The Colonist.

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THE OPENING OF THE SESSION.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

This afternoon at 3 o'clock His Honor will formally call the members of the Legislative Assembly together for the business of the third session of the tenth legislature of British Columbia. The opening will be attended with the usual ceremonies, and in the King's Speech will be indicated some of the salient points of the government policy.

As was stated on a former occasion, the matters that are to come before the legislature this session are not of an unusually important character, and, therefore, not likely to unduly prolong the proceedings. We shall not be disappointed if the words to be placed in His Honor's mouth are characterized by brevity. Of course, there are many things in connection with the year just past that may be suitably referred to that are not directly related to the administrative record or to the government policy.

For instance, we should not be surprised to see reference made to the record in mineral output which was achieved in the year just closed, and the signs of prosperity which everywhere mark the progress of mining development. Nor would His Honor be adequately performing his duty on such an occasion, or at least taking full advantage of his opportunities, if cognizance were not had of the splendid success of the fruit exhibits of the provincial fruit-growers in London, Eng., and in the Northwest, and the remarkable progress that is being made by the fruit-growing industry generally. In this latter connection the government can, too, fairly claim some credit for its efforts, as the Minister of Agriculture has pursued an enterprising and a wise policy of encouragement. That his most pronounced political opponents will scarcely deny.

Then, again, if we take the lumber industry, it has almost entirely recovered from the temporary depression under which it was suffering as the result of overproduction on both sides of the line, and the consequent competition from American lumber in the Northwest. In fact, it may even be stated that the lumbering interests have experienced somewhat of a boom. That fact is significant from a political point of view only because the opposition claimed that the government legislation of last session would have the effect of throttling the industry, much in the same way that, although the farming community has been unusually prosperous, and long strides have been made in agricultural development, the farmers are said to be "downtrodden" and overburdened with taxation. That mining, lumbering and farming have gone on and are going on in the most satisfactory way possible is proof positive that the predicted fatal effects of the government's policy in regard to each have not materialized, and that opposition criticism has been without foundation and unwarranted.

In the present circumstances, a Speech from the Throne would naturally deal with the financial situation of the province, which at the present time is better than it has ever been before. With the exception of the small surplus of last year about which there has been some discussion as to whether it actually existed or not, British Columbia has a surplus for the first time in twenty-eight years, and then only for once. Not only has the government got a surplus, but a very substantial one. The careful husbanding of the finances by the present administration has restored confidence in the credit of the province, which has been completely re-established. Provincial securities stand high relatively with those of other countries, and as the result of the announcement sure to be made today, we have no doubt that they will advance one or more points. This condition of affairs must have its effect upon the investing public. A great deal has been said about advertising the province by the government, but the best way to attract attention in the circle most envied is to be WELL known.

The way to obtain capital for mines requiring development is to have dividend-paying mines in operation. To secure settlers in order to develop our vacant lands and grow fruit we should grow better fruit than any other country, and make it pay. To have the favor of capitalists we must show that our affairs are well and economically managed. Success succeeds best of all. If we talk a great deal about what our province can do, we should also do something. With our industries prosperous, our revenues increasing and our debt decreasing we are giving indubitable proof to the world of there being something more substantial than wind factories producing.

It would be difficult for the government to make a public expression of policy without in some way referring to railways and railway construction in British Columbia. We cannot remember offhand a speech from the throne for a long time that has not contained a positive announcement of some kind on the subject. An opening of the Legislature that was not signalized by such an announcement would be very much like the play of Hamlet without the enactment of the familiar title role. So we must expect that His Honor will give the subject attention, if in no other way than to call attention to the amount of railway construction at present in progress and to what is promised as fairly certain. We have on previous occasions dealt with the question of a railway policy and with the views which were expressed the public are fairly familiar. That British Columbia cannot, without overburdening itself and largely increasing the taxation, extensively assist railways goes without saying. We must either give heavily of land or cash, and in either case it means the alienation of capital, either in the form of cash or something that can be turned into cash, and, therefore, the circumstances must be unusual and the inducements in the ways of benefits in return great to warrant it. The people of the province will welcome the time when, with the inrush of population and the traffic derivable from developed resources, there shall be no further necessity for considering the claims of those who seek subsidies in order to build lines of railway. Whether that time has yet nearly arrived is a question regarding which opinions may and probably do differ seriously.

