Horticultural Convention

Tenth Annual Meeting of the Northwest Fruit Growers' Association.

Many Valuable Papers on Subjects of Interest to Fruit Growers.

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture returned from Spokane on Monday, where he attended the annual meeting of the Northwest Fruit Growers' Association. The meeting was largely attended by members of the association from the states of Oregon, Washington and Idaho; British Columbia being represented by Mr. Anderson, and Mr. Covert, of Grand Forks. Professor Woodworth, of the University of California, was also present, as well as representatives of the agricultural colleges of the states mentioned; of the various railways as far east as St. Paul and Minneapolis; and of dealers in Eastern points. Exhibits of British Columbia apples were made by Mr. Anderson, from the orchard of Lord Aberdeen and Mr. Thomas G. Earl, and by Mr. Covert from his orchard at Grand Forks; Mr. Covert also exhibited dried prunes of excellent quality, cured by himself. The apples compared very favorably with those exhibited from the neighboring states, and elicited many complimentary comments at the hands of those present, and many questions were asked, especially regarding those varieties with which the growers in the adjoining states were not familiar. Mr. Anderson was kept busy during his stay answering questions regarding the conditions prevailing in this province, and surprise was often expressed when information as to the climate and resources was given, the idea being quite common that snow and ice were the most common products. Many addresses of great value to fruit growers were given during the convention, amongst the most practical and useful of which was that by Mr. J. W. Olwell, of Central Point, Oregon, who gave an address and practical illustrations on apple-packing. After listening to this gentleman and witnessing his method of packing, all went away fully impressed that they had very much to learn regarding the proper grading and packing of apples for the market. As for the methods practised in this province, Mr. Anderson characterizes them as comparatively crude and unskilful beyond belief.

Messrs. Olwell Bros. are proprietors of the Snowy Butte Orchards of Central Point, who make a specialty of winter apples for the English market, the principal varieties grown being the Yellow Newtown Pippin and Spitzenberg. They employ girls exclusively for packing, as they find them more painstaking and skilful; and their touch being more delicate, they are able to wrap and pack better and more skilful than men, besides being quicker at detecting undersized or damaged fruit. Every apple sent out by Olwell Bros. is wrapped, and the operation of wrapping alone requires a degree of skill not easily acquired; the papers, boxes, and even the nails are specially made. Specimens of all these things are promised by these gentlemen, and will be on view at the department of agriculture when received.

The tenth annual convention of the Northwest Fruit Growers' Association opened on Wednesday, 4th, at the Elks' Hall, Spokane. Owing to delays in the arrival of trains and the absence of the president, Dr. N. G. Blalock of Walla Walla, no morning session was held; but the afternoon meeting made up for it in the amount and interest of the business transacted.

The convention was called to order at 2 p.m. by E. L. Smith, of Hood River, Oregon, senior vice-president of the association and president of the Oregon state board of agriculture.

After prayer by Rev. F. Walden, of Seattle, the acting secretary, J. H. Pelletier, of Spokane, read letters from E. P. Brackett of the agricultural department, Washington, D. C.; D. A. Brodie, Puyallup; and J. A. Balmer, Ute Ellum, who expressed their regret at being unable to attend the convention.

Benjamin Bergunder, vice-president for Washington, reported the 1902 fruit crop in the state smaller than the average, but of fine quality. Acting President Smith told of the immense crop harvested in Oregon, bringing the fruit growers more than $2,500,000.

"We are conducting a successful fight against fruit pests in our state," he declared. "The fruit growers are using the power sprayer in all the large orchards, and the care taken is showing results in the fine prices our fruit is bringing. Our apples are yearly in greater demand in foreign markets. This last year Newtown Pippins from my neighborhood sold in Liverpool at prices returning $2 per box to the growers.

"We are learning better and better every year how to deal with the codling moth and the San Jose scale, with the result that we are now saving 90 to 95 per cent. of our fruit. Our experience emphasizes the need of united action among the fruit growers, both in fighting these pests and to secure the best legislation and the best results in fruit growing."

An interesting report on the fruit growing industry in British Columbia was presented by Mr. J. R. Anderson, deputy minister of agriculture in that province, and one of the vice-presidents of the association. Mr. Anderson said this was his second visit to Spokane, and he congratulated the city on the many signs of progress and improvement when he saw on every hand. "Fruit growing in British Columbia," he continued, "is coming to be one of our profitable industries. We had a big crop last year and shipped a considerable portion of it to markets outside the province as well as supplying portions of our own territory that have hitherto drawn their fruit from districts further south or east. The greatest drawback to the success of our industry is the poor packing of the fruit. This hinders sales and causes British Columbia fruit to fetch lower prices in Eastern and European markets than some of your Washington fruit growers are getting for fruit that is really inferior to ours.

"You are to be congratulated on the careful and successful methods of packing adopted by your American fruit growers. You put up the fruit in correctly graded cases of uniform quality, and this means much in the prices realized. I have just heard from London trustworthy stories of American apples that fetch 4 pence (8 cents) apiece. These fancy prices are largely the result of care in sorting and packing your fruit. This lesson our British Columbia growers have still to learn.

