## A MYSTERIOUS CASE.

### The Decomposed Body of an Eastern Physician Found in the Bush.

### The Coroner's Jury Decides That Dr. Cox Shot Himself While Temporarily Insane.

When Philip Chalk went out into the timber to cut some wood, yesterday morning, he little thought of the strange find which would reward his industry.

He entered the bush off the Gorge road, between the two bridges and not far from the Methodist church, and was about to commence work, when he was attracted by a strong smell in the vicinity. This was of so peculiar a nature that he resolved to investigate. Passing into a tangled thicket of underbrush and fallen trees, he came upon the body, or what had been the body, of a man lying in the mud.

A glance showed that the corpse was in an advanced stage of decomposition, and Philip turned and fled from the ghastly sight. Hastening to the city, he told the police of his discovery, and officer Abel was sent out to locate the spot and take charge of the remains.

The body was found lying in the mud, partially on the side, the face turned downward and the hands doubled under the body. The feet were somewhat higher than the remainder of the body and were resting on a limb which projected from a fallen tree near by.

Close to the right side was an imitation alligator leather valise, rotten with the damp of months. The color of the clothing on the body had evidently been rather light, but had changed by exposure to a brown hue. A black waterproof overcoat enveloped the upper part of the body, and a pair of heavy woollen mittens were still clinging in broken shreds to the mouldering hands. A silk skull cap was drawn down tight over the head and from beneath this the short grey hair protruded. A dark soft felt hat lay on the ground near by.

When the body was turned over it was seen that in one hand there had apparently been clasped a 38 cal. self-acting revolver, in which but one cartridge remained. This was in the fourth chamber from the one on which the hammer was resting.

In the overcoat was a bottle containing a liquid which gave out a faint smell of ammonia, in the glass being blown the name of "Campbell—Druggist, Victoria," and a physician's visiting case containing a number of small phials, which are more or less filled with various powders.

In the valise was a pair of rubber shoes, some socks and several small memorandum books, a pair of carpet slippers, and a small whisk in a case.

In other pockets were found two 50 cent pieces, two ten cent pieces and one five cent piece; a silk handkerchief, a leather pocket book and a number of papers. In addition to these were two watches, one an ordinary hunting case silver watch and the other a lady's silver chatelaine.

Among the papers was a medical diploma bearing the words, "Collegium Medicinæ Homœopathicæ Novum Eboracense." This had been issued to J. W. Conrad Cox, of London, England, and bore the date of March 1, 1870.

A number of blank herd book certificates for Jersey animals; a lease between James Cox, of Brooklyn, and Wheaton Birault, of the same place, on some real estate located in Landis, Cumberland county, N. J., and an envelope bearing in the corner the following card:

JAMES COX,
Expert Accountant, Translator of Twenty-five Languages and Interpreter of Nine Languages.
51 NEW STREET, — — NEW YORK.

In addition to these were a receipt for $25 from Hitchcock's real estate office given to James Cox for a part payment on the purchase of some real estate in New York. This bore the date of July 31, 1882.

There were also found a number of receipts from Frank Chandler, of Brooklyn, N. Y., agent for Chickering & Sons' pianos, showing that the deceased had paid the sum of $600 for piano No. 7612. These were for sums of $100 each, and the last one bears the date of January 11, 1891.

The memorandum books were three in number. Two of them were nearly blank, as far as could be seen through the mildew, and the third contained a number of notes on medical subjects such as a physician might make from time to time in the course of his practice. The other articles were of minor importance.

Now comes the difficult question of how the body came in this locality, and how it could have lain so long without discovery. Near where the body was found is a large fallen stump and two small trees. The body was lying in such a way as to suggest that in falling backward he had tried to catch at one of the small trees to save himself from falling. The hat found near the body has two holes through the crown, which somewhat resemble bullet holes.

How Dr. Cox met his death and how the body came where it was found by Chalk remain mysteries not easy of solution. The first theory suggested, that of suicide, has to recommend it the fact of the finding of the revolver close at hand, also the fact that very little money was found in the various pockets, the dead man having evidently been a person of some means and prominence. Those who hold to the suicide idea, work it out, that coming West to better his fortunes, and failing so to do, the doctor sought a place where his body would long remain undiscovered, and there ended his existence.

The accident theory comes next, and finds many friends, who think that in all likelihood the doctor was enjoying a walk and happening upon a squirrel, or some such game, jumped the fence and went after it with his revolver for sport's sake, tripping upon the fallen limb and accidentally shooting himself.

Then there are others who think that a deliberate murder has been committed, either a murder for the purpose of robbery or one for which a motive has been furnished in some chapter of Dr. Cox's life, which is a sealed volume to Victorians. They point to the fact of the body having been found where it could hardly have fallen had accident been the cause of death, but where it might very probably have been put by a person anxious to conceal a dastardly crime. It would appear from the valise, the skull cap, etc., that the doctor was travelling at the time he met his death, and that being the case, the mystery becomes even more deep. Was the murder committed in the city or on some train or steamboat, and the body borne to the spot where it was found?

