The Colonist.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1897.

THE SESSION.

The session of the Legislative Assembly bids fair to be one of the most interesting in the history of the province. Events have demonstrated in the last few years that the mineral wealth of British Columbia is of vast extent, and that in order to its proper development adequate transportation facilities should be provided. We may expect, therefore, to see foreshadowed in the speech a measure to provide for financial aid to needed railways, and we are confident that any such line of policy will be received by the Assembly with the same hearty approval that will be extended to it by the people.

The Lieutenant-Governor may be expected to congratulate the house upon the great activity in mining that has marked the past year and upon the improved condition of the lumber market. Agricultural and horticultural matters will naturally call for a reference, and there will likely be a promise of legislation for the encouragement of these important industries. Sanitary matters will call for a reference and, probably for some new enactments. The house will also perhaps be asked to give some evidence of practical sympathy with the famine-stricken population in India.

The result of the suit brought to test the ownership of the precious metals on the E. & N. railway grant will likewise probably be the subject of a paragraph, and another will doubtless be devoted to the success of the Sinking Fund Adjustment Act, by which a very handsome sum of money has been released from trust and paid into the general revenue.

The Companies Act, and the Act relating to the case of lunatics are among the laws calling for amendment.

It will be expected that some appropriate reference will be made to the forthcoming celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of Her Most Gracious Majesty's ascension to the throne, and the house will doubtless be asked to express its congratulations.

These are the principal matters to which we shall expect to see reference made, although others will very naturally be mentioned. The government will be able to present a good financial statement to the house, and the measures to be brought down will be of a character to command general approval. A general impression prevails that the session will be somewhat shorter than usual. No disposition exists on the part of the government to unduly hasten matters of legislation, but an effort, and we believe a successful one, will be made to enable the members of the legislature to return to their private affairs with as much dispatch as is consistent with the public interests. Those having private legislation in charge can contribute a great deal to this desirable result.

A TERENNIAL FAD.

The New York Herald give considerable prominence to astrological predictions. Whether this is because a number of people in the American metropolis believe in astrology and the Herald is catering to their tastes or the editorial management has concluded that the subject has a scientific basis we may only surmise. Nevertheless it is a curious thing to find such matters seriously treated in the columns of what must be regarded, all things considered, as the best and least sensational newspaper on this continent. Astrology has its professors in all the large cities and some of the more distinguished have a large and very profitable clientele, while the long list of lesser lights, who must make a living out of the profession or otherwise they would not follow it, shows that those who believe it possible to read the future in the stars must be very numerous. If antiquity is a recommendation astrology ought to be respected. The Scriptures tell us how, many centuries ago, "the stars in their courses fought against Sisera," and all the way down the corridor of history we find proof of the most abundant character that stellar influence was thought to play a part of supreme importance in the lives of men and the destiny of nations.

In recent years astrology has taken a great hold upon the popular fancy, although doubtless most people do not recognize the old empiricism in the new self-styled science. About twenty-seven years ago Lieut. Saxby, of the United States navy, predicted a great gale and tidal wave as the result of a certain planetary conjunction. Both arrived on schedule time, and their tremendous force is well remembered along the New England coast and through the Maritime Provinces. Inspired by this success Dr. E. Stone Wiggins set himself up as a prophet of results from stellar causes He gained far more fame than Saxby ever did, but his prophecies had a happy faculty of miscarrying, although Wiggins always was able to point to something that happened about the time of the date set by him that he could by a very wide stretch of the imagination call a fulfilment of his predictions. To Wiggins has succeeded Lieut. Totten, of the United States army, who mixes up a psuedo-astronomy with scriptural prophecy and has evolved more tomfoolery than any of his class. De Kalb, of Vienna, pushes him pretty hard for the first place. According to the latter authority, this world of ours ought to have gone to pieces last year. He has not condescended to explain why his predicted cataclysm failed to keep its appointment. Probably he made some such mistake as that by which the Adventists some fifteen or twenty years ago accounted for the failure of "the Lord to come," as they expressed it. When the specified day passed and things were going on much as usual, the prophets ran over their calculations again and found they were just 400 years out, and calmly announced that the longed-for event would not happen until four centuries had passed.

