Weekly Colonist.

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 1885.

TO PUBSCRIBERS AND INTENDING SUBSCRIBERS.

IN ORDERING THE WEEKLY COLONIST, TO INSURE DELIVERY, YOU SHOULD ENCLOSE THE AMOUNT OF SUBSCRIPTION IN POSTAGE STAMPS, MONEY ORDERS, COIN OR BANK BILLS. NO PAPERS LEAVE THIS OFFICE UNLESS THE SUBSCRIPTION HAS BEEN FIRST PAID, AND NO NOTICE IS TAKEN OF ANY ORDER THAT IS NOT ACCOMPANIED BY THE MONEY.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS.

Persons residing at a distance from Victoria, who may desire to insert a notice of Birth, Marriage or Death in The Colonist, must enclose with each notice Two Dollars and Forty Cents in P. O. Stamps, money order, bills or coin, to ensure insertion.

THE WEEKLY COLONIST.

NOTICE.

A SPECIAL EDITION FOR SOUTH SAANICH, LAKE, METCHOSIN, SOOKE, COMOX AND OTHER DISTRICTS NOT REACHED BY FRIDAY'S MAIL, IS PRINTED EVERY TUESDAY MORNING AND DISPATCHED THROUGH THE POST-OFFICE.

Local and Provincial News.

From the Daily Colonist, May 12.

THE WEEKLY COLONIST.

The attention of subscribers is directed to the announcement in another column. The weekly edition of this paper is now permanently enlarged to Eight Pages or 64 columns of solid reading matter. While making this announcement we are also enabled to state that the subscription rates are reduced to the following scale:

For one year	$2.50
For six months	1.50
For three months	75

Postage to any part of the Dominion, the United States and the United Kingdom will be FREE. Remittances may be made in money order, draft, postage stamps or cash.

What Some People Say.

That San Francisco wants to buy the water works and the company ask $12,500,000.

That very few fish will be packed on Columbia river this year; prices being deemed too low.

That an elderly Chinaman entered a Government street office yesterday morning to inquire about the new Chinese tax act. "Well," said the gentleman, "every Chinaman between 14 and 150 years will have to pay $10 a year." "Me all litee," quoth John, "me no pay—me two hundled," and walked off well satisfied that he had evaded the law.

That another new disease has appeared in our midst. A sick citizen yesterday informed the editor that he was suffering from "ammonia of the lungs."

That our youthful evening contemporary—for want, probably, of ability to say anything for itself—republishes *The Colonist's* article on railway overcharges. Whenever the Times shall say anything on railway or any other matters that is worth copying we shall be glad to return the compliment.

That the rooms in Danish hotels are like bald-headed men—they have no locks. —*Boston Bulletin.*

That a luxury is something a man don't want until he thinks he can't get it.—*New York Journal.*

That a Missouri minister draws his salary every month in advance. This is to guard against possible reverses in the shape of donation parties.—*Burlington Free Press.*

That the dentist is a rapacious creature. He can stuff more gold into an absolutely worthless tooth than the average man can earn by a week's hard labor.—*Lowell Citizen.*

That a doctor never feels that he has got an irritable and ill-tempered patient just when he feels most confidence in his diagnosis and treatment until the man is too weak to get out of bed and flourish a chair around.—*Fall River Advance.*

That "He is the most erasible man I ever met," said an old lady to the judge last week. "Next time he annoys you wipe him out with a dishcloth," suggested the judge.—*Peck's Call.*

That a fashion journal tells us how to make a spring wrap for a girl. There are plenty of long-armed young men who know how to fit the girls best in this little matter of wraps.—*Lowell Citizen.*

That "I wonder if she's worth my wait in cold?" mused the youth who lingered outside the church wherein his girl worshipped, while the ten-degree-below-zero air nipped his nose.—*New York Journal.*

That a sporting paper contains an article, entitled: "How to prevent accidents in the game of baseball." This difficulty may be overcome by the substitution of garden-digging for baseball. A young man who is digging garden never gets injured by running the bases or by the bat flying out of another player's hand; though when he gets through with the game he may be induced to think he has exchanged backs with a man 197 years old.

That "Miss ——, can I have the exquisite beatitude of escorting your corporal system over the space intervening between your parental domicile and the edifice erected for the worship of the Supreme Being after the diurnal luminary has receded behind the western horizon?" "Thanks, I am going with my aunt."

That some of the Italian journals manifest an unfriendly disposition towards Great Britain, and maintain that the Russian action on the Afghan frontier was perfectly justified by the circumstances.

That "A Superior Woman" is the title of a forthcoming novel. The heroine, we presume, is the woman who can pass one with a new dress without looking back to see what it is like.

That there is a notable improvement in the health of Queen Victoria since her return from Darmstadt. Extraordinary precautions for her safety were adopted yesterday, before her arrival at Sheerness. Several hours before the royal yacht was expected all the vessels in the harbor were examined, the harbor and river were diligently patrolled by the police boats, and the route from the landing to the railway station was lined by a strong military guard and many metropolitan detectives.

