Weekly British Colonist.

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Weekly Colonist.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1885.

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BY D. W. HIGGINS.

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Local and Provincial News.

From the Daily Colonist, Feb. 14.

Supreme Court.

[In Chambers.]

(Before Sir M. B. Begbie, C. J.)

FRIDAY, Feb. 13.

Wark vs. Raymur—Mr. Theo. Davie removed his application for the discharge of defendant who was detained on a writ of *capias*. The learned counsel stated that the affidavits on which the application was granted had been entirely disproved by counter-affidavits. The defendant had no intention of leaving the province, and the impression arose from a mistake or a wilful misrepresentation of the ship Fredaunted had been sent for to Nanaimo, but had declined to come. Mr. Pooley had filed a fresh affidavit by a man named Reynolds who said he was informed that defendant was about to leave the country by one Lezinsky, who now said that he "believed by instinct" that defendant would leave. This morning Lezinsky could not be found.

The Chief Justice—Did you show him a piece of gold?

Mr. Davie—I believe if I had done so he would have said anything. I wanted him to —by instinct. The ship Elise had gone to sea, but the officers had made affidavits that defendant had not engaged passage on their ship.

Mr. Pooley read the affidavit of Reynolds, who stated that Lezinsky had told him that he thought defendant was about to leave.

The Chief Justice—That is mere surmise.

Mr. Pooley—Yes. I yesterday saw Lezinsky in the presence of Reynolds and Lezinsky said he had forgotten what defendant said to him. When pressed for an answer, he said that he knew defendant was going "by instinct." He was very reluctant to answer any questions.

The Chief Justice—Instinct—that is the spirit of prophecy. What one may suspect cannot weigh in this matter. If Mr. Pooley had come to me at first with the material he has now, the writ would not have been issued. The evidence is altogether insufficient and the defendant must be discharged.

Mr. Pooley said he wished to show by Reynolds' affidavit that he (Reynolds) believed what he had stated.

The Chief Justice—There is no suspicion attaching to that witness, I shall discharge the defendant, and an order to that effect will be issued.

The defendant was liberated after having been incarcerated since Monday evening.

THE SQUATTERS CLAIMS.

Extraordinary Developments Promised.

It is reported that extraordinary discoveries of false evidence and forgeries in connection with certain of the squatters' claims have been unearthed, and will be laid bare to-day at the meeting of the committee. Mr. McTiernan, the Indian agent, with witnesses, is expected to arrive to-day. The wisdom of the government in refusing to recognize these claims will soon be made apparent to the public.

Drowned at Comox.

Capt. Urquhart received a telegram from Comox last evening announcing the death of his brother William by drowning, in Comox river, on Saturday morning last. No particulars are given. The unfortunate man was aged twenty-nine years, and had been in the district about nine years. A short time ago, in company with two brothers, he purchased the Pidcock mill, and it is supposed that the casualty occurred while he was engaged in floating logs in the river. The deceased was a most exemplary young man and universally respected.

LATER.

Capt. Urquhart received the following particulars of the sad event: Harry and William Urquhart were in a boat which was made fast to a boom of logs. The current being swift the boat was turned round and the rope got entangled round the legs of Harry. William, seeing his brother in peril, went to his assistance, when the bow of the boat sank. Both were struggling in the water. Harry got hold of the boat, but William was swept down by the current. He battled for a short time and then disappeared. Harry was rescued by men from the shore. The body of William had not been recovered yesterday morning.

YALE.—The Travellers' Rest Hotel was burned to the ground yesterday morning. It was insured for $2,000, and was on fire the evening before and slightly damaged. ....A young man named Henry Fairfax has been committed for trial for stealing money from the Palace Hotel.

"KUNG HAE FAT TSOI."

What the Festival Signifies.

Strange Customs of a Strange People.

KUNG HAE FAT TSOI.

"Kung hae fat tsoi!" "kung hae fat tsoi!" Such are the strange sounds that would come to the ear of a European to-day should he feel inclined to wend his way through Chinatown. If prompted by curiosity, he should inquire as to their meaning, he would be told that they form a Chinese expression equivalent to our

"HAPPY NEW YEAR."

