The Colonist.

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THE DAILY COLONIST

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THE GRAND TRUNK PACIFIC CONTRACT.

Despatches from Ottawa give some details of the amendments which the Dominion Parliament will be asked to sanction in the agreement between the Federal Government and the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company at the ensuing session. As was stated some weeks ago, these amendments will also require to be approved by the shareholders of the Grand Trunk Railway Company at their meeting next week in London. There are other changes in the agreement to be made besides those now announced, and it is stated that these will not be made public until that meeting, which will be held on Tuesday next.

Generally speaking, the intent of the proposed changes is to assist the Company in carrying out the financial arrangements in London necessary to secure the large sum that the construction of a transcontinental railway will require. The present time is not particularly propitious for an appeal to the money market for such a purpose, and only the prestige and confidence which the Grand Trunk Railway Company under its present management has gained in London, would make possible the success of such an application. It may, we think, be taken for granted that the promoters of the Grand Trunk Pacific scheme—that is, the executive of the Grand Trunk Company—believe that, with the amendments to be made in the agreement with the Government, they can secure the necessary capital to carry out the undertaking. A failure to do so would be practically disastrous to the project, and at the same time, affect very injuriously the credit and standing of the Grand Trunk Company itself.

Among the amendments to the agreement announced from Ottawa is one extending the time for the completion of the line to 1911, that is, two years beyond the period fixed in the original agreement. This is doubtless a wise precautionary measure on the part of the promoters, but it does not necessarily imply that all that time will be required. It is obviously in the interests of the Company to push construction, when once commenced, as rapidly as possible, so as to secure traffic, and it is not improbable that this second transcontinental line, like the Canadian Pacific Railway, will be completed well within the time fixed in the agreement.

One of the most important concessions made by the Government is the assistance it will grant for the mountain section—that is, from the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Coast. Under the original agreement the Government was to guarantee bonds to an amount not exceeding $35,000 per mile, if the cost reached that figure. Now it is proposed to abandon that limitation by arranging that 75 per cent. of the cost of that section shall be guaranteed. As it is probable that there will be some very heavy work on that part of the line nearest to the Western terminal—wherever that may be—this change may be of great financial assistance to the Company.

Among other changes is one authorizing the Government to extend the lease of the Eastern section—that from Moncton to Winnipeg—to one hundred years instead of fifty, with a provision that, should the Government take over the operation of that section before that time has expired, the Company is to have running powers over it. As to the deposit of $5,000,000 which the Company is to put up with the Government, it is now agreed that if the Western section is completed before the Eastern section is finished by the Government, the deposit shall be returned to the Company. An important change is also made in the original condition that the Grand Trunk Company was to hold the $25,000,000 Ordinary Stock in the Grand Trunk Pacific Company. This was done in order to secure an identity of interests between the two companies. Now the Grand Trunk Company may sell or dispose of a portion of this stock, provided it is held by parties interested in and identified with that Company. This will make available a mass of securities for the financial requirements of the new scheme.

On the whole we do not see that there should be any adverse criticism of the proposed amendments to the agreement, so far as they have been announced. We should have liked, however, to have seen some consideration required from the Company in return for these concessions, in the form of an undertaking by the Company that work on the Western section should be commenced on the Coast simultaneously with that on the Eastern end of the line. The representatives of British Columbia in the Dominion Parliament should endeavor to have this agreed to when the matter comes up at the ensuing session.

Scrofula

It is commonly inherited.

Few are entirely free from it.

Pale, weak, puny children are afflicted with it in nine cases out of ten, and many adults suffer from it.

Common indications are bunches in the neck, abscesses, cutaneous eruptions, inflamed eyelids, sore ears, rickets, catarrh, wasting, and general debility.

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Eradicate it, positively and absolutely. This statement is based on the thousands of permanent cures these medicines have wrought.

"The face of my little girl from the time she was three months old, broke out and was covered with scabs. We gave her Hood's Sarsaparilla and it cured her." T. M. CARLISS, Clinton, Ontario.

Hood's Sarsaparilla promises to cure and keeps the promise.

THE MINING INDUSTRY.

