

PROTECT THE PUBLIC.

Hon. Mr. Blair at New Westminster offered some observations in regard to the Crow's Nest railway project which will no doubt attract much attention. Having come to a full knowledge of the valuable gift handed over to the B.C. Southern Railway Company on the pre-text that it was about to build a line from Crow's Nest Pass to the coast, Mr. Blair very accurately described the transaction as appalling. The adjective is none too strong when all the circumstances are taken into account, and several others might be added with equal force. The grant of this immense and very valuable tract of land to the company was first authorized by the legislature, at the direction of the government, in 1890. The company at that time was required to commence the work within three years and complete it within five. Times went on, and never a stroke of real work was done—unless a little attempt at charter-mongering is to be called work. In 1894 the company asked for an extension of time, which the government and legislature granted, with their usual complaisance towards special friends. The eastern section of the road, from the summit of Crow's Nest to the Elk river, was to be completed by the end of 1896, the central section, to Kootenay lake, by the end of 1897, and the section to the coast by the end of 1898. It was so arranged that the part of the land grant which embraces the coal deposits was to be handed over to the company as soon as it had made certain progress with the first section. Then just as another act was passed which extended the time for two years, the dates for the respective sections being fixed at 1898, 1899 and 1900. When, after all these favors to the B. C. Southern Co., the Dominion government is asked to step in and furnish such aid as will secure the building of a road over the same route, the people may well enquire what is to become of their property, which has thus been so cavalierly treated. Is it still to make part of the subsidy to the line? If so, who is going to control it? One strong argument for the construction of a line from Crow's Nest to West Kootenay points is that cheap coal and coke may be available. How far will this be assured if the coal is left in the hands of a corporation which no check with regard to rates is placed on anybody else can Mr. Blair see, what every Dominioner sees for himself, that if the government rushes in blindly without assistance to this project it will simply be helping certain individuals in a grab game, instead of conferring a benefit on the public. All British Columbians should be glad to know that the present Dominion government is not at all likely to be a party to such a game.

LAND-GRABBING.

If Hon. Mr. Blair's visit had no other result, the people of the province should look back on it with satisfaction because of the light it has thrown on the land-grabbing business. The significance of the facts connected with this matter seems to have been largely lost sight of, probably because the frequent repetition of the "giveaway" process has dulled the public mind and such things have come to be looked upon as a matter of course. How far the people in general have been from a correct appreciation of the position in which the public property has been placed may be judged from the case of the Vancouver World, which at first took Mr. Blair's statement at New Westminster to be an exaggeration, only to find afterwards that he was well within the mark when he spoke of the B. C. Southern land grant. The later article of the World is a significant one, as coming from a special friend of the provincial government, and we therefore take the liberty of reproducing it. "In Wednesday's issue a reference was made to the able and statesmanlike speech which the Hon. A. G. Blair delivered before the board of trade at New Westminster last Tuesday, a verbatim report of which appeared in the World the following day, and which has caused a vast amount of attention and which cannot fail to elicit much comment in the East, where the projected construction of a line of railway from Lehigh to the interior of Kootenay has been on the tapis for several months past. In the course of Hon. Mr. Blair's remarks—which by the way were amplifications of his utterances in this city—he stated in terms which could not be mistaken, that until the land subsidies voted by the provincial government in aid of the lines to be constructed by the British Columbia Southern, whose charter is practically a blank check one, covering the building of a railway from the eastern boundary of the province to the coast, a distance estimated, as the line will have to be built, of about 900 miles (the land grant covering 20,000 acres per mile) was either turned over to the Dominion Government or to a commission which would see to it that this enormous area was properly and justly administered for the people of Canada as a whole and not a handful of men who expected to become millionaires out of the deal, he would not sanction the expenditure of a single cent on the undertaking. The area reserved for the purposes of the British Columbia Southern, Mr. Blair placed at 15,000,000 acres. Our impression then was that he had been misled as to the extent. Our attention having been directed to the matter, an examination of the charter of the organization, granted in 1890, and the several amendments and extensions thereto passed by the legislature in subsequent sessions, compels us to admit that the minister of railways was under the mark in naming 15,000,000 acres as the lands to be allocated to this octopus of a company. Assuming the length of the projected road to be 900 miles and the land grant 20,000 acres per mile we find that Mr. Blair underestimated the quantity of the public domain to be given away, looked up in fact without becoming an asset for revenue purposes to the province, by at least 3,000,000, making a total of 18,000,000 acres! Those who may feel sceptical on this point have but to refer to the act of 1890 and the amending acts in which provision is made for a land subsidy to the eastern, central and western sections of the British Columbia Southern, as well as the branch lines in the interior, one of which, the Nelson & Fort Sheppard, is already built and in operation, and which has been granted a land subsidy of 20,000 acres per mile. "Then comes the land to be granted to Mr. Hefzue for his railway projects in Kootenay, in the Boundary Creek district and onwards to Pentiction aggregating in all 200 miles. If the line to be constructed by this gentleman is to be a broad or standard gauge one his grant will be 20,000 acres, but if only a narrow gauge it will be 10,000 acres per mile of the public domain. We will assume that it will be a standard-gauge line and therefore will receive no less than 4,000,000 acres. Irrespective of the Nelson & Fort Sheppard road we thus find that no less an area than 22,000,000 acres has been set apart by the province for the construction of a line of railway along the southern boundary of the country easterly to the Northwest Territories by way of the Crow's Nest Pass. Notwithstanding this enormous and exceedingly liberal subsidy it would appear that the promoters of the various schemes named have been unable to make such financial arrangements as would enable them to even make a start on constructing a through line from east to west. There can be no extension as to lack of time, etc., and this being so, and the fact that the country is suffering from the want of such a road, and that seriously, it is high time that some understanding should be reached with the Federal Government as to the disposal of the land grant and making such arrangements with the parent government as will preserve the interests of the people in these lands free from monopolies or land-grabbers and ensure the early completion of a road which will be of national importance. The situation to say the least, so far as railway development in British Columbia is concerned, unless immediate action is taken, is not very hopeful.

