ed "Release of Allan Danvers."
nt Amateur Theatrical Series

tition will raise the standard of amateur work?"

"Without any doubt. There will be a striving for better work and I am sure that when another competition is held that a big advance will be noticed. In this movement forward among the amateurs there is bound to be a corresponding healthy action upon professional stage. It is admitted that the amateur clubs are the chief recruiting ground for the stage and I can plainly see that His Excellency's competitions are going to bring in time a better class of people into the profession. The past week has given an impetus to amateur work that will be felt in a very remarkable way.

Better English.

"I have been convinced of yet another favorable feature of this work," and Mr. Mitchell leaned forward to emphasize his point; "it is something that many may not have considered, and that is the creation of a proper standard of speaking English. The language of the clubs will in time be neither an eastern tinge nor a western, nor of the north nor south. It will unify the methods of speaking and recast them into a purer strain. That is a most desirable end, I think. Then, again, it will bring out new plays. I have noticed that the group from Winnipeg decided to play a piece that they have written themselves. Now if it is successful why should not others follow their example another year. It is an excellent place for ambitious young playwrights to try their work, and I see no reason why the amateurs should not create their own plays. Again you see the stimulus in another line which may in the end give the world some bright dramatists. Let them therefore in their efforts avoid the pitfalls that so many of our modern American writers for the stage are falling into. On our side of the line there is too much catering for the opinion of some manager or else building the play to fit the limitations of some star. Your amateur playwright can easily avoid that. In fact there is no inducement for him to consider any such objects. Let him have ideas, then put them into an attractive and forceful form. He will have a royal road for a trial of his work, because there will not be an enormous outlay of money for the first production that makes the average manager hesitate long before launching a new writer's work."

(Continued On Page Fifteen).

KUROPTAKIN'S HISTORY OF JAPANESE WAR PUBLISHED

Efforts to Prevent its Seeing the Light of Day Have Been a Failure

SHAMEFUL STORY FOR RUSSIA

Official Incompetence, Disobedience of Generals and Disorganization in the Army

St. Petersburg, Feb. 14.—General Kuropatkin's history of the Russo-Japanese war, which was confiscated by the Russian government, has at last become accessible, despite the most extreme precautions to prevent this galling official indictment from reaching the public. The work consists of three bulky volumes, respectively devoted to the crucial events of the war, the battle of Liao Yang, the battle of the Shan River, and the battle of Mukden. The voluminous general orders, statistics, reports and other documentary matter have been collated by Col. Bolkhovetsoff, of the general staff. These, with the "conclusions" which have been formulated, constitute most amazing revelations of disorganization and incapacity, and even of disobedience of specific and urgent orders on the part of certain general officers entrusted with high commands in the field, notably General Kaulbars, against whom a formidable indictment is framed, saddling upon his shoulders practically the entire responsibility for the crushing defeat at Mukden.

A Dismal Comparison

Kuropatkin's reasons for the failure of the war are based chiefly on a comparison of the warlike spirit of the Japanese, their preparedness and valor, which he says had never been seen in any previous war, and their ability to maintain the numerical superiority necessary to assume the offensive, with the disadvantages of Russia owing to the inadequacy of the single track railroad from Europe, in feeding her fighting strength, with commanding officers disobeying orders in a hopeless state of confusion and cross purposes, with a low state of morale and confidence among the troops, and continuous news from home of internal troubles and of insults and reproaches against the army. The General closes his survey of the causes of the defeat of the Russians with the pathetic reflection that if Russia had been united and ready to make sacrifices necessary to safeguard her dignity and integrity, the "valiant Russian army would have striven until the foe was subdued."

The Mukden volume opens with a sketch of the early events of the war, showing that there were "strikes counsels from the outset over the defences of Port Arthur." In February, 1904, Kuropatkin presented two memoranda to the Emperor concerning the plan of operations. In the first he wrote: "During the earlier period of the campaign our chief task must be, not to permit our troops to be beaten in detail, but gradually strengthen them and prepare ourselves for an advance. We must begin it with sufficient forces, and not until we have all the necessaries for an uninterrupted advance during a comparatively long time."

On the margin of this memorandum the Emperor wrote the laconic comment, "Just so."