We publish elsewhere a letter from Mr. Galt, of Rossland, referring to our article in Tuesday's issue on the mining industry. Mr. Galt, representing as he does two important mines in the Rossland district, is properly anxious and solicitous that everything should be done to encourage such enterprises. We quite agree with him that the prosperity of the mining industry means very much to every other interest and industry in British Columbia. We can assure him that the Provincial Government is keenly alive to that fact and that nothing will be lacking on its part to give practical effect to that view. But that does not imply that every suggestion that is made for radical changes in the mining laws or in the methods of the administration of them, must be adopted. It would be very easy to point out numerous instances where suggestions for changes in one direction would, had they been hastily adopted, have worked considerable evil in another. But the actual situation in the mining industry today in British Columbia refutes Mr. Galt's main contention—that the mining industry is suffering from unwise legislation or indifference manifested by the Government. We find some of the most important companies issuing most satisfactory reports to their shareholders. Better business methods; cheaper methods of treatment and lower railway freights are factors of far more importance than anything else. Excessive capitalization of some of the mining properties in Kootenay has had not a little to do with the discredit and disappointment that have attended some mining interests, and Mr. Galt can recall some of these incidents without it being necessary for us to mention them.

The question of the two per cent. mineral tax is one that has to be dealt with, and the Conservative party is pledged to that. But no one knows better than Mr. Galt that among mining men there is a great difference of opinion as to what system should be substituted for the one now in force. Mr. Galt does not like the term we used of "a cautious and conservative policy" in dealing experimentally with a matter on which those most closely connected with the mining industry hold a diversity of views. But the Government has to look at the matter from the point of view of the revenue of the Province as well as from that of the mining industry, which alone occupies Mr. Galt's thoughts, and the result of its deliberations will, we doubt not, be such a proposal to the Legislature as will both meet the sanction of that body and the approval of the mine owners. Meanwhile we would suggest that the latter continue their efforts, which have so far been very successful, for improving mining methods with a view to greater economy in every direction.

LIBEL SUITS.

We must congratulate our contemporary, "The Times," on its successful defence of the libel action brought against it, and in which it secured yesterday in the Supreme Court a judgment with costs. The cause of the action brought against it were some comments made by it cautioning the public against certain parties who were soliciting support and subscriptions for alleged charitable purposes. The facts, as brought out, in our opinion, fully justified "The Times'" comments. They were made in the public interest; were entirely without malice or prejudice and merited commendation.

It is to be hoped that this decision and some recent cases in Eastern Canada, in which newspapers successfully defended themselves against libel suits of a somewhat similar character to that brought against "The Times," will have a beneficial result in protecting newspapers from actions brought against them for statements made solely in the public interest, and in the course of that duty that devolves on all journals which recognize the responsibility resting on them as the mouthpieces of public opinion and the guardians of public morality.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS REPORT.

The annual report on the public schools in the Province has been issued by the Superintendent of Education. In many respects the present is a distinct improvement on previous reports, and Mr. Robinson's efforts will be appreciated by all those who are interested in the subject of education. At the present time the importance of a thorough and sound education being placed within the reach of every child is being recognized throughout the civilized world, and there is continual rivalry between one nation and another as to which shall take the lead in educational matters. In British Columbia besides what may be called the direct interest in education, there is the circumstance that the burden imposed on the taxpayers by the appropriation for schools has now become so heavy as to direct public attention to the matter with a view of ascertaining whether such a large expenditure for this purpose is necessary and if the Province gets full value for the money. The information given in Mr. Robinson's report will throw some light on that question. The fact that the amount disbursed by the Provincial Treasury during the past fiscal year on education amounted to about one-fourth of the whole Provincial revenue, and that with the exception of the annual charge of the Provincial debt, the vote for education looms up the largest in the Estimates, is sufficient to account for the frequent references that one hears as to the cost of the educational system in British Columbia and the manner in which it is increasing almost year by year.

We must defer for another occasion a reference to several interesting statements made in the report. We may, however, call attention now to one matter to which Mr. Robinson gives particular notice. That is the large amount that the Government contributes to the schools in the principal towns in the Province as compared with the sum expended out of the municipal funds for the same object. It will also probably be a matter of surprise to many persons to learn what great differences exist in this respect between one town and another. While the local contribution in Vancouver was, roughly speaking, two-thirds or that by the Government and a somewhat larger proportion in Victoria, in Nanaimo the municipality only paid $1,860 against a Government grant of $14,356.