Another matter which should have the attention of the government, and which we have understood for some time was under its consideration, is the amendment of the Land Act in several important respects. We have urged on the government particularly a more comprehensive and less expensive system of surveys in order to delimit at reasonable cost to the province the public lands available for settlement. In our opinion the system of survey suitable for the requirements indicated does not involve triangulation of the province or a transit survey of the mountain tops or rugged hillsides. We should also like to see some steps taken towards dealing with the public lands in order that the lands available for settlement might be rendered more available than they are at the present time. We realize the difficulties connected with a policy of that kind in a province like ours, and if the government should undertake anything of the kind it would have the support of all classes in its efforts to make it a success.

With increasing revenues and decreasing debt, we should naturally look forward to larger public works being undertaken. On account of the demands heretofore on the treasury, in order to create much-desired equilibrium between revenue and expenditure, the government has been obliged since taking office to deny many requests for needed appropriations. There is naturally a limit to the period in which that unavoidable policy could prevail. We do not suppose the government would indicate its desire to meet such contingencies, in the Speech from the Throne, but it appeals to us as the corollary of a treasury with a substantial surplus. It is also natural to suppose that, with the increase of rural population prosperously employed, there should be desire for an extension of municipal government. It, in fact, has been expressed in many quarters, although not a few prefer the rule of the government to the sway of the municipal fathers. The President of the Council has, as it well known, strong views on the subject, and we should not be surprised if his influence be shown by some measure looking in that direction.

Some especial interest will attach to the proceedings today from the fact that it will in all probability be the last time that Sir Henri Joly will officiate in the capacity of lieutenant-governor, at least in the opening ceremonies, a fact which will be sincerely and generally regretted.

THE MANITOBA GOVERNMENT.

By a happy coincidence the Manitoba legislature opens on the same day as the legislature of British Columbia does. It was by the way, proposed to have the Ontario legislature convene about the same time, but it has been found necessary to postpone it. All three governments are Conservative, they are all in favor with the people, and all three are able to point to substantial surpluses.

The Manitoba government like that of the British Columbia government is said by its political opponents to be preparing for dissolution. Premier Roblin has made a statement, which is summarized in the Winnipeg Telegram. His policy is outlined as follows: There will be no dissolution after the session opening Thursday next, nor till after the four sessions legally proscribed. It is the purpose of the government to introduce a measure at the forthcoming session that will give Winnipeg an additional representative in the local house. That the financial affairs of the province are in a splendid condition and that this year there will be a record surplus to its credit. That the government is fully alive to, and concerned in, the feeling of the province in the direction of temperance reform, and as a first measure is prepared to segregate the traffic of intoxicating liquors in the city of Winnipeg by clearly demarcating the area in which it shall be carried on, and thus providing that the evil shall not invade the residential districts and suburbs.

MUNICIPAL "ISSUES."

When asked by a correspondent what were the issues in the coming municipal contest, the Colonist replied that there were no "issues." Of course, that was not intended to be accepted in an absolutely literal sense, as even in the conduct of a joint stock company, or of any other corporate body, there are always questions of policy involved. However, the impression we desired to convey was that there were no outstanding questions or sharply defined issues of importance at stake. The waterworks question cannot be regarded as an issue in the present election campaign, as the litigation that has been instituted must drag its weary way through the courts before the subject comes fairly before the electors again. There are important legal questions in connection to be decided finally and it is not all likely that an appeal will will stop short of the judicial committee of the Privy Council.

What we were anxious to point out was that it was careful business management that is required on the part of the council and not a parade of high-sounding policy. Municipal business is practically the same as the business of a joint-stock company. It deals largely, though not wholly, with the material interests of the ratepayers. Those who talk longest and loudest on the platform usually do least in office that is of substantial advantage to the city. Issues are being introduced into the municipal campaign which have very little to do with the welfare of the community. We hear a great deal about "corporate influence," of "public utilities," and other familiar phrases, which mean much or little according to the constructive genius of those who use them. As bandied about in politics they amount as a rule to mere babble. What it amounts to at the present time we cannot imagine. The city owns its waterworks and its own electric light. It cannot take over anything else if it wanted to, without paying exorbitantly for it. When it comes to a question of "graft," the opportunities in connection with government ownership, when you have a community in which public opinion has not attained to the high standard of an old country town, are ten to one as compared with private ownership. You do not change the moral standards of the community by changing the "policy." In other words, you don't make men honest by legislative programmes.

