VOLUNTEERS FOR NAVY

Lord Brassey Discusses at Vancouver the Merits of a Local Scheme.

Views of the Admiralty as to Colonial Auxiliaries—Regulars on the Station.

Lord Brassey, K.C.B., the governor of Victoria, Australia, arrived in Vancouver Tuesday en route to his seat of government at Melbourne, accompanied by Lady Brassey, the Hon. Miss Brassey, Countess de la Warr, Lady Mana Sackville, the Hon. Spencer Lyttleton, H. Hervey, Esq., and several ladies and other members of the suite.

Lord Brassey is truly described by an Eastern exchange as a perfect type of an English gentleman, tall, hearty and well set up. He is a recognized authority on naval matters and it the publisher of "Brassey's Annual." He has large landed interests in the North West, being at one time owner of the famous "Sunbeam" farm at Indian Head. His lordship has always taken a keen interest in Canada from an Imperial federation point of view, and is a firm believer in the great future which lies before the Western part of the Dominion of Canada.

A News-Advertiser representative was granted a long interview by his lordship during the evening. A large number of people interested in the Vancouver naval volunteer movement have been waiting for Lord Brassey's arrival in the city to obtain his views on the subject, as quite recently he formed one of the deputation that waited upon Mr. G. J. Goschen, M. P., at the admiralty, to urge upon him the desirability of the enlisting of colonial seamen in the royal navy.

The statement of the proposed lines for the formation of a local naval corps was handed to Lord Brassey. His lordship, after carefully perusing them, remarked: "The outline you have shown me is exceedingly well conceived. As you know I was largely interested in arranging the naval force at home which was dissolved a few years ago by Admiral G. Tryon, admiral superintendent of naval reserves. The London men acquitted themselves admirably, but, as I stated before, the attempt was eventually abandoned. One point of difficulty was that there was no capitation grant. It was purely a voluntary service. The chief concession made was that the men were enrolled and dressed as bluejackets. The difficulty was where to place them on board a man-of-war. They wanted equal rank but were not fully qualified as seamen and the authorities did not like to place them in exactly the same place and stations as the regular seamen.

"As marine artillerymen, the volunteers would find a better and more useful sphere. The want of free nautical qualifications would not be felt so much, and so much is not expected from them, in nautical knowledge, as from a bluejacket. The value of the marine artillery is daily increasing and as a branch of the service it is invaluable. The tendency in naval circles, and in the natural development of the service, is to largely increase the number of marine artillerymen on board ship while the number of bluejackets on board is declining."

The reporter mentioned the fact, well known in naval circles here, that in case of actual warfare, Admiral Palliser would be compelled to leave one of his torpedo boat-destroyers at home, as he has not a sufficient force to man both the Sparrowhawk and Virago.

Lord Brassey replied that he thought that the manning of torpedo-boats required well-qualified men, but in a case of that kind, the presence of a strong naval volunteer corps near the naval station would be of great value. So far from the home centres every man counts, and the authorities or admiral would be greatly assisted by being able to call upon the volunteers to help man the fleet.

His lordship's attention was then called to clause 2 in the statement of the proposed lines of formation, which suggests that some should be employed at and thoroughly instructed in submarine work.

Lord Brassey replied: "Marine mining is a very important branch. Its efficiency, however, much depends upon the conditions of the port and surroundings, and I am not sufficiently acquainted with the local conditions to say much on that point."

When asked as to the result of his interview with the first lord of the admiralty on the question of a colonial naval reserve Lord Brassey replied that the whole matter had received much more consideration than in the past, and the deputation had received the most favorable reply yet given. The line of work indicated (this was understood to refer chiefly to Australia) was that the colony should supply the men, drill-sheds and instruction equipment on land; the men to hold themselves in readiness to embark on a man-of-war for six months, as at home, during which time they would receive the ordinary seamen's rate of pay.

His lordship stated that Melbourne was well supplied as far as equipment went and, providing the men were enrolled while young, no difficulty would be experienced with regard to the six months' actual training with the fleet. There were so many advantages accruing to men who have been in the service, besides the pensions, to make the navy attractive for young men.

His lordship had heard nothing with regard to a regiment of regulars being sent to Vancouver. He would be very glad to hear that it was so, but thought on the other hand that great care should be taken not to alarm the friendly relationship with the United States by any action likely to be construed as a sign of mistrust.

He did not know whether or not the time of service of the artillery now stationed at Victoria had expired, but thought, either way, that a volunteer corps should prove of great benefit to the Coast.

He would like to see a British regiment established at the seat of each colonial government, and the situation of Australia, handy for both India and China, would render the presence of a strong naval and military force a very valuable acquisition to the Imperial government.

At the conclusion of his remarks upon naval defence, Lord Brassey intimated that he would be pleased to meet with the gentlemen interested in the Vancouver naval volunteer movement in an informal manner, when he would be pleased to explain the system as worked in Australia, and give them any assistance he could.

