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The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

VOL. L. NO. 214 — VICTORIA, B. C. FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 1909 — FIFTIETH YEAR

LIFE A FAILURE, HE RESIGNED IT

Mystery Surrounds the Suicide of an Unknown German Yesterday

"Do not blame me for the course I have taken, as life is a total failure as far as I am concerned. It will be useless to find out who I am."

This message, a six-ounce bottle containing carbolic acid, and a tumbler in which a quantity of the deadly fluid still remained, resting on the washstand in room 44, Queen's hotel, and his dead body lying on the bed nearby, testified in all too plain a manner that the suicide's determination to take his own life had been fulfilled.

The police authorities are now confronted with the task of finding out the identity of the man who registered at the Queen's hotel on Sunday night, occupied a room on Monday and Tuesday nights at the same hostelry and whose dead body was discovered yesterday afternoon at 3.30 o'clock by a Japanese attendant when he went to do up the room at that hour.

On the hotel register is inscribed the name "Albert Ehmann, Westminster," written there by the man when he arrived at the hotel about 7.30 o'clock on Sunday evening. That that is not the deceased real name is certain. From the tenor of the note left by the suicide and the fact that every effort had been made by him to carefully erase the name inscribed on the front of his pocketbook and that written in the inside of his hat band, besides which he had destroyed a number of letters and papers yesterday morning, it is apparent that the registered name is merely a blind.

The erasing of the names had been done with black ink, which had evidently been rubbed in with his finger but while the name on the inside of the hat band is wholly indistinguishable, that on the cover of the pocketbook was not so thoroughly obliterated and by means of a magnifying glass a name was faintly discerned. It was either "H. Gotterlich" or "E. Gottelicher." On the back of one of four photographs in the pocketbook, evidently at a recent date, the legend:

"This is the only woman in the world for me.—H. G."

No Clue to Suicide

Every effort was made by Detective Thomas Palmer yesterday afternoon to secure some clue to the real identity of the suicide. The clothes were closely examined, for marks, the laundry examined and the pocketbook, of the style of a memorandum tablet scanned but without result, so well had the unknown erased all signs. Who he is, whence he comes, and what led him to take his life are mysteries which may never be solved.

Albert Ehmann, to give him the name by which he registered, arrived at the Queen's hotel on Sunday evening. From the hour of his arrival and the fact that he registered as of Westminster, William Baylis, proprietor of the hotel, believes that the man came to Victoria on the Princess Victoria and proceeded straight to the hotel. He paid fifty cents for his room and sat around the smoking room the whole evening, retiring to bed about 11 o'clock. On Monday he spent the day about the city frequently dropping into the hotel and in the evening sitting about until nearly midnight when he again went to bed, again paying fifty cents for his room. Tuesday the same course was followed and in the evening after chatting for two or three hours with some of the hotel people until about 11 o'clock he paid for his room as on previous nights, went into the bar, paid five cents for a glass of beer and proceeded to his room, No. 44. The money spent for the drink was the last cent the man had in the world. When the room was entered yesterday afternoon and the effects of the man searched, not a cent was found.

Of German Birth.

During his stay about the hotel, he appeared in good spirits. It was plain from his accent that in nationality he was a German, but he spoke English fluently, appeared to be a man of education, was polite and courteous and had a fund of stories which he told to the hotel people as well as to some of the guests of the house. On Tuesday night, his last alive, he appeared to be in exceptionally good spirits though at the time he must have had in his possession the carbolic acid with which he later took his own life and had come to a determination to end all. After retiring he was not seen again until yesterday afternoon when his dead body was found by F. Baylis, the clerk on duty, and taken away to the morgue.

