From THE DAILY COLONIST, March 29.

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

Brown v. Beaulands Et Al.

In this cause yesterday, all the evidence was put in, and the jury answered a number of legal points, argument upon which will take place on Tuesday week.

Real Estate Deals.

Routledge & Co.'s agent, in Westminster, sold $1,000 worth of property, yesterday, and the firm here sold six lots, averaging $125 per lot; one lot on Esquimalt road at $1,000, and two lots on the Chandler estate at $1,300 each.

Modern Machinery.

Muirhead and Mann are erecting a large drying shed on the north side of their mills, which when finished will be the only one of its kind on the Coast. The machinery, which is being put in now, is of the latest design and will no doubt prove successful.

Arrest of a Brute.

Sergeant Levin and Officer Irving, last night arrested Jack Kenny, a rather well known character for brutally assaulting two inmates of a Broad street house. One of the women was badly cut about the face, and the other was unmercifully beaten at the back of the head.

Enterprising Chinamen.

Coon Gaw, of 10 Cormorant street, is an enterprising Chinaman. He has a ranch at North Saanich, and understanding how profitable a hop ranch can become, he has decided to plant 50 acres with English Clusters, the best hops grown. Fifty thousand roots, enough to plant 30 acres, have already been purchased, and the balance of the stock will be put in shortly.

Better Salaries.

By the estimates of expenditure, laid before the Legislature on Wednesday, it will be seen that it is contemplated to increase the salaries of the House officers and the indemnity of the members. Hereafter the Speaker is expected to receive $1,000; the clerk of the House, $600; law clerk and librarian, $500; each messenger, $250, and each member, $600.

Off for the Holidays.

Among the outgoing passengers by the City of Kingston, last evening, were the following Victorians, who will spend the Easter holidays away from home: Mrs. John Grant and Mrs. Caldwell, for Portland; the Misses Cameron, also for Portland; Mr. and Mrs. Milligan and child, for Tacoma; Miss Horton, for Portland; Mr. and Mrs. Broderick and Mr. Fred. Fell, for Puget Sound; and Mr. G. H. Maynard, for the East.

Lenten Services.

Yesterday, Holy Thursday, Pontifical High Mass was celebrated in St. Andrew's Pro-Cathedral by his Lordship the Bishop. Rev. Father Nicolaye acting as deacon, and Father Leterme as sub-deacon, Father Mandart assisting, with Father Van Nevel as master of ceremonies. After Mass the ceremony of the blessing of the oils was observed. At half past seven the solemn observances of the Tenebrae took place. To-day, Good Friday, the services arranged for will, if anything, be more than ordinarily impressive.

Mr. Speaker's Dinner Party.

The following-named gentlemen dined with Mr. Speaker Higgins, at Regent Park, last evening: Hon. C. E. Pooley, Hon Forbes Vernon, Hon. Theo. Davie, Mr. Herbert Stanton, Major Peters, Capt. Ogilvie, Lieut. Davenport, R.N., Lt.-Col. Wolfenden, Major Dupont, Major Nicholles, Capt. Martley, Mr. W. C. Ward, Mr. J. Hamilton Burns, Dr. I. W. Powell, Mr. Robert Ward, Mr. F. Warlock, Mr. A. W. Vowell, Mr. C. Phillips Wolley, Mr. C. A. Vernon, Mr. James Angus, Mr. A. C. Flummerfelt.

Anniversary Services.

The anniversary services in connection with the Gorge Road Methodist Sunday school are to be held next Sunday and Monday, 29th and 30th insts. Rev. Mr. Betts, of Vancouver, will preach both morning and evening, on Sunday, and in the afternoon the church will be entirely given over to the children of the school. A large platform has been constructed to accommodate the children, and the programme will comprise special music, for which the scholars have been practising for several weeks an appropriate recitations. On Monday the annual social will be furnished for the benefit of the school. The church is now being decorated by the ladies of the congregation.

Will Have New Grounds.

President D. R. Ker, of the British Columbia Agricultural society, presided at a well-attended directors' meeting, held in the city police court room, last night. A report was received from the committee appointed to select new grounds, in which the purchase of three acres of land on Cadboro Bay road, adjoining the Driving Park, was advised. This report was adopted, and a second committee was named to devise ways and means for erecting substantial and suitable buildings, to be used, if possible, for the exhibition of this year. The remaining hours of the evening were spent in the consideration and preparation of the prize list—a work the very reverse of interesting.

A Cook's Misfortunes.

