Weekly Colonist

FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 1887.

BANK OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The general meeting of the proprietors of the Bank of British Columbia was held on the 15th ult., in London. Mr. Robert Gillespie, chairman of the board of directors, said: I have much pleasure in again meeting you and in submitting thus early in the year—and you will observe that we meet earlier this year than we ever have before—our accounts from the Pacific side to the 31st of December last. And we trust that you will receive this report and this statement of accounts with the same satisfaction as your directors have in placing them before you, for they again indicate success and progress. In contrasting these statements with the two previous half-years', you will observe that they compare favorably with them in all respects, and that the gross and net profits exceed those of the periods I have referred to. This success is the more gratifying as it marks a general improvement in the trade of the places in which we transact our business; an improvement that I hope may be still further marked, and that the prosperity of the past may again visit the Pacific coast. I think we may fairly anticipate this, looking at the great efforts now making to develop the resources of the country generally, and more particularly British Columbia. The opening of the Canadian Pacific railway and the Esquimalt and Nanaimo railway have already given increased vitality to many important interests. The advancement and progress have naturally led your directors from time to time to see the necessity of meeting the additional banking requirements of British Columbia, and we have, therefore, since our last meeting, established a branch at Vancouver. That branch, I am pleased to inform the shareholders, not only supports itself, but has already contributed something to our profits. (Applause.) I think this must be satisfactory to you. I may at the same time add, that the bank being especially identified with British Columbia, and I lay stress upon these words, the directors are prepared to further extend to and occupy such other points as may seem to call for banking accommodation; and it is not improbable that further new agencies may be appointed during the current season. The prospects generally appear favorable, and the opening up and development of the country (to which I had already referred) by the railways, the increased trade in coal, the improvement in lumber, and the seemingly promising prospects for quartz mining, all lead to the legitimate expectation that good results may be obtained from our business during the present year. I will now ask you to follow me while I shortly refer to the figures in the balance sheet. I will first take the liabilities. Your capital remains the same. The reserve fund, you will observe, since December, 1885, has been increased £15.000. (Hear, hear.) It now stands at £85,000, and I hope that you will approve of the recommendation we to-day submit to you to increase that by another £5,000, making it £90,000; but I will refer to that later on. The notes in circulation show an important increase. But I would warn my friends not to expect that we are always going to increase our note circulation. This increase has partly arisen from the demand which has been made upon us through the Canadian Pacific railway expenditure. I think it is only right to guard myself in that way. The current accounts have increased. Both as regards comparison with December, 1885, and also June last, they show an important increase. And I think that is evidence of an increasing connection and business relations. Bills payable are rather less, and the other current liabilities are less. Turning now to the assets, the first item is the specie and cash at bankers and gold bars. That is larger than in the June half-year, and it is less than in the corresponding period of 1885. But having regard to our direct liabilities, and also our liability to be called upon for the Dominion notes, I do not think that it is in excess of our needs or our safety. In the securities consols remain the same, but in India stock we have reduced the cost and brought them down to the present value of 102. The bills receivable show an increase; the bills discounted are slightly less, and the other securities are somewhat less also. The bank premises have increased a few hundred pounds owing to the opening of the Vancouver branch to which I have already referred. The profit and loss accounts require very little remark from me beyond this, that the charges with our increased business show a reduction, and this notwithstanding the increased taxation at San Francisco. I have already stated that the net and gross profits both compare favorably with the two previous half-years, but in excess in each case. This I feel, and I markedly refer to this, is due greatly to the ability and vigilance of our general manager, managers, and staff generally; and as further evidence of the care and attention bestowed by them on the business of the bank I may mention, and I do it with great satisfaction, that the business for the past half-year has been conducted without any bad debts. (Applause.) I hold that that is due very greatly to the loyal attention to instructions, and the ability and care of our staff. I hope this will be appreciated by you all. I will deal now with the profit and loss account. You will observe that there is a balance of £25,999 13s 2d., and we propose, with your sanction, to pay a dividend as usual at the rate of six per cent. per annum for the half-year ending the 31st December last with a bonus of 2 per cent.; to credit the reserve fund with £5,000, making it £90,000; and to carry forward a balance of £2,249 13s. 2d. to the next account. As regards the reserve fund, I am confident that the directors will approve of the policy of strengthening this fund when we are able to—(hear, hear)—and I hope to see it of still larger dimensions. But the time, it appears to me, is approaching when it may not be necessary for us to do so in such substantial sums as hitherto, thus enabling your directors to further consider the shareholders in the division to them. This you will receive not as any promise, but as a prospect looming in the distance.

The notion that the report and statements of accounts as submitted be received and adopted was carried unanimously, Mr. Eden Colville being the seconder. The proposal that a dividend be paid on the paid up capital of the bank at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, and a bonus of 2 per cent. free of income tax for the half-year ending the 31st December last, payable on the 19th inst. was also carried without a dissenting voice. The two returning directors Eden Colville and James Anderson, were re-elected members of the board, and after the auditors, Messrs. Robertson and Gibbs, had been re-elected, a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman and directors brought the proceedings to a close.

