The Colonist.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1901.

THE DROP IN COPPER.

The fall in the price of copper has created a great deal of discussion, much speculation and not a little uneasiness as to the cause and the probable consequences. The New York Evening Post, one of the best informed papers on financial subjects in America, frankly confesses that it does not know the cause, although it surmises that in some way "an international deal to hold up prices in the copper market has failed." So far as can be gathered from the very meagre amount of information given out to the public, the Amalgamated Copper company, controlled by the Rockefellers, proposed to the Rio Tinto, controlled by the Rothschilds that they should combine to keep up the price and the proposition came to nothing. The great shrinkage in the German and French electrical industry reduced the demand for copper so much that the price fell in Europe fully 25 per cent. The Post thinks that the effect of the curtailing of electrical industries has been exaggerated, presumably for speculative purposes, but it draws attention to the fact that with the output of the metal nearly double what it was in 1889, the price has kept up to the neighborhood of the exceptional figures then reached, when all the copper in the market had been cornered by the Secretan syndicate. One of the curious features of the present situation is that while the American company has very large amounts of copper on hand, which it is unable to sell, the European producers have been increasing their output and selling it all. The Post a week ago said that the American company would either have to lose the markets it had supplied or cut the price of its output, and probably the latter course has been taken. The New York Sun, speaking of the conditions as they existed last Saturday, said that a trade war in copper appeared to be in sight, and if this was the case there was no telling how low the price would go. The companies, not in the Amalgamated combine, say they will meet any cut that the big concern may make, and one of the managers of an outside company is reported as saying that the reduction in price is not justified by existing conditions. An official of one of the leading copper concerns is quoted by the Sun as follows:

I would not like to venture an opinion as to the future course of copper I must confess that the methods employed by the selling agency are difficult to penetrate. If the product is being used as a basis to manipulate the stock market, the price of the metal is likely to go lower, but I can hardly believe that the United Metals Selling company was actuated by anything other than actual business conditions. I do not believe that the cut will stimulate the demand to any extent. At least it has not done so, so far. Now that a cut has been made, buyers will be led to believe that the metal is destined to seek a much lower level, and, in consequence, will keep out of the market. There are a large number of mines that cannot produce copper at a profit below 16 cents a pound, and these are the ones that will have to suspend operations. While their output does not amount to anything so far as the individual mines are concerned, it is large in the aggregate. There are few mines that can show a net profit of more than five cents on each pound of copper produced, taking current quotations as a basis.

One of the best known operators on Wall Street is the authority for the statement that the Amalgamated company wanted the price kept at 17 cents, but the smaller concerns started in cutting, and thereupon the Amalgamated went after their scalps, with the result that is puzzling everyone today. In our financial columns will be found a New York despatch bearing out this view. In Boston, the headquarters of the independent copper interests in the United States, the effect upon new propositions has been very bad and the opinion seemed to be that some time would be necessary to get things in right shape again.

What the effect in British Columbia will be we are not at present in a position to say, but of necessity it cannot be favorable. Mines that are operating on small margins cannot pay with such a reduction in price as has now taken place. How many such mines there are in this province cannot be ascertained but we think until the market becomes more settled there will be good cause for anxiety especially so far as the newer enterprises are concerned, for unquestionably copper is not anything like as attractive a proposition as it was a month or two ago.

PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT

It is not always easy to give accurate definitions of things and therefore instead of attempting to say specifically what Parliamentary Government is, we shall endeavor to snow the difference between it and Responsible Government. In the British Dominions we have both. In the United States they have Parliamentary Government only. The President is not responsible to Congress, neither are the governors of the several states responsible to the state legislatures. Their duties are defined specifically and they can be compelled to perform them only by the courts and they are removable only by impeachment. The United States Cabinet is not a cabinet in the sense the term is understood with us. It cosist of certain departmental heads, but these officials have no seat in Congress and they are responsible only to the President for the manner in which they discharge their duty. The expression used in Washington very often in regard to the Cabinet is "the President's official family," and this describes it very well. During the time of the ascendancy of James G. Blaine there was a disposition to speak of him as the Premier, but this was only because he was the leading spirit in the administration, overshadowing even the President. But as a rule the Presidents of the United States have been, so far as the outside world has been able to judge, the architects of their own policy, and since Blaine's retirement and death there has been no one to whom the title of Premier has ever been applied in the United States. It has been said that the office of President corresponds to some extent to that of a British premier, but the resemblance is more imaginary than real, for the President is not amenable to the vote of Congress. His vetoes may be overruled under certain conditions, but his tenure of office does not depend upon his having a congressional majority. The same is true of the cabinet ministers.

