walker and Constables Carlow and Jackson entered the woodshed, peering int oits dark corners. The constables anticipated a desperate struggle, and all were armed and on the alert for the hidden murderer. When attention was directed to the woodshed, Constable Carlow lit a match in the doorway, and other than the contents of the shed, peering into its dark corners. The Jackson lit a match when they entered the shed, and by its light saw Nicholes hidden in the corner, sprang towards him and grabbed him.

There was no resistance. The half-famished and very tired man had given up the struggle for liberty, and when Constable Jackson said, "I want you to come with me, Nicholes," the murderer replied, "All right, Jack; I'll come." Handcuffs were quickly pressed on his wrists, and then, with a constable on either side, he was brought from the woodshed, and the constables shouted to Chief Langley that they had captured their man, and the Chief in turn gave the word to the searchers within the house and to Sergt. Redgrave, who, by this time, had mounted to the roof-top. The chase was over.

Nicholes was quickly conveyed to the police station, and placed in a cell, after being searched. The search resulted in the discovery of the weapon which took Tom Netes' life, a spring pocket knife, with a blade from three to four inches long. On being placed in a cell he asked for food, being faint and nearly starved. A constable was despatched to Levy's and quickly returned with a large beef steak and some black coffee, which the murderer ravenously ate, while Constable Harper watched him to see that he made no attempt to take his life. His meal made him more cheerful, and he volunteered the information that he "felt good, now." He was cool, and accepted the situation stoically, making no display of feeling at any time.

He was placed in a cell downstairs, while George Katchules, under arrest for his part in the attempt to secure the murderer's escape, occupied a cell in the upper tier, and although he knew that his erstwhile partner had been captured, he was unable to communicate with him.

Both men were brought up for their preliminary hearing yesterday. Nicholes appeared in the docket yesterday morning, and a large crowd were present. The charge of murdering Tom Netes preferred against him was read, and the prisoner stated that he was unable to speak English. An adjournment was shortly made until Wednesday, when S. Perry Mills will be present to defend him.

George Katchules was also brought up for trial yesterday. He was charged with "knowing that Frank Nicholes, on or about the 8th of November, in the city of Victoria, had unlawfully killed and murdered Thomas Netes, afterwards did assist the said Frank Nicholes in order to enable his escape." When the charge was read to him, Katchules said he could not understand, and asked that an interpreter be called. The case was then remanded until this morning. Mr. S. Perry Mills will also defend him.

The chase of Nicholes, which came to an end on Sunday, shows how completely the police departments work in following a criminal. It would have been difficult for Nicholes to have got away from them, for after his escape from the harbor early on Friday morning, every possible means was taken to secure him. It was the despatch of the steam launch by Acting Sergt. Carson an hour after his flight that prevented him getting further than the Sooke district, for since the capture of the prisoner, his movements have been learned in detail, and it is seen that he found capture more and more inevitable with every hour of freedom that remained to him.

When the launch steamed out after him on Friday morning he and Katchules were working the sloop Star along the shore line towards Race Rocks, keeping well in under the land to avoid being seen. The murderer saw the launch, and realizing that he could not escape to the United States side without detection, he put in at the back of Albert Head, where the coast line is well suited to hide such a craft as that of the murderer. On landing Nicholes at once took to the woods, while Katchules remained on board, having placed a sack over the ports to hide the cabin light. He slept on the boat on Friday and remained with her until Saturday in the early morning, after having attempted to sink the vessel and thus destroy all trace of her. After believing he had scuttled the sloop with an axe, Katchules traveled across the waterfront farms to the Rocky Point road, and started towards the city. On his way he stopped at Colwood to get a drink, and his Greek tongue being noticeable, the information of his coming was telephoned to the city. He was overtaken by the Rocky Point stage and secured passage in on this, reaching the city just as the inquest was in progress. Believing the sloop gone he assumed an air of ignorant bewilderment and told the police of having landed the murderer at Sidney, and later when taken to identify the sloop shrugged his shoulders, but persisted in his very evident lie, until the afternoon, when with no small amount of craft, he announced that he was ready to tell all he knew.

Katchules then told the tale, which caused the four officers on the tug Sadie to be rushed from Clallam bay to Port Angeles, when they were up to yesterday morning engaged in searching the Gulf islands and coast line, while the murderer remained hiding from the trio of officers, Provincial Constable Cox, and City Constables Blackstock and Jackson, who were engaged in scouring the Metchosin and Sooke districts, calling at farm houses, searching barns, and available hiding places. On Friday night he crawled into a barn where he slept and remaining hidden in the vicinity all next day, being afraid to beg food at any farm house, he again spent the night there on Saturday, and on Sunday morning he came to the city, with the result detailed above.