Marine.

British bark Araminta, from Moodyville, arrived at London on the 6th inst.

Steamship G. W. Elder from San Francisco, and steamer Queen of the Pacific from Victoria, have their sailing days tomorrow.

Ship Robert Dixon has completed her cargo of 1990 tons of Nanaimo coal and awaits a tug to tow her to sea.

Steamship Wilmington is taking on a cargo of Nanaimo coal.

Steamship Queen of the Pacific having completed her cargo of Nanaimo coal, has gone to the Sound.

Ships State of Maine and Majestic are loading Nanaimo coal.

[BY TELEGRAPH.]

SAN FRANCISCO, MAY 9.—Arrived—Bark Germania, Seattle.

Cleared—Steamer St. Paul; steamer G. W. Elder, Victoria.

BURRARD INLET.—Moodyville sawmill is shut down. One ship is loading at Hastings.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY.—The 24th of May falls on Sunday. It has therefore been officially decided to observe Monday, the day following, as a holiday.

OUR CABLE LETTER.

Situation of the Russo-Afghan Matter.

Probable Result of the Arbitration.

No Confidence Placed in Russia's Assertions.

(Special to The Colonist.)

LONDON, May 9.—The Anglo-Russian situation continues to be enveloped in a cloud of uncertainty. It is absolutely impossible to predict what a day may bring forth. No sooner had the people become reconciled to the idea of the submission of the difficulty to arbitration than reports began to prevail questioning the probability of there being

ANY ARBITRATION AFTER ALL

The talk as to the great things it was about to accomplish. To-night no one professes to understand what the precise condition of negotiations with Russia may be. The average Englishman finds it difficult, if not absolutely impossible, to disabuse himself of the feeling that whatever Gladstone and Granville may say to the contrary, the Russian diplomats are

GETTING THE BETTER

of the British. Every delay in the negotiations The Russian railway has been actively pushed toward the Afghan frontier and Russian troops have seized debateable territory. These are facts, and the average Briton grows impatient when an attempt is made to belittle their importance or obscure them with a cloud of words. The position of affairs to-night is so involved in uncertainty and doubt as to create a general feeling of insecurity. The feeling that the proposed arbitration is

LIKELY TO FALL THROUGH

gains weight from the announcement made to-day that there is likely to be considerable delay in preparing the preliminary details. There is no denying that this announcement is received by many people with a smile. The delay, it is said, will be necessary in order to allow the cabinets of the two countries to come to a decision upon the precise points to be submitted to arbitration. Some people profess to think this process of arriving at a preliminary understanding will be so fruitful a source of delay that the chances of arbitration taking place at all decidedly slight. The cabinet it is thought may find themselves as

MUCH AT SEA

in deciding what shall be submitted to the arbitrator as they were in trying to come to an understanding in regard to the original difficulty. It is humorously suggested that they may be obliged to resort to preliminary arbitration in order to determine what shall be submitted to the arbitrator. The possibilities of this sort of diplomacy opens up a rich field to the imaginative statesman. This view of the situation game additional likelihood when one considers the latest exchange of views that has taken place between Granville, secretary of state for foreign affairs, and DeStaal, Russian minister. Between these diplomats

DIFFERENCES OF OPINION

about such primary questions as the scope of proposed arbitrations and zone of delimitation still remain unsettled. Whether these divergent views can be reconciled and a standpoint reached from which to consider the main question is by no means certain. DeStaal has proposed that the whole scheme of arbitration shall be abandoned in case of a comparison of the evidence regarding the Penjdeh incident shall be found to sustain interpretation of the agreement of March 17th. Granville is inclined to accede to this proposition, but only on condition that Russia will grant a definite treaty by which she shall pledge herself not to make

ANY FURTHER ADVANCE

into Afghanistan. There is little likelihood that Russia will make any such treaty as Granville suggests. There is increasing reason to believe that the possession of Penjdeh has whetted the appetite of the voracious Russian bear and that nothing but Herat will long appease its cravings. Russians here in London who are on terms of intimacy with officials of Russian embassy do not hesitate to declare openly that Russia

INTENDS TO TAKE HERAT.

They assert it will be an easy matter to obtain the assent of the Ameer to a Russian occupation and they declare no treaty which should propose to forbid such action on the part of Russia would have any binding effect when the opportunity comes or is made to seize Herat. Herat will be seized, no matter what the treaty stipulations may be. This opportunity is not likely to come immediately, they think, and Russia, they say, will wait for it to present itself. Meanwhile they make no advances beyond the line of the frontier, which shall be agreed upon in the coming negotiations at London. They say further that Russia does not contemplate interfering in the affairs of Herat *proprio motu* of her own accord, but when the local tribes together with the Heratees shall ask for

PROTECTION OF THE CZAR

Russia is bound to incorporate them in her dominions. Englishmen familiar with the annexation of Merv think they understand what Russians mean when they speak of "local tribes" asking protection of the Czar. There is a shrewd suspicion afloat of the importunate asking for protection by the Mervi which the Czar had no heart to withstand was not quite *proprio motu*. These expressions of opinion in behalf and on the part of Russians who have access to the Russian embassy are a fair reflex of the tone of De Staal's recent communications to Granville. The practical upshot of the whole matter is that Russia refuses to enter into a treaty fixing a definite limit to her territory and binding her to a maintenance of the frontier so fixed unless the rule of the Ameer shall be so firmly kept within the line of the frontier that all tribal disturbance will be promptly repressed, commissions between the Sarakhs and Afghans prevented, and order at Herat preserved.

