The Weekly Colonist.

THIRTY-SIXTH YEAR. VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, FRIDAY OCTOBER 5 1894. VOLUME XXXVI. NO. 43

THE AMERICAN TARIFF.

Hon. W. L. Wilson, Father of the Existing Fiscal System, Banquetted in London.

Speeches by Merchants and Free Traders and the Guest of the Evening.

LONDON, Sept. 27.—The London Chamber of Commerce gave a complimentary dinner in the Whitehall rooms this evening to Hon. Wm. L. Wilson, representative of West Virginia in the U. S. Congress. Sir Albert Kaye Rollitt presided, and a hundred British and American guests were present, among them being Hon. J. S. Morton, U. S. secretary of agriculture; Congressman Isidore Strauss, of New York; Consul General Patrick Collins; Henry Kimber, M.P.; J. D. Provand, M.P., David A. Thomas, M.P.; Sir Courtney Boyle, permanent secretary of the board of trade; W. D. Thompson, treasurer of the chamber of commerce; President Britton, of the Sheffield chamber of Commerce; President Eastwood, of the Huddersfield Chamber of Commerce; and many others of note. The Chairman in proposing a toast to the guest of the evening dwelt upon the excellent judgment shown in the selection of ministers to represent the country at the Court of St. James. Great good had been done, he said, by such judicious appointments as those of Lincoln, Lowell, Phelps and Bayard. The speech was heartily cheered.

Following this was a toast to Mr. Wilson and the other Americans present, in proposing, which, the speaker referred to his visit to the United States, when he had wondered that with the advanced ideas of the Americans they had so long tolerated a high tariff. The making of nations generally, he said, covered long periods of years compared with which the period of seeking tariff reform in the United States was extremely short. There was no reason in his judgment why the United States and Great Britain should not march abreast in the cause of freedom with which tariff reform must be associated. When the advantages of the system which Mr. Wilson had had a large share in introducing were fully known, England and America would unite to honor him (cheers) He therefore asked the guests present to accord a special welcome to one of the authors of a tariff enabling freer trade in the United States, and so substituting for the fluctuations which had been so disastrous to commerce the sounder business relations which had benefitted both countries. Production in England has been stimulated, while in the United States the consumer would reap the advantage (cheers).

Mr. Wilson, in responding, said he was heartily grateful for this manifestation of good-will. Nothing less than a full sense of the honor implied by the invitation of the [illegible] would induce him to interrupt the rest he had sought by taking the ocean voyage and his too brief sojourn in this historic country. He felt embarrassed as to how to address such a gathering of experienced business men, and was conscious that he could not speak upon the subjects within their special knowledge. He preferred to speak solely as an American citizen upon matters with which he was familiar. (Hear, hear). For ten years, he said, the United States has been the arena of one of the great political conflicts in the history of the Americans, and he was confident that the troubles which they had now passed through, had given a momentum to a new era in the life of the United States, and especially to the position of the country toward the rest of the world. (Cheers) For 100 years the United States has been following the policy that China had adopted. The principle of commercial seclusion had clipped the wings of her enterprise and fettered her industries. Never before in the history of the world had protection had so fair an area in which to work out its beneficial results, if it had any, and never in the history of the world had it so conspicuously demonstrated its falsity and utter impotence as an economic system and its utter incompatibility with pure government.

