St. Patrick's Day in England

Queen Alexandra Makes Usual Presentation to the Irish Guards.

John Redmond and His Banqueters Receive Congratulations From Fenians.

Home Rule to Be the Watch Word For Electors in Next Contest.

London, March 17.—St. Patrick's Day was little observed in England. Few flags were flown and there was little demand for shamrocks. Queen Alexandra made her customary gift of shamrocks to the Irish guards, each man was presented with a sprig on parade this morning at Aldershot. In Ireland the day was generally observed as a holiday and business was suspended. The Lord Mayor's procession, which occurred in a heavy rain, was the feature of attraction in Dublin.

A banquet was held at the Hotel Cecil tonight presided over by John Redmond, the Irish leader and attended by the members of the Nationalist party in the House of Commons and prominent Irishmen in London, when the following cablegram from the United Irish League of America was read: "The United Irish League of America clasps hands with our kindred at home and in the army's countries on this national holiday. God save Ireland."

John Redmond, proposing the toast "Ireland a nation," said the opportunity for which they had waited for so many long and weary years, had almost arrived, the opportunity for Ireland to be the deciding factor in the making or unmaking of the government of Great Britain. From a majority of 150 hostile to Ireland, they had wrested the greater part of the Irish land purchase act. Now that majority was melting before their eyes and a period of almost intense political interest to Ireland was approaching. The coming general election would witness the defeat of the Unionist government.

Mr. Redmond urged the Irish voters in Great Britain at the next election to make the question of home rule above everything else. He said that the future depended upon the power and unity of the Irish party in parliament.

IN CANADA.

Montreal, March 17.—Ideal weather conditions prevailed in Eastern Canada today for the celebration of St. Patrick's Day. Services were held in the principal Irish Roman Catholic churches. Eight patriotic entertainments are be held.

EXPLAINED.

"With such a breath," she said, "I suppose you will hardly have the nerve to say that you haven't been drinking."

"Haven't had a drop," he replied, coldly.

"Oh, you haven't?"

"No. Got this breath over at the Vegan slide. You go down that so fast that it takes your breath right away from you, and then you catch the breath of some fellow ahead of you has lost."—Chicago Post.

DEPRECATE REPORT.

New Chwang, March 17.—The foreign engineers of the Shan Hai Kwan Kiuchwang railway, deprecate the careless and sensational reports to the effect that the line between Kuanghsu Tsu and New Chwang is about to be abandoned, and also that a train is in readiness to convey the New Chwang staff to Kuang Chang Tsu.

EVIDENCE FAVORS ACCUSED.

Des Moines, Iowa, March 17.—By aid of a powerful magnifying glass, it was discovered today that the box of candy sent to Miss Rena Neher at Pierre, S. D., does not bear the Ottumwa, Ia., postmark. The discovery may have a tendency to prove the innocence of Mrs. Sherwood Dye, who has been accused of sending the fatal package.

AN UNHEARD OF THING.

Editor—I'm going to make it hot for you.

Servant—But isn't that contrary to all precedents?—Town Topics.

JAPANESE IN MOSCOW.

Moscow, March 17.—Twelve Japanese, including five women, arrived here today and were detained by the police as suspects. They claim they have been working in China, but fearing persecution by their co-laborers, they proceeded to come to Moscow. At present the number was arrested is not held.

ONE THOUSAND WILL BE LOCKED OUT

Lithographic Trades Fail to Arrange Their Troubles in New York.

New York, March 16.—The various locals of the allied typographical trades organizations had a conference today and decided not to accept the arbitration proposed to them by the Employers' Association. The arbitration plan was submitted individually today to each workman employed by a member of the association, and they were told they did not accept the plan they would be locked out. They were given until Saturday to give a decision. A. Smith, secretary of the National, said the employers had done everything possible to bring about a settlement and unless every man must individually sign an agreement by Saturday or consider himself discharged. The employers do not recognize the unions as an organization. The men refused to sign the agreements. More than 10,000 men will be locked out. The lockout will be felt throughout the United States.

M. Burnett, the former husband of Frances Hodgson Burnett, is to wed Miss Margaret W. Brady of Washington. Miss Brady is a native of Pennsylvania. Her father, Jasper Brady, was a prominent Lincoln in contemporaneous with the Brady and Burnett families. The next door neighbors for years, Mr. Brady was an oculist of national reputation. Mrs. Burnett, soon after her divorce, married Stephen Townsend, who had been acting as her secretary.

According to a Belgian paper, the Czar and the composers. It is stated that during the Winter Palace several days in the imperial pen were performed among them one entitled "The Peace." This stands in three parts, the first of which depicts the horrors of battle, while the second shows a stricken field, covered with the dead and wounded. The third invokes the blessing upon those who are responsible for such horrors. Another work is in honor of the saints of the orthodox church.

The Chinese consider it a breach of etiquette to wear spectacles in company.

More Particulars About Liard Strike

Local Hydraulic Mining Concern Secures Fifteen Claims on New Discovery.