The fact that Ehmann did not show up in the morning was not noticed and in fact it was not until about 3:30 o'clock that the Japanese help called at the room to do it up. The door was locked. When no response was received to the repeated knocking the Japanese informed the office. Mr. Baylis opened the door by means of a pass key and discovered his guest's dead body resting under the bed clothes in such a natural manner that at first the clerk believed the man to be asleep but shaking the body disclosed the fact that life had expired. The man had removed his clothing, shirt, and shoes and carefully disposed of them in a wardrobe but was wearing his underclothes and socks, both of fine texture. His arms were crossed on his breast in a most natural manner, his head resting on the left side. On the wash stand was found the bottle of acid and a tumbler which the unknown had borrowed from the hotel. The bottle was half empty, and there was some of the fluid in the tumbler. The suicide must have undressed, hung up his clothes and drinking nearly all the contents of the tumbler crawled into bed, pulling up the bedclothes. Beyond a slight drawing up of the legs there was nothing to indicate that he had endured great pain though the lips were burned and blackened slightly by the strong acid.

Photographs Found.

The police were summoned and Constable Blackstock and later Constable Macdonald arrived in the patrol waggon and the body was taken to the city morgue where it now lies awaiting identification.

A search of the clothing disclosed the pocket book from which dropped one of the pages torn out but replaced loosely within the covers. On this page was a note written by the suicide before he took the fatal draught. Tucked within the pocket book were four photographs, all of the same girl, and from remarks written on the back of the photographs they were taken at different ages. The first showed the girl as photographed at the age of 22 years. This photo was taken in Germany the address of the photographer being printed at the bottom as "Namslau, Wilhelmstr, 3," evidently the name of the town and street and number thereon. The date "Nov. 15, '02" indicating the time it was taken. The next photograph was of the same girl at 24 years of age, the third was taken when she was 26 while the last inscribed "age 28" bore on its back the declaration of affection in the words "This is the only woman in the world for me H. G." This photograph must have been taken last November as the first, taken six years ago, was taken on the girl's birth day in that month in 1902. Evidently the suicide had but recently received it. The three last photographs were taken at the "Atelier Apollo, Breslau, Str, Alte Taschenstr, 20." Contained also in the pocket book were three visiting cards inscribed with the names "Lilly Noack," "Prudence Baughman" and "Miss Helene Mokros." Beyond laundry marks on the linen "T 287" and "A 86" there were no other marks which might serve as identification.

Description of Suicide.

The description of the unknown is as follows: age about 30 years, height five feet, five and one-half to six inches; stockily built, short reddish hair, very thin over the forehead, reddish, stubby moustache, light grey summer suit, black Stetson hat, size seven, white shirt, with thin black stripe, dark brown shoes. The hands were strong but white as if the deceased had done no hard manual labor. The hat, shoes and evidently the suit had been purchased in San Francisco.

The unknown, while chatting about the hotel, stated that he had been in San Francisco, leaving there a week before the great earthquake and he had evidently gone straight to the Kootenay country, for he said that he was in that section of the province when the news of the quake arrived. He had been a seaman, and in fact, judging from his conversation, he had been a rover about the world. While he appeared willing and ready to chat he never gave out a hint as to himself, his business or past career.

Mr. Baylis judged from the man's conversation that he had been in Victoria before, for he appeared to be acquainted with the city to some extent.

While the police have nothing to base their suspicions upon they incline to the belief that Ehmann of Gotterlick, or whatever the man's correct name is, has been serving time at New Westminster. The fact that his clothing had been bought in San Francisco, where he had stated he had been two years ago and was still being worn, the clipped nature of his hair and the shortness of his moustache, criminals being allowed to grow a moustache when about to be released, and the additional fact that a man being released is given a small sum of money, just about enough to have allowed him to come over on the boat and leave him a dollar or two over, give rise to the theory, though the police admit that it is one with but little basis.

When prisoners are released the provincial police authorities are not notified here unless they specially ask for such information and there is nothing in the records to indicate that any prisoner of the name was recently released.

An inquest will be held but the time has not yet been decided on by the coroner.