"Thus far we have succeeded in keeping the codling moth and the San Jose scale out of the province. We have some trouble with the peach tree borer. In our fight against all these pests we are going to the root of the matter by keeping out infected nursery stock, a matter in which the growers and inspectors of your state have been far too lax. Till you exercise greater care regarding your nursery stock you can not hope to have clean orchards.

"Our laws and inspection system are very severe, but none too much so. They are aimed at infected trees wherever they come from. In fact, more trees have been condemned that came from Canadian than from United States nurseries. We are not discriminating against American nurserymen in the least."

Professor R. C. Cooley, entomologist of the Montana experiment station, was the next speaker. He spoke on the apple aphis and the use of cyanide gas for fumigating trees in orchards, and described his experiments, which had been highly successful in the extermination of this pest.

Mr. A. Van Holderbeke, Washington state commissioner of horticulture, then made an address on "The Pruning of Peach Trees." "Wrong pruning," said Commissioner Van Holderbeke, "is responsible for the fact that in many of our Washington peach orchards the trees are growing too tall, and their fruit-bearing limbs die off within four or five years. Then the trees are cut back almost to the parent stem of the tree, inflicting a serious wound and delaying the bearing of fruit for a long time. Under this faulty system growers are trying to raise too many peaches on a tree, instead of seeking an unfailing crop of the largest, finest fruit every year."

Prof. J. M. Aldrich, entomologist of the University of Idaho, gave the last address of the session, his subject being "The Codling Moth in High Altitudes." He said that in regions where the altitude was from 2,000 to 3,000 feet the codling moth did not become generally distributed, and it promised to be less of a nuisance to fruit growers than in lower areas.

Each of the afternoon's papers called forth considerable discussion, many helpful suggestions being made by the members and experts present.

SECOND DAY.

The second day's sessions were made noteworthy by the reading of many practical papers of great value. In addition to listening to these, the association elected officers for the coming year, and decided upon the place for the next annual meeting.

Portland (Ore.) was chosen for the 1904 convention. The new board of officers is composed as follows: President, Dr. N. G. Blalock, Walla Walla; vice-presidents—for Oregon, J. D. Olwell, Central Point (Ore.); for Idaho, J. H. Forney, Moscow (Idaho); for Washington, B. Bergunder, Colfax (Wash.); for British Columbia, J. R. Anderson, Victoria (B. C.); secretary, George H. Lamson, Portland (Ore.); treasurer, W. S. Offner, Walla Walla. Rev. F. Walden, Seattle; A. E. Tonnelson, Tacoma, and Professor J. R. Anderson, Victoria, B. C., were appointed a committee on resolutions.

Prof. C. V. Piper, entomologist of the Washington State Agricultural College, Pullman, then made an address, his subject being "Spraying for San Jose Scale with Sulphur, Lime and Salt Mixture," which he described as perfectly effectual for the destruction not only of this pest, but of many others, provided it was properly done. He said from experiments he had about come to the conclusion that salt was not a necessary ingredient in this mixture, but he would not say so definitely without further investigation.

Acting President E. L. Smith, of Hood River, Oregon, followed with an excellent paper on "Pomology," and enlarged on the subject of pollination in producing new varieties, and the greater necessity of taking scions for grafting from only the best and most healthy trees.

Mr. R. B.Ober, of the refrigerator car service of the Northern Pacific Railway at St. Paul, spoke on the refrigeration and transportation of green fruits, and described the methods used by the transportation companies in handling horticultural products.

Mr. James Redpath, of the wholesale firm of Porter Bros. & Co., of St. Paul and Minneapolis, then addressed the meeting on the condition of the St. Paul market.

Mr. J. W. Olwell, of Central Point, Oregon, gave the closing address of the morning session, his subject being "A Lesson on Packing Fruit for Market." This address was illustrated by a practical exhibition of fruit packing, and elicited much favorable comment. On the whole, this subject probably created the greatest interest, and was handled in a masterly way by Mr. Olwell, who was asked to continue his address in the afternoon.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Prof. N. O. Booth, horticulturist of the Washington Experiment Station, Pullman, gave the first address, the subject being "Pear Blight." He advocated cutting away infected limbs two or three inches below the blight, and the planting of resistent varieties. Prof. Piper advocated cutting a foot or more below the point of infection; whilst Mr. C. S. Whitney, president of the Walla Walla Fruit Fair, and General Tunnell declared that cutting was ineffectual in eradicating the blight from a pear orchard where it is well established.

Prof. C. W. Woodworth, of the University of California, then addressed the meeting on "The Peach Worm." He said: "This worm passes the winter burrowing in the crotch between the last season's growth and the older wood. In the spring it attacks the buds and is known as the 'bud worm.' Later it assails the twigs, and growers then know it as the 'twig worm,' or 'peach worm.'"