In the meantime the tug Sadie has made many miles in pursuit of the sloop and the murderer, who was thought to have escaped across the Straits. Since Provincial Sergeant Murray and Constable Campbell and City Detectives Perdue and Macdonald, who are on her, reported from Clallam bay on Saturday morning and were ordered to Port Angeles, because of the fact that Katchules claimed to have landed the murderer there, they have chased every sloop seen along the Sound as narrated in another column. After Katchules had told his story the police received information that a sloop with two men in it had been seen near Crescent city, and they were despatched after that vessel, a chase upon which the tug had started when the last news of its doings reached Victoria on Saturday, and the fact that they were overhauling this sloop gave rise to the report that they were within a short distance from the capture of the murderer. But no, the officers on the Sadie have had a trip, which dirty weather and untiring work, has made unpleasant, and all to no purpose. It was one of the lines of possibility, though, and the officers had to cover every possible channel of escape, so thoroughly did they plan the capture.

Frank Nicholes, the murderer, although he had been fishing for many years, made the spring cruise in the sealing schooner Umbrina belonging to Capt. J. W. Peppett in 1900, shipping before the mast on the schooner when she sailed from here. On arrival at the West Coast to ship her Indians, where Capt. Peppett left her, Nicholes was made second mate of the Umbrina.

The victim of the tragedy, Tom Netes, was carried to the grave at Ross Bay yesterday. The funeral started from Hanna's undertaking parlors at 1:30 p.m., and Rev. W. Leslie Clay was present to read the burial service. He also officiated when the body was lowered into the grave.

TEN YEARS' SENTENCE.

Chief Justice Ferguson Makes Pertinent Remarks on Serious Offence.

Toronto, Ont., Nov. 11.—David Hawes, a colored railway porter, found guilty of criminal assault upon Louisa Lebay, a 17-year-old girl, today was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment. In passing sentence, Chief Justice Ferguson observed that hanging once was the penalty for the offence, and the law was still on the statute books. In view of the increasing prevalence of the offence it was a question whether it might not be again resorted to.

SUFFERING HARDSHIPS.

Miss Stone Says Chase by Troops Makes Her Condition Worse.

Sofia, Bulgaria, Nov. 9.—In her letter Miss Ellen Stone, the captive American missionary, says she is exposed to much hardship and suffering owing to the constant movement of the band from hills and ravines, and the rigors of the winter. In consequence of the activity which has lately been increased by the Bulgarian troops, the condition of Madame Tsilka, Miss Stone's companion, is even more pitiful, owing to her expected accouchement. The belief that Miss Stone is concealed in a village is discredited, as is the reported birth of a child to Madame Tsilka. The monastry of Rilo was searched by the authorities, as the prisoners were reported to be concealed there. Troops are also searching the neighboring hills.

Consul General Dickinson conferred today with M. Saneff at the Bulgarian foreign office, and it is understood that Mr. Dickinson made representations against the movements of the troops.

DEADLY FOOTBALL.

United States College Games Have Serious Results.

Cincinnati, Nov. 9.—Two football players were probably fatally injured in the games here today. In the game between th University of Cincinnati and the Hanover (Ind.) college, James Kirkpatrick, left half-back of the University of Cincinnati, while making a tackle, had his spine injured, and is reported to be in a very serious condition.

Louis Runck was also carried off the field during the game between the New port Xavier school and High school. Runck was the left tackle of the Xavier team, and was seriously injured while tackling. Tonight the physicians have very little hope for his recovery.

STOLEN MONEY.

Trial of Man Charged With Helping to Rob Mail.

Winnipeg, Nov. 9.—(Special)—The trial of J. B. Thompson, charged with receiving money stolen by the prisoner Palk from the mails, occupied the attention of the assize court today. Palk was the chief witness for the crown and gave damaging evidence against Thompson.

J. H. McVeity, editor of the Prince Albert Advocate, a pioneer Territorial editor, died today at Prince Albert.

Harping On One String

Several Opposition Speakers Criticise the Policy of the Provincial Government.

Cut and Dried Resolution Condemning the Administration Passed.

Considering the heavy rain of last night, the meeting announced for Victoria theatre to discuss the political questions of the day was very well attended—even a few ladies ventured out to hear the speakers. On the platform were: P. C. MacGregor, D. W. Higgins, A. E. McPhillips, M.P.P., H. D. Helmcken, M.P.P., C. E. Redfern, Geo. Jay, Dr. Milne, Richard Hall M.P.P., W. H. Hayward, M.P.P., E. V. Bodwell, K.C., Gordon Hunter, K.C., A. L. Belyea K.C., C. H. Lugrin and others.