We make these observations because very many people are misled by the sensationalism of a popular class of modern newspapers to believe that science has discovered certain new laws from which it is possible to predict future events in a general way. Almost daily we come across very specious statements as to the effect which the planets are going to have at certain dates upon the future of the world. The latest is that owing to the position of the planets Uranus and Neptune, the year 1897 ought to be one of terrible disaster, which may take the form either of pestilence or upheavings of the earth's crust. The absurdity of suggesting that such an alternative should be the result of a planetary conjunction does not appear to have suggested itself to those people who have written column after column upon it. Nine-tenths of what appears in print nowadays as discoveries of science is merely the invention of some ingenious writer, whose pay depends upon his ability to produce something of a startling description. In this class must be placed most of what is printed about the planet Mars and every word about the influences of the planets upon mundane events. The Hindu philosophers say that all the discoveries of modern times are simply a recollection of something which mankind forgot centuries upon centuries ago. It may be that ancient astrology and the modern variety are faint glimmerings of a long-forgotten science; but in any case, neither has ever given any proof that it is worthy of serious consideration at the hands of sober-minded, intelligent people.

THE ALASKA BOUNDARY.

Referring to a dispatch from Washington to the effect that an agreement was being made between the British and United States governments for a commission to fix the 141st meridian, which forms the boundary between the Territory of Yukon and Alaska, a contemporary says that the Americans will never consent to accepting any boundary for Southeastern Alaska but one drawn from the head of Portland Canal, ten marine leagues from the coast of the mainland. If it is an open question under the treaty, whether the ten leagues are to be measured from the coast of the mainland or the outermost rim of the Alaskan archipelago, the American government will be estopped by its contentions under the Fisheries treaties from insisting that the "coast" means the coast of the continent only. It may perhaps be held that there is no ambiguity in the language of the treaty of 1825 in this respect. There is not the slightest occasion for anyone to indulge in heroics over this question, which is a mixed one of law and fact. Probably in the end a free interpretation will be given to the language of the treaty, and a conventional boundary be agreed upon that will satisfy the reasonable claims of both parties. The only important matter to be determined now is the exact location of the 141st meridian. This is necessary because a good many people are going into the Yukon valley, and questions of territorial jurisdiction may be expected to arise continually.

"GREAT BRITAIN never interferes with us. She is the kindest mother in the world." So said Minister Davies at Washington. We feel that we can add that no mother ever had a more loyal daughter than Great Britain has in Canada. The legislative and administrative ties have been so relaxed from year to year that there is to-day scarcely a tie between this Dominion and the Mother Land other than one of sentiment; but blood and iron could not make as strong a bond.

THE Nelson Miner explains that what it meant by saying that the people of the Slocan were "taxed under a system of discrimination" was that day laborers in mines have to pay a $5 fee for a free miner's certificate. Why did not the Miner say so in the first place? We do not think anyone will say that the provision of the law complained of is just, but it is not applicable to Slocan only, but to the whole province, and hence there is no discrimination about it.

HON. MR. DAVIES has been doing a little talking in Washington. He says that the people of the United States and Canada desire to trade together and that some arrangement would have been made before now if a section of the American press had not sown seeds of discord. This is doubtless very true; but Mr. Davies in making the statement is like a new Ajax defying a very wicked sort of lightning.

THE very striking statement is made that in France silk is now being made by mechanical means from wood pulp.

THE New York Herald congratulates the United States upon the fact that the action of the new Central American republic has put a quietus upon the Nicaragua canal scheme now before congress. THE COLONIST some time ago pointed out that the promoters of the proposed legislation were acting as though neither Nicaragua nor Costa Rica had any rights in the matter. This has been a view of the case, which has been extremely unpalatable to the press of the Coast States, but its force has been brought home very clearly by a notification from the Central American government that the passage of the pending legislation would lead to a forfeiture of the canal franchise.