The speaker went on to describe the great loss these worms caused peach growers, and the remedies prescribed.

Rev. F. Walden, of Seattle, followed with a paper on "The Elements of Successful Fruit Growing." In order to make a commercial success in this industry the speaker declared that the grower must give it his chief attention, and not hope to succeed while it was merely a side issue. He must also look not merely to the selection of his trees and their cultivation, but must attend with care to the packing of the fruit for market and the time of shipment. "Many growers are shipping late winter apples to the commission houses early in the fall, when there is no demand for them. Then they blame the commission men for the low prices realized for their fruit."

Prof. L. F. Henderson, botanist of the University of Idaho at Moscow, was the last speaker of the day. He greatly interested the audience in a practical discussion of "Fungus Diseases in Idaho." The chief of these he described as the red rust, the powdery mildew on gooseberries, currants and grapes, the peach leaf curl, the apple canker and the apple scab. The best fungicide against these diseases, he declared, was the Bordeaux mixture; although the peach leaf curl, he said, could be prevented by spraying early in the spring with lime, salt and sulpaur solution.

Mr. J. W. Olwell closed the meeting with an exhibition of fruit packing of a most instructive character.

THIRD DAY.

Prof. L. R. Jacson, horticulturist of the University of Idaho (Moscow), gave a most interesting and instructive address on "The Improvement of Varieties." He said that we can improve our plants as the stockman improves his herds by selection and breeding. This is a young man of great promise, and his address showed a great deal of research and thought in its preparation.

Mr. R. A. Jones, of Spokane, followed with a good paper on "The Planting and Culture of Apple Orchards." This was a well-written, practical address, and although some of his conclusions were not agreed in by some of those present, it was, on the whole, well received.

Prof. E. A. Bryan, president of the Washington Agricultural College, Pullman, then gave a most masterly address on "The Scope and Function of the Experiment Station," which was listened to with marked interest. He concluded by saying:

"In order to bring the results of their investigations, within the reach of the producers, we are publishing bulletins that may be had by all applicants, and we are doing all we can to reach the farmers through the institutes. The professors have left their classes, often at great cost in time and money, to attend these institutes. The state should provide for this work. At present no appropriation is made for carrying on the institutes, but we hope the present legislature will remedy this failure."

Mr. J. R. Anderson, one of the vice-presidents of the association, moved a special vote of thanks to President Bryan for his valuable exposition of the work of the experiment stations, and added:

"I have been greatly surprised to learn that this great, rich state makes no appropriation in aid of this most important work. It is a matter that concerns every farmer in the state. Across the border we are younger and not nearly so rich, but the farmers' institutes are carried on by a staff of competent and practical scientists, paid by the government, and we are all convinced that no outlay the government makes is better spent."

Mr. C. L. Whitney, of Walla Walla, gave the last paper of the session, on "The Apple Tree." He concluded by saying that the motto of all fruit growers should be "Watch and Spray."

The committee on resolutions then reported, thanking the citizens of Spokane for their courtesy; asking the transportation companies to give more liberal rates to members of the Northwest Fruit Growers' Association attending conventions; recommending legislation regarding fruit packing and marking; thanking the professors for their attendance, and other matters. The report was adopted unanimously. The chairman called upon several representatives of the railway companies present, who made short addresses, after which the meeting adjourned sine die.

Mr. Anderson was urged by several that he should propose Victoria as the next place of meeting, but he declared the time was not ripe for such a move, and it was better to leave that question for a year or two. He desires to acknowledge the courtesy of the O. R. & N. Co. in according him free transportation and traveling facilities which added greatly to his comfort and pleasure. Col. Hudson, industrial agent of the O. R. & N. Co., wishes Mr. Anderson to come in May, when a delegation of Germans, under the auspices of the government, are coming to Oregon and Washington, so as to show them something of British Columbia as well.

The weather in Spokane was fine; a little snow on the ground, but not very cold. At Portland the season has been very similar to ours.

HARDY BAY TO QUATSINO.

Another Railway to be Built Between the Two Poinatsc.

That the Northern portion of the Island is to be the field of much activity during 1903 is demonstrated through the publication of numerous announcements of large projects being under way aiming at huge development enterprises. In the Gazette just issued appears the notice of an application made by C. H. Lugrin for the incorporation of a company to build a standard guage railway throughout various parts of the district. The routes are thus described:

"The company propose to build from Hardy Bay to Rupert Arm, Quatsino Sound; from such point where it reaches Rupert Arm it shall proceed South to a point at or near Quatsino Narrows; and from Quatsino Narrows to Forward Inlet. Also from Hardy Bay or from Rupert Arm to Alert Bay; thence by way of Nimpkish or Karmutzen lake and the Klaanch river to Minchalat lake." Branches not exceeding 20 miles in length are also to be asked by the charter.