His lordship's kind offer was communicated to Mr. N. Macgowan, the acting secretary of the movement, and through him to Mr. W. Godfrey, Mayor Garden, Mr. A. Grant and to other gentlemen connected with the movement.

WOULD KNOW THE WRITING.

Time-Honored Source of Merriment for Telegraphers Reported from Victoria.

There is a little woman in Victoria who is not accustomed to sending or receiving many telegrams, and who in consequence is the unconscious author of a joke that has kept the clerks and operators of the C.P.R. staff laughing for two or three days past. A message had come in from Winnipeg, the person addressed not being known to the delivery branch. In consequence a notice was mailed as usual, and in response this good woman came to the telegraph office. She was in doubt if the message could be for her, although the name was her's, and to settle the matter inquired:

"Where is it from?"

"Winnipeg," responded the obliging Mr. Bowness.

"Yes; I've relations there," the woman assented, but still in doubt—"though I can't see what they would want to be telegraphing to me about."

Then a solution of the whole difficulty presented itself, and she smiled brightly as she suggested: "If you'd just let me see the writing, I could tell in a minute if it's from them."

Karl's Clover Root Tea for Constipation It's the Best and if after using it you don't say so, return the package and get your money. Sold by Cyrus H. Bowes.

AGRICULTURE.

ABOUT POULTRY.

Charcoal is excellent for poultry; so is corn burned or charred on the ear.

One way to get a yellow yolk is to take beets or carrots, cook them for the fowls, feed them, and in two days there will be a change; the yolks will be as yellow as desired.

One of the most important things in feeding poultry, yet too often neglected, is a supply of good, pure drinking water, and a fowl drinks every 10 or 15 minutes in warm weather. Impure water is one of the most fruitful sources of disease. Cholera, for instance, is in all probability often due to the drinking of water that is not pure. Snow water will reduce flesh as rapidly as a sharp attack of diarrhoea. The best thing is to have a stream of running water. A few rusty nails in the water are good, or a few drops of tincture of iron every other day. The vessel must be kept clean, and water should be warmed in winter for fowls, or it will chill them, but in summer it should be cool.

BUTTER IN SEALED TINS.

Dominion Dairy Commissioner Robertson is developing another scheme to make the farmers rich. It is the exportation of Canadian butter in tins. The butter is to be wrapped in wax paper and placed in hermetically sealed tins. It is claimed that when packed in this way butter will keep good in any climate, and Prof. Robertson believes that a large trade may be developed with China, Japan and other Oriental countries. Prof. Robertson has had a number of tins made in Montreal for this purpose, and a shipment of butter in tins has already been made from the dairy station at Calgary to the Yukon district. This method of packing butter is not a mere experiment. It has already been tried with very great success in France, and Prof. Robertson states that the tins made in Montreal are fully equal to those made in France. Accustomed as the public is to the idea of packing fruit, vegetables and meat in tins, it seems strange that some one did not long ago think of packing Canadian butter in tins for export.

PRESERVING EGGS.

Take a common starch box with a sliding lid. Put the eggs in the box, and upon an open shell or other suitable substance place a teaspoonful of sulphur. Set fire to the sulphur, and when the fumes begin to rise briskly shut up the lid, make the box tight and do not disturb it for half an hour. Now take out the eggs, pack in oats, and the job is done. If the oats or packing material be subjected to the same process, it will be all the better. If a barrel is to be preserved, place the eggs in a tight barrel two-thirds full, with no packing whatever. Fire a pound of sulphur upon a suitable substance on top of the eggs in the vacant space over them, shut up tightly, let stand an hour and then take out the eggs. As the gas is much heavier than air, it will sink to the bottom, or, rather, fill up the barrel with fumes. In another barrel or box place some oats, and treat in the same way. Now pack the eggs in the oats, head up the barrel and turn the barrel every day to prevent falling of the yolks, using each end alternately, and they will keep a year, or, according to efficiency of the operation, a shorter or longer time, says the Poultry Keeper.

It will be seen by the above that the process is a dry and neat one and very inexpensive. sulphur being a very cheap article. This process was sold several years ago by certain parties as "Ozone," but it is an old one, and the parties were exposed, not that the process was a fraud, but because they sold a pound of sulphur as ozone for $2.

RAISING GEESE.

It is useless to attempt to raise geese successfully if they are afraid of their attendant, says Samuel Cushman in Country Gentleman. They should be treated with great gentleness and have full confidence in their keeper. A nervous, quick-motioned, excitable or rough person may keep them so distributed that they can not thrive.

If cooped at night in a tight house, or one having open windows protected by wire netting, loss from dogs, cats and other animals is prevented but the bedding must be renewed daily and removed frequently. If this is not done or they are crowded too much and do not have sufficient air, their growth will be much less than if left out in the open. To make the best growth they should have succulent green food before them while they can see to eat. If shut in for a short time, they should have a continual supply of freshly-mown rye, oats, clover and corn fodder. Otherwise they will fret and lose much in weight.

