

Methodists in Annual Meeting.

Sessions of the District Boards—Native Delegates From the North.

Ladies of Centennial Church Provide a Memorable Fancy Fair.

No fewer than three district conferences of the Methodist denomination were in session yesterday at the Centennial church here, about thirty ministers and quite as many lay delegates attending from the church divisions of Port Simpson, Bella Bella and Victoria. A great part of the work of each district board was purely formal—preliminary to the sitting of the general conference at Nanaimo next Tuesday—but one of the Victoria district body possesses a measure of public interest, it being the recommendation to the conference that suit Spring Island (heretofore identified with the Cowichan district) be detached therefrom, to form a separate and independent mission.

The Port Simpson district board met first on Tuesday, under the chairmanship of Rev. S. S. Oosterhout, continuing its session yesterday with Rev. D. Jennings as secretary, assisted by Rev. C. Freeman. One decidedly interesting and unusual feature of this district's meeting was the representation of several missions by native lay delegates, David McKay, a full-blooded Indian, attending from Naas river (the most northerly mission represented), and Edward Bennett, another typical aborigine, coming from Port Essington.

The reports presented during the two days' sessions show a considerable increase to have been made to the membership in the district during the year, especially along the coast where many of the leading chiefs have forsaken the old-time customs of their forefathers and embraced the Christian religion. There are now about eight or ten missions in the district, and all making encouraging progress.

The Bella Bella district board also had a short meeting yesterday to deal largely with routine business, adjourning to meet with the Port Simpson district board at the Metropolitan church here, when Rev. Dr. Sutherland, general secretary of the Methodist church in Canada (who arrived from the East by Tuesday night's steamer) will be present to discuss with the clerical and lay delegates matters common to all the Indian work of the church.

The Victoria district board, which met under the chairmanship of Rev. J. C. Speer, discussed in detail the financial, membership and spiritual condition of the various churches and missions in the district, and recommended to the conference that Salt Spring Island be separated from the Cowichan district, and Examination was also made into the character of all ministers, and plans were discussed in connection with new measures for promoting the work of the church and its associated missions.

While these important church meetings were in progress the Centennial church proper, the lecture room was given up yesterday to an equally interesting and very different function of quite another character. This was the much discussed fancy fair arranged by the members of the Ladies' Aid, who were out on foot for the purpose.

The room had been tastefully decorated with Japanese umbrellas and lanterns, festoons of ivy, potted flowering plants, and a display of the wealth of spring-time blossoms; while the visitors of the day embraced citizens of all denominations and gave in a cosmopolitan shading in the presence of Chinese and Japanese from the home missions, and wandering Indians from the northern field.

The various stalls in the pro tem department store had a lively and lucrative trade during the entire afternoon, the stocks having been cleared out in abundance by the evening—and this of course being due in great measure to the rock-bottom prices scale adopted, and to the fact that no one was button-holed for patronage.

The plain sewing department was in the charge of Mrs. Bone, Mrs. Frank Adams, Mrs. M. Humber and Mrs. Gray. Bon-bons and flowers were disposed of by Miss Thomas, Miss Hackett, Miss Grant and Miss L. Davy. Behind the fancy work counter were Miss Anderson, Miss Grant, Miss Beck, Miss Davy and Mrs. Barracough; while tea and light refreshments were graciously dispensed by Mrs. Shakespeare and Mrs. McConnell.

As to the stock-in-trade—it was as varied as some of the wares for sale. For example, one could buy anything from a night-shirt to a Newfound dog, boots, corsets or a pin-cushion—even a cashmere basket to carry away the purchases in. The fancy work was of every imaginable class and description, not forgetting an elaborate "autograph cushion," containing the signatures of all the leading members of the church and quite a number of other prominent citizens.

The evening's entertainment took the form of a promenade concert, at which the Misses Bone, the Misses Spence, the Misses Davy and Mr. Percy Shakespeare contributed piano solos and duets, and Dr. Large sang with his accustomed taste.

TEXADA LIVELY.