The whole generation has been taught that national and individual prosperity did not depend upon a free and stable government and the energy and enterprise of the people, but on the acts of Congress which taxed all for the benefit of a few. Was it strange then, he asked, that the intelligent people of the United States should in time regret such a policy? Every appeal to selfish interests has been resorted to, to bolster the system up. The workingmen of America were constantly told, and for a time induced to believe that better wages and a higher standard of living depended solely upon the taxation of foreign imports; that any reduction of this taxation would plunge them into the hopeless condition of the so-called pauper labor of Europe. It was against such arguments that they have been compelled slowly and laboriously to maintain a fight. The American people, however, were not hard to educate when they once gave their attention to the great question of their own taxation, because they have been trained in the great principles of liberty. They quickly learned that industries supported by taxation never became self-supporting, but rather became more clamorous for public assistance. The working people especially learned that while taxation upon competing products might benefit the employers, yet there was free trade in what they themselves had to sell, namely, their own labor. The people generally found that under a protective tariff trusts, monopolies, etc., were growing, which were menacing free government, and that wealth extracted by taxation was being employed to debauch electors and corrupt legislators. Mr. Wilson said he believed that he might claim that the protective system was now overthrown. The operation of the new tariff bill, though it had not in itself overthrown protection, marked the first and most difficult step in the revolution which would go forward henceforth by its own impetus. As regarded the aims and objects of the tariff reformers, he said they were seeking to emancipate the industries of the country. What he had to say might not be welcome to his hearers, but he would not be showing a just appreciation of their hospitality unless he spoke the whole truth with the utmost frankness. In the reform contest they had steadily aimed first to reduce, with a view of their abolition, the taxes levied for the support of private industries and the establishment of a great principle. The government had no right to impose any tax except for the support of the government. Secondly, to free American industries from those burdens which had hitherto excluded them from the markets of the world. He was not sure that he could call upon his hearers to rejoice at the accomplishment of tariff reform in the United States except inasmuch as they approved of the principle more than they valued selfish advantage. (Laughter.) The protectionists of the United States had built up defences to keep the people of Great Britain and others from competing with their home markets, but the tariff reformers were now tearing down those defences in order to let themselves out so that they might compete with the British in other markets. The future would prove that the manufacturing supremacy of the world would go to the people who had the largest supply of the basis material and industry and the cheapest access thereto, and who also applied the highest intelligence to their manufactures. He concluded by predicting that the nation would be found to be America. At the same time he believed that the progress of the demands of the world would advance upon such a scale that there would be ample room for the commerce of the United States and the United Kingdom as well. (Cheers)

Mr. J. Sterling Morton, secretary of agriculture, who was the next speaker, said the agriculturists of the United States had learned that they were selling their produce in competition with the agricultural labor of all the world, yet they were compelled to purchase whatever they needed in their industry in a country from which competition was excluded. He believed that the American nation had bidden a final adieu to protection.

W. H. Williams, in proposing a toast to the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, read a letter from Thomas F. Bayard, U.S. ambassador, in which he wrote "No public man of the present generation in the United States has grasped with greater clearness and ability the just principles of taxation in relation to international commerce than Mr. Wilson."

Congressman Isidore Strauss, in response to a toast, said he regretted that a matter of so great importance as the tariff has been virtually withheld from the consideration of chambers of commerce in America because of its connection with politics.

Sir Courtney Boyle, in proposing a toast to the London Chamber of Commerce, remarked that the work of such bodies was yearly growing more important as the relations between nations was being governed less by questions of personal dignity and more by questions connected with trade, commerce and enterprise.

WELL MERITED RECOGNITION.

NORTHFIELD, Sept. 26.—(Special)—Brother Pratt, the popular Anglican missionary, who under the direction of Rev. C. E. Cooper, Wellington, recently assumed charge of St. Luke's congregation at Northfield, was more than surprised when some sixty residents, heavily laden with good things for bodily comfort—notwithstanding a heavy constant downpour of rain—invaded his bachelor's quarters on Tuesday evening in recognition of the zealous and sincere interest evinced by him in the duties of his office, and especially the brotherly care bestowed by him on the seventy-five children attending St. Luke's Sunday school. Mrs. Dudley, Mrs. Hughes, Mrs. Marshall, and members of the male persuasion, accompanied on the violin by Mr. Waters, rendered in highly artistic style several songs. Amusing parlor games and social conversation filled up the intervals till the "wee sma hoors," under the able direction of Mrs. Rodgers and Mrs. Collett, Mrs. Wilgress, Mrs. Meredith, Mrs. McManus, Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Morris, the Misses Rodgers, Miss Hygh, Miss Morris attended to the bodily wants of the party during the evening. Bro. Pratt said that he deemed himself highly flattered by so spontaneous and universal a mark of public esteem as a tribute to his humble endeavors in the cause of his Lord and Master. The singing of "God save the Queen" and the doxology brought this most successful social to a close. Regret was expressed at the unavoidable absence of the Rev. C. E. Cooper, incumbent of the parish, owing to his having been called away to Victoria.

GOING FOR PULLMAN.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Sept. 26.—Governor Altgeld has addressed the state board of equalization on the assessment of the Pullman Pacific Car Company's property. He showed many figures and facts concerning the company's manner of escaping taxation in this and other states and in Canada. The company, for instance, gave in, he said, $36,000,000 as its capital stock, when it should be $61,000,000. He therefore begged the board to make a proper and just assessment of this property in justice to the people of the state.

