LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Mr. Ellison Accuses the Attorney-General of Using Insulting Language to Him.

Opposition Members Show Why the Present Land Registration Act Is Good.

MONDAY Jan. 23.

One of the principal features of the sitting in the legislature was a question of privilege brought up by Mr. Price Ellison of East Yale in regard to the language used to him by the Attorney-General at the parliament buildings on Saturday last. The debate on the real property bill was continued and was further adjourned until next sitting. Mr. McBride's resolutioin in regard to the fisheries was up again and was finally withdrawn.

PRIVATE BILLS.

The committee on private bills and standing orders reported that the petition of the Kootenay & Northwest Railway Company did not comply with the standing orders because no copy had been filed in time nor was the fee paid in time and because it exceeded the notice in asking that the line be extended to the southern boundary of the province. However, as the bill was presumably in the public interest, the committee recommended that the rules be suspended to allow the bill being introduced, except in so far as the extension of the line to the southern boundary was concerned, and on payment of double fees.

The committee reported that the Big Bend Transportation Company bill did not comply with the rules as it exceeded the notice in asking powers of extension "or elsewhere in the province." The committee, with this exceptioin, recommended that the bill be allowed to be introduced.

The committee reported favorably on the Ashcroft Water and Electric bill.

The report was received.

Hon. Mr. McKechnie presented a petition from G. W. Mitchell, E. C. Hawkins and J. H. Greer, on behalf of a private bill for the Atlin Southern railway.

The following private bills were introduced:

By Mr. Kellie—To incorporate the Big Bend Transportation Company.

By Mr. Higgins—To incorporate the Chartered Commercial Company of Vancouver, Limited.

By Mr. Helgesen—To incorporate the Pine Creek Flume Company.

By. Gen. Kinchant—To incorporate the Cariboo & Skeena Railway Company.

The bills were read a first time.

PRIVILEGE.

MR. PRICE ELLISON (East Yale) as a question of privilege drew attention to some remarks addressed to him on Saturday by the Attorney-General. In the house lobby that day the Attorney-General had grossly insulted him in language which the presence of ladies in the galleries prevented being repeated to the house for Mr. Speaker's information. The altercation between himself and the Attorney-General, Mr. Ellison continued, had been from no fault of his but in consequence of something he said at a public meeting and which called for no such language as the Attorney-General had used. Mr. Ellison characterized the Attorney-General's language as worse than Billingsgate and the worst ever used to him. The Attorney-General was no gentleman or he would not have used such language. Mr. Ellison wanted to know from Mr. Speaker what protection members had; not that he asked protection for his body, but he did appeal for the protection of those who were unable to help themselves. He was willing to stand by anything that he had himself said at the public meeting, in the courts of the land and he could not see why he should be vilified before half a dozen members of the house whom the Attorney-General had called to come and hear what he would say to Price Ellison. In concluding his remarks, Mr. Ellison claimed that every member of the house was entitled to the protection due to his position.

The Attorney-General entered the house as Mr. Ellison was concluding his remarks and Mr. Speaker suggested that the matter should be left over and that it be followed by a motion.

COL. BAKER was sure the house would regret that such an unfortunate circumstance had occurred, and he suggested that a committee of investigation be appointed, the procedure followed some years ago, when a member of the house believed himself to have been insulted.

MR. HIGGINS did not think that the precedent applied, as the incident brought up by Col. Baker occurred in the house lobby while the house was sitting.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL gave as a reason for his not being in his seat when Mr. Ellison brought the matter up that he had been busy in his office. He had known, however, that the subject was coming up, and though not hearing Mr. Ellison's remarks, he understood that gentleman was trying to pose as an injured person. On the other hand, Mr. Ellison had made a gross and unwarranted attack upon him, his remarks, as reported in the Colonist, being that he (Mr. Martin) had come to the province with nothing but what he could carry in a carpet bag, and that he would carry away from the province all he had in one. Mr. Ellison had been asked his authority for the statement, and said he had heard some one else say so. The Attorney-General went on to say that he had said it was generally understood that Mr. Ellison was a bankrupt, and that he very emphatically denied Mr. Ellison's statements, and was prepared to do it again. In doing so he might possibly have used such language as it would be well not to repeat in the house. For himself he never referred to the private affairs of his political opponents, but some people, when they entered politics, seemed to forget they were gentlemen, and used any statements they thought fit.

Mr. Higgins favored laying the matter over, and in this course the Premier coincided.

Mr. Henderson rose to complain that Mr. Turner called him a traitor at the meeting on Friday night, but Mr. Speaker said he could not allow newspaper quotations to be used as questions of privilege.

VANCOUVER ELECTION.

The Premier announced that he had been informed of the return by acclamation of Mr. Tisdall in Vancouver. The Premier by mistake said the election in East Kootenay, and a good deal of surprise was the result until the mistake was explained.

MORE PRIVILEGE.