They may be pastured from the start on growing rye, oats, millet and other green crops to their great advantage, or may be turned on to these crops when grass becomes old or dries up in hot weather. If shut off the plat before it is eaten too close, it will grow up again and may be thus eaten down several times. Such crops should be thickly sown. Mr. James Rankin, who grows rye and oats for his ducks, sows five bushels of seed to the acre. By planting one piece after another, a succession of green crops may be had that will furnish the best of sufficient food through the hot weather.

B. C. WHEAT IN MANITOBA.

Taking wheat to Manitoba would seem to be still another illustration of "coals to Newcastle," or salmon to the Fraser river, yet the expert grain men of Winnipeg are just at present giving their best attention to some magnificent samples of red fife, not from their own prairies, but from this province. They were grown near Armstrong in the famed Okanagan valley and are described as very similar to a sample of wheat received from the Peace River country two or three years ago. The present samples were sent to Winnipeg by the secretary of the Okanagan flour mills, who in an accompanying letter says: "We send you to-day a sample of Manitoba wheat I had grown from seed procured last spring. The wheat has been put through one elevator separator, only weighs 66 pounds to the bushel and yields 45 bushels to the acre. This is the first lot we have received but it is 100 per cent. better than the seed sown from. Notwithstanding the repeated assertion from Manitoba that we can't grow hard wheat here, we will this year have over 70,000 bushels of that wheat ourselves and the other two mills should receive as much. Fully 50 per cent. of our wheat is now spring fife."

THE VALUE OF BEES.

J. V. Riley, the United States entomologist, says that the annual value of the honey crop of the United States is $20,000,000, and that the honey bee is of more value to agriculture in the cross-fertilization of flowers than the honey is worth. The first part of the statement will not be questioned, since it is supported by the United States census. The latter part, however, needs explanation, says the Wisconsin Agriculturist. Recent experiments by botanists and horticulturists have established the fact that little or no fruit, such as apples, pears, cherries and strawberries, will be produced by blossoms unless they are visited by insects. Some of these plants are sterile to their pollen, others ripen their pollen and pistils at different times or in different flowers. The hairs of insects become covered with pollen as they work, and so the visitors bear it from blossom to blossom, and the result is fruit. Some vegetables also are dependent upon the visits of insects. This is true in the case of pumpkins, squash and cucumbers, the pollen of which is produced in one flower and the fruit by another. There will be no fruit unless the two be brought together. Again, at least two kinds of grain—buckwheat and field peas, are dependent upon the visits of insects, and among them the honey bee is the most useful. Marked on a scale of ten, at least six points should be given to this one insect, as against all others. The bumble bee should receive two points. Butterflies, skippers, flower flies, moths and solitary bees perhaps collectively are entitled to the remaining two points. Plants that are fertilized by the wind, as Indian corn and grasses, are not included in this list, of course. The showy petals and scent of honey in any blossom may be taken as an index that it is dependent upon insects for fruit.

ORIENTAL NEWS.

Tale of Russian Atrocities in Manchuria —Cotton Combine in Japan— Miners Entombed.

Reports come in of the arrogance and atrocious cruelty of the Russians along the line of the Manchuria railway in China. The women are grossly insulted in open daylight at their farm houses and if the men remonstrate they are ordered to cut down their own millet and other growing grain for the convenience of the railway, being threatened with disgrace and imprisonment under terms of the contract with the government if they don't.

Any supplies needed are taken from shops without payment, the shopkeepers being threatened with imprisonment if they object. Chinese farmers have appealed to the working miners in the districts where the Russians are located. The miners, 2,00 in number, recently returned from the war with the rebels and are armed with rifles. Another band of 4,000 under freebooter Pein-Wei have joined the miners. Pein-Wei is a Chinese Robin Hood and has followers worship him. At a word from him from which the 6,000 armed Chinamen are waiting they will attack the Russians. These 6,000 troops are sworn to prevent Russian advance into their territory. They have instituted a republican form of government among themselves.

Cotton importers throughout Japan have combined to better competition against the Bombay cotton combine. All Europeans are admitted but for some obscure reason Americans are barred.

During a violent thunder storm two ships in Looggway Canal, China, loaded with powder were struck by lightning. The explosion was so violent that the whole country side thought an earthquake had occurred. It is claimed the shock was felt in Shanghai 200 miles off.

The walls of the Kinka mine, Formosa, collapsed during a storm and 33 miners were buried alive.

Dysentery is terribly prevalent in Japan, according to statistics at the home department 8,817 cases were reported on the 30th ultimo alone, 191 persons dying. From the commencement of the outbreak there have been 40,667 cases, 8,132 being fatal.

The government of Japan has instructed the minister of education, Mr. Ozaki, to order all teachers of native schools to instruct school children to treat foreigners with respect and not gather and stone them, as is prevalent in the country.

Father Fleury, a French priest, whose mission was destroyed by fire and the inmates murdered, is still held by Chinese bandits, who demand enormous ransom. The priest writes that he is treated well but longs for his liberty. The priest's parents are poor and they are asking assistance from the French government.