East Coast.

The steamer Daisy has been chartered to run on the east coast route in the Peoples' line. Capt. Gladolm will command. A new steamer to be called the Eden White, will be built for the same line.

Andrew Maloney, who was injured by a fall of coal in the No. 1 Esplanade shaft a few day ago, died at the hospital yesterday afternoon. For a few hours before dissolution he suffered great pain, and welcomed death. He was a native of Ireland, and single.

Thomas Pickard, a settler and merchant on Denman island, was gored in the side by a cow yesterday morning and came down on the Dunsmuir for medical treatment.

Editor Free Press.—I am credibly informed by a passenger who came here by the steamer R. P. Rithet last Wednesday that a certain person told Mr. Dunsmuir that I had said that the steamer Amelia would run as long as I had a shirt to my back. Also that there had been assessments made on the owners of the Amelia. I beg to inform the public, through your columns, that both statements are false.

P. SABISTON.

SNEAK THIEVES.—Copies of *The Colonist* on the south side of the city are being constantly stolen. This is very annoying to both subscribers and publishers and in the event of the thieves being caught the full extent of the law will be meted out to them. A reward of $20 is offered for proof of conviction of any offender.

LACROSSE VS. CITTS.—The return match between a nine of the legal fraternity and the city nine was played yesterday afternoon at Beacon Hill, and resulted in favor of the latter, the score being 25 to 16.

UP AND DOWN.

The Rivalry Between Coal Harbor and Port Moody.

No better pen pictures could be taken from real life than a series of sketches which an artist from Victoria, B. C., has made of two prominent newspaper men of that place. They appear each at the office door of their respective journals—one with his face covered with smiles, his coat thrown back from his manly breast, a thumb stuck in each side of his vest, and altogether his appearance indicates happy contentment; his pet is up. The other stands uneasily, one foot up and then the other, shifting constantly; his hands thrown behind under his coat tails, and his look as uneasy as that of a "mud hen" on California street of a blue Monday—his pet is down. One of these knights of the quill has been off for several months, enjoying the delicious sweets of travel and the honeymoon. He is credited also with doing a "leetle" buttonholing at Ottawa in the interest of his paper, a young and rising journal. A few mornings since he was observed at his office door, smiling and bowing very blandly to passers by. His thumbs were stuck in his vest and his fingers were busily beating time as he hummed, "May the deil come fiddlin' thro' this town if a' goes right wi' Coal Harbor." A flaming article appeared in that afternoon's paper, one which (in his mind's eye) forever settled the terminal city at Coal Harbor. The hoary-headed old chieftain, who, during a quarter of a century with the scratch of his pen has made and unmade many men, in the next issue of the Thunderer, a paper which neither fears God nor the devil and has small respect for men, came out with such a scathing rebuke in a double-leaded leader as to completely take away the breath of a young man, and Port Moody stock has since been booming. —*Portland News.*

The Suicide.

An inquest was held by Coroner Johnson yesterday on the body of the woman Jennie Willis, who died on Friday night from an overdose of morphine. A number of witnesses were examined, inmates and frequenters of the house, and also Dr. Taylor, who was called in when the deceased was found unconscious. The latter's evidence showed that when he arrived the woman was partly unconscious, and though antidotes and emetics were administered she never rallied, and died as stated on Friday night, at nine o'clock.

The evidence of Bennett, the man who brought her here, showed that her home was in Olympia, W. T., that her husband was alive, and that he (Bennett) was not aware that she had any trouble or wrong that would induce her to commit suicide.

The jury returned a verdict as follows: "We, the undersigned jurors, do hereby find that the deceased, Jennie Willis, came to her death on the 8th day of May, 1885, at a house on Broad street, in the city of Victoria, from an overdose of morphia or morphine, by whom or how administered there is no evidence to show.

"We also beg to add the following rider: That the utmost exertion of the police should be used to stop the indiscriminate sale of poisonous drugs."

The unfortunate woman's husband was telegraphed the state of affairs, and replied that he was unable to come over. Arrangements have been made for the burial of the remains by the women with whom she had for so long made her home. Her husband was at one time a hotel-keeper in Olympia. She has for the past eight years been on intimate terms with Bennett, who is also a married man, having a family in San Francisco.