The Attorney-General, again referring to the incident with Mr. Price Ellison, said that he had not heard all Mr. Ellison's remarks, but was informed that that gentleman had accused him of improper language. Mr. Martin denied that he had used such language, for he never used bad language.

Mr. Ellison stuck to his charges, and further said that the other members of the house who had been present could bear him out in that.

The subject was then dropped for the time being.

THE SIBBALD DISMISSAL.

Next came the adjourned debate on Mr. Eberts' motion for a return of the correspondence touching the dismissal of John D. Sibbald, gold commissioner at Revelstoke, and the resolution passed at a mass meeting of the people of that city on January 7, protesting against the dismissal.

Mr. Kellie objected to the term mass meeting, as he claimed that only 42 people had supported the resolution. He favored the dismissal.

Col. Baker said that the motion was for the whole correspondence dealing with the subject, so that the members could form their own opinions.

The motion was adopted.

THE FISHERIES.

The adjourned debate on Mr. McBride's fisheries resolution was taken up next. This resolution asks that the Lieutenant-Governor be asked "to move the Dominion government to take steps to amend the statutes of Canada with reference to marine and fisheries, so as to provide for the appointment of a board of local commissioners having jurisdiction over the fisheries of this province, with full power and authority to make rules and regulations concerning them."

Mr. Clifford moved that the debate be adjourned to enable Mr. McBride to present some new information.

Hon. Mr. Cotton objected to this, and the Attorney-General said that the resolution dealt with Dominion politics, and was not suitable for the provincial house to deal with.

The motion to adjourn the debate was defeated.

Mr. McBride closed the debate, saying that he was surprised at the Attorney-General's attitude on the question, and regretted that the provincial executive should not see fit to fall in line with those who wished to conserve the interests of the province. Even supposing it was outside the provincial jurisdiction, the province had a right to bring it to the attention of the Dominion. He had been very sorry recently when the other provinces had representatives at the conference on fisheries to see this province let our interests go by default. He asked leave to withdraw his resolution, and this was agreed to.

RETURNS WANTED.

Mr. Macpherson moved for an order of the house for a return giving (1) the names of all mines in the province which have paid the tax on their outputs under the provisions of the mineral act; (2) the amounts so paid by each mine in each year since the act came into force; (3) the value of each mine paying such tax; (4) the amount the said mines would have paid if they had been assessed as real property.

Hon. Mr. Cotton said that while the government had no objection to the resolution, they had no means of giving the information on the third and fourth questions, because the mines were not assessed as real property, but on their output.

The motion was carried.

COAST SETTLEMENTS.

Mr. Higgins moved for a return in detail of the total cost to the government of (1) the Bella Coola; (2) the Cape Scott; and (3) the Quatsino Scandinavian settlements, return to state the amount of financial assistance given to and the approximate population of each settlement.

The Attorney-General understood that moneys had been advanced to certain persons in connection with this, and it would be just as well to ask for this information.

Col. Baker—Advances to whom?

The Attorney-General understood that there was something of the kind, and made an amendment to the resolution along the line he had suggested, adding to the resolution the words, "and a statement of all moneys owing to the government in connection with such assistance, together with the names of parties owing such moneys and amounts due."

Mr. Helgesen was glad to see the resolution, and hoped, too, that the colonies would get all the assistance the province could reasonably give, for he fully commended the late government for introducing these settlements to open up the Coast lands of the province.

Col. Baker was pleased at Mr. Helgesen's remarks, and took Mr. Higgins to task for his sneering reference to the settlers as foreigners. The placing of these settlements on the Coast enabled lands to be occupiel that had been formerly lying idle. The scheme was not confined to what Mr. Higgins had sneringly referred to as foreigners, but could be availed of by Canadians or British subjects just as well as anybody else. The colonies had no money given to them except in the way of roads and schools, and in what way was that treating them different to other people? Would Mr. Higgins deny to agriculturists what was granted to miners?

Mr. Neill represented a district in which two of these colonies were situated, and he understood that neither was contented nor satisfied. He understood that at Quatsino there had been an agreement with the government that the settlers were to get their land free whenever there was a colony of 30.

Col. Baker replied that there was no such agreement, and the member could easily see his ignorance by referring to the agreements.

Mr. Eberts rose to speak when Mr. Speaker ruled that the debate had travelled outside of the resolution.

Mr. Eberts remarked that all he wished to say was that at the last general election Mr. Neill had not received a vote in Quatsino.

Hon. Mr. Martin—There were only four votes.

Mr. Eberts—And we got them all.

Mr. Clifford spoke from his personal knowledge of the Bella Coola colony being in a prosperous condition with a good wagon road for seventeen miles through a country with comfortable homes every half mile or so. The land was hard to clear but the settlers had made good progress and said that when it was cleared the land was very fertile. The settlers had a library with 300 volumes in it and they were intelligent, contended and doing well. It was a burning shame that Mr. Higgins should make such remarks as he had about them in speaking on the speech from the throne. The settlers, too, were displacing the Chinese in the Northern canneries and were very industrious people. He only hoped that in placing settlements the present government would do as well as the old one.