THE TWO ENDS.

London *Free Press*: Whilst the extreme westerly province, British Columbia, is solidly conservative, Prince Edward Island has developed a grit contagion of a very marked character. Thus one end of the Dominion neutralizes the other. The British Columbians are with the conservative party on account of its useful aims, its material successes. The Prince Edward Island people not having been able to extract a promise from the government to build a tunnel on the mainland of Nova Scotia, some seven miles long, at a cost of about $15,000,000, have turned out the old members, hoping to get "better terms" from Mr. Blake. That is what is the matter. But as the tail cannot wag the dog, neither can Prince Edward Island dictate its terms to the Dominion.

LAID AT REST.

All that was mortal of the late premier of the province, the HON. WILLIAM SMITHE, was laid at rest yesterday afternoon in the quiet church yard at Somenos. Thus, where his peaceful private, and illustrious political, life had been spent it was eminently fitting that his remains should lie until that time when the great Searcher of hearts shall call to judgment all those whose names are written in the Book of Life. Can we doubt that his name is there inscribed in golden letters and that his portion will be that of the good and faithful servant who has been loyal to his trust! It was eminently fitting that a public funeral should be accorded the late distinguished First Minister of the Crown, whose kind heart always beat in sympathy with the pulse of the people among whom his life had been cast. It is a popular maxim that nothing should be said of the dead except what is good, but nothing can be truthfully said of the late premier as well in his private life, where he was the kind husband, the indulgent father and the true friend, as in his public life, where by his consistency of principle, love of justice and stern devotion to duty he had endeared himself to all who came into contact with him. His was an essentially genial nature, warm-hearted, frank and honest, and when the Angel of Death called him hence only good things were said of him, and even his bitterest political opponents expressed a deep regret that a life had gone out from amongst us, and that a kind face had disappeared from our gaze forever. The obsequies were on a scale befitting the occasion. High and low, rich and poor, all sorts and conditions of men gathered at his funeral and paid the last mark of respect to their old and respected friend. In the sacred edifice where he had been wont to assist with hearty fervor in the solemn services of the church, many eyes were wet and many hearts ached at the loss of him who was so very dear to them. But after all there is nothing sad in death—it is only the beginning of a new and glorious existence where the good and the true bask for eternity in the sunshine of God's love. The sorrowing hearts who are to-day bowed down with grief have the consolation of knowing that their beloved dead, having fought the good fight, has entered upon the joys which await all those who have been true to themselves, their country and their God.

A BOOMERANG.

The Temple bribery case is bringing no end of trouble to the liberal party in York county, N.B. The collapse of the prosecution was rather humiliating to the opposition candidate, and the *Gleaner*, of Fredericton, the organ of the party, has charged that the prosecuting counsel was to blame and intimated that the indictment was so framed as to insure failure. Attorney-General Blair, who drew up the indictment, has written a vigorous letter in reply, charging Mr. Gregory with inspiring the *Gleaner's* attack, and stating that Mr. Gregory was doing all he could to injure him (Mr. Blair) in that connection. Messrs. Blair and Gregory were law partners, until this election closed, when they separated. Mr. Blair took the stump for Mr. Gregory, but refused, it is complained, to use the local government's influence in his behalf, which angered Mr. Gregory. The fact is believed to be that Mr. Blair is tired of the premiership and aspires to a seat in the Commons and the leadership of the Maritime Province Liberal contingent. To this end he is obliged to fight against Mr. Gregory's claim to the county leadership. Mr. Blair has had a wonderfully successful local political career. A few years ago he had only a following of five or six. The election of 1882 left the house with a slight majority for the government, which he opposed. At the first session he succeeded in carrying a want of confidence motion, obtained the government, and before the parliamentary term expired he had a two-thirds majority of the house. The election last year added further reduced the opposition, which is practically destroyed. Having succeeded so far, Mr. Blair wants new worlds to conquer. This is probably the cause of the quarrel which has culminated in the Temple case.

FIRING THE LARGEST GUN IN THE WORLD.