METHODISM IN JAPAN.

TORONTO, Sept. 27.—(Special.)—During the London Methodist conference there was a keen dispute between the Mission Board and the Mission Council in Japan, as to the control of missions and the right to nominate a treasurer. The matter was referred to a joint commission, which met here. The question was decided in favor of the Mission Board, which nominated Rev. D. McDonald treasurer and corresponding secretary of Japanese missions.

LORD AND LADY ABERDEEN.

WINNIPEG, Sept. 27.—(Special.)—Lord and Lady Aberdeen were to-day given a formal reception to Winnipeg by the city. Addresses were presented by the City Council, St. Patrick's Society and the Salvation Army, to which His Excellency replied. This afternoon an address was presented to the Countess by the National Women's Council and a reception was afterwards held at Government House.

FOR MOROCCO.

ROME, Sept. 27.—Two Italian ironclad warships have been ordered to Morocco in view of the disturbed situation there.

Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder
World's Fair Highest Medal and Diploma.

CAPITAL NOTES.

The Lachine Canal Contract—High Quality of This Year's Manitoba Wheat Crop.

Completion of the Sault Ste. Marie Waterway—Dominion and Provincial Accounts.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, Sept. 27.—McNamee & Mann, of Montreal, have signed the contract for dredging and deepening the Lachine canal. Under the contract they must do the work in such a manner that navigation will not be interfered with. No right has been conferred upon them of unwatering the canal as reported.

No better indication of the quality of this year's Manitoba wheat could be obtained from the information received at the inland revenue department to-day. It is, that of 1,314 cars of wheat inspected at Fort William up to the 22nd instant, 1,123 cars graded No. 1 hard and 74 No. 2. This represents nearly a million bushels coming from all parts of Manitoba.

Although the Sault Ste. Marie river canal will be completed in about a month's time, it has been decided to defer the formal opening until next spring. Hon. Mr. Haggart returned from Sault Ste. Marie to-day. He says the gates will be in position in about a week or ten days and the machinery in about four weeks. Although the formal opening is delayed boats will pass through this fall.

Six tenders have been received at the department of railways and canals for the work of deepening the Lake St. Louis ship channel to give a depth of fourteen feet of water. The Weddell Dredging Company, of Trenton, are the lowest tenders.

Thursday, November 22, will be Thanksgiving Day.

Deputy Minister of Marine Smith sails for England October 6 to take part in the deliberations of the Royal Commission on manning ships, whose sittings will be resumed October 23.

John S. Hall, provincial treasurer of Quebec, is here to see the Premier and Hon. Mr. Foster to-day. The reported object of his visit had reference to Mr. Hall's resignation from the provincial cabinet, but in official circles he stated he was here to arrange payments on account of the settlement of the Provincial and Dominion accounts.

TERMINAL CITY ITEMS.

VANCOUVER, Sept. 28.—(Special)—Ducks are being slaughtered in the vicinity of Vancouver. Yesterday an amateur sportsman arrived with ninety-two ducks of all breeds, which he claimed to have killed in an hour and a half. Flat bottomed duck boats with shielding curtains in front are being hired at a local boathouse to facilitate this wholesale slaughter.

For some time the local market has been almost bare of eggs. They are now coming in by the carload and dealers are being plentifully supplied.

The board of works have re-granted to the Fraser Valley railroad the use of certain streets formerly set aside for them.

The city are to lease from the C.P.R. at a rental of $6 a year their right of way between Carroll and Hastings streets, and they will pave it, with the exception of the portion occupied by the C.P.R. tracks.

The injunction case in which the city was restrained from purchasing rails to lay on Granville street, owing to their having no money appropriated for that purpose, is to be settled out of court, the street railway, who are at the bottom of the injunction, withdrawing their objections on the understanding that they be allowed to lay their rails on Granville street.

WINNIPEG WIRINGS.

WINNIPEG, Sept. 27.—(Special)—A petition to the Governor-General in council is now in course of circulation through Manitoba and the Northwest asking that the services to the country of Col. Macleod be acknowledged by granting a pension to his widow, who with her five children will otherwise be destitute. Col. Macleod was unable to insure his life.

