FIRST FROM DAWSON

Jack Carr Who Left the Klondike Centre on November 21 Reaches Victoria

Trails Are in Good Condition with the Exception of Stretches of Open Water.

Jack Carr, the Yukon mail carrier, who last winter distinguished himself by making the trip from St. Michael to Skagway over the snow and ice, arrived in this city last evening from Seattle, which city he reached on Sunday, the first man out from Dawson this winter. He and his partner, Charles Yager, left Dawson on November 21, and passed on the road fully 100 men, including the Canadian police and Arctic Express Company's mail carriers, who started a week ahead of them. The Canadian mail carriers lost the mail they were bringing out by the breaking up of an ice gorge six miles below the mouth of the Hootalinqua. The men were in a cabin eating their lunch when the ice broke, carrying the sleighs and mail down the river. A boat was launched and the mail was recovered, but lost again by the capsizing of the boat. The mail included the official letters for the government and the bank letters and a considerable amount of money—just how much is not known. Mr. Carr passed the Arctic Express with the general mail above the Big Salmon. Their mail had also had a "baptism," but how badly damaged it was they could not say.

Considering the condition of the trail, Messrs. Carr and Yager made a very fast trip. For the first 400 miles, or to the mouth of the Hootalinqua, the going was good, the ice being hard and smooth. From there on, however, the sleighs were of little use, and the men and dogs had to make their way along the banks of the rivers and lakes as best they could. The Thirty-Mile river was wide open, and it took four days to get around it. From the foot of Lake Lebarge to the White Horse Rapids there was another stretch of good ice, but from the rapids to the foot of Marsh lake more open water was struck. There was also twenty miles of open water on Lake Bennett, but time was made up on the Skagway trail, which was in splendid condition. The two men brought out mail for the Alaska Commercial and North American Trading & Transportation companies and private individuals, making a package of 700 letters, and also about fifty pieces of nugget jewellery, sent as Christmas presents from Dawsonites to their friends on the "outside."

There is an abundance of provisions in Dawson, Mr. Carr says, although there is somewhat of a shortage of butter, milk and sugar. In November a butter trust was organized, and the price of that commodity shot up to $2, only, however, to drop to $1.50 in a couple of weeks, with prospects of a still further drop to $1. Beef, mutton, pork, veal, chickens, turkeys and oysters are plentiful and a good meal can be obtained for $1, quite a change to the conditions prevailing a year ago. There is a glut of whiskey on the market, and a few weeks ago 8,000 gallons were sold at $8, and "Black" Sullivan, of this city, offered to deliver 1,000 gallons at $7.50. There is very little drinking in Dawson; a drunken man is seldom or never seen on the street, there is no crime, and on the whole the centre of the big mining camp is the most orderly city on the continent.

The police took a census of the district drawing supplies from Dawson and found that there were 16,000 men within its bounds. Mr. Carr says another 10,000 would include the whole population of the Yukon valley from St. Michael to Lake Bennett. Of this number four or five thousand are in Dawson, the balance of the Klondike population now being at work on the creeks. Many of the new creeks will be worked this winter, and Mr. Carr predicts that on this account the output would be doubled. The only two new creeks of which he had personal knowledge were Dominion and Sulphur, and they were turning out well. Very good reports had also been received from Tibbitte creek, 110 miles above Dawson, but the reports from Stewart river were not so good. The weather was favorable for mining, having been severely cold during the week before Mr. Carr's departure. It was never less than 38 below, and on the morning he left it was 58 below.

Commissioner Ogilvie is getting along famously, according to the late arrivals. He is well liked and is getting things into proper shape. "Had he been there two years ago," said Mr. Carr "the Klondike would have been a better country than it is." The new post office, under the new postmaster, is a big improvement, there being now no delay in the delivery of mail.

Gold Commissioner Senkler and the officials who accompanied him and who were frozen in twenty miles above Fort Selkirk, were met on November 25, twelve miles below the fort, making good time on the ice. As the trail was good, they should have reached their destination by November 30.

By this time 500 men are probably on their way from Dawson, said Mr. Carr. Fully 2,000 will come out over the ice, but there will not be any suffering, as the police and Arctic Express Company have established posts along the river, where men can spend the night and get provisions. There are not likely to be many going the other way, for the police have ordered that with the exception of men belonging in the country no one will be allowed to enter without at least $200 in cash and 600 pounds of provisions, or $500 in cash and 200 pounds in provisions.

The list of disasters so far reported is also very small. The most sensational death is that of Dominion Surveyor J. H. Caldenhead, on October 27. He fell through the ice into the Klondike river near Dawson and was unable to pull himself out. He slowly froze to death, with his head sticking out of the water, his hands spread out on the ice and some important field notes thrown back from the hole. One drowning is reported, but no name is given.