The first three proof rounds of the powerful new gun supplied by the Elswick Works for Her Majesty's barbette ship Benbow, were fired recently at the butts at Woolwich arsenal, the result so far going to show that this is the finest specimen of artillery as yet produced. In length it is 524 inches or nearly 44 feet. The inner tube is of solid steel throughout strengthened by jackets of comparatively thin steel hoops. The length of the bore is 487½ inches, and the rifling, which consists of a multitude of small, shallow grooves, extends for 397.2 inches, or about 33 feet. The diameter of the bore is 16¼ inches. The diameter of the powder chamber is a trifle over 21 inches, and its capacity 28,610 cubic inches. The twist of the rifling commences with one in 120 calibers, and increases to one in 56 calibers. The gun is mounted on a fine cast-steel truck, which weighs 95 tons, and on the proof rounds fired it ran up the incline from 50 to 70 feet. The first round was fired with 600 pounds of Westphalian powder, and a cylindrical projectile weighing 1,800 pounds. The second round was with a shot of like weight and 700 pounds of the same powder, being the largest charge as yet fired in England. The velocity attained was 1,843 feet per second, the energy acquired being about 43,100 foot-tons. The third round was with a similar projectile of 1,800 pounds, and a powder charge of 800 pounds. The velocity attained was 2,007 feet per second, and the energy rose to some 50,000 foot-tons. The pressures of the gases within the chamber of the gun at the time of the powder discharge were nine tons with the 600-pound charge, twelve tons with the 700-pound and fifteen tons with the 800-pound charges. The recoil of the gun in the last round was controlled by the hydraulic buffers within 4 feet 6 inches. It is expected when the next date of proof-firing is determined, powder charges of 850 pounds, 900 pounds, 925 pounds, and 950 pounds will be used with projectiles of 1,800 pounds weight. A further trial of the 110-ton gun—although only a single round—took place yesterday at the butts of Woolwich Arsenal, says the *Pall Mall Gazette* of February 17th. On the former occasion, it will be remembered, the powder charges, commencing with 600 pounds were increased to 800 pounds. The firing was made yesterday with a cylindrical shot of 1800 pounds weight as before; but with an increased powder charge of 850 pounds. The highest pressure to which the gun will be subjected in service is intended to be about seventeen tons. In proofs, however, higher charges than service charges are frequently used to test the quality of the weapon. This one round has already proved the sufficient strength of the new weapon for the service requirements. Although the pressure rose beyond anticipation, the velocity was not increased proportionately, the estimated velocity being slightly over 2100 feet per second, while the actual muzzle velocity attained was 2078 feet. The recoil of the gun on its carriage was three feet three inches, only as compared with four feet six inches with the 800-pound charge on the former occasion. The remainder of the programme to fire 900-pound and 950-pound charges will most probably be carried out with slower burning Waltham Abbey powder.

CONCERNING the origin of the name "Rocky Mountains," the Montreal *Gazette* says it finds it in the narrative of Pierre Gaultier de Varennes, sieur de la Verandrye, whose three sons, on the 1st of January, 1743, first sighted the magnificent range. They called it "Montagnes de Pierres Brillantes," from the sparkling of the summits in the sunshine. Then came the more prosaic name, "Montagnes Rocheuses" or "Rocky Mountains," and our still more prosaic "Rockies."

THE New Brunswick assembly is evidently intent upon the abolition of the legislative council, and if the councillors will not agree to go one of the local ministers proposes to perform the part of Cromwell. He will enter the chamber supported by a body of county constables and order the removal of the mace. The relative positions of the assembly and the council are highly suggestive of that old problem as to the consequence of the meeting of an irresistible force with an immovable body; but the chances are that in this case the immovable body will have to give. It was stated the other day that the Quebec council was doomed, Mr. Mercier having undertaken to pack it with a view to bringing about its destruction. It has since transpired that this is an error. Mr. Mercier has discovered a public opinion favorable to the council, and he is not going to fly in the face of that opinion seeing that the body contains some of his own friends.

THE new members of the house of commons from New Brunswick are Skinner, Ellis, R. C. Weldon, Hale and Wilmot. From Nova Scotia there are McDonald, a young lawyer from Victoria, who sat in the local assembly; McKeen of Cape Breton a coal mine manager; Kenny, a leading merchant and banker of Halifax; Eisenhaer, a West India merchant of Lunenburg, who has had experience in the legislature; Freeman of Queens; Lovitt of Yarmouth; Campbell, a merchant in Digby; Mills, an Annapolis lawyer, and Putnam a Maitland shipbuilder.

THE receipts of the province of Nova Scotia last year were $632,145 and the expenditures $656,348, so that the year's financial operations resulted in a deficit of $23,202. In New Brunswick the receipts were $634,573 and the expenditures $623,592. This shows a surplus of $10,981. But then there has been an addition of $214,000 to the provincial debt during the year. The province has therefore spent $204,000 more than it received. New Brunswick has now a net debt of $1,273,000, and Nova Scotia has a debt of over a million.

THE Hamilton *Times* says editorially: Not before time, it is announced that the Ontario legislature will be called upon, during the present session, to amend the laws relating to libel. Mr. Balfour has charge of a bill which will provide that in order to obtain a conviction there must be presumptive evidence of malice, that a plaintiff must give security for costs, or be made to plead *in forma pauperis*, and that all court proceedings shall be privileged. The experience of the past few years has proved that the amendments so the law in this direction are absolutely necessary, and it is to be hoped that there will be no factious opposition to the proposed changes when they are brought before the house.