The subject of the relations and obligations existing between a ship captain and his crew is now attracting attention in local official circles. A vessel coming to this port shipped a colored cook to whom was advanced a certain sum before he went aboard. During the voyage out, owing to certain misunderstandings, the captain sent him the galley into the forecastle, where he has since remained as an ordinary sailor. Arrived at Victoria, he, it is said, demanded some of his overdue pay, which, being refused, the parties are at loggerheads, with apparently little prospect of a settlement. The captain holds on to the pay, and the man does not want to ship again, because he and the captain are, he says, incompatibles. The question is, how will the matter end? Will the man get his pay and leave his ship, or will he go aboard again, it may be, it is suggested, to cross back to Europe in irons?

Societies' Act.

Hon. Mr. Beaven's act to incorporate benevolent and other societies, enumerates the following as among the purposes for which individuals may be incorporated under it: For benevolent, or provident, or moral or charitable; making provision against sickness, unavoidable misfortune, or death, and for relieving the widows and orphan children of members deceased; for social intercourse, mutual helpfulness, mental and moral improvement, and rational recreation; improvement and development of the mental, social, and physical condition of young men and young women; the investigation of science and the promotion of knowledge; for promoting the cause of temperance and moral reform; for establishing and maintaining refuge homes for women and children; for the suppression of vice and cruelty to children; for the prevention of cruelty to animals; for providing means of recreation, exercise, and amusement by means of boating clubs, bathing clubs, athletic and gymnastic clubs, choral societies.

Doing a Good Work.

The prominent cannerymen of the Fraser, headed by Alexander Ewan, have subscribed quite a handsome sum of money, to be handed over to those who, by Capt. Smith's untimely end, have been left wellnigh destitute. This sum, with $1,000 which the Westminster City Council propose to donate, will place the survivors in comfortable circumstances. — Vancouver World.

The Spirit of Gaiety.

This nimble sprite was present to please all who attended the dance given in Harmony Hall last night, in celebration of the 41st anniversary of the B. C. Society for the Investigation of Spiritualism. Dancing commenced at 8.30 o'clock, and was continued until after midnight, during the intermissions refreshments being served by the ladies of the society. Bantley's orchestra furnished the music.

Something New.

A Christy minstrel and shadow acting performance will be given in the Christ Church Cathredral school, on Thursday next. The company is hard at work rehearsing, and a pleasant evening's entertainment is anticipated. Mrs. Phillips Wolley has gathered together some good talent among whom are Misses Dunsmuir, Powell, Drake, Mrs. Bullen, and Messrs. Drake, Wooton, Bridgeman, Carpenter, Whalley, Barton, Pike, and Capt. Baker.

Lost in the Woods.

An English gentleman, a graduate of Edinburgh University, has just had a decidedly unpleasant experience in the woods near Alberni, where he succeeded in losing himself last Sunday afternoon. A searching party from the settlement scoured the bush for him all that night, and early Monday morning found him sitting on a log, smoking his pipe coolly and waiting for the sun to rise that he might continue his search for the settlement.

City Council.

The adjourned meeting of the city council was to have been held last night at eight o'clock, but at 8:15 the only members present were Aldermen Smith, Robertson, Holland and McKillican, and there being no quorum, the meeting adjourned. A few minutes after Ald. Richards came in, a short time thereafter being employed in taking over, in a conversational way, Mr. DeCosmos' meeting of the previous night and the sewerage improvement mare's nest.

Cutting Away the Booms.

A company of farmers in the Lillooet district had a boom of logs across the river, near where it empties into the Pitt river, and, last Thursday, took advantage of the law which empowers anyone to cut a boom stretched across the entire width of a river, and let the logs out. The loss is heavy, but the farmers had no redress. They report that theirs is not the first boom that has been cut in this way during the past two months.—Vancouver World.

Cigarette Seizures.

Information having been received by the customs authorities that it has for some time been the practice to land contraband cigarettes from the Sound steamers and dispose of them in the different saloons, Mr. Shears, the appraiser, last night, visited a number of places to which his attention had been directed. He was accompanied by several police officers in order to prevent any interference with him. In the course of his examinations he discovered a small quantity of stuff which had not paid duty.

Victoria Athletic Club.

The board of management of the Victoria Athletic Club met last evening to dispose of the general business accumulated during the month. Twenty-one new members were admitted, and a number of committees were named on special subjects, field sports being included. On Monday night, the first of a series of weekly classes of all kinds in gymnasium work will be taken charge of by Instructors Gouge and Mellish. On Wednesday night, Mr. Wenger is to give an illustrated explanation of the work on the vaulting horse, parallel bars, etc., for members only, the practising members rendering assistance.

Field-Thorpe.