THE Winnipeg Tribune understands that Sir Richard Cartwright is "almost prepared to go as far as to discriminate in favor of Manitoba" in framing a new tariff. If a policy of discrimination in the interests of any of the provinces is to prevail, British Columbia will be heard from. But we do not regard such a thing as at all likely.

ON December 31st the banks of Canada held on deposit $196,680,223. The Montreal Gazette pointed out that of this sum $70,000,000 was lying absolutely idle, and added that the only field for its use was in the Northwest and British Columbia. Appearances seem to indicate that we will get a share of it this year.

THE Times speaking of the COLONIST's appeal to every one to unite in advancing the interests of British Columbia says: "It will be observed that infants in arms are excluded, which seems a little invidious." We beg our contemporary's pardon. We had no intention of overlooking the Times.

A REPORT comes from Fredericton, N. B., that the Dominion Government contemplates purchasing the Canada Eastern Railway, which is a line from Fredericton to the Intercolonial at Chatham, and is a little over a hundred miles long. We shall not be surprised to learn that the rumor has a basis in fact.

A WRITER in the Canadian Gazette says the farmers of the Northwest territories never were better satisfied or more hopeful than they are this winter.

THE CANADIAN PRESS.

ASSESSMENT WORK.

The law requiring $100 worth of work on a mineral claim each year was promulgated with a view to opening up the hitherto undeveloped mineral districts, but the clause allowing payment in cash virtually stultifies it.—Grand Forks Miner.

THE POLICY FOR THE PROVINCE.

What is now demanded is an enlightened, progressive policy—such as will bring about even a greater degree of prosperity than we are now happily enjoying.—Vancouver World.

AN ITCH FOR OFFICE.

The opposition are certainly not "comfortable" about the manner in which the affairs of the country are managed.—The Columbian.

REGISTRATION FEES.

No alone in British Columbia is the question of placing greater restrictions on the promotion of mining incorporation being given attention, as, it would seem it is possible, a bill may be introduced in the legislature of the state of Washington, having for its object the charging of a higher fee for the registration of a company than is at present exacted, the fee to depend upon the amount of the capitalization of the company. For instance, if a company is capitalized at a figure not exceeding $100,000, a fee of $10 would be charged, and it over this amount an additional charge of 10 cents per thousand is proposed.—Midway Advance.

INCLUDE ALL THREE.

The Montreal Star suggests that as many members of parliament as can get away should make a trip across the continent to Vancouver. To which the COLONIST moves an amendment that the word Victoria be substituted for Vancouver. The Kootenaian moves as an amendment to the amendment the substitution of the word Kootenay as being the name of the district in whose hills is stored so large a proportion of the wealth of the Pacific province, and from which has sprung the newly acquired interest in it which Eastern Canada is now evincing.—Kootenaian.

THE CROW'S NEST PASS ROAD.

We have no reason to suppose, nor do we think it possible, that the Canadian Pacific will build the Crow's Nest Pass railway, owing to the strong opposition shown in certain quarters against its doing so.—Manitoba Free Press.

BY WAY OF VARIETY.

Perry Patetic—They say a man enjoys restin' a whole lot better after a good, hard day's work. Wayworn Watson—Well fer all I know, it may be so; but I ain't round tryin' any dangerous experiments.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

"It," said the grinning savage, as he turned the machine gun on the discomfited Christian civilizers, squinted along the barrel, got the range, straightened himself up, and set one of his followers to turning the crank, "is a poor Maxim that won't work both ways."—Indianapolis Journal.

Miss Cuddlethwaite—I should think it would be very disagreeable to have a mustache under your nose, tickling you all the time.

Mr. Jollicum—Not at all. Let me put mine under your nose for a moment, and you'll agree with me.