Of course it seems strange that no enquiries have been instituted for the dead man during all the months his body has lain under that clump of tangled bushes, but that is not the only strange feature of what all must admit is a very mysterious case.

Dr. J. W. Conrad Cox, whose body was found Tuesday morning in the woods near the Gorge Road Methodist Church with a bullet in the skull, may have committed suicide, as the Coroner's jury found yesterday, but there is a growing suspicion in the minds of many who have looked carefully into the case that the deceased did not take his own life, and, further, that it was by no accident that he came where the body was found.

There is no question as to the identification. The body was undoubtedly that of Dr. Cox, who formerly lived in New York or Brooklyn, and who for the past few years has been a traveller. The old gentleman was undoubtedly eccentric. He carried no baggage, lived quietly and temperately, had plenty of money, and had a hobby which he talked of on all occasions, but he was always cheerful and contented so far as is known, and if he took his own life, the motive which prompted the deed has yet to be discovered.

The coroner, Dr. Hasell, held an inquest yesterday afternoon at the City Hall. The first witness examined was Dr. A. T. Watt, who testified as to the examination of the body when it was still lying in the bush, and also as to having made a subsequent examination, when he discovered a bullet hole in the forehead and the bullet embedded in the brain. The witness said there was nothing about the wound, from a medical point of view, which would indicate that it could not have been made by the dead man himself.

Philip Chalk and Officer Abel gave evidence as to the discovery of the body. Officer Abel identified the articles produced as the ones which had been found on deceased, and near the spot where the body was found.

The next witness called gave the only important information elicited, and threw the first light on the subject of the tragedy. This was Mr. Francis Atkinson, engineer of the Fire Department.

He said that last year he was living at 54 Pandora street, and that some time during August, 1891, deceased came to his house and rented a room. He stayed there until either November or December, and during that time had many talks with witness. He always had plenty of money, on occasions taking a handful of bills out of his pocket, while he also had considerable amounts in gold at times. Witness never saw the revolver found on the body, but had seen both the medical college diploma and the pocket medicine case.

There was one thing Dr. Cox always talked about—that was chicken ranching. No matter what subject came up he would always change it and speak of his hobby. He told witness he had three farms in New Jersey, and that he was going to buy a ranche somewhere in this province.

A few days before Dr. Cox went away he told witness that he was going somewhere to look at a farm, which he thought of buying if it suited him. He did not say whether this farm was on the Island or on the Mainland, but witness inferred it was on the Mainland, as the doctor had said something about going away on the boat to New Westminster. The deal was to be made through some Victoria real estate firm, which one witness did not know.

While Dr. Cox was in Victoria he frequently got letters from his sons and daughters, who lived in Brooklyn, but no letters came after he went away. Deceased always lived a very correct life, spent his evenings at home and never drank. When he went away he promised to write to witness if he did not come back, but had never done so. The doctor did not practise in Victoria, and so far as witness knew, did not attempt to do any business except in the way mentioned, that is as to real estate transactions.

Mr. Atkinson could not identify the watches found on the body, but thought one of them, the large one, was worn by deceased. Since the time Dr. Cox went away last November or December, witness had heard nothing of him until he read in Wednesday's COLONIST of the body having been found.

The jury, after deliberating on the evidence, brought in a verdict of "suicide while temporarily insane."

But still there are, as has been stated before, not a few who do not agree with the jury and the police in accepting "suicide" as the cause of death. They have, too, arguments to support their contention that if a case of suicide it was a strange one, and if a murder, one well planned, well executed and well concealed. They point to the fact that no motive for suicide has been at any time or in any part of the evidence suggested, while even the revolver, the most important link in the chain of reasoning leading up to the suicide conclusion, presents a peculiar contradiction. If Dr. Cox shot himself through the brain, as the finding of the bullet hole and bullet would indicate, the doctors say death must have been almost instantaneous. Yet, no empty cartridge shell is in the revolver in the position one would expect to find it—the hammer rests upon an empty chamber.

"If this was the chamber from which the death-bullet sped," is asked, "where did the cartridge go?"

The friends of the foul play theory also find confirmation for their suspicions in the testimony of Engineer Atkinson. Taking his statement that when he last saw Dr. Cox he was going away, was prepared for travelling, and was looking for property which he proposed to purchase, they assert that he must have been killed and robbed, his body, with his travelling satchel, cap, etc., being taken to and concealed in the brush where it was found.

The case is still a mysterious one and the mystery, instead of clearing with the further light that has been thrown upon it, seems to deepen.

### The File is Getting Big.

Warden Johns, of the Provincial Jail, is beginning to wonder what he will do with the big pile of broken stone, which, under the manipulation of the prisoners, is growing day by day, until it has assumed rather formidable dimensions. The quarry is right in the grounds behind the jail, and the stone is of first-class quality, but, in order to get it out, there have to be more or less explosives used, and there is some expense attached to keeping drills, etc., in good shape. The broken stone is exactly the kind of material to make a good macadam road, and there is enough of it to lay over two miles of new road, or about 1,600 square yards in all. The problem now is what to do with it. The City of Victoria might buy it for road work, and Warden Johns says if they want it they can have it at a nominal figure.