Kuropatkin goes on to show how his efforts to realize this programme were checkmated in numerous ways by the deficiencies of the army and the lack of transport and artillery horses, dwelling upon the details given in order to show the utter inadequacy of the Manchurian army to cope with the situation. Indeed, after tracing the events down to the end of May, Kuropatkin admits that had Gen. Kuroki grasped a critical position on the Russian east front, "which, fortunately for us, he did not," he could have seized Liao Yang as early as the beginning of June.

A Disorganized Army

The whole narrative is a dismal retrospect of unpreparedness and disorganization. Kuropatkin says of the famous Tenth corps, that little energy was shown by its commanders, and there was "insufficient firmness in the case of certain regiments, especially among the reservists, rank and file, who, under various pretexts, went to the rear."

Gen. Bilderling's tactics at Liao Yang are severely criticized, his troops are declared to have been raw, inexperienced and untrustworthy, and they met with constant failure. Gen. Oriolf's force of twelve thousand men simply bolted from the field in wild disorder, with the result that a splendid position was lost. What was lacking through the fighting at Liao Yang, Kuropatkin says, was "greater effort on the part of the troops and more capable handling on the part of the leaders."

The dangers and disadvantages of the retreat from Liao Yang to Mukden are pointed out. When the troops got among the hills they lost their heads and give way to panic. The previous experience of the advance had not inspired them with confidence.

For the indecisive results of the battle of the Shan River several reasons are given, the first of which is the lack of skill displayed by the chief of the eastern army in handling the large force entrusted to him.

Grippenberg Blamed

After the fall of Port Arthur, Kuropatkin describes his plan for a great turning movement, and the blame for its failure is thrown upon Gen. Grippenberg.

"It is regrettable," says Kuropatkin, "that a fortnight before the commencement of our advance, the chances of success were overturned by certain orders of Grippenberg, which revealed to the enemy the nature of our intended movement."

Concerning the reverse at Sandepu, Kuropatkin says "the environs and fortifications of that village had not been studied, and no sketches of the ground had been prepared for the troops. The result was that the artillery fired for a whole day against Baltiez instead of Sandepu, never touching Sandepu. The Fourteenth division attacked the village of Baotadze, west of Sandepu, and having occupied that village, the commander thought he was occupying Sandepu, and so reported to me."

Continuing his declaration and criticism of the operations, Kuropatkin complains of Grippenberg for failing to report and confer with him at the critical juncture, though he had telephoned to his command from a room in his headquarters adjoining the apartments from which he was directing operations, adding, however: "Personally Grippenberg could not talk to me on account of his deafness."

Discussing the results of the fighting, Kuropatkin says: "Thus ended our first attempt to adopt the offensive. It cost about ten thousand men. Of the causes of the failure the chief was, of course, negligence in failing to seriously prepare for storming Sandepu, indicating an absence of the respect for our resourceful enemy, which he deserved."

Grippenberg later reported that he was ill, and left for St. Petersburg.

"His manner of proceeding in this matter," says Kuropatkin, "sets a most deplorable example, both to those under him and to the other armies, and was calculated to undermine discipline."

Kaulbars at Fault

Coming to the fighting before Mukden, Kuropatkin says that quick measures were necessary to save the city, and its defense was entrusted to Gen. Kaulbars.

How Kaulbars failed to stop Gen. Nogi's victorious advance is related with much detail, and constitutes in itself a vivid recital of the blunders, incapacity and consequent disaster. Kaulbars is directly accused of failure to carry out his instructions and of fatal inactivity, in defiance of urgent, reiterated orders at crucial periods of the prolonged and momentous conflict.

Gen. Kuropatkin says Kaulbars was ordered on Feb. 15 by the commander-in-chief to immediately ascertain the precise strength of the enemy, the direction of their movements and their intentions. These orders were frequently repeated, but none were obeyed, and the commander-in-chief consequently was forced to make his decisions hastily on information that was false and incomplete. Kaulbars, who had been specifically assigned to the task of arresting Nogi's turning movement, acted under erroneous information and devoted all his time and attention to the movement of Oku's army on the west front, mistaking it for the forces under Nogi.