Asked to explain more fully just what are the dimensions of a project which means so much in the matter of the development of Vancouver Island, Mr. Lugrin said that there were no reasons why the public should not be told all there is to tell about it. "The application," he said, "is made on behalf of the financial backers of the Quatsino Power & Pulp Co., Ltd. The company contemplates very extensive operations. I suppose that before the plant is fully installed at least half a million dollars will have to be expended. This will, of course, not all be expended at once, but the company has made arrangements so as to begin operations this year, and I expect to see a plant capable of turning out 125 tons of pulp a day installed much sooner than the terms of the agreement call for."

"Have the company experienced any difficulty in financing the undertaking?"

"None, so far as its merits as a commercial enterprise are concerned; but it is surprising how timid moneyed men are in regard to investing in any business in this province which depends in any way upon governmental or legislative action. I have a letter from a Massachusetts capitalist who is interested in this undertaking, in which he says: 'It is not that you people do anything wrong, but that no one can ever tell what they are going to do.' This feeling has been difficult to overcome.

"But I suppose what you want particularly to know about is this application for a charter. You will see, if you look at the map that we are asking to build four sections of railway. One of these is from Hardy Bay to Rupert Arm; another is from the terminus of this section to Quatsino Narrows; another from the Narrows to Forward Inlet, which is an arm of Quatsino Sound near its outlet; the fourth is from either Rupert Arm or Hardy Bay down to Alert Bay, and then up the Klaanche river to Machalat lake. The object of these lines is to make it possible to concentrate the business developed in the Northern part of the Island at the most convenient shipping point. Pulp is not very bulky freight, and it may prove more advantageous to take it to a steamer than to have a steamer come to the mill for it. The market will be in the Orient, and, as you know, the tonnage of steamers engaged in the Oriental trade is becoming greater every year. Now the way our people look at the matter is this: If the Canadian Northern or the Grand Trunk Pacific build to the Coast they will strike tide water at some point North of Bute Inlet. If a line comes to the head of Bute inlet it will undoubtedly be extended to Frederick Arm, and in that event Oriental freight carried over the railway will be shipped from Frederick arm if it is a suitable harbor. A steamer bound for the Orient from Frederick arm could take on pulp at Hardy Bay or Alert Bay without going out of her course, while she would probably not round Cape Scott and sail up Quatsino Sound for the same amount of cargo. If the terminus of the new transcontinental line is North of Vancouver Island, it will be important to deliver the pulp at the furthest available point in that direction, so that steamers can pick it up. This is one reason why the backers of the company want authority to build a line from Quatsino Sound to the East Coast. The proposed line to Forward Inlet is intended to make it possible to deliver freight there to steamers bound to the Orient from Victoria and other points reached by way of the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The line up the Klaanche Valley to Muchalat lake is intended so as to make it possible to bring the output of that section to the same shipping points, because the larger the volume of business offering at any port the better the shipping facilities than can be obtained there.

"Then the timber trade to be developed in the Northern part of the Island must be taken into account. My own belief is that the market for the bulk of this will be found in our own Northwest, and this being the case, it is important to be able to deliver cars loaded with kiln-dried lumber to the terminus of the nearest transcontinental lines, and this can be done more quickly and more safely from the East Coast of the Island than from the West Coast.

"I hope the result of the present railway agitation will be such as will believe the company of the necessity of building any part of this line except that from Hardy Bay to Forward Arm. The people I represent would very much prefer to assist the construction of a line by others than to put up the whole money themselves; but while we are laying the foundation for our enterprise we want to lay it broad enough to provide for contingencies. We will not stand in the way of any one else building from Hardy Bay to Muchalat lake, but only want to be in a position to build it ourselves if no one else will."

MEETING OF HEALTH BOARD

Some Changes Are Proposed In the Interests of Economy.

There was a meeting of the Mayor and Aldermen on Tuesday night, as a civic board of health, at which the question of ways and means and isolation hospital economics in general were up for revision. The opinion has lately been expressed by some of the Aldermen that the expenses of the board of health have of late grown in quite a startling manner, and the idea prevails that a more economical system of conducting the isolation hospital might be secured. As retrenchment is the order of the day, the meeting on Tuesday night was primarily to see in what respect if any a saving could be effected. Among other sugestions it was proposed to institute a different method governing the purchase of supplies and other things needed for the institution. Then, too, the fact that only those who chose to do so, paid for nursing in the hospital, gave rise to some discussion, and it is probable that a scale of charges will be fixed and a more systematic attempt made to derive sufficient revenue from pay patients to at least pay the running expenses of the institution. The city is charged $25 per week for each nurse on duty in the isolation hospital, and even this expense is not charged to patients, who, in many cases, are quite capable of paying it. In some cases the patient has a private nurse, but more often than otherwise the city has to make good all charges.

As to the method of ordering goods, these is a rule, are purchased on an order issued by the city purchasing agent at the request of the health inspector and, while the method is quite regular, are not supplied at contract prices. The board has asked for detailed reports from the officials in charge and as soon as these have been prepared, the subject will be gone into more minutely.