### At a Standstill.

Work on the Government telegraph line to connect Nanaimo and Comox is at present at a standstill owing to a misunderstanding with the contractor, particulars of which have been forwarded to Ottawa.

## AN INVESTIGATION

### Into the Circumstances Attending the Drowning of Mrs. Pope and Child.

### The Boat Smashed by the "Rithet's" Wheel—A Row Into the Jaws of Death.

The official investigation, ordered by the Minister of Marine, into the circumstances attending the death of Mrs. John Pope and her child while attempting to board the steamer R. P. Rithet off Village Bay, was yesterday commenced before Capt. Gaudin in his offices, Customs House. About a score of witnesses are to be examined, and it is expected that the enquiry will extend over a few days. Neither Mr. Pope nor the C. P. N. Co. were yesterday professionally represented, while the evidence was being taken, each witness telling his plain, unvarnished tale without interruption. The evidence was taken down by Capt. Gaudin and his clerk, and will be forwarded to Ottawa.

Mr. John Pope was the first witness. He deposed that on the 25th May last himself, his wife, child and Mr. Deacon rowed out from Village Bay to board the C. P. N. steamer R. P. Rithet. When the steamer appeared they signalled her, and she whistled, but did not slow down until the boat was close up. Then the engines were reversed, and the steamer swung round on top of the boat, drawing her under, and drowning Mrs. Pope and child.

"I was twice under the wheel," continued the witness; "when I came up the first time I was beat down by the wheel. After I came up the second time, I struck out, and heard some one say, "catch on to the life preserver," which I afterwards learned was thrown by one of the passengers, a Mr. Bennett. A boat was then lowered (I thought it took about twenty minutes to lower her) and Mr. G. Cowie and Mr. Ross helped to pull me into the boat. I did not speak or shout to anyone on board the steamer previous to the collision; it happened so quick. I did not hear anyone on board the steamer shout to us. The wheel of the steamer struck our boat on the side, and I have every reason to believe that it struck my wife. The wheel revolving gave us no show to save ourselves. I had embarked in a small boat from Village Bay frequently before this occasion. Mr. Deacon had been pulled on board the steamer before I was rescued. The steamer was coming down at a very fast rate. It is customary to board the steamer in a small boat from Village Bay."

John F. Jagers, master of the steamer R. P. Rithet, deposed that he left Victoria in charge of the ship at 7:54 a. m. on the 25th May, bound for New Westminster and way ports. He stopped at Sidney Island at 9:42 for two boats coming alongside—wind S. E., and strong ebb tide. He next saw a boat off Portlock point, Prevost Island, coming out near Enterprise Reef.

"I took the glasses," continued the captain, "and saw a man standing up in the boat, signalling with his hat or handkerchief. I answered the signal by blowing the whistle, slowed down the engines, and stopped. I was getting near the boat when the steamer lost steering way, and I then backed the engines to bring her stern to the wind. The boat was coming straight to the steamer, and I warned them to keep back. The boat was then about 200 feet off, and the wind was blowing the steamer towards the reef. The man did not heed my warning, but came along, although I noticed the lady in the boat, motioning him to keep back. From the pilot house I lost sight of the boat for a while, and when the steamer was stopped from drifting I stopped the engines and enquired of the two men at the gangway if the boat was alongside. I at first received no answer, but afterwards one of the men said he could not see her. One of the men then told me that he thought the boat had gone round the stern, on the other side. I crossed the pilot house, and, looking out, saw a man in the water, on the port quarter, and a life buoy being thrown to him. I then ordered a boat to be lowered and manned, which was promptly done. While lowering the boat Deacon was pulled alongside with the heaving line. Mr. Pope was picked up by the boat, and every one was looking about for the lady and child, as from the wreckage about it was evident that the boat had been smashed. No trace was found of them, and after hovering about for an hour the search was abandoned, and the survivors landed at Village Bay.

"When I warned the boat to keep back she was between the steamer and Enterprise reef, abreast of the pilot house. The steamer was about two cables off the reef. The object of bringing the stern to the wind was to keep her straight. It was just as smooth on one side of the steamer as on the other, so that there could be no object in her crossing the steamer. I spoke to young Deacon, and asked him what possessed him to run so close until the steamer was stopped, and he said he did not know."

N. F. Bishop, Purser of the Rithet, described the accident as witnessed by him.

Andrew Irving, Quarter-master on the Rithet, deposed that he was engaged on board the steamer and saw the small boat containing the Pope party put off from the shore, but no white flag was shown until the boat was well out. The steamer was then stopped, and was backing when the boat got close up. The captain sung out to him to keep off until the steamer could be stopped. The small boat did not appear to take any notice, but kept coming ahead until it got under the wheel. Witness was at the gangway, and seeing that the boat had got foul of the wheel, and that one of the party was in the water, threw a heaving line out. The man in the water caught on to it, and was taken aboard. A boat was then lowered from the upper deck, and manned by four men. They picked up Mr. Pope, and looked round in vain for the lady and child. The steamer lay around for some time, but saw nothing of the missing ones.