The circumstances of the whole sad case are of the most disgraceful character, and brand the man who was seducer and friend as a heartless scoundrel, and unworthy the toleration of a respectable community.

Personal.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Grahame and Mr. and Mrs. Gibson of Kamloops were passengers by the Princess Louise.

Mr. E. Vigor, steamboat inspector, returned from the Islands yesterday.

Surveyor General Gore came back from an official visit to the mainland yesterday.

Mr. M. W. T. Drake, Mr. and Mrs. T. Davie, Miss Mouatt, Mr. H. Helmcken, Col. Holmes, Coun. R. Ward, Mr. R. V. Bodwell and Mr. C. Hayward were passengers from New Westminster yesterday.

Sir Henry Tyler, president of the Grand Trunk Railway, will sail for Canada in a few days.

Mr. S. Bednall will leave for England on Monday and will be absent for an indefinite period.

Rev. L. Pouquet of the Kootenay district, B. C., is in Portland. The rev. father has been since 1859 a missionary among the Indians.

Messrs. B. F. English, Chilcoatin; H. B. Dart, Boston Bar, and Henry Baird, Cariboo, are at the Oriental.

Mr. G. B. Wright was at Yale on Friday. He had been ill and came down to consult a medical man.

Hon. John Robson will address a temperance meeting at Nanaimo on the 18th inst.

Messrs. W. Ogilvie, Ottawa; T. Drummond and T. B. Hall, Montreal; and Otto J. Klotz, of London, Ont., arrived yesterday and are at the Driard.

Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Graham and Mr. and Mrs. J. Gibson of Kamloops, are registered at the Driard.

Capt. E. Deville, Dominion surveyor general and party, are at the Driard.

Mr. John Dougall is in town and has come to stay.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dunsmuir have taken passage in the Queen of the Pacific sailing to-morrow for California.

Mr. W. Norman Bole is at the Driard. Mr. Frank E. Vaughn, superintendent of streets, Portland, Ore., and Mrs. Vaughn are registered at the Driard.

West Coast.

The Free Press says:—From settlers from Alberni we learn that the farm buildings of Mr. W. Sterling were destroyed by fire on Sunday last. Mr. Sterling was absent at Victoria at the time and he lost all his farm implements. The buildings caught turn a bush fire.

Mr. Halpenny, government guide, and a lad named McKenzie, left on Monday to explore the Cameron lake route, but had not reached this city last evening.

The sealing season is over.

FOR THE NORTH.—The Barbara Boscowitz started north yesterday morning with a large freight and the following list of passengers:—Rev. Tomlinson, Rev. Jennings, G Williscroft, M Hart, W H Smith, Skidegate, Mr Graaf, Lorne creek, D Downs, Mr. Pherson, W Edwards, C Semyes, Richard Downer, A D Fraser, J B Hall, George Dicker, Victor Rescus, A Butes, Henry Bear, N Semper, Thomas Evans, John Trombley, Joe Sayward, George Hutton, H Wright, A R McCoumbay, Moses Williams, B Suter, Jas Gray, Chinamen and Indians. She also carried the mails for the first time under the new contract.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT.—The Columbian is enabled to announce on the authority of a telegram from Mr. Homer, M. P., that the Dominion government homestead lands in this province will be sold to settlers at $1 per acre, and that the Do inion timber rates are 75 cents per 1000 feet, broad measure, and 30 cents per tree. It was rumored not long ago that the federal government had shown an inclination to disregard the understanding arrived at during the settlement bill negotiations, to the effect that bona fide settlers would get these lands at $1 per acre, and we believe the provincial government has been exchanging correspondence with Ottawa respecting this point.

THE furniture at the residence of Mr. Roebuck, Yates street, to be sold on Tuesday morning by Mr. Wolf, will be on view to-morrow afternoon. A capital buggy horse, with buggy and harness, will be sold at the same time; also an ice-box.

THE town of Farwell on Columbia river was wholly destroyed by fire on Thursday last.

COMOX AND VALDEZ ISLAND

A Promising District for Intending Settlers.

Mr. D. H. McNeil, the recently appointed government guide, returned from an exploring trip to the north Comox valley and also on Valdez island. In the valley there is sufficient alder bottom and swamp land to provide about twenty-five families with locations. The Comox district roads are convenient for the land, some of which fronts on the coast and extends up the valley about seven miles. Two settlers who accompanied Mr. McNeil found good locations, and will begin at once to clear the land. The land of Valdez island is swamp and marsh with fine alder patches. Sufficient land is known to locate about fifteen families. There is a cranberry marsh on this island and also several places where this popular fruit can be successfully cultivated. On the island there is a stretch of prairie of about 100 acres without a stick of timber on it, covered with a luxuriant growth of grass. There are also other patches of similar land of smaller extent. A further exploration will no doubt discover that on this island there are other extensive stretches of good agricultural land.

The Comox valley offers special inducements to settlers as there is already a large settlement, with good roads, schools, churches, stores, and weekly mail communication by steamer.

