POSITION CRITICAL.

Buluwayo and Its Inhabitants in Greatest Danger From Foes Within and Without.

Armament of the Place — Steps Taken to Replace the Diminishing Food Supply.

CAPETOWN, April 18.—No official statement, from any source, is worth considering for a moment if it takes the ground that Buluwayo is not in danger. Buluwayo is in the greatest danger—in in fact, ere this, the town may be in the hands of the Matabeles and one of the most terrible massacres on record may have occurred. The latest advices received from Buluwayo have greatly increased the anxiety felt for the safety of the place. Military men, scouts, Dutchmen and English, civilians of all classes, veterans and government officials, all concur in the statement that the governor of Cape Colony, Sir Hercules Robinson, has not told the truth if he has notified the home government that Buluwayo is in no danger. It is evident to everyone here that the British at Buluwayo are in a most critical position. The chief point of their weakness is in the numbers and the immensity of the hordes of Matabeles that are gathering for an attack.

Then again, large numbers of Matabeles—presumed to be friendlies—have by some excuse or other succeeded in entering the town and it is well known they have planned to rise and strike at the British as soon as the warrior Matabeles are heard outside the line of defence. Most of the Matabeles in Buluwayo got there by pretending to seek the protection of the whites and the latter were foolish enough to fall into the trap. These Matabeles are armed and an outbreak may soon occur. It is stated that Buluwayo is held by a thousand men. This is not correct. As hitherto stated in these dispatches, the number of fighting men at Buluwayo is under 900 and this is a small number compared with 15,000 Matabeles in the vicinity of the town. Three hundred are reported to have been dispatched to hold Mangwe pass, which is a steep defile with angular turnings that can be made impregnable.

Other dispatches, however, announce that a strong force of the remaining 600 whites intended to leave Buluwayo yesterday in order to attack the Matabele impi, composed of Lobengula's crack Imbezu regiment, from which native police, who have been shown to have started the rebellion, were recruited. The impi is looked upon as being the most formidable in or about Matabeleland in point of numbers and efficiency. Warriors have been secretly profiting for some time past by the drill and tactics of the police deserters, and as the latter took with them their arms and ammunition and all other arms and ammunition they could lay their hands on, the Imbezu regiment, always most formidable, are likely to prove more than a match for the small British force. In fact nobody here can understand the rashness of such a sortie being permitted, and it is feared the awful mistake of Isandula may be repeated.

The British may be enticed into the bush by a feint, and while they are there engaged with overwhelming numbers, the main body of the Matabele army may be hurled against Buluwayo and swept over it in spite of the defences and rapid-firing guns. Besides, as already stated, an attack of the Matabeles from the outside is more likely to be assisted by the rising Matabeles inside the fortifications. This has been anticipated and guarded against so far as possible, but the people predict a great disaster if the slim British force opposing 15,000 Matabeles is allowed to divide itself and engage in a sortie against the enemy. The great trouble in Buluwayo seems to be that the majority of the leaders are dashing, dare-devil men who are prone to engage an enemy first and estimate his numbers later—generally too late. In addition to the Imbezu impi, it is known that two other formidable Matabele regiments are in close proximity to Buluwayo, and it would seem that a carefully prepared plan of attack has been drawn up and is being carried out with a skill and deliberation which gives addition color to the report that the Boers are behind the uprising.

The armament of Buluwayo, according to advices received yesterday, consists of five seven pounders, one twelve and a half pounder, three Maxim guns, one Gardner, and one Nordenfelt rapid firing gun, the two latter having been sent to the front by the British flag ship St. George. In addition, there are several other field guns of little use except to consume large quantities of powder, and there are also 350 Lee-Metford rifles available, besides rifles, scouts, volunteers, etc., which are of all makes, though the majority are Winchesters and Martini-Henri's. For the latter the supply of ammunition is fair, but there were only about one million rounds of cartridges at Buluwayo, and those who have seen the Maxims and other rapid-firing guns vomiting fire at the rate of a hundred shots to the minute know that a million cartridges will not suffice to enable Buluwayo to be held for any length of time against the repeated night attacks of a fierce, persistent enemy. Then, to make matters worse, it is whispered that the million rounds of cartridges have already been greatly drawn upon, and it is hinted that supplies must reach Buluwayo shortly, or the worst may be apprehended if there is a further expenditure of ammunition. Five hundred pounds of rifles and ammunition left Mafeking on March 28, under a strong escort and this supply ought to reach Buluwayo shortly.