On motion of Mr. Helmcken seconded by Mr. McPhillips, Mr. C. E. Redfern was appointed chairman.

Mr. Redfern explained that the meeting was called by the citizens of Victoria, irrespective of party, to consider the political issues of the day. Business men had felt for some time that the situation was not satisfactory, nor was it calculated to advance the interests of the country that the present political unrest should continue. He asked that the speakers be given a fair hearing, and in that way the audience would have an opportunity of judging the merits of the arguments presented. The chairman suggested, and it was decided, that the city members should speak for 15 minutes and other speakers for 10 minutes.

P. C. MacGregor was appointed secretary.

The chairman then called on Dr. Milne, who said he had been invited to attend, and the following resolution had been placed in his hands with a request that he should present it to the meeting. He would therefore move, seconded by Mr. Higgins:

Whereas there are at present, and have been for some time past, two vacancies in the provincial cabinet, and one seat vacant in the Victoria city constituency, and

Whereas, the uncertainty which exists with regard to the same, and the delay in filling up the vacancies is working injuriously to the interests of the province and its capital; and

Whereas, since the defeat of a cabinet minister in New Westminster, no attempt has been made to complete the cabinet, nor has notice been given for an election to fill the vacancy in the Victoria city constituency; and

Whereas, no declaration of policy has been made by the government, but on the contrary, there is reason to believe that its attitude is opposed to the wishes of the country;

Whereas, in the opinion of this meeting the government has lost the confidence of the people of the country.

Therefore, be it resolved, that in the opinion of the meeting the premier should at once bring on the election in Victoria city; also, that he should fill the two vacancies in the cabinet, and should call a session of the Legislature at as early a date as possible.

Speaking to the resolution, the Doctor called attention to the vacancies in the cabinet, and argued that under the Constitution Act those vacancies should be filled without delay, otherwise the business of the country was sure to suffer. He strongly criticized the government's railway policy, taxing them with bad faith with the house and country on that question. The people had "soured on the government" for that and other reasons. They had ignored the petitions from all parts of the province asking for an independent line of railway from the Coast to Kootenay, they had thwarted the expressed wish of the people and forfeited their right to further support.

Mr. Higgins wished to impress upon the meeting that every day's delay in issuing the writs to fill the vacancies in the house was a direct violation of the Constitution Act. He read the clause of the act bearing upon the subject and pointed out that more than two months had elapsed since the Speaker had issued his warrant for the writ for Victoria, yet the government had taken no action. This was in strong contrast to the course adopted in the case of New Westminster, where the election was brought on almost immediately. Speaking of the vacancies in the house and in the cabinet, Mr. Higgins said Mr. Booth, the speaker, must be excused for his seeming neglect of duty, as he was incapacitated by illness, but he urged that the constitution was being ignored, and it was the duty of the people to call the government to a sense of their duty.

The chairman then read the resolution.

H. D. Helmcken was next called upon and was heartily received. He understood that the meeting had been called by a committee of citizens. He did not know who were the promoters, but he was always willing and ready to meet his constituents and discuss the questions of the day. He felt sure that they would all agree with him that he and his colleagues in the house had done their duty fearlessly during the last session. He had been held up by Mr. Dunsmuir as a man in whom he had no confidence. He referred to an article in the Ladysmith Leader, in which Mr. McBride's name was also mentioned. Mr. McBride could speak for himself and defend his own conduct. So far as he was concerned, he returned the compliment to Mr. Dunsmuir, who was alleged to have said that he had lost confidence in him. Victoria had been for some time without full representation, and he would like to see the government test their standing with the people of this city by bringing on the election. He then referred to the alleged understanding between the Premier and a certain politician who seemed to be guiding and shaping his actions, and deplored the fact that such a compact should exist. British Columbia had been suffering from political unrest for the past three or four years, and it was time that the business of the country should be taken hold of by competent men who would work for the advancement of the province.