UPRISING IN CHINA

Returned Traveler Tells of an Impending Outbreak of Revolution.

G. J. Kavanaugh, a newspaper correspondent who represents the commercial house in Chicago, has returned from the Orient. He says: Serious trouble is brewing in China. A revolution that is being carefully nurtured by apparently capable leaders is certain to break forth. The revolution is not directed against the foreign influence, but aimed at the overthrow of the Manchu dynasty.

Mr. Kavanaugh went out to Shanghai last September in the interests of Crane Brothers Manufacturing company of Chicago for the purpose of establishing a branch in China. His work in China necessitated his going about into the interior of the country away from the sea ports, and during his trip he was able to learn much about the secret workings of the new movement.

"There is soon to be serious trouble in China," said Mr. Kavanaugh. The centre of the pending movement is in Canton and the Southern provinces that were the peaceable ones during the Boxer uprising in 1900. The Chinese are shipping vast quantities of arms and ammunition into all the treaty ports. This has been going on for months past. It is in open violation of the treaty that was made between China and the Powers after the Boxer trouble. The munitions of war are being secured from Germany, England and America. While there is perhaps some attempt made to conceal the nature of the goods when they are received at the seaports, there is no attempt being made inland to conceal the fact that arms are constantly arriving. The goods are repacked and loaded on junks and those vessels carry them into the various inland districts.

"That this movement among the Southern Chinese is being carefully planned, seems certain. Already numbers of former American soldiers who were in the Philippines, have gone to China and are engaged in drilling and training the Chinese. When this outbreak will occur I can not state, but I think it will be within a comparatively short time.

"Strange to state, the uprising does not seem to be directed against the foreign element at present. The movement seems to be directed against the Manchu element. Chinese say that while the present Emperor is not opposed to the reform element, he is weak. He is nothing but a boy. It would not be surprising if the movement would not extend to include the foreign element also. The Chinese are a very fanatical people, and if they get started once it is difficult to state to what extent the uprising will go. It is at present being engineered from Penang and Singapore."

SAILORS ARE SENT TO PRISON.

For brutal Assault on Bartended of the Globe Hotel at Esquimalt.

Farrell and Gallagher, the two sailors of the Ancona, who assaulted the bartender at the Globe hotel, Otto Haas, beating him about the head until he became unconscious, and had it not been for the help of Mrs. von Rhein, who came to his assistance, would probably have killed him, were sentenced to two and a half years' imprisonment with hard labor by Magistrate Hall in the Provincial Police court yesterday afternoon. Otto Haas, the bartender, who appeared with his head swathed in bandages, stated that he remonstrated with Gallagher for being noisy, and told him to be quiet or he would be put out of the house. Gallagher then said he "could lick anyone in the house," and jumped on witness, who struck him with a club on the head. Then the fight commenced. Farrell, Gallagher's partner, rushed from the sitting room and struck at witness with his fists—who was fighting them out of the bar with the club. Farrell threw a large drinking glass at witness, who ducked, and it missed him. Then Farrell wrenched off the water faucett and threw it at witness, who was trying to stop the flow of water, when Gallagher attacked him with a spittoon. They knocked him down and battered him until he was unconscious. He knew nothing more until he regained consciousness when in bed, upstairs.

John Lewis, a sailor, also told of the rough-and-tumble fight arising as a result of the bartender telling Farrell and Gallagher to stop singing "Hurrah for Germany!" He confirmed the story of the fight told by Haas. When Haas was knocked down, he said, Farrel tried to break a runk from a chair, and noticing an iron bar, he desisted, and grabbed that, and while Gallagher hit the fallen man with the spittoon, Farrell struck him with the iron bar. Mrs. von Rhein then appeared on the scene and took the iron bar from Farrell and the spittoon from Gallagher. Edmunds, a sailor, and a Chinaman, carried off the unconscious bartender.

William Edmunds and W. Nichols also told of the assault. Edmunds was in the dining room when he heard the bartender called for help, and soon afterwards saw him fall into the dining room, holding his hands over his face to protect it. Gallagher kicked him on the face and Farrell struck him with an iron bar. Mrs. von Rhein came and stood over the prostrate bartender to protect him. She said, "Don't kill him!" and one of them, witness thought it was Farrell, said they would. Witness assisted Mrs. von Rhein to keep the prisoner off. When Mrs. von Rhein got the assailants away, witness dragged the unconscious bartender into the kitchen for protection, and Farrell, following, said, "Let's burn him!" He caught hold of the bartender, then unconscious, dragged him towards the kitchen range, and tried to life him on top. The top of the range was red hot, as there was a big fire going. Witness pulled Farrell back. Farrell then tried to hold the bartender's head up against the grate of the fire place of the range—the fire grate was closed at the time. Witness struggled with him to prevent him, when Mrs. von Rhein arrived and took Farrell out of the kitchen. They then carried the bartender upstairs. Mrs. von Rhein was unable to appear to give her evidence. Both the accused were sentenced to two and a half years' imprisonment with hard labor.

