



The Weekly Colonist.

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NANSEN AT THE POLE.

Report that the Indomitable Arctic Explorer has Attained His Object.

The Story Discredited by Both Commanders Melville and General Greely.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 13.—News that Dr. Nansen, the Arctic explorer, had reached the North Pole, whence, having found land, he was now returning to civilization, was telegraphed here from Irkutsk, Siberia, where it had been received from Ust Yacht, at the mouth of the Yana river. The dispatch is to the effect that a Siberian trader named Koucharoff has received information that Dr. Nansen the Norwegian explorer who sailed on June 24, 1883, in the steamer Fram for the Arctic regions, had reached the North Pole where he found land. Several stories have been received as to the success of the indefatigable navigator; one of them that in April last he had found the pole, which was situated on a chain of mountains, another received in London on September 17 from the Danish trading station of Angmyne, on the east coast of Greenland, that a ship supposed to be the Fram had been sighted at the end of July stuck fast in the ice drift. On December 6 a dispatch which came from Christians, Norway, stated that Dr. Nansen's wife had received a letter per carrier pigeon reporting that the expedition was doing well. This report was published for what it was worth, but its inaccuracy was manifest from the fact that no pigeons were carried by the party.

Dr. Nansen has been for years an enthusiastic believer in the possibility of finding the north pole. He is about 37 years of age and entered the university at Christiania in 1860. Two years later he went on a sealing cruise to Denmark straits, on the east coast of Greenland, in the Viking. Later, in 1882, he was appointed curator of the museum at Bergen, which position he retained until 1888, when he led a small expedition of six men to Greenland, crossing the southern part of that portion of the globe. On his return to his native land, Norway, Nansen took preliminary steps toward fitting out an expedition and constructed a three-master sailing schooner, which had a sixty horse power steam engine auxiliary to her sails. Her sides were so constructed that they could meet the vessel to pass underneath her, thus preventing what is known as "pinching and screwing."

LONDON, Feb. 13.—The reported discovery of the North Pole by Dr. Nansen is much discussed in the papers this morning, both in London and, according to foreign telegrams, elsewhere. The general opinion seems to be somewhat skeptical, without denying the possibility of the truth of the report. This report is held to at least indicate that Dr. Nansen is safe and is returning. The Royal Geographical Society's officials consider it strange that they should have received no word, as Dr. Nansen promised that the society should have the very first information, and they have received nothing.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—The story from Russia to the effect that Nansen, the explorer, has discovered and landed at the North Pole and is now on his way home is received here with absolute incredulity by the two persons who of all others in the United States, are best qualified to pass an opinion upon the probability of the statement—Commander Melville and General Greely. Commander Melville is particularly confident that the story was without a reasonable foundation.

DUNRAVEN'S RESIGNATION TO BE ASKED.

New York, Feb. 13.—At the meeting of the New York Yacht Club this evening, it was expected that the America's cup difficulty would have been finally disposed of, but no definite action was taken.

Captain Ledyard moved that in view of the charges preferred by Earl Dunraven in connection with the America's cup races having been found to be untrue, in fact, wholly unwarranted and unsupported by any reasonable grounds of suspicion, and His Lordship having neither retracted the said false charges nor offered any apology for making them, "Therefore be it Resolved that the secretary be instructed to inform the Earl of Dunraven that his resignation as an honorary member of the New York Yacht Club is requested by the club."

Secretary Oddie then read the following cablegram: "London, Feb. 12.—In Oldie, New York city.—Forwarded letters to Elves, Saturday; and to Phelps, to-day. (Signed) Dunraven." Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan then moved that in view of the dispatch which has just been read the meeting be adjourned to two weeks from to-night, February 27, to take action on the resolutions of by Captain Ledyard. This motion was seconded and adopted.

FREE COINAGE.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—After a ten days' debate, the house, to-day, by a vote of 80 to 190 in committee of the whole, rejected the free coinage amendment to the bond bill, and reported the bill to the house, with a recommendation to non-concur and insist on the house bill. The strength developed by the silver men was a surprise. After two hours' debate to-morrow the final vote will be taken.

The Standard announces that Sir John Millais will succeed the late Lord Leigh as President of the Royal Academy.

ROENTGEN'S RAYS APPLIED.