A. E. McPhillips, M.P.P., was also greeted with applause. He considered the meeting opportune, as it gave the people a chance to express their opinions. He referred to the appointment of Mr. Brown to a cabinet position as a scandalous attempt to foist Mr. Martin upon the country, despite the unanimous disapproval of that gentleman at the last general election. He and his fellow-members had been shocked during the session at seeing the Premier and Mr. Martin closeted together, and the subsequent attempt that was made to thwart the wishes of the members and the people. He referred in complimentary terms to Mr. McBride's action in retiring from the cabinet when he realized what was being attempted. Mr. Brown's defeat in New Westminster was due to that gentleman's desertion from his declared principles for the petty spoils of office. He recalled the extraordinary spectacle of the leader of the opposition defending the government policy, and spoke of the government as being in Mr. Martin's power. He strongly suspected that the Loan Act had been framed for the purpose of burking instead of promoting the railway construction. He admired the C. P. R. and believed that it should have its rights, but he did not believe in its dictating to the government and ruling the country. The legislature should be the representatives of the people and not of corporations, and he hoped the day would come when those great monopolies would be placed in their proper position, the servants, not the masters, of the people. British Columbia needed a progressive, independent government that would promote the development of the province by liberal aid to railways. He was elected as a member of a party pledged to such a policy. They had failed in their duty, and he had lost confidence in them.

Richard Hall, M.P.P., was next called upon. He thought it was a good thing for the people to get together and let the government know their opinions on passing events. He was heartily in accord with the resolution, for he thought it was time the vacancies in the house should be filled. It was time that the Augean stable of public affairs should be cleaned, and he considered that would be best accomplished by government on party lines. He had been elected by the votes of both parties, and he felt obliged to his supporters, but he must confess that it was a difficult position to hold (laughter). He assured them that while he represented Victoria he would do his duty on every occasion. Still he could not see what the people could do to better the state of affairs. If the present government were turned out, who could be put in their place that would be an improvement.

He believed, and he thought it was the opinion of the people, that railways should be assisted preferably with a cash bonus, but that they should be made contribute to the revenue of the province when they became paying concerns.

R. McBride, M.P.P., was heartily applauded on coming forward in response to a call from the audience. He considered it the duty of the members for Victoria to meet their constituents and discuss the questions of the day. He regretted that more time had not been given so that a majority of the members of the house could have been present to condemn the Dunsmuir government. The fate of the government was sealed, and it would be defeated just as soon as the house met. The speaker referred to the meeting in the Hotel Vancouver, when it was agreed that the government would have no traffic with Mr. Martin, but the leader of the government had forgotten that agreement and had formed an alliance with the leader of the opposition.

He reviewed the result of last elections, pointing out that triangular fights in many of the constituencies were all that saved Martin and his followers from complete oblivion instead of the crushing defeat which they had sustained. The result of that defeat and the dismissal of the lieutenant-governor showed plainly enough the feeling of the people towards Mr. Martin, but in the face of that, Mr. Dunsmuir had declared by his acts that Mr. Martin was necessary to the government of the province. The answer to that was found in the defeat of Mr. Brown in New Westminster. Mr. Dunsmuir had been grossly deceived. As matters stood today the government did not dare to bring out a candidate in Victoria. He twitted the members of the cabinet for not having appeared on the platform and supported their colleague, Mr. Brown, who had only Mr. Martin to speak for him.

He was pleased to hear the expressions of policy of the members for Victoria, that they were strongly opposed to the present government.

Mr. Hall interrupted to say that he supported the resolution as far as it related to the filling of the vacancies; he did not agree with the clause condemning the government in toto. He would support the government if he thought they were working for the best interests of the country.

Mr. McBride said he had understood Mr. Hall to give the whole resolution his unqualified approval.

Continuing, Mr. McBride said he entered the government on the understanding that it would oppose Mr. Martin and his principles; he was re-elected by acclamation on that policy, and he felt it his duty to himself, his constituents and his native province to resign his position when he found his leader forgetful of his pledges. He characterized the alleged interview with Mr. Dunsmuir in the Ladysmith Leader, so far as it related to himself, as false. He was surprised that other members of the cabinet had not resigned their portfolios under the circumstances. He concluded by declaring that any candidate who volunteered to present himself as a supporter of the present government would be defeated in Victoria.

W. H. Hayward, M.P.P., being called for, stated that he had embraced the opportunity to nail his colors to the mast. He endorsed Mr. McBride's utterances and fully agreed with the resolution, for it was time that the province should be relieved of the curse of unstable government, which had done so much to retard its progress. Everything that affected Victoria affected Esquimalt, and he would always be found supporting the policy which would best conserve the interests of his constituency and the province at large.