In reply to Capt. Gaudin, witness said, that in his opinion, if proper care had been taken by those in the boat they could have kept clear of the steamer's wheel.

Robert Hunter, another of the crew of the Rithet, corroborated the evidence of the last witness, adding that the small boat was about 60 yards away when the engines were stopped. Those in the small boat did not stop pulling until they came right up. They were called upon to stop pulling, and had they done so the accident would not have happened. Capt. Jagers had warned Mr. Pope on previous occasions not to pull so close, and Mr. Pope replied that he was able to manage his own boat. It only took about two or three minutes to lower the ship's boat.

Wallace Langley, first mate of the Rithet, gave like evidence; S. Mackay, chief engineer, also gave similar details, and W. A. Munroe, a passenger on board at the time of the accident, gave evidence, after which the enquiry was adjourned until this morning.

SECOND DAY.

The official investigation into the circumstances attending the death of Mrs. Pope and child, while attempting to board the steamer R. P. Rithet off Village Bay, was continued, yesterday, before Capt. Gaudin.

Isaac McMartin, Westminster, who was a passenger on board the Rithet at the time of the accident, testified that he saw the small boat approach, and at the time the wheel was stopped it was about 200 or 300 feet off. When the engines were stopped, the current was taking the steamer along towards Plumper's Pass. When the small boat came up to about 150 yards of the steamer the wheel was reversed. The suction of the wheel and the current swept the boat out of sight. He next heard a scream, and then noticed a man pop his head above water. A passenger threw out a lifebuoy, which the man in the water caught, and was taken on board. The ship's boat was lowered and another man rescued. Witness did not see Mrs. Pope or her child.

Jas. Bennet, also a passenger on board the Rithet at the time, described the accident. He said some delay was occasioned in launching the ship's boat owing to the fact that Mr. Deacon had been taken aboard underneath where the boat was hanging.

"I saw Mrs. Pope come up," added the witness, "from under the port quarter, face downwards, about 70 feet off. She did not appear to be conscious. I did not see a life buoy thrown to her. The stern wheel appeared to have struck the boat amidships. I believe that everything was done by the master and crew of the steamer to avert the accident."

John A. Murray, another of the passengers on board the Rithet, testified to having witnessed the accident. He saw Mr. Pope and Mr. Deacon brought aboard. He judged that Mr. Pope was between a quarter and half mile from the steamer when the ship's boat reached him. Witness saw Mrs. Pope floating in the water, with apparently something under her arm. She floated about one hundred yards before disappearing. The ship's boat was being lowered when he saw Mrs. Pope's body in the water. He considered that everything possible was done by the crew of the Rithet under the circumstances.

Jos. Wilson, another of the passengers, described the sea as rough and the wind high at the time of the accident. He thought that greater care should have been exercised by those in the small boat in approaching the steamer.

Mrs. Frances Eliza Herring, also a passenger on the steamer, said the small boat was alongside when she looked overboard and nodded to her friend Mrs. Pope. The small boat then drifted to the wheel of the steamer and was smashed. Witness got so frightened that she could remember nothing more as to the occurrence.

Miss Wilson gave a similar narrative.

Dalton Deacon deposed that he was rowing the boat to which the accident occurred. Mr. Pope, Mrs. Pope and her baby were its other occupants. He was rowing from Village Bay to Enterprise Rock. Mr. Pope stood up and hailed the steamer, signalling with his handkerchief. The signal was answered by the steamer's whistle.

"He never stopped the engine until he was close to the boat," said witness, "and then he reversed. I was pulling in the direction that the steamer was going—the way I always do when I want to board her. There was a flood tide and south-east wind at the time, which swung the steamer round and sucked the boat under the paddle at the stern. The wheel struck the boat near the bow, hitting me behind the shoulder. I was knocked under water, and when I came up the first time the wheel was still going. I struck out to swim and managed to catch on to a piece of our broken boat. Then a line was thrown over my shoulder from the steamer. I was taken aboard the Rithet before her boat was launched."

"Did the wheel strike you?" asked Captain Gaudin.

"Yes," replied the witness, "and from the effects of that stroke I was laid up for a month, and was under medical treatment in Victoria."

"Did you hear anyone call out to you to stop pulling as you approached the steamer?"

"I did not," replied the witness. "When the wheel struck me, and I was knocked under, I did not see any of the others."

"What made you pull so close to the steamer?"

"I did not pull close to the steamer. I always pull ahead so as to drop down and effect a landing; but in this instance the Rithet backed down on me. She was going unusually fast. The captain never warned me not to come alongside when the steamer was in motion, but has often hollared at me to hurry up. There is a wharf on Mayne Island, where mails and passengers are landed, but Capt. Jagers won't always land there."