The food supply of Buluwayo is slowly giving out, mainly owing to the number of natives the town has to feed in addition to its white inhabitants, refugees, garrison and forces occupying the outlying posts. It is true that 18 wagons loaded with provisions are reported to have reached a spot about sixty miles from Buluwayo, where they are laagered awaiting a favorable opportunity to get into the town. The garrison has been communicated with and the escort provision train is to be strengthened, then the wagons will be pushed on to Buluwayo. Thus it will be seen that steps have been taken to relieve Buluwayo with provisions, arms, and ammunition and 500 volunteers have been hastily equipped and sent to the front. Delay, in spite of everything, must occur, and it is possible the Matabeles may capture provisions and ammunition trains, in which case the situation in Buluwayo will be desperate, indeed. It is stated, on the other hand, that the chiefs of the native tribes of Bechunaland, which the relief forces must traverse, have been perfectly peaceable in their demeanor, and are helping the government.

There is no change in the situation so far as the Boers are concerned. They are continuing their preparations apparently for a great struggle, and it is feared here that the fact that the secretary of state for the colonies, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, thought it necessary to notify President Kruger that the dispatch of reinforcements to the Cape did not imply a change in the friendly policy of Great Britain towards the Transvaal, will encourage the Boers in their idea that Great Britain is afraid of them and that it will only require a combined effort on the part of the Boers of the Transvaal, the Orange Free State and Cape Colony to drive the British out of this part of the world. The Boers boast of being able to muster about 60,000 fighting men, and they claim this force can defy the whole British army.

PERSECUTED MISSIONARIES.

CONSTANTINOPLE, April 18.—Telegrams from Bitlis, Eastern Turkey, state that the house of Rev. Geo. P. Knapp and Rev. Royal M. Coyle, missionaries of the American Board of Foreign Missions, of Boston, has been blockaded by the Turkish government in order that their servants may not be allowed to go and come from the market. On March 15 orders were given by the Turkish government requiring that they and their families should all leave Bitlis by the southern route. The roads were then impassable. The missionaries heartily acknowledged the activity of Mr. Riddle, the United States charge d'affaires, in securing the nullification of the order issued on the 26th of March for the expulsion of Messrs. Knapp and Cole and their families, and the zeal of Sir Phillip Currie, the British ambassador, in supporting Mr. Riddle's demands.

Sir Phillip Currie informed the Turkish minister for foreign affairs that the American missionaries co-operated with Great Britain in distributing relief and he could not see them driven away. It is further learned that on February 27 fifty-seven Armenian prisoners in Bitlis were released after being confined, most of them for months. With a few exceptions all were leading men. Among them was the oldest and foremost Armenian Protestant. His brother and son, head teachers in the boys' high school, American board, were both killed and for four months he had not been allowed to see his family. He was the only man who could not be found to sign an address of thanksgiving to the sovereign, saying that the only thing he could express himself as thankful for was that the rest had not been killed. When released and they were called upon to pray for the long life of the Sultan with cheers, he kept silent, saying that his heart was broken and that he could not join.

Depositions have been made against the Rev. Geo. P. Knapp, charging him with having planned and led an attack upon a mosque and having used the school bell for giving a signal for an attack on October 25th, 1895; with being responsible for the slaughter of 500 or more people and for plundering thousands upon thousands lires worth of property from the markets of Bitlis. The timely telegram from the United States Minister, Mr. Alexander T. Terrell, a few weeks ago, saved him from being forcibly seized and cast into prison. Should the Turkish government decline to follow up the case, then it would be feasible for the United States to demand damages for libel. The claim for an indemnity for the assault in 1883 of Mousa Bey, on the Rev. George P. Knapp, and upon Dr. Reynolds, now of Van, Eastern Turkey, was made but has never been paid. The indemnity for the murder of Mr. Lenz, the American bicyclist, is another unsatisfied claim.

CROPS DAMAGED.

TACOMA, April 16.—Grain dealers have reports that frost has damaged some wheat in both the Palouse and Walla Walla grain districts. The wheat took a start during the warm weather in February, rendering it tender enough to be nipped by March frosts. The acreage will not be lessened in consequence, as the farmers are all re-sowing with spring wheat. Otherwise the prospects are good for a large yield. There was a larger snowfall in the Big Bend district, which served to thoroughly protect the grain. Growers write that the wheat acreage in the Big Bend country will be 50 per cent. greater this year than last.