Miss Cuddlethwaite (two minutes later)—George Jollicum, I want you to understand that I haven't signed a three years' contract on this!

Rev. Dr. Angell—I am informed, my good friend, that you're losing money on fast horses.

Frank Speede—Your information is all wrong, I'm losing my money on slow horses.

"Waiter, this chop is done abominably!" "It's what you ordered, sir." "What I ordered? What d'yer mean?" "Why, you ordered a chop not too well done."

THE PUBLIC MARKET.

Can This Important Institution Be Made to Fill Its Natural Place?

Mayor Redfern Regards It as a Dead Investment, But Opinions Differ.

How Former Councils Have Sought to Make the Market Popular.

Can Victoria's market be made to pay? This is a question that invites the immediate attention of the board of aldermen, for its solution in the affirmative means very much to the citizens and almost as much to the farming community in all parts of the Island. If, as not a few people are agreed, it cannot—then the time has come to inquire why not.

For Victoria is not radically different from every other place in the world, and the argument of a greatly reduced cost of living is surely sufficient to induce even old-timers most set in old-time ways to lend their aid in removing the reproach from the public market and making it an institution of which the city may be proud instead of ashamed. The co-operation of the agriculturists will undoubtedly be forthcoming just as soon as the citizens manifest a disposition to reward their industry and their interest. Evidence to this effect was given as long ago as 1893, when the market came nearer to being a market in more than name than at any other time during its career.

"I am pleased to say," Superintendent E. C. Johnson was able to report at the close of that year, "that farmers of a few years' standing are now patrons of the market and are doing all they can to induce others to come in and take advantage of it. It would be well to say in connection that we have, every morning in the week, from sixteen to twenty wagonloads of vegetables at or near the market, but with few exceptions householders do not support it—*although the difference in prices between those ruling in the market, as compared with having the goods delivered, is 35 per cent.*"

This Mr. Johnson attributed largely to the fact that the pioneer farmers would not come to the market, and their customers, finding that the goods came to them in the old-time way, did not either. To meet this point the superintendent suggested that the corporation might "impose a license on such cultivators of the soil as do not support the efforts of the ratepayers, who at considerable cost erected such a grand edifice as that of the city market, and that for the benefit of the farmers."

This was not done, and the farmers gave up the fight. The brief experience above chronicled is, however, an illustration that is not to be lost sight of when money is worth every cent of the one hundred to the dollar.

The fact that with absolutely no competition market prices ruled 35 per cent. lower than prices on the same products disposed of in the old time way, is a fact worth remembering—and with a well attended market, and consequently increased interest on the part of the farmers, an even greater advantage to the consumer would be the natural result.

Mr Watson Clarke, who speaks as a representative farmer with long experience of Victorians and their characteristics, believes that the market can be made a good thing for both the citizen and the farmer—a public market in fact as well as in name. He suggests co-operation on the part of the agriculturists and others similarly interested, and outlines his plan as follows. The quotation has twice already been published, but if its repetition will ensure something practical being done on the text supplied, it deserves to be reprinted daily:

"I am sure the city would be only too glad to rent it (the market building) at a nominal rent. Now, if the farmers would combine and rent this place they would have every opportunity of placing everything they grow direct before the consumers, and on this point we might be able to turn to a profit what has hitherto been a loss. I think you will all agree with me that the small losses of one thing or another which under present conditions cannot be helped, could, by having a market of your own, be turned into a very nice profit—I mean all kinds of small articles which will not pay to take to town separately, which could be easily sent in under combination rules, for you can all see that if one wagon could collect and take articles say from ten different places instead of hitching up ten teams, there must be considerable saving."

There can be no question but that the city council would gladly close with any such proposition as Mr. Clarke suggests—and which, by the way, was cordially endorsed at the meeting of the British Columbia Dairymen's Association. The Mayor and several of the council have already intimated as much.

"Let the farmers formulate their proposition and lay it before the council," said Mayor Redfern yesterday, "and we will deal with them most liberally. The initiative should, I think, come from them.