According to Mr. Carr, the two Indians committed of the murder of William Meehan and Edward Henderson, who killed his partner, were secured a new lease of life through the intervention of a friendly official. The executions were to have taken place on November 1, and it struck the aforesaid official that that was All Saints day and an official holiday. Executions, he contended, could not be carried out on a holiday, and therefore the executions were postponed until March 1.

Mr. Carr says $200,000 will cover the loss by the big Dawson fire.

Carr will leave Victoria on January 7, carrying mail for the companies and for private individuals. He will endeavor to best all previous records from Victoria to Dawson.

CHRONIC ECZEMA CURED.

One of the most chronic cases of eczema ever cured is the case of Miss Gracie Ella Aiton, of Hartland, N.B. On a sworn statement Mr. Aiton says: I hereby certify that my daughter Gracie Ella was cured of eczema of long standing by using four boxes of Dr. Chase's Ointment. William Thistle, druggist, of Hartland, also certifies that he sold four cured Gracie Ella.

AGAIN RESIGNED.

The Seat for Alberni Reported To Have Been Once More Vacated.

Complications in the composition of the new legislature grow apace, the latest novelty being the announcement that Mr. Neill, the twice-elected member for Alberni, has again resigned his seat, this time to avoid unseating for bribery at the just disposed of contest in which he was opposed by Mr. Ward. The point is that some friend of Mr. Neill was under incarceration for a misdemeanor, and Mr. Neill paid his fine in time for the man to cast his vote. Mr. Neilson, the member-elect in East Kootenay, is also reported to have resigned on some technicality with the intention of being again a candidate. Neither of the seats can in any probability be filled in time for the constituency to be represented at the opening of the house.

CIVIC ELECTIONS.

Next Monday Nominations Will Be Received and the Elections Take Place on Following Thursday.

Nominations for mayor, aldermen and school trustees take place on Monday next at the City hall between twelve and two, and the elections on the following Thursday. The polling booths for the mayor and school trustees will be in the police court room at the City hall and that for aldermen for the three wards at the city market. So far but two gentlemen have announced themselves as candidates for mayor, the present occupant of the office, Mayor Redfern, and Mr. Walter Morris. The latter has opened committee rooms on Douglas street and already an active canvass has been commenced on his behalf. Mayor Redfern's friends are working quietly.

There will not be any lack of candidates for aldermen. Most of the present board have signified their intention of again standing, and it is quite possible that every one of them will be in the field. "New material" has been rather slow in asserting itself.

But three members of the school board retire this year, those whose terms are up being Chairman Hayward, Mrs. Jenkins and Dr. Lewis Hall. It is understood that all will be candidates for re-election. The only other candidate so far in the field is Mr. W. J. Hanna.

A HEAVY PENALTY.

Case of Extreme Cruelty Before the Police Magistrate.

Ill-used dumb animals will find a friend in Magistrate Hall when their cases are brought before him by Mr. Dallain, president of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, who has already done an immense amount of good in connection with the society. There was a very painful case before the magistrate yesterday, where a youth named Demerey, living on Cadboro Bay road, had treated a pony in a most brutal manner. Already weakened almost to the point of collapse by hunger and ill-usage, the poor animal could no longer travel,

HAVANAS FOR VICTORIA.

This City Figures Most Prominently in Direct Importations for Past Month.

The Canadian Cigar and Tobacco Journal for December contains a statement of the imports of cigars from Havana via New York for the period from November 15 to December 10, in which Victoria takes a very prominent place. The smokers of this city will, no doubt, note with satisfaction the proportionately heavy importations consigned for their use, and that only one city in Canada figures for a larger share. The statement is as follows:

	Cases.
Hudson's Bay Co., Victoria	25
E. A. Gerth, Montreal	17
J. Rattrey & Co., Montreal	13
Chas. Legro & Co., Peterboro	8
H. A. Nelson & Sons, Montreal	8
Hudson's Bay Co., Winnipeg	5
G. W. Muller, Toronto	5
Wilson Bros, Victoria	4
A. E. Morris, Montreal	3
Morris Michaels, Montreal	3
Neilles & Co., Toronto	3
Scales & Wilson, Toronto	3
A. Harris, Winnipeg	2
Hiram Walker & Sons, Walkerville	2
German Consul, Montreal	1

PECULIAR AND PERTINENT.

Coffee was not known to the Greeks or Romans.

The Hebrew cubit is a little less than 22 inches.

Good Friday was called Long Friday by the Saxons.

Among the Egyptians embalming ceased about 700 A.D.

At Thebes the annual average rise of the Nile is 40 feet.

The Persians did not punish the first offence of murder.

Before 1840 men almost universally had their faces clean shaven.

Hats were first manufactured in England by Spaniards in 1510.

Paris alone, during the winter season, spends about $250,000 on lillies of the valley.

It is said that Varola, a surgeon of Bologna, discovered the optic nerve in 1538.