The clearing returns for the third week of September amount to $1,272,022, which is an increase of $352,269 over those of last week. The volume of business done by the banks is the surest index as to the state of trade, and the increased activity is owing to the movement of the crop and the consequent increased circulation of money.

The Canadian Dragoons received from headquarters on Wednesday one hundred new Metford-Martini carbine rifles, with buckets and 50,000 rounds of ammunition.

The C. P. land department report many inquiries from settlers in Minnesota and Dakota as to railroad rates for settlers' effects into the Northwest.

Two trains of ranche and two of domestic cattle left the C. P. R. yards to-day for the Eastern and trans-Atlantic markets.

QUEBEC CABINET CHANGE.

MONTREAL, Sept. 28.—A Quebec dispatch asserts that Hon. Mr. Hall's resignation was accepted at the cabinet meeting Tuesday afternoon. The Premier arrived at Quebec yesterday. It is rumored that Hon. H. Pelletier, provincial secretary, will succeed Mr. Hall, but Mr. King, of Megantic, is generally believed to be the man. The crisis is said to have been due to differences between the treasurer and his colleagues. The C. P. R. last June announced its intention of repaying the money for the North Shore road. The bonds bear 5 per cent., and the province borrows at 4. The Premier, therefore, does not desire repayment. Mr. Hall insisted on accepting the money and applying it in payment of provincial debentures due next January.

FRENCH MONARCHISTS.

ROME, Sept. 27.—The Pope has summoned Mgr. Holstik, the spiritual adviser of the late Count of Paris, to the Vatican for the purpose of imparting to him instructions in regard to the royalists. In clerical circles this action is believed to be a fatal blow to the pretensions of the French monarchists.

PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Massacre of Foreigners at Peking Believed to Be Imminent—Movements of Troops.

Pitiful Sights During the Great Naval Engagement—Reported Repulse of the Japanese.

LONDON, Sept. 27.—A special dispatch from Shanghai says: Li Hung Chang will shortly be succeeded as Viceroy by Wu Ta Chang, late governor of Hu Puh. Lord Li, late Chinese minister to Japan, has been degraded. The native officials claim to have received news on the 25th instant that in an attack by Japanese troops upon the Chinese at Manchow and Ki Ku the Japanese were repulsed after sharp fighting.

An official telegram sent by the Taitai from Port Arthur to Wei Hai Wei conveys the information that the Chinese warship Chi Yuen steamed away before the fighting at Yalu began. Admiral Ting, who is at Port Arthur, wires that two torpedo boats are missing. The four others which were up the Yalu river came out into the sea after the battle was over. The admiral adds: "We discovered ourselves surrounded and attacked on all sides." Three thousand Chinese troops are on their way down the Yang-tse-Kiang river, bound north.

The English ship Pathana (Pantheon) which was interrupted in the Formosa channel on Friday, upon suspicion that she was carrying munitions of war, was taken to Keelung, the treaty port of the island of Formosa, where the cargo was overhauled by the Chinese authorities. She cleared from New York July 28 for Aden, Hongkong and Shanghai, touched at Aden August 25, arrived at Hongkong September 15. Her owners say she had on board nothing that was liable to seizure as contraband of war.

A Yokohama dispatch states that the Tong Haks, a powerful religious sect, which caused the first outbreak in Korea, have attacked the Japanese at Taku. Reinforcements have been sent from Seoul to assist the Japanese forces at Taku. The Tong Haks are the most bitter of any of the Koreans against foreigners, and constitute the most powerful revolutionary element in the country.

A Tokio correspondent of the Central News says Admiral Ito, commander of the Japanese fleet during the engagement off Yalu, has sent an officer to the emperor at Hiroshima to make a verbal report of the engagement. The officer's report gives a vivid description of the battle, which he says was extremely hot at times. As the warships went down, he says, the crews clung to the rigging and called for help. He adds: "The sight was a most pitiful one. The Japanese packet Saiko Maru during the action had her steering gear disabled by a shell and was obliged in her flight to pass between two powerful Chinese ironclads, both of which discharged torpedoes at her, but too low to do any injury. A shell from the Chinese fleet exploded in the sick bay of the Japanese cruiser Hiei, killing and wounding many and setting the ship on fire. The Japanese used no torpedoes. All the damage sustained by the Chinese was by shot. At sundown the Chinese fleet was in full retreat. None of the Japanese vessels were lost and only three injured."