The Yellow river has overflown its banks north of the Anshan mountains, and the North China News claims that hundreds of thousands of dwellers along the bank are absolutely destitute and homeless. The circumstance is most alarming as the governor of the district has no means of raising money and it is thought the number of fatalities will be very large.

Seven Koreans meeting at a little supper expressed the opinion to one another that it would be a good thing for the King to resign in favor of the Prince Consort. The King heard of it and bunished them all for life on the charge of high treason. They included two ex-commissioners, a policeman, ex-chief of police, two army officers and an ex-magistrate.

A DUTCH POLYGAMIST.

A German Who Has Deceived Many Widows Once More Arraigned.

New York, Sept. 21.—"A trolley car would not hold all the women I have married," confessed Charles Hecking, when arrested in Newark on a charge of swindling a woman under the promise of marriage. If his own confessions are true, he beats Bates, the Chicagoan. He is 65 years of age and has half a dozen aliases, and has served several terms in prison in this city and New Jersey for swindling confiding women after promising or actually marrying them. He is wanted in this city on a charge of having defrauded Mrs. Margaretta Does, of 508 East 110th street, out of $500.

Hecking is a stout German, rather good looking, and is well preserved for a man of 65 years. Widows have been his special prey. "They are easy marks," he said. He advertised for a wife, as a rule, in a newspaper "personal," and after arranging and having an interview with the one who answered his personal, leads her to the belief that he is himself rich. In various ways, particularly by promise of marriage and by making preparations for such an event, he induces the woman to part with her money.

SABBATH SCHOOL CONVENTION.

Opening Proceedings of the Presbyterian Gathering at Vancouver.

The fifth Sabbath school convention under the direction of the Presbyterian synod of British Columbia, met in St. Andrew's church, Vancouver, on Wednesday afternoon. Rev. John A. Logan, president, occupied the chair. The following committees were appointed: Nominating, Mr. John Phillips, Victoria; Mr. A. A. Laird, Vancouver; and Mrs. Rear, Nanaimo. Credentials, Mr. A. Philip and Miss Dick. Resolutions, Mr. Mitchell, Cumberland; Mrs. Logan, Eburne; and Mr. A. Philip.

In the reports from Sabbath schools received, that from St. Andrew's, Victoria, shows an average of 90 scholars and a staff of 14 teachers and officers. Collections, $2 every Sabbath.

Mr. John Phillips, Victoria, gave an address on "The Teacher's Aim and Preparation." A short discussion on the subject followed, taken part in by Mrs. Perry, Mr. Mitchell, Miss Dick, Mr. Mackinnon and the president.

On Wednesday night the convention again met. The first item on the programme was an address by the president. Rev. J. A. Logan briefly addressed the convention on the progress and vast importance of the work they were engaged in. In 1892 they had in the synod 39 Sabbath schools, 284 teachers and 2,300 pupils; now there were 114 schools, 622 teachers and over 5,000 pupils. These 5,000 pupils were to be the men and women of the future, and on them would rest the positions of trust and influence in the land. Mr. Mackinnon, of Ottawa, read a valuable paper on the home department, giving suggestions as to how an important sphere of work can be organized for the benefit of many who will not or cannot attend church or Sabbath school. Discussion of the subject was adjourned till Thursday.

The secretary read an interesting address by Mr. John Morris on "The Duties of the Sabbath School Secretary."

The treasurer, Ald. McQueen, reported a balance on hand of $1.20.

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted by the convention:

"This convention desires to record its deep sympathy with the citizens of New Westminster in respect of the disastrous results of the recent conflagration there, and its gratification that the spirit of Christian brotherhood has drawn forth such a hearty display of help and sympathy from far and near."

"In view of the vast importance of the plebiscite vote to be taken throughout Canada on September 29, regarding the prohibition of the manufacture of alcoholic liquor for beverages, and the influence it will have on the future well-being of the children and the homes of Canada, this convention would strongly urge that all the Sabbath school teachers exercise their utmost influence to secure a large vote in favor of prohibition."

THE OLD COUNTRY.

The latest theatrical rumor, says the Westminster Gazette, is that a Russian Jew named Racow, at present living in East London, is to try his hand at regular English playwriting. He has already won fame as the author of a Yiddish drama dealing with Dreyfus.

Every dog has his day—and his price. Mr. John Storey, of Catchgate, Annfield Plain, Durham, says a London exchange, has just sold a St. Bernard dog, aged 18 months, to Mr. C. M. Pearson, of North Kilworth, near Rugby, for $2,500. It is believed to be one of the very best St. Bernards of the present day.

The Queen of Italy has presented the Rev. John Shafto Barry to the vicarage of Coxwold-cum-Yearsley, Yorkshire, a living held for many years by Lawrence Sterne, who wrote most of "Tristam Shandy" at his house, which he styled "Shandy Hall." Not long ago Sir George Wombwell, the lord of the manor, carefully restored it.