What is true of the United States in this respect is true of the several states to all intents and purposes. In none of them is there executive responsibility to the people or to the people's representatives. Yet in the states as also in the United States there is a wide measure of Parliamentary Government. In France there is a greater degree of ministerial responsibility. In fact France may be said to possess something very closely resembling our system in this respect. In Germany there is Parliamentary Government to a limited degree but practically no responsibility of the ministry to the representatives of the people. Switzerland has Parliamentary Government in a very wide sense, but nothing corresponding to what we call Responsible Government. Japan has attempted to apply the British system to her affairs with some measure of success, although as yet the leaders of public opinion are not quite agreed as to whether the country is far enough advanced for it. From these observations it will appear that while Parliamentary Government may exist without Responsible Government, the latter cannot without the former, for the latter is the outcome and the ripe fruit of the former. Centuries were necessary to evolve it in the United Kingdom.

It is well to bear these facts in mind, because so much that is of great value to us as a free people depends upon their being understood. In a country that is under Parliamentary Government, the sovereign power can make no laws or decrees having the force of law without the consent of the representatives of the people, but the manner in which the assent of the people is obtained is immaterial. We frequently have hours spent in the legislature of this province in debate over some question of order, but the legislature is the sole interpreter of its own rules, and it may alter them from day to day, or it may say they mean one thing today and another thing tomorrow, without affecting any principle of government, but no departure ought ever to be made from the great principle of ministerial responsibility for this is the sheet anchor of our system of popular institutions. Why does a ministry resign after it has failed to carry a majority of seats at a general election? The answer is that it is because the people have declared want of confidence in it, and the more recent and the better practice is for a government in such a case not to wait for the verdict of the elected representatives, but to accept that pronounced by the people. This is because under our system the ministers must be supported by a majority of the house. In the United States, on the other hand, if at the next Congressional election every member of the House of Representatives should be returned in opposition to the administration, the President would continue in office and his cabinet would remain the same, or could remain the same. Perhaps this statement of the case illustrates clearly enough the difference between the two things.

In this province lack of familiarity with the working of Responsible Government has led to some misapprehensions as to the effect of adverse votes in the House upon a government. Every defeat of a government measure is not a vote of want of confidence and does not call for the resignation of the ministry. The contrary is frequently claimed here. It is for the Premier to say whether or not any adverse vote shall be regarded as one of want of confidence, except in one or two cases. If the government cannot carry the Address in reply to the Speech, the business of the country is necessarily at a standstill, and the government must resign. If the House refuses to go into Supply, or refuses to vote Supply, the government must resign, for of itself a refusal to grant supply is a vote of want of confidence, but the defeat of a particular item is not necessarily so. Any other adverse vote may be disregarded, for it does not follow from the fact that the House disapproves of a particular measure, that it has withdrawn its confidence from the ministry. If the House intends that the adverse vote shall be regarded as an expression of want of confidence, and that fact appears during the course of the debate and the ministry pays no heed to it, a direct vote of want of confidence would then be in order. Failure to understand, or at least to act upon these settled principles has brought about in British Columbia the un-British system of caucussing everything and the almost entire absence of anything like thorough discussion of measures and that reasonable diversity of opinion to be expected on the floors of the House.

RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT.

Messrs. Roblin and Haultain, premiers of Manitoba and the Territories, respectively, have been discussing the abstract principles of Responsible Government at a public meeting held at Indian Head, Assiniboia. This is a good thing. The population of the West needs to be informed about Responsible Government. Some odd definitions are given of this principle. We have heard it seriously contended that it means the obligation of a premier to do nothing which his colleagues in the cabinet do not support him in, and that it means the duty of the government to do what the people want done. Thus during the series of public meetings held last winter to discuss the railway problem, it was frequently put forward that the government was bound by the application of this principle to obey the mandates of public meetings. We have heard it contended that Responsible Government imposes some duty upon the Lieutenant-Governor in regard to the number of members in the Executive Council, and many other things have been from time to time advanced as coming under this principle, whereas, in point of fact, they bear no relation to it.