What we want now above everything else is careful, business management, which means the selection of the best business men available. As outlined in a previous editorial, "the aim ought to be to be careful of the resources of the ratepayers, enterprising where enterprise will pay, jealous of the good name of the city, and just to all sections of Victoria." A programme of that nature affords all the security the ratepayers can possibly have. There are no dangers attaching to honest and economical management, whether we have public or private ownership.

If we have any serious issues in the present municipal campaign they arise out of the dangers of the socialistic programme being advocated by certain of the candidates. We do not want more experiments of that nature. We have had sufficient experience of those both in municipal and provincial affairs. It is the manifest duty of those who have an interest in the city's welfare to make certain that there shall be no opportunity to experiment at the city's expense, even if it be in the hopes of bringing about the millenium.

A PORTFOLIO OF MINES.

The Toronto Globe approves of the proposal of a portfolio of mines being created for the purpose of locating Senator Templeman definitely in the cabinet. This is doubtless to avoid trouble in the East by disturbing the present representation. Quebec having obtained a certain number of ministers will not willingly give up its advantage even if the West has to go without recognition. This solution of the difficulty in which the government finds itself is not at all satisfactory to British Columbia, and should not be accepted as a solution.

The Globe makes the suggestion, referred to some days ago in the Colonist as a possibility, that the Geological survey should be handed over to the minister of mines, inasmuch as the department of the interior is already overburdened with work, and in that connection we have it intimated that experimental work might be done in the application of electricity in the smelting of iron ores and the treatment of zinc. There are also, if we might be permitted to add, problems in New Ontario in connection with cobalt and nickel, and it is possible that there is a much wider field in that connection than is even contemplated by the writer in the Globe. There is, as well, the direction of the mint, which, though a subject more particularly connected with finance, might be included. As we said in a former article, a portfolio having such a range of jurisdiction might be useful. Seeing, however, that all these matters are already attended to by one department or another, is it necessary that a new portfolio should be created for the purpose? We may point out that in the United States the mining interests, which are as yet more important than they are in Canada, are in charge of the Secretary of the Interior. But assuming that it is desirable that there should be another portfolio added on the lines suggested does it not presuppose certain qualifications that Senator Templeman does not possess? Has he paid sufficient attention to the problems he would be called upon to solve to make an experimental and highly scientific work a success? If, on the other hand, it is contended that the technical qualifications are required not in the minister but in his deputy or his chief experts, wherein lies the necessity for the minister at all? Have we not the Geological Survey to look after that, as they have in the United States?

The point in the whole situation as it at present exists is that the suggestion comes from Quebec to prevent that province, which is already over-represented in the cabinet, from losing its present pull. Irrespective of any question of the creation of a new portfolio, British Columbia is entitled to recognition, provided there is cabinet material to draw from, by having allotted to it the department of marine and fisheries, or one of the existing portfolios. It is a question of principle and not of expediency. The mere suggestion of creating a new office to satisfy the West amounts to an insult and should not be tolerated. The question of whether there should be a minister of mines should be decided upon its merits. If it be desirable, it should also, on any basis of sectional apportionment, come to the West. Three ministers west of the great lakes are what we should regard as the minimum of our requirements. In that we are thoroughly in accord with the Winnipeg Free Press.

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AN EPIDEMIC OF GLANDERS.

There is a serious epidemic of glanders in the province, and the steps taken by the government to exterminate the disease are the subject of considerable feeling and discussion in the upper country. We note by the Armstrong Advertiser, just to hand, that Dr. Tolmie, veterinary inspector, had delivered a lecture there, at which over 200 farmers were present. He is reported to have made the statement that a large majority of the horses in Okanagan and Vancouver are affected. As glanders is a highly infectious disease, and it has been declared to be incurable, there is no safety against its spread, except in the destruction of the animals affected. The destruction of so many horses as are apparently afflicted means a serious loss to individual owners. Farmers in the Okanagan are naturally somewhat excited over the prospects, as is evidenced by the numbers who came to hear Dr. Tolmie's lecture. One Joseph Dunn, described by the reporter as a "descendant of Brian Boru," showed signs of being very much "agin the government," and stated excitedly that "Dr. Tolmie was out on a raid against Irish blood." He protested that the slaughter of all their horses would kill the country. It was evident that the lecturer had to remove a good deal of prejudice and misapprehension in order to satisfy the people, which, according to the report, he was successful in doing before he got through.