This concluded the evidence so far, but there are a couple of important witnesses yet to be examined, who are not in town. Medical certificates were produced to show that they are detained in Vancouver through illness. Capt. Gaudin intends having their testimony before he brings the enquiry to a close.

During the day Mrs. Deacon, the mother of Mrs. Pope, offered herself in evidence. In reply to questions from Capt. Gaudin Mrs. Deacon was obliged to admit that she did not witness the accident. She was a couple of miles away at the time.

Under these circumstances Capt. Gaudin did not think that she could throw any light on the case and refused her testimony. This decision induced Mrs. Deacon to denounce the court in round terms.

### The Right to Publish Names of Debtors.

The Divisional Court sat again yesterday morning, their Lordships Mr. Justice Crease and Mr. Justice Drake being upon the bench. The only case heard was that of ——— v. Giles, an appeal against a decision of the Chief Justice. The defendant is carrying on business in Victoria under the name of the B. C. Mercantile Protective Agency, and among other methods of collecting bad debts proposed to publish a list of names, including that of the plaintiff in the present suit, with the amount owed by each set opposite the name, the accounts being offered for sale the same as any other asset. Notice of the intended publication was sent to the plaintiff, who thereupon secured an injunction restraining the defendant from publishing his name. A motion made to dissolve the injunction was dismissed, and it is against this that the appeal was taken, the object to be gained being to have the injunction dissolved. Mr. A. L. Belyea, of Belyea & Gregory, appeared for the appellant; Mr. J. P. Walls for the respondent. Judgment was reserved.

### Rich Plum Pudding.

THIS delicious confection is nicely calculated to produce dyspepsia, heartburn, biliary troubles and headache. Burdock Blood Bitters is equally well calculated to cure these troubles and has proved its power in hundreds of cases. B. B. B. regulates and purifies the entire system.

FROM THE DAILY COLONIST, OCT. 13.

## THE CITY.

### The Northern Pack.

Canners who came down from the North by the Danube yesterday report that about 40,000 cases is all the Northern salmon pack now remaining at the canneries. It will all be down this month.

### The Skins Being Unloaded.

The sealskins brought down on the Coquitlam were being discharged, yesterday. They are well preserved. Some experts are making an examination of each skin as it is taken off.

### Live's Voyage O'er.

Captain John Riley, a native of Glasgow, Scotland, died at St. Joseph's hospital yesterday in his 33rd year. He was well known among the sealing men, having sailed out of this port a number of years, last season as skipper of the Otto.

### A Bank in Difficulty.

The Bank of Port Angeles, B. F. Schwartz, president, has been in difficulty for some time past, and on Tuesday suspended payment. It is understood that criminal proceedings are contemplated in connection with the failure.

### Will Hold a Bazaar.

The ladies of St. Andrew's (R.C.) church have fixed Monday, October 31, as the date for the opening of their annual bazaar, the bazaar following immediately upon the dedication of the new cathedral. The list of attractions will far eclipse those provided in past years, and the bazaar will no doubt prove a pleasure and a success.

### Fine Potatoes.

Mr. D. E. Campbell, druggist, who returned from Clinton, the other day, brought with him some very fine potatoes from the garden of Mr. F. Soues, Government agent. Besides being of remarkable size, the tubers, when cooked, are dry and "floury" all through. Two of them would make an ordinary family's supply for dinner.

### Back to His Field of Labor.

Bishop Ridley and Mrs. Ridley arrived last night from England and are registered at the Driard, where they will remain until the next steamer leaves for the North. His Lordship, who has charge of the diocese of Caledonia, left the province some six months ago on a trip to the Old Country for his health. The trip proved most beneficial, and His Lordship is now returning to work very much refreshed.

### Natural Gas in the North.

Word was received by the Danube yesterday that a valuable well of natural gas had been struck near Port McNeil, Queen Charlotte. The well was flowing freely when the prospectors discovering it were heard from. This is a valuable discovery, the result of the labors of Mr. W. A. Robertson and his associates, and promises well, not alone for natural gas, but for the value of the coal deposit.

### The Bankburn Case.

The case of the 13 sailors of the Bankburn now "doing time" for alleged mutiny, at the Provincial jail, will be brought before one of the Supreme Court judges on *certiorari* next Monday. What their counsel is most afraid of now is that the bark will arrive at other parts without calling at Victoria; if she does call the captain will probably be obliged to face a series of *capiaces* for wages.

### The Insolvency Law.

Hon. Theodore Davie was yesterday waited upon by a committee of the Board of Trade, who had come for the purpose of ascertaining what remedial legislation the province would be in a position to grant to protect merchants against dishonest and unfortunate debtors. It will be remembered that the question of more adequate insolvency laws was pretty fully discussed at the quarterly general meeting of the Board of Trade, a resolution being then passed appointing the committee to wait upon the Premier. Hon. Mr. Davie was, however, unable to give very much encouragement for the present. What is really wanted, he explained, is a general insolvency and bankruptcy law, which would have to be passed by the Dominion Parliament.