At St. John's Church, at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon, Mr. W. H. Field, of Field & Dempster, Nanaimo, was married by Rev. Percival Jenns to Miss Agnes Elsie Thorpe, eldest daughter of Mr. J. B. Thorpe, of Port Erin, Isle of Man. The wedding was private, and was solemnized in the presence of only the most immediate friends of the couple most concerned. The bride wore her travelling costume, and was attended by her two sisters, the Misses Jennie and Violet Thorpe. Accompanying the groom were his brother, Mr. H. E. Field, late of the H B. Co. in this city, and Mr. H. Beevor Potts, of Nanaimo. The wedding trip will be on the mainland, for which Mr. and Mrs. Field left this morning, via Westminster. They will make their home in Nanaimo, where it is expected they will receive their friends in about a fortnight, and where a large number of beautiful gifts have been forwarded to await their home coming.

The Business in Staves.

United States Consul Myers has received from Mr. W. F. Wharton, assistant secretary of the department of state, at Washington, a circular making a number of inquiries as to the condition of the manufacture and sale of staves in this province. The circular has been addressed to the American consuls generally, and covers the following points: An estimate of the number and value of the staves made, and the kind of staves which are in the greatest demand; the sources of supply and the cost to consumers; the condition in which staves should be delivered in order to command the best price; the dimensions of the staves in use; the timber most desirable for the production of the staves desired; the conditions of supply and demand; whether American staves are sold in your district, together with any other general information. Mr. Myers will be glad to obtain all possible information, so as to enable him to make his reply as complete as possible.

The New Rabbi.

Rev. Dr. S. Philo, an eloquent preacher, a profound scholar and a graduate of the Breslauer College of Germany, has become the Rabbi of the Hebrew Congregation Emanuel, of this city, and has already entered upon his work. In San Francisco, from which city he came last week, he is a favorite pastor, and, no doubt, his popularity will follow him here. He will conduct services at the Synagogue, at eight this evening, when the subject of the lecture will be, "Does Knowledge Promote Faith?" Lectures will in future be given every Friday evening, at 8:30; and regular services will be held at 8 p.m. Fridays and 10 a.m. Saturdays. Mr. S. S. Hyams, a prominent and diligent member of the church, has recently presented the congregation, for their use, with a handsome, solid silver yard, with the hand and index finger, the whole being tastefully engraved and inscribed in memory of Mr. Sol. Hyams, whose death, last year, caused sorrow in a large circle of friends.

Drunks.

Several drunks appeared in the Police Court, yesterday morning, among whom were four klootchmen, one white woman, an Indian and two white men. The klootchmen were first dealt with and were fined $5, and $1 costs, each, and the Indian was fined $5, without the extra dollar. The two white men were also fined $5 each. A woman, who had a large family to keep, and who had indulged rather too much the night before, was fined $5. A keeper and an inmate of a house of ill-fame were also fined $50 and $10 respectively, and were warned not to appear again.

The Commercial Travellers' Tax.

As indicative of the interest which is taken in the East on the subject of the Commercial Travellers' Tax, the following extract from a report of the last meeting of the Montreal Board of Trade, will be of interest: "A communication was read from the secretary of the Hamilton Board of Trade which contained the following resolution passed by that body: 'That the question of license fees on commercial travellers now charged in Victoria, B.C., be referred to the president and vice-president to communicate with the Boards of Trade of Montreal and Toronto to agree on joint action looking to its removal.' The letter asked for information as to what action the Montreal Board would take. The council expressed its willingness to co-operate with the Toronto and Hamilton Boards, if such action was deemed necessary, but it was understood that in other places, notably St. Johns, N.B., and Quebec, the question had been decided in the courts." The council of the Board was requested to do its utmost to secure an amicable adjustment of the matter, it being held in the East that the general trade of Victoria and this province is advantaged rather than prejudiced by the periodical visits of the travellers.

Here to Stay and Inquire.

Mr. H. Menut, who has recently arrived in this city from Paris with the intention of staying, at any rate for the present, is a graduate of one of the universities of France. He was also secretary of the French consul at Manchester, after which he returned to Paris, where he obtained, out of a class of 70, the first prize offered by the French Commercial School and the Chambre de Commerce, which entitled him to go abroad for three years, receiving 4,000 francs for his maintenance the first year, 3,000 francs for the second, and 2,000 francs for the third year. This is to enable the successful candidate to go abroad and, if he so desires, to establish himself. In return for this he is expected to furnish the minister of commerce with a certain amount of information, including quarterly reports of the resources and progress of the country where he may reside, as well as all the statistics which he can procure. Having been appointed to British Columbia, Mr. Menut is expected to remain here for the three years, during which he draws his allowance, but can change his location by special arrangement. Mr. Menut is a nephew of Mr Leon Cortel, who holds an important commercial position in Paris, and was formerly engaged in this city as bookkeeper for Messrs. Greeley & Fitzerald.