A despatch from Tokyo says that prior to the departure of the second Japanese army for field service, consisting of 30,000 men, under command of Field Marshal Count Oyama, the emperor reviewed the troops. It is reported vaguely that the squadron is bound for the Yellow sea.

A despatch to the Central News gives further details of the naval battle off the mouth of the Yalu river. The despatch describes the steaming out of the bay of the Chinese to meet the Japanese fleet; the formation of the Chinese fleet when in the open water being that of an accentuated crescent, while the Japanese were in a single line with the Matsushima in the centre. After the first few rounds had been exchanged, Admiral Ito, commanding the Japanese fleet, signaled his ships to bring their guns to bear first upon one flank and then upon the other, of the enemy. The Chinese thereupon altered their formation into a single line. The fighting proceeded, the distances varying from 2,000 to 3,000 metres. Only a few of the Chinese shots were effective.

After a time the Chinese admiral apparently deemed his position desperate and ordered the formation of his line broken. He sent three ships against the Japanese line at full speed. It was at this time that the Lai Yun was sunk, followed by the Chin Yuen and the Chao Yueng. The flagship Matsushima had been the object of the Chinese attack throughout the fight. A Chinese shell struck and dismounted a quick firing gun, and completing the disaster the gun was flung violently against the side of the ship. The commander and first lieutenant of the Matsushima were killed, as were also a number of seamen. This made the total loss of the crew, 120 men, and Admiral Ito did not delay a moment in transferring himself and staff to the Hasidate, and in a few minutes was again in the thick of the fight. The Yeshino was fought splendidly throughout. She steamed in advance of the Hi Yi, and when the latter was disabled and was backing out of line, the Yeshino took the enemy's fire and was hit frequently. First Lieutenant Askagi took command of the Yeshino after the captain and two look-out men had been killed, and fought the ship until darkness terminated the action.

It is reported that native officials at Shanghai have received news that the Japanese attacked the Chinese forces at Anchow and Yitchow simultaneously, and were repulsed at both places.

The massacre of foreigners at Peking is regarded as imminent. The legations have asked that blue jackets be landed to protect them. One hundred and eighty thousand men, mostly rabble and small armed cavalry, have assembled to defend Moukden. A battle is expected before a fortnight has elapsed.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 27.—The news of the departure of the second Japanese army is regarded in official circles as the first move in the advance on Pekin. The Gulf of Pechili, which the despatches give as the probable destination of the army, is at the entrance of the river leading to Peking. It is said that the forts at the entrance of the river are practicably impregnable, owing to the stretch of mud flats around them. It is not believed, therefore, that any advance on Peking will be made up the river, but the men will be landed at some other port, whence a short overland march would take them to the walls of Peking.

AMNESTY TO MORMONS.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 27.—Through the department of state to-day President Cleveland made a proclamation of amnesty and pardon to all persons who have been convicted of polygamy under the teachings of the Mormon church. It is as follows:

"By the President of the United States of America:

"Whereas congress by a statute passed March 22, 1892, and statutes in furtherance and amendment thereof, defined the crimes of polygamy and unlawful cohabitation in the territories and other places within the exclusive jurisdiction of the United States, and prescribed a penalty for such crimes, and

"Whereas, on or about the sixth day of October, 1890, the church of the Latter Day Saints, commonly known as the Mormon church, through the president, issued a manifesto proclaiming the purpose of said church no longer to sanction the practice of polygamous marriages, and calling upon all members and adherents of said church to obey the laws of the United States in reference to said subject matter; and,

Whereas, on the fourth day of January, 1893, Benjamin Harrison, then President of the United States, did declare and grant a full pardon and amnesty to certain offenders under condition of future obedience to their requirements, as is fully set forth in said proclamation of amnesty and pardon; and,

"Whereas, upon the evidence now furnished me I am satisfied that the members and adherents of said church generally abstain from plural marriages and polygamous cohabitation and are now living in obedience to the laws, and that the time has now arrived when the interests of public justice and morality will be promoted by the granting of amnesty and pardon to all such offenders as have complied with the conditions of said proclamation, including such of said offenders as have been convicted under the provisions of said acts.