Just fancy the Turner government stepping in to improve the efficiency of any civic government! Kamloops and Vernon will no doubt second the motion.

Hon. George E. Foster complained that the Liberal leaders would not consent to joint meetings in the Corvallis campaign, and the Colonist gives prominence to the complaint. Did it never occur to the refusal of Messrs. Earle and Prior to meet the Liberals in joint meetings during the election campaign in Victoria?

The Globe: Protection must be always on the defensive. As an aggressor on the rights of others the protectionist is under the obligation of showing that his aggression is in the public interest, and that those injured by it are fully compensated. The burden of proof is not with those who demand merely their rights.

People in the Kettle River district have some strong comments to offer on the notices of "blanket" applications for the use of water powers, land, etc., which have appeared. One writer in the Boundary Creek Times sarcastically suggests to the promoters of the two concerns to operate in West Kootenay and Yale that they are too modest and should in justice to themselves apply for a free gift from the provincial house of the districts in which they wish to operate, with exemption from taxation for five years. This would of course ensure them what water privileges they require.

Montreal Herald: Commenting on the evidence submitted to the Tariff Commissioners in Montreal, the Gazette says: "They were chiefly leaders in commerce who presented their views to the ministers. They represented very large interests, many of them being concerned in enterprises, financial, commercial and industrial, aside from those whose temporary mouth-piece they were. Their positions in the world of trade should give their statements the greatest weight. They have experience that makes their speech the utterance of knowledge." When such gentlemen condemn almost every tariff detail to which they give their attention, disinterested persons are apt to believe that the Liberal demand for tariff reform is not unreasonable.

SPORTING INTELLIGENCE.

THE KING. The benefit to Delaney by the Victoria Athletic Club on Wednesday evening was a success, there being a large attendance and every item on the programme proving most enjoyable. E. Hill, of Victoria, is anxious to make a match with any 115 pound man in British Columbia.

FOOTBALL Thursday's match on the cauteon grounds between the above teams resulted in a win for the navy by one point. Although the grounds were muddy there was some brilliant play on both sides.

CHESS. On Christmas Eve a challenge was sent by the Victoria Chess Club to the San Francisco Chess Club endeavoring to arrange a match for New Year's night. Up till the present no reply has been received from the San Francisco club.

Windsor Salt. Purest and Best for Table and Dairy. No adulteration. Never cakes.

British Columbia.

KAMLOOPS. The Inland Sentinel. Wm. Fortune, of Tranquille, brought some fine apples into this office yesterday from his ranch, which has only just been harvested. The had weathered the severe frosts of the latter part of last month without damage. Kamloops provincial jail is again overcrowded. There are now 37 prisoners within its walls, of whom three are women. The jail only containing nine cells. When we add that two of the prisoners are insane and require cells to themselves, the condition of affairs may be easily understood. That the jail is overcrowded is not the only fault we have to find. It is positively an unsafe place in which to confine criminals, for the building is so poorly constructed, and is now in so decayed a state, that a general jail delivery may be expected at any moment. The Sentinel learned that Hon. A. G. Blair wired the minister of agriculture at Ottawa last evening, requesting him not to take any action in the matter of pending his return, as he has important points to lay before him, which affected the interests of British Columbia cattle men.