Local bank clearings for the week ended Tuesday, aggregate $1,803,745, compared with $1,007,448 in the previous week.

RAILWAY COMMISSION TO SIT IN VICTORIA

A. P. Luxton Briefed By Government to Urge Better Rates From C.P.R.

The provincial government intends taking up the matter of freight and passenger rates over the C.P.R. at the forthcoming meeting of the Railway commission which will sit in Victoria in about six weeks' time. It is alleged that the rates charged in British Columbia are in excess of those charged in the more eastern parts of Canada.

It is a complicated question in which the agreement entered into by the province at the time British Columbia entered Confederation is involved. The Vancouver board of trade took the matter up once before and employed Joseph Martin, K.C., to argue the case before the Railway Commission. Certain phases only were considered, and the application was partly successful and partly defeated.

A little over a year ago the Victoria board of trade took the matter up again, and soon afterwards a resolution concerning it was introduced in the local legislature during its last session. The government is taking the matter up officially and has instructed A. P. Luxton, K.C., to look thoroughly into the whole question and to argue the case for the province before the Commission.

That the Salvation Army is making easy the way of its emigrants to Canada is shown by the following special cable despatch from a London correspondent: "The Salvation Army is arranging to insure its emigrants to Canada against risk of sickness, accident, loss of luggage or unemployment. Regarding the last, it is stated that even in the worst period of industrial depression last winter, the S. A. headquarters at Toronto had always more vacancies on farms than men. Salvation Army emigration starts March 17."

N. VANCOUVER FERRY STILL BEFORE COURT

Mr. Martin Produces Fifteen Reasons Against Plaintiff Company

Arguments in the North Vancouver Ferry case lasted all day yesterday in the full court. E. P. Davis, K.C., resumed his argument that he was entitled to an injunction, as a legal right was being invaded. Finally the court called upon Joseph Martin, K.C., for a reply. He had fifteen reasons why the license was ultra vires of the provincial government and that in any event it did not confer a monopoly.

To the last point, Judge Irving remarked that a ferry license was always a monopoly, and that the term ferry, in law, implied a monopoly. Mr. Martin protested that the common law term meant something different in Canada to what it did in England, and his lordship, amid a general smile, remarked that he would like to hear counsel supporting the other side of the argument. Mr. Martin also insisted that the ferry license was void in that it conflicted with the Dominion laws anent navigation. He also claimed that the act had not been complied with in the issuance of the license, and that the plaintiff must first prove affirmatively that it had been. This proposition was controverted by the chief justice, who said that if that were the case a grant from the crown would be of no avail. A number of other points were raised during which a marked difference of recollection arose between him and Mr. Davis as to what had occurred at the original hearing.

Mr. Killam also addressed the court on behalf of the defendant Simpson. His point was that though Simpson owned one of the boats run by the other defendants, he had chartered it to them and was in their employ as captain merely. Thus he should not be called upon to go to the expense of defending this appeal which really only concerned his employers. In any event Simpson ought to have his costs.

The court rose while Mr. Davis was still engaged in reply. Lilly vs. Johnston, a remnant from the Vancouver court, is set peremptorily for today, and, presumably, will follow the ferry case. W. J. Taylor, K.C., of this city and J. A. Russell of Vancouver, are engaged in the case.

SUPERANNUATION OF SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

Trustees Discussed Several Important Questions Last Night

(From Wednesday's Daily)

The possibility of obtaining power for the superannuation of school board employees of long standing, who had given years of faithful service, was the most important matter up for discussion at last night's meeting of that body. On recommendation of Chairman Jay it was decided that the city council should be requested to include the staff of the educational institutions of Victoria in their contemplated petition to the provincial government for an amendment to the Municipal Clauses act providing for the inauguration of a superannuation system for the benefit of the civic servants. Those present were Trustees Jay, who presided, Mrs. Jenkins, Staneland, Riddell and Bishop.