Work Steadily Progressing on Rosella Creek—Large Plant Going In.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

Mr. H. H. Jones, of the Rosella Hydraulic Mining and Development Company, was seen yesterday regarding the recent strike made on an unnamed tributary of the Liard river. Mr. Jones said he had seen it mentioned in Tuesday's Colonist, but that his company had been aware of the strike for some time, but for business reasons had said nothing about it. It appears that Mr. Haskins, who is up at Rosella creek with an outfit getting ready for the installation this fall of a very fine hydraulic plant on the company's properties, has written the company, and informed the company here that he had staked fifteen claims on the creek and instructed them to pay the staking fees to the government here. This has been done, and the company have these in addition to the very valuable claims owned on Rosella creek.

The exact geographical location of the newly discovered creek is not known. All that can be said about it is that it runs into the Liard river not far from the point where the French river joins the Liard. Rosella creek is a branch of Spring river, which is a branch of French river.

All of the big finds in that country have not yet been told, as the same Indian who is responsible for the new creek find, had also remarkable rich copper ore specimens. He said there was a whole mountain of it, and Mr. Haskins, it is expected, has got the location and will go and see for himself. The Indian says there is a lake of oil just outside the boundary of British Columbia, in which he says the Indians dip sticks when they want to make a fire. He also brought with him specimens of what is known as blacksmith's Rosburch coal, an article which was supposed to have been worked out in Canada, samples of bituminous coal were also brought which lead persons who have seen them to suppose there is a coal field up in that country larger in extent than any yet discovered in Canada.

Mr. Haskins left Victoria in September last with a large outfit, and was taken to Wrangel by the C. P. N. steamer, which made the extra call on purpose. At Wrangel the party hired Chief Shakes, who freights on the Stickeen in a large war canoe which was exhibited at the World's Fair at Chicago. The canoe will take four tons and is quite a curiosity. By means of the canoe the party got as far as Telegraph creek, from which point the Hudson's Bay Company's packers took the freight overland to Dease lake. At Dease lake the freight was placed on scows and taken to what is now known as Haskin's landing, at the mouth of French river. Here the party stored their supplies and proceeded to build a trail to Rosella creek, a distance of twelve miles. Half-way they built another storehouse and started on the balance of the trail. This is all completed now and the bridges built and the road corduroyed. The stuff was hauled to the creek by means of dog teams.

Up to the 21st of December, which was the date of Mr. Haskins first letter, and which contained the news of the new creek, there had not been enough snow to make sleighing possible, and since then there have only been two cold snaps, during both of which work could be done with the utmost comfort. The snowfall has been an average fall since. After all this preliminary work had been finished the men started to sink to bedrock on the old channel of the creek, which is known by all old miners to be very rich. Gold was struck at the grass roots and had continued to improve in quantity since. They were ten feet down when Mr. Haskins last wrote.

While some of the men are sinking the shaft others are whipsawing lumber ready for the installation of the plant which is now in Vancouver, where it has been made by the Vancouver Iron Works, and will be sent north as soon as it is sure it can be moved into the interior.

The machinery has all been packed in packages varying in weight from 150 to 250 pounds and is contained in 279 packages and is of the latest pattern of its kind. It is estimated that it will take 100 horses six weeks to transport these over the portage from Telegraph creek to Dease lake, a distance of seventy-four miles.

The first load to be sent across Dease lake and down the river will be the piping and rivets. With this load the machinists will go forward and get started at actual installation work on the ground, the balance of the machinery will follow in due course. The company hope to be able to get at least one month's run this season.

A word of warning to those who think of going into this country this year would not be amiss, and in this connection it would be well for the prospector to bear in mind that there are twenty-eight creeks without a claim staked on them, and therefore the danger of being "left" unless the country is reached at an early time of the season is very remote. The first boat does not leave Wrangel until about the 24th of next May, and until this boat does go there would be no possibility of any person buying any large quantity of provisions even at Laird post, and the provisions which have been taken in by the Rosella Company are not for sale at any price.

The gravel on Rosella was tested some years ago by two expert engineers sent out from England by the South African Syndicate. They reported most favorably, but shortly afterwards the Transvaal war broke out and during the Modder river operations, one of them, Mr. McGillivray, was killed; the other, Mr. Tennyson, died very suddenly at London, and nothing came of the visit. These gentlemen were on the creek for about six months, and made reports which sounded so exhorbitant in their estimate that sober-minded mining people laughed at them. However, the estimates have been proved to be under rather than over the mark.

THE UNTHINKABLE HEARST.