Now, therefore, I, Grover Cleveland, President of the United States, by virtue of the power in me vested, do hereby declare and grant a full amnesty and pardon to all persons who have in violation of said acts committed each of the offences of polygamy, bigamy, adultery or unlawful co-habitation under the color of polygamy or plural marriage, or who have been convicted of violations of said acts and are suffering the deprivation of the civil rights, excepting all persons who have not complied with the conditions noted in said proclamation of January 4, 1893. In witness thereof, I have hereunder set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

(Sd.) GROVER CLEVELAND, President.
W. K. GRESHAM, Secretary of State.

CHINESE FISHERMEN.

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 27.—The police force in the Chinatown squad are making preparations to receive the returning Chinese fishermen, who are now due from Alaskan ports. The end of the fishing season finds Chinatown overrun with thugs and highbinders, who in the early part of the year seek refuge in Alaska from the vengeance of the law, or of some of the societies whose enmity they have incurred. There have always been some mysterious deaths among the fishermen on the return voyage, and as the boss Chinamen retain the shares of those who die, they have generally been suspected of knowing something of the cause of the unusual mortality. The police have solved the question to their own satisfaction. They say that most of the men who journey northward to work for the canners are of the worst class, and indulge in all sorts of Chinese dissipations, including excessive opium smoking. They save most of their money while in Alaska, and on the return voyage, being deprived of the drug, they frequently die. Some of the fishermen arrive here with from $100 to $200 to show for their season's work, and they proceed to spend the money in the latest Shanghai style. Therefore the Chinatown squad is preparing for them.

JAPANESE ELECTIONS.

Up to the 6th instant the results of the Japanese general elections have been reported from 254 constituencies out of a total of 257, representing 296 members, leaving only three constituencies, representing four members, unreported. Of this number 167 were re-elected. The Jiji Shimpo, which is an independent paper, divides the new house as under:

Jiyuto or Liberals (pro-government)	108
Opposition	149
Consisting of—	
Progressionists	49
Constitutional Reform	35
National Unionist	40
Independent-Inflexible	25
Independent	39
Consisting of—	
Independent	35
Finance Reform Party	4

All the papers agree in giving a majority to the opposition. Pro-government papers claim the number of Liberals to be 114 to 120.

What is to be noted in the recent elections is the defeat again of Mr. Abei, who obtained notoriety as the proposer of the famous representation for the strict enforcement of the treaties, and also of Mr. Oi Kentaro, noted for his anti-foreign views.

THE WHALING FLEET.

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 27.—The steamer Jeanie arrived from Ounalaska yesterday morning, bringing news of the loss of the whaling bark Reindeer on August 4 last. The wreck took place inside of the return reef. The crew were saved and were divided among the different whalers in the Arctic. Up to September 1 ten whalers had taken 25 whales. The lost whaler was owned by Captain James McKenna of this city, who has experienced unusually bad luck during the past three seasons. All in all he must have lost $150,000 in whaling vessels during the past three years. It appears that a large ice floe drifted down on the Reindeer and carried her upon the reef. The bark was clean at the time, not a whale having been taken since she left San Francisco. The catch up to September 1 had been the poorest for many seasons. The whole fleet had caught but 29 whales, as follows: Jeannette, 1; Grampus, 2; Mermaid, 1; Mary B. Hume, 2; Orca, 2; Karluk, 4; Newport, 5; Rosario, 2; Balena, 4; Narwhal, 2.

NANAIMO AGAIN SUFFERS.

Hotel and Other Business Property Destroyed by Fire and One Life Lost.

Greater Disaster Narrowly Averted—Particulars of the Losses and Insurance.

NANAIMO, Sept. 28.—(Special)—At 5.15 a.m. the whole city was aroused by the ringing of fire alarm bells and the shrill notes of the machine shop whistle. The fire had broken out in the Royal hotel, a frame building on Commercial street, situated in the midst of a block of wooden buildings in the heart of the business portion of the town. The firemen and citizens generally responded to the alarm promptly, but before even an attempt could be made to get the engine and hose to play it was apparent that every effort must be directed toward the rescue of the inmates of the hotel—nineteen in number—including four women.

