VICTORIA ON 'CHANGE.

The New Stock Board Will Open Up for Business Next Month.

Only the Best Class of Commercial and Mining Companies Will Be Listed.

On and after Wednesday, April 15, the Victoria Stock Exchange of British Columbia, Limited Liability, will call stocks daily in the board of trade building in this city; such was the decision of the board at a meeting held yesterday.

The formation of the exchange took place in September, 1894, since which date many meetings have been held for the preparation of by-laws and the consideration of the modus operandi best suited to meet the requirements of this province. The company was incorporated October 29 last, with a capital stock of $2,500 in 25 shares of $100 each, of which 15 are subscribed to date. The first meeting of the corporation was held on January 31, when by-laws were adopted, and the following officers, committees and auditors elected:

E. Crow Baker, president; A. C. Flumerfelt, vice-president; F. Elworthy, secretary-treasurer.

Managing committee—E. Crow Baker, A. C. Flumerfelt, C. A. Holland, Joshua Davies, Gustave Leiser, D. R. Ker and F. Elworthy.

Committee on membership — R. P. Rithet, Jas. Hutcheson, Thos. B. Hall, A. W. Jones and C. E. Renouf.

Auditors—C. E. Renouf and A. W. Jones.

The foregoing gentlemen with Hon. E. G. Prior, Hon. J. H. Turner and Thomas Earle complete the present board.

The objects of the board are to place values on general commercial stocks, and mining stocks will also be listed. It is expected that the board will be of great assistance to holders of stock who do not wish to sell but desire to use it as collateral. The board will also collect and publish statistics and the dissemination of such authentic information in the financial centres of this continent and Great Britain must necessarily become an important factor in inducing capitalists to seek British Columbia as a field for investments. The by-laws of the board, which are based on those adopted by the Toronto Stock Exchange, provide for a very thorough investigation by the managing committee of all companies desiring to be listed.

THE CITY.

Mr. Robert Knott, a well-known city contractor, died yesterday afternoon at his home on South Pandora street, after an illness of about two weeks.

The little difficulty between the Board of School Trustees and Mr. McNeill, principal of the North Ward school, has, it is understood, been satisfactorily adjusted and the entente cordiale restored. The correspondence which adjusted the matter will be laid before the trustees at the next general meeting of the trustees.

The funeral of the late Mrs. Piagg took place yesterday afternoon from Hayward's undertaking parlors, and St. Andrew's Cathedral, where Rev. Father Nicolaye conducted the funeral services. The remains were interred at Ross Bay Cemetery in the presence of many sympathising friends. The pall-bearers were: H. Cogan, M. Gelarvi, N. Bercci, J. Sauer, N. Jordan and E. Sketch.

The especially heavy C. P. R. cars loaded with cannon and ammunition for the land fortifications at Esquimalt, left Halifax ten days ago, having been brought across the Atlantic by the steamship St. John City. There are five pieces of ordnance of the latest improved six-inch long "Markiv" H. P. disappearing class, each of which is stamped "R. C. D. iv—1890 cwt., Reg. No. A. 792, W. D."

Judgment was given yesterday by Chief Justice Davie in the action of Hall and four Chinese v. Wing Yee and See Kum. Wing Yee was held to be a trustee for the Chinese plaintiffs and was ordered to reconvey the property in dispute to them. The claim of the plaintiff Hall was dismissed with costs, and so was defendants' counter-claim. Mr. H. D. Helmcken, Q.C., and J. A. Aikman appeared for the plaintiffs; Mr. Thornton Fell for the defendants.

The action of Joshua Russell v. Ann E. Russell to set aside registration of decree of alimony was heard before Mr. Justice Walkem yesterday. Defendant obtained a decree in the divorce and matrimonial court for judicial separation and alimony. This decree was registered against plaintiff's lands, and plaintiff now sues to have the registration set aside on the ground that defendant has no such remedy to enforce payment of alimony. Mr. A. L. Belyea for plaintiff, Mr. Thornton Fell and Mr. C. Dubois Mason for defendant. Judgment was reserved.