Then the fact would dawn upon him that although this is Valentine's Day to him, it is no other than New Year's Day to the Chinaman. He might become convinced of the fact from other circumstances. For instance, he would see the more wealthy class of Chinese hurrying round from door to door with their richest silk gowns on, and red buttons to match, both of which are supposed to have been made according to the latest and most approved Chinese fashions. He would see also pieces of red paper fastened on almost every Chinese door with the hieroglyphics "hoi mun tai kai" inscribed thereon, which convoys to the Chinese mind the wish "May good luck attend you as you open this door." Literally translated the four characters read, "open door, big luck." Another very strong circumstance showing that something extraordinary is happening in Chinatown is the fact that the

BURNING OF FIRE-CRACKERS

is most freely indulged in. The Chinese have an idea that the sending off of a string of fire-crackers has the sure effect of driving away all evil spirits and influences, and at the same time of preparing the place for the good spirits that never fail to bring with them a "heap" of "good luck." As our European friend walks leisurely along Cormorant street to-day taking in the various Oriental sights, he will not fail to see that every Chinese house is most elaborately decorated with flowers and scrolls of the richest color hung on the different parts of the wall. These scrolls are arranged by pairs, and contain on an average ten characters, composing expressions appropriate to the occasion. The following couplet might be cited as an example:

"Took sin ying Kan Sin,
Kam yat shi San Ning."
"Last night was still Old Year,
But to-day New Year is here."

And on the tables he would see beautifully painted trays of an octagonal shape, filled with sweetmeats of every description. In close proximity to this he might see a plate of red dried melon seeds, which the Chinese are such adepts at cracking.

The majority of the stores are closed, and

BUSINESS SUSPENDED

for at least two or three days. Business men are too busy making their New Year calls to attend to the call of the occasional customer. Every Chinese gentleman is supposed to call on New Year's Day, and his mode of calling is quite simple. He may either go alone or call in company with his friends, and he need not knock or ring the bell to announce his arrival, but simply open the door and walk in. To an ordinary Chinaman, a man betrays an unusual amount of pride if he should either ring or knock before entering, because, he says, it is only high officials or mandarins of the most dignified buttons that announce their calls, and even on New Year they would not depart from this old and peculiar custom. As soon as he enters he is received, not by the ladies, but by the young men of the house, and immediately commences a series of ceremonies consisting of bowings and shakings of their own hands, that would puzzle even the most accomplished French dancing master. After they have gone through these ceremonies, they are supposed to wish each other as heartily as they could a "Kung hae fat tsoi." "ne se yu e, tak sam ying shau," which means, "wishes you a very happy New Year," and "May you have all you desire." After these ceremonies and wishes are over, the caller is politely asked to be seated, which is expressed in Chinese by "tsing tso, tsing tso," and then the sweet-meats and melon seeds, spoken of above, are served, accompanied by

DAINTY LITTLE CUPS OF TEA

of the most delicious flavor. The caller takes a small piece of the sweet-meat, raising his cup, and, according to the most approved Chinese etiquette, calls upon the others to "tsing cha, tsing cha," which means, "please drink, please drink." Then follows a short conversation which must be on the most lucky topics of the day, at the end of which the caller takes his leave with a polite bow and a "tsing tsing, tsing"—"good-bye, good-bye," to repeat the same ceremonies next door.

A MOVABLE FEAST.

In case our readers should ask if the Chinese New Year always falls on Valentine's Day, we take the liberty of informing them that it does not. Usually their year commences a little earlier—in the latter part of our January. The reason it comes so late this year is because they had what they call the "yuen yuet" or intercalary month in the year just past. That of course makes the year one month longer. This intercalary or added month occurs once in every four years. The reason of it might be clearly seen from a short arithmetical calculation. As the Chinese regulate their time according to the motion of their moon, their months are either of 29 or 30 days duration. The former is called "yuet sin" or the little month, and the latter, "yuet tai," or big month. Add the result of 29 days multiplied by 6 to that of 30 days by the same factor, and we have the sum of 354 days, which is eleven days less than our ordinary year, consequently in three years they are about a month behind us, which they make up in the fourth year by the addition of this intercalary month. Another peculiarity about the Chinese year is the fact that if

A CHILD IS BORN

on New Year's eve he will be two years old on New Year's morning, and upon the first anniversary of his birthday the same child will be three. The present Emperor Kwong Sui, for instance, is said to be 18, when in reality he is only 16½ or 17 years of age. A word or two on the

STRANGE CUSTOMS

of this peculiar people perhaps would not be uninteresting to our readers. One of the most strictly adhered to customs is that of paying all debts before 12 o'clock on New Year's eve. They make the greatest effort to do this, very often under the most painful circumstances, simply that they might be free from debts on the first day of the year. With reference to this they have the couplet:

"Took ye yat tau mo shui,
Kam chin mun chun fung."
"Last night all in a fog or flurry,
This morning full of happiness."