Mr. McNeil will again start for Comox on Wednesday, and any intending settlers will learn further information at the immigration office, James Bay.

New Westminster Assizes.

Mr. Justice McCreight had his hands full at the recent assizes. The cases were all of a grave character, from murder and attempt to murder down to perjury.

James Patterson, for trying to murder Constable Wiggins by shooting him, was convicted of assault.

Jack, an Indian, for stealing a steer, was *nolle pros'd.*

Wo Hi for stealing $15 from the Moodyville postoffice, was convicted.

Benj. Chapman of Chilliwhack was convicted of assault in pointing a gun at one Thomson and threatening to shoot. Judgment was suspended till next court.

Alexis, charged with the murder of Calder, was remanded till next court.

Wilson for threatening to shoot Chadsay at Sumas went over till next court.

B. Smith and C. Miller, for robbery, were liberated, the prosecution breaking down.

The case of Wm. Perkins, indicted for perjury, in having sworn that he had lost a greater amount of goods by fire than was really the fact, was tried, and the jury returned a verdict of acquittal without leaving their seats.

New Westminster.

The Columbian protests against the Yosemite leaving Victoria at noon instead of at 7 a.m.

The report that the steamer Adelaide had been bought off is denied.

Large bush fires, warm weather and high water are reported.

The Guardian says: We have been favored with some refreshing showers, which must have been simple salvation to many of our farmers; we trust that the blessing may have been widely vouchsafed throughout the province.... Although our take of salmon, including some bastard sockeyes, is sufficient to supply our tables, the number has not been so great as heretofore.... We are glad to hear that Mr. Millard's little girl is on the highway to perfect recovery and will be entirely free from any permanent injury..... Persons who have orchards should examine the trees and remove the clusters of caterpillars, soon likely to destroy them; a little care in this respect may save the fruit crop.... Port Moody is booming, and the crowds of men now employed on the works find the greatest difficulty in procuring board and lodging; in fact, numbers are compelled to live in tents and board the best way they can.

Blue Ribbon Club.

The meeting was opened by the choir singing "A light over there," after which prayer was offered by S. Gray, sen'r. President Humber alluded to the good work the club had done at Esquimalt. H. Rudge spoke of the importance of training the youth in the principles of temperance. Mr. Wm. Burgess read an extract from "Roughing it," entitled "Col. Jack takes a ride in an omnibus." Mr. R. B. Ellis referred to the great evil of moderate drinking, and the curse the custom of treating is to our young men. Mr. Thos. Innes treated the audience to a couple of Scotch songs which elicited great applause. S. Gray, sen'r, described the inhumanity of the liquor traffic in very plain terms. During the evening the Blue Ribbon band and the orchestra rendered some very entertaining music, and a very successful meeting was brought to a close by the choir singing "God save the Queen."

Another Robbery.

The Fountain Saloon, corner Yates and Douglas, was entered Friday night or Saturday morning, and about $100 extracted from the two boxes in which it was concealed. The thieves effected an entrance from an open shed in the rear, unscrewed the locks of two inner doors and thus got into the saloon. The money was in two boxes, one hid under the counter, and the other placed on a shelf. Their hiding places were evidently known to the thieves, who it is trusted will be secured. There are at present in the city a large number of loose characters who would seem to require strict surveillance from the police.

MARRIED.—The marrying fever seems to be spreading among the officials of Portland, for scarcely had Chief Parrish, with his bride, returned to the city than Mr. Frank E. Vaughn, superintendent of streets, quietly steals away to Salem and takes unto himself a life partner in the person of Miss Becca Hentschel, one of the belles of the capital city. The marriage ceremonies took place at the residence of the bride's mother in north Salem at noon yesterday, Rev. P. S. Knight officiating. Mr. and Mrs. Vaughn returned to this city last evening, and will leave by this morning's train for a short visit to Victoria.—*Oregonian.*

PREPARING FOR A SIEGE.—Fifteen car loads of sheep, numbering 1250, raised in Wasco county, passed through the city yesterday consigned to Victoria parties. There can no longer be any doubt that our neighbors in British Columbia are preparing to be besieged by the Russians. It is even rumored that they will be very much disappointed if this bit of excitement is denied them.—*Oregonian.*

INCORRECT.—Mr. W. Perkins askes us to state that the paragraph which asserted that his daughter is identical with Lou Perkins who was abducted by Lucky Baldwin at Los Angelos, Cal., is incorrect. He has not got a daughter named Lou and none of his family were ever at Los Angelos.

CROPS.—The recent rain gave a spin to the grain and fruit crops in the country, and now there is every promise of a generous yield. A great deal more land has been sown with grain and roots this year than ever before, and many new clearings are in progress.

THE CLYDE.—To give the wrong man credit for a clever piece of handiwork is almost as bad as Punch's idea of "glory," being killed in battle and having your name spelled wrong in the list. It was Mr. R. W. Calvin who built the handsome yacht Clyde described in these columns a few days ago.