SUPPORTS CHARGES AGAINST THE OFFICERS

Surviving Passenger of Larchmont Says They Drove Her Back From Boats

Block Island, R. I. Feb. 14.—One more grim harvest of twenty-three victims of the disaster to the ill-fated steamer Larchmont, which the intrepid Block Island fishermen gathered yesterday in nearby waters, was sent to the mainland today, and as the deathladen boat left this afternoon for Providence, the corpse of another victim was brought in by the fishing schooner Theresa, making in all thirty-four bodies that have been recovered. The steamer Kentucky carried away forty-nine bodies yesterday, as well as eighteen survivors. The tugboat Roger Williams, which came down this afternoon from Providence, steamed back with 23 rigid forms on her decks. The body of Harry Eckels, a resident of this island, will be buried here, while that of an unknown negro waiter, which was brought in just before dark, will probably be sent to the mainland by the steamer tomorrow.

One survivor, Miss Sadie Colub, of Boston, still remains on the Island, she is being cared for at the home of George Milliken.

This afternoon she told several of the newspaper men that when she begged either Captain McVey or Purser Young to take her in their boats they pushed her back and the lifeboat left the Larchmont with only six in it, although it would have held twenty more. When the steamer went down, she found herself on a piece of wreckage and remained on it until picked up ten hours later by the crew of the fishing schooner Elsie. Miss Colub was very emphatic in her charge against Captain McVey and the officers of the Larchmont.

Miss Golub, who had remained unconscious since being brought ashore, regained her senses this afternoon and was very eager to make a statement. It was stated tonight that she will recover, although her hands and feet are badly frost bitten.

The body of the negro has a wound in the throat, which has the appearance of having been made by a knife. It is the general opinion that the unfortunate man took his own life after failing in a desperate effort to put on a life preserver found covering his head and one arm.

The Block Island fishing fleet of twenty sailing vessels searched the adjacent waters today, but only two bodies were recovered.

COAL MINER HURT

Coal Creek, B. C., Feb. 14.—John O'Reilly, a miner in No. 27 mine here, was badly injured by a fall of rock last night, being bruised about the shoulders and chest, and having his head crushed. He was taken to the Fernie hospital.

TELEPHONE GIRLS' HOURS

Toronto, Feb. 14.—Medical experts at the telephone commission, testified that eight hours per day was too long a stretch, and even on a five-hours day operators should be relieved. Dr. Sheard thought five hours per day was long enough, and $10 was reasonable salary.

DROWNED IN ARROW LAKE

Nelson, Feb. 14.—Word reached here tonight of the drowning on Wednesday night on the Lower Arrow lake of Robt. Kyle, a trapper, living at Brooklyn. He was an Irishman forty-five years old, and leaves a wife and family. The wife is very ill. She has relatives either in Rossland or Nelson.

L'ASSOMPTION ELECTION

Montreal, Feb. 14.—Dr. P. C. Laurier a young Montreal physician, has been chosen by the Liberals of L'Assomption as candidate for the constituency left vacant by the death of Charlemagne R. Laurier. The candidate is the son of a cousin of Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

G. T. P. CONTRACTS

Ottawa, Feb. 14.—The time for receiving tenders for the construction of five sections of the transcontinental was closed today. There were 18 tenders received. It is said that the Grand Trunk Pacific have tenders in for all five.

REAL ESTATE MARKET SHOWS GREATER ACTIVITY

Many Parcels of Property Have Changed Hands Within the Past Few Days

NEW FIRMS OPEN UP IN CITY

Particulars of Recent Deals in Realty in Victoria and the Surrounding District

Activity in realty circles is becoming more accentuated as spring opens up. Within the past couple of days two new concerns in this line of business have entered the field in Victoria, V. C. Maddock & Co., and Bannerman and Nivin.

The first mentioned is an important addition to the business of the city. As a branch of one of the largest and oldest established real estate firms in Winnipeg, with offices also at Portage la Prairie and Moose Jaw, east of the Rockies, and at Vernon, B. C., it has an extensive field before it. A specialty will be made of Okanagan lands, of which the firm owns some 5,000 acres between Vernon and Kelowna, situated at Okanagan centre. This tract requires irrigation, in common with all lands in that vicinity, and a scheme costing $40,000 is now under construction. These lands, with irrigation, are being sold for $125 per acre. No other firm in the city is dealing in fruit lands in the dry belt, so this should form an important part of the business. Its offices are at 10 Broad street.

Both partners in the firm of Bannerman and Nivin are old hands at realty selling, and have secured a large amount of property on their list. Their offices adjoin the Imperial Bank on Government street.

