The Colonist.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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THE FALL FAIR

The fiftieth Provincial Exhibition to be held in the city under the auspices of the B. C. Agricultural Association will be opened on September 26 and be closed on October 1. Entries will close on September 12. In connection with the exhibition there will be a horse show on September 29 and 30 and October 1st. There will be an afternoon programme in the open air in front of the grand stand and an evening programme in the horse show building. Three cash prizes are offered for the best decorated boxes. The association has issued its prize list in the form of a convenient booklet of 140 pages; copies of which may be obtained by addressing Mr. George Sangster, secretary treasurer, whose address is Victoria.

Inspection of the prize list indicates that the exhibition and horse show may be expected to be of exceptional interest. Everything of course depends upon the public. The management may lay their plans with every care, but if those who can make exhibits fail to do so, and if the public will not extend their patronage, success will be impossible.

We have not seen in a long time anything like as goood an exhibition as could be gathered together in this city if the people would only take a lively interest in making it a success. It is quite true that to get up an exhibit a good deal of trouble must be taken, and there may be some, who, thinking only of the monetary reward, may conclude it is not worth while. To such people we say that a sense of public duty ought to lead them to do their best to make the show a success in every way.

The attendance at the exhibitions is never what it ought to be. Last year the excuse given for the relatively small gate receipts was that the 60-day horse races interfered. There is no such excuse now, and it is to be hoped that the general public will take occasion to patronize the show very much more generously than they have been in the habit of doing in the past. The gentlemen, who constitute the executive of the association, give up a great deal of their time to it, and their efforts ought to evoke a determination on the part of the citizens generally to make the show a success. We cannot go on definitely running these exhibitions at a loss and it will be very discreditable to the city if they have to be abandoned for lack of public patronage. The Colonist hopes that this year those, who could be exhibitors if they wish, and those, who could attend if they choose, will unite in an effort to make the exhibition and horse show the greatest success in the history of the association.

EARL SPENCER.

J. Poyntz Spencer, fifth Earl Spencer, died in London on the 13th inst. Lord Rosebery described him as "Bayardsan sans peur et sans reproche." He is one of the last of the great Whig peers, and when this is said the scroll of history seems to roll back and the events of centuries seem laid before us. The great Whig peers played a part in the development of popular government in England surpassed by none. They stood for the monarchy, but they held to the doctrine of Locke, that kings were only trustees of power for the people, and that their tenure of office was dependent upon the manner in which that trust was discharged. The late earl was a man of wealth and one of the leading landed proprietors of the kingdom; but he devoted himself to public duties with an assiduity and a spirit of self-sacrifice's that might have been looked for rather in a man with his way to make in the world than in one of ancient lineage, high social position and in the enjoyment of everything that seemed to be necessary to make his life happy. A recent sketch of his life reads as follows:

Born to luxury and a noble inheritance of broad acres, he has all his life realized the beau ideal of an English gentleman. To give him his full title, J. Poyntz Spencer, fifth Earl, Knight of the Garter, Privy Councilor, D. C. L., LL.D., Baron Spencer, Viscount Althorp, Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire and Keeper of the Privy Seal of the Duke of Cornwall, owner of twenty-seven thousand acres of land and two of the noblest palaces in Britain—Spencer House in London and Althorp Hall in Northamptonshire, ranked among the noblest of the land, and his early life was spent on much the same lines as that of most of the scions of the aristocracy. Born on Oct. 27, 1835—and therefore having completed just the allotted span—he was educated first at Harrow, then at Cambridge, and eventually, on attaining his majority, in 1856, was elected member of Parliament for South Northamptonshire. In the same year the sudden death of his father raised him to the peerage, and the elevation brought with it the appointments of Groom of the Stole to the Prince Consort and afterwards to the then Prince of Wales, now the King. He received the Garter in 1865, and was in those days better known as a great favorite at Court and a famous master of hounds than as a statesman, and chairman of the National Rifle Associations he did much to forward and make popular the volunteer movement then in its infancy.