A Port Angeles Couple.—At the residence of Mr. Bickerdyke, Yates street, Frederick G. Lease and Clara A. Gordon, both of Port Angeles, were yesterday joined in marriage by Rev. P. C. L. Harris.

ARE YOU BILIOUS?

Dr. Chase's Kidney Liver Pills Make the Liver Active and Cure Biliousness.

A sluggish liver does not properly filter the bile from the blood, and when this poisonous matter goes through the body in the circulation the whole system is Biliousness, headache, dyspepsia, a pale, sallow complexion, a bitter taste in the mouth, lack of energy and depressed spirits are symptoms of a disordered liver.

The only rational way to treat biliousness is to make the liver active. Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills are the most effective cure ever recommended for biliousness, because they act directly on the liver, and make it strong and vigorous in its work of removing the bile from the blood.

Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills cure all diseases arising from torpid, sluggish liver or kidneys. One pill a dose, 25 cents a box. At all dealers, or Edmanson, Bates & Co., Toronto.

Dr. Chase's new illustrated book, "The Ills of Life and How to Cure Them," sent free to your addres.

PLUMPER PASS.

Mayne Island School Children's Christmas Entertainment.

Galiano, Dec. 26.—The Mayne Island school house proved totally inadequate for the reception of the people who had gathered on the occasion of the closing exercises of that school, which took place on the evening of the 23rd instant. The decorations were complete, arches of evergreens and wreaths of ivy and other foliage being mainly responsible in giving the schoolroom its cheerful transformation. As in the past, the Mayne Island juveniles sustained their reputation for knowledge, intelligence and tact, and an interesting programme was presented to the delighted audience, who gave vent to their approval by well deserved applause. The dialogues and part songs were especially good, whilst the recitations were harmonious and befitting the occasion. In this connection the names of Miss Maud Sinclair and Miss Gertie Jack must be mentioned in helping to contribute towards this enjoyment. A Christmas tree was generously provided by friends, each child receiving a handsome present, Santa Claus being present to distribute the offerings. Speeches were afterwards made by Rev. Cannon Paddon and Mr. A. M. Johnston, who congratulated the children on their achievements. Mr. J. W. Sinclair, the teacher, is deserving of praise for his painstaking efforts in training the scholars, and for bringing about so pleasant an evening, which was thoroughly appreciated and enjoyed by those present.

GALIANO.

Galiano, Dec. 27.—The closing exercises of the Galiano Island public school took place on Wednesday afternoon, the 23rd inst. There was a large attendance of friends from adjoining islands whilst the school room presented a gay and pretty appearance, being decorated with festoons of evergreens and ferns, with suitable mottoes here and there. The examination was conducted in commendable style, the children acquitting themselves in a praiseworthy manner, their knowledge in all classes gaining for them the frequent applause of their listeners. In elementary studies the young minds had been carefully trained and the perfect discipline that prevailed throughout the lessons was a noteworthy feature of the afternoon's performance. A carefully prepared programme consisting of recitations, songs, speeches and dialogues was in progress during the evening after which Santa Claus put in an appearance and helped in distributing the presents from off the Christmas tree. Addresses to the children were afterwards made by visiting friends, the teacher, Miss L. M. Sylvester, coming in for a share of the attention, receiving eulogy on the result of the whole proceedings which had terminated so successfully. Mr. Henry Georgeson, who is known as the children's friend, with his usual and wonted generosity, gave a prize to each of the successful scholars.

H. MACKLIN.

A SEALSKIN YARN.

Scrap of Alleged Diplomatic Inside History in a Mixture of Misapprehensions.

From the Spokane Spokesman-Review.

Ladies who have no sealskins will not get them this Christmas nor the next one of the predictions of Major George R. Tingle are correct. Major Tingle is a visitor at the residence of W. Scott, 2319 Mallon avenue, and having been a treasury agent at the Pribyloff islands he knows all about seals. The sealing question has been thoroughly discussed in print from time to time, but the ladies at least will want to know who is to blame for putting beyond their reach one of the coveted luxuries of life.

Major Tingle says that ex-President Benjamin Harrison and the late James G. Blaine should be exonerated from all complicity in the plot which resulted in practically abolishing sealskins. According to Major Tingle the President and secretary of state were willing to go to war to have the seals, but only one cabinet member, Tracy, agreed with them.