While such inequalities seem to indicate that the present system of capitation grants does not operate satisfactorily, it is, of course, necessary to bear in mind that there are other details necessary to be considered before reaching a conclusion on the subject. While the Government grant is based on the attendance at school, the appropriations made by the municipalities for their schools are fixed as to their amount in an altogether different manner. It is quite conceivable that the circumstances connected with the schools in one town may be such that a much smaller local appropriation will meet the expenses than is required in another place. But it is not improbable that public sentiment has not a little to do with the matter. In some towns the people are more solicitous as to the efficiency of their schools than is the case with the citizens of another town. Unless there was some exceptional circumstance connected with the schools in Nanaimo during last year, it is difficult to understand the enormous disparity between the municipal expenditure per capita there and the like expenditures in Vancouver and Victoria.

The Superintendent of Education points out that it will become imperative to make radical changes in regard to these matters. The Government expenditure for education will continue to increase, so that some change must be made in the present system. Mr. Robinson seems to suggest that the maintenance of the schools in the rural districts will, as settlement extends, become such a heavy charge on the Provincial Treasury that a readjustment of the arrangement with the cities will be necessary. We are inclined to agree with that view. But we would go further than Mr. Robinson does and suggest that the whole question of education including the relations between the Government and the municipalities and the financial part of the educational system should be enquired into with a view to important changes.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

ROAD WORK.

Sir,—Farmers generally, I find, are in agreement with the letter that appeared in your valuable paper on Public Works, over the signature of Farmer, also with your leader upon it, as well as the previous article upon the subject, and they hope the government will take action upon the matter, as there is nothing more important to us than good roads. Wharfs strikes us most is that our roads since we elected foremen, are every year getting worse and costing more, in the sense that less work is done for the money than used to be.

Farmer might have put it much stronger about the number of men employed now, as it has been no unusual thing to see a foreman going round with one man only. Fancy costing us $3 a day to boss one man. Then there are other ways where the money is wasted. This last season there was a bridge that had to have attention. A keg of nails was sent out by train which had to be taken from the station one and one-half miles, although the foreman drove by every morning in his buggy. Instead of taking it with him he employed a team at the cost of $2.50 for half a day's work. The team belonged to the man who run him for the job. This is a fair sample of how the road foreman system has worked into. It is no wonder there are small results for the money spent. We hear that the farmers of Saanich are about to hold a meeting to form themselves into a municipality, as they, too, are tired of the present system, so that there would appear to be general dissatisfaction.

FARMER NO. 2.

ROAD WORK.

Sir,—I have seen a letter in your Weekly Colonist on road work by Farmer; also a rambling political reply in the Times by Lagoon, who appears to be splintering in deeper waters than there is in his lagoon, even at high tide. As regards Farmer's letter, I wish to say that every statement he makes is true as to the present system, the roads getting worse every year, although costing more each season. As to the tools being dull after a hard season's work, what would Lagoon say to a carpenter working for him who did not keep his tools always in working order so that he could earn his wages?

As to Mr. Hayward; one of the greatest complaints against him was that he used road work as his political lever more than ever the road foreman being his political hack. The promise to take it out of politics was like his promise to meet his constituents once every year, never kept. It is most unkind to bring Mr. Hayward to life again anyway, for politically he has been more dead that Queen Anne. I hope the present government will start some other system of road work that we may have decent roads to travel on.

ANOTHER FARMER.

PROVINCIAL PRESS.

The lessees of the Black Prince have received the returns upon the last shipment or ore made to Nelson and the figures were better than expected. The ore weighed 20,344 lbs., yielded 227.4 oz. silver, 14.2 per cent lead, and 21.9 per cent zinc to the ton. The shippers were fortunate in catching silver on the rise, getting 58½ cents per oz. The net proceeds of the lot amounted to $1,120.36.—Kaslo Kootenaian.

In the new No. 4 tunnel of the Granby mines, at the back door of the Pioneer office, which was started some little time ago, work is proceeding steadily, and the face is about 160 feet from the portal. This tunnel, which is being driven on a five per cent incline, will reach the 200-foot level of the Old Ironside mine.—Phoenix Pioneer.

The contractors for the sinking of 100 feet in the shaft of the Don Pedro, in Skylark camp, are now about 42 feet down, having timbered the shaft in good shape all the way down. The property is owned by the Chicago British Columbia Mining Company, of which H. H. Shallenberger is the manager, and some excellent ore has been found in this shaft. The men who have the contract are A. J. Morrison, William Leonard, Ed. Sullivan, Murdoch McLeod and A. Inglis.—Rossland World.