FRUIT DAMAGED.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 17.—Severe frosts during the last two nights have caused much damage to fruit in orchards in the centre of the state. A dispatch from Fresno says that much damage has been done in the vineyards there. Two-thirds of the grape crop in the vicinity of Calistoga was destroyed. Cherries, apricots and prunes suffered from the frost in the vicinity of San Jose. Frost had a killing effect on the grape vines in the vicinity of Stockton, and vineyard men declare that there will not be half a crop of grapes from the neighboring counties.

ANTICOSTI SETTLEMENT.

HAVRE, April 18.—The steamer Savoy, freighted by Gaston Menier, of chocolate fame, for Anticosti, in the estuary of the St. Lawrence, where M. Menier intends to attempt colonization, left here on Wednesday laden with a large quantity of material, agricultural implements and tools of all kinds and fifty emigrants of different trades. Mr. Menier has appointed as the governor of the island M. Commettant, former commissioner of the trans-Atlantic company at a salary of 25,000 francs. Another inhabitant of Havre, M. Landrieu, is to be associated with him in the work of administration. The cost of this attempt at colonization is estimated at 7,000,000 francs.

Drive out the impurities from your blood with Hood's Sarsaparilla and thus avoid that tired, languid feeling and even serious illness

NEWS OF THE PROVINCE

Officers of British Columbia Fire Underwriters Association—Opposition Meeting.

Fancy Dress Ball at Cowichan—Mining Recorder for Grand Forks.

(Special to the COLONIST.)

VANCOUVER.

VANCOUVER, April 18 — A petition signed by 100 prospectors and miners has been forwarded to the gold commissioner, asking for the establishment of a mining recorder at Grand Forks, and that P. McCallum be made recorder.

All the argument in the trial of the Edison General Electric Co. vs. Edmonds et al. has been heard before Chief Justice Davie but his judgment was reserved.

Capt. Mellon, agent for Bureau Veritas, has recommended the steam barge Fraser for a class in the Record A 1. 7 years, inland waters, which has been sustained. Capt. Mellon says ship-building must come to the front here in time.

At a meeting of electors opposed to the present government held last night in the Sullivan hall, Rev. Mr. Maxwell, whose name has been prominently mentioned as the probable candidate in the Liberal interests for this district, advised the meeting that after mature consideration and considering the interests of his friends, many of whom had incurred financial obligations in connection with his church, he had decided to continue in his present charge. A Liberal convention is to be held on May 28.

WESTMINSTER.

WESTMINSTER, April 18.—At the annual meeting of the Fire Underwriters' Association of British Columbia the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, R. P. Rithet; 1st vice-president, J. J. Banfield, 2nd vice-president, F. G. Turner; secretary, J. G. Elliott. The executive committee are, for Vancouver: S. O. Richards, W. E. Gravely and D. C. McGregor; for New Westminster: T. R. Pearson, F. J. Hart and A. E. Malins; for Victoria: Robt. Ward & Co., Lowenberg, Harris & Co. and R. Hall.

A team of ten men to-day fired a "simultaneous" rifle match against a team firing in Hongkong. The distances were 200, 400 and 500 yards and the team scored 916. The Hongkong scores will come by mail.

DUNCAN.

DUNCAN, April 17.—W. F. Burton came up from Victoria on yesterday's train to whip the Cowichan river.

Mr. and Mrs. Edgson have returned from a pleasant visit to Seattle.

Mr. and Mrs. S. Bice arrived from the Mainland on Thursday and will assist in the management of the Lakeside hotel, Cowichan lake.

The fancy dress ball of the Cowichan Football Club was held at the Agricultural hall last evening. There was a large attendance who kept up the dance until an early hour to the music of the Bantly band. The room was effectively decorated with flags and evergreens, and the affair, enlivened with the gay dresses of a large assembly, went off with great spirit. The following is a partial list of those present:

Alexander Mr., 19th century; Alexander Mrs., nurse; Alexander Mr. J., 19th century; Alexander Mrs. J., summer.

Blyth Mr. J. H., chimney sweep; Bell Mr. A. J., collier; Baynes Reed Miss, poudree.

Carmichael Mrs., nurse.

Duncan Mrs., lily; Dickson, Miss, Scotch girl; Dickson Dr., army surgeon.