Mr. Higgins did not think that it was an insult to call a man a foreigner. He had only wanted to say that it was not right to bring in foreigners and help them when such places as San Juan with a resident populatioin could not get roads.

The resolution was amended as the Attorney-General had moved and was carried.

Mr. Deane moved, seconded by Mr. Kellie, that whereas, in the administration by the Dominion government of the Canadian Pacific railway belt, certain difficulties have arisen which tend to retard settlement; and whereas it is believed these difficulties could be removed and the prosperity of the province greatly enhanced by the application of the provincial land laws within the said railway belt: therefore, be it resolced, that in the opinion of this house, the provincial government should endeavor, through negotiations with the Dominion government, to secure the application of the said land and mining laws within the said railway belt.

Mr. Deane said the question was of great importance to many people in the interior of the province. The object was to do away with the anomalous condition that resulted from having two sets of laws in the province and to get these lands administered by the province.

Mr. Kellie said that it was not a question of additional expense if the province administered these lands as trustees, as there were plenty of officials in the district. There was a great deal of inconvenience by reason of the Dominion not receiving the surveys of provincial surveyors for mining claims in that belt.

Mr. McBride had personal knowledge from many of the pioneers in the railway belt of the inconvenience of the present state of things. The matter was one of so great local import that it was impossible to deal with the lands satisfactorily from the city of Ottawa. A man who took up 160 acres for a home should not only be given the soil but every stick of timber on the soil also. He hoped the members would pass the resolution with unanimity.

Mr. Booth objected to the resolution on the ground that it came under the same objection as the fisheries resolution that had been withdrawn, because it should be dealt with at Ottawa.

Mr. Henderson thought that the resolution should not dictate the lines that the Dominion government should pursue. He moved in amendment, seconded by Mr. Neill, that all the words after "secure" be struck out, and that the words "such steps being taken as will effectually remove the said difficulties" be added.

This was carried.

Before the main motion was put, Col. Baker, while he quite approved of the motion, twitted the Attorney-General for agreeing with it when he objected to the fisheries motion.

Mr. Higgins and Mr. Price Ellison briefly spoke in support of the resolution, and

Mr. Eberts pointed out that the former government had pressed the matter on the attention of the government at Ottawa again and again, and as far as lands close to the boundary of the belt were concerned, exchange orders-in-council between the Provincial and Dominion governments had been used to do away with inconvenience to settlers.

The resolution was passed as amended.

RETURN PRESENTED.

Hon. Mr. Semlin presented a return of the correspondence between the Lieutenant-Governor and Mr. Turner in relation to the dismissal of the late government.

REGISTRATION OF TITLES.

Mr. Pooley resumed the debate on the second reading of the real property bill. It was in line, he said, with a bill that it had been intended to introduce when the former government were in power, but which had been withdrawn because the present act was found to be all that was necessary. The present act had been in operation for 40 years, and even the Attorney-General had admitted that scarcely any mistakes had been made under it.

Hon. Mr. Martin—I said not as much trouble had come to the front as one would have anticipated.

Mr. Pooley went on that the act now in force was really based on the Torrens system, which this bill aimed to make obligatory. The system had worked well, and every person understood the working of the act. The fees charged were moderate, and conveyancing was easy. That was one objection that he had to altering the present condition of the act. The certificates under the present act were a prima facie title for the registrars before they gave a certificate had to search just as carefully through the titles as they would under the proposed act. The system of indefeasible title certificates too, made the holder's right unassailable except by the crown. To bring the new act in would be very expensive to property holders, owing to the surveys it made necessary.

Hon. Mr. Martin interrupted to say that there would be no more need for surveys than under the present act. and denied that there would be any more expense.

Mr. Pooley went on to say that there was bound to be more expense, as everyone was bound to come under the new system. He did not think the bill was in the right direction.