Within the past two weeks 72,000 shares of the Yale-Kootenay Ice Co., have been disposed of at par by Messrs. McDonald & McHardy. The stock of the company was withdrawn from sale at a meeting held on Saturday last. In the previous week 53,000 shares had been sold. The opinion held by McDermid and McHardie, however, called for 10,000 additional shares and since Saturday last these have been disposed of making a total of 72,000 shares sold in two weeks. The only stock of this company now for sale are small lots held by those who are compelled to sell.—Nelson News.

A meeting of the creditors in the estate of Batho & Co., of Ferguson, was held at Revelstoke on Tuesday. J. C. Murray, the assignee, attended. T. J. Lumsden, of Leckie & Co., represented the Vancouver creditors, and was appointed to act with the assignee as supervisor in winding up the estate. Kelly, Douglas & Co. claimed to have a chattel mortgage on the estate, and the creditors will test its validity. If upheld it means the other creditors will get little or nothing.—Revelstoke Mail.

Ed Ward, foreman of the Handy group, was in town Sunday last. Three cars of ore, averaging $40 to the ton, are on the dump ready for shipment. Five men are at work sinking on the lead. A small boiler and pump have been purchased and will be in operation this month. The Handy group is situated on Lynch creek, about eight miles from Poplar. The railroad runs through the property.—Poplar Nugget.

Jos. C. Kirkpatrick and Lew Thompson, brought some nice pieces of galena ore to the Eagle office on Monday, and told us of their good fortune and of Lew's anticipations being fulfilled by having encountered better ore in their big lead during the past few days. "Lew" always thought since the big body of concentrating ore was found that something better was near; now he has the satisfaction of seeing the ore improve in quality every day.—Ferguson Eagle.

M. P. Stewart of Nicola, has returned from a trip to Spokane, Portland and Tacoma. At the latter place he was successful in negotiating the conditional sale of his coal interests in Nicola to Tacoma and Everett investors. An instalment of the purchase price was paid and a company organized with a capital of a million dollars. Mr. Stewart holds a ten per cent interest in stock of the company. The mines are to be opened up and put in shipping condition by the company. The quality of the coal is first class. E. Hewitt has been appointed manager and he will begin developing the property in the early summer. All that Nicola requires is a railway to transport her coal and metals to market, but until it is constructed that district, as also the Similkameen, remain virtually, terra incognita. — Similkameen Star.

G. A. Keefer, resident Dominion engineer of New Westminster, and W. F. Aylmer, C. E., of Golden, one of Mr. Keefer's assistants, arrived in town on Sunday morning in connection with the work to be undertaken for the improvement of the North Thompson river for navigation. This morning they drove up to inspect some of the riffles and to lay out the work, which will be commenced immediately. The sum of $7,000 was appropriated by the Dominion parliament last session for this purpose, and in all probability a further sum will be asked for during the approaching session.—Kamloops Sentinel.

It having been understood for some time that the Dominion Copper Company, which owns the Brooklyn and Stemwinder group of claims in Phoenix camp, was negotiating with the Montreal and Boston Copper Company, which owns the Boundary Falls smelter and Sunset mine, with the view of consolidating these two important mining interests, it is interesting to Greenwood and Phoenix citizens to learn anything touching the progress of these negotiations. Mr. Alex. Munroe of Montreal, the managing director of the Montreal and Boston Copper Company, was in Greenwood this week, and in company with F. E. Weeks, chief engineer of the American Engineering Works of New York, visited the smelter plant at Boundary Falls. Nothing definite could be learned from Mr. Munroe, further than that the negotiations were progressing; at least, still hanging fire.—Boundary Creek Times.

The war news of Xmir for the past week is briefly summed up. A few more cringing creatures have surrendered body and soul to the interests of the relentless foe, and saloon and labor agitator element claim a victory. We shall see how long they will hold the fort. Encouraged by the apparent success attending their efforts the instigators of the boycott against the editor of this newspaper are now agitating another "reform." They propose that no mine manager, mine superintendent, foreman, shift boss or any other mine official be appointed by a company before their names be submitted to the Miners' union, and that no such appointment be made unless with the full approval of such body. Should these conditions not be promptly complied with, the union edict will be—Strike! BOYCOTT!—Xmir Miner.