A GRAVE IN ICY WATERS.

Mr. Frederick Saunders, of Alberni, Comes to His Death by Drowning.

A correspondent writing from Alberni, says that a peculiarly sad accident occurred there on the 21st inst., whereby Frederick Saunders, son of the storekeeper, Mr. F. P. Saunders, lost his life. The young man, with Mr. Howitt, the schoolmaster, had been out in the bay for a day's shooting, and the two were returning with a strong South wind, and the sheet hauled to starboard, when a sudden squall struck the boat, and before the sail could be slackened the little craft upset. The two young men clung to the boat, and managed to remove their heavy gum boots, but were repeatedly washed off by the heavy seas. The undercurrent from the river threatened to carry them out into the canal, and seeing this and fearing that they could not long hold to the boat, they decided to try to swim ashore. The distance was not great, but being already chilled and exhausted, their progress was but slow. Mr. Howitt was the more powerful swimmer, and, looking back, he saw his companion following not far behind. Just as the teacher reached the shore, however, he heard Saunders call for help. Again he looked for the young man, but he had disappeared. Mr. Howitt could do nothing, as he was himself exhausted, and had the shore been a few yards further he, too, must have been drowned.

He made his way to the nearest houses and there told the sad story; several volunteers were soon out in boats, but could not recover the body on account of the heavy sea. The next day, Sunday, a large party was organized, and they, after a diligent search, found the body in about four feet of water, the tide then being lower than at the time of the accident.

The deceased was a bright and promising youth of fifteen years of age; the only son and the pride of his parents and a general favorite in the settlement. His father, Mr. F. P. Saunders, a Cariboo miner at one time, and a brother of Mr. Henry Saunders, is very well known throughout the province.

PERSONALS.

O. P. St. John, head steamboat inspector of the Toronto board, is here on business.

G. Mesher, E. M. Sexsmith and J. E. Crane came over from the Mainland last night.

Mr. and Mrs. Musgrave, of Salt Spring Island, are guests of Mrs. McDonell, Birdcage Walk.

H. Menut, of Paris, and nephew of Lew Curtal, an old Victorian, is at present in Victoria.

A. McT. Campbell, general agent of the Canada Life, was a passenger in by last night's mainland boat.

W. Herbert Field and H. Beever Potts, of Nanaimo, came down yesterday, the former on business of extreme importance.

W. E Losee returned home by the Islander, last night, from Vancouver, where he met his brother, R. B. Losee, and wife.

S. G. Yerkes, travelling freight and passenger agent of the Puget Sound & Alaska S. S. company, and W. N. Mears, travelling freight and passenger agent of the N. P. R., came over by the Kingston last night.

A. D. Wheeler, owner of the Sky line and other mines of the Hot Springs camp, on Kootenay lake, is in the city. Mr Wheeler is one of the oldest and most influential mining men on that coast, and has had a long experience in Utah and Montana. He was interviewing the members of the mining commission last evening, in respect to some changes in the new mineral Act. He is stopping temporarily at the Union Club.

VICTORIA'S LONG BRANCH.

Preparations for the Erection of a Grand Summer Hotel at Oak Bay Beach.

The Tramway System Will Be Extended to this Fashionable Watering Place Within 90 Days.

Almost every city of importance on the continent has, within easy access, some particularly attractive breathing spot, where the tired-out citizen, or the visitor in search of amusement, health or relaxation from every day scenes, may enjoy the charms of nature and, at the same time, the comforts and conveniences of civilization. The sea can never lose its grandeur or its power to attract, and so seaside summer resorts, from earliest history, have been the favorite gathering places of fashion and of health seekers. New York has its Coney Island, Long Branch and half a dozen other less noted beaches; San Francisco its Cliff House, and Victoria will not be behind when Oak Bay becomes famous, as it must, all over America.

The beach at this delightful spot is already too well known to require either praise or description. Rising from it is a very considerable stretch of beautifully situated land, especially suited for summer cottages, etc. One hundred and fifty acres have passed into the possession of an incorporated company, with ample capital, which will at once proceed to erect a handsome and well equipped summer hotel, three stories in height, with 40 bedrooms, public and private dining rooms, etc., etc. The entire building will be lighted with electricity and furnished in the most modern and luxurious fashion. The cuisine will be made a special feature of the house, and attached to it will be boat houses, bath houses, restaurant, and all other incidental buildings of a watering place. The hotel grounds will contain a fine tennis court, and an oval suitable for baseball, lacrosse, etc. There is a stretch of about 4,000 feet of beach, affording the best sea bathing on the Island.