NEW DENVER. (Vernon News.) The price of wheat is higher in this district now than it has been for years. The Armstrong mill is offering \$25 per ton for it. We are glad to note that this year no poultry has been imported for the holiday trade. The home market demands, and the cash that formerly was sent out of the country for turkeys, geese, etc., is now kept at home. The office of mayor will not go by acclamation this year as was at last time expected. Mr. W. A. Armstrong, as before stated, has consented to become a candidate, and now we are able to announce that Mayor Meyer will also allow his name to be put in nomination.

One of the heaviest falls of snow ever known in this district took place last week. It commenced to snow on Friday afternoon and continued without intermission until early next morning, during which time fourteen inches fell. Mr. Charles Taylor, of Montreal, who has been in the city for several weeks, has been giving careful attention to the mining interests of this section, and it is probable that he will make some investments in this section here. Mr. Taylor is in the manufacture of an improved quartz crusher and also a machine for saving gold in placer diggings, both of which he is anxious to introduce here if he can find a suitable location.

MIDWAY.

Mr. D. A. Carmichael came over from Fairview a few days ago, and reported the time at the camp. He says never in the history of Fairview has the outlook been so bright as at present, as properties are changing hands and more men are being put to work every day. Development is rapidly progressing on the coal claim at Rock Creek, as during the past week a tunnel has been extended some fifty feet, all in solid coal. The vein so far shows a width of six feet, and the walls are now beautifully smooth and clear. Samples of this coal were brought to Midway a few days ago and the product is being generally used by blacksmiths and others in the district. The Joe Dandy deal has at last come to a head, and the syndicate which was represented by Lord Sudeley while negotiations were in progress, have put the Joe Dandy and his sister's claims are among some of the richest and best in Camp Fairview, and the company are to be congratulated upon getting hold of such high class property. The ore milled in the camp was taken from the Joe Dandy, and although the latter character it easily paid all the expenses incidental to the working of about a dozen men. The purchasers have about a dozen men at work at present and more will be put on as soon as they can be procured. It is proposed to thoroughly develop the claims with shafts, tunnels and drifts, and to do this a large amount of money will be expended. Mr. Thos. Davis and associates were the original owners and locators.

ROSLAND. The Roseland. The last assay from the Imperial shows \$45 in gold. The tunnel is down 30 feet with a crosscut tunnel of 75 feet. Work on the Phoenix is proceeding very satisfactorily. The shaft is down 28 feet, and as depth is attained ore is improved. The last assay gives a return of \$38 in gold. The tunnel of the International is now in about 40 feet, and on Saturday the men encountered a rich body. The whole face of the tunnel shows high grade stuff. The Red Eagle the work of running the crosscut to tap the rich ledge recently struck is being continued, and some very fine ore has already been struck. The ore in the shaft is widening out and covers the whole bottom. The heaviest snow fall of the season was on Friday night and Saturday morning. A large gang of men was put to work on the railway clearing the tracks. The job was a God-send to many of the poor fellows who have been long idle. They were paid \$2 per day and so many have come to Roseland during the summer to work but are now out of employment that there is likely to be considerable suffering from want of the necessities of life. Again we have to state that Roseland is no place for a working man to come to now unless he has money enough to keep in case of emergency at a cost of about \$10 a week until the middle of April. (Roseland Miner.) There is no longer any doubt as to the richness of the ore in the Giant shaft. An assay completed yesterday of ore from the bottom of the shaft showed

\$50 in gold. The assay was made from a sample of a section of four or five feet wide and may therefore be considered representative. Very good assays have been had all along from the shaft, but none have been so high as the one just obtained.

The shaft of the Palo Alto is looking exceedingly well. It is now down 80 feet, with three feet of good ore in the bottom. The ore will assay about \$30 in gold. The Palo Alto company will probably order a steam hoist and a pump. The condition of the mine certainly justifies such an expenditure. This property has been strangely overpriced, sure to be heard from in the future. It is not among the most promising mines of the camp and is therefore, it is owned principally in Victoria.