Una and her lion is quite thrown into the shade by Mdlle. Marguerite and her seven lions—the latest side-show at the Earl's Court Exhibition. This graceful young dame performs some wonderful tricks in the cage of her savage pets, who have been excellently trained. The show over, the lady does some skilful skirt dancing in the den, and her animals looks on and behave, after their fashion.—Westminster Gazette.

An Osteno correspondent gives particulars of a story of the Enoch Arden order. A sailor named Lucas having been missing for twenty years, his wife obtained a legal declaration of his death, and remarried. Lucas returned to Osteno, and has just succeeded in obtaining the annulment of the declaration before the tribunal at Bruges. The question of the wife's second marriage has yet to be dealt with.

The London Standard's correspondent describes the humorous exploit of a Paris thief. He was known to have been in one of a block of houses, which were promptly surrounded by the police. They searched every nook and cranny of the roofs in vain. At last a Gendarme found the robber's ragged clothes in an attic. He had stripped of everything he had and dressed himself in a suit of good clothes. He then joined the crowd and watched the fun. He is still at liberty.

At Harwich recently, says the Westminster Gazette, a foreign lady, who gave her name as Marie Verber, and an address at Hyde Park mansions, London, was fined £2 15s. 6d. for smuggling three pounds of cigars. She was a passenger on a steamer from Rotterdam to Harwich, and on being asked to declare whether she had any tobacco, cigars or spirits, she replied: "No." When searched, however, the cigars were found in her possession, 50 of them being in the crown of her hat.

Frequently the statement has been made that when the treasury chest in the Transvaal was opened in 1877 it was found to contain only 12c 6d. Mr. H. Rider Haggard, the novelist, has corrected this statement. He is almost certain that the sole coin found there was a three-penny bit. He says that the financial situation was so acute that the postmasters had to help themselves to their own salaries in stamps. Mr. Haggard ought to know, for he was one of the officials who took over the treasury chest.—London Financial News.

BORING FOR SALT IN CHINA.

Chinese salt-well borning processes, says the Engineer, are slow but unusually affective. Salt wells and petroleum wells cover an area of about 2,500 square miles in the Setchouen, Yunnan and Shansi districts, and about 1,200 salt wells are now worked by companies or families. These wells are from six to eight inches in diameter and from 575 to nearly 1,200 feet deep, through rock. The drilling instrument resembles a string of thick iron sausages, with a strong tempered steel point. The cable is made of thin strips of bamboo, not twisted, and is worked from the end of a strong, elastic rod, resting on a roller and with a small platform at one end. The free end of the rod is worked by four or more men like a see-saw. The drill is withdrawn from time to time and water is poured into the hole, and the muddy liquid is extracted by a bamboo piston. To prevent the walls from caving in, cylinders of cypress wood are used, connected by nails. If the cable breaks it is fished up by a variety of ingenious hooks patiently applied; and if the iron perforator breaks it is pounded out of the way by the slow fall of heavy weights. While an ordinary well can be bored in six to ten years, some wells have required 40 years of incessant toil. The salt brine is extracted by a bamboo cylinder with a valve in the bottom, hoisted by a bamboo cable rolling over a small wheel and around a huge horizontal wheel, with buffaloes as motive power.

ODDS AND ENDS.

Bismarck's memory went back, according to his own assertion, to the time when he was only 3 years old. He remembered climbing up to the window and watching the crowd that had assembled to see the Berlin theatre burn down in 1818.

A Long Island historian calls attention to the fact that Sandy Hook was once Cape Santiago. Its first name was Cape de Santa Maria; then, when the Dutch took possession, it received its present name.

Here's a breezy little social item from the Delta Lighthouse, Greenville, Miss.: "John Gardner, the new town meat king, has sold his shop to his wife, and she deals in all kinds of choice meats. Mr. Gardner has gone to the country to farm."

Hayti is to have a narrow-gauge railway, running 18 miles from Cape Haytien to La Grande Riviere du Nord. All of the material will be bought in this country. Construction is to begin within 60 days, and Engineer Thomasseh, of Port au Prince, will ask for bids. The concession runs for 99 years.

Rev. Dr. John A. Zahm, the new provincial de facto of the Order of the Holy Cross in this country, is well known in scientific circles for his work on the evolution of plants.

The insignia of the Golden Fleece, worn by Duke Philip, the founder of the order, is still in the possession of Don Carlos, a fact which causes much chagrin and irritation to both the Queen Regent of Spain and the Emperor of Austria. It is a superbly jewelled affair and of high intrinsic value.

In Daniel Shaw, of Kingsbury, who is eighty-five years old, and looks but sixty, the people of Indiana claim to have the oldest J. P. in the United States.

Much indignation has been caused in Berlin by the announcement that the Kaiser has just conferred a pardon and restored to liberty Lieut. Von Brusewitz, who, eighteen months ago, was sentenced to three years' confinement in a fortress for having run through with his sword and killed a well-to-do mechanic of the name of Siegmann in the Lohengrin cafe at Carlsbad.