S. J. Willis, principal of Victoria college, wrote requesting the purchase of a number of books of reference for the library of that institution. Superintendent Paul, in the course of the discussion that ensued, stated that the volumes asked for were necessary and that the expense involved would not be great, between $40 and $50, it was anticipated.

On motion it was decided that the request be granted.

Superannuation

The chairman brought up the question of the efficiency of the janitor of the North Ward school. He explained that the present incumbent of that position has not been well during the past few months, and therefore, had been unable to satisfactorily perform his duties. He thought that some action would have to be taken in the interests of the school. The appointment of an assistant might serve the purpose. He went on to say that both the janitor at the North Ward and at the Central schools had served for years most faithfully. As it was the intention of the city council to petition the provincial government for an amendment to the Municipal Clauses act giving the municipality power to introduce a system of superannuation in favor of its employees he thought that it would be a good idea for the board to endeavor to have the same apply to those in their employ. With that object in view he was of the opinion that it would be well to communicate with the mayor and aldermen without delay. If the proposal carried there was no doubt in his mind that the Central school janitor, a man who had been in the position for upwards of thirty-six years and the North Ward school caretaker were entitled to consideration.

Everyone present agreed with Chairman Jay. They thought that both the employees referred to had earned recognition and it was decided unanimously that the council should be asked to include the school staff in their scheme for superannuation if the necessary power was procured and it was drafted.

With regard to the situation at North Ward it was agreed that immediate action was imperative. Hence a motion providing that applications be called for the position of janitor at a salary of $60 per month and that the present occupant be given three months leave of absence on full pay was carried with the approval of all.

In behalf of the finance committee Mrs. Jenkins submitted accounts for the past month totalling $911.72. The report was adopted and the accounts ordered paid.

Closing of Schools

On request Superintendent Paul gave a verbal report as to what had led to the closing of the public schools during the cold snap. He said that, with the exception of the South Park and Victoria college, all the buildings were rendered untenable through the freezing of the pipes and the consequent lack of water for the boilers. At present only the two schools he had singled out were in use and, as the plumbers had found it difficult to locate and remedy the trouble in the other heating plants, it was probable that it would be impossible to open any of the other schools until Monday. [illegible] only thing to be done was to wa[illegible]ly until the more moderate [illegible] had thawed the connections, when repair work could be taken up without difficulty. Concluding the superintendent pointed out that it was a rather significant coincidence that the two buildings equipped with a hot air heating apparatus had given perfect satisfaction throughout the cold weather while those provided with steam heating plants had not been equal to the strain.

Hot Air the Best

Trustee Staneland was of the opinion that hot air systems should be installed at the Central and North Ward schools. He asserted that it was evident that they were the best and he was convinced that such a move would be the wisest in the end as the present plants were in constant need of patching.

The suggestion was endorsed by Trustee Riddell. He thought that something should be done without delay. Estimates of the cost of hot air systems at North Ward and at Central schools should be prepared and submitted to the incoming council. It was his intention to undertake to secure some figures so that the new board would be able to tackle the proposition intelligently and without delay.

Acknowledgments

Trustee Bishop wished to take advantage of the opportunity to thank the members of the board for their many kindnesses and courtesies during the time he had been a trustee. He was retiring and was in the field as a candidate for the city council. Whether successful, or otherwise, however, he always would remember with pleasure his experiences while on the school board. (Applause.)

A short address was delivered by Trustee Staneland of much the same character after which Trustee Mrs. Jenkins expressed regret at Trustee Bishop's determination to retire for the purpose of entering the broader field of civic life, assuring Trustee Staneland that he had her best wishes for success in today's election, and defining her pleasure on learning that Trustee Jay, their worthy chairman, had re-considered his determination to withdraw and once more had allowed his name to be placed in nomination. If the electorate appreciated his valuable services as they should—and she was sure that the returns would prove that they did—he would be re-elected by a strong majority. (Applause.)

