

PROGRAMME OUTLINED

Preliminary Arrangements Made for the Celebration of the Queen's Birthday.

Will Commence With a Grand Sham Battle or Review on Monday Morning.

Bicycle Races on Monday Afternoon and Yacht Races and Regatta on Tuesday.

The outline of the programme for the celebration of Her Majesty's birthday was arranged at the first meeting of the general celebration committee, held last evening. Capt. Finnis, of H.M.S. Amphion, who was present as the representative of Admiral Palliser, assured the meeting of the hearty support of the navy, to whom the citizens have each year owed so much.

It was just a bare outline that was decided upon, but it gives assurance that the attractions will be fully up to those of former years. So as not to interfere with the bicycle races, which are set for Monday afternoon, the review or sham battle, which Capt. Finnis said the citizens can depend upon, will be held on Monday morning. The bicycle races will bring together some of the cracks of the coast. The district council of the C.W.A. meets at Vancouver on Monday morning to complete arrangements for the circuit of twelve racing dates in which the Victoria meet is included.

For Monday evening the only attraction so far is a grand military entertainment to be held in the Drill hall, the arrangements for which are in the hands of the officers of the Fifth Regiment. On Tuesday morning there will be yacht races on the straits and sports at Beacon Hill and in the afternoon the annual regatta will be held on Arm. The first business taken up at the meeting was the appointment of a treasurer. Mr. Charles Kent, who has filled the position so many years, declining re-nomination, Capt. J. D. Warren was chosen. The finance committee of last year was re-elected with a few changes and were given power to add to their number. The committee follows: Messrs. A. W. Vowell, Charles Hayward, G. A. Kirk, R. L. Drury, L. Goodacre, N. S. Pearson, J. G. Jenkinson, B. Williams, M. Young, W. Hanna, T. Deasy, H. Price, H. Short, W. H. Langley, T. Bradbury, W. Thompson, E. W. Pearce, James Baker, P. R. Brown, P. Elworthy, W. L. Chaloner, Capt. Warren, Sgt. Major Mulcahy and the members of the aldermanic board.

The band and printing committee consist of Messrs. N. Shakespeare, A. Stewart, R. L. Drury, Col. Wolfenden and Aid. Macgregor. The officers of H. M. navy and R.M.A.—Mr. Chase, of M. navy yard, Mr. Dalman, J. G. A. Kirk, John Braden, M.P.P., J. A. Dalman, Thomas Deasy, W. H. Cullen and Major Williams.

There was considerable discussion as to whether it would be well to allow the military review to interfere with the bicycle races on Monday afternoon, but this was settled by Capt. Finnis stating that the review could be held in the morning.

Some objection also was taken to celebrating on Monday and Tuesday, several members of the committee preferring Tuesday and Wednesday, but the mayor said that the committee had decided upon a meeting of citizens.

The secretary announced that he had arranged for advertising in the papers of the Mainland and Sound cities, and his action was endorsed.

The proposal to hold a flower carnival was dropped, the committee considering it too early in the year.

After passing the regular resolution that the general committee would not be responsible for the defect of the sub-committees above the amount voted for each, the meeting adjourned.

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At Least Seven Lives Lost in a Great Explosion in California.

Santa Cruz, Cal., April 23.—Three explosions at about 6:15 this afternoon at the California Powder Works caused a greater loss of life than any previous accident in the history of these works. The wildest rumors are prevalent regarding the number of killed and injured, the exact number of which cannot be ascertained before morning. It is known that seven were killed and four seriously injured.

The first heavy shock of the explosion was felt for many miles around and was quickly followed by two lighter shocks. Thick smoke from the works arose in volumes so dense that it was impossible for a time to perceive the extent of the damage that had been caused by the explosion.

It was reported that the fire was spreading and that the main magazine was in imminent danger. The bugle call accordingly sounded for members of the California naval reserve, who responded promptly, hurrying to the mills and assisting the corps of fire fighters already on the scene.

As nearly as can be learned the cause of the disaster was explosion in the gun cotton plant near the lake.

UP THE STIKINE.

Accidents Through the Breaking of Ice—Starting for the Lake.

The men who succeeded in getting up the Stikine river on the ice did not lose much time at Telegraph Creek or Glenora, but continued on the trip to Teslin Lake. On April 6 there were but 200 people at Telegraph, 400 having passed through on their way to the interior.