It was not until the advent to office of Mr. Gladstone in 1868 that Earl Spencer's turn came. He was only thirty-five years of age, but he was appointed Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, and held the post until the fall of the Gladstone Government, in 1874. Six years later came the collapse of Lord Beaconfield's ministry, and Earl Spencer was made Minister of Agriculture and Lord President of the Council. Two years later the crisis came that proved his mettle and demonstrated his ability as a great administrator and a statesman of grit, courage and resource.

The atrocious assassination of Lord Frederick Cavendish and Mr. Burke left the Lord-Lieutenancy of Ireland vacant once more, and Mr. Gladstone sent Lord Spencer back to Dublin Castle. It was a supreme proof of confidence in his ability, and he as supremely justified it. He was confronted with a task which exceeded in difficulty and danger that of any subsequent ruler of Ireland. It was 1882, the year of terror. The Invincibles roved with knives about the streets of Dublin. Discontent had arisen in the ranks of the Royal Irish Constabulary, and a dangerous mutiny broke out in the metropolitan force. Over more than half the country the demoralization of every class the terror, the hatred, the universal distrust, had grown and developed to an incredible extent. The moral cowardice of what ought to have been the governing class was astounding. The agents of the law were shaken in their duty. The power of random arrest and detention under the Coercion Act of 1881 had not improved the morale of the magistrates and the police. The very foundations of the whole social fabric of Ireland were rocking.

Earl Spencer showed himself in every way equal to his tremendous task. The storm that raged around him was terrible, but he never quailed before it, and his strong and steady administration saved the situation. His experience in Ireland convinced him that Home Rule was necessary, although it was with some reluctance that he agreed to accept Mr. Gladstone's views on this subject.

Earl Spencer became First Lord of the Admiralty in Mr. Gladstone's ministry formed in 1892, and he was able to impress upon his chief, although only with difficulty the necessity in adopting a strong naval policy. Indeed he it was who laid the foundation of the present naval policy and it was to his untiring efforts that the supremacy of the United Kingdom on the seas was made secure. He remained at the head of the Admiralty during the Rosebery administration and later accepted the position of Liberal Leader in the House of Lords. It is said of him:

A nobleman, a statesman, and an English gentleman—in these words may be summed up all his creed, all his personality, all his character. He did his duty fearlessly before God and man; he gave England only of his best; and his name will endure long after he has gone down into silence as the name of one who faithfully served his country and his Queen, who left behind him the record of a spotless reputation, whose watchward was duty, and whose honor was his bond.

The loss by fire in the United States and Canada last year is estimated at $126,076,800. This is a vast sum and in most cases the loss might have been prevented by the exercise of ordinary care.

It is said that the Chinese are declaring an extensive boycott on goods from the United Etates. As this is not a step on the part of the government but only one taken by individuals, we do not see what can be done about it.

The proceedings against the proprietor and editor-in-chief on the London Daily Chronicle for contempt of court in charging Dr. Crippen with the murder of his wife will be watched with a very great deal of interest. In the United States Crippen would have been tried and found guilty by the newspapers long ago. It would not follow that he would ever be punished for the crime with which he is charged.

There are many strange things in romance, but the story of the Archduke, Johan Salvator, of Austria, if, as some of his friends believe it to be true, surpasses anything of which the writers of fiction have invented. Twenty years ago the Archduke, who if living is the heir to the throne of Austria, disappeared. He is known to have gone to South America and the generally accepted story is that he was drowned in the sailing ship Santa Margherita. Many members of European royalty believe he is alive, and the latest to avow an opinion on that point is the Princess Louisa, of Belgium. She said recently:

"If he keeps secret the place of his retreat, it is because he no longer has any affections on earth apart from the woman who shares his exile. The last time I saw him was at the Castle of Luxemburg with the Archduke Rudolf, the late Crown Prince, who afterwards committed suicide. He was just about to leave Europe after publishing the pamphlet in which he bitterly criticised the Hungarian army. The Emperor had already deprived him of his military authority. 'I want no money,' he said to the Crown Prince at lunch that day when the latter intimated that he might yet regain the imperial favor. There was no room for a prince with his ideas in Austria, and he spoke to us of the new life which he wished to create for himself in another part of the world. He wished to live and to think freely. Neither my sister Stephanie nor myself ever saw him again."