Trustee Riddell, in a few succinct remarks, gave expression to similar sentiments after which Chairman Jay thanked those who had so kindly referred to his work since becoming a member of the board. It was true that he had determined to withdraw, thinking that in his many years of service he had done his duty in connection with the educational system of Victoria. However, his friends had persuaded him to change his mind and, now that he was out, he trusted that he would be elected. (Applause.) He hoped also that the bylaw to be placed before the ratepayers, providing for the raising of $65,000 for school purposes, would be carried in order that next year's work, as outlined, might be carried through without interruption. He joined the previous speakers in regretting the retirement of Trustee Bishop to enter the aldermanic field and in wishing Trustee Staneland every success. (Applause.)

The meeting then adjourned.

HOODLUM ELEMENT WAS IN EVIDENCE

Badly Behaved Youngsters a Nuisance to Skaters at Beacon Hill

(From Wednesday's Daily)

The hoodlum element was in evidence among the skaters on the Beacon Hill lakes last evening. Gangs of youngsters made a nuisance of themselves by recklessly tossing snow-balls at those skating. In one instance, a young lady received a more or less serious injury, one of these missiles striking her in the face. Hard as a stone and thrown with no little force, what was intended, doubtless, as a bit of fun, turned out to be anything but humorous to the victim. Those who witnessed the occurrence and who saw the youngsters engaged in their pranks intend, it is understood, requesting that the authorities take steps to preserve order at the park while good skating ice continues to attract crowds.

Last night it was reported at the Colonist that the ice was good at Swan lake. It is said that the surface has not been ruffled by the wind in the freezing, and that it affords admirable sport. Quite a number, hearing this, went there yesterday and, in all probability, more will make the trip today, as the Beacon Hill ice, through much use, is becoming broken and generally badly cut up.

President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor is asking for funds to enable him to appeal against the recent decision which condemned him for disobeying of an injunction order of the Supreme Court of the United States. It is to be hoped that every opportunity shall be given him to carry his case to the highest tribunal in the land. It is of the highest importance that it be shown, at the earliest opportunity just what bearing the laws on the statute books of the United States have upon the conduct of the private citizens of that country.

UNIQUE MARATHON RACE IN SEATTLE

Four Famous Distance Runners May Compete at A. Y. P. Exposition

Seattle will see not only the greatest, but the most unique Marathon race in athletic history, according to the plans of the Exposition committee named to handle general athletics next summer. Not only Johnny Hayes, winner of the Olympic classic; Dorando, the famous Italian; Longboat, the Indian marvel, and Alfred Shrubb, the nimble Englishman, will be brought together, but in addition Alaska will send down to compete one of the greatest "mushers" in the northern country.

This man is Wada, the Japanese, whose exploits around Nome have given him almost as much fame in the northwest as the fleet-footed distance runners whose meeting has attracted more attention than any other amateur or professional sporting event this winter. Wada is said by Alaskans to be a marvel of speed and endurance on the trail.

Nome men now in Seattle have so much faith in the Oriental's prowess over a distance route that they have advocated to the Exposition officials the idea of bringing him down from Nome to compete in the Exposition Marathon. No doubt exists as to the coming of Longboat, Dorando and Hayes, with possibly a number of other distance runners from the East. Shrubb's entry into the Marathon event will probably depend on the showing he makes this winter against the three men mentioned, as his standard distance is ten miles, and he may not be successful at 26 miles 385 yards, the classic course. But the Alaskans declare themselves willing to back Wada against the world for the Marathon. The Japanese is the winner of a number of races over snow and ice, and his entry would certainly attract a huge crowd.

With a Japanese, an Indian, an Englishman, an Irishman and an Italian all competing in an event that in itself is famous, there would be an athletic novelty sufficient to stagger the most verbose and alliterative press agent. It would be a congress of natives as well as of nations, a human and a Marathon race—or words to that effect.