SPEAKING on the disallowance question, the *Mail* says: From an Eastern point of view, disallowance is at once justifiable and necessary. The taxpayers of the older provinces incurred an enormous burden of debt for the purpose of opening up the Northwest, and it does appear ungrateful on the part of the Northwest settler that he should turn around and seek to deal with Minneapolis, St. Paul and Chicago. But the first consideration with him is to live, and to tell this man, struggling for existence against stern climatic difficulties, that he should loyally forego the advantages of independent railroad connection with the United States in order to recoup Ontario and Quebec for their outlay on the Northwest is likely, we fear, to prove a vain appeal. We are inclined to think the government will shortly be compelled to abandon its disallowance policy and negotiate with Van Horne for the relinquishment of the monopoly clause. The Northwest is bound sooner or later, with or without our consent, to break its chains.

IN THE FORTNIGHTLY for March Lord Lorne has an article on the fishery dispute between the Canadian and the United States. He points out how Canada has always shown the greatest disposition to be friendly with her neighbor, and rather to yield points than to insist on their exact fulfilment. He shows also how the Americans have only themselves to blame for the existing state of things, the fisheries clauses of the Washington Treaty having failed of renewal owing solely to their unwillingness. The performance by the Canadians back on the Treaty of 1818 if they were not to yield up all the privileges of ownership in their fishing grounds and make the Americans as free therein as they are in their own. He shows, further, how valuable possessions the Canadian bait grounds are to which the Americans would fain have access without giving proper remuneration, and points out how every nation under heaven takes measures to defend rights of this kind when it has them against all interlopers. He would like to see a scientific commission appointed as to what would be the best common use of these harvests of the sea.

MAINLAND NEWS.

(Columbian)

A correspondent writing from Port Hammond says: T. Henry, of the firm of G. W. Henry & Co., of Port Hammond, arrived from Bowmansville, Ont., last Sunday morning per C. P. R. Mr. Henry promises to be one of the class of comers who are needed in British Columbia. He brought with him from Ontario a car-load of thorough-bred stock, including a short-horn bull for Messrs. Wm. Jenkins and W. J. Harris; also a quantity of farm seeds, including peas, oats, etc. Mr. Henry has come to stay. May others of like enterprise and push follow. Mr. Henry was thirty days in the cars, having left Bowmansville on the 25th of February.

Yesterday Mr. L. L. Doane received a bronze medal in recognition of the merits of a collection of British Columbia ores sent by him to the exhibition in London.

(Vancouver News.)

Mr. Hagan brought in from Mission Creek mines some very fine specimens of Mission Creek gold. The Hydraulic company have made extensive preparations for operations this spring. Confidence is strong that the yield will be liberal. The company have gone to considerable expense and deserve success. Quite a number of miners are scattered along the creek, some of them evidently doing pretty well.

On Monday last an old man named Dott was killed on the track near Revelstoke. He was supposed to have been under the influence of liquor.

Acting with characteristic pluck and enterprise, and sustaining the reputation of our city for its progressive policy, the citizens of Vancouver yesterday passed the loan bylaw without a dissenting voice. The $150,000 under the judicious and careful management of our council will go a long way toward the permanent improvement of our city, and we trust that none will have to complain of its being carelessly or indiscreetly squandered.

TRADE WITH ASIA.

Our Legislature's Memorial—A Public Service Commissioner will Probably be Appointed.

OTTAWA, March 21.—The British Columbia legislature has sent a memorial to the government, asking it to appoint, at its earliest convenience, at least one qualified, reliable and experienced person to act as public service commissioner, with a qualified assistant, to proceed to Asia to collect and study the trade statistics of China, Japan and other countries, the kind and amount of trade done, where to and where from, etc., so as to ascertain what manufactures and commercial and agricultural products of Canada are suitable to them, and to report as fully as possible to the proper department at Ottawa, their report to be published and issued to the public at cost price for general information. So far as can be ascertained the government has not decided to act on the suggestion, but when the Canadian Pacific railway steamers commence plying on the Pacific probably the request will be granted. The authorities of the railway believe that the imperial government will subsidize its proposed line of steamers between British Columbia, Japan and Australia, and the latest report in official circles here is to the effect that parliament, at its approaching session, will also be asked to encourage closer trade relations between Canada and the east by granting the company a handsome amount.

THE BANK OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

The yearly general meeting of shareholders was held on Tuesday at the offices of the corporation, 3, Clement's lane, Lombard street, Mr. Richard H. Glyn in the chair.

The notice calling the meeting was read by Mr. A. G. Wallis (the secretary).

The report of the directors was as follows:

The court of directors have pleasure in submitting the accompanying balance sheet and statement of profit and loss account as on the 31st December last, showing £79,552 1s. 6d. as the net profit for the year 1886. Out of this sum the directors have now to report the declaration of a dividend of 40s. per share, payable, free of income tax, on the 5th April next, making, with the dividend paid in October, a distribution of 7½ per cent. for the year ending 31st December, 1886. The dividend warrants will be remitted to the proprietors as usual."