Another new firm that is having extensive offices fitted up is Gray and Hamilton, who have secured a splendid location on Yates street, adjoining the B. C. Hardware company. Several extensive purchases were made before the firm started in business, than one tract is already being subdivided, formerly part of the Finlayson estate, east of the Cedar Hill road. This will be placed on the market at once.

Foul Bay appears to be the latest residential suburb for which there is much inquiry. Within the past couple of days Pemberton & Son have made several sales there. They include four acres for $6,400; two acres for $3,000, a lot on Foul Bay road, $900; and 21 lots off the same thoroughfare at $380 each. Other sales by the same firm are a lot on Camosun street, $1,450; two lots Oak Bay, $500; one lot Pandora avenue, $1,300; lot on Seventh street, $650; one half acre at Cadboro bay, $300 and 27 acres at Langford, $900.

Grant and Lineham yesterday sold nine houses and two lots, including seven lots at Rock Bay, two at the head of Pandora street, and George Tite's residence on Upper View street.

Through the agency of Parsons, Lee & Co., Rev. J. Dean sold his house and six lots at Oak Bay to Thomas Gray, formerly of Moose Jaw. Mr. Dean has purchased the residence of C. D. McIver, on Pandora street, and will reside there in future. F. Anderson yesterday sold several lots in the city to different investors, the aggregate value being about $7,000.

C. A. Harrison, of the Driard hotel, within the past few days sold 240 feet on Heywood avenue to Shaloross, Macaulay & Co.

IMMIGRANTS WILL BE OF GOOD CHARACTER

Arrangement Entered Into by Provincial Government and Salvation Army

"What is the understanding reached between the provincial government and the Salvation Army in regard to the encouragement of immigration to British Columbia?" This question was asked by R. L. Drury at a general meeting of the Board of Trade held yesterday afternoon, at which the problem of obtaining more laborers to meet the present scarcity throughout the province was discussed. As none of those present was in a position to answer the query, a statement was obtained by the Colonist from Premier McBride upon the matter. He briefly and very clearly explained the situation as follows:

"As previously announced, the government has made preliminary arrangements with the Salvation Army, and trusts in a few days to be able to report the completion of the same for the immigration into British Columbia of a very desirable class of settlers, who will be ready to go to work in the spring. The government has been most particular to impress upon those in charge of the selection that only the best and most suitable people be chosen, and, as the Salvation Army commissioners who have the work in hand know what the requirements of British Columbia are, there is no doubt that suitable and altogther desirable laborers will be sent to the country. Only yesterday the government was in receipt of a cable from Commissioner Coombs, dated from England, referring to some of the minor details of the plan."

HOMESTEADERS' DUTIES

Ottawa, Feb. 14.—The Interior department states that while it is quite true that the homesteaders have been permitted to absent themselves for two months from their lands, it is erroneous to say that the two months will be counted as actual residence on a homestead. There is no provision under the statute by which such a concession could be granted. The department is anxious that settlers should be advised of the correct position of affairs.

ALBERTA TELEPHONES

Edmonton, Feb. 14.—The minister of public works, on behalf of the government of Alberta, announced today that a complete telephone system, owned and operated by the government, and covering the entire province, with rural exchanges wherever desired, will be installed at once.

A MEXICAN MERGER

New York, Feb. 14.—The directors of the Greene Consolidated Copper Company and of the Cananea Coal Company today ratified an agreement with the Ryan-Cole syndicate for the transfer of the properties of those two companies to the Greene-Cananea Copper Company.

GAMBLERS AND DETECTIVE

Honolulu, Feb. 14.—Chief of Detectives Taylor has been offered $1400 a week by an association of Chinese gamblers for their protection, and to secure them a monopoly of gambling in Honolulu. The chief accepted a payment to bind the agreement, in order to secure evidence against the would-be bribers.

CORNWALL CITIZEN DEAD

Cornwall, Feb. 14.—Isaac H. Vanandale, of Flack & Vanandale, proprietors of the Cornwall potteries, died today. He was in business forty years. He is survived by his wife and one daughter, the wife of H. A. Pringle, M. P.

NANAIMO BARREL FACTORY

Nanaimo, Feb. 14.—The Pacific Whaling Company, which operates the whaling station at Sechart, has signified its intention of establishing a whaling station on one of the islands of Baynes Sound, and is contemplating the erection of a large barrel factory on this side of the island. Rumor has it that Nanaimo has been chosen as the location for the factory. Barrels will not only be manufactured for the company's own stations, but for general trade, and 200 men will be employed at the plant when operations commence.