Roads and sidewalks are to be made at once, and the hotel is expected to be ready for occupancy some time in July. One gentleman, not in the company, will put up four pretty summer cottages; and a number of others will follow his worthy example.

An agreement has been completed with the tramway company for a service to the beach, which, by that agreement, is to be in operation within 90 days. The Oak Bay line will branch off from Fort street at its intersection with Oak Bay Avenue and go straight to the beach by that wide thoroughfare. A little over a mile is about the extension, and regular cars will be constantly operated upon it, to connect with the Fort street service for all parts of the city. For the present, the beach service will probably be operated as a shuttle line, with its own open and closed cars. Five cent fares will be collected from or to the beach from all parts of the city.

JUDGMENT IS RESERVED,

And the Six Union Miners Are Again Released on Their Own Recognizances.

To the average layman, the hearing of Mr. Wilson's motion for a rule *nisi* and new trial in the case of the convicted union miners of Wellington, which was continued before the Chief Justice and Justices Crease and McCreight, sitting as a Full Court, yesterday morning, was uninteresting and, for the most part, unintelligible. On the opening of the court, Mr. Wilson again addressed the bench, enlarging upon the points of his argument submitted on the opening day. Mr. Belyea, associated with Mr. Wilson in the case, took the broad ground that the provision in the Provincial Act enabling a special jury to sit on a criminal case was not only repugnant to the principle of Federal legislation on the same subject, but *ultra vires* of the enacting power. At the present time, in this province, the same men finding a bill as grand jurors, might also sit to try the merits of the case as special jurors. Sixteen men might only come into court as a special jury, according to the Act, and, the learned counsel contended, this did not allow a sufficient number of challenges. Four hundred years ago it was enacted that a man should be tried by a jury of his peers—this fundamental principle of British law was just as good law to-day as in the days of Magna Charta. The special jury system was introducing an entirely new order of legal procedure—not trial by a jury of the peers of the accused.

The Chief Justice had a word to say about trial by jury; if he or the learned counsel, Mr. Belyea, were to be put on trial for murder, he would not in any probability be tried by a jury of his peers—the trial would no doubt be by a number of ignorant, stupid, superstitious men such as were usually to be found upon juries.

The court announced that they would consult upon the points brought forward, that of the constitutionality of the Provincial Statute being the most important, and would give due notice before announcing the result of their deliberations. In all likelihood, a decision would be reached before Monday week. Pending such decision, the men were at liberty to go home as before—on their own recognizances, to appear when called on.

RAILWAY MATTERS.

Mr. Paul Schulze, N.P.R. Land Commissioner, Comes Over to Discuss the Railway Situation.

Mr. Paul Schulze, land commissioner of the Northern Pacific Railway, arrived over from Tacoma last evening, for the purpose of consulting with the Mayor and Board of Aldermen on a proposition to build a line of railway into Victoria *via* the Chehalis Valley, Port Crescent, a Straits ferry and Port Becher. It is not known what shape the proposal will take, but it is rumored that a million dollars and terminals will be required as an inducement in the building of the road. Mr. Schulze will have an informal meeting with the Mayor and aldermen to-day and take up the matter, and it is expected that a definite scheme will be submitted in the near future to the people of Victoria for ratification. The Northern Pacific as a company have no power to build beyond Tacoma, and it has been suggested that the arrangement be made with the North American Company, which is composed of the Rockefellers and other leading Northern Pacific stockholders.

We Claim the Earth.

We claim the earth is round, and we know it's true. We also claim that Hagyard's Yellow Oil cures sprains, bruises, burns, colds, croup, sore throat, rheumatism, neuralgia and all painful or inflammatory diseases and we know this is true. Yellow Oil is a true family remedy for lameness or soreness in man or beast.

MR. DECOSMOS' EXPLANATION.

TO THE EDITOR:—The National Bard of Scotland said that "the best laid schemes of mice and men gang aft agley,"—and so it was to some extent with the last public meeting, of which I propose to explain now, in some detail, the chief object. Briefly, then: What was intended to be proposed at the meeting, was,—1. That a committee be appointed to interview and memorialize the Provincial Government, and, if deemed expedient, petition the Legislative Assembly, to amend the general municipal act, or pass a special act respecting the City of Victoria only, for the following purposes:

1. That the estimates of revenue and expenditure of the city be published not later than the 1st of March in each year, and, perhaps, this year, not later than the 1st of May, and such estimates to show the estimated current revenue of the city for the current year, and the services for which it was intended to be appropriated; and also contain the entire revenue that it was proposed to be raised by loans to be charged to capital account and the respective services for which such loans were to be appropriated.