"Not that I believe the market will ever be made a success." His Worship continued. "I look upon it as a dead investment. You cannot compel the people to buy at the market, and that's what it practically amounts to. As to making the butchers and fishmongers remove their businesses to the market, that would be an injustice and a trespass on private rights, after they have spent their money in acquiring property and fitting up their establishments in various parts of the city. I do not think it could be done.

"No, the market seems to be a proven failure, although I have not yet had time to look into its affairs officially. You cannot make the people patronize it if they don't want to."

This is no doubt true, but at the present time there are few housekeepers who would not go to market if it was shown them that buying at the market meant a saving of 35 per cent. to them on their weekly purchases of necessaries.

One friend of the market suggests another expedient, municipal legislation forbidding any canvassing by hucksters within the city, and all house to house solicitation by Chinese gardeners. Something of the sort was tried before, but abandoned. Indeed, the official records of the market since its establishment consists largely of a series of annual apologies for its failure, and of suggestions. In 1891 the market committee wisely decided to remove the public weigh scales to the market, and recommended to their successors in office the advisability of opening up Broad street between Cormorant and Fandora. They also showed themselves possessed of the merit of originality as to markets by proposing that "the premises might be made more attractive and consequently more successful if something in the way of musical entertainments was provided in the building occasionally."

In 1892 Superintendent Johnson, vide his annual report, "caused several copies of the market by-laws to be distributed amongst the farmers, in order that they would understand the great benefit that would be derived from a city market for the sale of their productions. To this the farmers, with few exceptions, paid little or no attention."

But strange to say the public apparently forgot, and the timid farmer with his butter and eggs and vegetables resisted the allurement of the market by-laws, nor consented to be charmed into the big glass roofed building even by the music of a full brass band. Not even the opening up of Broad street saved the market from cold neglect. Despite all its advantages, not the least of which is its central location, the hoodoo has rested upon it since it was built, and a new arrival in the city who, a year or so ago complacently made her way thither, basket on arm, found herself almost as much an object of curiosity as this new style of market was to her.

"They looked at me as if I must have a few wheels," she laughingly said, describing her experience later. "All I wanted to get was some fresh eggs and perhaps a few vegetables, but the farmers were not in evidence.

"I found a worn-out fire engine or two, which I had no special use for—a portrait painter's studio, a real estate agent and the sanitary inspector. Since that I am told the Salvation Sheiter and the offices of the Friendly Help have been added to the attractions, while—most ghastly of all things—the public morgue is made an annex of the market."

The market building, which has now had upwards of five years in which to win its unenviable reputation as a municipal white elephant, is structurally one of the best institutions of the kind in Canada. It was established, too, under conditions which appeared to indicate certain success, and there seems no legitimate reason why it should not yet accomplish its natural purpose and be an advantage to, instead of a drag upon, the city. It was in 1890 that the ratepayers sanctioned a special loan to erect the building and the municipal council of the day accepted plans prepared by Mr. John Teague—at the same time making a huge bonfire of the most crowded and unsavory sections of Chinatown in order to provide an advantageous site. During the following year tenders were invited and a contract awarded to McGregor & Jeeves, the execution of which involved an expenditure of $50,712.26 of public money. This was exclusive of the cost of the land, of the architects' fees of $2,537.00 and of other incidental items totalling in themselves $2,790.77. So that, dismissing the land from consideration, the market represents an original investment of $56,070.03.

Nor would this be an unsatisfactory investment according to the general opinion, could some plan such as suggested by Mr. Watson Clarke, be carried into effect and the building become a public market in more than the name. It covers an area of 210x120 feet, is two stories high with some 60 stalls and stores, and a large well paved and drained space on the ground floor for the use of farmers and hucksters—besides ample yard room and all other necessary conveniences of a first class public market.

COWICHAN ASSOCIATION.