"In the course of the agitation of the sealing question in 1889," said Major Tingle, "there arose a cabinet crisis which nearly ended in war. The details have never been published, but they were well understood among federal officers at that time. When James G. Blaine became secretary of state he at once determined to put a stop to poaching or pelagic sealing. Cutters were given sailing orders and the commanders were instructed to seize any poachers found in Behring sea. Sir Julian Pauncefote, who was England's ambassador, called upon Mr. Blaine and asked him if he had given orders to seize Canadian cutters. Mr. Blaine said he had. Thereupon, the ambassador cabled Lord Salisbury. For a month there was a spirited correspondence by cable between Blaine and Salisbury. At length Salisbury sent this message: 'We will recover any sealing schooner you may seize, at whatever cost to your country or ours.' This message was short, but it was a practical declaration of war. President Harrison decided to leave the question to the cabinet. Only the President and Tracey were in favor of maintaining the position Secretary Blaine had taken and the United States government smoothed the matter over by not molesting the Canadians. The history of the sealing question since that time is one which is perhaps too familiar to newspaper readers, but I believe that when the Paris agreement expires England will meet the United States half way in an effort to preserve what seals are left.

Some time ago David Starr Jordan of the University of California conceived the idea of branding the seals. He believed that the United States could identify its seals in this way as rapidly as the stockmen do their cattle. Major Tingle says that the plan is not a success, because the fur grows so fast that the mark is obliterated.

"Some of these scientists go up there and stay a little while and think they know all about seals, but they are mistaken," was the terse comment of the ex-treasury agent when his attention was called to Dr. Jordan's scheme. "All the sealskins go to London," he continued, "and they do not come back to this country. The women of the United States are learning to substitute other furs for seal and it is well that they are for the prices are almost prohibitive. If the United States had shown half the spirit in dealing with the seal question that it showed in the late war, seals would have been numerous yet. The companies to whom the government granted the privilege of killing seals on the Pribyloff islands killed only the young male seals and the increase would have been fully as great as the slaughter. Our present amicable relations with England make it highly probable that some satisfactory arrangement will be made as soon as the Paris agreement expires."

HACKED WITH AN AXE

Northern Mail Carrier Foully Treated by One Whom He Sheltered and Cared For.

Big Loss of Mail Below Hootalinqua New Discoveries in Atlin District.

News has just been received from the North of a most fiendish and deliberate attempt by Otto B. Frank, a German, on a mail carrier's life. The latter, a Mr. Saundinson, was on his way out from Dawson at the time, and his would-be assassin was a man he had overtaken on the trail and had taken into his company to shelter and keep from starvation. The German was met three days out from Dawson. He said he was from Pittsburg and complained of having no money, no provisions and no clothing. A man in such straits is generally treated kindly by all on the trail and when he told Saundinson his story he was at once well provided for, the mail carrier being good hearted and a man of considerable means. The two journeyed together along the trails for several days, stopping at the stations or posts along the way, which now lie a distance of about thirty miles apart. Frank showed a disposition to be very grateful for the kindness extended to him and at camp would light the fire, prepare the food and do everything in his power to assist. Saundinson was never suspicious of him until some few hundred miles on the journey. Parties were met on the trail but of these Frank seemed anxious to avoid and did avoid as much as possible. Saundinson thought his actions strange in this regard but said nothing, and only pushed on as was his wish. One night, however, Saundinson's suspicions were more fully aroused. Wrapping himself up in his blankets and lying down for a six-hour nap, as the two travellers did turn about, he noticed a club nearby on the snow which he looked upon suspiciously. Jumping up he remarked to Frank that he was not sleepy and requested him to take his rest first while he dried the clothes. With this the German complied and the day passed without any mention being made of the incident. Next night it came Saundinson's turn to rest again. He was more drowsy this night and although not intending to fall asleep did so soon after lying down. An hour or so later he was violently awakened by a blow on the head from an axe. He raised himself, the blow having only been a glancing one, when he received four more, none of which were fatal. The axe was short two fingers, and it was due to this and his excitement no doubt that he could not strike as he intended. Saundinson was remarkably cool under the circumstances. He never once lost his presence of mind. He scrambled to his feet and remarked to his murderous friend that he must have been dreaming, making light of the whole affair. To this Frank replied that he was defending himself from an attack made on him with a knife. Knowing that he was weak from the number of blows he received and that he could be no equal in a fight for life with his antagonist, Saundinson said little more and without any angry words induced his partner to continue their journey to about 150 miles below Tagish post. Here there was a police station, where Saundinson told his story and had Frank arrested. Under lock and key the prisoner told several conflicting stories and for additional proof of his guilt, parties went back to the scene where the attempt at murder was made and took photographs of the ground. Mr. Thomas Geiger, of Victoria, who has just arrived home from Bennett and who brings the news, speaks well of Saundinson. He says he is a citizen of Los Angeles and is very highly thought of in the North. Mr. Geiger arrived down on the Faralon Saturday night and came on to Victoria the next day. He left Bennett on December 19 and reached Skagway the day following. The same day Saundinson and Jack Carr arrived with the first mail brought out from Dawson since the winter set in. They brought between them 1,500 pounds of mail, some of which Mr. Geiger posted on his arrival here. Carr, who is going to make a return trip in a few days, carrying any mail that is offering, covered the distance coming out in 25 days. This was particularly good time when it is remembered that the the lakes are unfit for travel and when it is stated that owing to the bad conditions of travel 2,000 pounds of Dawson mail lay like so much tied up freight at Bennett. For nearly three weeks the weather has been fine, the thermometer only reaching freezing point during three days of this time. So dangerous was the trail for pedestrians that for a week the police thought it advisable to stop all travel between Bennett and the summit.