Getting On Ready for the Smelter in Course of Erection.

The steamer Clayquot returned last evening from Texada Island. Capt. Magnusson says the "Miner" island at present presents a very lively appearance. A large amount of ore is being hoisted in preparation for treatment at the smelter, now being built by the Van Anda Company. Work on the smelter is proceeding apace and to-day the Clayquot will take up a cargo of fire bricks and fire clay for the blast furnaces. Both the Queen Bess and Captain brought a quantity of the sample of ore taken from the 270 foot level of the first named property. An excursion from Victoria to Texada is spoken of for a week from Saturday.

There are many forms of nervous debility in men which the use of Carter's Little Liver Pills. They are taken with nervous weakness, night sweats, etc., should try them.

THE FULL COURT.

Appeal Allowed in Cordingley vs. McArthur—Other Cases Heard.

The full court yesterday gave judgment allowing the defendant's appeal in Cordingley vs. McArthur. The original style of the action was McArthur vs. Cordingley. The latter was the plaintiff, and the former the defendant. An action was taken against him, but he had given his wife a bill of sale of his property, claiming that he owed her money. The judgment of the full court upsets this bill of sale.

The hearing of the appeal in re the O. K. Mining Co. was postponed until the next sitting of the court, the sale of the property not to be prejudicial. The appeal is from an order allowing the claim of the National Bank of Spokane against the company. The adjournment of the trial has not been completed.

Most of the day was spent in argument in the appeal of the defendants in the case of the Hall Mines. The plaintiff, John Hall, claims that a few of the defendants were allowed \$700 by a jury. The judgment of the full court is set for hearing to-day.

JAPAN SENSITIVE.

Imposition of Heavy Duty on Tea Would Interfere With Trade Relations.

The Japanese tea merchants, alarmed at the report as to the proposed imposition of a heavy duty on tea imported by the Canadian government, have started an agitation with the object of preventing the proposal from becoming a reality, says the Japan Gazette. The members of the Yokohama Specie Bank, who are the Japanese agents in Canada, have held a meeting on Tuesday, presided over by Mr. Otani Kabei, and unanimously passed a resolution to ask the Canadian authorities to reconsider the proposed duty. Mr. Otani proceeded to Tokyo and had an interview with the minister of commerce, with the view of requesting the Japanese government to interpose its influence with the Canadian government, and to endeavor to prevent the imposition of the duty.

Later in the day Mr. Otani, on behalf of the central board of tea merchants, despatched a telegraphic message to the Canadian government, requesting the latter to reconsider the measure under contemplation, as in the event of its being carried out, the development of the foreign trade between Canada and Japan must be greatly interfered with.

PEAS FOR AUSTRALIA.

Second Shipment From Victoria Leaves To-day on the Aorangi.

The Canadian-Australian steamship Aorangi will leave for South Sea ports early this morning. She will have as cargo 1,500 barrels of peas, shipped from Victoria, and a second shipment of peas being sent by the Aorangi to Sydney, N. S. W. There are 30 tons of peas in the hold of the firm intend making shipments frequently as there is any demand. There are some dozen Australian markets for the peas, the number including King John Williams, Thomas Clendon, M. Slattery, S. T. and H. Elliot.

STREET RAILWAY EXTENSION.

Movement on Foot to Secure Lines to Ross Bay and the Gorge.

Two representative business men who have large property interests on the main thoroughfare leading to Ross Bay cemetery are reported to be at the head of a movement to secure an extension of the street railway system, via Humboldt street, to Ross Bay cemetery—or rather Government street. A proposition has also been initiated looking to a line to the Gorge by the way of Garbally road. As yet no definite plan has been laid before the tramway company by the promoters of either line.

The suggested Ross plan with respect to the Humboldt street extension is to be very similar to that by which the line to the Gorge was secured, an effort being made to induce the most profitable property owners to build the line on condition that it will be continued to the terminus in summer and winter, with a five cent fare.