A new company has been organized under the title of the Spokane Falls Placer Co., to work ground on Ladness creek, near Trout Lake. The officers of the new company are: A. E. Shepherd, of the Minneapolis Thresher Co., president; John P. Mix, of the same company, vice-president, and J. B. Campbell, sec-treasurer. The new company has been capitalized for 250,000 shares of a par value of 25 cents per share. A considerable portion of this has already been subscribed, and as soon as the season opens up work will be commenced. The company will have a five-year lease of one-half mile of the creek, also a water right on half way creek for hydraulic purposes.—Trout Lake Topics.

RETAIL MARKETS

Flour is going up and up; no one can predict when the limit will be reached, but probably a continuance of world conditions will keep forcing the prices higher. For those who have to use flour in any of its various forms the prospects at present are not pleasant. The alleged cause of the rising price is the extra demand for flour, wheat and other grains from the Orient. Already very heavy shipments have gone to Japan, China and Siberia, and it reports are to be trusted, orders for still larger quantities are now in the hands of the millers and grain dealers. The arrival on the local market of a large consignment of Australian butter has aroused considerable interest. This butter is quite equal to the shipments received some years ago, before the great Australian drought ruined the pastures. Current retail prices are as follows:

Corn, whole, per ton	$30
Corn, cracked	$32
Corn, feed meal	$32
Oats, per ton	$30
Oatmeal, per 10 lbs.	40
Rolled oats, B. & K. per lb.	4
Rolled oats, B. & K. per 7-lb sack	25
Flour—	
Hungarian, per sack	$1.65
Hungarian, per bbl.	$6.50
Pastry Flour—	
Snow Flake, per sack	$1.50
Snow Flake, per bbl.	$5.75
Three Star, per sack	$1.50
Three Star, per bbl	$6.00
Drifted Snow, per sack	$1.40
Drifted Snow, per bbl	$5.60
Coal Oil—	
Pratt's coal oil	$1.70
Eocene oil	$1.80
Feed—	
Hay, Island, per ton	$16
Hay, B. C.	$15
Straw, per bale	75
Oats, per ton	$27
Wheat, per ton	$30
Middlings, per ton	$30
Bran, per ton	$28
Ground feed, per ton	$28
Vegetables—	
Beans, per lb	5
Chili peppers, per lb.	30
Cabbage, per head	5 to 1
Cauliflower, per head	10
Onions, per lb	2½
Carrots, per lb	1½ lb.
Beet root, per lb.	5
Potatoes	$1 to $1.25
Potatoes, per ton	$15
Sweet potatoes, per lb.	5
Celery	10 to 15
Eggs—	
Fresh Island, per dozen	30
Fresh cream, per pint	30
Cheese—	
Best Ontario Cheese, per lb.	20
California cheese, per lb.	25
Canadian, per lb	30
Butter—	
Australian butter, per lb.	30
Manitoba, per lb.	25
Best dairy, per lb	20 to 25
Victoria creamery, per lb	40
Cowichan creamery, per lb.	40
Delta	40
Fresh Island butter	40
Fruits—	
Shelled Jordan almonds	75
Walnuts, lb.	25
Filberts, lb	25
Almonds, lb	25
Brazils, lb.	25
Pecans, lb.	25
Valencia	60
Figs	20
Valencia raisins	12½
New cleaned currants, best Patras	12½
Best Sultanas	30
Table raisins	25 to 35
Bananas, per dozen	25 to 35
Oranges, per dozen	15 to 35
New dates	12½
Cocoanuts, each	10
New navel oranges, dozen	10 to 25
Lemons, California, per doz.	25
Local apples, per box	$1 to $1.25
Baldwins	$1.25
Lemon Pippins	$1.25
English Kings	$1.50
Currants, per lb	10 to 12½
Raisins, per lb	12½
Malaga raisins	40
Sultanas	17½
California	12½
Loose Muscats	8 to 10
Mixed peel, per lb	15
Jams, Assorted—	
Cross & Blackwell's, 1-lb. jars	25
Local jams, 5-lb. pails	75
Local jams, 2-lb jars	35
Local jams, 1-lb jars	25
Poultry—	
Dressed fowls	20 to 22
Fish—	
Smoked salmon, per lb	15
Spring salmon, per lb	10
Cod, per lb	6
Halibut, per lb	8
Smoked Halibut	15
Halibut, frozen	6
Flounders	6
Finnan Haddock, per lb.	15
Crabs, per dozen	50 to 75
Bloaters	10
Kippers	12½
Salt mackerel, each	15
Salt cod, per lb	10
Salt tongues and sounds, per lb.	20
Salt Holland herring, per keg	$1.50
Salt salmon, each	25
Salmon bellies, per lb	12½
Meats—	
Beef	10 to 12
Mutton, per lb	12½ to 17
Hams, American, per lb.	20
Bacon, American, per lb.	22 to 27
Bacon, rolled	16
Pork	11 to 12