2. And that no loan by-law be submitted to the rate payers, for their assent, until it shall have been published at least two months, and every such by-law to fully and distinctly set forth the service or services for which the proceeds of the loan were appropriated.

3. No such by-law to be valid and binding on the rate payers unless at least fifty-one per cent. of the whole number of the ratepayers on the last revised assessment roll of real estate for the city, who bona fide own and represent fifty-one per cent. of the total assessed value of the real estate on the last revised assessment roll of real estate for the city, shall have voted for such by-law.

4. That no by-law to borrow money or make grants for any purpose whatever be submitted to the ratepayers later than the month of June in any year.

It will be observed that the duties that the committee were to be asked to perform were very simple. If the Provincial Government concurred in their recommendation, legislation would be had to prevent the reckless borrowing of money and the peddling of bonuses, grants and guarantees throughout every month in the year, and particularly at the end and beginning of a civic year, possibly in order that some aspirants to seats in the council might secure a return. If the government did not concur, they might be induced to restrict the total amount of the civic debt to a fixed sum not subject to a sliding scale as at present.

If we turn to the Civic estimates published in the COLONIST, in March, it will be perceived that the current revenue for 1891 is $261,255, and the expenditure out of current revenue is put down at $235,417. Not one word, however, is mentioned in them about revenue for civic services that it is proposed to be raised by loans. Now, no good and sufficient reason can be given why the funds for the services of the year, whether from current revenue or from loans, should not both appear in the annual estimates. If such were the case, when a ratepayer read the estimates he would see the amount to be borrowed as well as the income from current sources. As it is now, however, numerous loans and grants are mentioned on the streets and in the press amounting to over a million of dollars. The corporation has no fixed time in the year within which loan by-laws may be submitted for assent of the ratepayers. In 1889, June, July and August was the time. In 1890, four bonus by-laws were passed in January, one in September, and four loan by-laws in December, besides the extension of the City Limits.

The proposal to confine the passing of loan by-laws to *bona fide* ratepayers, representing more than one half of the total number of rate payers, and who *bona fide* represent more than one half of the total value of the real estate on the last revised assessment roll, affords the best safeguard against the council plunging the city recklessly into debt,—and at the same time secures to the majority of the ratepayers so qualified a solid conservative influence in upholding the good name and public credit of the city.

At present, merely a majority of the total number of ratepayers who may vote is necessary to make a loan by-law valid. The following figures, supplied to me by Mr. Dowler, City Clerk, assisted by young Master Humphrey and tabulated by myself, show the danger of making loan by-laws valid by a mere majority of the ratepayers, who may vote quite irrespective of their proportion to the whole number on the assessment roll.

In 1888, the total number of ratepayers entitled to vote for loan or bonus by-laws etc., was 1,638, and, early in 1889, they were those who constituted the last revised assessment roll, under which several loan or bonus by-laws received the assent of the ratepayers, notably: No. 67, the Victoria-Saanich Railway Bonus By-law, when 275 voted for, 272 against, a total vote of 547, leaving 1,081—nearly two-thirds of the total number of ratepayers who did not vote at all,—and the sum involved in the vote was a liability of the city to pay $20,000 a year for 25 years. It was voted for a good purpose, no doubt; but, unquestionably, the trusting to a division of a vote, *pro* and *con*, of 547 ratepayers, instead of making it necessary for, at least, one more than half of the whole number of ratepayers, viz 820, to cast a solid vote of assent for it, is a most unsafe mode of protecting the ratepayer and the city's credit.

The other aids, loans, etc., were:

No. 50—Electric Tramway guarantee, $40,000 for 20 years; votes for, 315; against, 25; total voted, 340; not voted, 1,318.

No. 51.—Street loan, $45,000; for, 319; against, 112; total voted, 358; not voted, 1280.

No. 56—Water works, $70,000; for, 263; against, 112; total voted, 375; not voted, 1263

No. 57.—Waterworks, $60,000; for, 273; against, 124; total voted, 397; not voted, 1241

No. 58.—Beacon Hill, $25,000; for, 271; against, 116; total voted, 387; not voted, 1251.

No. 59.—Fire Department, $15,000; for, 367; against, 86; total voted, 483; not voted, 1185.

In 1889 the total number of ratepayers in the assessment roll for that year was 1796, and the first six bylaws assented to in 1890 were under the list of 1889, viz:

No. 72.—Rice Mill, free water and taxes, for, 384; against, 123; total voted, 507; not voted, 1289.

No. 73.—Flour mill bonus, $10,000 and no taxes 15 years; for, 359; against, 120; total voted, 479; not voted, 1317.

No. 74.—Paper mill bonus, $15,000; for, 399; against, 123; total voted, 522; not voted, 1274.