Elkington Mr., chef; Elkington Mrs., poudree; Edgson Miss F., joy; Edgson Miss R., spring; Elliott Mr. G., army; Edmunds Mrs., Italian girl.

Fall Mr., black and white; Foot Mrs., fairy queen.

Hadwen Mr., French fisherman; Hadwen Mr. S., ——; Hadwen Miss G., Brittany peasant; Hadwen, Miss A., shepherdess; Hadwen Miss S., Alsatian; Hall Miss, spring; Harris Mr., Bob Acres; Harrison H. R., Southern planter; Harrison, Mrs., poudree.

Jackson F., monk; Jaynes Miss, Turkish girl; Jones Mr., ——.

Keast, Mr. H., sailor; Kingston, Miss, Ireland; Kingston, Mr. C., sailor boy.

Lomas, Miss, daffodil; Lomas, Mr. F., clown; Leather Mrs., poudree.

Musgrave, Mr. J., South American; Musgrave, Mr. R., 19th century; Musgrave, Mr. N., engineer; Musgrave, Miss, Fair Maid of Perth; Mutter, Mr. J. I., 42nd Highlander; Mutter, Mr. A., Highlander; Melling, Mr., South American; Melling, Mrs., poudree; Marshall, Mr., Lord Chancellor.

Prevost, Mr., Austrian hussar; Price, Mr. E., cricket.

Robotham, Miss L., Hindoo; Reece, Miss, night.

Smithe, Mrs., Mary Queen of Scots; Stanhope, Mr., cricket; Sutton, Mrs., black diamond; Shaw, Mr., Mephistopheles.

Wilmer, Mr., wizard; Worlock, Miss, Italian girl; Whitome, Mr., Turk; Whitome, Mr., Luna; Wolfenden, Miss, Empire; Wilson, Mr., 19th century.

KAMLOOPS.

(From the Sentinel.)

County court will be held here on the 8th May.

S. Tingley, of Ashcroft, manager for the British Columbia Express Company, returned a few days ago from Nova Scotia. He had not visited his old home for 23 years.

There is every indication that Shuswap is at last to have a freight shed. The material is on the ground, so we look for the building soon. Last week we spoke of the good work being done along the road, but much to the surprise of the settlers here the men have gone, and there are some bad washouts in the road to be fixed yet. One of these places was not over one hundred yards from where the team was working.

TORONTO, April 17.—A fire at the American Electro Plating Company's building this morning at 1 o'clock did damage to the extent of $2,500.

SCANDALOUS TACTICS.

Hollow Liberal Pretensions That They Had No Desire to Obstruct Remedial Bill.

The Week's Record—Mr. Mara and the Committee Chairmanship.

OTTAWA, April 13.—The most extraordinary parliamentary sitting ever held in this or any other country closed at midnight on Saturday night, after the Commons of Canada had been in continuous session from three o'clock on Monday afternoon, the 6th instant—a period of 129 hours. During the whole of this time the only cessation in the flood of talk was during the dinner hour, from 6 to 8 o'clock each evening. The government had no other course open to it than to ask the house to sit continuously, if any progress was to be made with the remedial bill; but, even after resorting to such an extreme measure as this, the house has been practically set at defiance by a few men. One of the most impudent assertions which has been frequently made during the week by the Liberals is that they had no desire to obstruct the business of parliament, and yet when one looks over the pages of Hansard and sees the list of Grits who have filled in time during the past week the number is surprising. Here are a few only: Messrs. Mulock, Semple, Paterson (Brant), McMullen, Cartwright, Fraser, Martin, Somerville, Yeo, Flint, Bowman, Edgar, Casey, Campbell, Charlton, Innes, McMillan, McDonald (Huron), Davies (P. E. I.), Gibson, Forbes and Bain. These are only a few compared with the number of Grits who spoke, and many of these gentlemen whose names are enumerated above, addressed the house not once only but

HALF A DOZEN TIMES

or more in a day. And yet Mr. Laurier has the refreshing effrontery to get up and say that the Liberals are not obstructing. One of these members had the colossal impudence on Saturday night to assert that more talking had emanated from the Conservative benches than from the Liberal side. Messrs. O'Brien and McCarthy still hold seats on the ministerial side, but they are no longer counted as Conservatives. Messrs. Wallace, Sproule and McNeill have done their fair share towards blocking the remedial bill, but they do so from principle and not like the Liberals from purely factious opposition. But even these three cannot commence to compare for long-winded speeches with men like Martin, Casey and Charlton, who talk lengthily on every imaginable subject under the sun. Speaking of Mr. Charlton reminds one of the scandalous exhibition which he gave on Wednesday afternoon when he brought the Bible into the house and made it a subject of comment which led to unseemly interruption. The Eastern press has strongly condemned Mr. Charlton for his indecency.