DUNCAN, Feb. 5.—A meeting of the Cowichan Agricultural Association was held at Duncan on Monday, and in the absence of the President, who was ill and unable to attend, was called to order by the vice-president, Mr. R. Musgrave. Messrs. T. G. Earl, E. Hutcherson and R. M. Palmer were among those present, and the meeting, though not as well attended as usual, proved a very interesting one. Mr. Earl stated that he had seen that morning some very good fruit trees, and that he thought we had an excellent market open to us, and that we ought to be able to grow fruit very cheaply in this district. He represented as president the Fruit Growers' Association, and hoped that we in this district would support an institution which was working for the good of the province, not only in the interest of fruit growers, but he thought of all the farmers. He considered that with the present mining development the prospect of fruit growing was very good.

The President said that as Salt Spring Island had an agricultural society of its own, the people there had asked that the name of Salt Spring Island should be withdrawn from the present title of the association.

Due notice of this change having been given at the last general meeting, it was resolved that the name of the association be henceforth "The Cowichan Agricultural Association."

Mr. E. Hutcherson read and commented on Mr. G. W. Henry's paper read at the Victoria meeting and hoped that this district would see fit to support the B. C. Fruit Exchange. He pointed out that besides the advantages secured to members in obtaining packages, etc., every carload of fruit shipped from the Mainland to the Northwest left the home market so much the better for the Island even if we did not ship to the Northwest ourselves. It was to our interest to support the exchange. He referred to the Spokane trophy which was on the table, and said that British Columbia should be proud of successfully competing against counties like Walla Walla which had swept the board at the World's fair.

Mr. C. Bazett moved, seconded by Mr. J. Musgrave, the formation of the Cowichan Fruit Exchange and Shipping Association and the appointment of Messrs. C. Livingstone, Robt. Musgrave and G. H. Hadwen as a committee to obtain rules and regulations and report at the next meeting. The resolution was adopted.

Mr. R. M. Palmer referred, in answer to questions, to the bark disease on apple trees, aphis, spray pumps and various other matters.

The following resolutions were, after discussion, put to the meeting and carried:

Moved by W. C. Duncan, seconded by J. Musgrave, and resolved: "That it is the opinion of this meeting that the regulations of the board of horticulture be enforced."

Moved by G. Hadwen, seconded by W. C. Duncan, and resolved: "That the British Columbia legislature be petitioned to distribute the appropriation for the agricultural associations of the province more strictly in accordance with the memberships and general revenue of the associations, and that these associations be required to take up institute work in addition to the holding of their exhibitions.

DR. SELWYN'S BREAK.

TORONTO, Feb. 6.—(Special)—Dr. Selwyn's remarks on the subject of gold mining in Canada have aroused some feeling on the part of many men engaged in business connected with the industry. Practical men point to what has been actually achieved, both in Northwest Ontario and British Columbia, as sufficient refutation of Dr. Selwyn's claim that Canada has not a great mineral future.

Fuddy—I wonder that the Spaltons do not get along together better than they do. Everybody used to say they were made for one another. Duddy—H'm! So? Well, that's partly true. I know she made for him the first time she saw him.—Boston Transcript.

CLOSER TRADE RELATIONS.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—The two members of the Canadian government, Sir Richard Cartwright and Hon. H. Davies, who are in Washington in the interests of closer trade relations with the United States interviewed a number of public men to-day. They were escorted by Representative Hitt, of Illinois, who introduced them to the leaders of both houses. They had a half hour's talk with Speaker Reed, which ended with the remark by Sir Richard Cartwright, that it seemed to be the idea of the people of each country that if they could build a high tariff wall around their own domains they could enrich themselves at the expense of their neighbors. Speaking for the new Canadian administration he said their hope was that the United States would see that reciprocal arrangements would benefit both peoples.