The chairman said: Gentlemen, there are a few alterations in the items in the balance sheet for the last year, which has been circulated amongst you, compared with that for 1885, upon which I will make a few remarks. You will notice that the deposits have increased £70,000; the circulation is also slightly increased. There is a very considerable increase in the item of bank premises—a matter of about £6,000—which is money expended upon bank premises at Montreal and Toronto, but chiefly at Montreal. I think, gentlemen, we may fairly congratulate ourselves upon the result of last year's working, particularly when we remember that money was very cheap during the greater portion of the year, and, as a matter of consequence, competition in Canada was very keen for the amount of business. We have an average dividend for the whole year at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum, and after providing in full for all bad and doubtful debts, we have carried forward £4,500 to the rest, which now reaches £226,362, which is larger than since the year 1875. In 1874 it was a quarter of a million, and I hope we shall gradually be able to get back to that figure—a most desirable thing, as far as the credit is concerned, always. (hear, hear). With regard to the present year, the prospects are certainly favorable. Trade in Canada is improving, and, I believe on a sound basis, and with this large extension and development which must occur, owing to the opening of the Canadian Pacific railway and other great railways, we may see a greater development in the year to come than in the past. The bank is very strong, and ready and anxious to take advantage of any amount of business. We have opened an agency at Winnipeg quite recently. We also have in contemplation to open shortly a branch at Vancouver. I propose that the report and accounts be received and adopted.

Mr. A. H. Phillpotts seconded the resolution which was put and carried without any discussion.

Following is the balance sheet, 31st December, 1886:

LIABILITIES.

	£	s.	d.
Capital	1,000,000	0	0
Reserve fund	204,500	1	0
Deposits	1,329,419	19	6
Bills payable and other liabilities	1,591,983	9	11
Reserve for Dividend 7½ per cent. Dec., 1886, payable 5th April	40,000	0	0
Undivided net profit	226,362	7	1
	4,391,165	8	9

ASSETS.

	£	s.	d.
Specie and cash at Bankers	537,382	9	5
Bills receivable and other securities	3,765,949	9	6
Investment	13,834	17	6
Bank premises	73,500	0	0
	4,391,165	8	9

MAYOR BEAUGRAND

Describes His Trip to the Pacific—The Present and Future of British Columbia.

The first of a series of lectures on commercial subjects, under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce of the district of Montreal, was delivered by ex-Mayor Beaugrand on "From Montreal to Vancouver by the Canadian Pacific railway." After describing the long journey from Montreal to Port Moody in most felicitious terms, he adds:

"Permit me here, by way of parenthesis as to the industrial, agricultural and commercial resources of British Columbia. With an area of 341,305 square miles, a coast studded with harbors capable of sheltering the greatest fleets of the world, and stretching for a distance of 600 miles along the Pacific ocean, with a splendid climate which is comparatively temperate, even in the mountainous regions, Columbia offers a new and vast field for colonization. I say new advisedly, for this immense region has not at present a population of more than 50,000. Its natural wealth consists in its mines of gold, copper, silver, and coal already in the course of exploitation; in its fertile valleys, render easy of access by the construction of the Pacific railway, adapted both for cultivation and cattle raising. Its fruits, apples and-pears especially, are cultivated with success and profitably exported. As yet manufactures are in an embryo condition, but the water powers, which exist everywhere, only await the hand of enterprise and capital to be a source of prosperity. Such are, in brief, the general resources of British Columbia, yet so little known to the eastern provinces. Besides what I have mentioned, there is the important fact that the admission of British Columbia into our confederation has permitted the junction by the transcontinental railway of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans and the creation of a new route to Japan, China, India, and the Australian colonies. If I have dwelt on the features of Canadian Pacific travel, it is because I would like to induce those of our compatriots who have not visited the Northwest, to do so if possible. As I have already said of myself, they will return with added confidence in the future of Canada, and a broadening and deepening of that pride in our great common country which is our best bond of union and the most quickening stimulus to our prosperity as a people."

HUDSON'S BAY STEAMSHIPS.

The London *Shipping World* of March 1st publishes the following respecting the steamships being built to navigate between Great Britain and Hudson's Bay: "The scheme for establishing direct steam communication between Fort Churchill on Hudson's Bay and Great Britain via Hudson's Bay and Straits is being pushed forward. The first of a line of steamers, which it is proposed to place on this route, was recently launched. She is called the Port Augusta, is 3,000 tons burden, steams sixteen knots an hour, and is built of steel and teak especially for that trade. Her sister ship, the Port Nelson will be launched this month. In addition to these two vessels, two more vessels, one of 1,900 tons and the other of 3,000 tons burthen, are being equipped for the Hudson's bay route, and will sail for Fort Churchill early in June from London."

A FIEND

Doses His Sick Wife With Carbolic Acid and Kills Her.