One of the most interesting points raised during the week was at a time when Mr. Mara was acting chairman while Mr. Bergeron was obtaining some well-needed rest. Mr. McCarthy raised the point that Mr. Mara was improperly acting as chairman. He said that under the authority of the rules of the house when the house went into committee the Speaker must call to the chair Mr. Bergeron, the permanent chairman of committees. He knew of no authority by which Mr. Mara could occupy that position. The point was discussed for some time, and then Mr. Mara gave his ruling. He said that under English rules if from fatigue or other reasons the chairman found it necessary to vacate the chair temporarily, he might

CALL ANOTHER MEMBER

to fill his place, mention being made of the fact in the reports of the proceedings of the committee. He cited an opinion given by Sir F. Palgrave, clerk of the English House of Commons, to substantiate his view. In his (Mara's) opinion it was clear that the chairman had the right to call upon any other member to take his place, and that the proceedings were not voided by his so doing. Thereupon Mr. McCarthy challenged Mr. Mara's ruling and appealed to the House. Mr. Mara was sustained on a vote of 93 to 25, it being significant that all the French Liberals, with the exception of Mr. Langelier, voted to uphold Mr. Mara's decision. Many compliments are being showered on the member for Yale for the creditable manner in which he came out of the incident. Mr. McCarty, so to speak, pounced upon him without a moment's notice, and a temporary chairman with less knowledge of parliamentary rules and less presence of mind might have complicated the situation greatly. Mr. Mara's experience in the chair in the legislature of British Columbia stood him in good stead at a critical moment. If he had ruled any other way than as he did all the previous work of the committee of the whole on the bill would have been practically nullified, because in the 70 or 80 hours that had passed the chairman (Mr. Bergeron) had to call to his assistance frequently either Mr. Mills, of Annapolis, Mr. Mara or Mr. Joncas. Then, if Mr. Mara had not given a ruling at all, and he might reasonably have been excused from so doing, a reference could have been made to the Speaker to get his decision, but in that event the question would have been debateable. As it was, the promptitude with which Mr. Mara decided the question shut off any further debate. Mr. McCarthy had no alternative left but to appeal from the decision, and immediately the Speaker put the question. Messrs. McCarthy and Davies were anxious to argue the question with the Speaker, but the Speaker would not stand any trifling with the rules. He was very firm on the matter and shut off the two talkative members, firmly but courteously. British Columbia, in the person of Mr. Mara, came out on top in this incident.

We are now entered upon the last week but one of this remarkable session. When the house meets to-day it will be ostensibly for the purpose of resuming consideration of the remedial bill, but as only eleven working days remain to parliament the government will have to seriously consider what is to be done with the business still on the order paper. A good batch of

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES

have been brought down, this being money required for the public service of the country before the 30th June. The question not unnaturally arises as to the position in which the public service will be supposing this money is not voted. The government will expect to get a certain amount through but they will have to take some account of the time left to them. Speaking for a week ahead, therefore, it seems impossible to conceive that the remedial bill will be under consideration until next Saturday. The general impression is that after a few days, the government will announce the withdrawal of the measure.

There seems to be no question now about this bill being one of the main topics of discussion at the coming general elections, but if the Liberals expect to make capital out of their action of the past two weeks and the session which is about to close, they will be woefully mistaken. They may gain a few seats in Ontario, but in Quebec, in place of the even representation of to-day, a prominent Liberal admitted to me that it would be a matter of surprise if when the polling was over it was found that the rouges had secured 20 seats out of the 65 in that province. The Maritime Provinces are taking little or no interest in the school question, and they will return once more a solid contingent of Conservatives to Ottawa. Even as regards Ontario public opinion within the past few weks has changed in favor of the government. The people are pretty well tired of the whole question, and when it is sifted to the bottom and found to consist of only the giving to 10,000 poor people on the banks of the Red river their undoubted rights, there will be an increasing disposition in the premier province to concede this and bury the hatchet, it is hoped forever.