THE alarm of fire last evening was caused by the ignition of a kitchen attached to a Chinese house on Fisgard street. A few buckets of water quenched the flames.

ATTEMPTED MURDER.

Captain R. A. Marden Stabbed and Clubbed.

He is Saved by a Leather Pocketbook.

Highbinders Supposed to be the Assailants.

At nine o'clock last evening a bold and most dastardly attempt at murder was committed in this city. Capt. R. A. Marden, of San Francisco, an important witness in the Kwong Lee case, at present being tried in the supreme court, was

ATTACKED FROM BEHIND

while proceeding through Trounce alley to the Driard, and only providentially escaped death from the knife of the assassin. The captain had an engagement at the Adelphi, and started from the hotel about 8:30. He proceeded along Broad street and down Yates street to the saloon, and in a few minutes crossed over to the opposite side of Government street, and along it to the alley. He had only reached a short distance above McNiffe's saloon when two men walked towards him from the alleyway leading to Yates street. He took no notice of them, however, but just as he reached the fence, placed in the alley to prevent the passage of vehicles, he instinctively turned round and discovered the two men immediately behind him, one with his arm drawn back and

A LONG KNIFE GLEAMING

in the electric light. He at once wheeled and threw up his arm and cane to defend himself. This was done just as the blow was descending. The knife struck him just below the heart, cutting through his coat and cutting into the leather cover of his pocketbook, to which fact he owes his life. The blow was a savage one, and

CUT A BIG GASH

well into the leather; at the same time the second man struck him on the back of the head with a club or sand-bag, and the victim staggered up against the brick wall calling "murder, police." At this the assassins who evidently thought they had accomplished their purpose ran down the alley way to Yates street. The captain staggered hatless into McNiffe's saloon, and told what had occurred. Several gentlemen went out but, of course, could find

NO TRACE OF THE ASSASSINS.

The captain's hat was found at the foot of the fence, battered in, and his cane shattered into pieces, whether from the blow of the knife or the club he cannot tell. His was a most miraculous escape for had he not fortunately looked behind he would undoubtedly have been stabbed in the back to the heart, as it was the intention of his assailants to do so. Though suffering from the shock he is unhurt. Everything was done so quickly that he had not time to note the assailants particularly, but say that they were roughly dressed, and from the few gutteral words they uttered

EVIDENTLY CHINESE.

An attempted murder at so early an hour in the evening in Victoria is hard to imagine, and especially so when the victim is an almost entire stranger. The only theory advanced is that Captain Marden being an important witness in the Chinese case highbinders have been employed to give him his quietus. He is a man over six feet in height, rather spare in build, but would prove a powerful opponent in a fair struggle.

THE POLICE

were at once communicated with, and strenuous efforts are being made to discover the would-be assassins. This outrage is one more fact to prove that there is an element in our midst who will resort to the worst crimes in the calendar in order to gain their ends and defeat justice. It is to be trusted that they will be apprehended and strict justice meted out to them.

OUR DEFENCES.

An Imperial Torpedo Service.

During the last days of March and again in the early part of April the provincial government sent telegrams to the Dominion and Imperial governments, representing the defenceless condition of British Columbia, and strongly urging the importance of adopting effective measures for the protection of Esquimalt, Nanaimo, Victoria, New Westminster and Burrard Inlet; pointing out that the capture or destruction of Nanaimo and its valuable coal mines would be a national calamity, paralyzing British naval operations on the North Pacific. It was also suggested that an efficient torpedo service would prove a valuable auxiliary to the presence of a fleet in the event of an attack. It would appear that these representations have not been without effect, as Mr. Beeton, our Agent-General in England, writing on the 16th ultimo, says: "I have just learned from the high commissioner that both governments are concerting measures for the effective protection of our province. I understand that great reliance will be placed on a torpedo service, stationed on the northeast of Vancouver Island, at Saymour Narrows, and in the south at Cape Flattery."

"THE PLOT THICKENS."

Three Chinese Assault a Barrister Who is Employed in the Kwong Lee Case.

Last evening about 8 o'clock as Mr. W. Norman Bole, one of the counsel for the defence in the Kwong Lee case, was wending his way up Cormorant street, after a consultation with his client, he was jostled by a stalwart Chinaman who suddenly approached him from a dark recess. Mr. Bole pushed the man off and was startled to observe two more Chinamen spring from the same recess and advance towards him. The first fellow also sprang forward when Mr. Bole struck him with his fist fairly in the face and knocked him is a heap into the gutter. A second Chinaman grappled with Mr. Bole who "downed" him, and the third ran away. While this was going on a crowd of 40 or 50 Chinese gathered about, but did not molest the barrister as he forced his way through the crowd and proceeded towards the Driard. Looking back, presently, he saw two Chinese dogging his steps. They followed him almost to the door of the hotel and then disappeared. Mr. Bole is of opinion that the blows aimed at Capt. Marden an hour later were intended for him.