Responsible Government is simply that principle of administration which requires the head of the state to act through ministers responsible to the representatives of the people. Constitutional practice, statutory requirements, and legislative procedure have their value and all go to make up what we know as the British Constitution, but they do not constitute Responsible Government. They can exist without it, and, as a matter of fact, did exist in Canada before Responsible Government was established.

It is not necessary to go our of our own province for an illustration covering the whole ground. In the Crown Colony days this province did not have Responsible Government. The Colonist always agitated for it, but with no great measure of success, until the union of British Columbia with Canada. By the Terms of Union it was provided that the constitution of the Executive Authority and of the Legislature of British Columbia should remain as existing at the time of union, subject to the provisions of the British North America Act, "it being at the same time understood that the Government of the Dominion will readily consent to the introduction of Responsible Government when desired by the inhabitants of British Columbia." It is interesting to note that "the inhabitants of British Columbia" have never expressed a desire for Responsible Government to the Dominion, and consequently that the latter has never consented directly to its introduction.

The question of Confederation was discussed at the Legislative Council summoned by Governor Musgrave in 1870, the majority of the members having been elected, the minority having been appointed. A proposal was made during the debates to insert in the Terms of Union a provision establishing Responsible Government, but it was defeated. Mr. John Robson, Mr. H. E. Seelye and Mr. D. W. Higgins then took up the fight, and Mr. Seelye was sent to Ottawa, Mr. Higgins paying his expenses, to insist upon provision being made for the principle, and the above-quoted sentence from the Terms of Union was the result of Mr. Seelye's mission. Its language shows it to have been the outcome of a compromise, but when it was announced there was much jubilation in Victoria, and it was claimed that the language gave the province Responsible Government, although strictly speaking, it did not. Lieutenant-Governor Trutch in opening the first session of the first legislature after Confederation, used these words in the Speech:

"The state of transition in public affairs incidental to the change in our political system, which existed on my assuming the government of the Province, compelled me to take for awhile the direct charge of the Departmental business in a greater measure than would otherwise have devolved upon me; I, however, availed myself of the first opportunity to transfer that charge from myself by appointing a ministry responsible to you, the Representatives of the people, whom I have called together to deliberate on the public matters of the Province, the management of which properly belongs to you, at this earliest date at which it was practicable for you to be assembled, consistent with the fulfilment of the requirements of our Electoral Law."

The language of the Address in reply to the Speech, in dealing with the paragraph just quoted, was very guarded. It simply said that the House was aware of what the Lieutenant-Governor had done. Whether this Speech and Address are to be taken as establishing Responsible Government in this province is a question upon which we shall not express any opinion. There may be some further declarations, proclamations or resolutions on the subject, which we have not found, and we would be glad to have correspondents mention them, if there are any such. It seems reasonable to argue, however, that the practice of nearly thirty years has established Responsible Government, although the action of Lieutenant-Governor McInnes on two separate occasions, on one of which he was sustained by the Legislature, showed that he did not consider himself bound by its essential features. The appeal to the Governor-General by the members of the Turner government after their dismissal was distinctly a recognition that relations existed between the Dominion government and the Province similar to those which had existed in the old Crown Colony days between this province and the Colonial Office in London, and the Colonist protested against that appeal at the time on that very ground.

More than an academic interest attaches to this question. There has not been a month in the last three years, when there has not been talk on the street as to what the Ottawa government might do in regard to provincial affairs. If we have Responsible Government, the duty of the Dominion ministry is to keep its hands off; if we have not Responsible Government, but are yet under the tutelage of Ottawa, then the federal authorities have the right to interfere whenever they wish. Our own contention is that the precedents of thirty years, with a few exceptions, show that the quoted provision from the Terms of Union has been substantially complied with, and that therefore we are living in British Columbia under as full a measure of Responsible Government as are the people of any of the other provinces. We shall in a subsequent article endeavor to distinguish between Responsible Government and what is ordinarily spoken of as Parliamentary Government.

THE ALASKAN BOUNDARY.

It is not chargeable against British Columbia that the Alaskan Boundary was not long ago defined. On March 12, 1872, during the first session of the first legislature after Confederation, Mr. J. P. Booth moved and Mr. William Smithe seconded the following resolution:

"Resolved, That whereas recent discoveries in the northern part of British Columbia give good reason to believe that extensive mining operations will shortly be established in that region, and whereas the boundary line between the Territory of Alaska and the said Province of British Columbia has never been properly defined, and whereas it will materially assist in maintaining peace, order and good government within the said Province to have the boundary line properly laid down, that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that he may take such steps as may call the attention of the Dominion Government to the necessity of some action being taken at an early day to have the boundary defined."