Mr. Eberts wished to make a few remarks on the bill, but he wished it understood that he did so without wishing to attack the Torrens system. It was a very good system in Australia, but we had now on our statute books the Torrens system as it was in Australia, in York county, Ontario, and in the Northwest. The Torrens system was to give easy and inexpensive way of dealing with titles. In the present provincial act they had an easy act to work under and one that gave an indefensible title. In reply to the Attorney-General's remarks that the present law was the worst on the statute book, he said that the Attorney-General seemed to be a Solon who would alter all the acts from Magna Charta down to the Statute of Frauds and other British acts that had been introduced into the province. The present statute was formed on the English act was brought into the province in 1860 and the underlying principle of the Torrens system was contained in it. The indefensible title as under the act of 1860 gave as good or perhaps better title than even the Torrens act. Every registrar had to be very careful to make full investigation before he gave a certificate of title. During the 36 years the act had been in force not three cases had taken place where a satisfactory solution had not been got under the act. There had been issued under it 20,972 titles in Victoria, 5,473 in Vancouver, 17,500 in Westminster and 1,275 in Kamloops and with all these there could not be found ten cases where any mistake had arisen through the act. That disposed of the remarks of the Attorney-General to the effect that the present system was a rotten one. In Ontario where the Torrens system had been in use in York county that province had not seen fit to extend its use. Under the British Columbia system at present the indefeasible title certificates made title good against the whole world except the crown. If the plain simple title in British Columbia were as rotten as the Attorney-General tried to make out how could so many registrations have taken place with so little trouble resulting? As the act stands now it was not absolutely necessary to register, but simply for security as a notice. The Attorney-General would have them believe transfers would be simpler than under the present act, but Mr. Eberts denied this for under the British Columbia act they had in form "K" a short transfer as simple as under the Torrens system. Any person could draw up a conveyance as good as if there were 50,000 words in the deed. The act should not be compulsory, for it would mean a great deal of expense to people who were perfectly satisfied with their present titles. For instance titles in Toronto cost $500 and $600 to put under the Torrens system and the same expense would be found in transferring many here to a new system. Where a country was flat like Manitoba it was very easy to have a perfect system of land surveys. But here in the old days men took up land, and tied the survey on to some natural object. Hence a great deal of confusion would result and it would cost from $2 to $500 for everyone who came under the new system. He read from the Encyclopedia of the Laws of England to show that even in Australia it was voluntary to register under the Torrens system for lands granted before the system came into force. It was voluntary also in the county of York, in Ontario. If the act became obligatory in British Columbia it would cause great hardship, and in closing his remarks he could only reiterate that the act in force to-day contained the essence of the Torrens system. With the object of calling the attention to the quesion of it being obligatory he would move in amendment to the second reading that "the introduction of compulsory registration, under this act, of titles to land is not advisable in the best interests of the province."

Mr. Helmcken was of opinion that important legislation of this kind should receive very careful consideration by every one in the house. He did not know any good reason why the present system should be replaced by a system which was nothing more than the introduction of the system now in use in Manitoba. It had been pointed out that the British Columbia system had been in use for a large number of years, and when the Attorney-General introduced the bill he used very uncomplimentary terms to the present system that was a reflection on the ability of those who took part in framing the act. It seemed fit then to Mr. Helmcken to say that the present act worked very well, and there was no necessity for an entirely new act of this extreme nature. It would be better to amend the act now in force. He did not oppose this bill simply because it emanated from the government. He was not saying it was a bad bill, but a little more time would have helped members in discussing it. Had it been a tentative measure or one to be applied to a certain district to test its working, it might have been better; but until he was convinced that the present system was bad, he could not support it. On his motion the debate was adjourned.

Col. Baker, on a point of order, wanted to know whether the bill should not have come down by message.

The Attorney-General did not think so, as the bill did not call for expenditure of money.

Mr. Speaker ruled that the bill was in order, and the house adjourned.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Hon. Mr. Cotton—To introduce a bill "respecting appointments to boards and other public bodies."

Hon. Joseph Martin—To introduce a bill "to provide for the appointment of Her Majesty's counsel learned in the law."

Hon. Joseph Martin—To introduct a bill "to amend the power of attorney act."

Hon. Joseph Martin—To introduce a bill "to amend the bills of sale act."

Hon. Joseph Martin—To introduce a bill "to amend the partnership act."

Mr. J. M. Martin—For a return showing what companies required by their charters to give security for bona fide expenditure in surveys and construction within a specified time, have given such security.

Mr. Helgesen—To introduce a bill "to amend the dentistry act."

Mr. Macpherson—For a return showing the number of Chinese and Japanese naturalized in the province of British Columbia for each year since 1890, inclusive.

Hon. Mr. Cotton—"That the speech of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, at the opening of the present session, be taken into consideration on Thursday next."

Hon. Mr. Semlin—To introduce a bill "relating to the inspection of steam planes."

Mr. Kidd—To introduce a bill "for the eradication of and to prevent the spreading of noxious weeds."

AN OPEN LETTER.

To His Worship the Mayor and Council of the City of Victoria:

Gentlemen,—I see that a section of your honorable body propose to dismiss the city engineer. I object to that as a ratepayer, because I happen to know that if the council have determined the city would benefit, but if the city engineer be dismissed the city will suffer. There is a case pending in the courts with reference to the city water works. It looks very suspicious for a section of the council to attempt the dismissal of the city engineer at a time when his services are most important to the city. I do not either know what you want to dismiss him for, because I know more about engineers, and Mr. Wilmot in particular, than your honorable body. Mr. Wilmot is a man who, to my certain knowledge, has had since the year 1869 more varied practical experience and opportunity to obtain a first-class education as an engineer than any man known to me who came to this Coast. That he has carried out notable works for the city without failure is further known. That he has worked for councils who did not appreciate his ability is notorious and the talk of the public. You have here now a water works which has certainly not so far proved to be a success. Why? Because one council of former years refused to act upon the report of the experts they employed for that purpose, who in the concluding paragraph of this report recommended that the work be referred to some one having local knowledge. That opinion pointed directly to the city engineer, and had that opinion been followed the city would have been the gainer to-day. I mention this to emphasize what I said before—that at any time the council might be dismissed with great pecuniary advantage to the city, but not the city engineer.