Violin music formed an important feature of the entertainment given in the schoolroom of the Metropolitan Methodist church last evening, but there were other features equally enjoyable. The programme announced by the chairman, Rev. Solomon Cleaver, was as follows: Violin solo, Mr. Andrews; song, Mrs. Giffin; violin solo, W. H. Berridge; recitation, G. Berridge; song, Miss Wolff; violin duet, Messrs. Andrews and Berridge; song, Rev. P. C. Harris; club swinging, Miss Wolffe; song, Mrs. McGraw; bell ringers, Mr. Andrews; refreshments.

The following gentlemen were invited to dine with His Honor the Lieut.-Governor last evening: Mr. F. S. Barnard, M.P.; Hon. D. M. Eberts, Q.C.; Hon. G. B. Martin, Hon. D. W. Higgins, Mr. J. Hunter, M.P.P.; Mr. R. P. Rithet, M.P.P.; Captain John Irving, M.P.P.; Mr. H. D. Helmcken, Q.C., M.P.P.; Mr. Thos. E. Kitchen, M.P.P.; Mr. Thos. Forster, M.P.P.; Mr. J. P. Booth, M.P.P.; Mr. C. B. Sword, M.P.P.; Mr. F. C. Cotton, M.P.P.; Major J. M. Mutter, M.P.P.; Dr. W. W. Walkem, M.P.P.; Mr. S. A. Rogers, M.P.P.; Mr. J. F. Hume, M.P.P.; Mr. A. Williams, M.P.P.; Capt. C. Phillips-Wolley, Mr. G. A. Huff, M.P.P.; Mr. C. A. Vernon, Mr. E. A. Jacob, Capt. Richardson, (private secretary).

The concert held at the Reformed Episcopal church and conducted by Prof. Bradley last evening, was very well attended. The platform was artistically decorated for the occasion. A long programme was presented comprising some very good numbers. Miss Hartley sang "Day Dreams" in a pleasing manner, and Mr. Booth's "Bedouin Love Song" was rendered excellently. Prof. Bradley also gave a very entertaining pianoforte solo. Miss Carr sang "Still is the Night" very effectively, and a charming duet was sung by Messrs. Bradley and Laundy. The entertainment was a very pleasant one.

BRITAIN AND VENEZUELA.

London, March 4.—The St. James Gazette this afternoon publishes a preliminary summary of the British blue book upon the Venezuelan situation. It is said to contain extracts from the archives of Holland from the latter part of the 16th to the second decade of the 19th century, and extracts from the archives of Spain, from Orellana's ascent of the river Amazon in 1542, and Martinez' ascent of the Orinoco river to Diego de Ordaz, down to Venezuela's independence in 1830. It will be shown, it is said, by overwhelming strength, that the possession of the west bank of the Essequibo by Great Britain is beyond doubt.

The Gazette says: "The statement shows the Dutch occupation of the coast of Guiana up to the mouth of the Orinoco, such possession implying the right of ownership to the Hinterland (back country), which right, it is shown, the Dutch exercised in the sixteenth century. The early Dutch maps give the northwest boundary as starting from Barima point and going northwestward inland, roughly parallel to the Orinoco, to the confluence of the Caroni and Orinoco. According to the map which de Lisle prepared for Louis XV in 1774, the delimitation of the district and the Dutch boundary from Barima Point is identical with the present British claims. Sir Frederick Pollock proves that the Spaniards were never established in Guiana proper until they overran a part of the British territory to the Cuyani in 1858. Previously the extreme Spanish settlement was St. Tome. This is borne out by the Dutch map of 1798, prepared for the assistance of the statesmen who were negotiating the cession of the Dutch colonies in America to Great Britain.