SHOCKING DEPRAVITY.

Displayed by Girls Who Were Driven From Victoria.

The following from the Seattle Post-Intelligencer of yesterday:

The charge of bringing her sister into this country for immoral purposes, brought against Marie Lefevre, who, in company with two other French girls, was arrested Monday, was yesterday dismissed by United States Commissioner Bowman, owing to lack of sufficient proof. Marie and her sister, Yvonne, however, are held awaiting deportation, together with Georgette Norma, who traveled with the pair from New York to Seattle. Their deportation was ordered by the local immigration board, and advices are now being awaited from Washington as to whether the girls shall be deported to Victoria or to France.

Yvonne Lefevre testified yesterday, through an interpreter, before the commissioner, that she came to the United States three months ago for the purpose of engaging in an immoral occupation. She said she was eighteen years old. She declared that she came to the country of her own will and without persuasion.

According to her testimony, the three girls came on the same train from New York to Chicago, and from there to Seattle. After they had been in this city three days they went to Victoria. There the authorities would not allow the younger sister to remain in a house of ill-fame, and therefore they came back to Seattle.

Yvonne was occasionally assisted in giving evidence by her sister, Marie. The girls are seemingly indifferent to any sense of impropriety in connection with their vocation, and Marie, the only one who talks English, regards it all as a business proposition.

The sisters declare their intention to depart for the Klondike as soon as they are free.

TO MAKE STEEL RAILS.

Dominion Iron & Steel Company Building a Plant at Sydney.

It is stated that arrangements have been completed whereby the Dominion Iron & Steel Company will at once proceed with the erection of a small steel rail mill at Sydney, C. B. It will have a capacity of 400 tons a day and will be in operation on May 1. The reason why the directors decided on the establishment of a small rail mill at the present time was that while they were considering the building of a large mill, a number of contracts were made with railways with which some of the directors of the company were also connected. These contracts the directors are now anxious to carry out, and they expect that after the government has signified its intention to place more duty on steel rails, it will be ample time to go on with the erection of a larger mill.

In addition to the erection of the structural steel and rail and steel rail mill, it was announced that the company would at once proceed with the establishment of three additional mills, one for plates, one for angle-bars, and one for wire rods. The estimate of the company for the erection of these mills is $635,000, and all are to be ready by May 1. The plans for the steel rail mill which the company intends building, if the tariff is increased on steel rails, have already been completed, and call for the outlay of $663,000, and will have a capacity of 3,000 tons a day.

COMING HOME.

Canadian Football Team Has Sailed From Liverpool.

Toronto, Feb. 12.—The Telegram's London cable says: The Canadian footballers sailed today by the Pretorian from Liverpool for Canada.

LUMBER MILL SALE.

Plant and Limits on Arrowhead Have Changed Hands.

Winnipeg, Feb. 12.—(Special.)—Messrs. Thos. Merdith, Yorkton; W. W. Fraser, Emerson; Arch. McMillan, Brunside; three Manitobans, and Taylor of Arrowhead, have bought the mill situated on Arrowhead lake, and limits on the Columbia river and the lake. It is intended to erect a mill with 50 million feet capacity at Arrowhead. The price was $10,000.

C. P. R. COLLISION.

Accident to Express at Portage la Prairie.

Winnipeg, Feb. 12.—(Special)—A railway accident which had very insignificant results, compared with what might have occurred, was the result of a misunderstanding regarding sidings near Portage la Prairie on Wednesday night. Trains No. 1 and No. 2 of the C. P. R., expresses, collided at that point. The train from the Coast was behind time a whole day owing to a snowslide in the mountains, and was due to reach Portage just when the train going West should pass. The train from the East was ordered to take the siding and allow No. 2 to cross. The siding was taken, but through some mistake, it was not the right one, and half of the train was on the main line when No. 2, pulling out of Portage and going at the scheduled speed, reached No. 1. The West bound train was started before the train going East reached it. The trains brushed past, the engine of No. 2 sweeping off the steps of one of the cars and smashing the rear platform of another.

THE FERNIE STRIKE.

No Change in the Situation Since Wednesday.

Toronto, Feb. 12.—Elias Rogers, managing director of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company, referring to the strike declared yesterday at the coal mines, said it would be hard to find a better lot of men on the continent. The demand of the men for an increase of 25 cents would be considered, but British Columbia smelters were strongly prejudiced against the present price of coke, and the company is already losing money in supplying them. The company is anxious to work in harmony with its employees.

Fernie, Feb. 12.—The strike situation is not changed, and there is likely to be a long struggle. The miners are determined that their union shall be recognized, and the manager of the coal company is absolutely opposed to meeting them. A deputation consisting of three miners from Morrissey, Michel and Coal creek tried to present their grievances before Manager Tonkin, but he refused. He will meet them individually, but not collectively.

It is a little difficult to get information from the miners here, and it is not known whether they are backed by the Western Federation Union or not.