Why nothing ever came of this cannot, perhaps, be easily explained now. The probability is that Sir John Macdonald had too many other matters occupying his mind at the time, and this very important question was put off until a more convenient season. He was defeated in the following year, and Mr. Mackenzie came in. Nothing was done under the Liberal regime to settle the whole question, although a conventional point on the Stikine River was agreed upon as defining the boundary in that particular locality. Then the matter lapsed as far as action at Ottawa was concerned, although the legislature of this province has never lost sight of it. The fact that the first legislature took it up stands to the credit of that body.

It was clearly a mistake to take our evening contemporary seriously, when it discoursed of what the Lieutenant-Governor might do. Last night it resumed the subject and told its readers that this was no time for Mr. Dunsmuir to postpone the meeting of the legislature two or three months beyond the usual time. Mr. Dunsmuir will please take notice of his intention. He is doubtless unaware that he intends anything of the kind. It is very kind of the Times to find out what his intentions are and tell him. If it were not for this, Mr. Dunsmuir might remain under the impression that he intends to do something quite different.

THE BRIDGE QUESTION.

The Aldermen who are opposing the wishes of the citizens in the Point Ellice bridge matter owe an explanation to their fellow-citizens. Personally, these Aldermen are reputable citizens, and presumably they must have some intelligent explanation of their present conduct. Yet they have not given any. At the public meeting Alderman Brydon stated in great detail what he called the "specifications" for the bridge, and he succeeded in convincing nine of ten of those who heard him that the specifications, although admirably adapted for the purpose for which they were intended, were not such as admitted of competing bids for identical structures. If Alderman Brydon is of the opinion that what the city should get from intending contractors is competition in plans, specifications and prices, he was right in standing out as he did until the people declared their wishes. But in common with the others, Alderman Brydon appealed from the decision of the Mayor and the minority of the Council to the citizens assembled in public meeting, and the result of that appeal was directly opposed to his view. What we are unable now to understand is why he persists in obstructive tactics, and he ought to explain. No one will for an instant suppose that the reason which animates Alderman Brydon is anything but consistent with everything that is honorable. But what is it? We tell him with all sincerity that we are utterly at a loss to understand how he justifies to himself the line of action which he has taken since the meeting. We can think of nothing supposable in his case which will account for his course, and this is what others are saying. We have mentioned Alderman Brydon specially, because it was he who stated the case at length for himself and those of his colleagues who have acted with him, but we wish to be considered as applying the above comment to the others. No one questions their good faith; but nearly every one condemns the judgment that they are at present exhibiting. Alderman Hall did the correct thing when he paid attention to what the people said. Why do not the others follow his example?

BOUNDARY OUTPUT.

Ore Turned Out During Week and Smelter Returns.

Phoenix, B. C., Dec. 20.—(Special.)—Following are Boundary ore shipments for the week. Granby mines, 4,527 tons; B. C. Mine, 820 tons; Snowshoe, 60 tons; Mother Lode, 1,758 tons; Sunset, 225 tons; total for week, 7,390 tons.

Total for 1901 to date, 360,699 tons. Total for 1900 and 1901 to date, 461,213 tons. For the last week the Granby smelter treated 4,892 tons of ore.

IN MEMORIAM.

American Residents of Montreal Found a Fellowship at McGill.

Montreal, Dec. 20—The American residents of Montreal have subscribed a fund of $9,000 for the foundation of a fellowship in political economy at McGill university to be known as the William McKinley fellowship. Dr. Roddick has been appointed dean of the medical faculty of McGill, replacing Dr. Craik, resigned on account of age.

DANISH WEST INDIES.

Move to Submit Question of Sale to the People.

Copenhagen, Dec. 20.—Fresh agitation against the sale of the Danish West Indies to the United States without first submitting the matter to a plebiscite seems to be increasing here. A large and secret meeting of the members was held today, the sentiment of which was in favor of a plebiscite.

The ministerial organs are advocating prompt action in the matter and a disregard of the popular clamor to submit it to a vote of the people.