George P. Russell, chairman of the general athletic committee, has been so busy breaking in his new job as postmaster that no meeting of his committee has been called, but he expects to get the members together early next week.

GREAT WEALTH OF NORTHERN ISLANDS

Jedway Residents Publishing Pamphlet Illustrating Resources

Representing the Commercial Exchange of Jedway, Queen Charlotte Islands, Dr. C. Nogero has been engaged, during the past couple of weeks, interviewing the merchants of Vancouver and Victoria with a view to obtaining their active co-operation and assistance in the issuance of an elaborate illustrated pamphlet descriptive of the wealth of resource and the scenic beauty of the Islands indicated. He stated yesterday that thus far he had been accorded every encouragement and was confident that the booklet of one hundred and twenty pages, now on the presses of the Colonist Printing and Publishing company, would be just as attractive as could be desired and would give a deep insight into the potentialities of the Queen Charlotte group.

As evidence that business was active in and about Jedway, Dr. Nogero told of a deal that was consummated yesterday as a result of which James R. Scott, a prominent resident of Victoria, had acquired the major portion of the waterfront of that town. His holding comprises 4,500 feet of property and takes in several mining claims of promise, among them being Toga 1, Toga 2, and the Swede. These are copper and gold propositions. It was understood, Dr. Nogero asserted, that the sum involved was approximately $22,500. At that sum he thought it had been a snap. It was Mr. Scott's intention to proceed with the development of the claims on a large scale forthwith, and Dr. Nogero was of the opinion that, before the expiration of many months, regular shipments of ore would be made to different smelters. Other industries were being established in the vicinity of Jedway. Canneries were in course of construction at George Bay, just two and a half miles from the town. Salmon and other varieties of fish would be preserved there and, as the plant being installed was large, presumably the annual exportation would be considerable.

That the timber resources of the Island were recognized was proven by the fact that American capital, the source of which was believed to be the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway company, had erected, near Skidegate, a huge mill, costing, with buildings, plant and all other accessories included, in the neighborhood of $320,000. It would employ, practically all the year round, about two hundred men. Already the industry was in operation. Logs were being sawed when he left the north.

Then there was the Moresby Island Lumber company, which was entering into the industry on almost as large a scale. Dr. Nogero, as another instance of the interest being taken in the Queen Charlotte group, referred to the transfer of the coal lands of Graham Island to a company capitalized at $10,000,000.

From the foregoing, Dr. Nogero thought that there would be no question that the Islands possessed illimitable resource in timber and mineral, the coal deposits being, it was believed, among the richest in the world.

The people of Jedway and of other Queen Charlotte communities, Dr. Nogero declared were alive to the possibilities of their adopted home. Through their energy the provincial government had been induced to make an appropriation of $15,000 to subsidize a steamboat service between Jedway and Prince Rupert. That would be in operation, it was hoped, in the near future and, undoubtedly, would be a great boon for those engaged in business there. Besides a wireless station was being established at that point by the government. When this was working it would give the Islands communication with the outside world and the doctor did not think it was necessary to dwell on the importance of that to those living in Jedway and, in fact, anywhere on the Islands.

The most recent move was that on which he was visiting Victoria, namely, the publication of a pamphlet. It had been decided to undertake the work in order to enlighten the general public as to the possibilities of the Islands, there being but a vague idea, outside of the locality, of their wealth of resource. Dr. Nogero predicts that the present movement in the development of the varied potentialities and of the influx of settlers will be materially swelled in the course of the next few months.

LIGHTWEIGHT MUDDLE

If Packey McFarland Can Make the Weight He Gets Chance at Nelson

The Coast promoters are about to take an active hand in the lightweight muddle. First of all, they are going to pin Packey McFarland and his manager, young Harry Gilmore, once and for all. They will ask McFarland, point blank, whether he can or cannot do 133 ringside, and demand evidence of his ability to do so.