Mr. Geiger also brings news of the loss of a large quantity of valuable mail 200 miles below the Hootalinqua, including the official mail and close on $1,000 in money. It was being brought out by Jack Richardson, an expert dog driver. He was told at a wood chopper's camp that the river was unsafe. The water kept piling up behind a huge barrier until it attained an elevation of fourteen or fifteen feet. Richardson had gone into the camp, leaving his dog teams and mail below on the ice. While inside he heard a thunderous noise and rushing out to investigate was in time to see his dogs carried by an immense jam of snow safely ashore. A sand embankment eight or ten feet high stood in the way of a great snow slide and was completely obliterated. During Mr. Geiger's stay at Bennett he and others picked up an unfortunate named J. R. Thompson five miles down on the ice who had not had anything to eat for two days. They first located him by means of a glass, being able at a considerable distance to see the man stand up and fall down with a frequency that indicated distress. They hastened to his rescue and found him so exhausted that he was unable to speak for two days.

Mr. Geiger has lately been in Atlin and he says that some new discoveries have recently been made that are causing quite an excitement. The strikes have been made on O'Donnell, Bear and Skoocum creeks, the latter two being found by two Indians named Taku Jack and Tigish Charley, while the first mentioned was located by a white man.

The citrates, tartrates, etc., extracted from pure fruits, act on the system with the same beneficial results as the salt contained in the juices of fresh fruits. These salts are the foundation of ABBEY'S EFFERVESCENT SALT. The scarcity of fresh fruits in winter time makes Abbey's Effervescent Salt all the more necessary to the health.

All druggists sell this standard English preparation at 60c a large bottle; trial size, 25c.

IMPERIEUSE'S SUCCESSOR.

Either the Warspite or the Terrible Will Be the Next Flagship.

A recent issue of the Naval Record contains the information from the admiralty that either H. M. S. Warspite, a sister ship to the Imperieuse and the former flagship on this station or H. M. S. Terrible, one of the two largest cruisers afloat, will be the next flagship on the Pacific station. The Imperieuse's commission expires early in March but it is said that she will leave Esquimalt next month, spending some time along the Southern coast before proceeding home. The only apparent obstacle to the sending of the Terrible to this statioin is that she is too large to enter the Esquimalt dry dock; she is an unarmored cruiser, 14,000 tons and a sister ship to H. M. S. Powerful, the flagship of the Asiatic squadron. They are the two largest cruisers in the world and can steam 22 knots an hour. One advantage of having the Terrible on this station would be that in case of necessity she could soon reach the Asiatic coast.

Admiral Palliser's successor has not yet been named, nor have the naval papers yet commenced mentioning the names of possible succesosrs.

Admiral Stephenson, formerly of this station and now in command of the Mediterranean squadron, has been seriously ill at Malta.

THEATRICAL EVENTS.

Two Important Engagements For the Coming Week.

One of the most important operatic events of this season will be the appearance here of Dorothy Morton, who brings with her an excellent organization or operatic artists, including Hubert Wilke. Mr. Eddie Webb, the well known tenor, is also in the supporting cast, as well as Mr. Nares and a half score of other principals. The ensemble includes forty voices. The costumes which were partially destroyed by fire all specially designed and represent an outlay of thousands. Miss Morton's gowns have been described by the Minneapolis and St. Paul papers as surpassing in lovelliness and richness anything seen since the days of Emma Abbott; in fact, this prima donna has been universally welcomed throughout the country as the logical successor in popularity to Miss Abbott. In addition to this she is young, of particularly attractive face and figure; and possessing a voice that surpasses in brilliancy and correctness of execution any soprano outside a very few of the most distinguished grand opera artists, whom the West never has the pleasure of hearing. The bill in Victoria will be Milocker's "The Beggar Student." It at times borders on the grand, although there are three comedy characters in it that are especially amusing and mischievous. In "The Beggar Student" Hubert Wilke will be seen in the role in which he has appeared over three thousand times, while Miss Morton appears as "Lama." The prices will be $1.50, $1, 75 cents and 50 cents, the sale of seats opening at the Victoria Book & Stationery store in Wednesday morning at 9 o'clock.