There is much to recommend such an extension, for not only would it be of high benefit to those who have seen their loved ones carried to God's acre, but it would enable more frequent visits to be paid their resting place than now is possible, but at the same time it would unquestionably prove a highly profitable line from this very traffic, and it would enable the cemetery to be made infinitely more creditable to the city than it is at present—relatives now having few and imperfect opportunities to give the graves of their lost ones the care and attention that is their desert.

As for the Gorge line, it would ultimately be continued, it is suggested, to form a loop with the Esquimalt system, and would thus become a highly profitable line, paying splendid receipts throughout the summer season, and giving Victoria Air a favorite resort for day after day.

As yet only the latter proposition has been broached to Manager Goward, who is not in a position to discuss its feasibility. He is prepared to consider the Ross Bay extension might prove a remunerative line in summer, and at the same time pick up considerable business. At the same time he is not disposed to lose sight of the fact that more track laid than it finds use for.

Measures, S. Greenfield, Son & Co. wish to intimate to their patrons and goods trade in Victoria and district that they are now in their new warehouse on Hastings street, Victoria. They are taking a larger and better assorted stock than formerly, and respectfully solicit a continuance of the Island trade.

Victoria, March 30, 1899.

Columbia Incorporated.

Proclamation of the Fact Published in Yesterday's Official Gazette.

Appointments to the Provincial Civil Service—Sale of Atlin Lots.

A proclamation of the Lieut.-Governor incorporating the town of Columbia, in Osoyoos district, is published in the current issue of the Provincial Gazette, the incorporation going into effect yesterday. It was to prevent the issuance of this proclamation that a deputation from the town of Grand Forks spent several days in the city during the week. Columbia is situated a few miles from Grand Forks, and there has been considerable rivalry between the two cities. The municipal government of Columbia is to consist of a mayor and six aldermen, and four will constitute a quorum. Nominations are to be held on Thursday, May 18, at noon, and the election a week later. Mr. Joseph K. Dunlop has been appointed returning officer. The first meeting of the council will be held on the Saturday following the election.

NEW OFFICIALS.

The following appointments are announced: George Munro, to be a member of the boards of licensing commissioners and commissioners of police for Kamloops, vice R. H. Lee.

Jas. P. Armstrong, Fred Steele, government agent, to be collector of votes for the South riding of East Kootenay, vice C. M. Edwards, resigned.

Francis B. Wells and A. O. Thompson, of Revelstoke, to be members of the licensing board of that city.

Thomas Kilpatrick and Wm. J. Dickey, of Revelstoke, to be members of the board of police commissioners of that city.

Wm. H. Lilly, of Sandon, for the Sloan district.

Augustus Carney, of Kaslo, for the Alnsworth district.

Jos. K. Johnson, of Grand Forks, for the city of Grand Forks and within a radius of ten miles therefrom.

Edward A. Crease, of Nelson, for the city of Nelson and within a radius of ten miles therefrom.

Wm. H. Church, of Skagway, has been appointed a commissioner for taking affidavits in the courts of British Columbia.

Harry W. Wright, of Nelson, has been appointed clerk in the government office there.

The resignation of Arthur R. Marshall, J.P., of Shoal Bay, has been accepted.

Notice is given of the incorporation of the following companies: East Whitewater Mining Company, Limited, of Victoria, capital \$100,000; Ross Bay Mining Company, Limited, of Victoria, capital \$100,000; Wilson Saw & Planing Mills, Limited, of Nelson, capital \$50,000; Dominion Copper Company, Limited, of Victoria, capital \$50,000; John Irving Navigation Company, Limited, of Victoria, capital \$50,000; and the Columbia Dominion Hauling Syndicate, Limited, of Victoria, capital \$120,000; the office of Rossland, Chas. R. Walls, attorney; the Denby Mining Company, Limited, of Victoria, capital \$2,000; local office Vernon, C. H. Holland, attorney; Quesselle Gold Recovery Company, Limited, of Victoria, capital \$50,000; local office Victoria, C. H. Holland, attorney; Highlander Mine & Milling Company, of Camden, New Jersey, capital \$1,000,000; local office Alnsworth, Maxwell Stevenson, Jr., attorney.