Prof. Rudolph Talk, a German meteorologist, recently predicted a thunder storm for Berlin. It came at the appointed hour, and the lightning struck three churches, killed four persons and blasted hundreds of trees.

The German emperor, wishing to give a distinctly religious character to his visit to Jerusalem, has permitted not less than two hundred pastors of the Lutheran church to join him in the pilgrimage. They will not travel with the imperial party, but will so arrange matters as to arrive in the Holy City at the same time as their imperial majesties, where they will take part in the visits to be made. As a sort of counter demonstration to the German, the French are also organizing an immense pilgrimage to the Holy Land, to take place early next year, which is to include many names distinguished in politics and literature.

The late Dr. Friedrich Muller, of Vienna, was considered one of the leading authorities on the philology of American Indian languages. He analyzes forty-one of the tongues and dialects spoken by the aborigines of this continent.

DONALD TOWNSITE.

A public meeting was held at Donald recently to consider the position of the business residents toward the Canadian Pacific railway in regard to the removal from Donald of the workshops and divisional point. There were about 35 persons present and Mr. T. Forest was voted to the chair. The result of the meeting was that Messrs. Manuel, Forrest, Baines, Caldwell, Stirrett, Pitts, Ruttan, and Patmore were appointed a committee to draw up a letter to Sir William Van Horne in which they say: "At a public meeting of the property owners in the town of Donald, held on the 13th inst., we were appointed a committee to lay before the officials of your company the following facts with regard to the removal of your workshops to Revelstoke, and your divisional point to Field.

"There has been invested here in buildings approximately $60,000 and on land leased from the company $4,000. You will see this means a total investment of $64,000. This money was invested in the belief that workshops and divisional point would remain here, and that town would be permanent. You are aware there is no agricultural land in the vicinity nor up to the present time has mineral been discovered in sufficient quantities to pay, nor has there been any lumbering of any consequence. You can readily see that this is purely a railroad town, and for this reason alone was money invested.

"From what we can see we are satisfied that the divisional point will be removed from here in the near future as one of the yard tracks have already been taken up and moved to Field, and a gang is working on the fourth to-day.

"From reports emanating from Superintendent Duchesney and Master Mechanic Cross, we learn that the workshops are to be removed from here to Revelstoke on October 1st next, or at latest November 1st.

"The residents of this town have been investing all their earnings in this place, building for themselves comfortable homes and businesses. If this move is all will be lost.

"We do not think this is a fair treatment at the hands of your company, and would respectfully ask if your corporation will recompense us in any way."

DATES OF FALL FAIRS.

Kelowna .....Sept. 21 and 22
Langley .....Sept. 21
Chilliwack .....Sept. 26, 27, and 28
Salt Spring Island .....Sept. 28
Kamloops .....Sept. 28, 29 and 30
Vernon .....Sept. 29 and 30
Comox .....Sept. 29
Delta .....Sept. 30
Cowichan .....Oct. 1
Mission .....Sept. 30 and Oct. 1
Ashcroft .....Oct. 1
New Westminster .....Oct. 4 and 5
Saanich .....Oct. 5 to 13
Richmond .....Oct. 14 and 15
.....Oct. 18 and 19

W. J. Thompson, the ex-Baptist minister now of Kamloops, who has been extensively written about in connection with the death of his former wife and his present wife's child, is suing for criminal libel the manager of the Kamloops Standard for its publication of the story. Mr. J. T. Robinson, the manager, has been committed for trial, bail of $250 each by two sureties being accepted.

AN UNCANNY ISLAND.

Stays Above Water Just Long Enough to Entrap Confiding Settlers.

News was brought from Suva by the steamer Miowera that Falcon Island, recently situated between the Tonga and Haafai groups and immediately opposite the Nomuka group of islands, has disappeared beneath the waves owing to volcanic action. There were about twenty native fishermen on the island and they have doubtless perished. In this connection the following story of the island is of interest:

An island of ups and downs is Falcon, a strange freak of the Tonga group that has puzzled more mariners than one in its day. Falcon comes and goes like the land we have read about in the story books, just as though some spirit of the sea had waved a trident over it and commanded it to appear or disappear.

For the fourth or fifth time in the knowledge of man, Falcon has disappeared. This time we are told that the vanishing act caused the loss of the lives of twelve fishers who had taken up quarters on the uncertain bit of ground. News from Suva, Fiji, had it that Falcon had drawn beneath the surface of the ocean some time last month, and the announcement caused some surprise in all circles except that in which moves the old seaman.

Falcon Island is about 700 miles from Suva. It is somewhat isolated from, yet included in, the Tonga group. It derived its name from the British warship, Falcon, which in 1885 explored the Tonga group and reported that "a low reef existed" in the location of what has from time to time been called an "island" out of courtesy. This reef was almost awash, for the big breakers rolled clear over it, making it a danger to navigation. Little was thought of the discovery until 1877, when the gunboat Sappho passed "Falcon reef" and was surprised to find there a low island against which the surf washed, but the top of which was clear of the surging billows. Smoke was observed issuing from the queer brownish gray ground, and the "reef" was so hot it was uncomfortable to explore it afoot.