CAPTAIN KILLED BY DESPERADO

Extraordinary Story of Piracy and Murder on Steamer Buckman—Plot of Two Men to Seize Steamer

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 22.—The Alaskan-Pacific steamer Buckman, from Seattle, arrived here today, bearing the body of her murdered captain, E. B. Wood, and a prisoner, George W. Wise, who was implicated with the assassin in a plot to commit wholesale robbery and murder. The slayer of the captain, French West, is said to have jumped overboard with a life preserver.

The crime occurred on Sunday morning off Cape Mendocino. The two men had planned to overcome the captain and crew, rob the passengers, loot the steamer and escape. West shot the captain when he resisted, while Wise overawed the men in the wheelhouse. The latter was captured and the other man then was thought to have gone overboard.

On arriving here the Buckman, on account of death on board was boarded by the quarantine officers, and after this formality had been completed a patrol boat drew alongside and a squad of officers under Sergeant Stephen Bunner, boarded her.

Wise was placed under arrest. According to his story he is from Boston, where he was born 26 years ago. He met French West, who was formerly second mate on a Pacific Coast steamer, on board the training ship Pensacola. They deserted from the navy in one month, and came to this city. They then went to Portland on the Beaver, and from there to Seattle, where they stayed at the Hotel Reynolds.

Wise claims that he knew nothing of the plan to hold up the Buckman until he was on board the vessel. He said that his companion came aboard well supplied with arms and ropes with which to overcome and bind the officers and crew. After beaching the Buckman, the plan was to rob the purser and passengers and to make their way with their booty to the shore in small boats.

Wise, in talking to the officers and sailors whom he had under guard, told them several times that he had planned with his pal to kill all the members of the crew of the steamer. After the operator refused to obey the order to cut the wireless he threw both of his revolvers back of the wheel house and went to bed.

It was believed at first that some of the members of the crew were implicated in the crime, but no evidence was produced to justify a charge against any of them.

When the steamship docked here no one was allowed to go ashore until the police were satisfied that they knew nothing of the tragedy. All the passengers were given a chance to identify Wise, who, handcuffed to an officer, stood at the head of the gangplank as they filed ashore. A thorough search of the vessel is now underway in the hope that West may be found secreted somewhere in the hold.

SLEEP ENDS IN DEATH

William Gillis While Camping on Nanaimo Waterfront Rolls Over Bank and Is Drowned.

NANAIMO, Aug. 22.—A drowning accident in which Wm. Gillis was the victim, occurred here on Saturday night or early Sunday morning.

Gillis, who has been working on the railway extension, arrived here on Saturday evening and with his pack went over to the "Green" on the waterfront and made himself comfortable for the night on the bank near the boathouses. He must have fallen asleep as his outfit indicated that he had prepared himself for the night, but unfortunately he rolled over the embankment, a drop of fully forty feet and received a severe scalp wound. The blow was unquestionably sufficient to cause unconsciousness, and he fell into the water and was drowned.

The body was discovered early Sunday morning, and after an investigation by the coroner an inquest was considered unnecessary. Deceased was a man about 45 years of age.

Lets Contract

The contract for the steel fittings of the vaults of the provincial lands and works' department has been awarded to the Victoria Book & Stationery company.

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Number of People Who Perish ed in Wallace and Surroun ing Districts May Numbe Over One Hundred

FLAMES THREATENING MANY SMALL TOWNS

One Fire Patrol Party of 2 Men Thought to Have Bee Burned — Incendiaries a Work in Oregon

PORTLAND, Aug. 22.—With over 5 people certainly dead, and with 10 more missing and a list of injured tha will approximate two hundred; with half the town of Wallace swept clear and the possibility that three more towns in the district have suffered complete devastation; with half a dozen or more small towns and villages seriously threatened, and the inhabitants to the number of thousands hurrying to places of safety, the forest fire situation is most acute in the Coeur d'Alene district of northern Idaho.