CHICAGO, Feb. 13.—The first practical experiment in Chicago with Roentgen's rays was made on Tuesday afternoon by Electrician Charles E. Scribner and Dr. James Barry in the laboratory of the Western Electric Company. Casper Schmidt came to the office of the Western Electric Company complaining of a sore spot in the region of the palm of the hand, where he had been shot two years ago. After an hour's exposure to the cathode rays the sensitive plates upon which rested the afflicted member were taken to the photographic room. When developed the plate disclosed a most excellent likeness of the anatomy of the hand, and also what appeared to be a buckshot snugly encoined between the metacarpal bones of third and fourth fingers, about an inch and a half below the knuckle.

SYRACUSE, Feb. 13.—At the Syracuse university, under the direction of Prof. Eugene Haanel, successful photographs are being made with rays of Roentgen light. Last week on the second trial the skeleton of a live frog was photographed in one hour and fifteen minutes' exposure. Last night in a cardboard box, a ticket, a dime, a copper cent, a carbon lead pencil and a steel key were penetrated, and in another experiment some bone buttons, link cuff buttons and a piece of watchchain were imperfectly penetrated after an exposure of only thirty minutes. Prof. Haanel says Edison cannot photograph the brain, because it is transparent.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—The possible use of the new process of photography in the application of cathode rays in determining the existence of secret flaws in metals is about to be tested thoroughly at the Carnegie works, where a large amount of naval construction is under way. The importance of the process from an industrial standpoint can scarcely be overestimated.

HARTFORD, Feb. 13.—Skeletons of living bodies have been photographed in the Jarvis physical laboratory at Trinity college by Prof. William Lispenard Robb, of the faculty, and Dr. Arthur J. Wolf, of the microscope. An interesting thing in these experiments was the apparent discovery of "halation," which in this instance implies the reflexion of the X rays, a thing which has been denied.

NEW BRUNSWICK LEGISLATURE.

FREDERICTON, N.B., Feb. 13.—(Special)—The provincial assembly was opened by His Honor Lieutenant-Governor Fraser at 3 o'clock this afternoon. In his opening speech the Lieutenant-Governor said: "It is a matter of sincere congratulation to the people of this province and to the Dominion at large that the year just closed has been a year of contentment and average prosperity. You have learned with sorrow, and sad bereavement which has lately cast its shadow over the royal household, and the death of Prince Henry of Battenberg while in the active military service of his adopted country, has, I am well assured, elicited from the hearts of all profound sympathy for the widowed Princess and our beloved Queen. The threatened disturbance of the friendly relations which have existed without any serious breach during living memory between the governments of Great Britain and the United States is to us a matter of profound concern. In common with Canadians of all classes and parties, I sincerely trust that this menace to civilization may be averted, and that we may ever remain upon terms of amity with our kinsmen and neighbors of the great republic. If unhappily trouble should arise, I believe there is no portion of the Empire which would more heartily and loyally than this province maintain and defend connection with the mother country. In connection with the development of frequent and direct steamship intercommunication between the port of St. John and Great Britain, the feasibility of which has this season been so successfully demonstrated, it will be important, especially to the farmers of the province, that cold storage warehouses be established at suitable points for the preservation of all perishable commodities awaiting market or shipment. A measure will be submitted for your approval enabling my government to assist private enterprise in this direction. The mineral development of New Brunswick, under the healthy stimulus of recent legislation, has been prosecuted with much energy by private skill and enterprise, but it is a question whether individual effort in this direction should not be further supplemented by public assistance, if we are to be well and accurately informed as to the true extent and value of our mineral resources. A bill in furtherance of this object will be introduced for your consideration."

EDISON'S LATEST.

ORANGE N. J., Feb. 13.—Mr. Edison continued his experiments with the Roentgen rays yesterday, and although many of his experiments were unsuccessful he is as enthusiastic as ever and declares he will try photographing a brain as soon as he secures rays strong enough to suit his purpose. The most important discovery made to-day was that the flickering noticeable in the fluorescent tubes is controlled by the current in the glass bulb and not by the force fluctuation of the electric current as had been supposed. This discovery was made by placing two tubes on the same circuit with one the fluorescence flickered considerably, and in the other remained steady. A number of experiments were made in heating the photographic plates with a view to make them more sensitive. They were unsuccessful, however. Edison proposes to try if the rays can be sent over a telephone wire, placing the diaphragm of one receiver in front of a tube, and a receiver at the other end of the wire in an adjoining room in front of a sensitized plate. If the experiment is successful, the wizard says the possibilities of the application of the rays will be immense, and may include a practical device for sending pictures by telegraph.