Messrs. McQueen & Reid, of Vancouver, lost a team of horses in the river, escape, being carried down the river under the ice. Fortunately he was able to secure a hold on the ice at an air hole and was not injured.

A man named Black, of Illinois, lost his life a few days after. He and his brother were taking a heavy load of merchandise up the river when the ice gave way. One of the brothers and his horses reached shore, but the other brother was carried under the ice and drowned.

John Hyland left Telegraph on April 7 and expects to be in Dawson to celebrate the Queen's birthday.

The Canada Development Company's party, the K. M. T. & T. Corporation party and the Mackenzie & Mann party, started for the lake at the same time and expected to reach their destination in from 15 to 20 days.

Horses will be in demand as soon as the commences in earnest and men taking horses are advised to take up their own feed, as with the crowds on the trail the grass cannot last long.

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KLONDIKE NURSES.

Miss Powell and Her Assistants Spend a Day in the City En Route North.

Faith Fenton, the Correspondent Will Accompany the Party to the Interior.

The four nurses who have volunteered for duty in the Klondike country and Faith Fenton, the correspondent of the Toronto Globe among the nurses to Dawson, spent yesterday in Victoria as guests of the Lieut.-Governor and Mrs. McInnes.

The nurses are Miss Powell, superintendent; Miss Payson, Miss Hanna and Miss Scott. They do not in the least fear the long trip they have before them, or the hard life of a rough mining camp, although they appreciate the fact that life will not be quite as comfortable as they have been used to. They will accompany the troops which are being sent to the interior by the Dominion government, so that they will be well taken care of on the trip. It was expected that a start would be made immediately, but advice received yesterday to the effect that the troops would not leave Ottawa until next week.

The nurses therefore have a couple of days to spend in the coast cities waiting for the start. They left for Vancouver this morning and expect to return to Victoria for a few days before going north.

Yesterday their time was well occupied. Lunching with the Bishop and Miss Percin, they returned to Government House where they were the guests of honor at a reception attended by a large number of ladies and gentlemen interested in charitable movements. It was arranged that each of the nurses should "say a few words," but they backed down when they saw the size of the audience, and to Miss Fenton was left the duty of delivering an address.

She was fully equal to the occasion, and delivered a most interesting little talk on the Victorian Order of Nurses. The Lieut.-Governor sent four nurses of the Victorian Order to Dawson, which was started by Lady Aberdeen, in fact the Governor-General is bearing most of the expense of the nurses' trip.

The government has undertaken to transport them to Dawson and see that they do not suffer from lack of food or shelter. In return for the assistance rendered by the government the nurses will attend any of the infantry, police or officials who may need their services.

At the time they will be stationed at Fort Selkirk, where there is said to be a building which can be utilized as a hospital. The nurses cannot accept remuneration from their patients anything tendered must be handed over to Miss Powell, who will forward it to Ottawa.

Miss Fenton received permission from the government to accompany the expedition, and there is little doubt that she will be appreciated by both the nurses and soldiers, as she possesses a facility of being of assistance and adding life to any party of which she is a member.

The nurses will go by the Stikine route. As the infantry will probably spend several days on the coast it has been suggested that they be sent by the coast route to Dawson.

At the first day's racing at the Newmarket spring meeting yesterday the following ships were entered: Argos, 508 tons, 2 guns. Castilla, 3,290 tons, 22 guns. Cebrut, 532 tons, 2 guns.

Don Antonio de Ulloa, 1,160 tons, 13 guns. Don Juan de Austria, 1,150 tons, 13 guns. Eleanora, 590 tons, 7 guns. General Alva, 1,300 tons, 2 guns. General Lezo, 520 tons, 6 guns. Isla de Luzon, 1,048 tons, 10 guns. Isla de Cuba, 1,048 tons, 10 guns. Manila, 750 tons, 2 guns. Marquis del Duero, 500 tons, 5 guns. Reina Christina, 3,520 tons, 21 guns. Velasco, 1,152 tons, 7 guns.

The American ships in the Orient are: Baltimore, 14 guns, 4,600 tons. Boston, 8 guns, 4,680 h.p. Concord, 8 guns, 3,450 h.p. Monocacy, 6 guns, 850 h.p. Olympia, 14 guns, 17,313 h.p. Raleigh, 11 guns, 10,000 h.p.