E. V. Bodwell, K.C., came forward in response to repeated calls. He regretted that several members who were to have addressed the meeting had been detained by the non-arrival of the steamer from Vancouver. It was high time that the people of Victoria should assemble and give expression to their condemnation of the government. Last March a mass meeting had endorsed resolutions read from the same platform calling for a competitive line of railway, but Mr. Dunsmuir had thought differently and in attempting to carry out his mistaken idea, he had lost the confidence of the people. The very existence of the Dunsmuir government was founded on an understanding that it was anti-Martin. All parties amalgamated and pledged support to Mr. Dunsmuir on that distinct understanding, but Mr. Dunsmuir, in order to force his own ideas of a railway policy upon the house and the province, had sought the assistance of that discredited politician. Members of the government, he was informed, had stated that the V. V. & E. had declined to build the mountain sections of the road. This he denied. During the session he had called the attention of the government to certain provisions in the bill that would prevent any company from accepting a contract as they were liable to clash with Dominion legislation. Mr. Eberts said the V. V. & E. were only prepared to build the ends of the line—30 miles at each end. He (the speaker) had then assured the government that if the company got a subsidy of $6,000 a mile from the Dominion they would build the road through, and in the meantime they were prepared to build the two ends before January of next year, and fuurther, that they would ask no payment of a bonus from British Columbia until the whole line was completed. He had reason to believe that if the contract had been signed then that the Dominion would have granted the subsidy and the Great Northern would have built the road. He concluded by asking if the four men composing the government were to be allowed to dictate to the people and paralyze the progress of the province.

At this point there were loud calls for Mr. Lugrin, but that gentleman held back. Finally the chairman put the resolution, which was adopted.

P. C. McGregor then moved, seconded by W. H. Hayward, M.P.P.:

Whereas it is desirable that the whole electorate of the province of British Columbia should voice its sentiments in regard to its confidence in the present administration:

Therefore, be it resolved that the citizens of Victoria hereby request all other constituencies in the province to hold public meetings for the purpose of expressing an opinion of the present strained political situation.

Gordon Hunter, K. C., was surprised to see the representatives of so many shades of political opinion assembled on the platform to condemn the present government. He had been forced to the conviction that the only way in which the province could secure stable government was the adoption of straight party lines. He condemned the policy of the C. P. R. in ignoring the claims of Victoria. He would like to hear from some friend of the government, and called on C. H. Lugrin, the audience taking up the cry.

Mr. Lugrin said he came to the meeting to hear and not to speak. He held no brief from the government and had nothing to say for or against them or the resolution, but it seemed to him that public men should find higher themes for their eloquence than personal criticisms and recriminations. The interests of the country required that politicians should rise to the opportunities for progress and advancement which the province afforded. At this critical period, when provincial bonds were, as has been said here tonight, falling in price in London, when Mr. Robert Ward, with his large interests here, had publicly stated that he was unable to recommend investments in this province, and when a prominent London paper had declared that the province was unfit for self-government, the people should be invited to consider something else than the matters presented to them tonight. The resolution called for a series of public meetings throughout the province. He did not intend to vote upon it, but if such meetings were held, he hoped the discussion would take a broader scope than it had taken at this meeting. If that were to be the case, and a policy calculated to promote the welfare of the province were to be considered at such meetings, he would advocate them as earnestly as he knew how. To him it made little difference who held office, so long as the government in power brought forward measures to promote the welfare of the province, and such a government, no matter of whom composed, would always have his personal support.

The resolution was then put and carried, and the meeting, after passing a vote of thanks to the chairman, adjourned with cheers for His Majesty.

UP-TO-DATE STYLES AT WEILER BROS.

Our First Consignment

Of Fall Goods in the Upholstering, Drapery and Curtain line are now on sale, and we can only say that for coloring, artistic effect and value we have surpassed ourselves in these last purchasings.

Latest Novelties Fro PARIS, BERLIN, LONDON.

WEILER BROS
VICTORIA B. C.

SIAM.

A Country That Is Gradually Growing in Importance.