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BORN.

FITZMAURICE—At Vernon, on Feb. 20th, the wife of R. Fitzmaurice, of a daughter.

HANKEY—At Vernon, on Feb. 29th, the wife of G. Alers-Hankey, of a son.

OWEN—At Vernon, on Feb. 10th, the wife of Wm. Owen, J. P., Mam, of a son.

COFFEY—At Vernon, on Feb. 23rd, the wife of W. Coffey, of a daughter.

YOUNG—At Nelson, on Feb. 21st, the wife of C. M. Young, of a son.

BURCHAILL—At Nelson, on Feb. 24th, the wife of James Burchall, of a son.

BRAILO—At Rossland, on Feb. 23rd, the wife of S. J. Brailo, of a son.

WILSON—In this city on February 25th, the wife of Biggerstaff Wilson, of a son.

COCKLE—At Kaslo on the 12th inst., the wife of R. A. Cockle, of a son.

McANN—At Kaslo on the 12th instant, the wife of Chas. W. McAnn, of a daughter.

HOGG—At Kaslo, on the 14th instant, the wife of Fred B. Hogg, of a son.

MARRIED.

GRAMAM—McAFEE—At the First Presbyterian church, on the 22nd of February, 1904, by the Rev. Dr. Campbell, John Andrew Graham of New Brunswick, to Margaret Jane McAfee, of Belfast, Ireland.

McINTOSH—THOBURN—At the Manse, on Saturday, the 27th ult., by the Rev. Robt. Laird, M.A., of Vancouver, John Charles McIntosh, of Osgoode Hall, Barrister-at-Law, to Eva Bond Thoburn

COOKE—BELLAMY—At St. Saviour's church, March 1st, by the Rev. W. D. Barber, M.A., Mr. Edward Archibald Cooke, to Miss Katherine Demaris Bellamy, both of Victoria.

SMITHSON—MURRAY—On February 24th, in S. Ann's church, Steveston, B. C., by the Rev. J. M. Donaldson, Joe Smithson Herbert, second son of Mr. William Smithson, London, England, to Harriett Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Mr. Henry Murray, manager of the Federation Cannery, Steveston.

SALEM—BANKS—At Rossland, on Feb. 25th, by Rev. John A. Cleland, Frank Salem and Mrs. Katherine Banks.

FARGO—HOUSER—At Barkerville on Feb. 24th, by Rev. A. H. Cameron, Edwin D. Fargo and Miss Ida J. Houser.

CLOUGH—JOHNSON—At Nelson, on Feb. 25th, by Rev. W. W. Baer, Walter Clough and Miss Ada I. C. Johnson.

BLACKBOURN—PRINCE — At Grand Prairie, on Feb. 24th, by Rev. James Turner, Robert Alexander Blackbourn and Mary Pringle.

DIED.

McLEAN—At Monte Creek, B. C., on February 19th, R. R. McLean, aged 30½ years.

SCARR—February 4th, 1904, at his residence, Clarendon House, Leeds, England, aged 76 years, Archibald Withan Scarr, J. P.

HARRISON—At South Saanich, B. C., on the 26th inst., Jane Georgina, beloved wife of Wm. Harrison, aged 67 years, and a native of Camden Town, London, England.

BLAKE—On the 28th inst., after an affliction of fourteen years, Sarah, the beloved wife of Charles Robert Blake, a native of Frenchay Common, Gloucestershire, England, aged 61 years.

MANNORING—At the residence of Mrs. Fuggle, 76 Princess avenue, Mr. John Mannoring, aged 81 years and five months.