Was it Carlyle who called the Sultan "The Unspeakable Turk" in allusion to his habits and vices? An American newspaper has found a name for an editorial aspirant for the Presidential nomination whom it dubs "The Unthinkable Hearst." This ambitious editor, who has the Presidential bee buzzing in his bonnet, is an enormously rich man. He is said to be worth $10,000,000 in his own right, and when his mother dies he will have $20,000,000 more to add to what he now has. The poorhouse would seem to be a long way off from Mr. Hearst, and it is safe to say that he will never be the recipient of eleemosynary aid. In addition to his vast private fortune, which is mostly invested in old mines found and exploited by his wise old father, Hearst is the publisher of yellow newspapers. He owns one in New York, another in Chicago and a third in San Francisco, and is preparing to publish another in St. Louis. His politics are Democratic and it has been given out that he will expend $5,000,000 to capture the nomination at the Democratic convention which will meet the coming summer at St. Louis. If money will accomplish the end sought to be attained—and it often does—Hearst will receive the nomination. To give an idea of the amount of wealth controlled by Hearst and his mother, it is only necessary to say that a few years ago Widow Hearst presented the California University with $30,000,000 and has plenty more in the bank for electioneering purposes. The mere mention of Hearst for the Presidency has excited the ire of competitive newspapers, and the term "Unthinkable Hearst" will adhere to him throughout the canvass, if not for the balance of his days.

LIGHTS COLLAPSE.

Brantford, March 16.—The city was in darkness last night caused by the collapse of the electric light plant due to water from Mohawk lake going over fields through holes in the embankment made by muskrats instead of going to supply power to electric light station.

CONSERVATIVES GAIN SEAT.

Charlottetown, P. E. I., March 16.—Bye-elections for the legislature were held in Charlottetown and Second Kings today and resulted in the capture of the latter constituency by the Conservatives, MacIsaac winning by a majority of 90. In Charlottetown Walberton (Liberal) was elected by 330.

KOOTENAY TOURIST PROMOTION.

Nelson, March 16.—The Kootenay Tourist Association, which has done such good work in past years, has reorganized for the season of 1904 and promises to be more useful than ever. The officers elected for the ensuing year are: President, John A. Turner; Vice president, T. G. Proctor; treasurer, J. M. Lay. The association will also commence an active advertising campaign to attract tourists to the Kootenays, where the fishing and hunting and the mountain climbing cannot be surpassed.

A LETTER FROM THE ENTERPRISE

Capt. Gillen Writes From Robinson Crusoe's Island in the South Pacific.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

Mr. Jones, the proprietor of the cigar store and labor bureau on Douglas street between Johnson and Pandora, has received a letter from Capt. William H. Gillen, the master of the sealing schooner Enterprise, which left here some months ago to try the southern seas for profitable sealing.

Capt. Gillen's letter was written when the schooner was anchored off the island of San Fernandez, and he says that the story of Robinson Crusoe is "no josh." He had visited the cave and found the rock shelves fitted with the spikes for the men into the crevices in the rocks to hang articles on. The ironwood posts of the bower, are also still in existence, says Capt. Gillen, though badly decayed, but they can be plainly traced.

The captain says that the schooner experienced some fearful weather after leaving Cape Flattery and for sixteen days they were buffeted and driven by a southwesterly gale, at the end of which time they found themselves 200 miles west of Cape Scott.

They then called at Clayoquot, and after a stay of one day proceeded south under easy sail and had splendid weather with light winds all the way.

Anchored in the same bay as the Enterprise were two other sealing schooners, one of which had 37 skins taken at two islands named St. Felix and St. Ambrose. The captain said seals were scarce on these islands, as they were not guarded. He also said there were about 150 people on the islands.

There is a small rookery on the island of San Fernandez and a large rookery on an island 36 miles west named Masafiura. Last year a seal was killed at San Fernandez with a brand which corresponded exactly with the brands on the Behring Sea seals. This had been sent especially packed to London and had been declared as a genuinely branded Behring Sea seal.

From San Fernandez the captain said they were going south to the straits of Magellan and he closed by saying that he fully expected the trip to prove a success.

QUESNEL FISH LADDER.

Probability That Important Fishing Question Will Be Settled Today.

Yesterday afternoon a reporter of the Colonist interviewed Premier McBride with reference to the alterations proposed at Quesnel Lake dam, for the facilitating of the passage of the salmon, a question which has been before the government for some time.

Hon. Mr. McBride said that Mr. G. A. Keefer and Mr. C. B. Sword had submitted their reports upon the matter to their several departments, and the provincial government was now awaiting a reply from Ottawa. It had been pointed out by Mr. J. B. Babcock, provincial fisheries commissioner, that the present trap is much too small for the purpose of allowing free passage to the salmon, and it is proposed to erect a suitable ladder which will enable sockeye and coho salmon to pass easily.

As has often been pointed out, Quesnel Lake and the tributary streams form a very important portion of the entire spawning area visited by the salmon, and it is of the utmost importance that everything should be done to assist the fish to gain the lake. The provincial government held that the Dominion government as collector of the licenses, should see to the proper accommodation for the fish, and it has finally been agreed that the Dominion government will undertake this work, the cost of construction of the dam to be deducted from the amount due to the province when a settlement of the fishery question is reached.

The provincial government expect to receive from Ottawa today a definite reply to the proposition which has been made.

THE PREMIER RETURNS.