NEWS OF THE PROVINCE

Opposition to Tuition Fees in Vancouver High School—Smelter at Terminal City.

Developing Texada Island—A Victoria Organist at Westminster—Lecture on Mining.

(Special to the Colonist.)

VANCOUVER.

VANCOUVER, Feb. 13.—The Nationalists Association have notified the school board that they are opposed to the idea of charging a tuition fee for pupils of the High School. The board answered that they have no intention of charging a fee for high school pupils.

Mr. St. George is again fighting the Vancouver school system, and questions the accuracy of the financial statement of the school trustees, brings charges against a teacher, and refuses to apologize for his child striking its teacher.

J. C. Wilson, a resident since before last year, called on the trustees. Mr. Wilson will permanently reside abroad.

A number of prominent citizens have left for Kootenay, where, among others, Conductor Alex. McKenzie, of the C. P. R., has gone prospecting; among others who are located in Rossland are Leonard Corbin, contractors, builders and real estate agents.

The question of both lumber mills are overcrowded and there are numerous ships chartered and on their way. The Vancouver Board of Trade last night in reference to the projected Vancouver smelter appointed a committee to consult with the council and report. The alleged high rates of the Telephone Co. were considered. Mr. Salisbury, representing the company, stated that the rates would not be reduced.

It was decided not to send delegates to the Winnipeg Immigration Convention.

The question of the British Pacific railway being taken up, it was resolved to memorialize the Lieut. Governor in effect not to aid railway enterprises and in particular the British Pacific railway unless ample time is afforded for their full consideration and discussion.

The board has received a pamphlet from the secretary of the United Chambers of Commerce, London, who will hold a convention in a few months. A resolution was presented by President Alexander expressing a desire for closer pacific and commercial relations between the mother country and her colonies.

Mr. Pellet-Harvey delivered his lecture on mining, in Dunn hall, last evening to a good audience. The acid tests for lead and galena ores were exhibited. The lecturer then took up the subject of gold. He said there was no defining line as to where it could be found. Base ores might be profitable, and he examined a magnifying glass, without detection, and still gold was there and could be chemically extracted. Several different tests for gold were also described. At the conclusion of the lecture, Mr. Harvey stated that he was in communication with one of the largest smelting firms in England in reference to starting a smelter here.

The small holdings settlers at Burnaby are about to organize the co-operative principle for the handling of their produce.

The subscription list opened here by Manager Jamieson of the Victoria theatre toward securing the Tavyary Grand Opera Company, shows a first day total of but \$40—a fact which all interested in securing for this city the highest class attractions cannot but deplore. The fault appears to lie in the fact that the public are not sufficiently notified. Mr. Jamieson's open letter explaining the situation, rather than in lack of appreciation. It is hoped that with Victoria's first day subscription of \$1,000 as an example, Vancouverites will come to the front to-day. No one here that is interested in art would wish to see Vancouver passed by Mme. Tavyary and her company.

WESTMINSTER.

WESTMINSTER, Feb. 13.—Bail will not be accepted in the case of Charles Warwick, according to instructions received from Victoria.

Grand Master Holmes, I.O.O.F., M.U., is to pay an official visit to the brethren here.

Mr. Bridgman, organist of St. John's, Victoria, delighted a Westminster audience at an organ recital at Holy Trinity cathedral to-night.

There is a great reduction in the home mission fund of the Anglican diocese of Westminster. An appeal for aid will probably be made to Vancouver, Victoria, Winnipeg, Toronto and Montreal. The demands for church work are increasing out of all proportion to the home resources. Bishop Dart will make an extensive Eastern trip in the spring with a view of soliciting aid for the mission fund.

NANAIMO.

NANAIMO, Feb. 13.—There is some talk of a Chicago and Victoria syndicate bonding certain lands on Texada island with a view to developing the mineral resources. The surface specimens of gold, silver, copper, tin and iron ores, have long been regarded as very rich, and a series of assays have fully borne out that opinion. Up to the present operations being principally confined to prospecting and assessment work. The syndicate have, it is said, bonded most of the valuable claims, and are preparing to invest at least \$250,000 in the practical and scientific development of the mineral ledges. Work will commence in the early spring.