Another of their strange customs, but quite a good one, is that of sweeping their houses from top to bottom before the dawn of New Year's morn. An amusing superstition in the connection with this is in the

HIDING AWAY OF ALL BROOMS

as soon as the sweeping is over. It would be a difficult matter to find a single broom in China-town to-day. A Chinaman would much rather meet "Yim Lau Wong," or "his satanic majesty," than an innocent broom on New Year's Day. They have an idea that brooms used on such a happy day would "sweep all their good luck away." This is, however, only true of those Chinese who have not been brought under the enlightenment of the Gospel. Christianized Chinese, as a rule, are free from these fetters of dark superstition. New Year's eve is celebrated by a feast known as the "tuen nin" feast or the feast of the "winding up" of the old year, and the day after New Year they have another feast known as the 'hoi nin' feast or the feast of the 'opening' of the year. On New Year's day they take a great delight in indulging in the eating of an abundance of

OYSTERS AND MUSSELS.

It might be wondered why they should choose such as their favorites for a New Year's dinner, but the mystery is solved when we are told that the name of the former—"ho shee"—sounds exceedingly like the words "prosperous market," and that they regard the latter as ominous of good luck also from the fact that they are bi-valves, and consequently would indicate a 'compound' interest or 'double' profit to all their consumers in their business adventures. On New Year's eve

THE CHINESE MOTHER

in her parental love common to all mothers in the world sits up to the small hours of the morning to prepare her presents for her boys whom she fondly hopes would grow up some day to be faithful followers of "Hung Foo Tie," Confucius. She does not assume the form of Santa Claus, but comes with her presents in all her parental reality. Among her presents there must inevitably be a sum of money, however small, wrapped up in a piece of red paper, as the two together are called by a name composed of the two words, "lai shre," indicating wealth and prosperity.

The Chinese new year is observed to even a greater extent in China than it is at Victoria. To the Chinese, New Year tide is the happiest season of their year, and they look forward to it as longingly as we do Christmas. Therefore in hearty sympathy with these people from the land of Sinim, we wish them and our readers a very happy "Kung hae fat tsoi."

What Some People Say.

That fabulous history records that care once caused the death of a cat. In these more practical days "instinct" is likely to cause a man serious trouble.

That San Francisco public school teachers unanimously report in favor of the use of the "rod."

That an action to recover $20,000 for false imprisonment is among the things talked about.

That eggs have fallen and the late high prices are broken. This shows that the hens are doing their duty.

That veal flavored with cinnamon and cloves and sponge cake steeped in pineapple rum are among the German Kaiser's favorite dishes.

That the Sea of Galilee swarms with piscatorial life, as in ancient times, but the fishing industry has greatly run down, there being but one sailing craft on the lake.

That John Rowley, a London carter, was sentenced to two months' imprisonment on Tuesday for cruelty to his two children, whom he used to strip, tie to the wheels of his cart in the stable and belash with a piece of trace in a terrible manner.

That there are 40,000 Irishmen out of employment in London. This is said to be by reason of the dynamite business.

That California grape-growers have discovered that their vineyards will pay them $100 per acre when grapes sell at $30 per ton. The wine from grapes at this price costs but two cents a pint.

That half a century ago cattle dealers thought they had accomplished wonders when they made their beef cattle average 800 pounds. The average now is 1,400 pounds. Elephantine proportions will be reached in the next century.

That a mug of hot soup, with a slice of bread and a second course of suet pudding—all for a penny—form the dinner that is served daily to 2,000 poor children in London.

That the London detectives are confident that they can prove Cunningham not only to have caused the explosiqham the White Tower, but also to be connected with the outrage at Gower street railway station.

That Earl Derby is reported to have said that the seizure of the Congo river by Portugal is no affair of England, and he is urging the other members of the cabinet to allow France and Portugal to fight out the question between them.