Hon. Richard McBride, Premier, returned to Victoria on Sunday evening from an extended tour of the Lillooet district. He expressed himself to a representative of the Colonist as exceedingly well pleased with the prospects and conditions in that great district. Two meetings were held, one at Lillooet and the other at Clinton, and there could not be a shadow of a doubt as to the strong sentiment prevailing throughout the whole district in favor of the government. Hon. Mr. McBride got a most hearty welcome at both towns, and his exposition of the policy of the government was warmly applauded. The usual questions were asked by the electors and were answered.

The government will have a strong candidate in the field in Lillooet, and it is perfectly safe to regard that constituency as safe and sound for the government. The people of Lillooet expressed everywhere satisfaction with the course followed by the government during the recent session of the legislature, and the wise policy of Hon. Mr. McBride and his colleagues was warmly approved by all the speakers at the various public meetings.

The weather throughout the trip was cold but bracing, and rather added to the enjoyment of travel.

PROPOSAL FOR REDUCTION.

Pittsburg, March 15.—A proposition has been submitted by the American Sheet and Tin Plate Company to the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers, for a general reduction from the association wage scale of 20 per cent and the company agrees to put all of its idle plants in operation as soon as the association accepts the terms.

A GENTLE HINT.

"And that," said Mr. Staylate, concluding his tiresome story, "was how my mother became interested in the Home for the Aged Widows."

"Speaking of homes," remarked Miss Patience, yawning ostentatiously, "doesn't that word 'home' appeal to you and make you feel there is no place like it?"—Philadelphia Press.

Growth of B. C.'s Fruit Industry

Hon. J. H. Turner Contributes a Fine Article To a London Journal.

This Province a Splendid Field For British Capital and Enterprise.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

To the Canadian Gazette (London), in its issue of February 25, Hon. J. H. Turner, agent-general in England for this province, contributes the following article under the caption, "The Growth of British Columbia's Fruit Industry":

"Some sixty years ago British Columbia began to be opened to the world by the traders and trappers of the Hudson's Bay Company, who took with them to that far-distant land the laws and customs of the Mother Country, and almost at once introduced there those habits of home life that are so characteristic of the British race. It appears that very shortly after the settlement was started at Camosun—now called Victoria—the settlers began to cultivate fruits, and orchards of apples, pears, plums and cherries were planted out. Where the fruit trees were brought from the writer has never learned; it is certain, however, that no great care was taken in selecting varieties, as was proved in later years by the poor quality of much of the product.

"After 1896, when, owing to the rush of gold miners to the country, the towns of Victoria and New Westminster began to assume some importance, and better private residences were built, nursery gardens were started by competent men, one of whom at least was highly qualified for his profession, and fine fruit trees and ornamental shrubs were imported from Britain. Amongst the latter were hawthorns and hollies, which have grown so luxuriantly and are so beautiful, particularly around New Westminster and in Vancouver Island, where, too, in certain gardens there are thriving today apple trees of this importation that have been in steady bearing for at least thirty years, the Ribston Pippins, especially, never having had a poor year, and the true Hawthornden being nearly as productive. None of the later introductions are equal to these for perfect quality, rich flavor and suitability for eating or cooking. The result of the early experiment proved conclusively that British Columbia was suited for fruit growing, but no attempt on any considerable scale was made to grow for the market until about ten years ago, when large orchards were planted in the Okanagon and other secretions. As these came into bearing and the fruit was found to be absolutely perfect, mercantile fruit growing began to attract the attention of horticulturists. The opening up of many mines in different parts of the province provided a ready market for the products and gave a great impetus to the industry—so much so, that hundreds of thousands of trees are now planted yearly in the Okanagon, Boundary, Lillooet and Westminster districts, and on Vancouver Island and the islands of the gulf.

"The fruit growers have no difficulty in disposing of their crop, as there is not only the large local demand in the mining districts already referred to, but of still greater importance, the immense Northwest Territories and Manitoba, where population is increasing so rapidly, but where practically no fruit is grown, these great provinces being the wheat fields, where, in the near future—with proper encouragement—all the grain that the Mother Country requires can well be grown.

"For farmers with a little capital—men of industry—there is no more attractive business than that of fruit growing and dairying in so beautiful and healthy a country as British Columbia. They have no necessity to experiment there, for it is already demonstrated that the crop is certain and the quality of the finest. The government of the province has passed many acts for the encouragement of the fruit grower and agriculturist—and very strict regulations have been enforced to eradicate noxious insect pests from the orchards and to prevent their introduction from other countries, and so successful have they proved that British Columbia's orchards are almost free from these drawbacks, that have proved so detrimental in Oregon and California.

"It will be readily realized how rapidly fruit growing is coming to the front in British Columbia from the fact, that, though just in its infancy, yet in 1903 the shipment of fruit amounted to some 2,992 tons, and the value of the total crop was in excess of £100,000.