* * *

The Harry Lindley company closed the first week of their Victoria engagement yesterday evening, presenting "The Hoop of Gold" in a thoroughly capable and acceptable manner, and varying the character of the Irish comedy performance with a number of very clever specialties—the perennially popular Madeline Garcia and Mr. Harrison in songs, and the unique dancer, Atlanita, whose act on the swiftly revolving globe is something at once new and highly taking in the way of up-to-date vaudeville. This week is the last that Victorians will have the Lindley's with them, the bill being as follows:

Monday matinee—"Friends."
Monday evening—"The Castaways."
Tuesday evening—"The Pharisee."
Wednesday evening—"On to the Klondike."
Thursday evening—"The World Against Her."
Friday evening—"Confusion."
Saturday evening—"Across the Continent."

* * *

In the local vaudeville houses the last week of 1898 promises to be memorable for clean-cut clever entertainment and crowded houses. The Trilby will make a specialty of the latest and best forms of projected pictures, an exceptionally large screen being used for up-to-date stereopticon views and the cineomatograph being re-introduced with a number of new, startling and highly entertaining scenes. In addition there will be the customary musical and comedy programme introducing the popular Niners, the clever McBride and James team, and the members of the house stock.

The Delmonico has an unusually large company and offers a great diversity of attractions in the variety line. Gussie Le More—who last Christmas was the reigning favorite of Dawson City—is doing songs and dances in a very clever manner; Zephyrene is back again with her unique and original dance; Gussie Le More and Nadine Allen present a number of rattling rag-tune team songs; the Jaxson sisters are introducing many decided novelties in their acrobatic dancing; while Kittie Henley, Ella Carlington, Al F. Darcy, Baroness Von Tilse and others complete a mixed and pleasing programme.

ENGLISH LADIES FOR THE PRAIRIES.

From the Montreal Gazette.

Miss Flora Shaw, in her interesting series of letters to the London Times on the Canadian West, brings forward an idea which is likely to atttract considerable attention and may have important results. She suggests that young Englishmen coming out to the prairies should have a better chance of success if accompanied by their sisters. Miss Shaw is a keen observer and lays her fingers on the secret of failure of many of the young English gentlemen who come out to the Northwest. They are not used to shift for themselves, and suffer bitter discomforts from mere lack of experience. To use Miss Shaw's own words, "the Western cowboy maintains a higher level of cleanliness and decency about him than the young English gentleman fresh from the refinements of his father's house. There are no shacks on the prairie so dirty, so uncomfortable, so lacking in every appliance of civilization, and so unfit for human habitation as those belonging to the young English gentlemen who have tried the experiment of farming." This is plain speaking, and ought to go far towards opening the eyes of the British public to the true inwardness of many reports that farming in the Canadian Northwest does not pay. On the other hand, a realization of the underlying causes may induce Canadians to regard the remittance man more in sorrow than in anger. The change from a refined English home to a dirty uncomfortable shack takes all the heart out of a man, and the sense of his own helplessness does not mend matters. That he should take refuge in billiard rooms and drinking bars is regrettable, no doubt, but it is not surprising. If the young Englishman can be saved from this evil fate, it will be a very good thing, not only for himself, but for Canada. Miss Shaw thinks his sister can save him, if she is made of the right sort of stuff. The principal requisites are health, courage, and good temper, and Miss Shaw believes the average well-bred English girl lacks none of these. She is, like her brother, supremely ignorant of much which it is essential for her to know; but she can learn, and if she is not afraid of hard work, Miss Shaw is confident that she will make a success of it.

It is a daring proposition, but Miss Shaw is a practical person, and not unacquainted with the conditions. Before making it, she has consulted with practical people, who are thoroughly familiar with the conditions. The young English girl, like her brother, will bring good blood and breeding, which are in themselves excellent things. Even more than her brother she will bring an atmosphere of refinement, which is no less excellent. Like her brother, she suffers from a plentiful lack of experience, and Miss Shaw has done well to lay stress upon this point. The English girl is not quite so ignorant of housekeeping as her brother is of farming, but she is ignorant of housekeeping as carried on under Western conditions. Miss Shaw tells the English girl plainly that she will have to do her own cooking, cleaning, dairying, breadmaking, and washing. If she comes out prepared to do these things, and with some practical knowledge of how they are done, she will have a much better chance. In any case, she will hardly prove as helpless and incompetent a housekeeper as her brother, for every woman has some instinct of home-making. Her work, if hard, will have the interest of novelty and the sense of independence. She will probably be kept too busy to be lonely, and the fact that she is doing all this for her brother will give a feeling of companionship. It will be an experience full of interest, and though some may suffer great discomfort and even privation, the determination of the race to overcome obstacles will seldom fail. Certainly the two together will have a far better chance of success than the young Englishman alone, but there are obvious reasons why a sister will be more helpful than a wife. The value of the suggestion can only be ascertained by actual trial, but it has many points in its favor, and it seems not at all unlikely that Miss Shaw has hit upon the solution of one of the most difficult problems in the settlement of the Northwest.

THE HOLLY TREE.