The inspector made a few statements which are interesting to laymen and most important to the farming community. He said glanders was contagious only to the horse, mule and ass. It could easily be communicated to man. Goats and sheep could obtain it only by inoculation, while pigeons and swine were almost immune. Cattle and rats were altogether free from the disease, and in this connection the doctor gave a little sound advice. If a suspected horse comes on to your ranch, put him in the cow house. There is no danger whatever to the cattle.

Dr. Tolmie explained to his hearers the nature of "mallein," used as a test by injection. The farmers had been afraid of the test for fear of the introduction of the disease, and also for fear of creating symptoms in reaction that might be mistaken for the real thing. They were assured that it was absolutely impossible to introduce the bacilli of glanders by the use of mallein, and that where there was no glanders there was no reaction and no rise of temperature. He further proceeded to state that

The bacillus mallei cannot live outside the animal body for more than four months. There are two kinds of glanders—the acute and the chronic. The chronic, which is here prevalent, may develop into the acute. In chronic glanders, where the lungs are affected, there is no sign but a cough, and when it is known that the disease is also found in the spleen and liver, it will be seen that a case is often difficult of diagnosis.

Some of the signs of glanders are a glutinous discharge—yellowish in color—from one or both nostrils, which becomes thick and pus-like. Presence of little ulcers in the nose and other places, glands hard and swollen, and a high fever.

Glanders is dangerous to man as well as to beast. An instance was cited of where a man in Ottawa rubbed some of the discharge on his nose and died in a few days. In concluding Dr. Tolmie said he was as much a lover of good horses as anyone there present, and deprecated their wholesale slaughter, but there could be no half measures. He had received instructions from the department of agriculture that the regulations must be carried out.

In the upper country there is an element of danger which is hard to deal with. There are bands of wild horses, and the disease, if introduced among them, would be obviously difficult to stamp out. Some correspondents to the local newspapers advocate the wholesale killing of these horses, and, for this purpose, the government offering a bounty on them. On this point Dr. Tolmie stated that horses on the range were not so liable to contagion as those in the stables, a fact in favor of the "open air treatment" of disease. It seems possible that disease in this way could be indefinitely perpetuated, with an ever-existing menace to domesticated animals.

We observe also that Dr. McPhillips, in one of the Vancouver papers, severely criticizes the careless use of the hypodermic needle in making the mallein test. That is to say, that the needle is not sterilized after use, and that the parts of the body are not antiseptically treated after the injection. In consideration of the interests at stake it seems highly important that every precaution possible should be taken to prevent and to eradicate the disease. The unfortunate owners of affected animals will have the sympathy of the public, and the pity is that in the interests of the public they must suffer loss. There can be no help for it, however.

NOVA SCOTIA PROSPEROUS.

The Halifax Morning Chronicle of January 1 contains a review of the industries of the province of Nova Scotia for 1905, and an estimate of the value of the entire products. Assuming that the estimate has been fairly arrived at, it gives evidence of great prosperity. It furthermore shows that the older provinces are holding their own in the production of wealth with the western provinces. We are apt to overlook their industrial importance while our eyes are so intently fixed on Manitoba and the West. It will interest readers from the old province on the Atlantic to study the returns as they appear in the Chronicle, a summary of which is as follows:

Coal	$11,250,000
Coke	650,000
Gold	320,000
Iron ore	80,000
Other minerals	620,000
Pig iron	3,500,000
Steel	3,800,000
Steel rails	1,500,000
Fisheries	9,000,000
Ships and freights	350,000
Manufactures	42,000,000
Field crops	9,000,000
Fruits and vegetables	2,900,000
Live stock sold	1,100,000
Dairy products	3,100,000
Meats, etc.	1,600,000
Wool and eggs	700,000
Products of the forest	3,200,000
Total	$94,670,000

It will also be interesting to make comparisons with British Columbia. It must be kept in mind that the foregoing is an estimate, and that there are some doubts as to how it is made up. For instance, we note that $3,500,000 is given as the value of the pig iron product and that $3,800,000 is given as $1,500,000 as the value of the steel rails manufactured. Whether the pig iron in question was used in the manufacture of steel, and the steel again in the manufacture of steel rails, we cannot say. If so, it makes some difference to the totals; but accepting it as it is, we have a total of $94,670,000 for a total population of 460,000, or roundly $140 per head—very good indeed.