Although Siam at the present time is not very important from the point of view of trade and engineering, and is consequently rather apt to be overlooked in the collection of information about countries in the Far East, it is still, says Engineering, very deserving of attention, not only from a political and social point of view, but also on account of its growing importance in industry and commerce. Its position relatively to Burma and China makes it impossible to overlook it in its political aspects, while to the student of sociology it presents an interesting study as the only country in the world in which the monarch is a professed Buddhist, and in which religion is the chief factor in the formation of the lives of the people. Matters in that part of the world are in a transition stage, and political and industrial forces are being brought into action which will not only materially affect affairs in the various countries directly concerned, but will also react on industrial and economic conditions in Britain. Siam has hitherto been known in the commercial world chiefly for its teak and its rice. The Siamese government is taking measures for the protection of this valuable timber which will probably reduce the quantity yearly exported, but will make the supply more constant and insure its continuance. On the other hand, the development of the railways, which is being pushed forward by the government, will increase the export of rice by opening up new areas which are being brought under cultivation. The want of adequate means of communication has hitherto prevented a rapid growth of commerce; but still in spite of that, as shown in Engineering, it has increased in ten years from £8,800,000 to £6,664,399, at which latter figure it stood at the end of last year. A powerful combination has recently been formed of German millers of Siam rice, for the purpose of keeping prices down, and it is said that they have obtained control of a local German-owned rice mill. This, taken in conjunction with the fact that the regular boats from Bangkok to Singapore, and on to the German rice ports are nearly all German, gives that country a preponderating interest in the export of rice to Europe. In fact, British rice exporting firms may be said to be no longer engaged at all in the European trade. In 1900 the amount of teak exported was 38,332 tons, and the calculated value £352,557. 10s. Europe taking 11,182 tons, Hongkong and China 9,480, and India 14,622. The total value of imports from foreign countries was £2,576,540, an increase of £44,403 over 1899. Steel iron and machinery, which increased in 1899 very largely, maintained their rise, the value being £169,346, an increase of £11,930 over the previous year, the United Kingdom, according to Engineering, supplying 46.40 per cent of the total value, Germany 9.60 and the United States 5.10.

FIRE AT DAWSON.

McDonald Hotel Burned—News of the Yukon.

According to advices from Dawson, Y. T., under date of November 1st, the McDonald hotel, the largest in the north, was burned at Dawson on October 31st. The loss is $20,000, including $5,000 on baggage of guests and $8,000 on furniture. The third story is a complete wreck, but the other stories can be repaired. Northing was insured. The hotel is owned by the wife of Alexander McDonald, the Klondike king. The firemen fought for an hour drenched in water with the thermometer at ten below zero.

The Yukon was slowly moving the ice from Dawson to Pelly. The last steamer of the season in or out arrived Wednesday, October 30th. There will be no mail in again for probably four weeks. The last steamer went out on October 29th.

NEW WAR MATERIAL.

A New Portable Tent—New Rapid-Fire Field Guns for Sweden.

From N. Y. Sun.

Switzerland has adopted for its army a new portable tent which has some novel features. The tents are formed by combining a number of units, greater or less according to the kind of tent required. Each unit comprises a square piece of canvas and a triangular end, a rope, a pole in three parts and three tent pegs, weighing in all 1,830 grammes, while the soldiers have two units for every three men, and these are carried by the men not carrying intrenching tools.

The great advantage of this system of units is that tents of various forms may be put up by simply uniting the units in various ways, thus giving the greatest comfort under different conditions of topography of ground, climate or number of men. The simplest form is the ordinary shelter tent for three men; or, a number of these may be placed end to end forming a single long tent for a section or even large body of men; or, the units may be so united as to form a large or small canvas house, or a simple shelter against the sun or prevailing wind, entirely open on one side; finally the units can be used as a rain coat, or as a protection against cold.

Sweden has just adopted a new rapid-fire field gun after a series of competitive tests between the Ehrhardt, the Cockerill and the Krupp systems.

The Krupp 7.5 cm. rapid-fire gun or carriage with elastic spade was adopted, and two batteries for the horse artillery and 120 guns and a corresponding number of caissons for the field artillery were ordered. The system with elastic spades was definitely adopted for the horse artillery in preference to that of recoil on the carriage, but for the field artillery the tests are still going on between the two systems. Authority has been obtained to manufacture this material at home in Sweden.

The 7.5 (nearly 3 in.) rapid fire gun fires a projectile weighing 14.3 pounds with a muzzle velocity of 1,640 foot-seconds. The maximum range is 6,600 metres (over 7,200 yards.) The piece complete weighs 3,520 pounds, and the caisson the same.

Norway has just completed the competitive tests of the Saint-Chamond, Schneider-Canet and Ehrhardt rapid-fire field guns, and adopted the last mentioned system, ordering 132 guns, 192 caissons, 36 pack wagons, 24 tool wagons and 500 rounds of ammunition per gun, all the material, after the purchase of the first limited lot, to be manufactured at home, in Norway.

The United States are now testing types of various rapid-fire field guns at the Sandy Hook proving grounds, which will probably soon give our army a modern rapid-fire field gun.

The Hotchkiss company has placed its new machine gun model of 1901 on the market. In general design and in detail it is a radical departure from all former types, and may be arranged to fire any model of small-arms ammunition.