In 1885 another warship visited the spot and found the island still above water, but not smoking. Its rapid changes of form caused the British government to become curious, so in 1889 the survey steamer Egeria was despatched to make a thorough examination and chart of the place.

The Egeria's crew found the island to be one and one-quarter miles long, shaped like a wedge, and one mile wide at its broadest part. They also found that in the four years intervening between the visit of the gunboat to the place and the call of the Egeria, Falcon had grown a most astonishing hump on its southern extremity, which elevation reared its top 153 feet above the sea. The soil of the island was found to consist of sand, loose volcanic ashes and cinders that appeared to be constantly slipping down toward the surf. The ground was hot and jets of steam issued from it on the south side. Otherwise there were no signs of volcanic activity. No coral was found.

Hearing of the queer things that Falcon was doing, the commander of the French frigate Duchaffault, in 1892, steamed over to the Tongas and took at look at Falcon. Lo! the 155-foot elevation had shrunk to a twenty-six foot bank. Everything seemed to be in good shape, however, and as the island appeared to be willing to remain standing for a while, the British schooner Ysabel set sail to land a few fishermen there and plant a few cocoanuts. Imagine the surprise of the Ysabel's skipper when he found the place awash again and at two miles distant it looked like a "black streak," just visible above old Neptune's realm.

The Ysabel visited the island in April. In December of the same year, John O'Ryan, pilot of Apia, Samoa, hoping to conquer new worlds, set out in a schooner with a small colony to settle on Falcon, plant trees thereon and found a colony. People who had heard the report of the Ysabie's trip snickered and thought what a good joke it would be when O'Ryan arrived at Falcon's location and found there "a black streak."

But the world didn't have the laugh on O'Ryan. Falcon, in the short space of eight months, had popped up again and the O'Ryan party landed on "an island with bold, steep sides and deep water all round, on which were planted some trees."

The "bold steep sides" didn't last very long, for in 1897 the Meg Merrilies, a schooner, passed there and discovered the place almost awash again. The "bold, steep sides" had gone to join McGinty.

Judging from the nature of the despatches from Suva, settlers were not deterred from making a resting place on Falcon. The freak grew very weary of life above water and this time has apparently disappeared for good, with twenty human beings, not even leaving a "black streak" as a means of future identification.

OPERATIONS ON 'CHANGE.

Movements Towards a Rise in New York, but Drop at the Close.

New York, Sept. 20.—The stock market presented all the characteristics of genuine reaction to-day. Last week's sharp recovery eliminated the short interest very largely and the liquidation for profits had been mostly completed during the previous continued decline. The market was thus left free to a great extent from technical influences and inclined to respond to the prospects for general business in the country. Its failure to do so yesterday was attributed to the unsettling influence of the slump in Sugar. The bears were evidently timid about continuing their campaign further and were inclined to cover so that this influence towards the reaction was recovered. Nevertheless, the market dropped heavily towards a lower basis, with one or two exceptions, and closed only barely steady at a level generally 1 per cent. or more below last night's close.

The Evening Post's London financial cable says: "The stock market here opened steady, but closed generally dull on the unexpectedly large influx on gold from the Bank of England. Americans were good at one time on German orders to buy Union and Northern Pacific common. The other markets hardened sympathetically but there was no public business and the close was dull in the absence of New York buyers. A small feature is the revival of speculation in Nitrate shares. Spanish fours were firm on Paris buying and the change on London fell sharply to 39.80 against 40.88 at the opening. I have information from an authoritative quarter that negotiations by the Hongkong and Chinese governments for railway shares are proceeding most satisfactorily for British interests. Consols were lower day on the gold movement and on an unconfirmed report that the Bank of England is seeking to gain control of the money market by borrowing on consols. This point, if true, would be most important, but I cannot express a definite opinion at the time of cabling. The total withdrawal of gold from the bank to-day was £742,000, which the official statement says, included $307,000 in bar gold and $215,000 in U. S. coin. All is said it be going to New York, but I have reason to believe that a portion has gone to Germany. The Paris bourse was steady except for mines, which were very weak, and the Berlin market was steady."