Dave Goggin, a miner employed at the Wm. Eagle mine, nearly crushed the skull of Dan Murphy, a fellow workman, with a stone poker about 9:30 o'clock last night. The difficulty took place in the bunk house of the Wm. Eagle. Murphy was moved immediately to the Sister's hospital and Goggin was arrested by Constable Ross and locked up. The men in the widely different stories concerning the matter, but the condition of Murphy is evidence that he got decided the worst of the battle.

GRAND FORKS. Grand Forks Miner. Negotiations are now pending for the sale of the site of the Observation properties, on Observation mountain, to a coast capitalist. It is reported that seven men are employed on the Lalla Rookh, and three shifts working on the Edison group in the Christina Lake district.

A strong company is expected to take hold of the Coin claim in Summit camp in the near future. They will undoubtedly make a mine of it. The Little Giant is still showing up finely. A splendid ledge of quartz has been opened and every indication points to the Little Giant being a winner.

A rich strike is reported on the Columbia mine, on Volcano mountain. The ore is said to be a high grade sulphide, and a very strong lead is being shown up. A sale was made this week of a half interest in the Spokane, fractional claim which is said to be the half original location on Volcano mountain, by W. K. White to W. H. Buehler.

Late report from Christina Lake gives great promise of that section becoming a wonderful mineral producer. A large number of claims in that section are being worked this winter.

JAVA'S "ISLAND OF FIRE."

The greatest natural wonder in Java is the "Gheko Kamda Gunko," or "Home of the Hot Devils," known to the world as the "Island of Fire." This geological anomaly is in reality a lake of boiling mud, situated in about the centre of the plains of Grobogan, and is called an island because the great emerald sea of vegetation which surrounds it gives that appearance. The island is situated at a distance of almost fifty miles from Solo. Near the centre of this geological freak in dense columns of soft, hot mud may be seen continually rising and falling like great timbers thrust through the boiling substance by giant hands and then again withdrawn. Besides the phenomenon of the boiling mud columns there are scores of gigantic bubbles of hot slime that fill up like huge balloons and keep up a series of constant explosions, the intensity of the detonations varying with the size of the bubbles. In times past, so the Java authorities say, there was a tall, spiral like column of black mud on the west side of the lake which constantly belched a pure stream of cold water, but this has long been obliterated and everything is now a seething mass of bubbling mud and slime, a marvel to the visitors who come from great distances to see it.

In the current issue of the Gazette Wilson & Campbell, solicitors, give notice that they will apply at the next sitting of the legislature to extend the time to complete the Cariboo Railway or four-year extension. Mr. Geo. E. Robinson is solicitor for a company that is seeking for the necessary legislation to enable it to construct a railway from Vancouver to Trail. The proposed line is to run via New Westminster, and power is asked to construct a branch to some point on the Gulf of Georgia. Mr. F. B. Ward is solicitor for another railway company which seeks incorporation to construct a railway from Ashcroft to Kamloops.

CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS. CURE SICK HEAD ACHE. Headache, or CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS are equally valuable in constipation, curing and preventing this annoying complaint, while they correct the bowels, stimulate the liver and regulate the bowels. Even if they only cured.

CURE SICK HEAD ACHE. Headache, or CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS are equally valuable in constipation, curing and preventing this annoying complaint, while they correct the bowels, stimulate the liver and regulate the bowels. Even if they only cured.

Warning... \$100 REWARD. It has come to our knowledge that certain persons, for the purpose of helping off their unsaleable stock of clothing, have taken our guarantee cards from the pockets of garments of our make and have put them in the pockets of other goods of inferior make, thus leading the purchaser to believe he was getting Shorey's clothing and thereby damaging our reputation. We therefore wish to give notice to our customers and the public, that we will prosecute, to the full rigour of the law, any one whom we can prove to have done this, and we will pay a reward of \$100.00 to the person who will give us sufficient evidence to convict any dealer of this offence. H. SHOREY & CO., Montreal.

FLUID BEEF SET. (MADE OF PURE ALUMINIUM.) A Handsome and Convenient Outfit for Room or Office. OUR SPECIAL OFFER. 1 Tray, 1 Spirit Lamp, 2 Cups, 2 Spoons, 1 Water Boiler 2 Salt and Pepper Casters, 1 Bottle Sterilizing your own straw, we have Ontario Sweet Apple Cider no bang in the barrel. The whole neatly cased for \$3.50. Expensed prepaid on receipt of price. Remit by Express or Post Office Order, payable to THE JOHNSTON FLUID BEEF CO., Montreal.