Gentlemen, if the city should suffer in their suit with the water works contractors because you saw fit to dismiss the city engineer, for no reason that any business man can understand, it is my opinion, although not a lawyer, that you will be responsible to the city, every man of you, who vote for this outrage with your personal property if the case were to go against the city. Why? Because a similar circumsance took place in a city with a population of 170,000 people, and it took two years of an anxious time for the aldermen in that council to get over this difficulty, and a special bill of indemnity in the house of commons in London. Remember that one of the most eminent men of our own times has written that the world was composed of so many millions of people,h mostly fools, and althoug I don't mean to say that if he had been personally acquainted with the composition of your honorable body that he might not have seen fit to change his opinion, still I would ask you to remember the fact that most men as well as many public bodies are subject to streaks of insanity upon certain subjects and to be careful about what you propose to do.

I have the honor to be, etc.,

H. P. BELL.

GLOBE LOAN AND SAVINGS CO., COR. OF VICTORIA AND LOMBARD STREETS, TORONTO.

E. W. Day, Manager Globe Loan and Savings Co., says: — "I consider Dr. Chase's Ointment invaluable." We have thousands of testimonials from prominent business men all over the Dominion.

A KASLO RESOLUTION

Council and Commissioners of That Town at Outs on a Police Appointment.

Courts Must Decide as to Which Body Has Exceeded Its Powers.

There is a little trouble between the city council of Kaslo and the police commissioners of that flourishing little town that has landed matters in the courts here, and all over the appointment of a policeman by the commissioners. The civic rulers of Kaslo considered that one policeman was enough to keep the peace, whereas the police commissioners appointed a second one in the person of Alexander Miller. The city council, in an interesting resolution which appears below, proceeded to make Miller the offer either to quit or get his salary reduced to $1 a month. Miller appealed to the courts for an order restraining the city from discharging him. The matter came up before Mr. Justice Drake yesterday on the ex parte application of Mr. Arthur Davey, who applied to have the resolution of the city quashed. This resolution is unique, and here it is:

"Moved by Ald. Kane, seconded by Ald. Campbell: That whereas the city clerk has reported to this council that the police commissioners are of the opinion that there exists necessity for two policemen; and whereas it appears by the minutes of the said commissioners' last meeting that previous to such authority to the clerk to report, they irregularly appointed one Alexander Miller as assistant police; and whereas there are now, and were prior to said irregular appointment, M. V. Adams as chief of police, and Alexander McKay as assistant in this city and on duty: be it resolved that this council declare the proceedings of the aforesaid commissioners to have been irregular, and that the chief of police be instructed to so notify Alexander Miller, and to obtain from him all property of the corporation he may be possessed of, if any; and that, without prejudice, he be allowed to present a bill of $10, provided he accept same in good grace as full compensation from this corporation of the city of Kaslo; and should he not comply with same forthwith, he be then notified that should he, by any reason whatsoever, be deemed to have been regularly appointed, that his services are dispensed from this date; and should he not accept the conditions as above stated, gracefully and without prejudicing our stand—viz., that he is not a policeman for this municipality aforementioned, that he be notified that his salary should and will be one dollar per month, and no more."

This resolution was passed on January 16, and presumably Miller declined to be told by the chief that he was no policeman, or to gracefully accept his own bill of $10 as full compensation. At any rate, Mr. Davey yesterday read the resolution and some affidavits to Mr. Justice Drake, and asked that the resolution be declared ultra vires of the Kaslo city fathers. A rule nisi was granted, returnable on Friday, February 3, when the wise men of the law will struggle with the resolution and the facts before and after it.

RECRUITING IN FRANCE.

From Chamber's Journal.

Every year about 300,000 Frenchmen reach the age of 20. After the physically unfit, and those who are exempt under any of the above clauses have been weeded out, the actual number of men required to maintain the standard strength of the army is chosen by ballot. They spend three years in the active army, and are then dismissed from permanent service and return to civil life. But for the following ten years they are numbered among the reserve of the active army. They are then drafted into the territorial army for six years; at the conclusion of which they pass into the territorial reserve for another six years. Not until the age of 45 does a Frenchman become free from all obligation to the military service; for thirteen years he is liable to be called upon to serve either at home or abroad, and for the following twelve years to defend his country against invaders. No exemption can be purchased. Unless a conscript is exempt either on the ground of physique or for family reasons, he is bound to serve for twenty-five years. Until 1890 there was a class of conscripts known as "one-year volunteers." These were men of good education, who were allowed to purchase their discharge after one year's service. The extent which conscription has militarized France may be gathered form the fact that every fourth male is serving or has served in the army.

CHINA'S APPEAL.