Reports from other parts of the northwest are of a less discouraging nature. Some of the fires have been stopped, others are less threatening through the absence of wind, while in some districts the fighters have diverted the course of the flames from towns that were threatened.

The new fires that have sprung up during the past twenty hours have not so far proved serious. A report received early today that the Colville fire in eastern Washington had broken out again with renewed energy does not seem to be borne out by the facts. This fire and the one in the Wallowa reserve in Oregon appear for the time at least to be under control. A fire which has been burning on the Wenatchee reserve in southern Washington for the past week became ugly yesterday, and advices today indicate that it is still raging with undiminished fury. In eastern Oregon, between Baker City and Lagrange, several fires are raging through live timber. It is feared that these fires will not be controlled until there is rainfall.

There are several fires in the Umpqua valley, in southern Oregon, but so far they have not done any great damage. The fires in the neighborhood of Grant's Pass, Oregon, which became decidedly threatening on Sunday evening, are for the time being under control. The situation in the Crater Lake reserve and the Mt. McLoughlin district, on the southern edge of Oregon, appeared to be dying out in the last few days. Today, however, with a strong wind they seemed to be gaining ground again.

In the vicinity of Medford and Ashland, Oregon, the fires are less menacing only because there is no wind. In both these places all the men obtainable have been drafted into service to back fire and trench.

The fires in southern Oregon, in many cases, are of incendiary origin. This has been a matter of general gossip in Medford for several days, but it became officially public today, through the Associated Press, a dispatch from Washington stating that the associate forester at Portland had notified the forestry service in Washington that the Crater Lake reserve and Medford fires are known to have been of incendiary origin and new fires are being set constantly.

No hope of rain is yet given by the United States weather bureau in this city, the prediction of the district forecaster for tonight and tomorrow being fair weather throughout Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

Death Roll Increasing

SPOKANE, Aug. 22.—Specials to the Spokesman-Review tonight from the forest fire zone accentuate the horrors of the scene and state that fatalities are hourly increasing.

A special to the Spokesman-Review from St. Joe, Idaho, says six unindentified bodies of a fire patrol gang of 26 men have been found between Elk Prairie and Avery. The other twenty men are missing, and probably will never be found.

The fires are now raging between St. Mary's and St. Joe, and have reached a point six miles from St. Joe. The wind is blowing hard, and the fire is gaining rapidly and immense cinders are falling in the streets of St. Joe. The fires are more than a mile wide and rage on both sides of the river. The whole country north of St. Joe over the divide and on Nature creek is ablaze. A number of homesteaders, unable to make their way put over the prairie to Lane, Idaho ,were compelled to retrace their steps and go to St. Joe by a southerly route over the divide. So exhausted were some of the women and children that two reserve parties went to St. Joe to aid the travelers. Among those who reached St. Joe from that vicinity were Mr. and Mrs. Smith and three children, Mr. and Mrs. Osborne and two children, Mr. and Mrs. Andrews, a crippled old man and two other families, including several children.

A party of twenty men is probably surrounded, if not consumed, by forest fires in the Nature creek vicinity. One man of the party arrived here yesterday, and he is the only known person to have escaped. He says that the flames got so close to his party that each man abandoned everything and ran for his life.

From the Trout creek region, eight miles east of here, two travelers who had a remarkable escape from death arrived this morning. For two days the men lay in the creek their heads under water except when they were compelled to breathe. Fire was raging on both sides of the creek. The hospital at St. Joe is filled with refugees, some of whom are suffering from injuries and burns. There are between 75 and 100 refugees at St. Joe already.

Montana Towns Threatened

HELENA, Aug. 22—Gold, Mont., seven miles from here is entirely surrounded by a heavy forest fire that is hourly increasing in intensity. Wildburn, just over the mountain from Gold, is also threatened, and the inhabitants are leaving the place. The timber around