J. E. Spafford, of Slaughter, White River valley, has just been arrested and is now in jail at Seattle, charged with the murder of his wife. The details are too revolting to publish, but it seems that in attempting an abortion he made her swallow large quantities of gravelstones, and dosed her on carbolic acid and ammonia until all the mucous lining of the stomach was eaten away, and after she died the stench from her decaying stomach was so terrible that she could hardly be laid out. When asked why he dosed his wife with carbolic acid he replied, "Oh, her breath was so bad I wanted to purify it." The poor woman was a terrible sufferer. Some of the carbolic acid was spilt on her face and neck and blistered her fearfully. There is no question but that the man killed his wife in the most inhuman manner, but whether he meant to murder her or not is yet to be proved. He went directly contrary to her physician's orders and dosed her with medicine he got from an old squaw in the interior of this province.

THE YUKON REGION.

The Abandoned Mail Recovered and Good News Heralded.

Coarse Gold in Streak and Miners Make a Rush for Forty-Mile Creek—The Poisoning Case Reported Bassett at Minook—Newsy Notes.

From late numbers of the Alaskan *Free Press* we are enabled to extract some of the latest news concerning the lonely Yukon mining fields. It is of a satisfactory character and there is good prospects that the northern part of the province and the North-west territory is rich in gold—placer and quartz. A location of the Alaskan-Canadian boundary line is urgently needed, as there can be no question that the rich gold fields discovered are within our borders. This being the case, a large revenue is being lost to the Dominion and trade to the province.

Following are some extracts from letters received by the Yukon mail:

HEAD OF TIDE WATER,
March 9th.

FRIEND "SLIM,"—We arrived here safe and sound. The boys are all up at Sheep camp yet. Two of them came down yesterday. It is very cold now and the wind is blowing like the d—. The snow on the summit of the range is piled straight up and down. Reports gleaned from the recovered Yukon mail are very flattering for that country. A strip of ten miles on Sixty-Mile creek pays an ounce per day per man; bars have been found on Forty-Mile creek, with bed-rock, that show up nuggets weighing seventy-five cents. The gold from this latter place is coarse and very fine looking. Provisions in the Yukon are very scarce.

FRANK DINSMORE.

"We next went back to Sixty-mile creek, and upon our arrival we found there was a big excitement and a stampede for Forty-mile creek. Franklin, Lambert, O'Brien and others went there about the time we went up Sixty-mile creek, and Franklin and O'Brien had got back and reported fine prospects of coarse gold; and that they had found pay for sixty miles up the creek and on twelve creeks putting into it from either side. They left four or five dollars in dust with Harper, and some of the pieces weighed over fifty cents. They had started back to winter before I arrived, and did not get to see them. Brown, who came in with Stewart and Flannery, went there with Maiden. They rocked several days and, have it on good authority, that they cleaned up from $8 to $15 per day apiece. The creek runs through a canyon and the bars are small bed-rock bars carrying flat gold. We killed a big, fat bull moose on our trip. T. KERRIGAN."

"You probably remember Leslie, the man who figured most prominently in the Holmes steamboat case. He got three men from Juneau to go with him on a "bonanza racket," telling them he knew where there was a mountain of gold. They took it all in and went. Leslie could not find the particular mountain, and, probably thinking his companions would seek revenge on him for leading them on a wild-goose chase, he attempted at two different times to poison them. Leslie was ordered by his companions to eat the poisoned beans, or they would hang him, whereupon he jumped out of bed, grabbed his gun, and in the scuffle that ensued, the gun was discharged, nearly striking one of the men. Seeing that the crowd was too much for him he ran away, a distance of ten miles, to another camp, with nothing but his shirt and drawers on. A committee went up from here to investigate the matter. They report Leslie's feet in a bad condition. Leslie claimed the poison had got spilled in the beans in coming down the river. But it looks very bad, as he was cooking for the party, and, having his own meal first, he started off on a hunt, the supposition being that he would find them dead on his return, and he would be considerable grub ahead.

"There has been coarse gold diggings found forty miles below Fort Reliance, or 120 miles from here. About half of the men have intended to go down, but have gone there. Of course the extent of the new strike is not known. It seems that a man by the name of Franklin found the place, which is on Forty-Mile creek. The coarse gold bars commence twelve miles from the mouth, extending sixty miles up, but the best prospects are obtained from the small streams that put into the main creek from either side. Franklin claims he has got a gravel bar 300 feet long by three deep, and intends to work it with sluice boxes. Steele had built himself a cabin here intending to winter in it, but he could not resist the temptation that the new strike offers, so him and his "klootch" vamoosed the ranche. J. C. STITT.

"CHILKAT, ALASKA, March 1, '87.