I love to see the holly tree
In his suit of changeless green,
When the gaudy flowers of the summer bowers
All withered and dead are seen.
Though fairer they for the passing day,
Like life's bright hopes, they fall;
And, summer past, by the first chill blast,
They drop and perish all.
Through summer's glow and winter's snow,
Unchanged as the times fit past,
The holly rears his head, nor fears
The stormiest northern blast
Then now drink we to the holly tree;
Come, pledge him old and young,
For an emblem is he of constancy
And loud be his praises sung.
When Christmas calls to our father's halls
The friends that we held of yore,
O'er the gay carouse, with his merry boughs
The holly tree presides.
From the ceiling wide he hangs in pride,
While the wassail brimmeth o'er,
And nimble feet with merry beat
Dance o'er the oaken floor.
When to grim death I yield my breath
One favor would I crave,
That some friend dear a holly rear
To the spot my grave.
But now drink we to the holly tree;
Come, pledge him old and young,
For an emblem is he of jollity,
And long be his praises sung.

FAME'S PATHWAY.

M. Francois Millet, a son of Jean Francois Millet, the famous French artist, is visiting in Baltimore with his wife. In type, he is truly French, and he speaks very little English, his wife doing most of the interpreting for him.

William de l'Enclos took the secret of sempiternal youth and beauty to the tomb. But she left her house behind her. It is still standing, in the Rue de Tournelles, Paris, with its six stories and its magnificent stair case of artistically wrought iron.

William E. Shipp and William H. Smith were classmates at West Point, graduated together as first lieutenants, were killed at the same time at San Juan and now bills to pension their widows have been simultaneously introduced in congress.

Lindley Murray, the grammarian, was born in East Hanover township, Lancashire (now Dauphin) county, Pa., and the house where he was born was standing until about 1850. Murray Station, on the Lebanon and Tremont railroad, is named for him.

JAMES BAY CAUSEWAY.

Plan Submitted to the Council by City Engineer Wilmot on Tuesday.

At the request of the council, City Engineer Wilmot at the meeting on Tuesday submitted the plan of a causeway across James Bay, the estimated cost of which is $110,000. The plan calls for a 70-foot permanent roadway, and a concrete or masonry retaining wall. The latter would stand on a foundation of piles and a filling of gravel. It would first be necessary to remove the mud, then drive the piles into the hard bottom and fill the spaces between them with gravel. This is the plan as drawn under directions from the council. What Mr. Wilmot recommended in a recent report was the building of an arch bridge and the reclaiming of the mud flats by pumping mud from the harbor into the basin behind the bridge. The cost of the arch bridge would be about $115,000.

Whatever plan is carried out, however, Mr. Wilmot said yesterday, the flats should be filled in at the same time, by pumping mud from the harbor.

BORN.

STUBBS—On Sunday (Christmas day), Dec. 25, at 42 North Park street, the wife of F. W. Stubbs, of a daughter.

CHURCH—On December 27th, at Victoria College, Beacon hill park, the wife of Mr. J. W. Church, M.A., of a son.

CONWAY-GRANT—On the 22nd inst., at Craig-Royston, Victoria, the wife of R. A. Conway-Grant, of a son.

DIED.

MOODY—On the 21st inst., at 5:30 p.m., at the family residence, 86 Pandora avenue, Elizabeth Ann Moody, wife of T. G. Moody, of this city.

SHARP WIT AND REPARTEE.

Anecdotes That Indicate the Irish Readiness.

Repartee, or readiness in smart, witty, sarcastic retort, is said to be the highest form of wit. These immediate and felicitous replies these answering thrusts in mental fencing, these illuminating flashes of quick and lively imaginations, are common among all classes in Ireland. On old Carlisle bridge in Dublin there was a fruit stall, the keeper of which, "Biddy, the apple-woman," was a better known figure than even the lord mayor. She had a ready and glib tongue, and never allowed a verbal assailant to retire with all the honors. An American visitor, thinking to take a "rise" out of the old woman, took up one of the watermelons she was displaying for sale, and said: "These are small apples you grow over here. In America we have them twice the size." Biddy slowly removed her "dudheen," or clay from her lips, and coolly surveying the joker from head to foot, said in a tone of pity, "Yerra, what a fool yez must be whin yez takes our gooseberries for apples." The Irish people are perhaps unequalled for concentrating into a phrase an amount of bitter sarcasm. A Dublin jarvey, seeing a man of fashion who prided himself on his skill in handling the reins, driving down Grafton street, said, "That fellow looks like a coachman, but drives like a gentleman."