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.—Prof. George Davidson of San Francisco, California, president Cal. Academy of Science, etc., has been placed in charge of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic surveys on the Pacific coast. The professor's well-known scientific attainments and his intimate knowledge of every locality on the coast are guarantees that this is a most excellent appointment, and will contribute much to the efficiency of the public service.

DANGEROUS.—Yesterday afternoon as the steamers R. P. Rithet and Amelia were passing the butts some parties were engaged in rifle practice. Instead of waiting for the steamers to pass, which would only occupy a couple of minutes, the firing was continued, and had shot glanced over the top of the target there was the possibility of some one on board the steamer being struck. Such dangerous chances should not be taken.

The London Athenæum mentions the discovery, after twenty years' study, of the law of sex, which, says the author, "is determined by what I shall designate as the superior parent; also that the superior parent produces the opposite sex." The law is illustrated in the Athenæum by many examples.

DOMINION LANDS IN B. C.

Their Survey to be at Once Proceeded With.

Capt. E. Deville, Dominion surveyor general, and Messrs. Otto J. Klotz, W. Ogilvie and T. Drummond, connected with his department, who arrived in Victoria on Friday last have come to this province for the purpose of surveying the Dominion lands along the line of the Canadian Pacific railway. They will also determine the longitude of Victoria with Greenwich. Seattle is the nearest point as yet determined, and the difference in time will be calculated between that place and Victoria and the information thus obtained. The longitude of Victoria has never before been calculated, and as it is regarded as an important point, it has been decided to establish it. A number of the instruments have been left at Seattle and an observatory will be erected there and one of the two astronomers of the party located at that point and calculations carried on by telegraph. The longitude of different points along the line of the railway will also be calculated. A small observatory will be erected on the Driard House lot for the purpose of making the observations here. The various instruments have been somewhat damaged in transit, and it will be nearly a week before real work is commenced. A commission will be held this morning by Capt. Deville and his associates for the purpose of examining candidates wishing to qualify themselves as Dominion land surveyors. This is in order to enable those competent to take part in the coming surveys of Dominion lands within this province.

After all arrangements have been completed here Capt. Deville and party will proceed to Port Moody and locate the line from which operations will be based in surveying lands. The same system will be followed as that in existence in the Northwest. Lands will be divided into townships, sections and quarter sections; the latter will probably consist of 166 acres, the additional acres being intended as a reserve for public roads.

Capt. Deville expects that the greater part of this year will be occupied in locating the basis of operations though a quantity of the land may be surveyed. Next year, however, it is anticipated that the greater part of the work will be completed and Dominion lands defined. This will be a source of gratification to a long suffering people.

Capt. Deville and his associates are gentlemen of the highest scientific attainments, and their efforts will undoubtedly add much valuable knowledge to what is already known of the province.

Passengers Coming.

The Geo. W. Elder left San Francisco on Sunday for Victoria with the following passengers: Miss Ducorron, W H King, Geo Freeman, A M Freeman, H Bernstein, Iven Brink and wife, Geo H Matfield, Gen Gordon, G Hill, F H Wheeland, G W Abbott, R Evans, Miss R Gales, R Wilson, Chang Gee.

Personal.

Mr. Gavin Burns is pronounced out of danger.

Mons. Hiller, German composer and pianist, is dead.

Mr. John A. Webster, of New Westminster, is at the Driard.

B. C.'S ADVANCED VEGETATION.—An Ottawa correspondent of the Montreal Herald says: "Mr. A. W. Ross, M. P., received and posted up for public admiration some maple leaves, which were sent him from British Columbia. They were picked on the 11th of April, and one of them, which I examined, measured ten inches across and eight from the point of the leaf to its junction with the stalk. A gentleman present, fired with zeal for his province's reputation, protested that Ontario could do as well as that, and asked if there were not some maple trees near the buildings. On being answered in the affirmative, he was about to procure proof of his contention, but, after a minute's consideration, decided to leave the question open till summer.

ALASKA COAST SURVEY.—The United States steamship Carlisle, T. Patterson, Capt. Clover, left Esquimalt early Sunday morning an route for Fort Wrangel, Alaska. Here she will commence the suavey of the American coast northward. The Patterson is a handsome vessel of 700 tons and thoroughly equipped for the work she will engage in. The furnishings are of a luxurious and elegant character, and every comfort is provided for her officers and crew. She will be piloted through the winding waters of the north by Mr. E. H. Francis, son of Mr. Allan Francis, late American consul at this port.

POINT ELLICE BRIDGE.—The design and proposal submitted by the San Francisco Bridge Company, of California, for the construction of a combination iron bridge to cross the Arm at Point Ellice have been accepted by the honorable chief commissioner of lands and works. The company is represented by Mr. J. McMullen, of Kamloops, who built many of the best bridges on the C. P. railway. The piers will be of iron against which the greedy marine worm will wear out his teeth in vain efforts to obtain a mouthful.