"A rumor is afloat that some Stick Indians arrived from the interior, stating that the last party of miners that went to the Yukon last fall, in a certain place on the Stewart river had some trouble with the Indians, and the entire party of eight men were massacred. In another place near Stewart river, on the bank of the river was found a broken boat and some provisions, such as flour, boxes of biscuit, etc., which had been washed ashore. The belief is that the owners of the boat and contents were drowned. That white man that came across with some important news, and froze to death before reaching here, must have had tidings concerning the affair. RIPINSKY."

An old timer in this section says that if the reports from Forty-Mile creek are true a better showing is made, and a more extensive field is opened up, than than that found in the rich Cassiar district. A strip of ten miles up and down this creek with all its tributaries prospect well with coarse gold; and the chances are the auriferous gravel extends clear to the top of the range, as it is virgin goldand probably has its origin higher up. In this strip will be found ample ground for hundreds of miners on which to bring out their sluice-boxes. But this is only one small creek out of hundreds of others, of which many of them may prove to be as rich as that upon which the recent strike was made. In the Yukon country, beyond a doubt, the wish gold has it origin in leads high up on the mountains, and there is where the prospector should look for leads and coarse gold.

A shooting affray occurred on Douglas Island on Friday, 19th March, in Joe Farnsworth's dance hall. A man named Whittaker, foreman at Treadwell's logging camp, shot Farnsworth in the leg and then struck him on the head with the pistol, but the wounds are not dangerous.

Miners employed on Douglas Island on Thursday, 18th March, struck work because a demand of $3 per day and board for certain damp and disagreeable work was not acceded to. The sawaches also demanded an increase. Next day all the sawaches and half the white men returned to work.

It is a fact that most of the men who have gone to the Yukon this spring, are men who have been in there before and know there is a big thing in that country.

OUR BABY.

(Figuratively Described by His Little Sister.)

Our baby is a 1 der rare;
He's awful cunning 2,
And well his worth 3 pays the share
Of work 4 him I do.
I hope he will surv 5 although
He's squeezed almost to death;
It makes him 6 sometimes I know,
And takes away his breath.
Our home is 7 since there came
This angel from above;
He's so affectionate 8, His name
Is "Tootsy-Wootsey-Love."
He makes our papa look 9
And feel a 10 der joy;
I pray he never will incline
To be a bad boy.
When he awakes his eyes are blue;
I lift him when I can.
He'll 2 2 2 4 1 2
Lift up when he's a man.

H. C. Dodge, in Goodall's Sun.

Copying Presses—The cheapest line in the city at Robt. Jamieson's. †

A HEROIC INDIAN LAD.

One of the most heroic deeds that has come under our notice of late was that recently performed by the Indian lad who came out of the Yukon country with the now deceased messenger, Tom Williams. The boy is but eighteen years of age, but through blinding storms, intense cold, and nearly famished, he stuck to his bewildered and helpless white companion at the imminent risk of his own life. It seems that he and his companion left the mouth of Stewart river with dogs and sled. At Lake Lebarge one of the dogs gave out, and on reaching the top of the range another fell from exhaustion, leaving the men without means of drawing their effects. At this point a severe snowstorm overtook them. They were at a very high altitude, and the cold was intense. But they struggled bravely on, and finally, in a half-frozen condition, reached what is known as the stone house, which is nothing more than two large boulders, three miles below the summit. Here they built themselves a snow-house, and subsisted for five days without fire and food, except a little dry flour. The white man was badly frozen, and from the sudden changes of intense cold outside to the warmth of the snow hut, he contracted pneumonia, and was unable to help himself in the least. On the morning of the sixth day, the half-famished travelers emerged from their snow-house leaving all their effects within, and started for Chilkoot. The white man had gone but a short distance when he gave out and fell down from sheer exhaustion in the snow to die. The heroic boy then took the white man on his back and resumed his lonely journey. The snow lay about two feet deep upon the ground, the storm was raging furiously and the cold was intense, and the lad with the human burden on his back, was five days making a distance of twelve miles, when he was found by some Chilkat Indians. A sled was then constructed, and by their united efforts, the white man was taken to Healy's store, where he died a few hours after. For twelve days the weary messengers were without fire and food. The Indian boy was brought down to Juneau a few days ago on the steamer Yukon. He was badly frozen during his trip, but is now about recovered with the exception of one of his great toes, which will probably have to be amputated. He is from the far interior, but an intelligent lad, and shows great interest in the new and strange sights he sees here. He gazed with awe upon Jimmy Shake's coal cart and horse, having never seen one of the latter before; when he passed Cato, our colored tinsmith, on the street, he stopped, looked at him and then remarked: "That man must have been badly frozen to come out so black." He will remain here until warm weather, and then return to his home on the Yukon river. The good citizens of Juneau will care for him as long as he remains in our midst.—*Alaska Free Press.*

A SMUGGLER CAUGHT.