RATES TO AUSTRALIA.

The C.P.R. Puts in a Through Rate Undercutting All Competitors.

CHICAGO, April 18.—The Canadian Pacific has put in a through rate from the Atlantic sea-board points to Australia, via Vancouver, which is $10 less than the Southern Pacific rate via San Francisco. The latter road has appealed to the various passenger associations throughout the country to enable it to place the American overland lines on an equality with the Canadian one in regard to these rates. The trunk line committee has signified its willingness to do so, provided the other associations do the same. The Southern Pacific has asked the chairman of the trans-continental and the Western Passenger Association to afford it relief. He has replied that the trans-continental association agreement does not take jurisdiction of trans-Pacific rates, and that so far as it is concerned, the aggrieved road may make what rate it pleases. The Western Passenger Association agreement covers the business, but under it, the roads, members thereof, or any of them, may have the relief necessary to maintain equality on making proper application for it. The only difficulty in the matter is in regard to divisions of the through rate. The Southern Pacific wants divisions made on the basis of a through overland rate $64 first class and $58.50 second class. The Western roads claim they are entitled to divisions on the basis of through overland rates of $68.75 first class, and $62.75 second class, and there the matter stands. While the dispute remains unsettled, the Canadian Pacific continues to derive benefit from its $10 differential.

BRITAIN'S CROWN JEWELS.

LONDON, April 18.—Some alarm was caused in the Tower of London a few nights ago by the rumor that a plot to steal the crown jewels had been discovered. In any case, whether the report was founded on fact or not, it seems there is no doubt of unusual precautions having been taken to guard the regalia. These jewels are kept in the Wakefield tower, where Henry VI is believed to have been murdered. They are valued at £3,000,000 and consist in the main of valuable ornaments, including St. Edward's crown (made for Charles II), Queen Victoria's crown (containing 2,783 diamonds), the large ruby in front of it said to have been given to the Black Prince in 1367 by Don Pedro of Castille, and was worn by Henry V on his helmet at the battle of Agincourt. Then there is the Prince of Wales' crown of pure gold without precious stones, the Queen Consort's crown, the Queen's crown, made for the wife of James II; St. Edward's staff of gold, 4½ feet long, weighing about ninety pounds, the royal sceptre, Queen Victoria's sceptre, the curtana or pointless sword of mercy, swords of justice, coronation bracelets, royal spurs, coronation oil vessel or ampulla, in the shape of an eagle; the salt cellar of state, a reproduction or medal of the white tower; silver baptismal font, silver wine fountain, the insignia of the orders of the Bath, Garter, Thistle, Victoria Cross, etc., together with many other relics of the past or present. They are contained in glass cases protected with strong iron cages. The plot is said to have been recently discovered.

This brings to mind the nearly successful attempt made by Col. Thomas Blood, a disbanded officer of the Parliamentary army in 1671, to carry off the crown jewels. He had succeeded in wounding and binding the keeper of the jewel office, and managed to escape out of the tower with St. Edward's crown, but was captured, and subsequently pardoned by Charles II, who strange to say, granted him an estate worth £500 a year in Ireland. Col. Blood had previously seized the Duke of Ormonde in his coach, one night on St. James street, and carried him away with the intention of hanging the Duke at Tyburn, for defeating the conspiracy of the Colonel to surprise Dublin Castle.

HE WANTS OTHERS TO KNOW.

DEAR EDITOR:

Please state in your valued journal, that if any sufferer from nervous Debility, Lack of Energy and Ambition, Lost Manhood, etc., will write me in confidence, I will inform him by sealed letter, free of charge, how to obtain a perfect cure. I ask for no money, have nothing to sell. I know how to sympathize with these sufferers and am only too glad to be able to assist them. I promise everyone absolute secrecy and as I do not, of course, wish to expose myself either, I do not give my name. If you desire to get well, send stamp and address simply: P.O. Box 388, London, Ont.

SHIPS AND SHIPPING.

U. S. Behring Sea Patrol Are Now on the Way North from San Francisco.

Steamer "Umatilla" Runs Down a Whale—Northern Bound Steamships Have Big Freight.