John Philpot Curran was noted for his powers of repartee and sarcasm. Many of his good things in that line have come down to us through the centuy. There could not be a better testimony to their worth, but as most of them are too well known to need repeating here, I will simply give a few that I have picked up in out-of-the-way places. At a dinner table in London the conversation turned on public speaking. Curran stated that he could never address an audience for a quarter of an hour without moistening his lips. "I have the advantage of you there, Curran," said Sir Thomas Turton, a pompous and pretentious member of parliament. "I spoke the other night in the house of commons for five hours on the Nabob of Oude, and never felt in the least thirsty." "That is very remarkable, indeed," replied Curran, "for everyone agrees that it was the driest speech of the session." One day Curran was walking past the parliament house in College Green, before the Bank of Ireland got possession of it, with a nobleman, who had promoted the legislative union by his votes. "I wonder what they intend to do with that useless building?" said the nobleman. For my part, I hate the sight of it." "I do not wonder at that, my lord," returned Curran, who was an anti-unionist. "I never yet heard of a murderer who was not afraid of a ghost."

Curran, as will be seen from these anecdotes, could say mordant and cutting things; but perhaps no man was insulted with such dialectical neatness and ingeniousness as Curran was by the famous maker of "bulls," Sir Boyce Roche, in the Irish house of commons. "The honorable gentleman says he is the guardian of his own honor," said Roche, in reply to a speech of Curran's; "but on other occasions I have heard him boast that he was an enemy of sinecures." Curran was defeated in a conversational contest with Lady Morgan, the Irish novelist, one evening in that lady's drawing room, when, exaggerating the prevailing fashion in short sleeves, she wore merely straps over her shoulders. Curran was walking away from the little party who witnessed the conflict of the two wits, when Lady Morgan called out, "Ah, come back, Mr. Curran, and acknowledge that you are fairly beaten." "At the rate," said he, turning round, "I have this consolation, Lady Morgan, that you can't laugh at me in your sleeve."

Daniel O'Connell's sarcastic and graphic description of a lady of stiff, cold and formal manners is very happy. "She has all the characteristics of a poker—except its occasional warmth." This recalls the story of the two Irish servants who, discussing the stiff and unbending manners of the young lady of the family, agreed that "When she was a baby her mother must have fed her upon boiled pokers, undoubtedly." Another happy and humorous example of sarcasm—as apart from repartee—is afforded by the following anecdote. I quote it on the authority of a friend who, I am afraid, was the villain of the incident. A most imperturbable man was followed from Westmoreland street, Dublin, over the O'Connell bridge to the general post office by two little street Arabs, who importuned him for the end of his cigar. "Throw us the butt, sir! Ah, sir, throw us the butt," cried the youths; but as the man did not display the slightest consciousness of their existence, they gave him up at last in despair and disgust. "Arrah, let him alone," he said one, with the most scorching scorne, "shure it's a butt he's picked up himself."

I once heard a pumptious little man who, acting as steward at athletic sports in Dublin, was very assertive in keeping back the crowd, thus addressed by an angry spectator: "If the consate was taken out of yez, ye'd be no bigger than a green gooseberry, and ye're as sour as wan already."—London Telegraph.

Karl's Clover Root Tea, for Constipation; it's the best, and if after taking you don't say so, return the packet and get your money. Sold by Cyrus H. Bowes.

Moving Public Offices.—By Saturday the customs offices will be moved in their entirety to the premises recently provided for them adjoining the new post office. Yesterday the statistical department was moved, and to-day the collector's and Chinese offices will be changed, while the long room will be left until the last. The department of inland revenue was also moved yesterday and is now located on the third flat of the new building.

CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS.

CURE

Sick Headache and relieve all the troubles incident to a bilious state of the system, such as Dizziness, Nausea, Drowsiness, Distress after eating, Pain in the Side, &c. While their most remarkable success has been shown in curing

SICK

Headache, yet Carter's Little Liver Pills are equally valuable in Constipation, curing and preventing this annoying complaint, while they also correct all disorders of the stomach, stimulate the liver and regulate the bowels. Even if they only cured

HEAD

Ache they would be almost priceless to those who suffer from this distressing complaint; but fortunately their goodness does not end here, and those who once try them will find these little pills valuable in so many ways that they will not be willing to do without them. But after all sick head

ACHE

is the bane of so many lives that here is where we make our great boast. Our pills cure it while others do not.

Carter's Little Liver Pills are very small and very easy to take. One or two pills make a dose. They are strictly vegetable and do not gripe or purge, but by their gentle action please all who use them. In vials at 25 cents; five for $1. Sold by druggists everywhere, or sent by mail.

CARTER MEDICINE CO., New York.

Small Pill. Small Dose. Small Price.

FIRST-CLASS OPENING—To one who can afford to wait a little. Let or sale very cheap. $2,000. The Cowichan Lake Hotel, Vancouver Island. Has warranted a good rent ($1,000) for several years, and will again, when the logging starts. Charter for railway applied for. Good opening to combine stock farming, having 160 acres, with lots of feed. Apply L.D., 33 Birdcage Walk, Victoria, B.C.