TEACHERS' EXAMINATIONS. The examination of candidates for teachers' certificates is being held at the South Park school, Victoria; High school, Vancouver; public school, Kamloops; and public school, Nelson, commencing on July 3. This is the first time that these examinations have been held in Nelson.

MORE TESTS. The results of the examination of candidates to practice dentistry in the province are announced, the successful candidates being: Dr. Morrison, Nelson; Dr. Gracie, Victoria; Dr. C. A. Holland, Grand Forks; and Dr. F. G. Moody, Victoria. Hereafter the board of examiners will hold their semi-annual meetings on the third Saturday in May and November.

ATLIN LOTS FOR SALE. According to a notice given by Mr. J. D. Graham, assistant commissioner of lands and works, an auction sale of Atlin lots will be held on Wednesday, May 17.

FARMERS' INSTITUTE. At the request of Mr. J. Stuart Yates and others the minister of agriculture has authorized the formation of a farmers' institute for Victoria district. The organization meeting will be held at the Royal Oak on the evening of June 9.

MISCELLANEOUS. School districts have been created at Elk lake, Albert bay, Cranbrook and Exton, and the districts of Lake, Saanich, Saanich, Prospect and Alexandria, from which the new districts have been taken, are redelineated.

The deputy commissioner of lands and works is calling for tenders for the completion of the Lillooet and Lytton wagon road.

The capitalization of the Fern Gold Mining & Milling Company, Limited, has been increased from \$200,000 to \$300,000. Municipal council of revision will be held at New Westminster on June 1.

In buying seeds, always get the best. The best seeds are those that are fresh and have been carefully selected. They are the only ones that will give you a good crop. They are the only ones that will give you a good crop. They are the only ones that will give you a good crop.

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COLD STORAGE WORKS.

Arrangements Made for the Handling of Chilled Beef From Calgary.

The British Columbia Cold Storage and Ice Works, Street street, has recently undergone some important changes in the line of improvement, making the premises the finest to be found on the Pacific Coast. Heavy expense has been gone to by the owner, Mr. James Dunlop, the first one to introduce cold storage into this province—in perfecting the plant and in furnishing it in the most modern way. New pumps, new coils of piping and ventilating devices are included in these improvements. A rotary fan now furnishes all the cold storage rooms with constant flow of fresh air, the advantage of this being obvious. Another feature of the business, more apparent to the general public than any other, is the street delivery. For this three new wagons, got up after Eastern fashion, have been provided.

The amount of business which the B. C. Cold Storage and Ice Works does in being tried. One hundred and sixty-one packages through their capacious buildings and sees the piles of fish, meats, fruits and vegetables there in storage, been considerable rivalry between the two cities. The municipal government of Columbia is to consist of a mayor and six aldermen, and four will constitute a quorum. Nominations are to be held on Thursday, May 18, at noon, and the election a week later. Mr. Joseph K. Dunlop has been appointed returning officer. The first meeting of the council will be held on the Saturday following the election.

Just now an interesting experiment is being tried. One hundred and sixty-one packages of frozen champagne are being gradually reduced to a normal condition under a temperature that special care has to be taken in moderating.

In the first place, he states that he has abandoned all negotiations that were in progress with the city council of Vancouver. He feels that he has not been treated with any degree of fairness by the city council, and he ventures the opinion that the council's conduct is not a credit to the city.

He is not acting toward him in the manner approved by the majority of his electors. He is not acting toward him in the manner approved by the majority of his electors. He is not acting toward him in the manner approved by the majority of his electors.

Then as to the arrest of himself and the rest of the men who with him commenced work on the island as tenants under lease from the Dominion, Mr. Ludgate believes—and no prominent lawyers have contradicted this opinion—that were he disposed to do so, he could by process of law make the Terminal building develop into a great city.

After a careful and thorough examination of the island, Mr. Ludgate, of course, is prepared to deny that any other suitable site for the purposes of his enterprise could be found—should Vancouver develop into a great city, it promises to do, it will not be long, he believes, before the entire deep water wharves to the city, and the city will be a part of the city.