The ball given under the auspices of the Fraternal Order of Eagles here tonight was the most brilliant social function in the history of Nanaimo. The electrical effects and beautiful decorations in draperies, palms and flowers were simply magnificent. There were a hundred and fifty couples present.

ANTI-STRIKE MEASURE READ A SECOND TIME

Criticism in House—Mr. McInnes and the Yukon—Mexican Wheat Duty

Ottawa, Feb. 14.—After seven hours' debate the House gave the second reading to Hon. Mr. Lemieux's bill for the prevention and settlement of strikes and lockouts. There was considerable criticism of the measure from the opposition, several members holding that the bill infringed the personal liberty of both employers and employees.

Eighteen tenders have been received for the five additional sections of the national transcontinental railway. It will take about a week to figure them out.

Mr. Lennox was informed by Sir Wilfrid Laurier that a resolution was received in August last purporting to come from the Yukon Territorial Liberal Association, making charges against W. W. B. McInnes, then governor of the Yukon. The charges were of a general character, alleging untrustworthiness and misconduct. An investigation was demanded, as well as the dismissal of Mr. McInnes, but subsequently resolutions were received purporting to come from the same body, alleging that the former resolution was unauthorized and was not found in the books of the association.

Mr. Bureau was sworn in as solicitor-general today.

A. W. Donly, Canada's commercial agent at Mexico, telegraphs that the duty on wheat into Mexico has been reduced 50 per cent from February 15 to June 30. The present Mexican duty is, in Canadian currency, about 67 cents per 100 pounds.

OLD OIL MAN DEAD

Buffalo, Feb. 14.—Joseph P. Dudley died here tonight. Mr. Dudley was a pioneer oilman in the Pennsylvania fields. The Empire Oil company, of which he was the head, was merged with the Standard Oil company in 1882, and from that time until 1904 Mr. Dudley represented the Standard in western New York. Mr. Dudley retired from acitve business in 1904.

TRUSTEES' CONVENTION

Nelson, Feb. 14.—The third annual convention of provincial school trustees came to a close this evening with a largely attended at home. The next place of meeting will be New Westminster. The competition unanimously and enthusiastically adopted a resolution requesting the government to make compulsory the flying of the Canadian flag over all schools in the province during school hours daily.

ELECTRIC RAILWAY CO. SEEKING MORE POWER

Wynn Meredith and Others Start Today to Look for Possible Sources

Wynn Meredith, the celebrated electrical engineer, arrived in the city last evening, on business connected with the B. C. Electric Railway company. As to just exactly what that business may be, the utmost secrecy is being maintained, but it is thought that it may have something to do with securing of a new source of power for the railway company.

Mr. Meredith was accompanied by H. M. Burwell, of Herman & Burwell, the Vancouver engineering firm, and this morning Mr. Meredith, Mr. Burwell and a party of surveyors and engineers will leave on the first B. & N. train. Questioned yesterday as to what the business of the party might be, Mr. Meredith would make no statement, and even refused to name the station at which the party will leave the train.

It is understood, however, that it is making for Sooke, and that surveys will be made at Sooke lake with a view to ascertaining the facilities afforded by that body of water for the development of power.

CIVIC SALARIES MOVE SEVERAL NOTCHES UPWARD

Council Agrees to Nearly All Requests for Increase in Pay

WAGES OF DAY LABORERS RAISED

Higher Scale Will Mean Addition to the Civic Expenditure of $20,000 a Year

The city officials have received a salary raise all around. After three weeks of discussion and the holding of two special secret sessions, the city council has finally disposed of the question, and last night after a meeting held behind closed doors a resolution setting forth the details of the increase was duly adopted.

In almost every case the petitions of the employees for a raise have been regarded, and although the individual increases are not large, averaging five dollars a month, there are but few cases where the salaries of the petitioners have been allowed to remain as they were last year.

The Victoria Laborers' Protective association has been granted its wish, and the wages of the day laborers in the employ of the city getting less than $3 a day have been increased twenty-five cents a day; with the stipulation, however, that the men must be bona fide residents of the city.