HASTINGS—At Salmon Arm, on Feb. 17th, Ann Hastings, widow of the late John Hastings, aged 70 years.

HALL—At Chilliwack, on Feb. 23rd, William A. Hall, aged 28 years.

CROWE—At Ymir, on Feb. 21st, Frank Crowe, aged 54 years.

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Is studied by us in catering to your wants. We only buy the CHOICEST goods in the BEST markets
Finest West Indian Arrowroot (Crosse & Blackwell's) ..... 1 lb. tin, 25c.
The Franco-American French Soups, Ox Tail, Consomme, Mock Turtle, Julienne and Chicken ..... pints, 25c., quarts 40c.
Butter, Cowichan and Victoria, lb. ..... 35c.
The Saunders Grocery Co. Ltd.
'PHONE 28. 39 AND 41 JOHNSON STREET.
AND
The "West End" Grocery Co. Ltd.
'PHONE 88. 42 GOVERNMENT STREE

WEILER BROS
COMPLETE HOUSE FURNISHERS
VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA
Bohemian Cut Glass!
Bohemian Glass. Owing to the rich heavily cut, gold decorated designs, is much sought after by connoisseurs for its beauty and its richness. We have just received a nice assortment of this beautiful ware, in the very latest designs of Bon Bon Dishes, Comports, Vases, Olive Dishes, Preserve Dishes, Celery Dishes, etc., richly decorated in gold. This is
A RARE CHANCE
to secure a pretty, acceptable gift, something quite new. To choose amiss would be almost impossible, since the collection is the most desirable, the designs, shapes, sizes, the most varied and the range of prices reasonable.
Here Are a Few Selections:
At $1.50 Each. Handled Bon Bon Dishes, Olive and Preserve Dishes, pretty Blackberry Designs, in gold
At $2.00 Each. Pretty Flower Vases, 8 inches high, new shapes, richly gilt floral pattern.
At $3.00 Each. Dainty Footed Bowls and Comports, Cut Edges, Scroll Patterns, in rich gold decoration.
At 4 Large Comports, plain edge gilt, border design in rich gold, very effective.
At $5.00 Each. Quaint Octagonal Shaped Dishes, Cut Edge, very richly decorated in bold relief gold.
At $6.00 Each. Celery Trays, pretty leaf shapes, elaborately festooned floral designs, cut scollop edges.
THINK OF IT.

Nine Canadian Senators are over 80 and twenty-one Senators are over 70. In eight years there have been thirty-two deaths of members of the Upper House.

SUNLIGHT SOAP
SUNLIGHT SOAP is made of pure fats and oils and contains no dangerous ingredient. It is pure soap that gives absolute satisfaction. 199

A big audience at Hamer Greenwood's (Chamberlain) meeting, at Tynemouth, sang "The Maple Leaf Forever."

Until the last years of the last century Lyons was Europe's chief silk market. Milan gradually ousted it from the position, and in 1902 its receipts were 87½ per cent larger than those of Lyons.

Though Japan is the latest country to enter the circle of world powers, her Emperor surpasses all sovereigns in the length of his pedigree. He is the one hundred and twenty-second member in direct unbroken descent of his family who have sat on the throne of Japan.

POULTRY AND LIVESTOCK.

FOR SALE—A few seleced Plymouth Rock cockerels. Apply Loveland, Box 227, P. O., Victoria.

"And so, from hour to hour, we ripe and ripe,
And then, from hour to hour, we rot and rot,
And thereby hangs a tale."
—Shakespeare.

THE circumstances I am about to relate occurred in the year 1861. The facts were known to a few who lived here at the time; but I believe that with the exception of myself there is not now living a single person who was cognizant of the extraordinary combination of events which I intend now to print for the first time.

Nearly every old resident knew John George Taylor. He was alive as late as 1891 and his bones lie at Ross Bay. He was an Irishman, but he came here from Australia in 1859. He had been a miner, a rebel, a constable and a member of the Gold Escort in that colony and possessed remarkable detective instincts. He was one of the most intelligent men who ever joined the Victoria police force, and being strong and fearless, resourceful and keen-witted as a razor-blade, he was generally selected to inquire into involved cases that required a mind of more than ordinary capacity to unravel. I do not think I ever met a man whose judgment upon all matters connected with the discharge of a constable's duties could be so implicitly relied on as Taylor's. In Australia, when he mined at Ballarat, the miners at those diggings rebelled against the imposition of an obnoxious tax and took up arms, inaugurating what was ever afterwards referred to as the "Ballarat War." Troops were sent to the diggings and several miners were killed; but the next Parliament removed the impost. Taylor used to relate with dramatic effect how the miners afterwards elected one of their class to represent them in Parliament and how his constituents shod his horse with pure gold and escorted him, ten thousand strong, to the Government buildings and placed him on the seat of the mighty amid the enthusiastic plaudits of the multitude.