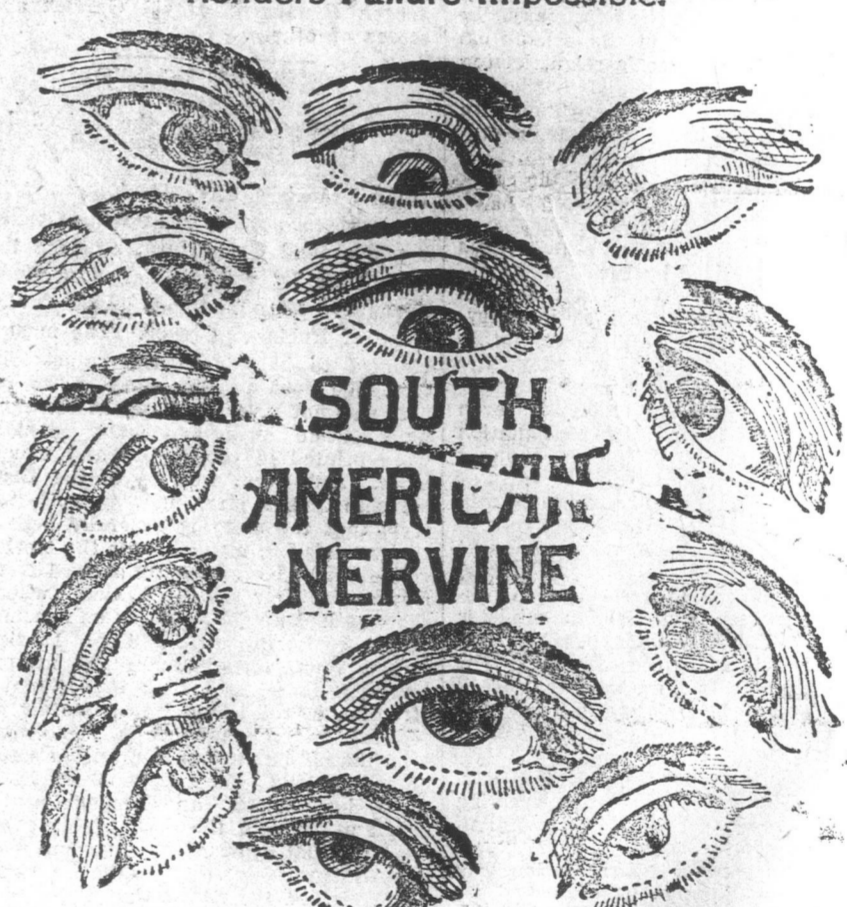
We Have Been Laying for You. SOME CUTS FOR CHRISTMAS BOXES. Bon Bons less than cost, we are clearing out, 300 boxes of Jap Oranges, to arrive, way down in price. Bring your own straw, we have Ontario Sweet Apple Cider no bang in the barrel. Those fat, soft Plums reduced to 3 lbs. for 20c. Cleaned Currants reduced to 3 lbs. for 20c. French Imperial, in bottles, \$1.25. Port 60 cents. Raisins and Almonds, 75. Sherry 50. Shilton Cheese, in jars, \$1.75. Mandarins, 40c. The best blend ever left the Land of Cakes. Morgan's Oysters, luscious bivalves.

Dixie H. Ross & Co. Government St.

THE EYES OF THE WORLD Are Fixed Upon South American Nervine. Beyond Doubt the Greatest Medical Discovery of the Age.

WHEN EVERY OTHER HELPER HAS FAILED IT CURES

A Discovery, Based on Scientific Principles, that Renders Failure Impossible.