That the managing editor of the Times writes a letter from Ottawa and signs it "Josh." Surely, this is a misprint. It must be "Joss," a sort of tribute to the Chinese population of the country. Or, perhaps, it should be "Gosh," the synonym of "bosh."

That the New Orleans exposition don't pay.

That "Josh," "Gosh," or "Bosh," who writes from Ottawa to "Baby Mine," makes a very unwarrantable attack on the B. C. members. If "Bosh" or "Josh," or whatever his name may be, had done as much good for the province in one month as the Ottawa members have done in two sessions, he might esteem himself a "prood mon."

That Immigration Agent Ross' title should be changed to *Emigrant* agent. The first means to come, the last to *Go!*

Public School Act.

The amendments proposed to be added to the public schools act were passed in the house yesterday afternoon. The added sections regulate the qualification of and voting for school trustees and determine their length of office. At the first annual election after the passing of this act all school trustees will retire and two will be elected for each ward. The trustee in each ward attaining the highest number of votes will retain office for two years; the one obtaining a minority of votes retiring at the end of one year. Clause 25 provides that any householder or freeholder resident in a school district for six months previous to application for register, and the wife of any such householder or freeholder, shall be entitled to vote. The voting for school trustees will hereafter be held by ballot, the system of open voting thus being done away with in all civic elections. This, no doubt, will be a decided improvement, as will also the voting in wards, instead of as previously at one central place. The consolidation and amendments of the school acts is another step toward the perfection of our provincial system of education.

Personal.

George Augustus Sala is at San Francisco on his way to Australia.

Dr. Renwick, wife and family arrived from Nagasaki, Japan, by the bark Nanaimo, and intend taking up their permanent residence in Victoria.

Marine.

Bark Jane Sprott is discharging cargo at Welch, Rithet & Co.'s wharf.

[BY TELEGRAPH.]

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 13.—Arrived—Ship Peru, Nanaimo; brig Deacon, Port Discovery.

Sailed—Steamer Oregon, Astoria.

Entertainment at Clinton.

A very successful entertainment was held in the court house, Clinton, on Jan. 22nd in connection with the Methodist church. The object of the concert was to pay off the remaining debt on the parsonage property. A choice programme of vocal and instrumental music, readings, recitations, etc., had been prepared and at 7.30 Mr. McLellan took the chair, which he filled acceptably.

The children of the Sunday school sang very sweetly "Glory to God in the highest." Mr. J. F. Smith delivered an excellent prologue. Mrs. Edelen sang "There is a sigh in the heart," with beautiful expression. A most amusing dialogue, "Deaf as a Post," was given by Mrs. E. Holt, Miss McLellan and Mr. C. Bell. Mrs. Adams, of Cache Creek, sang a beautiful sacred song, "'Twas the Master that knocked at the door," with great acceptance. Master Willie Cameron gave "A Boy's composition on Girls," which was well received. Mr. Soues delighted the audience with a comic reading on pioneer life in Ontario. The "A B C" duet was sung by Miss Cebenhall and Mr. Hall with most amusing effect. Miss Carrie Magee recited with great credit "Curfew must not ring to-night." "Cantilena" was well rendered by Mrs. Adams and Mr. and Mrs. McIntyre. Mr. Baucher sang "Strangers Yet," and received a deserved encore. An instrumental trio by Mrs. Adams and Messrs. McIntyre and Brown was favored with an encore, being an excellent rendition. Misses Fanny and Mabel Chenhall sang "Little Brown Jug" very well. Mrs. Edelen and Mr. Brown gave an instrumental duet, which was well received. A social intermission of ten minutes was indulged in with great pleasure. Mr. Soues gave a temperance reading. "When the leaves begin to fall," was sung in good voice by Mrs. Adams and received an encore. A dialogue, "The Yankee Aunt," was well carried out by Miss McLellan, Miss Coates, Miss Nicolson and Messrs. McIntyre and Harvey. "Eyes of blue," a pretty song by Mrs. Edelen called forth an encore. Miss Gillian appeared in character and recited "The New Church Organ" in excellent style. Mrs. McIntyre and Miss Coates sang "The Midnight Moon," a lovely duet, with pleasing voice and expression. Dr. Offerman in the character of "Sergt. Nibbs," recited an account of the latter's visit to the Centennial with humorous effect. Mrs. E. Holt recited "The Inventor's Wife" very creditably and was generously applauded. An instrumental trio was well given by Mrs. Adams and Messrs. McIntyre and Brown, and received an encore. A solo and chorus, "Climbing the Golden Stair," was sung by Miss Chenhall, Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Adams and Messrs. Chenhall and Smith. Mrs. Bell and Mrs. Brown gave a well rendered instrumental duet. After the financial statement was read by Mr. J. F. Smith, the audience sang "God save the Queen," and a most enjoyable entertainment came to a close at 11.30.