If Packey is willing to make good and post large forfeits for the ringside weight, he gets the first chance at Battling Nelson, and the claims of all other fighters will be sidetracked. If McFarland tries to dodge, equivocate, or bluff, the promoters will offer him nothing except matches with heavier men, and will consider Johnny Thompson as next choice for Nelson. Thompson, it is well known, can do the weight on short notice, and will gladly make it for a chance at Nelson.

Nelson and McFarland, so the promoters opine, are both doing a gorgeous game of stalling. It is considered high time that both of them received a sharp call—that Nelson be forced to fight or quit and that McFarland be compelled to show how big or little he really is.

Packey scaled only 131 at 3 o'clock in New York, when he weighed in for Leach Cross, and should be able to do 133 ringside, with a little hustling, but the promoters will not accept his mere statement—he must post the money, do the actual weight, or be ruled out of the going. Nelson is not to be allowed to hold a championship on his nerve and the demands of his book, and the lightweight situation is to be cleared up as fast as Los Angeles and San Francisco can clear it.

McFarland has a bout on with Dick Hyland January 15, and should beat the rugged Californian, who has gone way 'way back. Incidentally, a bogus Hyland is now at Hot Springs, and so easy are the marks who are promoting at New Orleans, has actually strung them to offer him a match for January 14. This same bogus Hyland was at Georgetown a few weeks ago, and stung the sports of that busy burg hard and often. This is pretty nearly the limit—and with so many free schools and such widespread opportunities for education.

A CHALLENGE

Dufty Wants to Meet Winner of the Foley-Stanton Bout

Samuel Dufty, the lightweight who was defeated by Foley about a year ago, announces that he would like to meet the winner of the Foley-Stanton bout. He says that he would prefer that the match, if arranged, take place in Victoria.

MAY SUTTON WILLING TO VISIT ENGLAND

Celebrated Lady Tennis Player Thinks Britishers Should Come to America

Pasadena, Cal., Jan. 13.—"Indeed, I would like to go to England next summer," said Miss Sutton today, when asked if she would cross the Atlantic to compete for the tennis championship of the world at Wimbledon.

"The trip would be awfully jolly, and I would like to go, but don't you know, those English girls ought to come to California for a change. Not one of them has ever been in the United States, and England is such a sticky old place compared with America, I will go if urged sufficiently."

Miss Sutton keeps in good practice by working against the clever playing of her sister, Florence. The two play every day in the Sutton home on the old dirt court, where May learned how to be a champion. Mrs. Sutton, the mother, is enthusiastic over the prospect of her daughter's again crossing the ocean to meet English players once more.

Miss Sutton won the English championship in 1905, lost it in 1906, and regained it in 1907. Last summer she stayed at home and took part in the coast tourney.

The word "thaw" has not heretofore been included in the vocabulary of Victorians in its popular sense as understood by Easterners, but yesterday it was bandied about in an altogether welcome fashion. "Thaw" is an awfully good word, when you come to think about it.

Toronto has just installed a high-pressure water system, and insurance rates were at once reduced. Winnipeg did the same thing, with the like result, and so did Fredericton and Woodstock, N. B. Yet we have some people in Victoria who think the installation of a high-pressure system here a mistake.

COQUITLAM LAKE DAM IS STRONGLY OPPOSED

Delegation From New Westminster Presents Objections to Executive

The executive was taken up for the greater part of yesterday with a most important delegation in connection with the Coquitlam lake project of the Vancouver Power company, which is a subsidary corporation of the B. C. Electric Railway company. The power company has a water record of 15,000 inches of water at Coquitlam lake, and at the time the tunnel to Bunsen was constructed, a dam 11 feet high was built at the lake. This had the effect of raising the level of the lake five feet. Now the company seeks permission to raise the dam to 75 feet, which would cause the level of the lake to rise 60 feet above its original elevation.