Manager Tonkin says the miners here are making better earnings than those in any other place in Canada. The Coal Company is not selling a pound of coal to citizens or miners, and people were not supplied ahead. The weather this morning was 18 below zero. The electric light will likely be shut off in two days, as there is little coal on hand at the electric power plant.

Do not despair of curing your sick headache when you can so easily obtain Carter's Little Liver Pills. They will effect a prompt and permanent cure. Their action is mild and natural.

OBITUARY.

The Funeral of Captain Owen Largely Attended—Death of Miss Farrell.

The remains of the late Captain William Gaskell Owen were laid to rest yesterday afternoon. The funeral took place from the family residence, No. 59 North Park street, at 2 p. m., and at Christ Church cathedral at 2.30, where service was conducted by the Rev. Canon Beanlands and also at the grave. The large attendance of friends and the many beautiful floral designs testified to the esteem in which the deceased was held. The members of the Odd Fellows attended in a body. Brother R. W. Millington, noble grand, conducted the I. O. O. F. service, assisted by Brother A. Graham, acting chaplain. The following gentlemen acted as pall-bearers: Capt. Gaudin, J. H. Meldram, F. Eastwood, R. Bothwick, J. Rowe and W. H. Huxtable.

The family of the late W. G. Owen wish to thank the many friends of the deceased for their kind attention during his illness, and their tokens of sympathy in sending the beautiful floral designs as follows: Misses Lawson, cluster; Mr. and Mrs. Bosnatow, spray; Mr. and Mrs. Andernach, anchor; Mrs. A. Brown, cluster; Miss Collis, spray; Mrs. J. H. Brown, cross; Mr. and Mrs. Hall, cluster; Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Wall, wheel; Mrs. Gordon Grant, cluster; Mrs. Morrison, cluster; Mr. and Mrs. J. Post, cluster; Mr. A. Brown, cluster; Mr. and Mrs. Merryfield, cluster; Master and Mrs. J. D. Sinclair, wreath; Mr. and Mrs. Hood, cluster; Mr. and Mrs. Monk, cluster; Mr. F. Carelton, cluster; C. B. Marvin & Co., wreath; Mr. and Mrs. R. Ledingham, cluster; Mr. and Mrs. Stemers, cluster; Mr. and Mrs. C. Post, cluster; Mr. and Mrs. Pirie, cross; Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Ledingham, cluster; Mr. and Mrs. T. Mitchell, cluster; Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Daykin, anchor; Mr. and Mrs. Unwin, wreath; Mr. and Mrs. Camp, porcelain wreath; Mrs. J. Mitchell, cross; Mrs. Rudd, wreath; Mr. F. Bishop, cluster; Mrs. Hawk, cluster; Capt. and Mrs. Gaudin, cross.

Miss Beatrice Farrel died on the 11th instant at her parents residence, Esquimalt. Deceased was 23 years of age, and a native of Victoria. The funeral is arranged to take place this afternoon from the parlors of the British Columbia Funeral Furnishing Company at 2 p. m.

H. O. Price, of the Naval Yard, died yesterday at St. Joseph's hospital, after a short illness. Deceased was about 34 years of age, and leaves a widow and one child. He was for many years a churchwarden of Saviour's, and was very well known in Victoria West.

A letter to the Colonist announces the death at Plymouth, England, of William Bennet, who was a resident of Victoria from 1875 to 1888, and was the engineer superintending the building of the dock at Esquimalt. His death occurred on January 18, after a long illness. Deceased was 56 years of age. For several years he had been engineer in charge of the extensions to the Surrey Comfercial docks, now approaching completion, which position he held at the time of his death.

C. Blaney, an inmate of the Provincial Home at Kamloops, died in that institution on Monday morning at the advanced age of 86 years. He was one of the first batch from Victoria to enter the home, the date of his admission being September 14, 1895. He was a native of Ireland.

ELECTRICIANS MAKE MERRY.

Enjoyable Smoking Concert and Supper in Labor Hall.

The smoking concert given in Labor hall last night by the Electrical Workers' Union, No. 230, was a grand success. It was one of the finest times ever spent in the city of Victoria by any one body of workers. Over fifty members and friends were gathered, including the best electrical talent of this suburb. The programme rendered was all that could be desired, and the tables were set fit for a prince, under the able management of E. C. Knight, secretary.

The programme was as follows: Song, "Close," by E. C. Knight; recitation, "Asleep at the Switch," Mr. Kettle; instrumental, G. Menchen; mandolin solo, J. D. Winningham; reading, Thomas Hutchison; pianoforte solo, etc., by W. McMicking; recitation, "Marshall's Mate," E. C. Knight.