A Washington press dispatch says: "The revenue cutters Rush, Perry and Bear have sailed from San Francisco to Port Townsend. Capt. C. L. Hooper will assume command of the Behring sea fleet at Port Townsend to-morrow. The headquarters of the commanding officers of the fleet will be at Sitka from May until about June 30, and at Unalaska or Dutch harbor from July 1 until the disbandment of the fleet about September 20. The Bear will make her usual annual cruise to the Arctic ocean and on arrival at Point Barrow the commander has been instructed to break up the refugee station at that place, the stores and property having been sold. It is said the ice packs in the Arctic have rendered the station useless, as the whalers are not able to reach a point nearer than 400 miles of the station, hence its discontinuance."

INTERESTING REMINISCENCES.

In connection with a paragraph appearing in yesterday's issue, Mr. T. Pamphlet writes the COLONIST as follows: "In your shipping news of this date you state that Capt. Brown, of the Tanner, tells an interesting story of the history of his vessel—that 30 years ago the vessel brought the first load of machinery to the Hastings mill at Vancouver from Alberni. Allow me to inform Capt. Brown that he is wrong, for the first load of machinery, and I believe the only one, was brought out from England on the bark Kent, Capt. G. Naughton, who was for many years, after the loss of his vessel, shipping master at the port of San Francisco."

THE "STRATHLEVIN" AWAY.

With 1,500 tons of flour, besides several hundred tons of general freight below her decks, the steamship Strathlevin, of the Northern Pacific line, took her departure for China and Japan last night, probably not to return to Victoria. If the Hankow is in readiness to take her place on the line, the Strathlevin will be taken off the route as she had only been chartered to make one trip while the former was undergoing repairs in the dock at Hongkong. The Strathlevin arrived at the outer wharf from the Sound early yesterday afternoon and received, besides some freight, several Japanese and Chinese passengers.

COLLIDED WITH A WHALE.

The steamer Umatilla, just arrived from San Francisco, had a peculiar experience when a few miles off Cape Flattery, at that point striking a large whale and almost severing it. The jar was sufficient to throw passengers from their berths. As the whale was fastened on the bow it was necessary for the ship to reverse her engines and back away. The whale was estimated to be between fifty and sixty feet in length.

MARINE NOTES.

Repairs to the steamship Transit, which collided with the monitor Monterey at Seattle, will be made at Tacoma. The contract for putting the steamer in seaworthy condition has been let to the Puget Sound Dry Dock Company, of Quartermaster. Enough of her cargo has been taken out of her forward hold to lift her prow high in the water, and the injured portion is perfectly accessible. Eight of the Transit's plates on each side of her prow will have to be replaced by new ones. A new stem will be put on the prow. The estimate cost is $5,000, and it will take three weeks to complete the job.

In place of the City of Topeka, the regular liner on the route, the steamer Mexico sailed for Alaska yesterday morning, a little later than the hour announced. She carried a very large number of passengers and included in her freight was the machinery for the Berner's Bay Mining and Milling Co. at Berner Bay.

ARMENIAN RELIEF.

While all over the Christian world the appeal of the distressed Armenians for relief is being heard and answered, women of Victoria feel that it is their duty to lend some assistance to the cause in which all civilized communities are interested, and after careful consideration a plan of action has been decided upon. The proposal of Victoria lady friends of the Armenians is to get up a five cent subscription—so that everyone may assist—and to forward the money, when the subscription shall have been completed, to the Countess of Aberdeen, by whom it will be sent to His Grace the Duke of Westminster. Mrs. D. W. Higgins has consented to act as secretary of this five cent fund, and to her all subscriptions should be addressed. The following extract from the appeal of a young Armenian woman, addressed to English-speaking mothers, wives and daughters all over the world, is enough to stir with pity and indignation all lovers of justice and liberty:

"We suffered in patience when our corn, butter and honey were seized, and we were left poor and hungry; we bowed our heads in sorrowful resignation when our kith and kin were cut down by the Kurds and the Turks. Are we also to be silent and submissive now that our race is being poisoned at its source? Now that child-mothers and baby-daughters are being defiled and brutalised by savages? Say, Christian sisters, is there in truth no remedy? . . . . We ask for no revenge, for no privileges; we ask only that . . . but need I be more explicit to English matrons, wives and sisters? . . . . Although we are Armenians we are Christians; I was brought up in a Protestant Christian school, as you were; . . . . For the love of God, then, whom we worship in common, help us, Christian sisters, before it is too late, and take the thanks of the mothers, wives, sisters and daughters of my people, and with them the gratitude of one for whom, in spite of her youth, death would come as a happy release."

This letter is signed by Lucine Mudsegh.