London, Dec. 21.—The Copenhagen correspondent of the Daily Press says he is almost certain that the second chamber will ratify the sale of the Danish West Indies by a large majority, but that many members of the first chamber are opposed to this cession. "Influential people here believe also," says the correspondent, "that the present movement is inopportune for the sale, as the cutting of the Nicaraguan canal will considerably increase the commercial and political value of the islands. I am informed that Herr Bellin, head of the Hamburg-American line is interested in a powerful German syndicate approved by Emperor William and the government, which is watching the development of these negotiations, with the object of taking advantage of the situation if the United States and Denmark disagree."

SMALLPOX IN SEATTLE.

There Are Twenty-Eight Cases in That City.

Vancouver, Dec. 20.—(Special)—Dr. McAlpine, medical health officer, has warned Vancouver that there are 28 cases of smallpox in Seattle, and greater precautions should be taken on the border. He says methods are lax in Seattle.

Miss Ann Teek (giddily)—I wonder if there are really microbes in kisses.

Miss Kostique—What a thoughtful unselfish creature you are! Always worrying about something dangerous that may happen to other girls.

He—It is a pleasure to meet a woman who has a sense of humor. She—But, really, one doesn't need a sense of humor to laugh at the things you say.—Life.

Spain Is Bound Over

He Is Released by the Court on Securities to Keep the Peace.

Orders Made in Supreme Court Chambers Yesterday Morning.

Yesterday morning Thomas Spain was again brought before Mr. Justice Walkem, when His Lordship stated that on Thursday, in convicting him, he made an order to suspend sentence. He said he had purposely done so, because he hardly knew what order to make or what sentence to impose. On reflection, however, he had concluded that the proper order to make was to bind him over to keep the peace for six months, which meant that he must conduct himself properly during that period.

His Lordship added that he was satisfied that no jury would have convicted the accused of stealing in view of the evidence and of all the circumstances of the case. Mrs. Lindsay, for instance, whose money it was, had testified that she never accused and would not accuse the prisoner of stealing. At the same time the court remarked that Spain's conduct was that of anything but a sane man, the facts being that he had been drinking heavily for about three days and did not know what he was about. He had had charge of the safe and the money in it for some months, and paid all current accounts, without being obliged to consult anyone, and he had satisfactorily accounted for any receipts and expenditures.

His Lordship also wished to state that what he said on Wednesday seemed to have been misunderstood by the reporter. What he had said was that his leanings or sympathy were in favor of athletic sports, such as the accused was prominent in, as they tended to promote manliness and honesty; but that he could have no sympathy for the accused or his conduct. The accused had not used any of the money and would, no doubt, have returned it after he got sober.

An undeserved attack had been made on the detectives in the case, but they had acted as the court considered very prudently and without harshness. They had an unpleasant duty to perform and did it in a proper manner. His Lordship further added that if he had had the power to do so he would have ordered the accused to pay the expenses of the trial.

The necessary bonds were furnished yesterday afternoon and the accused was released from custody.

IN CHAMBERS.

Mr. Justice Walkem presided in chambers yesterday morning and disposed of the following applications.

Ward v. Bank of British North America—Defendants applied for security for costs of appeal. Order made for $150 security. L. Crease for the plaintiff, and W. J. Taylor, K. C., for the defendant. This action was brought by R. F. Ward, of Horsefly, against the said bank, to recover $19,000 commission alleged to be due on the sale of certain mining shares. The trial took place about June last before Mr. Justice Walkem, and the action was dismissed with costs. The plaintiff served notice of appeal from the judgment rendered, and the above application was for security for costs of said appeal.

Huntington v. Grand Forks Mercantile Co.—Defendant company made application to dismiss for want of prosecution. Application stands over for 10 days. J. H. Lawson for plaintiff, and T. M. Miller for defendant.

Styles v. Harris and Mrs. Dunsmuir, garnishee—Application by plaintiff for garnishee order absolute. Dismissed with costs. L. Crease for plaintiff; L. P. Duff, K. C., for defendant, and M. Giffin for garnishee. In the action of Lowenburg, Harris & Co. v. Dunsmuir, after the jury brought in a verdict in favor of the plaintiff, on the 12th instant, Mr. Crease, understanding that His Lordship, Mr. Justice Walkem, had delivered judgment, applied to His Lordship on behalf of the plaintiff, Styles, for an order nisi, attaching the sum of $2,139.05 of the amount due Harris from Mrs. Dunsmuir. On the application to have the attaching order made absolute yesterday Mr. Duff took objection to the same, and His Lordship stated that although he had practically delivered judgment on the 12th instant, he withdrew it in order to hear argument of counsel on a motion for judgment in favor of the defendant, Mrs. Dunsmuir, and that as a matter of fact, judgment was not delivered until the 13th. His Lordship dismissed Mr. Crease's application on the ground that the money was not owing to Harris when the order nisi was granted, and ordered Styles to pay the costs consequent thereon.