After the concert all sat down to a fine supper, everything a working man required being on the table. A toast to the Electrical Workers was drunk, and also to Presidents, past and present. Then a few speeches were duly delivered. That by Superintendent M. Hutchison was a treat in every respect, dealing as he did with the different advances made in the last 12 years in electrical work. E. W. Hall, of the B. C. E. Ry., gave a very instructive address. Foreman Cummins, of the Telephone Company, made a few apt remarks. Mr. Whitside gave a splendid lot of useful hints, which every worker would do well to follow. And last, but not least, the secretary, E. C. Knight, spoke on the growth of the I. B. E. W. and of the hopes that those who had the employing, from time to time, of electricians, would not forget to help the members of this small but very important local. The smoker broke up at midnight by singing the National Anthem.

TERMS ARRANGED.

Venezuelan Blockade May Be Raised Today.

Washington, Feb. 12.—The probability is that the protocols for the raising of the blockade which has been maintained against Venezuela for more than a month, will be signed by Minister Bowen and the representatives of the allied governments here tomorrow. Every indication points to that end tonight. Minister Bowen has had a busy day conferring with the British and Italian ambassadors and the German minister regarding several features of the protocol, with the result that they are practically in final shape. They will provide for the raising of the blockade at once, for a cash payment of £5,500 to each of the three allied governments, and for the payment to Germany of 1,700,000 bolivars in five instalments, less the £5,500 paid in cash. The first instalment of the 1,700,000 bolivars, or $340,000, is to be paid March 15. The protocols will also provide for the reference of the question of preferential treatment to The Hague, although it is understood this feature will be so worded as to leave a loophole in the event it is desired to settle the question without such. For the payment of claims of the allies, Mr. Bowen has arranged to begin immediately the setting aside of 30 per cent. of the receipts of the two ports of Porto Cabello and La Guayra, as originally proposed. The first receipts set aside will be therefore the month of March. The funds will be retained in the custody of Venezuela and will be paid out according to arrangements that may hereafter be made.

LEAVE REFUSED.

Privy Council Against Le Roi Appeal.

Montreal, Feb. 12.—A special cable from London says:

"The Privy Council today dismissed, with costs, the petition of the Le Roi Mining Company, of British Columbia, for leave to appeal against the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada, in November 17, 1902, which reversed the decision of the British Columbia courts and awarded compensation to Lawrence W. McKelvie."

Retires With Rank.—According to general orders dated at Ottawa, January 1, Captain A. Martin's resignation from the Fifth Regiment is accepted, and he is permitted to retain his rank.

Prevention of Bush Fires

Report of Dominion Crown Timber Agent For Last Year.

Suggests That Provincial Government Assist By Declaring Close Season.

James Leamy, Dominion Crown Timber Agent at New Westminster, makes the following report on fire protection in the railway belt:

Crown Timber Office,
New Westminster, B. C., Oct. 14, 1902.

E. Stewart, Esq., Superintendent of Forestry, Ottawa.

Sir,—I beg to submit herewith a short report of what has been done under my supervision respecting the fire protection for this season, and the results of the working of the system of fire wardency in the railway belt of British Columbia.

As you are aware, eight wardens were appointed this year, and were actively employed in their various districts in looking after fires.

In this district, East of the Selkirks, which was looked after by Mr. Millizan, several fires occurred which were promptly attended to by the ranger and extinguished without having done any serious damage; notably one which occurred on Mr. Wells' timber berth on the Beaverfoot river, which was caused by the carelessness of a man in the employ of Mr. Wells as a watchman on the said limit. He, intending to clean out the logging camp of the previous season, removed the straw and other inflammable material from within the camp, made a pile of it outside the camp and set fire to it. A sudden gust of wind arising just about that time, the blazing straw was carried quite a distance away and set fire to the dry grass and underbrush, spreading very rapidly, and getting immediately beyond the control of the watchman. Mr. Wells closed down his mill and sent all his men to fight the fire, and they confined it principally to the worked out portion of the limit in question, so that the loss of merchantable timber did not amount to over a million feet, which will be taken out this winter and manufactured. A rain coming on several days assisted very materially in putting out the fire in question, and no further damage was done thereby.

Another fire occurred on the Bluewater creek, in berth No. 20, North of Donald. This fire, as far as can be ascertained, was set by lightning, but was got under control after several days' work, without having done any damage. It merely burnt through a portion that had been previously burnt over years ago, and which did not contain any merchantable timber.

The third fire was on the summit of Six Mile creek in the Selkirk range. This was also on a place that had been burnt over previously, and was undoubtedly caused by lightning. It did not do any damage whatsoever.

These were the only fires of any consequence that occurred within the railway belt in the province of British Columbia, although the season was an exceptionally dry one. Innumerable small fires occurred all through the belt, the majority of which were set by settlers clearing their lands, and, in some instances, by sparks from locomotives, and fires left carelessly by campers, all of which were promptly attended to by the rangers in their various districts and were carefully watched and were not allowed to spread. I might say that one fire occurred about six miles West of Agassiz, which burned out the timbering of a tunnel on the line of the Canadian Pacific railway, delaying the trains for several days. The origin of this fire cannot be properly traced beyond the fact that it began outside of the tunnel.

I may say that across the line in the States of Washington, Oregon and