No. 75—Sugar refinery bonus, $40,000; for, 396; against, 115; total voted, 511; not voted, 1285.

No. 80.—City Hall loan, $35,000; for, 370; against, 287; total voted, 657; not voted, 1139

No. 81.—Cemetery loan, $12,500; for, 347; against, 330; total voted, 677; not voted, 1,119.

In September, November and December, 1890, five by-laws received the assent of the ratepayers on the last revised assessment roll for 1890, which numbered 2,014, viz:

No. 120—Sewerage, $300,000; for, 374; against, 134; total voted, 508; not voted, 1,506!!

No. 124—Extension City Limits; for, 305; against, 80; total voted, 386; not voted, 1,628!

No. 125—Public Market, $45,000; for, 203; against, 183; total voted, 385; not voted, 1,629.

No. 126—Market Building, $55,000; for, 202; against, 177; total voted, 379; not voted, 1,635.

No. 127—Cemetery, $10,000; for, 295; against, 107; total voted, 402; not voted, 1,602.

Now, Mr. Editor, is it not a "screaming farce" for the Corporation to submit a by-law for the assent of the ratepayers, say $300,000 for sewerage, to be opposed by 134, carried by 240 majority, and leave out 1,506 ratepayers who did not vote at all? A glance through the figures seems to impress one that the Corporation possess a regular machine for assenting to by-laws; and that not till the assent of a majority of the whole number of ratepayers be necessary to make a loan or franchise by-law valid, will the mysteriously worked machine be set aside, and the city be provided with a substantial safeguard against being overwhelmed with a public debt. Viewing what has been done and what is proposed to be done by the machine in the fairest light, and taking the most liberal view of the intentions of the council, it is manifest that the property, rights and privileges of citizens are in jeopardy, and that it is time to cry: "Down brakes." In October last, Mr. J. J. Hill, president of the Great Northern Railway Co., visited Blaine, and the Blaine Journal of that date reports, among other things, that he said, viz.: "He spoke encouragingly of the fruit industry—and warningly against getting the city (Blaine) too deeply in debt!" May Victorians apply Mr. Hill's advice here? A word more: In 1881 I visited Mr. Villard, then head of the Northern Pacific in New York, to induce him to undertake the construction and operation of the proposed railway between Victoria and Nanaimo. After reading carefully the statement I had submitted to him, he handed it back, remarking, "I don't want to handle anything out of the United States, but if this be a good thing you will find plenty of Canadians to take it up." So I say now I don't want Victoria to handle any railway out of Columbia, and that if Paul Schultze & Co.'s project be a good thing he will find plenty of Americans in the States to take it up.

A. DECOSMOS.

A SETTLER'S VIEW.

TO THE EDITOR:—Having read several letters in your paper lately concerning the game laws, I should like to make a few remarks on the subject. All letters I have read are written from the sportsman's point of view. I am a great lover of sport, but I write from the settler's point of view, where all game is valued according to its usefulness as an article of food. Here we have exactly the same game laws as there are at Victoria and in all thickly settled portions of British Columbia. When deer and sheep are in season here, excepting for the first month or six weeks, they are of smaller value to us than they are at any other time, as then the weather is getting cold and we are able to kill beef and have plenty of fresh meat. When the above mentioned animals would be a perfect God-send to the settler is during the hot summer months. Here we are so scattered and far apart that to kill beef then is out of the question, as at least half of it would spoil (of course salt beef we can always have). Then if a settler was allowed to kill a deer whenever he could for fresh meat it would be such a treat. He would not be able to kill many during the summer, as here the deer are able to take pretty good care of themselves, and settlers have very little time to spare during that season of the year, and in June, July and August the bucks are at their best. What few the whites would kill would make no difference compared to the numbers the Indians kill during all times of the year, as they are not restricted in any way, whatever; in fact, if they were not allowed to hunt during the close season for game they would have to be fed by the government or starve. As far as mountain sheep are concerned, it seems absurd to protect them here, as the mountains are rough and precipitous, and God made the mountains and sheep, and whether the sheep were made for the mountains, or the mountains for the sheep, I know not. Anyhow, the latter are perfectly able to take care of themselves, and their numbers can never be seriously affected here by the hunter, and a man earns every sheep he gets three or four times over. In fact, few white men are physically able to make a success of sheep hunting. If Mr. Hunter knew anything about this part of the province, he would never propose to protect some kinds of game in the way he does in his letter of February 13th.