The water thus stored would be used for power purposes in connection with the company's enterprises and also for the sale to manufacturers. The dam will be of concrete and will cost in the neighborhood of $250,000. Before this can be done, the leave of the government is required and a number of interests are trying to prevent permission being given on various grounds, hence yesterday's conference.

The chief objector is the city of New Westminster. The Royal city has a water record at Coquitlam lake and gets its municipal water supply from that source. The principal objection raised is that if the lake be raised as proposed it will have the effect of reducing the pressure on the city mains. This would entail a grave risk of bursting them and leaving the city open to the ravages of the conflagration, quite apart from the loss in the pipe system. A second objection is the claim that to raise the lake in this way would mean the flooding of a considerable acreage of swamp lands which would be calculated to impair the quality of the water supply in a way detrimental to the public health. J. Henley, A. H. Gray, and Geo. Adams, three New Westminster councilmen, were present on behalf of the protest, as was J. B. Grant, the city solicitor. This contingent was reinforced by Mr. Creighton who was chosen to accompany the councilmen at a mass meeting of New Westminster citizens.

The municipality of Coquitlam is also objecting, and its delegation is headed by the Reeve, Ralph Booth, who, by the way is visiting the capital for the first time. The Coquitlam people fear that the dam will be a danger to life. Mr. Booth represented that there were about 200 people living in the Coquitlam valley who would inevitably be drowned if the dam were to go out in a flood.

The C.P.R. was also represented by its engineer Mr. Cartwright. The railway company's property is affected by the new undertaking, and wants certain stipulations as to the work. These were agreed to whereupon no further opposition was made from this source.

On behalf of the Vancouver Power company there were present R. G. Sperling, general manager of the B. C. Electric Railway company, and A. E. McPhillips, K. C., their Victoria counsel. The engineer who has planned the dam, is a Mr. Schuyler, an American engineer, who is understood to be one of the first authorities in the world on such matters. He was not present at the meeting yesterday, but it is understood that his dictum is that there is nothing whatever to fear from such a dam as is proposed. He guarantees it to be perfectly safe, in this respect his opinion is shared by Mr. Cartwright, the C.P.R. engineer.

There was a long discussion yesterday, but no conclusion was come to. The New Westminster people wanted an adjournment for four months in order to have plenty of time to secure expert evidence for their own satisfaction. It was pointed out, however, that such a long adjournment meant the abandonment of the project for the year, as those who were supplying the money would not allow their money to lie idle so long, and it would take the entire season to finish the work. Eventually the matter was adjourned for a month, on the understanding that a further adjournment might be granted if the New Westminster experts were not ready.

William Manson, M.P.P for Dewdney, in which constituency the proposed dam is situated, was also present.

THE ASTROLOGER AGAIN

Signs and Portents From the Heavens By Local Authority

"The real cause of this cold snap which appears to be nearing its close," observed the local astrologer yesterday afternoon, "lies in what is generally known as the stationary position of the planet Jupiter. But I look for a recurrence of cold weather about the 17th of this month, or possibly a few days later, which will be due to the position of the planet Mercury; whose influence is so frequently prejudicial to the smooth course of affairs upon this earth, its sister planet, and while the 17th promises to be rather stormy this will also be largely due to the action of the moon, owing to the fact that it will then be in conjunction with several other planets. Upon the 26th of this month, and a few days after it has passed from its position of peri-helion or nearest the sun,—Mercury will reach its greatest elongation East. And when this planet is nearest the sun the moon exercises a marked and unfavorable influence upon our atmosphere. Mercury, however, furnishes the only feature of real moment as regards relative position of the heavenly bodies during the present month. I am, however, very much afraid that as we get well into the month of March, a serious earthquake or some other disaster of importance will occur in the neighborhood of Lisbon, in consequence of the position of the planet Uranus and if a great earthquake does not happen it will likely be something almost equal seriousness in its probable effects.

Mr. J. W. Gill, from London, is a visitor in town for a few days.