"The British Columbia agricultural department has arranged, in connection with the Fruit Growers' Association and other kindred associations, for courses of lectures, with practical illustrations, on the best methods of cultivation and packing for market, and also for instruction on the suitable varieties of fruit for the various districts, and publishes regularly reports and bulletins for the information of agriculturists. These can be obtained at the office of the agent-general, Salisbury House, Finsbury Circus, where also specimens of the products of the province can be seen."

Commenting on the above, the Canadian Gazette says, editorially:

"The Hon. J. H. Turner presents our readers this week with an interesting narrative of the growth of British Columbia's fruit industry. There is no section of Canada where fruit growing should better repay the expenditure of care, capital, and, be it added, brains. As Mr. Turner says, the beauty and healthfulness of the province make it a peculiarly attractive field for British enterprise in both fruit growing and dairying. There is no need to experiment, for the crop is certain and the quality of the fruit of the finest. We wish Mr. Turner and the British Columbia government every success in their endeavors to make the advantages of the province better known in this country."

THE UNATTAINABLE.

Washington, D. C., March 16.—The Imperial Russian minister of finance has offered a prize of 30,000 roubles ($25,750), to the person or persons who will invent some way of making alcohol undrinkable, reports B. H. Warner, jun., consul at Leipsic.

AUTOMOBILES FOR FIREMEN.

New York, March 16.—Favorable action has been taken by the board of aldermen to purchase two automobiles for the fire department. They are to cost not more than $4,000 each, one for the use of Fire Chief Croker, in Manhattan; the other for the deputy chief in charge of the Brooklyn and Queens departments. The machines will be used by the chiefs in making fast runs from their headquarters to answer important alarms.

PROTECTION FOR AMERICANS.

Washington, D. C., March 16.—The state department will be willing to give consideration, and probably approval, to any suggestions coming from Minister Conger or United States Consul Miller at New Chwang respecting the detention of the United States gunboat Helena at that place provided it is made to appear that by remaining the ship can give the necessary protection to American lives and property. Otherwise the state department will make no request to have the navy department's instructions, to withdraw the ship, repealed.

NO MATERIAL.

"I know it sounds heartless," said Rivers, "but I can't help feeling a bit sorry for this misguided tornado that cavorted up and down and all over the state of Nevada the other day trying to kill somebody and couldn't find anybody to kill."—Chicago Tribune.

OUTRAGE ON DECENCY.

Augusta, March 15.—Former Lieut.-Governor James H. Tillman, recently acquitted of murder for the killing of Editor Gonzales, of Columbia, S. C., announces his candidacy for Congress in an interview in the Augusta Chronicle. He will stand for the seat vacated by the death of Colonel G. W. Croft, who was Tillman's leading counsel in the murder trial.

RUSSIAN REFUGEES.

New York, March 16.—The Hamburg-American liner Bluecher which arrived today brought 1,760 steerage passengers, the majority of whom were refugees who fled to avoid army service. Some of them were camped for two weeks near the frontier awaiting a chance to get away, one relator saying that his party consisting of 177 waited twelve days in a thicket a short distance from the line while negotiations were in progress with the customs guards to let them cross the frontier. Another said his party of ten were concealed for four days in the hay and straw stacks of the frontier where they eventually crossed into Prussia. It was said that there are thousands along the frontier waiting for a chance to get across without passports.

ARE NOW TREATING FOUR DOLLAR ORE

Great Success at Rossland of the Oil Concentration Process.

(Rossland World.)

The second ordinary general meeting of the Canadian Ore Concentration, Limited, took place on February 22nd at Salisbury House, London Wall. Mr. Ernest E. Sayer, who presided, said that the royalties from orders already placed and now being executed should, as soon as they came into force, more than company's expenditure. Any fresh orders would therefore, represent profits, and these, though not yet in sight, could not be very far off. The Le Roi No. 2 decided upon the erection of a two-unit plant to treat 50 tons daily. The opinion on its working was set forth in the report of that company, and, though favorable, did the barest justice to the plant. Of course, only when plant to be for about ten units, was erected, treating suitable ore of $7 or $8, instead of $4, as at present, could the full advantage of the process be obtained.

Mr. Stanley Elmore had spent several weeks in Canada, with very satisfactory results to the company. Orders have been secured for the White Bear mine at Rossland, the Massey mine in Ontario, and others are in negotiation for plants. If number of plants in operation increased in proportion to what had been done within the last few months, the company should soon be in a prosperous condition. Mr. Elmore added that with the permission of Lord Ernest Hamilton, chairman of the Le Roi No. 2, he was able to give the result of the working of the plant at that mine. The oil loss was 103 gallons per ton or ore treated; there was a concentration of sixteen tons into one; the final tailing assay was three-fourths of a dwt. of gold, and less than ¼ oz. of silver per ton, and one-tenth of one per cent of copper, which must be regarded as being very satisfactory. The report was unanimously adopted.