The Nanaimo millage dues for the past year were \$20,025.50.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT

Mr. Balfour Says Britain Is Ready to Do Full Justice to Ireland.

Explanations as to the Transvaal Controversy Made by Colonial Secretary Chamberlain.

LONDON, Feb. 13.—In the House of Commons to-day Mr. George N. Curzon, Under-Secretary for the Foreign Office, replying to the question why Great Britain proposed to Brazil that the dispute regarding the possession of the island of Trinidad should be decided by arbitration, said Great Britain occupied Trinidad in 1781, and abandoned it in 1783 on the representations of Portugal. The late government, Mr. Curzon added, occupied the island because it had been abandoned for a century, and the government proposed arbitration as the best means of settling the question of the ownership of the island.

Financial secretary of the treasury Mr. Hanbury, replying to Mr. J. Henker Heaton, member for Canterbury, said the government was considering the question of establishing a parcel post between Great Britain and the United States. He could not at the present time state what steps had been taken, but he hoped that the United States government would consent to extend the system to the United Kingdom.

When the debate on the address in reply to the Queen's speech was resumed to-day, Sir William Vernon Harcourt, supporting the amendment of Mr. John Dillon, anti-Parnellite, censuring the government for not proposing self-government for Ireland, pointed out that colonies from which there was recently a splendid testimony of loyalty to the crown, enjoyed home rule. He maintained that the policy of home rule would be as successful in Ireland as in the colonies.

Rt. Hon. A. J. Balfour, First Lord of the Treasury and Conservative leader in the house, in reply said he did not believe in home rule, but he was in favor of the conditions of Ireland. Many Irish gentlemen on the opposite side of the house, he added, had gone to the United States on political lecturing tours, and had represented to citizens of the United States that all Ireland demanded was a constitution similar to that of the United States of America, in which Ireland should be represented as if it were New York state, within the United States, but there was no doubt that the feeling against England was not due to the mere fact that the Americans had one form of a free constitution and the English had another. It is financial and political character of that they think the national claims of Ireland are not adequately regarded. But the state system of America, continued Mr. Balfour, has nothing whatever to do with the national claims, and would never have been founded on the question of nationality. Moreover, he added, supposing that America had been broken up into various states, like Austria, each differently organized, and different language, and the state system of America had been adopted to meet them, it would be difficult to hold the United States of America as one nation, as it may be difficult hereafter to hold the diverse elements forming the Austrian empire. The only cure for this antipathy of the Irish abroad for England, is in increasing the knowledge of the English language of Great Britain to do justice to Ireland.

"I do not think this question is thoroughly understood in America," continued Mr. Balfour, "but more may be expected when we realize the sincere desire of parliament to mete full and generous justice to Ireland. Then will begin a change of opinion which will eventually permeate the whole mass of the English speaking community, and the last cause of dissension between the great communities will be removed for ever."

Mr. T. M. Healy, anti-Parnellite member of the United States House of Representatives, was as proud to appeal to the Irish in America as England was to appeal to the Anglo-Saxons in her colonies. Continuing, Mr. Healy said he believed it was the influence of the Irish in the United States which had led President Cleveland to issue his famous message on the Venezuelan question.

Mr. Dillon's amendment to the address in reply to the Queen's speech was rejected by a vote of 276 to 160.

Mr. Labouchere to-day moved an amendment on the subject of the Transvaal. He said that Hon. Cecil Rhodes and his associate directors in the Chartered South African Co. had received £600,000 from the British government, there was, therefore, a strong presumption that they had a hand in the recent events. He maintained that the raid was carried out for stock market purposes.

Several other members having spoken, Rt. Hon. Mr. Chamberlain arose to reply, and was loudly cheered. He acknowledged the spirit of fairness with which the debate had been conducted. He would not advise all government departments to follow the plan of publicity he had adopted, but he did not regret the course he had taken; because it proved that whenever a minister is called upon to present the country at a crisis, he might rest assured of receiving the support of all parties and classes. He pointed out the confusion that had arisen with regard to mining matters, viz., the Uitlander agitation and the Jameson raid. The former was an old trouble, in connection with which the cry of "wolves" had been raised too often. With regard to the latter, to the best of his belief, Mr. Rhodes, the Chartered South African Co., the reform committee of Johannesburg, and Governor Sir Hercules Robinson, were all equally ignorant of Mr. Jameson's intended action, and there is no reason to doubt the

OUR OTTAWA SPECIAL.