The North China Daily News of a recent date contains the following interesting translation of a memorial by the Chinese reformers. The News says:

The following translation will be read with great interest. The memorial was intended to be presented to the British consul-general here, but Br. Brenan was, of course, unable to receive it. It is a pathetic document, and we hope our contemporaries in England, as well as in China, will reproduce it:

Sir,—The avarice and extortions of the mandarians of China and their underlings was the cause of the Emperor's estrangement from his people; and it was this estrangement that has led to his present weakness and their distress.

Recognizing the need for reform, the Emperor in his wisdom and good judgment began during the fifth moon of the present year to issue edicts having for their object the complete renovation of the empire. The main subjects dealt with were as follows:

(1.) The substitution of men of modern ideas and learning for old and useless officials.

(2.) The establishment of colleges and technical schools for the advancement of scientific knowledge, after the most approved methods of Western nations.

(3.) Conferring the right to memorialize the throne direct upon all officials throughout the empire, without distinction of rank.

(4.) The abrogation of the wenchang system of examination for degrees and offices.

The above edicts caused much rejoicing among the people, who recognized in them a great power for the immediate uplifting of the empire and its future prosperity.

We, your memorialists, are firmly convinced that if the reforms embodied in the imperial edicts could have been put into operation for twenty or thirty years, great and beneficial changes would have been brought about, which would have resulted in the entire change of the customs of the land, and establishment of better relations with the West. Thus we could have looked forward confidently to the inauguration of an era of universal peace.

But now, through the machinations of evil men and the shortsighted policy of the Empress Dowager our Emperor has been imprisoned; the lives of many faithful officers have been ruthlessly taken, and all the imperial edicts calling for reform have been revoked. All educational societies have been interdicted, and the native newspapers have been suppressed. Moreover, the lives of all those favorable to reform are in the gravest danger.

We, your memorialists, being loyal Chinese subjects, regard with great indignation such unwarrantable action on the part of the Empress Dowager; but we have no power to rectify this unhappy state of affairs.

Therefore, we pray you, sir, according to that equity which is recognized among all nations, to pity China in her distress, by sending a cablegram to the government urging your people to assist us by restoring the Emperor to his rightful throne, and by filling the offices of state with faithful and enlightened men.

Thus will the renovation of China be due to the favor of your sovereign ruler and to you, sir, who forwarded the memorial.

P.S.—Chinese officialdom is at present divided into two classes, the old and new—Conservatives and Reformers. The former have placed their reliance in Russia to help them, in return for which Russia will gain enlarged territory. The Reformers look to Great Britain and the United States for help, knowing that the policy of these two nations is to keep the Chinese Empire intact.

Should the reactionists triumph in their present schemes, there is no power that will prevent the division of China among the nations of the earth.

The Reformers have no power. They can only weep at their country's distress, while they present this memorial asking your honorable country's assistance.

The first thing to be done is to liberate the Emperor and to restore him to power, and to remove the Empress Dowager.

A proclamation from the Emperor calling his people to his protection would be loyally responded to by all his faithful subjects throughout the land.

A joint memorial from the scholars—literati—of China.

24th year of H.M. Kuang Hsu, 9th moon, 17th day.

(31st October, 1898.)

ROCKY MOUNTAIN BEARS.

From Forest and Stream.

Bears go into winter quarters when the first heavy snows and cold weather begin, which is usually in November in the Rockies. In the old days they would den up right in open country. A bear's winter den is nearly always on a north hillside, where the snow falls deepest, and if possible they choose a place where a drift will form. Sometimes a bear will den up in a natural cave or crevice, but more often they dig himself a hole ten or twelve feet deep. Coming out from the winter den in the roughest country he can find, and is generally pretty well up in the mountains in heavy spruce timber. A bear may make his den early in the season, but until cold weather drives him in he roams around a lot. For near a month before denning bears eat very little, or not at all, and before they go in for good the stomach and intestines are frequently clean and empty. The stomach is drawn up into a solid lump like a chicken's gizzard and the bear is a solid mass of fat, inside and out. About in February or March, when bruin comes out again, he is still hog fat, and he keeps this fat till the snow is pretty well gone. When he first comes out he does not travel much, but as the weather warms up he soon runs off all his rat, though I have never yet found a bear as late as the middle of May, after the trees were green. As vegetation starts bears live almost altogether on grass, roots, etc., though, of course, they will often eat meat. Still, I have had baits right among the bears with bears passing within fifty feet of the bait every night, and it was the middle of July when one of them touched a bait, and then they were at the baits all the time.

Even now bears feed a good deal in the open in the spring, when they are not molested, and spring is by far the best time to hunt them. But, as usual, when a bear nowadays keeps pretty well under cover. During the day he finds the thickest brush or timber that he can, and there he stays, slipping away quietly at the slightest suspicious noise. It used to be that if a bear heard or saw something that he did not understand he would stand up on his hind legs to look. And if he was suddenly startled he would often after running a way stop and stand up to look back. I have killed several bears in this brush by getting close to them, knowing about where they were, and then speaking loud. Bruin would nearly always stand up to investigate, thus giving me a shot at his head. But now a bear that hears a human voice hardly ever stops to look, but gets away on the jump.