The principle underlying the construction of this gun is the utilization of a portion of the powder gas, by means of which, after the first cartridge has been fired by hand, the various operations of the breech action, feeding mechanism, firing and extraction of empty cartridge cases, are performed automatically, but under complete control of the gunner. Slow fire may be delivered at any rate up to about 100 rounds per minute, and rapid fire up to 600 rounds per minute.

The gun consists of a single barrel, screwed into the front of the receiver, which contains the operating mechanism; below and parallel to it is secured a hollow cylinder which is in communication with a port drilled through the barrel. Contained in this cylinder is a piston, on which are formed suitable cams for operating the breech-block, the firing and the feed mechanism. On discharge, as soon as a bullet has passed the port connecting bore and cylinder, the powder gas enters a chamber in the front end of the cylinder and throws the piston to the rear, where it is held by a sear. On releasing the sear, by pressing the trigger, the piston is thrown forward to its initial position by the mainspring. The piston by its motion opens the breech pushes the cartridge into the chamber, closes the breech and fires. If the trigger be held back the fire will be kept up continually and automatically.

Two men are required to work the gun, but in cases of necessity a single man can work it.

The gun weighs 53 pounds. For land service it is generally mounted on a field tripod and transported on pack animals, one mule carrying gun, tripod and 600 rounds of ammunition, weighing in all 237 pounds, carrying each 1,800 cartridges, weighing with saddle 235 pounds. For field service on fair roads it is mounted on a travelling carriage, with limber, the total weight behind team being 1,246 pounds, which is well within the limits for two-horse draft.

Other mountings are the parapet mounting, designed for service in field works, and permanent fortifications, and the naval tripod, rail and masthead mountings.

THE KING'S BIRTHDAY.

Dinner in New York to Celebrate the Occasion.

New York, Nov. 9.—To celebrate the 60th birthday of King Edward, members of the various British societies in this city gathered to a banquet at the Delmonico's tonight. The affair was held under the auspices of the British Schools and Universities society, an organization composed of graduates from various British institutions of learning. Dr. J. A. Irwin, president of the organization acted as toast maker, the guests numbered 90. Among those seated at the guest table were Sir Percy Sanderson, British consul general in this city; General John R. Brooke, United States army; Rev. Dr. F. L. Patton, of Princeton university; R. Stewart Wortley, Mr. Hoppen, of the London Times, and Mr. Stewart of the London Daily Express. The list of speakers included, besides Sir Percy Sanderson, the Rev. Dr. D. Parker Morgan and the Rev. Dr. F. L. Patton.

Before the speech-making commenced letters were read from Field Marshal Earl Roberts; Lord Pauncefote, General Lord Wolseley and Lord Milner of South Africa.

Dr. Irwin proposed a toast for Lord Kitchener, and read a message from him and then introduced General Brooke.

The toast as formulated by Irwin was "General Kitchener and the troops in South Africa, and General Chaffee and the troops in the Philippines."

General Brooke said in part: "You talk about General Kitchener and his troubles in South Africa. In time the English flag will proclaim freedom over all the territory of South Africa. Gen. Chaffee and our other brave generals are fighting the same battle for God and freedom and civilization in the far away Philippines against almost insurmountable difficulties.

STEEL DEAL.

Report of Still Another Big Combination.

Philadelphia, Nov. 9.—The North American tomorrow will say:

"A new $50,000,000 steel corporation is being formed for the purpose of uniting in one powerful combination, the plate mills of the country. Ten or more plants, including Pennsylvania companies that are now doing a large business, are to be absorbed by the new concern. Four of the properties are east of the Alleghanies. These are the Lukens Iron works, of Coatsville; the Tidewater Steel company, Chester; the Central Steel company, Harrisburg, and the Worth Bros. mills. These four represent an active estimated capitalization of about $10,000,000. It is understood that the Jones company of Pittsburg, a corporation with $20,000,000, will enter the combination, and will be the strongest concern in it. Details regarding the Western interests that will be represented are lacking but these will probably be known in the course of a few days.

NOTED MAGISTRATE DEAD.

Sir Franklin Lushington of London Gone

London, Nov. 11.—The death is announced of Sir Franklin Lushington, chief police magistrate for London. He was born in 1823.

A Punitive Expedition

Superintendent Hussey Will Sail For Kingcombe Inlet on Wednesday.

D. G. S. Quadra Will Take Him and His Men Up the Coast.

Some of the Superstitions of Fiery Tribe of Northern Indians.