As for the objections that have been raised to the occupation of Deadman's Island, Mr. Ludgate, of course, is prepared to deny that any other suitable site for the purposes of his enterprise could be found—should Vancouver develop into a great city, it promises to do, it will not be long, he believes, before the entire deep water wharves to the city, and the city will be a part of the city.

Then, again, as to the anticipated collection of millions of feet of logs awaiting use at the mill, Mr. Ludgate points out that the city of Vancouver is a part of the city, and the city will be a part of the city.

With respect to the newest development in the island tangle—the claim of the province to ownership—Mr. Ludgate has perhaps less concern than with the early phases of the dispute, and would indeed prefer, he says, to have the Province for a landlord than the Dominion, as it is vast and is the interest of the province to encourage such enterprises that are in the direction of building up the province by the utilization of its great timber resources.

Of course, he is not prepared to say that in the event of the provincial claim being sustained he would go on at once under lease from the Provincial instead of the Dominion government, for there is the possibility that the province might seek to impose conditions in the lease that he would not be prepared to accept.

As a general proposition, however, he would prefer to be the tenant of the Province to being the tenant of the Dominion.

To-day he is to have an interview with the provincial government, after which a more definite understanding of the position of affairs may be arrived at. Mr. Ludgate comes here for this interview, it is understood, upon short notice, and he is not prepared to say that he has not been strictly satisfied with his solicitor, inasmuch as he has been able to recover the matter in the court, and he has been able to recover the matter in the court.

And, he continues, "Hon. Mr. Martin can drop our wheeler he likes—I shall not feel at all annoyed should we do so."

And speaking of Hon. Mr. Martin's proposal to occupy the island as a sawmill plant, it is for a 25 years term, with privilege of renewal, any less term being regarded as ineffectual to justify the large expenditure contemplated in buildings, machinery, docks, etc. It indicates, too, in a manner, that

Mr. Ludgate's Enterprise.

Has Been Unfairly Treated by Vancouver's Council, Not the Citizens.

Mr. Martin Has No Retainer—Applying to Province for Lease.

Theodore Ludgate, of Vancouver, the gentleman whose lease of Deadman's Island for a sawmill site has been the cause of so much excitement and so many legal complications at the Terminal City, was a passenger to Victoria by last night's steamer—in company with Hon. Joseph Martin, who has advised him in the now celebrated case of possession right—and is a Driard guest. He will to-day meet the provincial government in connection with the latest development of the situation—that is, the claim of the province to ownership of the island and Stanley park reserve, his future movements being yet indeterminate to be determined by circumstances.

While disclaiming ability to furnish any information regarding his plans that could be classed as "news," Mr. Ludgate in conversation invests the dispute in which he is a central figure with several new features.

In the first place, he states that he has abandoned all negotiations that were in progress with the city council of Vancouver. He feels that he has not been treated with any degree of fairness by the city council, and he ventures the opinion that the council's conduct is not a credit to the city.

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the Dominion has taken cognizance of the naval reserve character of the park property that is a conspicuous feature of the provincial case, inasmuch as it has provided that the government may at any time the emergency may arise, take either whole or partial possession of the island or company's docks for the use of Dominion or Imperial shipping—without notice—a condition that Mr. Ludgate's associates, being British themselves, were quite willing to concede.

It is gathered from Mr. Ludgate's conversation that he has gone now as far as he proposes to go in his endeavor to centre the enterprise of which he is the proprietor, at Vancouver. Seeing an opening for such an enterprise on the Northwest coast, he came to British Columbia largely from patriotic reasons—a Canadian himself, he wanted to "come home to Canada."

There are nevertheless many other sites available, any of which offers equal advantages. Mr. Ludgate has indeed a score or more of tenders of suitable locations on both sides of the boundary line, while even since his propositions by wire to go to the city with the Vancouver proposition, being should he go to Port Blakely or to Fairhaven.