It is not possible to give exact figures for British Columbia any more than for Nova Scotia, but basing them on returns we already have and the production for other years, it is possible to give an approximate estimate. The statement would stand something like this:

Minerals	$21,000,000
Fisheries	3,000,000
Agriculture	6,000,000
Timber	3,000,000
Manufactures	5,000,000
Total	$44,000,000

Or assuming that the population at the present time is 220,000, exactly $200 a head. The sum put down for manufactures is a guess rather than an estimate, but it is probably under rather than over the mark. Therefore, the people of British Columbia, even though they were inclined to be jealous of their neighbors, which they are not, can afford to rejoice with their brethren on the Atlantic, and on the other side of the continent on the splendid showing they have made for the past year. Our satisfaction with our neighbors, in this instance, is all the greater from the fact that we have done even better than they have.

KILLING NO MURDER.

We all remember reading about the old Levellers of the Puritan period of England who taught that, in certain cases made and provided, killing was no murder. The exceptions to the right of people to serve out their natural term of life, barring accident, referred to crowned heads and other heads which, by virtue of wealth or rank, had unusual prominence in the social and political arena. This doctrine has come down to us through the centuries, supported always by some class of the community. Today the levellers are known as anarchists and nihilists. There are other forms of the doctrine, which from, time to time have had advocates, particularly in the scientific world. There have been men so bound up in the interests of pure science and so blinded to mercy by its requirements that they would not hesitate to sacrifice life to demonstrate a theory. One of the forms current is professed to be in the interests of humanity. It relates to the desirability of painlessly putting to an end those whose sufferings are very great and whose recovery from illness is impossible. The proposed victims of this species of sacrifice are the hopelessly insane, the hopelessly diseased and the victims of accident. Curiously enough, two of the most modern theorists on this question have been women—Miss Agnes S. Hall of Cincinnati and Mrs. Maud Ballington Booth. The very latest is Dr. C. E. Norton, professor of literature at Harvard and once a friend of Longfellow and Lowell, both humanitarians of the first water. In an address to Miss Hall, headed "An Appeal to Reason as Well as Compassion," he states that the principle that it is a duty to preserve every human life as long as possible has heretofore been generally accepted, its main object being the sacredness of life, and has in doctrine and practice been pressed too far. "There is no ground," he contends, "to hold every human life as invaluably sacred and to be preserved, no matter with what results to the individuals or to others. On the contrary, there are cases to which every reasonable consideration urges that the end should be put. Setting aside all doubtful cases, no right-thinking man would hesitate to give a dose of laudanum, sufficient to end the suffering and life together, to the victim of an accident, from the torturing effects of which recovery was impossible, however many hours of misery might be added to conscious life by stimulants or surgical operations.

"No, nor should a reasonable man hesitate to hasten death in the case of a mortal disease, such, for example, as cancer, when it has reached the stage of incessant severe pain and when the patient desires to die."

Another hypothetical case is that of an old man, "whose mind has become a chaos of wild imaginations productive of constant distress not only to the sufferer but to all who live with him and attend him." The prolonging of life in all such cases is held to be mere criminal cruelty, and the result of superstition deeply rooted in tradition. These arguments are not entirely new to the world, but have not gained popularity for the reason that they are opposed to human instincts, the hardest kind of obstacle to overcome. Few persons will deny that in theory there is much to be said in favor of Dr. Norton's views. In each of our experiences there have been instances of sufferers, without hope of amelioration of their sufferings, in which we have felt that they would have been better dead than living. Probably many a sufferer has secretly prayed for death, and would gladly have absolved a physician for ending his existence.