### A Sociable Evening.

A largely attended social in aid of the Spring Ridge Methodist Sunday School was given in the Odd Fellows' Hall, Fernwood road, last evening. A very suitable programme was furnished by the ladies of the Pandora Avenue Methodist Church, and, in addition to this, plenty of refreshments were handed round. The programme was as follows:

Piano solo.....Mr. Holden
Reading.....Miss Banfield
Dialogue.....Messrs. Knot and Parfitt.
Miss Burkholder and the Misses Matthews
Dialogue.....Messrs. Parfitt and Snider
and the Misses Banfield and Matthews
Reading.....Mr. A. Charleton
Recitation.....Mr. Chatman
Piano duet.....The Misses Banfield and Yorke
Vocal solo.....Miss Howe

### An Awkward Predicament.

In course of a conversation had by a COLONIST man with Bishop Ridley, last evening, his Lordship told the following story, which is too good to keep: "When we were coming across the mountains, we heard that the train from the West was some eight hours late on account of a landslide this side of Revelstoke. Of course, none of us thought very much of the delay, inasmuch as our own train was on time, but when we got to Glacier House, we found things in rather an awkward predicament on account of the lost time. The dining-room had been beautifully decorated and everything was prepared for a dance which was to follow a wedding. Both bride and bridegroom were on hand sharp enough, but the clergyman who was to tie the knot was on the late train. No one thought until after our train had started of asking me to officiate, and they had decided to have the dance first and postpone the wedding till the train got in.

### Bichloride of Gold.

Arrangements have been made for the establishment in Victoria of an institute for the cure of inebriates, and those addicted to the use of morphine and opium. Mr. M. D. Roche, of the Milen Cure Company, is in town for that purpose. He is himself one of those who have been cured of the drink habit by the bichloride of gold treatment introduced by Dr. Keeley and adopted by the Milen Company. Sixteen months ago a perfect cure was effected in Mr. Roche's case. He was then clerk of the Division Court of Omaha, a prominent politician in his district, and became addicted to drink. Since his treatment by the process he now advocates, he asserts that he has never had the slightest desire for drink, and, out of eighty-five similarly treated with him, but four have returned to the debasing habit. He claims that not alone is the inebriate cured by this process, but also the morphine and opium fiend, and so confident is he of entire success in the treatment of cases in Victoria, that he invites the fullest investigation. Dr. Panter, of Omaha, will arrive in town to-day to superintend operations, and until further arrangements can be made, patients will be treated in private apartments at Hotel Victoria. There are already four cases listed.

### To Open Monday.

The Royal Commission on epidemic diseases, notably smallpox, will open at the Court House, Bastion Square, at 11 o'clock Monday morning, when all interested are requested to attend. The Commissioners, the Chief Justice and Dr. E. A. Praeger, of Nanaimo, will make a thorough and searching enquiry, and the sittings of the Commission are expected to extend over several weeks.

### The Annual Meeting.

The shareholders of the Victoria and Sidney railway held their annual general meeting in the office of Messrs. Irving & Haywood yesterday. The meeting was a short one, as only the election of officers took place: President, P. C. Dunlevy; Vice-President and Treasurer, M. H. Cowan; Secretary, Robert Irving; Directors, W. J. Macaulay, Julius Brethour, M. H. Cowan, P. C. Dunlevy and R. Irving.

### An Overhauling.

The custom house building is now undergoing a thorough overhanling, and already the good work of the painter, paper-hanger and carpenter is making itself agreeably apparent. The outside wookwork, etc., has all been painted afresh, the excise department cleared up, and on Saturday the workmen will attack the long room. Most of the work has been done after business hours, and all will be completed, it is expected, next week.

### An Opening Entertainment.

There was a good attendance last evening at the East Fernwood Hall, where a most enjoyable concert was given under the auspices of the Christian Endeavor society of St. Andrew's church. The chair was occupied by Rev. P. McF. McLeod, who opened the programme with an address. The following numbers were then given:

Pianoforte duet...Misses Hutcheson and Leech
Vocal duet.....Mrs. Bartlett and Miss Baker
Reading.....Miss Collins
Address.....Dr. Campbell
Piano solo.....Miss Leech
Song.....Miss Hutcheson
Reading.....Mr. W. Kimpton
Reading.....Mr. Allen
Address.....Rev. Mr. Hopkins
Address.....Mr. John Boyd

During the evening refreshments were provided, there being a very liberal supply. A collection was taken up, a fair sum being realized.

## CLEW'S CIRCULAR.

### Important Influence Which the Silver Conference is Likely to Have Upon the Future.

The following is a summary of Henry Clew's & Co.'s financial circular, dated New York, October 1, 1892:

"The general drift of conditions during the second half of the past month has been more favorable to Wall street interests, and the effect on stocks has been apparent in a firmer tone and some advance in prices, and in a more cautious attitude and some covering of "shorts" on the "bear" side. These changes, though not of an imposing character, are of a substantial nature. The virtual stamping out of the cholera, both in the harbor and the city, and its comparatively rapid abatement in Europe, has had a gratifying effect in removing the partial paralysis that had seized upon important interests.