Municipal Police Court.

[Before Mr. Edwin Johnson.]

FRIDAY, Feb. 13.

The case against Wing Kee for an infraction of the building bylaw was adjourned for one week.

James Ebertson, charged with vagrancy, was fined $5 or one week, but warrant for commitment not to be issued until police applied for it.

Bing Long, charged with bringing stolen goods into the province, was remanded until to-day.

Ah Leon, charged with stealing $700, the property of J. Naggs, was sent up for trial.

S. H. Smith, for vagrancy, was given a week to appear for sentence.

THE DEFENCES.

Victoria's Fortifications to be Strengthened.

According to a report laid by the minister of militia before parliament, the total strength of Canada's little army is 37,000 men, over 30,000 being infantry and rifles. Of these only 17,200 were drilled during 1884. The expenditures on account of militia last year were $998,000. Gen. Middleton, commanding the Dominion forces, in his report to the government strongly urges the strengthening of Victoria, British Columbia, in view of the possibility of England being drawn into hostilities with other nations.

Fire at the Royal City.

(Special to The Colonist.)

NEW WESTMINSTER, Feb. 13.

A fire broke out at 8:30 this evening in a house on Agnes street, close to the convent, owned by Wm. Hancock, and occupied by John O. McLeod, assistant postmaster. The fire company, with the new engine, were out for practice when the alarm sounded; but owing to the distance and the bad state of the streets the fire was not reached until the building was almost entirely consumed. The house was valued at $1,000; insured for $500, in Royal. Mr. McLeod, who had only been in the house a few days, lost everything, including a quantity of money. His total loss is probably $800 or $1,000; no insurance. Origin of the fire unknown.

Island Railway Contract.

Mr. A. J. McLellan has been finally awarded the contract for building the lower section of the Island railway. The expenditure will be very large and the contractor intends to spend every possible dollar among Victorians, so that the benefit resulting from the construction may be locally felt. Work will be begun immediately.

ANTI-CHINESE BILL.—Mr. T. Davie's bill to prevent the immigration of Chinese will be re-enacted by the house. It declares the immigration of Chinese to be unlawful, and fines every Chinese who may come $50 a head with a penalty of six months' hard labor in default. Any person bringing any Chinese into British Columbia shall pay $200 for each Chinese so brought; in default imprisonment for six months.

WAS IT AN INFERNAL MACHINE.—On Thursday a suspicious package was found in front of a carriage containing the governor and Mrs. Robinson, near the government house. It was examined and found to contain clockwork and some kind of powder. Detectives claim it is a harmless contrivance, but nevertheless guards are on duty at the government house.

SEAL.—For some time past there have been millions of small fish in Esquimalt harbor. A large fur seal has for several days been noticed near where the Umatilla lies, having come up that distance to feed on the young fish. Attempts have been made to shoot and spear the creature but without success.

NEW STEAMER.—Mr. A. Watson, of this city, has started with a gang of workmen for Kamloops, where they will build a new steamboat for Shuswap lake navigation for Mara & Co.

THIS is St. Valentine's Day. Tender missives began to arrive last evening, and Cupid's arrows fell thick and fast.

What Some People Say.

That Grismer's Monte Cristo will be played again to-morrow evening. Every one will go should go.

That our juvenile friend indulged in a plentiful use of admiration points last evening. He was probably expressing admiration of his own ability. He is not the only man who laughs at his own stupidity and fancies it wit.

That the juvenile Times is getting obstreperous again. He appropriates an item from an eastern paper of a fight between a man and wife and locates it on Fort street!

That his opium-smoking article, which declared that Victoria young girls are confirmed opium-smokers, was also taken from an eastern paper and located in Victoria's Chinatown! If our little friend cannot afford to be very good, he might have a little regard for truth and cease to write down Victoria society by copying articles from eastern papers.