"Sir Frederick Pollock established beyond question that Holland vigorously protested whenever the Spaniards entered the Cuyani valley, that Spain had no answer to these protests and that she never claimed its ownership. But the States General twice, in 1759 and in 1769, demanded reparation for Spanish violation of the Dutch territory. The Spanish correspondence quoted shows that the government rejected the advice of Governor Cumana to push the Dutch out of Cuyani. The government declared that the proposals were too audacious, as they attempted to show that Guiana was more extensive than was actually the case. The Dutch archives have been so well kept that Sir Frederick Pollock was able to establish an irrefragable case for the British ownership of the Cuyani basin, though there is no adducible evidence as to how far the Dutch held the country between the Schomburgk line and the Orinoco."

Makes Them Well!

Paine's Celery Compound Woman's Tower of Safety in the Spring Season.

It Has a Marvellous Record.

CURES WHEN ALL OTHER MEDICINES FAIL.

The Home Friend of Half a Million Canadian Families.

The world has never heard of a medicine so highly recommended as Paine's Celery Compound. It has a world-wide reputation, because it "makes people well."

Paine's Celery Compound is known as "Woman's Tower of Safety." As the seasons come with trying and varied weather, women of all conditions find in Paine's Celery Compound a life-giver and health-preserver. It establishes that perfect condition of health that keeps the user far above any depressing influence of variable weather. It feeds the great nervous system and keeps the blood pure and fresh. For weakness, prostration, nervousness, rheumatism, dyspepsia, indigestion, headache and neuralgia, this marvelous discovery of Prof. Phelps has no equal. It always cures when other medicines prove useless, and to-day Paine's Celery Compound is the chosen medicine in half a million of Canadian homes. Miss Bridges, of Montreal, says:

"I consider it a pleasure as well as a duty to put on record what Paine's Celery Compound has done for me. I suffered for years from indigestion, headache, pains in the back and side, and from a nervous, tired feeling. I used many patent medicines without any good results. I was also attended by one of the best doctors and used his medicines, but could not get cured

"I saw Paine's Celery Compound advertised, and decided to try a bottle. It gave me such good results that I used six bottles, and found myself altogether a new person. I have now used it for some time, and can say with pleasure that all my troubles are banished; my nerves are strong, my sleep is good, and appetite splendid.

"I would therefore strongly recommend Paine's Celery Compound to all who suffer as I did; they are sure and certain of good results."

The blue-bird is hatied as a harbinger of Spring. It is also a reminder that a blood-purifier is needed to prepare the system for the debilitating weather to come. Listen and you will hear the birds singing: "Take Ayer's Sarsaparilla in March, April, May."

SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

A Game Act in Five Words Proposed —Burrard Bicycle Club Completes Reorganization.

Interesting Chess Contests Arranged at Which Piper Wins the First Match.

To the Sporting Editor:—I cannot as chairman of the Vancouver Island Fish and Game Protection Association of course take any part in newspaper controversies on the game law, but as a private individual I should like to be allowed to say how thoroughly in accord I am with the suggestion made by Delta and by various gentlemen in the Duncan district. The States of America have given us a lead and almost all America seems to be agreed that in this new country the one simple and sound game law can be put into five words:

"No game shall be sold."

Pass that and all trouble will end, and great waste of time be saved in the legislature. Unfortunately certain prominent gentlemen, whose principal prominence is covered by their waistcoats, object to this, and as long as their appetite for game is more important than the general welfare it will be no good to ask for such a measure. That being so, would it not be as well for us all to pull together as much as possible and get the best close times we can. I can personally assure gentlemen at a distance from the Capital that the men who have taken part in these meetings are not seeking for class legislation and do not want either to unduly interfere with the farmers or get everything for themselves. As an instance, I, though chairman of the society, have not shot a dozen grouse or pheasants in seven years on the Island, all my sport being obtained in the mountains of the Mainland. A land owner myself, I should like to see land owners protected from intrusion and the game preserved for the sport of all.

Clive Phillipps-Wolley.

CHESS.