The cessation for two weeks in the reduction of the surplus reserves of the Associated banks has had an assuring effect upon the money market. It becomes more apparent every year that Chicago and St. Louis are attracting the balances of the Western banks which accumulate during the summer, and have been wont to rest in the New York banks. The tendency is natural, and is likely to gain force in the future; and, whatever disadvantages it may have for this city, it will certainly have the advantage of tending to make our money and investment market more stable than formerly during the second half of the year. The drain on this city during the last six or eight weeks has consisted largely in the exports of gold, which have been made entirely at the expense of the banks.

As foreshadowed two weeks ago, the outflow of gold to Europe has been checked by a natural process. The rise in the local rate of interest has made New York the best market for the employment of the large unprofitable idle balances of Europe, and the result has been free lending by the correspondents of foreign bankers, which has checked the rising tendency of rates among our banks. The excessive ease of money at London and Paris still continues, and it seems probable that the European markets will keep money comparatively easy at New York for some time to come. This tendency must be regarded as accounting for the marked change towards lower rates in the foreign exchange market.

London continues to show a restricted interest in American securities. The return of our investments from that quarter has come to a pause, but there is no disposition to buy them back. Those who have been alarmed by our silver policy seem to have parted with all they want to sell, and now, no doubt, think all the better of us from the fact that we have digested and absorbed two hundred millions of them without a wince, and with little visible effect upon prices. The future attitude of European countries towards our securities may be naturally expected to be one of waiting for the result of the Silver Conference, and also to ascertain the probable drift of our legislation relative to silver coinage. During the interval of some months, London may venture upon some transient speculative operations, but it is not likely to be either buyer or seller on permanent account.

Another factor, having an important bearing upon a wide range of stocks, has come to the front in the improved prospects of the corn crop. The fear that lateness of the planting season might throw the maturing of the crop into the period of frost has been in a large measure removed. The crop is maturing rapidly and well and, taken as a whole, may be considered as having reached a point at which light frost would benefit rather than injure it. This is a very gratifying assurance to our vast corn belt, and places in a better position the large railroad interests dependent upon this cereal.

We look forward to the early awakening, in the financial markets, of increased interest in the International Silver Conference. Large interests in England and on the Continent are becoming deeply aroused by the question as profoundly affecting commercial enterprise, while India is speaking in tones too earnest to be disregarded. It is likely therefore that the discussions of the conference may develop into a severe struggle, in which very radical proposals may be forthcoming. We should not be surprised if the chief silver-producing countries, notably the United States, be formally asked, as a condition of other nations increasing their coinage, that they shall enforce a large curtailment in their production of silver; while, from other quarters may come alternative proposals to establish a new common legal valuation of silver, probably quite 25 per cent. below the existing valuation of 15½ to 1.

## THE PRIZE LIST.

### Cowichan and Salt Spring Island Agricultural Show on Saturday.

The following is the list of prizes gained at the Agricultural Show at Duncan's last week:

HORSES.

Two year old colt, W. C. Duncan.
Draught stallion, any age, 1, B. Ordons; 2, G. T. Corfield.
Roadster stallion, Joe Macdonald.
Span draught horses, A. McKinnon.
Bread mare with foal at foot, 1, Geo. Lewis; 2, W. H. Elkington.
Saddle horse, Mrs. A. Skinner.
Three year old colt or filly, 1, J. C. Dwyer; 2, D. W. Malnguy.
Yearling colt or filly, 1, W. H. Elkington; 2, R. McLay.
General purpose horse, 1, R. E. Barkley; 2, J. H. Whithorne.
Hurdle jumper, R. E. Barkley.
Buggy horse, W. H. Elkington.
Pony ridden by child under 14, 1, Miss Brown; 2, Miss L. Jaynes; 3, Florence Duncan.
This year's foal, special prize by H. Croft, M.P.P., P. B. Johnson.

CATTLE.

Thoroughbred short horn bull, 1, Jas. Shopland; 2, W. H. Elkington.
Thoroughbred Jersey bull, 1, G. T. Corfield; 2, J. and R. Musgrave.
Thoroughbred bull, any other breed, G. T. Corfield.
Thoroughbred Jersey cow, 1, G. T. Corfield; 2, Chas. Bazett.
Cow, thoroughbred, any other breed, G. T. Corfield.
Yearling heifer, W. P. Jaynes.
Yoke work oxen, Thos. Smith.

SHEEP.

Ram, Southdown, J. and R. Musgrave.
Ram, any breed, thoroughbred, R. McLay.
Ewes, any breed, A. S. Drummond.
Special prize. Given by Mr. R. B. Marvin Victoria, three lambs, any breed, R. McLay.

PIGS.

Boar, any age, 1, Mrs. E. Charley; 2, G. T. Corfield.
Brood sow in farrow at the meeting or been so within six months, Jas. Evans.
Best bred sow under twelve months, W. Wilson.