The recommendation of the Board of Firewardens as to the wages of the firemen has been adopted. The scale of wages recommended by the board was prepared by Chief Watson and is understood to be entirely to the satisfaction of the men, so that the complaints of the firefighters as to the smallness of the pay should now be set at rest. The salary of Chief Watson is raised from $100 to $125 a month, while throughout the rest of the department the increase ranges from $2.50 to $5. In all, the additional pay to the firemen will mean an extra expenditure of $158 to the city every month.

The petition of the policemen for a raise has been referred to the board of police commissioners.

In the electric light department, the regular staff have each received a raise of $5 a month.

At the city hall arrangements have been made for two new employees, a measure which will lessen the work of the present officials, and it has been decided to do away as much as is possible with the payment of overtime. In detail the increases per month at the city hall are as follows:

Treasurer, raised	$ 5.00
Assistant treasurer, raised	5.00
Auditor, raised	5.00
City clerk, raised	5.00
Assistant clerk, raised	15.00
Assessor, raised	5.00
Assistant assessor, raised	15.00
Water works foreman, raised	5.00
Water works collector, raised	5.00
Water works clerk, raised	5.00
Engineer and draftsman, raised	5.00
Clerk, raised	10.00
Sanitary inspector, raised	5.00
Plumbing inspector, raised	5.00
Pound keeper, (salary)	75.00
Cemetery caretaker and assistant, raised	5.00
Caretaker, Old Men's Home, raised	5.00
Janitor, city hall, raised	2.50

A girl stenographer will be engaged for the city hall, to start at a salary of $30 a month, and additional bookkeeper for the treasurer's office at a salary of $90 a month.

IRISH COUNCIL BILL TO BE INTRODUCED

New Governing Body to be Partly Nominative and Partly Elective

London, Feb. 14.—Following closely upon his announcement yesterday of the intention of the government to introduce a measure to improve the government of Ireland, Augustine Birrell, chief secretary to Ireland, gave formal notice today that a bill "to establish an Irish council and for other purposes connected therewith," will be introduced. Thus the Liberal government is keeping its promise to the Nationalists to place Irish legislation to the forefront at the present session of parliament. The bill, although all the details have not yet been made public, will provide for a council, in which the elective element will predominate. A number of nominative members are retained in order to placate the Liberals who are opposed to an entirely representative body. It is understood also that this council will have extensive administrative powers, but its right to legislate will be limited.

Speaking in the House this evening, Mr. Birrell said the question of the restoration of evicted tenants to their homes was one of primary importance, and that it brooked of no delay. He pledged the government to take effective measures to obtain the reinstatement of evicted tenants.

GRIM DEATH INTERRUPTS

Wife of Juror in Thaw Trial Died Yesterday

New York, Feb. 14.—Another tragic chapter in the history of the Thaw-White case was written today, when grim death cme in to halt the famous trial in its fourth week. The wife of Juror No. 11, Mrs. Joseph B. Bolton, passed away this afternoon soon after her husband had reached her bedside. He had been summoned from the courtroom, where the trial had been in progress for less than fifteen minutes.

The formal announcement of Mrs. Bolton's death was made in court shortly after 2 p. m., the hour set for the afternoon session, and Justice Fitzgerald immediately ordered an adjournment of the case until Monday. The court also ordered, with the consent of counsel, that the other eleven jurors be given their liberty and no longer be held together. He admonished them to be guided by their honor and their oath, and not to read the newspapers or discuss the Thaw case with anybody.

Dr. Britton D. Evans, superintendent of the New Jersey state hospital for the insane, was recalled as an alienist to continue his direct examination. The witness was asked to detail the examinations he had had on various occasions with Thaw in the Tombs. He has already declared these conversations to be an essential feature in his conclusion that Thaw was of unsound mind at the time of the doctor's first three visits to him, the last being on September 22. Mr. Jerome had withdrawn his objection to the statements by Thaw going into the evidence, and Dr. Evans was about to detail the events of his first visit on August 4, when the summons for Juror Bolton came.

MILD IN ALBERTA

Field Sports Indulged in—Some Places Flooded

Macleod, Alta., Feb. 14.—Everybody in Alberta rejoices in the magnificent weather we have now been enjoying for over eight days. At time of sending this despatch football and baseball games are in progress on the town square. The fair sex, clad in light spring clothing, turned out in force to attend the games, and to applaud the victors. The thermometer at this hour registers 42 degrees above zero, the air is clear and balmy, and farmers are only waiting the drying up of the fields to begin their spring work. Men are employed on five large public buildings in town, and the sounds made by the hammers and saws are heard in all directions.