Re sub-division D of lot 42, Victoria City—J. M. Bradburn obtained leave to serve short notice of motion.

Re M. L. M. Partelow, deceased—A. D. Crease obtained an order for probate of will.

B. C. Corporation v. Stelly et al—R. H. Pooley, on behalf of the plaintiffs, moved for and obtained a final decree for foreclosure.

In the County court, action of Murray v. Matthews, A. W. F. Solomon applied for and obtained an order for leave to add a defendant to the action.

The motion to vary the registrar's report, set for yesterday in the Exchequer court, in the action of Smith et al v. the Empress of Japan, did not come on for argument, but was adjourned until Monday next.

WANTS LARGE DAMAGES.

Mail Clerk Sues Railway for Injury to His Knee Cap.

Calgary, Dec. 20.—(Special)—In January, 1899, an accident occurred at Black Mud creek, about 12 miles south of Strathcona, on the Calgary & Edmonton railway. The engine passed over safely, but 12 cars were derailed and rolled down an embankment and were precipitated into the creek, owing, it is alleged by the plaintiff in a lawsuit, which commenced here, to defective construction of the trestle work of the bridge. Kenny, the plaintiff, was a mail clerk on the train at the time, and sustained a fracture of the knee cap, which resulted in permanent lameness. The plaintiff then brought action to recover $10,000 damages. The case is creating widespread interest, and each side has a goodly array of legal talent.

The defence are attempting non-suit by proving that the C. P. R. company are merely agents of the Calgary & Edmonton Railway company, and not, therefore, liable for damages.

SKATING SONG.

From Denver Times.

Oh, little children now we fear,
It is about that time of year,
When on the ice you darling creatures
Will fall and bust your little features.

It is night. Silence reigns over the fourteen acres of floor-space of the summer hotel.

But stay! As we listen, a shriek rends the air.

"Robbers!"

Throughout that vast caravansary, none stirs. It is as if none hears. Again the shriek.

"Robbers not connected with the house! Now lights flit to and fro, and alarm is everywhere.

Your trouble is not serious, madam. You only need rest.

But, doctor, look at my tongue.

Oh, give that a rest, too!

THE TOURIST ASSOCIATION

Provisional Executive Committee Decide Upon Active Canvass of the City.

The provisional executive committee of the Tourist association held a meeting yesterday afternoon at the Mayor's office, to formulate a plan for perfecting organization, according to a resolution adopted at the mass meeting held on the 5th instant. It was decided to divide the city into canvassing districts, two members of the committee being assigned to each, to solicit membership and, incidentally, to collect subscriptions in aid of the association.

The gentlemen who have undertaken the work of canvassing will begin their campaign on Monday, 30th instant, and as soon as they have secured a sufficiently large membership a meeting will be called for the election of permanent officers. It was decided that all moneys received by the collectors will be paid to the city treasurer (who will be asked to act as treasurer pro tem) to the credit of the association.

Latest News Of the North

Steamer Amur Brings Word of Another Strike in the Bremner Country.

Arrivals From Dawson Over Icy Trails—First Stage Reaches White Horse.

Steamer Amur reached port yesterday afternoon from Skagway, after an uneventful passage. She brought 20 passengers, two of whom were from Dawson. There were no Dawson mails. John Cormack, one of the passengers, made the trip out from Dawson with a dog team, making the journey over the trail from Klondike City to White Horse in 12 days. He left on December 1 with three dogs. He said that water was playing havoc with the trail in many places. At Ritchie's roadhouse the river rose while he was coming out and took all of the shore ice out so he had to travel along the banks to get along. Between Selwyn and Lewis river there was another bad stretch of ice, it being especially rough.

The last three days he had a good trail and made 125 miles during the three days travel. Coming across La Barge Thursday afternoon the ice was as smooth as glass. Mr. Cormack said there would be a light travel out this year, but Dawsonites looked for a great travel inward.