FIELD PRODUCE.

Bushel spring wheat, 1, Jno. Menzies; 2, Jas. Shopland.
Bushel fall wheat, 1, Jno. Menzies: 2, Jas. Shopland.
Bushel barley, 1, W. H. Elkington; 2, W. C. Brown.
Bushel oats, 1, Jas. Shopland; 2, Jas. Evans.
Bushel field peas, 1, Jno. Menzies; 2, Jas. Shopland.
Twelve ears Indian corn, 1, W. C. Duncan; 2, W. Wilson.
Collection of grain, three varieties, one bushel each, Jas. Shopland.
Sample Timothy seeds, not less than twenty-five pounds, H. T. Castley.
Special prize presented by Messrs. Brackman & Ker, collection of grain grown by one man, not less than 50 lbs. of each kind, James Shopland.

VEGETABLES.

Swedish Turnips, 1, P. B. Johnston; 2, W. H. Lomas.
Six turnips, any other kind, 1, John Bell; 2, James Shopland.
Six mangolds, long, 1 and 2, G. T. Corfield.
Six mangolds, globe, G. T. Corfield.
Six mangolds, yellow tankards, 1, W. H. Lomas; 2, W. C. Duncan.
Twelve carrots, white or yellow, H. A. Pimbury.
Twelve carrots, long red, W. Wilson.
Twelve carrots, any other kind, James Norcross.
Twelve potatoes, late, 1, James Nightingale; 2, W. Wilson.
Twelve potatoes, early, 1, R. E. Jackson; 2, W. C. Duncan.
Three new varieties potatoes, 12 each, 1, Geo. Porter; 2, A. Bell.
Twelve onions, 1, R. McLay; 2, Jno. Menzies.
Quart eschalots, 1, Jno. Menzies; 2, R. McLay.
Two drumhead cabbage, 1, R. McLay; 2, Geo. T. Corfield.
Two red cabbage, W. H. Lomas, 1 and 2.
Two cabbage, any other kind, 1, W. C. Brown; 2, W. C. Duncan.
Twelve early horn carrots, 1, A. Pimbury; 2, W. C. Duncan.
Six parsnips, 1, A. Pimbury; 2, A. Bell.
Six beets, 1, A. Bell; 2, W. Bazett.
Two cauliflowers, 1, A. Pimbury; 2, Joseph Richards.
Two cucumber, 1, A. Pimbury; 2, H. T. Castley.
Two vegetable marrow, 1, W. Kingston; 2, W. Bazett.
Two squashes, H. T. Castley, 1; W. Kingston, 2.
Six Tomatoes, 1, W. Bazett; 2, G. T. Corfield.
Collection of garden vegetables, 1, W. Wilson; 2, A. Pimbury.

FRUIT.

Collection of apples, Joseph Richards.
Twelve apples, autumn, 1, Joseph Richards; 2, G. T. Corfield.
Twelve apples, winter, 1, Joseph Richards; 2, H. O. Wellburn.
Twelve pears, autumn, 1, W. H. Lomas; 2, John Menzies.
Twelve pears, winter, 1, W. C. Duncan; 2, A. Pimbury.
Quart plums, 1, H. T. Castley; 2, Josh Richards.
Twelve peaches, 1, Dr. A. Watson; 2, W. H. Lomas.
Twelve quinces, 1, Mrs. Roberts.
Two watermelons, 1, A. Pimbury.
Two musk melons, 1 and 2, A. Pimbury.
Two citrons, 1, John Menzies; 2, H. T. Castley.
Collection of fruit, 1, W. H. Lomas; 2, A. Pimbury.

POULTRY.

Pair turkeys, 1, Walter Ford; 2, G. T. Corfield.
Pair geese, 1, Mrs. G. A. Perrin; 2, Willie Gray.
Pair ducks, 1, Mrs. Charley; 2, Jas. Flett.
Pair legnorn fowls, 1, J. W. Flett; 2, Jas. Flett.
Pair spanish fowls, 1, W. C. Duncan; 2, Joseph Richards.
Pair Plymouth Rock fowls, 1 and 2, J. W. Flett.
Pair fowls any other kind, 1, J. B. Carmichael; 2, Jas. Flett.

DAIRY.

Four pounds fresh butter, unprinted, 1, Mrs. Roberts; 2, G. T. Corfield.
Special prize by H. Croft, Esq., M.P.P., 10 lbs salt butter in 2 lb. rolls, 1, Mrs. Jos. Richards; 2, Miss Wilson.
Special prize presented by E. G. Prior & Co., 4 lbs. fresh butter put up for table use, Mrs. John Bell.

LADIES' PRIZES.

Knitted stockings, Mrs. Maitland Dougall.
Knitted socks, Miss Nellie Edgson.
Knitted mittens or gloves, Mrs. Maitland Dougall.
Fancy needlework, Mrs. Bickford.
Crochet work, wool, Mrs. P. Freements.
Crochet, cotton, Miss Blyth.
Knitting, any kind, Mrs