AN EVENING OF SACRED SONG. Large and Critical Audience Enjoys the Excellent Programme Provided at the Church of Our Lord.

There was an audience at once large, critical and well satisfied at the Church of Our Lord (Reformed Episcopal) yesterday evening, the occasion being a sacred concert for which arrangements for a fortnight past, and which did not in any way disappoint the most sanguine anticipations. In order that one as well as might be pleased, the church was tastefully decorated, a partial screen of gold and red drapery being placed in a semi-circle around the conductor's desk, with a profusion of tulips, wild lilies and other blossoms utilized elsewhere in the service.

The concert commenced punctually at 8.15, the singers taking their places upon the raised platform erected in the chancel for the occasion—the ladies' costumes of light tints all blending harmoniously.

Mr. Giles (who opened the concert with a solo) accompanied throughout the service, and his voice was much appreciated, and was followed by an anthem of V. Woodhouse, the organist, who was taken by Mr. J. Kingham. Mr. B. Powell's violin selection was well chosen for the occasion—the ladies' costumes of light tints all blending harmoniously.

If "With All Your Hearts" was sung by Mr. Giles, in his usual good style, and was followed by an anthem of V. Woodhouse, the organist, who was taken by Mr. J. Kingham. Mr. B. Powell's violin selection was well chosen for the occasion—the ladies' costumes of light tints all blending harmoniously.

Will Reach Twenty Million.

Detailed Estimate of Gold Output of Klondike and Stewart River.

Work Being Done on Rich Creeks of the Yukon Basin.

"The time has arrived when it is possible to give a fairly correct estimate of the gold output in the Klondike, Indian and Stewart river districts, for the season of 1898 and 1899," says the Yukon Sun. "The Sun's survey of the field and believes there will not be less than twenty or twenty-five millions taken out. It is not probable that the royalty collected will show anything like these sums, but that will not be material so far as the general prosperity of the country is concerned. The past year has been one of unusual activity, particularly in hillside and bench properties. New strikes have been made in the most unexpected places, demonstrating truly that gold is where one finds it. Many gulches which 12 months ago were considered worthless are to-day showing up wonderfully rich and are still miles of ground practically unprospected. Those who one year ago looked upon Dominion and Sulphur as largely blanks are amazed at the present prospects. Slow but continuous panning away has developed upper Dominion as second only to Fairbank, and another season will see the two in a close finish for first place among the gold-producing districts of the Yukon valley. It has been difficult to obtain absolutely reliable information concerning Stewart river district, but there is no reason to believe that the country will not ultimately prove to be that which its partisans claim. Herewith is given a summary of what work on the principal creeks, with adjacent benches and tributaries:

BONANZA. If this stream was a disappointment to many last year, it is likely to be so again, but in just the opposite way. From head to mouth the creek is being worked and prospecting is richly rewarded on claims thought by the general public to be blanks. In the eight above and below work is being pushed vigorously, and claims that were worked last year are being re-worked to great advantage now. It is not believed that bench lavens will have the same cause to complain as last year's season, when many did not make wages. The gulches joining Bonanza on the left bank have proven in most places to be rich. This is particularly true of the claims running back half a dozen from the mouth of the creek. Magnet, American, Adams and Victoria are not by any means new streams, are new in the way of work. Some of these gulches have been worked richly, and the gulches have proven a surprise, the benches are a revelation. Far up the hillside may be seen the reds of men, scores of cabins and tremendous dumps. From discovery down to the head of the creek, the hill has been worked and prospecting is richly rewarded on claims thought by the general public to be blanks. In the eight above and below work is being pushed vigorously, and claims that were worked last year are being re-worked to great advantage now. It is not believed that bench lavens will have the same cause to complain as last year's season, when many did not make wages. The gulches joining Bonanza on the left bank have proven in most places to be rich. This is particularly true of the claims running back half a dozen from the mouth of the creek. Magnet, American, Adams and Victoria are not by any means new streams, are new in the way of work. Some of these gulches have been worked richly, and the gulches have proven a surprise, the benches are a revelation. 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