That the U. S. supreme court judge in Washington Territory, holds court in a steamer while the vessel is running from port to port.

That the way to make boys smart is to use the rod freely.

That in the case of a recent suicide in the west, the jury found that the cause of death was a marriage certificate which was found in the dead man's pocket.

That an agricultural paper contains an article entitled "How to Preserve Sheeppelts." The recipe may be the best known, but we don't think a sheep-pelt preserved is very pleasant eating. Preserved quinces, peaches and plums are good enough for us.

That the dynamiters have declared that the person of the Prince of Wales is sacred because he is the grand master of the Freemasons, who have rendered services to the cause of freedom.

That the latest discovery is that Mr. Cleveland eats with his knife and dispenses with a pocket handkerchief.

That the Free Press complains that the gamblers and other bad characters who were lately driven from Victoria infest that place and are corrupting the youth of that city.

That "How do you pronounce s-t-l-n-g-y?" asked the teacher of the dence of the class. The boy replied: "It depends a good deal on whether the word refers to a person or a bee."

That "the organ of weight," says a phrenologist, "is located above the inner part of the eyeball, across the ridge of the brow, rising somewhat above it." Whenever you see a man with a depression in his brow like a dent in a silk hat you may know he is a grocer.

That a rich young man of the dude order of dress and imperfections attended a charity fair. At one end of the tables was a young lady noted for her beauty. The dude "hung around" the beauty's table, but bought nothing. At last the young lady asked, "Will you buy?" "Unfortunately, what I wish to buy is not for sale." "What is it?" "I dare not say." "Whatever it is you may buy." "Well, then, since you insist, I should like to buy one of your glossy ringlets." The young lady seized a pair of scissors, clipped one, and handed it to the young man, saying, "One hundred dollars!" He paid. But it saddened him, and he was seen at the fair no more.

That a phrenological journal says a "young murderer in the South has a twenty-inch head and a twenty-one inch neck." They will have to hang him by his feet.

That it does seem to be a little extravagant to get a $300 nosebitn masque upon a $3 woman, but it is sometimes excusable when it is the only way of smothering $3,000 worth of ill-temper.

That Miss Katie Putnam will not come here, being engaged elsewhere on the Sound.

Mr. W. H. McFarland arrived from Kamloops yesterday and is at the Driard.

ST. JAMES' CHURCH CONCERT.—The concert in aid of St. James' Church will take place on Tuesday evening next in Harmonic Hall. The leading amateurs of the city have consented to take part and an excellent programme will be presented. If the evening should prove fine there will be an overflowing house and a considerable augmentation of the funds of the handsome new church.

ALL ABOUT GREEE.—Yesterday, a man named Cathcart, residing near the Caledonian grounds, laid information against a neighbor, named Carlow, for stealing five geese from his yard. On the police obtaining a search-warrant, the geese were found on Carlow's premises, safely locked up. He was accordingly arrested and lodged in gaol.

THE DRY DOCK.—A large steam derrick was sent to Vesuvius bay to the dry dock quarries on Salt Spring island. Material was also brought there for the construction of a wharf. When this is built the contractors will commence shipping stone to Esquimalt.

UNDER orders from Mr. R. Dunsmuir, her owner, the Alexander will proceed to Comox to drag for the body of Wm. Urquhart, brother of Capt. Urquhart, who was drowned in Courtenay river a few days ago.

FLOUR.—Immense quantities of flour are being imported into the city from all quarters, the Mexico bringing a large consignment for Welch, Rithet & Co.

THREE fine brick stores, two stories in height with deep basements, will be commenced for Chinese merchants on Cormorant street below Tai Chong's in a few days.

THE RAILWAY SLIDE.—About three hundred yards of a slide occurred on the railway, the other day, the whole face of the tunnel falling in at Cat's Landing. Workmen are engaged rendering the road passable once more. Fortunately there were engines and cars on either side of the slide, so that passengers and mails are not delayed, having to walk about 300 yards to make the change from one train to the other.

NEW BRICK.—Mr. Teague will receive tenders until the 25th Feb. for the erection of a two-story brick building on the south-east corner of Langley & Bastion streets, to be occupied by Messrs. Davie & Wilson for law offices.