What we wish for, is to have equal rights with the Indians. At present, in this district, we are preserving the game for the Indians, and it is only during the last year we have had the game laws enforced here. I grant that, in the course of time, deer will be killed out of the Kootenay valley by the Indians alone, without any help from the white man. As far as mountain goat are concerned, white men will never bother them, as they are valueless, the hide being worth next to nothing and the meat nothing at all, and in certain parts of this country there are any quantity. I have seen, more than once, over a hundred in a band. Allowance must be made for us in this country. We have very few of the comforts of civilization, and the stores here, though excellent of their kind, do not sell fresh meat, and canned goods are a trifle expensive for a settler. Beans and bacon, salt beef and potatoes get awfully monotonous in hot weather. Eggs can be bought in limited quantities at six bits and a dollar a dozen, so it is needless to remark they are not often indulged in. Of the feathered tribe, there is only one member I should like to see, outside the protected list, and that is the blue grouse. It comes into the valley in the end of March or early in April, and remains till early in August, when it returns to the mountains and remains on the summits for the rest of the year, so during the season for killing grouse few, if any, are killed, as no man is going to climb mountains just to kill a few grouse, as practically they may never be killed, and they are by far the most plentiful of all the grouse in the country; but, in consequence of the game laws, it is perfectly valueless to the settler. Of course, here no venison or any wild meat fit for food of any kind is ever wasted, the Indians especially being very careful in saving meat.

With apologies for taking up so much of your valuable space.

ARTHUR B. FENWICK.

F. S. Barnard, M.P., has returned from Cariboo.

THE WORLD OF PLEASURE.

A social entertainment was given, last night, by the members of the Young Men's Christian Association, a very bountiful supply of refreshments being served. Addresses were delivered by Mr. Teague and Mr. Sam. Reid, the burden of their remarks being directed to impressing on young men the duty of each one endeavoring to increase the membership of the Association.

The concert, under the auspices of Rev. Mr. Browne's congregation, drew a large number of Victorians to Tolmie school last evening.

Already many seats are booked for the last attraction in the Star course, the Weber Concert company, on Friday evening. The company includes a number of recognized musical artists.

Officers and members of Victoria West Lodge, No. 29, I. O. G. T., invite their friends to a grand concert in aid of the lodge funds, on Wednesday next. The programme contains such well known names as the following: Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Stone, Miss Leigh, Miss Wright, Messrs. Blight, Temple, Irwin, Brown, Hall, Field, Thomas, Jones, Fraser and Craig.

MEMORIES OF FATHERLAND.

The Germania club held a pleasant dance in Oliver's Hall, Broad street, last evening, which about fifty couples attended, the majority sons and daughters of Vaterland. It was about 2 o'clock this morning when the party was at an end. Brown's orchestra ably supplied the music, and C. Wenger, M Lohbonner and G. Markgret acted as floor managers.

AT PHILHARMONIC HALL.

Under the soft light of Japanese, Maltese and Chinese lanterns, about 100 couples danced the hours away at Philharmonic hall last night, the hop being given by the members of Court Vancouver, No. 5,755, A.O.F., who had, with their order's banners, prettily decorated the hall for the occasion. Prof. Pferdner's efficient orchestra, of five pieces, was given little rest until the hour came for dispersing. Not the least admirable of the arrangements, was the well served luncheon, and, in fact, the Foresters did all that could be done to make their guests happy. Messrs. Randolph, Gilligan, Semple and Johnston are particularly to be thanked for the success of the dance.

SABBATH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

The first annual meeting of the Victoria Sabbath School Association was held last night in the school-room of the Pandora Methodist Church, Mr. W. H. Burkholder, president, in the chair. A preliminary social was given, the business commencing at eight o'clock. Among the business transacted was the reception of very satisfactory reports from the superintendents of the schools belonging to the Union, and a general discussion on Sunday school topics. Future work was outlined at considerable length. The music was furnished by the orchestra of the Pandora Avenue church Sunday school.

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MAIL CONTRACTS.

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until noon, on Friday, the 1st May next, for the conveyance of Her Majesty's Mails on proposed contracts for four years in each case, between HARRISON HOT SPRINGS and AGASSIZ RAILWAY STATION, and NANAIMO and RAILWAY STATION from the 1st June next; and until Friday, the 15th May, between KOOTENAY RIVER and OKANAGAN MISSION from the 1st July next.

Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed contracts may be seen and blank forms of tender may be obtained at the Post Offices at Agassiz and Harrison Hot Springs, at Nanaimo, at Okanagan Mission, Penticton, Keremeos, Osoyoos, Rock Creek, at Mr. S. Spraggett's store, Kettle River, and at this office.

E. H. FLETCHER,
P. O. Inspector's Office. P. O. Inspector.
Victoria, B. C., 20th March, 1891. mr27-3t-w

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WHITE STAR	(From New York to Liverpool)	Every Saturday
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INMAN	do	Every Saturday
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