Manitoba Catholic Schools Not to Be Left Unprovided for—Dr. Montague's Needed Holiday.

Independent Foresters' Bill Passed—Grit Obstruction—When the Present Parliament Expires.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, Feb. 13.—It is stated that in the event of the Manitoba legislature not granting any financial aid to the Catholic minority, the remedial bill will be so framed as to enable the Dominion to make good the omission of the Manitoba authorities by asking Parliament to amend the Dominion lands act next session so as to give to the Catholics a share of the school lands.

An order has been passed granting Rev. Father Lacombe certain reservations of land in the Territories for the purposes of a halfbreed settlement. Lord Aberdeen wrote a sympathetic memorandum on the order.

Hon. Dr. Montague left for England to-day, it having been decided that he should take five or six weeks' rest from his parliamentary and official duties. The Independent Foresters' bill was practically passed by the banking committee this morning. Last year the old line companies vigorously opposed it.

John Carleton, Sir Mackenzie Bowell's confidential messenger, was to-day appointed housekeeper to the Senate at a salary of \$1,000.

The Supreme court may probably be asked to give an opinion as to when the life of the present parliament expires.

Mr. Featherstone, M.P., has bought 4,000 tons of hay in this district since September for sale in Western Ontario. The Grit policy of obstruction is still being followed. Dr. McDonald, of East Huron, spoke for five hours to-day, discussing every subject save the budget.

OTTAWA, Feb. 14.—The budget debate was continued to-day, Messrs. Sproule, Lister, Rider and Cameron being the speakers.

Sir Charles Tupper is still confined to his house. It appears he was treating his throat, which is sore with excessive speaking, and the fumes got to his eyes necessitating that care be taken of them.

Plans for a narrow gauge railway between Trail and Penitencio have been deposited with the railway department by E. E. Ward, of Spokane.

The revenue for 1895 was \$53,000 better than January, 1895, and a million and three-quarters better for the seven months. The expenditure decreased \$630,000.

Sir Donald Smith's health is greatly improved. He left for Winnipeg to-day. Toronto manufacturers protest against cream separators being placed on the free list.

The Independent Foresters' bill passed the banking committee to-day. Government was asked to-day to grant financial aid to the proposed sanitary for consumptives in Muskoka.

The Industrial Typographical Union are taking steps to prevent the passage of the clause in the copyright act allowing the free importation of book plates.

Judge Bole of Westminster arrived here this afternoon.

ENGLAND'S ISOLATION.

I have said that Palmerston understood his public and played to it with assiduity and success. That public, however, was by no means England's best. The Ashburtons, the Granvilles, the Clarendons were not of it. The Queen and the Prince Consort emphasized their opposition to it. Reformers like Cobden and Bright did their best to divorce the masses from it. But insular prejudice was so strong, and melodrama proved so popular, that Palmerston retained his prestige almost without interruption until the end. Yet he succeeded in arousing an antagonism to British policy and in forming an ideal of British aggression abroad that still obtains upon the Continent and in America.

No higher-handed piece of national aggression has probably been perpetrated within this century than the recent invasion of Madagascar by the French. But the world at large has proved quite acquiescent. Had England undertaken such an expedition, however, the press of two continents would have exhausted the vocabulary of contumely. Yet no one at all conversant with colonial history can doubt that Madagascar would be a far better place to live and work in under English than under French dominion, and that it would prove of vastly greater value to the civilized world. England's position to-day is startlingly isolated; and a prime factor in her isolation has been that she has cherished Lord Palmerston's ideal in statesmanship too dearly.—"The Palmerston Ideal in Diplomacy," by Edward M. Chapman, in the February Century.

Make Yourself Strong. If you would resist pneumonia, bronchitis, typhoid fever, and persistent coughs and colds, these pills attack the weak and run down system. They are rich in iron, and the blood is kept pure, rich and full of vitality, the appetite good, a digestion vigorous, with Hood's Sarsaparilla, the one true blood purifier.

Hood's Pills cure liver ills, constipation, biliousness, jaundice, sick headaches. In Morristown, Pa., recently an unusual sentence was imposed upon three offenders. They were accused of assault and battery and were released on their promise to accompany their accuser to church on each of the twelve next succeeding Sundays.

THE WORLD'S FAIR TESTS

showed no baking powder so pure or so great in leavening power as the Royal.

The Daily Colonist—30 cents per week.