But since human history has been recorded, the right of a man to live out his life has been recognized. The principle is held as inviolable that no man shall exercise power over another man's life. Man was brought into life according to the laws of nature, and by an equally immutable law he must depart from life. That is axiomatic of our very being. Defiance of the principle means murder, and has always constituted murder among civilized nations. Once we depart from it we open the door to endless dangers. Once clothe a physician with authority to take away life in certain justifiable cases and we begin to build a new chamber of horrors for the future and write new pages in the calendar of crime.

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H. WHITAKER,
Seechelt, B. C.

January 10, 1906. ja11

POULTRY AND LIVESTOCK

FOR SALE—50 brown Leghorns, last year's hens and pullets, including 1st and 3rd prize winners at Victoria, 1905; all hens laying, $1 each or lot at 75c. Hodgson, Galiano Island. ja5

WANTED—A young bull, about 18 months old; Durham preferred. Apply 430 Colonist. ja11

FOR IMMEDIATE SALE—Dairy cow in full milk (a profitable pet); grand heifer; to calve in March. Pekin drakes (Rankin). Address at Willows Hotel. ja11

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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

BORN

ALEXANDER—At Duncan, on the 9th instant, the wife of Jas. Alexander, of Ferndale, of a daughter.

LAWSON—On January 8, 1906, in the city of Victoria, the wife of C. A. Lawson, of a daughter.

MARRIED

WARD-KENNEDY—Married at Christ Church, Macleod, Alberta, on the evening of January 3, by the Rev. F. H. Tyner, Ethel Frances, only daughter of Dr. G. A. and Mrs. Kennedy, to Francis Bulkley Ward, of "Alexander Ranche," Nanton, Alta., formerly of Victoria, B. C.

DIED

BARNES—In this city, on the 6th instant, James Barnes, a native of County Carlow, Ireland; aged 75 years.

CARLOW—At the Royal Jubilee hospital, on the 6th instant, Jessie, beloved wife wife of W. W. Carlow, aged 40 years, and a native of St. Andrews, N. B.

WAIN—At the Royal Jubilee hospital, on on the 8th inst., Sarah, beloved wife of Henry Wain, aged 77 years, and a native of Kent, England.

Monkey Brand Soap removes all stains, rust, dirt or tarnish—but won't wash clothes.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

Wedded at Rossland.—At R[illegible] on New Year's day, Dr. Fr[illegible] Proctor of this city was un[illegible] marriage to Miss Bella Inches, [illegible]ter of Robert Inches, Rev. [illegible] Grant officiated. The bridesmaid[illegible] the Misses Nell and Annie Inche[illegible]er the ceremony the relatives [illegible] bride partook of a sumptuous w[illegible] breakfast. The bridegroom pr[illegible] each of the bridesmaids with a [illegible]tiful pearl brooch, and the bes[illegible] with a nugget stick pin. Amon[illegible] many gifts received by the bri[illegible] a beautiful cut glass bowl, giv[illegible] by her Sunday school class [illegible] Andrew's church. The brides[illegible] present to the bride was a ha[illegible] gold watch and guard. Dr. [illegible] and bride arrived here on Saturd[illegible]ening.

Chinese Reformers.—The elec[illegible] officers for the Chinese Reform[illegible]ciation of Canada, an event that [illegible] only once in two years, took p[illegible] Vancouver Saturday evening. S[illegible] Yam was elected president by ac[illegible]mation, and Yip On was also [illegible]posed for vice-president. For t[illegible] superintendents votes were recei[illegible] wire from every association in C[illegible] and latest reports Saturday e[illegible] stood as follows: C. Yip Quong, [illegible] Chung Lun, 1,151; Yuen Lan C[illegible] 106; Wang Lung, 76. Five pla[illegible] hear from.

Land Surveyors.—The initial [illegible]ing of the Corporation of Lan[illegible]veyors of British Columbia wil[illegible] at 9:30 this morning at the o[illegible] the surveyor-general in the parl[illegible] buildings. At this first meeti[illegible] temporary secretary of the corpo[illegible] Sidney A. Roberts, will receiv[illegible] ballots for the election of a bo[illegible] management. Officers will al[illegible] elected and the business of th[illegible]poration placed on a proper bas[illegible] is expected that a number of Ma[illegible] surveyors will be in town today [illegible] their brethren of the Island a[illegible] first meeting, and plans will b[illegible]cluded during the day for the h[illegible] of an informal dinner at the Bo[illegible]ang some time this evening.