BLUE RIBBON HALL.—A very large attendance greeted the opening last evening. The choir opened with "Where are the Reapers." President Rudge gave the audience some pointed and stirring truths. "Wedding March," by the orchestra, was well rendered. Mr. Chas. Mosher next addressed the meeting; Miss Foster gave a recitation, very well rendered for a little girl; Mr. Gray spoke in his usual vigorous strain. The secretary read a few letters from the Blue Ribbon box, which caused considerable merriment, one of them evidently written by the coming poet. The usual recess, and refreshments were furnished by the ladies. The orchestra played another piece in good style. Mr. Faine recited in good taste, "Water, clear water," which was well received; Mr. Spencer gave a reading; Mr. Humber was the next speaker. Some of the ladies and gentlemen on the programme failed to make an appearance, but on the whole the time spent was well spent and in a good cause.

STUCK IN THE MUD.—The Princess Louise reached Ladner's Landing in good time yesterday morning, but ran her nose in the bank and stuck fast. Capt. Irving telegraphed to New Westminster and the Reliance came down, and after working for about four hours the Louise was got off and started for Victoria, arriving here at 8 o'clock last night.

ALLEGED DEFAULCATION.

Gilliland Gallops Into British Territory.

(Seattle Bulletin.)

A gentleman just from LaConner informed a reporter this afternoon, that James Gilliland, clerk of the district court there, to whom the sale of the oats and other grain crops of the Skagit farmers had been intrusted after collecting between $10,000 and $15,000 has sought a residence in Victoria, where there is much more genial clime for him than in the Venice of the Sound. Some time ago he made a business visit to San Francisco in the interests of the Skagit parties, after which he is said to have remarked that he preferred British Columbia as a place of residence, adding as a reason that he would experience less trouble there from those parties whose collections he had in his pocket.

Judge Greene had to make an appointment to fill the vacancy caused by Gilliland's departure.

A FURTHER ACCOUNT.

After the above account was written the reporter met a gentleman who related to him a full account of the career of Gilliland in La Conner. Gilliland was an experienced telegraph operator, and some years ago, when La Conner was a telegraph transfer station, and an expert telegrapher was required there, the Western Union Telegraph Company sent Gilliland to take charge of that office. At this time he was addicted to drinking. When Judge Lewis came to the supreme bench of the territory he appointed Gilliland as clerk of the district court at La Conner. The reposing of so much confidence in him caused Gilliland to reform, and he eschewed drink. He soon won the esteem of the La Conner citizens and was entrusted with considerable business, as he also engaged in the business of loaning money. He was appointed trustee of a large estate there, and had other similar trusts reposed in him. He bought large quantities of grain from Skagit farmers for San Francisco houses. Some time ago he was authorised by the latter to make large purchases for them. Instead of doing so on their account he bought on his own account, expecting to realize a profit on a rise in the price of grain. The price of grain instead of going up, went down, and Gilliland soon found himself behind a considerable amount. He tried to make up the deficiency by using money belonging to the estate in his charge, but that was not sufficient. Several months ago he went to San Francisco, since which time the La Conner's mourn his loss from their enterprising town. He returned on the last trip of the Mexico to the Sound, but got only to Seattle, whence he went to Victoria. A Seattle party, who was in Victoria last week, made a trip from Victoria to New Westminster with Gilliland. Gilliland admitted to his party that he was short in all his accounts, and did not expect to return to La Conner until after at least the district court there had adjourned. Judge Greene, at the session of the La Conner court just held, appointed Mr. Cleaves as clerk in place of Gilliland. Many do not believe that Gilliland's shortage amount to as much as $10,000. He has some property in La Conner which will cover in part his deficiency.

The Wellington Mine.

Mr. Adam Ross, overseer of the No. 3 shaft of the Wellington Collieries, has been down that shaft. He found that the water had already reached the No. 1 level of that mine, thus shutting off the connection with the No. 4 shaft in which the fire took place. The mine so far as it could be inspected, was found to be not much damaged except from the water. No trace was seen of the body of the unfortunate John Paul or the Chinaman. Mr. Ross saw the body of one of the 8 mules. It will be necessary to raise the water to the bottom of the shaft, a further height of about 100 feet, before the water will reach the scene of the fire in the No. 4 shaft.—*Free Press.*

Alberni.