In regard to the experimental plant erected for Le Roi No. 2 at Rossland, the chairman was able to state that $2 per ton should be the very outside cost of working, even at such an expensive place as Rossland, and with the present small plant. With regard to the oil consumption, although it was originally estimated at 1½ gallons per ton, since the works have started it has been reduced to very slightly over one gallon.

To show the advantages which are gained by increasing the plant, the inventor stated that with a 6 or 8 unit plant, oil, royalty, all charges should not greatly exceed 3s. per ton. The adoption on a large scale of an economical concentrator process such as this in the Rossland mines will so greatly benefit the mining industry generally in that province that the satisfactory statements made at this meeting will be read with great interest in Canada.

WINDY TATOOSH.

Bleak Spot Where Most of Coast Shipping News Originates.

The point of greatest importance in the Northwest, as far as the weather bureau is concerned, is Tatoosh island. At the head of the straits is this little barren piece of earth. It contains not more than seventeen acres of rocky ground. It is swept by every gale that lashes the waters of the Northern Pacific ocean. It is at one time or another the centre of every storm that ravishes the Washington coast. It stands lonely and isolated, defying the winds and the waves. Yet to every section of the United States a message from it is daily sent, and the importance of that message not to be underrated.

At Tatoosh is situated the most westerly station of the weather department. Indeed, two of the four inhabitants of the island are in the weather bureau service. The life that these men must perforce lead are devoid of all those things that are ordinarily accounted necessary for the pleasures of life.

They rise at half past four in the morning, take the various observations required, cable the results to the mainland, care for their instruments throughout the day, note the vessels sailing in and out of the straits, make the same observations in the afternoon as in the morning, prepare the evening meal and then to bed to rise on the morrow and repeat the same monotonous routine. Of this daily grind, the arrival once a week of the Indian canoe with the mail and provisions mark the only interruption. It makes the only excitement and creates the only sensation, and, when as last week, a thing so extraordinary as the overturning of that canoe occurs, the affair becomes the topic for innumerable discussions. The wind, the waves breaking on the shore, the booming of the surf, the shriek of the wind, the whistle of the passing steamer comprise the score of the islanders' operas. Yet the crash of the waves against the rocks and the moaning sobs of the wind must at last grate on the ears. The longing for the music of man, for the lights and laughter and life of a city sometimes grow insistent and the departmental headquarters is besought for a transfer to some more favorably located station.—Tacoma Ledger.

NATURAL GAS EXPLOSION.

Weeks Building and Causes Panic Among Employers.

Buffalo, N. Y., March 16.—Sixty girls employed at the Ontario Biscuit Works on Watson street, were thrown into a panic late this afternoon when a terrific explosion wrecked the building. The walls of the building were bulged outwards and the joists were snapped in two, causing the floors to sag. Fortunately the stairway remained intact and the girls escaped. Edward Howe, superintendent; John Ferguson, foreman, and Burt Fluff, a baker, were burned and bruised. Howe may die and it is feared Huff may lose his eyesight. The explosion was caused by a leakage of natural gas, which was used as fuel in the plant. The loss of the building will amount to $70,000.

Returns of the receipts from shipping on the Suez canal in January show an increase on the year from $1,663,575 to $1,836,000.

Another Successful Attempt Reported

The French Correspondent Announces Obstruction of Port Arthur Entrance.

Reinforcements For Russian Fleet Will Proceed East in May.

Paris, March 13.—The Tokio correspondent of the Gaulois reports that another successful attempt to obstruct the entrance to Port Arthur harbor has been made by the Japanese.

The Petit Parisien publishes a despatch from St. Petersburg this morning saying that a Russian squadron composed of the battleships Oslabia, Slava and Alexander III., the cruisers D'Mitri Donski and Aurora and a number of torpedo and submarine vessels will go to the Far East in May. Two submarine boats are being constructed at Port Arthur, the correspondent continues, and six are being built on the Neva.

According to the St. Petersburg correspondent of Echo De Paris, General Pouilvanoff, manager of the Russky Invalid of St. Petersburg, said in an interview that Russia was prepared to make every sacrifice to punish the Japanese and she has not underestimated the enemy, whose fighting qualities are undoubtedly considerable. The general expects serious fighting on the Yalu river in a few weeks time.

LOST MEMORY EPIDEMIC.

Some Strange Stories of So-Called "Word Blindness."

"What are the causes of apparently healthy persons suddenly losing their identity?" was a question which a celebrated brain specialist dealt with yesterday in the hope that the results of his researches and his advice might prove of benefit to the public.

The physician recalled some remarkable cases of what are known as "physchical changes" which have recently come to his notice, including the experience of a gentleman who a few days ago was in Chancery Lane, London. He recovery-lane and announced to an astonished official that "he did not know who he was, as he had lost his memory."

Another case was that of a young lady who wandered from home at Clacton to Finsbury, a distance of thirty miles, and furnished to the police at the latter place a name which she thought was her father's. A telegram, however, sent to that address was returned "unknown."