Taylor brought some money here and during the fifteen years he remained on the force he added to it by means known only to detectives and their patrons, so that when he died he had the tidy sum of $30,000 to bequeath to the Protestant Orphans' Home, which placed that meritorious institution upon its financial legs.

It will be readily understood that many strange characters came to the Colony in the days of which I write. Some had been men of importance in the Old Country, but allowing liquor, cards or some other bad habit to run away with their brains, and leave them morally and financially stranded in a community that had once conferred honors upon them. Many of these men bore assumed names. I remember one gentleman—and he was a kind and good-hearted a creature as I ever met, more sinned against than sinning, I feel sure—who posed as the L——d and who was about to offer himself as a candidate for the Legislature.

"What is the name of that party?" asked a new-arrival, as he pointed to Mr. L——d on the street one day.

"L——d," was the reply.

"I'll wager you a hundred pounds that his name is P——n."

"I won't bet; but you ought to be sure before you make such an assertion."

"Well, I'll prove it," replied the other, and stepping in front of the advancing man he extended his hand and asked:

"How are you, Mr. P——n? When did you leave Manchester?"

The person thus addressed staggered back as if he had been struck a hard blow and gasped out:

"For heaven's sake, man, don't speak that name. I am the L——d here."

"I know you are, but you are P——n, all the same."

"Have mercy—have mercy—I am trying to lead a better life. Don't expose me; please don't!" he begged.

The new-comer was merciless. Addressing two or three bystanders, he pointed to the poor, shaking devil and exclaimed:

"Gentleman, this is P——n, the great Manchester defaulter. Take a good look at him so that you'll know him again. With a Bow Street runner at his heels he has the cheek to stand for your parliament, I hear."

The wretched man slunk away. All his airy castles were dissolved, all his hopes to do better had been shattered and all he had left him now was to hide—crawl into some retreat where no person who had known him in the days when he passed for an honest man and was respected and influential would ever again see him. The next day he was gone and none could ever tell whither he went. Poor fellow!—how sorry I felt for him and how I loathed the man who exposed him.

Another man had been a successful dry goods dealer in London. His store was frequented by the highest in the land. One day a shopwalker thought he detected a lady in the act of stealing an article from one of the counters and secreting it in her dress. He laid his hand on the lady's shoulder and asked her to step into a back room. She threw off the hand with indignation and bade him begone. In spite of her protestations of innocence she was forced into a room. She tendered the card of a certain lady of distinction. The owner of the establishment, who happened to have lunched generously that day, threw the card on the floor with the remark, "Imposter!" He ordered a female to search the lady for plunder. Nothing that belonged to the establishment was found upon her. Profuse apologies were tendered and declined. A suit for damages was instituted. The public ceased to buy at the store, trade fell off and in a year's time the man's name appeared in the Gazette. He came to Victoria with an assumed name and some money and built a large wooden place on Fort street above Douglas, which he called the "Fort Street Chambers." Few rented the rooms and in a short time he went away and was never heard of more.

There were many other characters who came here during the rush. They seem like the camp-followers of an army to join every movement which appears to offer them an opportunity for excitement. I met them in Kootenay and on Fraser river; they were seen at Cariboo and on the Yukon. Always the same—the lapse of time seemed to make no difference. The personnel, of course, had changed entirely in the half century that intervened, but the reasons that inspired the adventurers of that day to seek a change actuated their imitators of the later period.

One night Detective Taylor came to my office and told me that he had watched a strangely-acting man for some weeks, off and on, and had been unable to find out the slightest thing about him. "And yet," said he, "the man acts as if he had committed a murder some time in the past. In fact, he's haunted!"

"What?" asked I, "you surely don't believe in such things as ghosts!"

"Well, no," he replied, "I don't; but that man thinks he is haunted, and I