The chess enthusiasts of Victoria have an honored guest in their midst this week in the person of Manager Babson of the Smith-Lieb Company, the late president of the Montreal Chess Club and a player of continental, if not world-wide reputation. He had the honor of defeating both Lasker and Steinitz in the simultaneous exhibition at Montreal some time ago, and within the past few weeks has lowered the colors of Lovegrove, the California champion, and also those of the Seattle cracks. In order to make Mr. Babson's stay in Victoria a pleasant one, the members of the local club have arranged a series of games for him with Mr. T. H. Piper, the first of which was played yesterday. In this Mr. Piper opened with the Queen's gambit declined and won a comparatively easy victory, Mr. Babson being somewhat unfamiliar with the opening. The second game of the series is arranged for this afternoon.

THE WHEEL.

In order that the life of the bugle major and standard bearer may not become one of luxurious indolence, and also with the object of encouraging parades, the newly elected vice-president of the V.W.C., Mr. John Piercy, has kindly volunteered to present to the club a handsome satin banner of which the association may rightly be proud. Details are not yet finally decided, but the banner will probably be of white and blue satin, bearing on the front the club crest—"the V with the wheel around it"—and on the reverse the letters V.W.C. in monogram.

POOR OUT-OF-DATE PEGASUS.

The Lewiston Teller announces in its issue of February 28 that "Little Black Bear, a Nez Perce Indian, traded thirty head of horses for a bicycle one day last week." The name of the 30-horse power bike is not given, nor does the agent who closed the deal thrust himself into prominence in connection with the transaction. All interested in Indian affairs will nevertheless watch the experiment with considerable anxiety; will the noble red bird—or red man rather—when the wheel first indulges in the gratification of its taste for blood and arnica and sticking-plaster, start fiercely on the trail of the bikeman, or will he admit himself humbled and brought to earth, and the cycle thus become a potent factor in the civilization of the native tribes? One thing is certain—that as the Indian's love for the wheel grows upon him, despite punctures of both tire and cuticle, so will his affection for the miscellaneous dog decrease. And thus will much good be done. For the information of any British Columbia Indians who might be tempted to follow in the trail of Little Black Bear, it might be mentioned that there are enough wild horses in Chilcotin to supply an entire tribe with '96 models. All that has to be done is to catch them, break them and bring them to market.

THE BURRARDS REORGANIZED.

Vancouver, March 4.—(Special)—At a largely attended and enthusiastic meeting last evening the Burrard Bicycle Club reorganized for the season of 1896, the following officers being elected: Honorary presidents, F. C. Cotton, J. C. McLagan and A. G. Ferguson; president, J. M. Bowell; first vice-president, Col. Tracey; second vice-president, J. E. Miller; secretary-treasurer, J. W. Prescott; assistant secretary, J. E. Garvie; captain, G. E. Trorey; first lieutenant, Geo. Emmanuels; second lieutenant, Frank Breeze; and handicapper, J. E. Crane. The club supports the nomination of Mr. J. A. Fullerton as chief consul, and favors Quebec for the Dominion championship meeting.

SICK HEADACHE,

Dyspepsia, Biliousness, Sour Stomach, and Constipation arise from wrong action of the stomach, liver and bowels. Burdock Blood Bitters cures all diseases of these organs.

At a meeting of the Friendly Aid Association yesterday, donations for February were acknowledged from Mrs. Curwen, Mrs. Gill, Y.M.C.A., Mrs. Seabrook and Mr. S. Reid and friends. During the month clothing was given to nine families, groceries to eleven, fuel to one, and meat to two.

MINERAL ASSESSMENT.

Open Letter From the Finance Minister Meeting the Objection of a Slocan Delegate.

Precautions Taken to Prevent the Tax Inflicting Hardship on Any Mine Owners.

Hon. J. H. Turner Minister of Finance, has written an interesting reply to a gentleman who, as a delegate from Slocan, had sent to him a protest and criticism of that part of the assessment act amendment bill dealing with mining output. The protest having been made public, in the News-Advertiser of Tuesday, Mr. Turner's letter is also an open one, as follows:

Victoria, March 3, 1896.