A third illustration of these curious psychological phenomena was that of a clergyman who, after receiving from his bank a substantial sum of money with which to complete the purchase of a piece of land, entered a tramway car. From that moment his mind became a blank, and he wandered 200 miles to a large town, where with the money he bought a stationer's shop and erected a sign bearing the name of "Brown."

After six weeks a customer entered, and, addressing the man behind the counter as "Mr. Brown," asked to be supplied with some small article of stationery. The proprietor replied that his name was not Brown, but Bourne, and that he knew nothing about the business.

The man had suddenly awakened from his prolonged lapse of memory," added the physician.

No less remarkable was the case of a London man who traveled to Leeds to get a situation which he had been very anxious to obtain. He had a brief and satisfactory interview with his employer, and then went to look for lodgings. The next thing the man remembered was being in a train at Grantham on his way back to London.

The strange feature of this case was that the unconscious man had carefully and accurately re-labelled his luggage so as to indicate he had previously occupied in London.

"As a matter of fact," explained the physician, "these persons behave in quite a rational way, although they are really unconscious all the time. They spend money carefully and eat and sleep with their customary regularity. They are but partly mentally deficient.

"The brain is commonly regarded as a single organ. It is in reality a collection of parts, different and distinct but closely related to each other, and connected with every portion of the body by nerves. In non-technical phraseology certain of these cerebral sub-divisions become impaired where cases of 'lost identity' occur.

"In cases where the sight of a printed word fails to revive memory, the disease is known as 'word blindness,' and instances when a word spoken is not appreciated, but the same word written stimulates the memory are known as 'word deafness.' The latter patients are able to utter a sound, and yet can write very intelligent letters. The auditory word-centre of the brain refuses to act.

"Again, there are cases where people are not capable of either speaking or writing the words which they nevertheless remember. Hence a large number of lost persons who cannot furnish the authorities with their own names.

"Very common are the cases where persons forget events that have just occurred and yet retain excellent impressions of things that happened years ago and impart knowledge which was acquired in their childhood and has long been forgotten. One man who was professionally treated could not remember his own name, but could recite whole chapters of the Bible.

"The development of many of these cases could be checked," preceeded the doctor, "if their friends sought timely advice. 'Memory' is regulated by the amount of attention which a person is able at the time to give to the subject to be remembered. This power of attention is greatly diminished by disease. An ill-nourished body implies an ill-nourished brain. Malnutrition is a frequent cause of brain failure and consequent 'loss of identity.'

"Various fevers, influenza, and all kinds of mental shock and blows upon the head may have these unfortunate results. Over-work, especially when accompanied by business worries or domestic anxiety, is a factor to be reckoned with. But, above all, the persons most liable to sudden 'loss of identity' are those of an epileptic tendency, although it is difficult to reconcile a protracted lapse of memory with this cause."

"No fewer than 34,000 persons are 'lost' in London every year, and Scotland-yard has been called upon to deal with as many as 2,000 such cases in the course of a week.—London Daily Mail.

JEWELS FOR LENT.

Amethysts and Crosses Are the Fancy of Fashion.

The religious obligations of Lent demand that women shall wear at quiet restaurant dinners and theatre parties informal evening dress or demi-toilette, with a high-necked bodice, instead of one cut low as for ceremonious affairs.

This year there is a demand for Lenten jewelery as well as Lenten frocks. Formerly the demi-toilette was considered more correct without the addition of gems, and very frequently it was composed of jet in order that the absence of jewelery might not be unduly noticeable. Now, however, gems are worn morning, noon and night, and even Lent will not be exempt from a display of ornaments.

Very appropriately—for purple is the Lenten color—amethysts are the vogue of this year, and have been selected as the stone to be worn during the next forty days. Their beauty has been asserting itself in the country very promptly since Queen Helen of Italy wore her splendid set at Windsor castle during the visit paid last autumn by the Italian Monarchs.

Moreover, the Queen has markedly demonstrated her appreciation of the gems. At the royal wedding last week she wore a dazzlingly beautiful set of amethysts and diamonds, and to her god-daughter, Miss Alexandra Fellowes, upon her marriage to Captain Stanley, Her Majesty's present was a pendant of diamonds and amethysts.

The Queen has bought many amethysts in Edinburgh and at Balmoral, thus perpetuating the custom made by Queen Victoria, who was a ready purchaser of all Scottish gems, and particularly of Scottish pearls. Amethysts are found in the Higher Grampian mountains, but until lately have less often been set in the company of diamonds than alone in gold. The pure white lustre of the diamond very potently enhances the rich purple of the amethyst, especially when used in the rim of a large stone or a surrounding lattice or sun-ray to reveal its color.

Since the election of the new Pope the cross has been revived as a favorite ornament and as a Lenten jewel is going to achieve as much popularity as it possessed half a century ago, when it was worn in Whitby jet as a pendant to a string of jet beads by nine fashionable women out of ten. Diamonds are the chosen stones of which it is formed now, and diamond crosses will be given to many girl candidates for confimation as a momento of their first Communion at Easter.—London Daily Mail.