The bears in these parts also used to tree very easily. I have run a good many up trees by giving them as harp run on horseback for a mile or so in open timber, and have run two up trees by chasing them on foot. And twice I have missed bears at rather close range and had them take to trees. In one instance the bear went up the nearest tree; in the other the bear, a she with cubs, bolted a hundred yards or so before she treed. And speaking of cubs, I never saw but one she bear that would not bolt and leave her cubs when attacked. The exception was a small cinnamon, and I got between her and her cubs and got charged. Only the other day I saw three of the dogs maul a grizzly cub until you could hear him squall for a mile, and the old bear all the time was standing in the brush not a hundred yards away, and never offered to attack. But nowadays it is almost impossible to tree a bear or bring it to bay, even with good dogs. It is always hard to bring grizzly bears to bay with dogs, but almost any dog would put a black or cinnamon up a tree in short order. Now a bear will run all day ahead of the dogs before taking to a tree or coming to bay. About the only way to hunt bears at present with any chance of success is in the spring after they begin to take bait well. By stringing out a lot of bait and still-hunting early and late fair luck may be had.

"The trouble with him," said the young man who had been trying to fittingly describe an acquaintance, "is that when he dipped into the sea of knowledge he thought he brought up so much that the blamed thing went dry."—Chicago Post.

MICA AXLE GREASE lightens the load—shortens the road.

Makes the wagon pull easier, helps the team. Saves wear and expense. Sold everywhere.

WAS STILL BURNING.

Norwegian Bark Fantose Brings Late Advices Concerning the Coal Fire at Honolulu.

Chemainus Saw Mills Again Busy —Steamer Horsa to Re-Enter Service on Saturday.

Although his vessel had been in the Roads since Saturday night, it was only yesterday morning that Capt. Anderson, of the Norwegian bark Fantese, came ashore. He and Mrs. Anderson, who made the voyage with him from Honolulu, are now at the Victoria. The Fantese left Honolulu on January 3, a fortnight later than the C. F. Sargent, which brought the news to Port Townsend early last week of a big fire in the United States coal bunkers at the Hawaiian capital. This was still burning when Capt. Anderson left port, but there was no display of waterworks and no wild excitement of the residents over it. The coal pile happens to be isolated, and instead of lurid flames issuing from its top, nothing but a little smoke can be seen. The origin of this is difficult to locate, and a crowd of laborers, sometimes 8 and sometimes 30 a day, are making their way into the centre of the pile to get at the heated or burning sections. There are 40,000 tons in the heap, and most of it is Nanaimo coal. The rest of the government supplies is covered in in big brick sheds, which are filled to their capacity. Capt. Anderson tells an interesting little story connected with the C. F. Sargent, which has not previously been told. A few days before that vessel left Honolulu, two school children, who had been missing a short time, were found by a detective secreted aboard. The youngsters were one day taken out of school by their father, who stated that he wanted to buy them some clothing. What aroused suspicion is not stated, but the scheme as planned was to smuggle the children to America. When found they were hidden away in a forward compartment, to which their talking and laughing had directed attention. The Fantase is under charter to the B. C. Mills, Timber & Trading Co., to load for Europe.

LUMBER FOR CHINA.

The Chemainus mills are again running under strong pressure. The American bark Coloma and the American schooner W. F. Witzeman are loading for Tientsin, and the American barkentine Erie is near by taking on piles for the same city. These vessels will carry a large shipment of specially selected Oregon pine and Douglas fir that will be used in the building of cars, while the remainder of their cargoes will be used otherwise in railroad construction. The vessels will sail as soon as possible, in order to be on hand when navigation first opens on the Peiho river, up which they have to go 50 or more miles. The river is generally frozen over from December until March, and there is an advantage to be gained in being first in the rush up stream in the spring. Among the tonnage now on its way to Chemainus are the American ship E. K. Wood, the American ship Undaunted and the ship Hercules and the Hawaiian Isles. The E. K. Wood also loads for Tientsin. She is coming from Shanghai; the Undaunted, which loads for South Africa, is coming from Sydney, N. S. W., via San Francisco; the Hercules, from Melbourne, Australia, via Honolulu; and the Hawaiian Isles from Newcastle, N. S. W., via Honolulu. The Hercules loads for Europe, whilst the Hawaiian Isles loads for Melbourne.

PECULIAR AND PERTINENT.

It takes a crocodile 80 seconds to turn completely around.

The Indian can see one-tenth further than the white man.

There are four Irishmen to every Englishman in the United States.

The pearl oyster begins to produce pearls when it is six or seven years old.

The force of waves breaking on the shores is equal to seventeen tons to the square yard.

Blood flows through the bones of very young children almost as freely as through the veins.

It is stated that about one in eighteen of the population of Paris live on charity, with a tendency toward crime.