BANK OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.—Mr. Chas. S. Jones, assistant manager at Victoria of this bank, and for 21 years in its service in this province, has resigned, and will shortly leave for Scotland to reside there permanently. Mr. Jones has proved a most efficient and valuable officer and his departure will be greatly regretted by his associates in the management of the bank, as well as the public generally, among whom he has many friends.

SUPREME COURT.—Sir M. B. Begbie and a special jury were engaged yesterday in hearing the case of Loo Choo Fan vs. Loo Chuck Fan (Kwong Lee & Co.,) to establish a copartnership which defendant denied. The Attorney General and Mr. Wilson for plaintiff; Mr. M. W. T. Drake and W. N. Bole for defendant. The case for the plaintiff was not concluded when the court rose.

FOR COMOX AND SEYMOUR NARROWS.—The recently appointed immigrant guide, Mr. McNeil, will leave to-morrow morning on his second trip up the east coast of the island. Parties wishing to avail themselves of his services can communicate with him at the immigration office this afternoon, or meet on board steamer Amelia to-morrow morning.

WE are requested by a marksman who was present at the butts on Saturday afternoon to contradict the item in Sunday's issue stating that firing was continued as the steamers passed the range. All shooting was stopped to allow both steamers to pass so that there was no danger of a shot striking the vessels.

ROUTE DISCOVERED.—Mr. W. M. Halpenny, the immigrant guide, reached Nanaimo yesterday from Alberni, via Cameron lake. He reports a thoroughly practicable route for a road from Nor'west bay and Englishman's river to the Alberni settlement.

DOMINION LANDS.—We understand that the party of engineers at present in the city have come to the province for the purpose of surveying the Dominion lands, and also for the purpose of doing other survey work in connection with their department.

NATIVE HOOK AND LADDER CO.—The Indians of Port Essington have formed a hook and ladder company for service in case of fire. They go through regular drill and are really in a state of considerable efficiency.

OBSERVATORY.—Captain Deveille, surveyor general of Canada, at present in the city, has arranged for the erection of an observatory on the corner of View and Broad streets, for the purpose of taking scientific observations.

BY ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

EXCLUSIVE DISPATCHES TO THE COLONIST.

CABLE NEWS.

LONDON, May 9.—A plan for the consolidation of the Oregon and California and Central Pacific Railway companies has been decided upon. The basis of the proposed union is the issue of Central Pacific mortgage bonds in exchange for existing Oregon and California bonds and the exchange of Central Pacific stock for Oregon and California ordinary stock. An agent will go to New York for the purpose of arranging the details of the consolidation. Mr. Jas. Russell Lowell will remain in London until the end of July. He is at present arranging a series of receptions, at which he will introduce Phelps, the new U. S. minister in political and social circles.

LONDON, May 11.—Wheat firm; a fair demand; holders offered moderately; corn firm, in fair demand.

LONDON, May 11.—Mr. Gladstone announced that he was about to lay before the house of commons some most important papers in regard to the foreign policy of England in her relations with Afghanistan. Mr. Gladstone then stated that an arrangement had been effected between Earl Granville, foreign secretary, Earl Kimberley, secretary for India, Baron De Staal, Russian minister to England, and M. Lessar, special Russian agent at London, in regard to the Afghan frontier, that this arrangement was satisfactory to Her Majesty's government and to Earl Dufferin, viceroy of India. He hoped the arrangement would be made subject to convention with Russia.

The trial of Cunningham and Burton for alleged complicity in the dynamite outrages at Westminster Hall and the Tower of London, began this morning in central criminal court.

In the house this afternoon, Lord Hartington said the government had resolved to make Wady Halfa the most advanced position, as a permanent defence of Egypt. British troops would be withdrawn as soon as the Nile rises. It is expected that the rising will occur about the end of May. The withdrawal of the troops involves abandonment of engagement to advance to Khartoum. This statement was received with cheers from the government benches. Efforts are to be made, said the war secretary, to establish an administration in the province of Dongola and to complete the Nile railway as a commercial enterprise.

LONDON, May 11.—12:30 p. m.—Consols opened at 98⅞ for both accounts. Stocks firm.

1:30 p. m.—Consols, 98 13-16.

4:30 p. m.—Consols, 99 1-16 for both.

AFGHANISTAN.

SIMLA, May 11.—According to the report in circulation here the Ameer has bound himself to insist upon the frontier passing through three points, the names of which the government refuses to disclose. Pendjeh, however, is one of the places. The Ameer desires the joint boundary commission to examine Oxus valley also.

LONDON, May 11.—Dispatches from Teheran says that Ameer of Bokhara urges the Shah of Persia to release Ayoub Khan.

RUSSIA.

ODESSA, May 11.—The railway plant which had been collected for a Russian line from the Caucasus to the Black Sea, has been diverted to the construction of a straight line from Vladekaukaz to Petroffski, on the Caspian Sea.

INDIA.

CALCUTTA, May 11.—An official statement faom Earl Duf