In the matter of good health temporary measures, while possibly successful for the moment, can never be lasting. Those in poor health soon know whether the remedy they are using is simply a passing incident in their existence, or something that will stay, or something that is getting at the seat of the disease and is surely and permanently restoring. "The eyes of the world are literally fixed on South American Nervine. They are not viewing it as a nine-days' wonder, but critical and experienced men have been studying this medicine for years, with the old result—they have found that its claim of perfect curative qualities cannot be gainsaid. "The great discoverer of this medicine was possessed of the knowledge that the seat of all disease is the nerve centres, situated at the base of the brain. In this belief he had the best scientists and medical men of the world occupying exactly the same premises. Indeed the ordinary layman recognized this principle long ago. Everyone knows that long disease or injury affect this part of the human system and death is almost certain. Injure the spinal cord, which is the medium of these nerve centres, and paralysis is sure to follow. Here is the first principle. The trouble with medical treatment usually, and with nearly all medicines, is that they aim simply to treat the organ that may be diseased. South American Nervine passes by the organs, and immediately applies its curative powers to the centres from which the organs of the body receive their supply of nerve fluid. The nerve centres healed, and of necessity the organ which has shown the outward evidence only of derangement is healed. Indigestion, nervousness, impoverished blood, liver complaint, all owe their origin to a derangement of the nerve centres. Thousands bear testimony that they have been cured of these troubles, even when they have become so desperate as to baffie the skill of the most eminent physicians, because South American Nervine has gone to headquarters and cured there. The eyes of the world have not been disappointed in the inquiry into the success of South American Nervine. People marvel it is true, at its wonderful medical qualities, but they know beyond all question that it does every thing that is claimed for it. It stands alone as the one great certain curing remedy of the nineteenth century. Why should anyone suffer distress and ache, while this remedy is practically at their hands?

For Sale by Dean & Hiscocks and Hall & Co

Warning... \$100 REWARD. It has come to our knowledge that certain persons, for the purpose of helping off their unsaleable stock of clothing, have taken our guarantee cards from the pockets of garments of our make and have put them in the pockets of other goods of inferior make, thus leading the purchaser to believe he was getting Shorey's clothing and thereby damaging our reputation. We therefore wish to give notice to our customers and the public, that we will prosecute, to the full rigour of the law, any one whom we can prove to have done this, and we will pay a reward of \$100.00 to the person who will give us sufficient evidence to convict any dealer of this offence. H. SHOREY & CO., Montreal.

A VICTORY

Filluster Three K... With a Spanis... a Cr... Expedition Safely After an Exper...

New York, Dec. 2. World from Key West... lane star flag of Cuba... yellow banner of... seas. The shiprapt... leys of a brave fill... answer to the roar... pounders and have... the first victory on... The filibustering... Friends sailed on... Sunday night, Dec... able cargo of munitions... Cuban insurgents... giance of the Unit... and revenue cutters... sail upon the ocean... with about 50 men... distance of Cuba on... when she was sur... fired upon. She... Spanish coasts, frigh... boat and escaped fr... steering out to sea... The Three Friends... coast and safety land... border of the great... before in Cuba's stru... the flag of Spain be... No other filibuster... attacked by the enemy... guns and fulfilled... The account of this... is as follows: "As Cuba was nea... last Saturday, a two... and tore through un... land, later the na... progress. "Early on the mor... 18th inst., Cape San... Western extremity of... ed. A stiff breeze fr... land and the ship w... ward. "It was known th... Retia Mercedes, the... XIII, and the coast... patrolling the Pinar... The sealed orders f... junta were opened... caps had been passe... direction as to the... should take, its desti... mented. The order... "Sail to the mouth... and there await a p... who will take grea... not attempt to land... any other point." "The orders caused... consultation was had... attended by Cap... Navigator Captain L... Morales, commander... tion, and Lieut.-Col... er, Major Arnos was... "But what was to... "Nearly every day... the junta that they... to land an expedition... river. The steamer B... and had been fired... away by a Spanish c... cargo of the Dan... been put ashore, was... steamer had stolen av... ited States, and had... three-quarters of the... dered destination. Sh... heavy storms and wa... crew was a picked wa... aboard were brave and... "We'll land at the... have to sail through... Captain Lewis. "Keep a good head... while any coal was... to Chief Engineer Dun... "When fifty miles... the course was chang... northeast, against a de... night fell we were vi... from land, following... Saturday morning was... crew was a picked wa... small head of steam a... a calm sea. "About the decks al... es of arms, cartridge... stored in the holds, were... and put in convenient... Each man who was... the party had his pers... dled together and read... the first boat. The... several hours in making... proper care to stave... blood, and readiness and... entirely clear. On the... ships the first boat's c... machetes and revolvers... arm the large surf b... already swung up. "The crew consisted... John Gorman, and Pri... cano and Edgardo. M... ales and Dr. Bonjardin... to go ashore in the fir... the gateway. "Behind the first boat... dozen men armed with... Remingtons along the... boarders. None of the... ed except with revolve... ried in their belts, as... chetes had been retur... ashore. "At the prow, night... stood Captain Lewis, M... Engineer Pagliuchi. T... the expedition had ga... rails on the port side... ed almost in the shad...

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