The rebels too continue active on the islands and are keeping the soldiers busy. When taken the rebels are brutally treated according to all accounts. A gentleman arriving at Hongkong from Manila tells of a case where a lot of wounded rebels were placed in a hut with the bodies of their dead companions and the whole set on fire. A photograph taken of the hut while it was in flames shows, it is said, human remains being consumed by the fire.

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KILLED BY A DREAM.

A Japanese Stabs to Death Wife and Sister Under a Dream Delusion.

A strange story comes from Samsu in Japan of how an unfortunate man killed two of his family in his sleep. The Japan Daily Advertiser of April 12 states that Goro Yamazaki while asleep dreamed that two robbers were standing over him demanding money. So real did this seem that Goro rising plunged and snatching a sword from the wall he imagined robbers. A cry from his little three-year-old son brought him back to his senses and Goro was horrified to find that he had actually killed his wife and his step-sister. Overcome with grief at the dreadful end of his dream Goro gave himself up to the authorities and told his story. It seems that he had suffered from insanity for three years, but afterwards was supposed to have recovered.

THE STIKINE-TESLIN ROAD.

To the Editor.—Recently Ex-Mayor Beaven had a communication in the Colonist, strenuously advocating a trail or road between Stikine and Teslin lake, which he said would be either the Dominion or Provincial governments, without the least difficulty. It has been neglected too long. It should have been started several years ago.

When Mr. Beaven is informed of the following facts he will see that he overstates the matter and talks wildly. "Several years ago" neither of the governments mentioned knew scarcely anything definite of the country between the Stikine river and the lake.

The last mention of the trail was in the Hudson's Bay trails. When in December, 1896, I saw the advantages and necessity of having a route opened from Teslin to Teslin lake, I could not find anyone in Victoria who could give me any information respecting the interior of the country referred to.

There were many miners who had been up the Stikine and at Dease lake, but not one could give me the required information. The only person who could give me any information was Dr. Dawson, the subject. His opinion was that a comparatively easy route to the headwaters of the Yukon could be made by a trail or road.

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She was fully equal to the occasion, and delivered a most interesting little talk on the Victorian Order of Nurses. The Lieut.-Governor sent four nurses of the Victorian Order to Dawson, which was started by Lady Aberdeen, in fact the Governor-General is bearing most of the expense of the nurses' trip.

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THE STIKINE FLEET.

River Steamers Being Hurriedly Got Ready for Service—Tartar Sails to-day.

Puget Sound Steamship Owners are Alarmed Over Their Prospects for Northern Trade.

With steamship agencies and management preparations for the opening of navigation on the Stikine and Yukon rivers are rapidly taking form. The C. P. R. company, which owns the wide connections, can be taken somewhat as a leader in their estimate as to traffic likely to develop when the second rush sets in, has been no way retarded in their preparations through the present temporary lull. Work on the very formidable fleet of river boats they are building for the Stikine is being forwarded with all haste. The first of these the steamer Hamlin, sailed on Monday and will be followed by others in the very near future. It is expected that the Hamlin will sail on her first trip up stream on May 1. In conjunction with this move the company will give the magnificent steamer Tartar dispatch for northern ports to-day. She will be here from Vancouver in the afternoon and will be given as little delay as possible. This will be the second visit of the big ship to port and as she is a handsome addition to the many steamers that even the Empresses, she doubtless will be a strong drawing card to the ocean docks. Her agents state that they have been ordered to keep her in the north for the long voyage on sea and river. After inaugurating their service these steamers will be operated exclusively on the river and at Wrangell will make connections with river boats which will be made at a point just north of Wrangell on to Glenora from which port there is but a short portage before the chain of waters leading to the upper Yukon is reached. The Canadian, then a trust company's steamers, Victorian, Columbian, Canadian and Monte Cristo will also be placed on the river as soon as the season opens. The company's opportunity of reaching Glenora without transfer or other interruption will be afforded passengers leaving on these vessels.

Next week will see the first to sail, the Victorians being now about ready to leave for the north. The company's steamers will be operated exclusively on the river and at Wrangell will make connections with river boats which will be made at a point just north of Wrangell on to Glenora from which port there is but a short portage before the chain of waters leading to the upper Yukon is reached. The Canadian, then a trust company's steamers, Victorian, Columbian, Canadian and Monte Cristo will also be placed on the river as soon as the season opens. The company's opportunity of reaching Glenora without transfer or other interruption will be afforded passengers leaving on these vessels.

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