G. M. Sproat, Esq., Turner Block, Victoria.

Sir:—I have the honor to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your communication of the 28th ultimo, in which, on behalf of the mining population of the Slocan district, you present their objections to the proposal contained in the amendments to the assessment act now before the house to, as you put it, "tax the gross output" of ore. Owing to your long residence in the province and your intimate knowledge of the district for which you speak, as well as of the various mining phases which the province has experienced, your views are worthy of and will receive the careful consideration of the government.

I have read with interest the elaboration of your objections to the bill, and I assume that you share fully the opinions which you say are expressed by the mining population of Slocan district, and on the assumption that your main premises are correct as to the object of the proposed legislation, there is much in what follows in which I could concur, for to whatever extent we might disagree as to the practical effect of the bill in operation, I am quite at one with you in deploring anything that would check or retard it in its development stages, or would place upon it any unnecessary burdens.

You say "the chief objection to the proposal is that it singles out for special legislation, a precarious and, upon the whole, at present an unremunerative industry," and you ask "why the mining avocation should be singled out from the other avocations of the people and treated exceptionally?" That is a presentation of the case the correctness of which I cannot admit. If we proposed to treat mining exceptionally, and that is, as I take it, the gravamen of your objections, there would be force in your remarks, but we do not. On the other hand, it is proposed to place mining on an equality with other avocations, which up to the present it has not been. The government, in common with all other governments, imposes a tax on land values, personal property, mortgages, incomes, successions, stocks-in-trade, etc., and the only values which hitherto have enjoyed immunity are those arising out of mining operations. In nearly every country in which mining is carried on mines are taxed in some way for the purpose of producing revenue, and mainly on the output.

The fees and licenses to which you refer as imposed on prospectors, and the conditions under which claims are held, are not complained of as onerous or unjustifiable, and the rights, privileges and protections enjoyed in return are a substantial quid pro quo. The large amount of expenditure on the part of the government necessary to open up mining districts and render accessible mining properties, without which development would be impossible, and which altogether in the past has been, and must in the future continue to be, a very large sum annually, demands as a necessity for its continuance and in justice to all other interests that mining should contribute adequately and equitably to the revenues of the province. If the industry be a precarious and uncertain one, and is still unremunerative, the argument in favor of its exemption on that account applies with even greater force to the responsibilities of the government in relation to it, and I fear, if carried to a logical conclusion would react unfavorably on those whose interests are involved. The government has not and cannot, under the promising condition of affairs at the present time, take that view of it.

The principle of taxation upon which the government is proceeding is that a mine represents a value, given to it in a proportional degree by the exertions of the State in behalf of the industry as a whole, and that the mineral in place is part of the royal domain. As such it is legitimately subject to taxation. The value is only to be determined by the output. Therefore, as only producing mines can have value in the proper sense, only producing mines can be taxed, and the prospector and claim owner are exempt from all burdens and development is not retarded thereby.

Your statement that "a specific objection to the proposed tax is that it will be an impost upon mining processes—taxing not value, but the process to discover value, which process commonly has a negative result," involves a fine distinction, cleverly drawn, to which due regard must be had; but the distinction is one which, without proper limitations, would lead to wholesale evasion. The process of discovering value is never at an end, and a mine may be said to be never fully developed until the last ton of ore is in sight. The line must be drawn upon practical, common sense grounds somewhere, and in my opinion, when a mine is producing and shipping ore in the regular way, no matter what further processes are in contemplation, it has reached the stage where the assessor may take cognizance of it. The same argument with equal force may be applied to every industry in the country, and as a matter of fact they are all on all fours. We do not wait for a farm, or a merchant's stock, or a manufacturing enterprise to pay a dividend before taxing it.

Now, as to the particular clause in the assessment bill under consideration, the objections raised are largely a misapprehension as to what it proposes. The phrase "on the dump," which seems to have been imported into the discussion, does not occur, but, as you will see, the term "on the mining premises" is used, which has another and a widely different meaning.