Mr. Palmer Returning.—Fro[illegible]formation received at the office [illegible] minister of finance it was learne[illegible]terday that R. M. Palmer, secret[illegible] the bureau of information, wh[illegible] been in England for some tim[illegible] in connection with the display o[illegible]ish Columbia fruits, will leave [illegible]pool on Wednesday on his retu[illegible] Victoria. Mr. Palmer will not [illegible] alone, for although he has be[illegible] extremely busy man during his s[illegible] in the British Isles, he has found [illegible] to attend to one personal and [illegible] happy transaction—his marria[illegible] Miss Hadwen, daughter of G. H. [illegible]wen of Duncans. His home[illegible]will be via New York and the [illegible]nip Majestic.

Accidental Death.—An inques[illegible] held yesterday morning by the c[illegible] Dr. Hart, to enquire into the c[illegible]stances of the death of Ha[illegible] Ward, late chief engineer of the [illegible]ish Columbia Electric Railway [illegible]pany's power house at Golds[illegible] Three witnesses were examine[illegible] dead man's assistants and [illegible]ntendent G. M. Tripp, who ga[illegible]pert evidence. The assistants, [illegible] Ward and Collier, told of how [illegible]ceased met death when perfect[illegible] alignment of one of the switch[illegible] when his hands came into conta[illegible] the copper and he received th[illegible] shock. Mr. Tripp described th[illegible] at Goldstream and stated it w[illegible]sible for, anyone, through mon[illegible] forgetfulness or carelessness, to [illegible] a fatal shock. A verdict of acc[illegible] death was returned by the jury.

Malcolm Island Change.—Th[illegible] mill plant and business of the [illegible] colony at Malcolm Island, esta[illegible] about two years ago and clo[illegible] some time on account of lack o[illegible] has passed into the hands [illegible] Marine, Lumber & Trading Co[illegible] a corporation organized in Va[illegible] by the Dominion Trust Compan[illegible] company is capitalized at [illegible] While the members of the [illegible] colony will be given employm[illegible] the mill and in the woods, five [illegible] sawmill men, sawers, filers, e[illegible] be sent north to overhaul th[illegible] and they will remain there. [illegible]nection with the sawmilling [illegible] one of the members of the [illegible] colony is opening a boat an[illegible] building establishment which w[illegible]nish employment to a number [illegible] colonists. Fishing boats and a[illegible]ner of scows will be turned out [illegible] northern salmon canneries.

Boycott Affects Millers.—Th[illegible]nese boycott is affecting the b[illegible] of the United States millers [illegible] Pacific Coast so greatly that th[illegible] will not be run in full blast af[illegible] month unless a change takes p[illegible] representative of the Hammo[illegible]ng Company of Seattle said [illegible] give you an idea of how our [illegible] has suffered, I will say that w[illegible] not sold anything in China si[illegible] end of last September. Most [illegible] business is transacted throu[illegible] brokers in Hongkong, but dur[illegible] boycott a few of the mercha[illegible] there who formerly bought fro[illegible] have ordered small quantities [illegible] direct. Our Japanese business [illegible]ing up nicely; in fact, we re[illegible]cable this morning for 20,000 b[illegible] go there. All the business we [illegible] from Japan will not be suffi[illegible] keep us running full blast, b[illegible] and if the boycott is in exist[illegible] the end of thirty days we wil[illegible] be forced to run only one side [illegible] mill." When asked from what [illegible] the Chinese were buying their [illegible] present, he said: "Most of it [illegible] purchased from the Australian [illegible] £8 15s a ton, delivered."

(From Wednesday's Daily.)

Fatality at Potlatch.—While [illegible]dians were making preparat[illegible] the potlatch for last Wednesd[illegible] the Nanaimo Free Press, a yo[illegible]dian girl about 15 years of age [illegible] a big fire and was very severely [illegible] The potlatch was postponed [illegible] night, and the injuries of the [illegible]tended to. The next night ami[illegible] weird proceedings of the relics[illegible]ganism the potlatch was proceed[illegible] the young girl lying in a near