Lethbridge, Alta., Feb. 14.—Some of the points west and south are reported to be having trouble with water. Stirling is reported to be fearing a washout, owing to the melting of the snow which accumulated in the irrigation canal.

The townsite of Coaldale is under water, and the lumber yard there is floating. At Raymond the irrigation bank has given way and the west end of the town was surrounded by water. The town council donned rubber boots and assisted the company in draining the water off.

A VETERAN OFFICIAL

Windsor, Ont., Feb. 14.—Police Magistrate Bartlett has completed forty-nine years in the civic service. He started as city clerk 48 years ago.

THEO. KNAPPEN PRAISES TOURIST ASSOCIATION

Says it Has Caused City of Victoria to be Widely Known

Theodore M. Knappen, formerly secretary of the Western Canada Immigration association, now vice-president of that organization, is in the city. Accompanying him are John F. Langan and James Hansell, of Chicago, Ill. Mr. Knappen is enthusiastic in his praise of the advertising campaign which has been carried on by the Victoria Development and Tourist association during the past few years. He states that through its efforts, and the enterprise and energy of its secretary, H. Cuthbert, Victoria is attracting general attention throughout the Northwest and, in fact, in Eastern Canada and the United States. He thinks that this city, with its natural scenic and climatic charms, is destined to become a resort rivaling those of Southern California. Indeed he believes that the situation at the present time is similar to that fronted Los Angeles and other places in the sunny South some years ago are analogous. To insure Victoria's future as a resort, it was only necessary that the local Development and Tourist association should continue its work. Mr. Knappen and his friends are here on business combined with pleasure, and expect to remain several days. They are staying at the Driard hotel.

HANGED HIMSELF

Ottawa, Feb. 14.—Napoleon Gravel, who resided at the corner of Sussex, and Bolton streets, a clerk in the census branch of the agriculture department, was found dead hanging by the neck from a beam in his own woodshed. He was found by his daughter. Temporary insanity is said to be the cause of his act. Deceased was 67 years of age, and leaves a widow and twelve children.

PERISHED IN COLD

Port Hope, Feb. 14.—Kate and James McMullin, brother and sister, sixty years of age, were frozen to death in a house near Gerdenville. They were found dead on the floor fully dressed.

LOSS BY FIRE

Ridgetown, Ont., Feb. 14.—Fire destroyed the Queen's hotel block. The loss amounts to several thousand dollars. J. Sheldon was owner. Dauphin's confectionery and McMaster's hardware store also suffered.

CALLED TO VANCOUVER

Winnipeg, Feb. 14.—Rev. R. Milliken, pastor of Zion church in this city, the largest in Winnipeg, has accepted a call to Wesley church, Vancouver.

U. S. COAL LANDS

Washington, Feb. 14.—The house committee on public lands today agreed upon a compromise coal land bill, which falls far short of President Roosevelt's programme for the withdrawal of all coal land from entry and the leasing of such land instead of selling it.

N. DYMENT'S WILL

Barrie, Ont., Feb. 14.—The will of the late N. Dyment will be filed in a few days. The estate is valued at three millions. With the exception of a few charitable bequests, the property goes to the immediate family. To the widow, whom he married four years ago, he leaves $100,000.

GOOD BEEF SCARCE

Toronto, Feb. 14.—It will not be possible to get first class beef here within a month, said a well known restauranteur today. It appears the stormy weather in the west is causing the loss of thousands of cattle and has seriously affected the supply of livestock, and buyers have been forced to scour Ontario for supplies. The result is seriously affecting the higher class of hotels and restaurants, where there is a demand for choice cuts.

COMES TO DEFENCE OF MORMON SETTLERS

Hon. Frank Oliver Takes Issue With Ministers of Presbyterian Church

Ottawa, Feb. 14.—Hon. Frank Oliver takes direct issue with Rev. Professor Kilpatrick of Knox College, Toronto, and with Rev. Dr. Somerville, general agent of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, in their attitude towards Mormon immigration into Alberta.

At a meeting in the Bloor Street Methodist Church, Toronto, Dr. Kilpatrick said: "The greatest grief in Alberta is the Mormon settlement. These people are Mormons first and Canadians afterwards. It is not enough to say that they grow good beets. Do they grow good Canadian citizens?"