Whilst the firemen were bravely fighting the flames, scores of willing hands were endeavoring to save the lives of those in the Royal and adjoining buildings. Most of them rushed out into the street through the smoke and fire in their night dresses only, carrying with them such garments as they were able to pick up in their hurried flight. A few were cut off by the flames, including one poor girl waitress, Minnie Corcoran. She and the rest jumped from the building into the ravine at the back. Minnie and a man named Carroll of Portland, Or., were seriously injured, both dislocating their spines. Fritz Erler was nearly drowned, whilst J. D. Milne, a Victorian, had a narrow escape from a similar fate. He too had jumped from the hotel into the water. J. Abrams, another inmate of the hotel, was badly burned and nearly suffocated by smoke before he was rescued by the chief of police and fireman Kurence.

Meantime the flames had spread north and south; in the former direction licking up the old fire hall and carpenter's shop and on the other side consuming with terrible rapidity Pratt's barber shop, the Nanaimo hotel and restaurant and C. E. Stevenson's dry goods store. The heat was terrific, the buildings on the opposite side of the street were smoking ominously, and every minute it was expected that fresh fires would break out. Fortunately the water supply was good and the firemen worked manfully, succeeding after two hours' persistent effort in controlling the spread of the flames, though not before six buildings had been totally destroyed and several others had been badly damaged. When the excitement had calmed somewhat anxious inquiries were made as to whether all the inmates of the Royal had escaped. For a time several persons were thought to be missing, but finally it was found that only one poor fellow was lost, Patrick Magee, a bootblack, whose charred remains were found a little later in the ruins of the burned building.

The damage done by the fire was very great, but hardly in excess of that caused to tradesmen's stock by water and its hurried removal from the buildings. The fire was of so serious a nature at one time that the storekeepers all along both sides of the street were hastily removing the contents to places of safety. The buildings totally destroyed were:

Pashley's carpenter shop, valued at $500, contents $100, no insurance.

The fire hall, valued at $750, insured in the Phœnix of London for $500.

The Royal hotel and additions, valued at $3,000, no insurance; stock and furniture, valued at $5,000, insured in the Norwich Union for $2,000.

Pratt's barber shop, valued at $800, no insurance. Contents $300, no insurance.

The Nanaimo hotel, valued at $3,000, no insurance. Stock and furniture, valued at $4,000, insured in the London and Canadian for $1,500.

C. E. Stevenson's store, valued at $2,500, no insurance. Stock, valued at $14,000, insured in the Phœnix for $6,500.

Morgan's tailor shop a total wreck, but not consumed by fire, valued at $800, no insurance. The stock was mostly saved, the insurance on it being $1,000 in the London and Canadian.

Buildings partially destroyed: The Williams block, valued at $7,500, insured in the Phœnix of London for $6,000.

The stock of R. Wray, tailor; J. Caldwell, gents' furnishings; R. Hilbert, cigars and boots, occupants of this building, were partially damaged by water and removal, and were fully covered by insurance.

Sloan & Scott's big dry goods store, two doors below Stevenson's, was badly scorched and the stock had to be removed. The contents, valued at $30,000, are badly damaged, the loss being estimated at $13,000, covered by $11,750 insurance, in the Phœnix, British American, London, Canadian and Norwich Union.

The Central hotel, Masonic hall and Hirst's store were also scorched and some damage was done to the contents by removal; loss covered by insurance.

It is difficult at present to give a correct estimate of the total loss, but it is well within $50,000. The origin of the fire is not known. Your correspondent made most careful inquiries of everyone at all likely to know anything positive with regard to the cause of the outbreak. It is supposed that Pat Magee, who slept on the ground floor of the Royal hotel, and who retired to bed about 2 a.m. partially intoxicated, was the unwitting cause of the disastrous fire, though of this there is not the least proof.

At a late hour to-night Minnie Corcoran and Carron were still in a critical condition, but no worse than during the early part of the day. Abrams is doing well and is not very seriously injured. An inquest was held this evening into the death of Magee. Some evidence was taken and the coroner adjourned the investigation till next week. Magee was an old army pensioner, aged 50, and a native of Belfast, Ireland. He leaves a widow in the old country.

MELBOURNE, Sept. 27.—At the election of members of parliament for the colony of Victoria the result was the return of 28 ministerialists, 54 opposition and 13 independents. Ministers O'Loughlin, Baker and Richardson and Speaker Bent were defeated for re-election.

WHAT DO YOU WANT? You can get it by advertising in THE COLONIST, and it will not cost you much.