About three weeks ago two Indians of Kingcombe were accused of stealing and cashing a check for $350, the property of a Japanese who worked with them in a cannery during the fishing season. Special Constables Woolacot and Huson were despatched from Alert Bay by canoe to arrest the guilty parties, but the latter, assisted by their friends, stoned the policemen and drove them from the village. Woolacot and his companion were forced to return to Alert Bay without their prisoners, and upon the affair being reported to the Attorney-General's department it was decided to ask the use of the Dominion government steamer Quadra. Capt. Walbran, to take a force of provincial police to the scene and enforce the law. The Dominion government was communicated with and the commander of the Quadra was instructed from Ottawa to co-operate with the provincial authorities. Some delay has been caused by the Quadra having to wait for the arrival of certain supplies and materials from the East, but she will sail with the punitive expedition from Vancouver on Wednesday morning. Superintendent Hussey, with five or six picked men, will leave for Vancouver tonight and will board the Quadra tomorrow morning. The trip to the scene of the trouble will occupy about 24 hours, and it is quite likely that the police will have no difficulty in apprehending the alleged thieves, as well as the principals of those who assisted them in resisting arrest. On the other hand, the guilty parties may take to the woods on the approach of the Quadra, in which case Superintendent Hussey and his men may have a long and very unpleasant chase, as the weather on that part of the coast is always wet and disagreeable at this season.

The Indians of Kingcombe inlet are among the most savage and unenlightened of the Coast tribes, notwithstanding the fact that an English church mission is established in their village. They are intensely superstitious and have many revolting and degrading customs which they adhere to despite the teachings of the missionaries. Their belief in witchcraft is very strong and they are in constant dread of each other, one of their superstitions being that if an enemy can secure an article of clothing, a lock of hair, or a finger nail of his victim, he can compass his death by certain ceremonies and incantations. Thus, putting a piece of a person's clothing in a coffin brings speedy death. But what they most fear is death by lingering illness caused by the malevolence of a witch or wizard. All that latter has to do is to dig up the thigh bone of a dead man, split it in two insert in the cavity a rag of the intended victim's clothing, tie it up with sinew, cover it with a coating of spruce gum, place it in a box, which is buried, and a fire lighted over it. The unfortunate owner of the rag is seized with pains as soon as the fire is lighted and these increase with the intensity of the flames. The agony can be prolonged by careful attention to the fire, but if a speedy dissolution is desired, all that is necessary is to make the fire so hot that it will penetrate the earth and heat the box—when that happens the victim dies.

Such are the people with whom Superintendent Hussey and his men have to deal.

LORD STRATHCONA

Leaves Montreal on His Return to London.

Montreal, Nov. 11.—Lord Strathcona left tonight for New York, sailing for Liverpool on the Oceanic on Wednesday. Before leaving, referring to the proposal of his appointment as governor-general, he said it would not do. The governor-general constituted a most valuable tie between the Colonies and Mother Country, and nothing should be done to weaken it. He would not say anything about a fast Atlantic line, except to reiterate his opinion that the country required it at once.

THE KING'S BIRTHDAY.

Its Observance in Victoria Mainly of an Official Character.

Outside of official circles His Majesty's birthday was not so generally observed in Victoria as it might have been under other circumstances. It was not for lack of loyalty on the part of the people, but from the fact that was not universally understood that the day was one set apart for public rejoicing and cessation from labor. Even some of the Dominion officials were so far in the dark on the subject that they actually wired to Ottawa for instructions as to closing their offices. This was quite an unnecessary proceeding, as the Dominion statute distinctly declares "the birthday of the sovereign" a public holiday—evidently they had not read the law.

At noon the guns of the fleet at Esquimalt and those of the batteries at Work Point boomed out a royal salute. The warships and the D. G. S. Quadra were gaily dressed for the occasion, and flags waved at the mastheads of the vessels in the harbor and from all the flag staffs in the city. The Imperial troops at Work Point and Esquimalt had a holiday and amused themselves with athletic sports.

While several of the business places were kept open, a large number of citizens made holiday and enjoyed themselves quietly in various ways. The day was fine enough to attract numbers to Beacon Hill park, and the football games at Oak Bay and Caledonia parks were largely attended. The Savoy matinee at the A. O. U. W. hall drew an overflow audience, and in the evening the Fifth Regiment band concert in the drill hall brought out an immense crowd.

His Honor Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere gave a dinner at the Union club, at which the invited guests were the members of the local government and legislature, naval and military officers, church dignitaries and foreign consuls.

FOR WEST YORK.

T. F. Wallace Nominated by the Conservatives.

Toronto, Nov. 11.—The Conservatives of West York on Saturday unanimously nominated, without a ballot, Thos. F. Wallace, brother of the late Hon. N. Clarke Wallace, for the House of Commons.