The Amur brought news from Valdes of a new find in the Bremner country, where rich diggings were discovered in October, and a large stampede has started out over the snow with dog teams, laden with supplies, en route to the scene of the excitement. Not much was learned of the new find. Rich ground was opened in the Bremner country by some prospectors, who found gold valued from $3 to $5 to the pan on the surface. Running short of provisions they returned to Valdes and when outfitted started out again accompanied by friends. The find was not kept secret and Valdes went "stampede mad." The majority of the stampeders were rushing in light to stake, and it is expected that a big rush will take place in the spring. The diggings are located about 90 miles from Valdes.

The first stage from Dawson this year arrived at White Horse on December 14, ten days from the Klondike.

The drivers report the trail in excellent condition. The four horses left Lower La Barge at day break, December 14, and galloped into White Horse the same afternoon completing a record run over La Barge. The ice on the lake is as firm as at any time last year. Ice has formed the complete distance from Dawson. From the latter place until Ritchie's roadhouse was reached the trail could not be better. There the ice is a trifle rough, but this side the trail is splendid.

The Atlin mail was bound out to Skagway, when the Amur sailed on the 15th. A despatch from Log Cabin on the 14th says:

"The trail to Atlin is in splendid condition with the exception of Atlin lake, which has still to be made with a canoe. From the latest arrivals it is learned that the like will undoubtedly freeze before Christmas and then travel can be made direct through to Atlin easily. This route seems to be the popular one this year so far and the predictions are that the travel will be much greater than ever before beginning directly after the holidays."

The first stage for Dawson was to leave White Horse on the 17th.

Skagway was excited when the steamer left over a report that Pyramid harbor was to be conceded to the Canadians. The report was founded on some 'hot air" given Skagway reporters by some railway surveyors.

The capital of Alaska is to be removed from Sitka to Juneau.

"Kid" West is bound out. Arrangements are being made to "move him along" at Skagway.

The passengers of the Amur were: Mr. and Mrs. A. H. McKay, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Dunn, R. C. Smith, Miss K. Ryan, Capt. Hall, H. J. Hutchison, Miss Hall, P. Lorseson, W. Nesbitt, C. McIntyre, A. McIntosh, J. M. Cormack, N. Lechorsky, J. O. Connoll, P. Fung, J. Breet, A. F. Raynor, S. Lichtenstadter, N. Woodford, W. McGuilman, M. Gallagher.

SMALLPOX IN ONTARIO.

Over Three Hundred Cases Throughout Ontario Province.

Toronto, Dec. 20.—(Special.)—There are at present no less than 342 cases of smallpox in Ontario, and in all 560 cases have occurred since the 1st of October. This is the net result of a statement issued today by the provincial health authorities. In Carleton county, including Ottawa, there are 144 cases, and the disease is spreading up the Ottawa valley chiefly in the lumber camps. The spread of the disease in this instance has been from the province of Quebec. With the beginning of September hundreds of men from Quebec and Ontario counties along the Ottawa went for their winter work to lumber camps in northern Ontario, and carried with them disease into a number of centres. The disease introduced has spread from the Ottawa centre and from the lumber camps.

FIFTEEN EXECUTED.

Heavy Punishment For the Murder of One German.

Berlin, Dec. 20.—It is officially announced that in consequence of the murder of a German near Pekin on August 9, 15 members of the band found guilty of the crime have been executed.

PRICE OF COPPER.

New York, Dec. 19.—A further reduction in the price of copper of one cent was announced by the United Metals Selling company, the selling agents of the Amalgamated Copper company, today. This brings the price for lake copper to 13 cents, for electrolytic to 13¾ cents, and for casting to 12½ cents. The reduction from the price long held by the Amalgamated Copper company is thus about four cents on all grades.

Trade With The Yukon

Business for the Season Shows Large Increase Over Last Year,

And Canadian Goods Form the Bulk of Freight Taken In.

In special correspondence from Dawson, dated November 26, the Seattle P.-I., gives the following regarding the increase in Canada's golden Yukon and shows that goods of Canadian manufacture form 60 per cent. of the freight and are increasingly displacing those of foreign make. The article says:

The greatest volume of freight ever brought into Dawson in a single season was that landed here during the season of navigation for the summer of 1901, which recently closed. All other years were eclipsed with ease.

The year of 1900, which heretofore was the banner year, was this season outstripped by 4,483 tons. These figures, as well as those following in this letter, are compiled from the books of the Dawson customs office, and are the first published on the subject since the conclusion of the season.