The value of the "gross output" is only to be determined by what the ore is worth as it lies on the premises, or, in other words, what a smelter company would pay for it, in the same way as a dealer would appraise grain in a farmer's barn or an animal in his field if he wished to buy it and accept delivery on the premises. In effect, it is the net value, because freight and smelter charges must be taken into consideration in fixing the price. It is also further proposed to deduct three dollars per ton as an allowance for the cost of raising the ore. The last named provision fairly meets the objection as to low grade ore, and as the tax is a proportional one, all values are treated similarly over and above the cost of raising, which is more or less common to all classes of ore. Smelter returns, of course, will be considered in fixing the assessable value. This method has been decided upon as preferable to an inquisitorial examination of the books of mine-owners, to which there would be grave objections on their part. In case of complaint of over-assessment, there is a procedure of recourse, but upon the mine owner will rest the onus of proving his complaint by sworn statement as to his profits. There may be a little difficulty and some friction at first, but in time, with greater experience on the part of assessors, these matters will regulate themselves. Every precaution will be taken in giving instructions to the assessors to see that the law is carried out in accordance with the spirit and intent rather than the letter, and this will invest them with discretionary powers so as to, as far as possible, observe and preserve the proper distinction between the process and the value.

You will see, therefore, that the mining industry, in the amendment proposed to the assessment act, is only treated exceptionally in so far as the industry itself is to be deemed exceptional in the conditions of production, and that the fears which prevail as to the effect of such legislation are entirely without foundation. The government seeks nothing but what was declared by a mass meeting of free miners in New Denver the other day as being just and reasonable, viz: an equitable impost on the fair value of output.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
(Signed) J. H. Turner,
Minister of Finance.

The letter to which the above was an answer is appended:

Sir,—As a special delegate, on other matters from the Slocan, I am requested to say on behalf of the mining population of that district that the proposal to tax the gross output of ore is, in their judgment, open to many objections. The chief objection to the proposal is that it singles out for special taxation a precarious and, upon the whole, at present, unremunerative industry.

There is, I imagine, a glamour in mining for the precious metals, and around its prizes, from time to time heard of, which prevents a correct appreciation by the public of the real nature of such mining in general. The industry is in fact precarious, and will never cease to be uncertain. It is very largely in the hands of poor men, who subsist for the most part, I may also say, upon credit and hope. These men chiefly pay the large mining revenue which the government now gets, and no such revenue is paid by any other industrial class in the country. The miner is taxed before he begins to prospect, and on almost every business transaction afterwards relating to his claim while he continues to hold it, and he is supposed to pay a fee on its abandonment.

To add to these burdens is a very serious proposal. It is very generally—and with some reason—asked by many in the district why the mining avocation should be singled out from the other avocations of the people and treated exceptionally? It is a misconception of fact, that mineral claims are a class of property specially valuable and too lightly taxed at present. Mineral land in Kootenay has less real, ascertainable value, than any other kind of land in the province, and as abovesaid, the industry of working it bears heavy burdens already. This misconception arises no doubt from the effect of the glamour above mentioned, and also, perhaps, is not unconnected with ideas inherited from the time when necessarily the bulk of the colonial revenue had to be obtained from the miner "by hook or by crook." The patient ass still carries the loaded panniers, though the country long since has been organized, socially and industrially, in the normal fashion, with distributed industries and a large amount of realized non-mineral property.

If you take the aggregate expenditure on the thousands of location records that have come to nothing, and also the expenditure for assessment work on a percentage of these claims, and count—which you may do almost on your fingers—the resultant shipping mines, bearing in mind that shipping mines do not necessarily mean dividend paying mines, some idea may be formed of the vast total expenditure in money alone, without reckoning aught for the labor of prospectors required throughout the district to eliminate and establish the few mines of the latter category which we at present possess. This consideration also must immediately suggest the undesirableness of adding to that enormous and largely unproductive expenditure by unfair taxation, and particularly by taxation that may check the evolution of prospects into mines.