Dr. Somerville said: "The Mormon invasion is a sin, to be laid at the government's door. They form a dangerous element in Canadian life, and nowhere has the mission board met with such discouragement."

These remarks having been drawn to his attention, Hon. Mr. Oliver said: "It does not seem to me that the remarks do credit to the understanding of the reverend gentlemen who made them, and I hope they are not a fair measure of the Christian spirit of the church in which they are to some extent leaders. Dr. Kilpatrick is reported to have said 'the greatest grief in Alberta was the Mormon settlement.' I have lived many years in Alberta, and this is the first time I have heard that Mormon settlements were a cause of grief. The region now occupied by the Mormons was unoccupied until they came. So far as we can see, it would have remained unoccupied for an indefinite period had it not been for their knowledge of like conditions in the United States and of the means by which these conditions could be overcome or their disadvantages minimized. They have given an object lesson in agriculture in the southern corner of prairie Canada which has increased the value of the whole semi-arid region of southern Alberta and southwestern Saskatchewan, an area of twenty to thirty million acres.

"Nor can anything be said against their citizenship. They are sober, orderly, lawabiding, intelligent and progressive. With the citizenship of the Mormons the government has all to do. With their religion it has nothing to do. The churches, which exist for the purpose of dealing with matters of conscience, are quite within their rights in discussing the merits or demerits of the religious views of members or adherents of their own or other churches, but they have no right because they dissent from the religious views of a certain body of people to try by misrepresentation to discredit them as citizens, or by the same misrepresentation arouse religious prejudice to be turned to account in party politics."

HOME RULE PROSPECT

Mr. Birrell's Speech is Variously Received

London, Feb. 14.—The first business day of the present session of parliament has given evidence of important legislative matters in hand, and promise of vigorous political fighting.

Augustine Birrell's maiden speech as chief secretary for Ireland highly pleases the Nationalists and supplies the text for strong attacks by opposition newspapers this morning. Mr. Birrell has frankly avowed himself a Home Ruler, and confessed that the government's devolution bill would be a stepping stone to Home Rule.

The Telegraph, in an editorial article this morning, says: "Truth, like murder, will out and Mr. Birrell, with childlike simplicity, has disclosed the real Irish policy of the government. His magic wand has awakened Home Rule from its slumbers the surrender is complete and Mr. Redmond has to ask for nothing more."

In the lobby of the House of Commons last night Mr. Birrell's speech was the subject of much gossip, and there was curiosity as to what attitude Lord Rosebery and other prominent anti-Home Rule Liberals would take on it.

Another matter of importance is the statement made by Herbert H. Asquith, chancellor of the exchequer, concerning old age pensions. This is regarded as meaning that the government intends to propose some scheme, and that Mr. Asquith meditates "earmarking" a portion of the expected large surplus in the next budget as a nucleus for a pension fund.

A LARGER MILL

Vancouver, Feb. 14.—E. H. Heaps & Co. will build a new sawmill on a much larger scale than that of the burned structure. This mill will be one of the largest and the finest in the province. The equipment will consist of three band mills, two roller bandsaws, two gangs, two edgers, a 50-foot slasher, two automatic trimmers, sorting table and all other modern appliances. This plant will be able to handle logs ten feet in diameter and 110 feet long. The lumber throughout the mill will be handled entirely by automatic steam transfers, live rolls and all other labor-saving devices.

NO DATE ON CANS

Vancouver, Feb. 14.—That section or clause in the pure food bill now before the Dominion House of Commons which provided for the stamping of all canned goods with the date of their preparation has been expunged, according to information received in the city by salmon canning interests. Communications to this effect have been received from Hon. William Templeman and Messrs. Sloan, Macpherson and Kennedy, members of the House.

BACK TO PRACTICE

Vancouver, Feb. 14.—Ex-Judge Henderson appeared as a practicing lawyer in the police court yesterday morning. His appearance caused a little sensation to the many who had been accustomed to see him sitting in the higher court over-ruling the decisions of Magistrate Williams. He was engaged on an assault case, in which he won, since the person committing the assault was fined $10 and costs.

Winnipeg, Feb. 14.—A Moose Jaw despatch says Alex. S. Allen, a rancher in the Willow Bunch district, who came from Dakota two years ago, was found frozen to death. He had been looking for horses and was caught in the storm.