Closing prices: Amn. Cot. Oil, 35; Tob., 14⅝; Amn. Sugar, 118¼; Amn. Spirits pfd., 35⅛; A. T. & S. F. pfd., 34⅝; B. & O., 44; Bay State Gas, 3; Can. Sou., 53⅝; C. & O., 22⅝; C. B. & Q., 114¼; Chgo. Gas, 104⅛; C. & N. W., 130⅝; Chgo. R. I. & P., 101⅝; C. M. & St. P., 108⅛; Cons. Gas, 180¼; C. C. C. & St. L., 41; D. & R. G. pfd., 55½; E. E. E., 47⅝; J. C., 92⅝; L. & N., 56¼; Man. Elev., 97; Mo. Pac., 33⅝; Nat. Lead, 33 7-8; Nor. Amn., 6⅝; Nor. Pac. com. new, 40⅛; do pfd., 76¼; N. Y. C. & H., 115 7-8; N. Y. L. E. & W., 18⅝; N. Y. & T., 14⅝; Omaha, 15⅝; Omaha com., 80⅝; Pac. mail, 33; P. & R. all paid, 18⅝; Pullman, 187½; Sou. Ry. pfd., 33⅝; T. C. & I., 28⅝; Tex. Pac., 13 7-8; U. S. Leather, 33¼; do pfd., 91⅝; U. S. Rubber com., 44⅝; do. pfd., 104½; U. P. rects., 31⅝; Wabash, 8; do. pfd., 21⅝; W. U., 92; Met., 155; Reading, 19⅝; Transit, 59⅝.

Canadian Pacific in London, 89¼; commercial cable in Montreal, 182¼.

Money on call firm at 4½ to 6 per cent.; last loan 5 per cent. Prime mercantile paper, 4 to 5 per cent. Sterling exchange steady at $4.83⅝ to $4.84 for demand. Posted rates, $4.83 to ½ and $4.85 to ½. Commercial bills, $4.80½ to $4.81.

Silver certificates, 61 to 62c.; bar silver, 61c.; Mexican dollars, 47⅝c.

Copper quiet; brokers, $12; exchange, $12.25 and $12.32½. Lead quiet and steady; domestic, $3.85; exchange, $4.00 to $4.05. Tin quiet; straits, $16.12½ to $16.25; plates steady. Spelter quiet but firm.

Wheat closed: No. 2 red, May, 68 7-8c.; Sept., 71¼c.; Dec., 68⅛c.

Chicago, Sept. 20.—Wheat closed; Sept., 66½c.; Dec., 63⅝c.; May, 64⅝c. Corn, Sept., 29⅝ to 7-8c.; Dec., 24⅝c.; May, 31 7-8c. Oats, Sept., 21⅛c.; Dec., 20½c. and ⅝c.; May, 22⅝ and ¾c. Pork, Sept., $8.17½; Dec., $8.27½; Jan., $9.12½. Lard, Dec., $4.77½; Jan., $4.95.

BRITANNIA AND PROHIBITION.

Sir: If temperance is desirable it should be encouraged, but intemperance in language is as much to be deplored as other things. I felt when reading the answer to "Nemesis" by Britannia that the latter, although not advocating prohibition, was more temperate in his remarks than the former. "Britannia," however, regards "wines, beer and spirits as the legitimate beverage of civilized man; that the proper enjoyment of them conduces to his health and happiness; that the abuse of such enjoyments is no valid argument that other portions of the community who do not abuse it should be deprived of this enjoyment." While admitting the right to hold this argument, there are others who hold opposite views. It has been admitted that the use of alcohol has been abused, and just so soon as the individual is injuriously effected by any influence whatever, society is injured and it is her duty to determine what the remedy shall be. "Furthermore, that this abuse in this enlightened age, not forgetting the labors of the advocates of temperance, is gradually becoming less, and will carry with it more wholesome stability than the precipitate action of prohibition." I understand from this argument, that because of this being an enlightened age, the abuse in question is on the decrease, and that such decrease has a wholesome effect. "That this prescription of the prohibitionist is that of the empiric rather than that of the duly qualified man." The admission already made by "Britannia" debars him from making the latter assertion, but even admitting the term, the experiments of temperance people thus far have been, admittedly, in the right direction, and surely even the empiric who tries to cure is to be desired in preference to a man who will see his fellow suffer death without attempting to assist him and more especially if his cure is sure. If the last prescription (prohibition) proves as successful as those preceding it, according to the statements of Britannia the so-called empiric will become the "duly qualified man." "That it is not in harmony with the spirit of the age." As to that I prefer to base my opinion on the result of the polls on the 29th. "And finally, if this coercive experiment is introduced, it will injure the very cause it seeks to serve." The beneficial influence of temperance has by slow but hard contested tread reached the highest point permitted by the greed of cruel and selfish men, and it remains to be seen if the final step—proposed to be taken solely in the interests of humanity—shall have the effect predicted by Britannia. Let us remember that the traveller who has up to date kept to the right road is as much to be trusted as a guide, as I, who having reached the same destination by all sorts of crooked lanes and by-ways. W. J. L.

Cure that Cough with Shiloh's Cure. The best Cough Cure. Relieves Croup promptly. One million bottles sold last year. 40 doses for 25 cts. Sold by Cyrus H. Bowes.

CEMETERY INQUIRY.

Charges Preferred by Ald. Bragg Against the Caretaker Investigated.

Complaints of Trouble Among the Gardeners and a Suggested Remedy.

The charges preferred by Ald. Bragg against Mr. Robert Allen, caretaker of Ross Bay cemetery, were inquired into by the cemetery committee last evening, Mayor Redfern presiding. The charges were contained in a letter written by Ald