A LABOR WARD IN THE HOSPITAL

Practically Assured That Room Will Be Endowed by Local Unions.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

The regular meeting of the Victoria Trades and Labor Council took place last evening, President Yarrow in the chair.

Credentials were presented by Miss Tomie, delegate from the Laundry Workers' Union, and Geo. W. Penketh, as delegate from the Boiler Makers' Union.

The secretary reported that, up to date, the following unions had contributed to the "organized labor fund" for the purpose of furnishing a room in the Strathcona wing of the Royal Jubilee hospital: Laborers' Union, $10; Painters' Union, $10; Boiler Makers' Helpers, $5; Shipwrights' Union, $10; Stonecutters' $10. There is no doubt that as the unions hold their meetings the fund will continue to grow until the entire amount is subscribed.

Chairman Jonson, of the organizing committee, reported that the Laundry Workers' Union was making good progress; that with a few exceptions all the employees of both steam laundries were members of the union and that steps were about being taken by which both would have the use of the union label.

The 1904 Labor Union Directory was endorsed by the council.

The organization committee was instructed to devote attention to the Retail Clerks' Union, and, if necessary, to render them every assistance in widening their sphere of influence.

The secretary was instructed to write the Montreal Trades and Labor Council and ask if the council was represented directly on the board of trade.

The executive committee were instructed to interview the mayor and aldermen to see if the city could not make an arrangement with Mr. James Dunsmuir so that the E. & N. railway bridge could be kept open day and night, as it would be a great convenience, especially to workingmen. The council was informed that at one time Mr. Dunsmuir had expressed his willingness if the council would contribute the sum of $15.00 per month towards paying extra help.

The council then adjourned.

SOMETHING NEW.

Woman Furnishes Theme for Novel Idea to a Wise College Professor.

Professor Hatfield of Northwestern university is credited with advancing and championing the idea of adding the study of woman's ways and whims to the curriculum of that institution.

And he is credited also with taking the very sensible view that since universities are intended to prepare young men life, and the pursuit of success largely into the lives of men, the least that the higher education can do and the most important thing that it can do, is to impart to the male students a scientific knowledge of the psychology of women.

If Northwestern university can do this successfully there can be no sort of doubt as to its success. It will have solve dthe problem of all the ages. We shall know at last—for the students can hardly keep it to themselves—why women say "no" when they mean "yes," why they say "don't" when they mean "do," why they step backward off street cars, and why they do a lot of other things that have been incomprehensible to men since the days of Adam.

Whether it will do male humanity any good to know why women do things that man is at present unable to understand, is a question. We are inclined to say off-hand that the less man knows about the mysterious ways of woman the better for himself. She is an adorable thing in the sight of sensible men now because they do not understand her. If they understand her as well, for example, as they understand each other, they might cease to find in her ways and whims, her moods and tenses that charm which always attaches to mystery.

A course of lectures on psychology of woman may result in teaching the Northwestern university students that a popular understanding of woman means the ability to understand that she cannot be understood, and with this possibility in view there is no reason why Professor Hatfield's idea should not be encouraged.—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

KENNEL CLUB SHOW.

Rochester, March 16.—The show of the Rochester Kennel Club opened today. The largest exhibits were in the Boston Terrier class. Part of the awards were made tonight. The Selwonk Kennels, Mass., divided honors with the Norfolk Kennels of Toronto in the wire-haired fox terrier class. Norfolk also split with the Sabine kennels of Grange, Texas, in smooth-coated fox terriers. Harry S. Watts of Toronto, captured the honors in the English sheep dog class. The judging will be completed tomorrow.

CHINESE ARMING.

Large Orders for Modern Rifles Received in Europe.

Washington, March 16.—B. H. Warner, jun., United States consul at Leipsic, Germany, writes to the American state department that an Austrian company has just received an order for so large an amount of small arms for the Chinese government that it will take the company several years to fill the order, even with additional forces of men to whom it has given employment. This is one of the many reports to the state department that both in Germany and Austria the arm makers have been busy supplying the Chinese modern arms and ammunition. The fact is attracting attention because it was provided in the treaty of Pekin, which closed the Boxer troubles, that for a term of years the importation of arms into China should be stopped absolutely.

The Huge Total Of the Estimates

Seventy Five Millions Are to Be Dealt With By Ottawa House.

Seventy Thousand For a New Quarantine Steamer at Victoria.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Ottawa, March 16.—The Senate and Commons today adopted the address in reply to the speech from the throne. Members of parliament favorable to Sabbath observance legislation had a caucus today.

The estimates for the next fiscal year were presented to parliament today. The total increase is $5,525,364. When the supplementaries are down the total appropriations will reach the colossal figure of $75,000,000.

The following are British Columbia items: Nanaimo public building, addition to, $14,000; Rossland armory, $21,000; Vancouver public building, $60,000; Anderson and Kennedy lakes, clearing outlet in $2,500; Columbia river above Revelstoke, removal of obstruction to navigation, $5,000; Colum