The statements as compiled show that the cargo received here during the season of 1901 by the two routes was divided as follows:

	Tons.
By upper river	22,597
By lower river	13,930
Total	36,527

The shipments to Dawson by the two routes last season, 1900, were as follows:

	Tons.
Upper river	20,417
Lower river	11,627
Total	32,044

By comparison of the two foregoing tables it is seen that both routes made gains. The upper river route gained 2,597 tons, and the lower river, 2,303 tons.

Of the upper river traffic, from 500 to 1,000 tons was coal from the Five Fingers mines, and 3,000 tons is allowed as cargo brought down in scows. The remainder was cargo from the Coast, brought down by steamers from White Horse.

Of the lower river cargo, between 3,000 and 4,000 tons, is represented in coal from the Slate creek coal mines, near Eagle.

The duties paid here for this season, the number of packages coming by postage and entries for duties all show increases over last year. In fact, the business done this season since the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 1901, has been almost, if not quite, as heavy as the business done in the same lines during the whole of the last fiscal year.

The freight coming into Dawson this year has also comprised more goods of Canadian manufacture than ever before. It is estimated by the men in the customs office and others here well acquainted with the business that 60 per cent. of the freight of all classes this year was Canadian. No segregated statement is compiled here of the amount of Canadian goods and American goods received, so an estimate is the best to be obtained without waiting until the final statistical compilation is issued from Ottawa.

Passengers leaving Dawson this season, as shown by the steamer manifests, numbered 4,706 more than those coming in. However, perhaps 500 came in by small boats from up the river and half as many of these went down the river in small boats. Nevertheless, it might be said that in round numbers 4,000 more have gone out than have come in. Many of these belonged to the fall exodus of people going out to spend the winter and return over the ice late in the spring, or by the first steamers next year. A cut-rate war on outbound boats prevailed all the fall, so the Yukon is not to be put down as having lost 4,000 people. The majority, if not more, will likely return.

Passenger business on the lower river this season is summarized as follows:

From St. Michael and way points	725
For St. Michael and way points	809
Total	1,534

Passenger traffic on the upper river is summarized for this season as follows:

From White Horse and Way points	3,101
For White Horse and way points	7,727
Total	10,828

Steamer arrivals from White Horse and way points this season were 228. Departures for White Horse and way points, 235.

Steamer arrivals from St. Michael and way points this season were 60. Departures for St. Michael and way points, 62.

For fiscal year ending June 30, 1901, the receipts of the Dawson customs office on duties were $405,066. This does not by any means represent all the duties collected on goods coming to Dawson. Many are collected at White Horse, Victoria and Vancouver.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1901, 1,000 postal packages arrived here through the postoffice. For the four months since June 30 last, 1,203 arrived, a big increase.

Express packages entered the last fiscal year number 227, and for the four months since then, 226.

Entries made for duties for the last fiscal year were 2,368, and since the end of the last fiscal year to the last of October, 2,273.

The recapitulation of traffic to and from Dawson on the Yukon last year, 1900, which may be of value in comparison with the statements in the foregoing, follows:

	Tons.
Cargo from St. Michael	11,627
Cargo from White Horse	20,417
Total	32,044
Passengers from White Horse by steamer	4,064
Passengers from White Horse by barge	3,000
Passengers from St. Michael	1,406
Total	8,407
Passengers to White Horse	5,465
Passengers to St. Michael	1,518
Small boats to Nome, etc.	3,000
Total	9,983

The ripest actor is not beyond getting green with jealously.

A stuttering person has an unpleasant way of breaking the news.

BANK CLEARINGS.

New York, Dec. 20—The following are some of the weekly clearings as compiled by Bradstreets for the week ending December 19; with percentages of increase and decrease as compared with the corresponding week last year: Montreal: Montreal, $18,250,150, increase 11.4 per cent. Toronto, $15,016,448; increase, 33.6 per cent. Winnipeg, $4,387,197; increase 69.1 per cent. Halifax, $2,254,061; increase, 48.6 per cent. Vancouver, $854,321; decrease, 12.2 per cent. Hamilton, $834,876; decrease, 7.7 per cent. St. John, N. B., $784,849; increase, 9.3 per cent. Victoria, $518,865; decrease, 3.6 per cent. Quebec, $1,364,574.

UNIVERSITY RIVALS.

Winnipeg, Dec. 20.—(Special)—The students of Manitoba university have a challenge from the students of the University of North Dakota to a public debate to take place at Winnipeg. The challenge will be accepted.