A specific objection to the proposed tax is that it will be an impost upon mining processes—taxing not value but the process to discover value, which process commonly has a negative result. For instance, the prospector who stumbles on a likely piece of mineral ground is confronted with the following fact—in nine cases out of ten that immediately and continuously he must raise and put out mineral bearing substances, subject, if the proposed bill becomes law, to taxation, and to a practically impossible literary correspondence with the assessor in order to find mineral in place for the purpose of his record, and afterwards to determine whether there is any ore body worth working. The latter, particularly, is a process so difficult, uncertain and expensive that few prospectors are ever able to carry it out. Their utmost expectation is that by spending on the claim wages earned elsewhere, or borrowing money or getting supplies from friends, they may perhaps in the course of years, open the claim out with such indications that some richer man will "bond" and further test the property. In the meantime the miner's output as it lies on the premises, though mineral bearing, may be commercially valueless, or there may be no roads, railways or concentrators anywhere near the claim. The man's mind is not upon the output, but upon the opening up of his prospect for the purpose stated. In the case of the prospector, therefore, the proposed tax will be a tax on mining processes, rather than on values that might be properly the subject of taxation.

So with the mines that are further advanced. Say when the purchaser or bonder of prospects replaces the prospector and undertakes work of a similar nature, but on a larger scale. A purchaser may ship ore if he has the means; the "bonder" usually is not permitted to ship ore except for sampling purposes. The latter, as is well known, and as Mr. Finch authoritatively states from his own experience, may spend any amount from $5,000 to $20,000 upon a bonded claim and then abandon it with the total loss of the expenditure. Why should his gallant enterprise—a merely tentative process—be burdened with a grievous impost on an output that is to him unusable and dead. Again, even when claims attain a higher dignity it by no means follows that the gross output of mineral-bearing substances is a proper subject for taxation. A large amount of dead work has to be undertaken, both in shipping mines and regular dividend-paying mines. The presence comparatively near the surface of a considerable proportion of high grade, clean shipping ore, has caused the Slocan to be called "a poor man's camp," and so in a sense it really is, but probably three-fourths of the ore requires concentration, and the returns from the shipment of clean ore have to provide for this, and, more importantly, for tunnels and other proving and development work which is being carried on may cover the premises with hundreds of tons of commercially useless material, yet classable as mineral-bearing substance within the meaning of the proposed law.

I would respectfully add, in conclusion, that great care is necessary at this time in dealing legislatively with our West Kootenay mines. The low price of lead has caused one mine that I know of to be shut down within the last fortnight. If the Republicans regain power in the United States at the coming election, and re-impose the high duty on silver-lead ores, the change will diminish the tax-paying capacity of most of the mines in the Slocan and in other parts of West Kootenay. The constitutional bearing of a provincial tax on ore "shipped foreign," as being to some extent of the nature of an export duty, I shall not here discuss.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Gilbert Malcolm Sproat

"A crick in the back," a pain under the shoulder blades, water brash, biliousness, and constipation, are symptoms of disordered stomach, kidneys, liver, and bowels. For all ailments originating in a derangement of these organs, take Ayer's Pills.

DIED.

Morley—On the 9th inst., at Sherwood Rise, Nottingham, England, H. A. Morley, father of H. A. S. Morley of this city.

McGregor—At 10 Quebec street, on the 27th inst., George Thompson, infant son of George and Maggie McGregor, aged 1 year and eight months.

Stewart—At the residence of Mr. Robert Hetherington, Camgart Cottage, Tennyson Road, Tolmie Estate, on the 27th instant, R. J. Stewart, aged 35 years.

McGregor—In this city, on the 27th instant, George Thompson McGregor, aged 1 year and 8 months, son of George and Maggie McGregor.

Piaggio—At Happy Valley, on the 1st inst., Margarita, the beloved wife of Julian Piaggio (and mother of Mrs. J. Rhode), a native of Piedmont, Italy, aged 82 years.

Sills—At Swan Lake Hotel, on the 4th instant, William Sills, a native of London England, aged 52 years.

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