The Canadians have encountered a barrier to the success of their mission in the ways and means committee, which is framing the new tariff bill. They base their reciprocity scheme upon an exchange of concessions by which Canada will admit the manufactures of the United States upon favorable tariff terms in return for tariff concessions to Canadian farm products. The members of the ways and means committee have announced their intention to give particular benefits to American farmers and to secure to the American farmers the entire home market for their products. Several of them said to-day that they would not consider any reciprocity scheme which would take any part of the home market from the farmers. Their policy of giving the farmer ample protection is shown in the agricultural and lumber schedules of the new tariff bill which have become known. The Canadians have met with another discouragement in the immigration bill now before congress, which excludes Canadian laborers from the United States.

NOT LEE WELLER.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 6.—That murderer Frank Butler, alias Richard Ashe, has no claim to the title of Lee Weller was shown when Edwin Elliott, an intimate friend of Weller, visited the prison and said that Butler bore not the slightest resemblance to the dead captain. Elliott is engineer of the Australian steamer Monowai. Captain Petrie, of the ship Olivebank, also visited the prison and identified Butler as Richard Ashe, who had shipped with him as an able-bodied seaman in 1893. In regard to an alleged confession made by Butler to Detective Conroy, Butler said to Conroy that at least two men beside himself had intimate knowledge of Weller's movements and mysterious death. He said that although he was really innocent, these two murderers had forced him to accept part of the dead Weller's belongings, afterwards found among Butler's effects. Butler told Conroy if the police would aid him to capture the two alleged murderers of Weller, he (Butler) would turn Queen's evidence against them when the case came to trial. The police are confident that Butler will make important disclosures in a few days, believing that he is weakening under confinement, when confronted with the weight of evidence against him.

EXPLORER NANSEN.

LONDON, Feb. 3.—Dr. Nansen, the Arctic explorer, accompanied by Mrs. Nansen, arrived here to-day. They were met at the Victoria railroad station by Sir George Baden-Powell, at whose house they are staying, and by other scientists. The crowd at the depot heartily cheered the travellers. Sir George Baden-Powell will give a dinner and reception to-night in honor of the Norwegian explorer. It is understood Cambridge University will confer an honorary degree upon Dr. Nansen.

MIDWAY.

(From the Midway Advance.)

Seven men are at work in Central camp on the Jack of Spades and St. Maurice properties, held under lease and partly owned by the French syndicate represented here by M. Gire.

It is stated the syndicate operating in Fairview, represented by Dier and Davidson, intend almost immediately bringing in some 200 tons of machinery for use at their various claims.

The Highland Queen Consolidated Mining company for the development of properties in the Boundary Creek district, has been organized under the laws of the State of Washington, and is capitalized at $1,000,000.

A magnificent specimen of ore is on exhibition at Rock Creek, which came out of the shaft being sunk by Messrs. Copeland and Yonkin at the forks of Rock creek. The specimen is a block of ore taken from a vein said to be proved of a width of some 60 feet on the surface. The owners received an offer of $60,000 on bond for the property, which they refused, although the shaft has not been carried down as yet to any depth.

VERNON.

(From the Vernon News.)

O'Keefe and Fuller have recently been doing some development work on a claim called the Clara and Corrine, near Round lake. They are much pleased with the results, as they have uncovered a wide ledge of promising looking quartz.

Timbers have been brought up from the Coast for the construction of a large scow on Okanagan lake to be used in connection with the C.P.R. steamer Aberdeen. The rapidly increasing freight trade to and from the southern country has made this addition to the service necessary.

ROSSLAND.

(From the Rossland Record.)

J. L. Parker has returned from Wild Horse creek. On the Parker group, property of the Dundee Gold Mining Company, the shaft is down 32 feet, with three feet of ore in the bottom. It is quartz carrying gold, silver, lead and iron, and assayed $22 in gold and two ounces silver.

The workmen in the St. Paul tunnel recently struck a ledge of white quartz which assayed $16 in gold. This lead was not on the progrmme as the tunnel had been run to tap the main ledge at a distance of 250 feet. The St. Paul is on the northwest slope of Deer Park mountain and lies south of the San Francisco and Mariposa.