"Dewey's most heroic act has not been recognized," says the Philadelphia North American.

"What?"

"He refused to come home and be Jones. The loss would be but a trifle.—

In the programme of the entertainment to be given in the A.O.U.W. hall under the management of the ladies of the Reformed Episcopal church, Mr. Clive Phillipps-Wolley was set down for a reading. Mr. Wolley is the author of the poem to be read, and Mrs. Tomkinson is to read it.

A Ridiculous and False Claim.

As a rule, modern newspaper advertisers endeavor to make their statements clear and truthful; they know that an intelligent public—especially the women portion—quickly condemn untruths and deception.

Some advertisers, intending to soar high, suddenly fall from the sublime to the ridiculous in their statements. Such errors are promptly detected by the class of people the advertisers would influence.

Imagine an advertiser of dyes for home dyeing, after giving a long list of the virtues possessed by his products, remarking, "They cleanse and dye at the same time." This statement made to tens of thousands of intelligent women is so contrary to truth and common sense, that the advertiser is, without loss of time condemned as a simpleton or deceiver.

Diamond Dyes, the standard home dyes of the world dare not make any such claim. In their valuable book on Home Dyeing (free to all who send for it) they specially mention that "all gods should be cleaned before they are dyed." A Solon, however, arises in the land and formulates a new doctrine by asserting that Dyes "cleanse and dye at the same time." Soon we will hear of some new starch manufacturer making a claim that his starch will cleanse and stiffen at the same time!

No wonder that many of our women show temper and suffer disappointment when they make use of dyes that pretend to take out dirt and re-color at the one operation. No wonder that deceived women complain of muddy and dismal colors after using adulterated dyestuffs.

Let it be distinctly understood that the inventive genius of man has not yet devised a dye that will take out grease spots, stains and dirt, and at the same time give a decent color. The Diamond Dyes—the world's popular home dyes—give the fullest and richest colors on all materials when the goods are clean. They are the only warranted dyes on the market and always do what is claimed for them. Do not allow the false claims of any manufacturers of common dyes to lead you into trouble and financial loss.

IN BRITISH C

Man Shot in Mistake Out of Season H Okanaga

Pioneer Hotel Kee Boundary — One Short for Vernon

HUNTING FATALI shocking accident took pl afternoon at McIlvanie White Valley, a few mi city. Briefly stated the follows: Edgar Tilton young man working at th deer hunting on Tuesd They did not see any g four o'clock, as dusk w the men returning to t they saw, in a creek bo which they both though Tilton fired but without and his companion told more careful aim and tr This he did, and the ob dropped. On arriving at were horrified to find J an old man of about 65, the top of his skull bl heavy bullet from Tilton Huntley, who also work had taken a horse down water, and it was he wh en for a deer. This h nearly crazed Tilton, wh as an estimable young m known in town. The n deep impression of horr and the evidence at the awaited with much i News.

KOOTENAY OLD item in the Record last first intimation the ma Charles Van Ness in Ro he was sick, much less th gerously ill. The sad ne reached Rossland last e gram to his partner, Jam left on the noon train fo Mr. Van Ness is an o Kootenays and has accu fortune in real estate a perty. He is interested in son, the War Eagle here, Forks at Cascade City. real estate in Rossland, Grand Forks and ot terests throughout West the Boundary country. everywhere he was know citizen of the United St mains may be shipped t in Indiana.—Rossland R

COLUMBIA.—Neil Mc upper Grand Forks tow now known as Columbia on a visit. This townsit lately purchased by Fox of Toronto, J. B. McArt The price paid for thr townsite was large. Pacific railway owns th fifths. The intention is the lots upon the mark hotels are completed and process of erection and for a fourth, that will c been laid. All the ava have been rented withi weeks. The entire Bou prospering and he looks development of that se Miner.

DIED IN CALIFOR Angeles Times of the 1 the following notice of the many friends of the province, where Rev. M well known during his pa aimo: "The funeral serv of the Rev. D. A. McRae terday afternoon at the terian Church on Hill st congregation assembled tribute to one highly est loved by all. The casket to the auditorium by the church. The service wa the Rev. Mr. Jones, past tral Church, assisted by and the Rev. Mr. McLen

HOTEL BURNED. right about 2 o'clock the the lake front at Brook the Brooklyn Exchange. the ground. Shaw & Sh adjoining was also to ed. Fortunately the off shore and as the b isolated no further d done. The origin of the fi and the loss is almost could be saved. Shaw & S lost $500 and the two-sto ing was probably worth $8 no insurance and no mea the flames. Fortunately lost.—Cascade Record.

VERNON COUNCIL.— ford has been re-elected b mayor of Vernon. At th for aldermen only four c sented themselves for the and in consequence the co appointment to fill the va choice being J. C. Campbell members are A. E. Care Knight, E. Goulet and W.

A RUSSIAN IN AM

Pained at Chaotic Levity o Excess of Talent That Know What to

N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.

He is a Russian who lives try. He loves literature with love, and is pained constant deems