On the night of March 4th Deputy Marshall Thomas and Deputy Collector Wilson learned of the presence in Wrangel of F. L. Bangs, who was known to be engaged in smuggling liquor into the territory from British Columbia. A half-breed boy who accompanied him was found and made to reveal the hiding place of Bangs' sloop—a little bay three miles south of Wrangel. The officers quickly put off in a small boat, and seized the sloop. Bangs, seeing the boat start for the sloop, attempted to escape, but was captured on the beach and brought back, with the sloop, to Wrangel, where he was lodged in jail. The seized cargo consisted of 12 cases of whiskey and gin, 3 kegs (10 gals. each) of brandy, and 7 kegs of whiskey. The cost value of the liquor at Fort Simpson was about $500. There were besides some articles of general merchandise, which will of course be forfeited to the government with the sloop. In Mr. Bang's short career in Alaska the proverb, "the way of the transgressor is hard," has been strikingly illustrated. He came here last spring with his father, having some $3,000 in goods and cash, and commenced to trade with the natives. But, discovering about $2,000 worth of goods belonging to a Klawack chief, "cached" in a little house in the woods, he, with another man, robbed the "cache" and conveyed most of the booty to Juneau. But the theft was discovered, and the thieves placed in the Sitka jail until the October term of court at Juneau, when they were tried. But, although the case was a very plain one the jury disagreed, and the accused were allowed to go free after restoring all the stolen property, and paying $100 besides to the chief for his time and trouble. This crime, which Bangs now openly acknowledges, cost him three months in jail and $1,000. To build up again his diminished fortune, Bangs began to make trips to the southern part of the archipelago, ostensibly to trade with the natives, but principally to smuggle liquor from Fort Simpson into Alaska. Late in the fall he took a cargo of whisky to Juneau, narrowly escaping capture by our vigilant officers at Wrangel, beached the liquor near the town, and left it in charge of a young man to sell at Juneau. But the young man stole it, sold it and got away with the money. Nothing discouraged, Bangs gathered together all the funds he could command, and again sailed for Fort Simpson, where he invested all in the present cargo, with the final result above noted. Now he has lost all his money, his boat and his cargo, and has the certain prospect before him of a term in prison. It is unnecessary to point the moral.—*Glacier.*

HIXON CREEK.

Mr. James Reid, M.P., who arrived down from Quesnelle on Wednesday night, en route for Ottawa, states that only favorable news has been received from Hixon creek mine. They are still sinking on an immense body of ore. The west wall of the ledge was reached twenty-three feet from the shaft. Forty-seven fact of a cross-cut to the east failed to locate the other wall, and the ore looks good the entire width.

MR. BLAKE'S RESIGNATION.

Secret and Confidential Letter to His Supporters—He Says He Cannot Further Discharge the Duties of Liberal Leader.

TORONTO, March 24.—The following is a copy of the letter which the Hon. Edward Blake has addressed to each of his supporters in the House of Commons, resigning the opposition leadership:

Most Secret and Confidential.

TORONTO, March 3, 1887.

"DEAR SIR,—Allow me to congratulate you very heartily on your election. As I am quitting Canada for some weeks, I take leave now to suggest the probable need of you engaging in the discussion of public questions immediately on the opening of Parliament, and the consequent importance of preparation in advance for such discussion and of attendance on the first day of the session. Besides these subjects there is a domestic matter to be settled. Under our arrangements, my present relation to the party ends with the opening; and it will devolve upon the liberals at once to choose their leader for the new Parliament. My old colleagues have known my mind so long, that for them it is hardly necessary that I should speak. Yet it may be for the general convenience that I should now anticipate the possibility that my name may in some quarters be suggested by informing you that, even were I honored by an election, I could not attempt the further discharge of the duties of the office, and that another choice must be made. I need not say that all the help in my power will be freely given to the new leader. I am deeply grateful for the kindness and the forbearance, assistance and support extended to me in the past, and with the earnest hope that under better auspices there may open for the party a brighter future, and for myself an ever widening sphere of usefulness.

I am, faithfully yours,
EDWARD BLAKE.

THE EXAMINER VICTORIOUS.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 28.—Police Judge Hornblower to-day decided the criminal libel suit brought by W. J. Tuska against W. R. Hearst, proprietor of the *Examiner*, by sustaining the defendant's demurrer. In his decision the judge referred to the liberty of the press, and held that there was nothing in the article published to sustain a criminal libel.

Boxing gloves and foot balls at T. N. Hibben & Co's. *

LATE CANADIAN NEWS.

ONTARIO.

Dr. O'Brien, M. P., for South Essex, is dangerously ill of typhoid fever at his house at Essex Centre.

The liberals of East Bruce have nominated R. Truax for the commons, in the event of Mr. Blake choosing to sit for West Durham.

The sash factory and planing mill, owned by Beaudet & Carriere, Ottawa, was burned to the ground. The loss is about $6,000. There is no insurance except on machinery.

The reformers of Haldimand held a big demonstration to protest against the recent count-out. Fifteen hundred dollars were subscribed to appeal the case.

The Postoffice Savings bank account for March shows repayments, $466,526.58; at credit of depositers, $18,333,830