Mr. J. C. Mollet, who arrived yesterday from Alberni, brings most encouraging reports from that district. Snow has entirely disappeared, so that the district is accessible by way of the trail from Qualicum. There was snow on the ground for six weeks, the greatest depth, however, being only twenty inches. There was a week of cold weather just before Christmas, when the thermometer was as low as 6 degrees above. Cattle are now grazing, the herbage being plentiful. Plowing for the spring crops is now being begun, and the new settlers are in the best of spirits, looking forward to a successful year. Mr. Mollet returns to the district by the next steamer to Comox, when Mr. Halpenny, government guide, will also visit Alberni, and will be pleased to take with him any intending settlers there. There is still a quantity of valuable farming land to be taken up.

A Cider Tale.

Mr. L. Pither of the Occidental Hotel, received information before Christmas that a large quantity of russet apple cider was being sent him from his home near Rochester in the famous Genesee valley. However, it did not come along, and it was learned that the cider was in the snow blockade. About the middle of January the cider came, being in three barrels, about 160 gallons in all. At the wharf it was found that the contents of two of the barrels were frozen solid, while one was half empty. The casks were taken to the hotel, and in about two weeks the frozen barrels thawed out, when the genial proprietor invited a number of friends to come down and taste the the compressed apple juice. About a dozen circled round the barrel, a pitcher was drawn full and the glasses filled. Then clinking them, they wished "mine host" his very good health, put the glasses to their lips, drank and, great Cæsar! didn't they splutter and spit, and make for the outside! The cider had been drawn off on the way by some enterprising thief and filled with water, and it was congealed aqua that had been carefully thawed out and which the thirsty ones had drank. Out of the 160 gallons only 36 reached the destination in the shape of apple cider, the latter being in the half empty barrel. After six men had held the proprietor for about twenty minutes, he recovered his reason sufficiently to express himself in language befitting the occasion and has since entirely recovered.

Chinese New Year.

Yesterday the celebration of the Chinese New Year caused quite a holiday commotion in Chinatown. The stores and houses gave open hospitality, and the Chinese made hundreds of calls, their calling cards being printed with black ink on real Chinese paper. A great number of ladies and gentlemen also called on the Chinese and were generously received. Early last evening the festivities were at their height, but at eleven o'clock everything was very quiet. They will be continued during to-day.

CATTLE.—A band of about 90 cattle came down on the Louise last night, being a portion of a lot which should have arrived here last Saturday, but were delayed by the washouts on the line. They came from the Nicola valley ranch of the syndicate.

BY ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH

EXCLUSIVE DISPATCHES TO THE COLONIST.

ENGLAND.

LONDON, Feb. 13.—The recent dynamite explosion in the house of commons has demonstrated the fact that under existing rules governing the admission of strangers to the galleries and lobbies of the house of parliament, it will be an easy matter for dynamiters to convey explosives into the buildings, during the session of parliament, and cause death to many of its members. The government has decided to adopt more stringent rules regarding the admission of visitors. Members of parliament, in future, will not be allowed to introduce strangers into the galleries and lobbies. The speaker of the house of commons alone will have the right of granting tickets of admission to visitors, and he will issue tickets to members for their friends, after having received a week's notice, so that in the meantime the antecedents of proposed visitors can be inquired into. Turnstiles will be erected at the entrance of galleries and lobbies. Experienced detectives will be posted at each turnstile, to carefully scrutinize strangers.

LONDON, Feb. 13.—It has been decided to take no steps looking to calling out the reserves till after parliament assembles.

LONDON, Feb. 13.—Conservative papers charge the government with suppressing Gen. Gordon's diary and letters, in which Gordon stated he sent Col. Stewart away from Khartoum in order to save his (Stewart's) life, intending himself to meet death at Khartoum, as he knew no help could reach there in time to rescue him. When parliament assembles the production of dispatches to the government in regard to Soudan will be demanded.

Harrington, secretary of state for war, advises the acceptance of offers from Canada and New South Wales to send troops to Soudan, but the war office authorities oppose the proposition. The question will be referred to the cabinet for decision. Owing to the opposition of the Duke of Cambridge, commander-in-chief, and other officers, it is probable that ministers will decide to inform Canada and New South Wales that their services is not needed.

LONDON, Feb. 14.—A gigantic trading corporation, to be called the Royal Soudan Trading Company, is being formed in London and Alexandria upon the same lines as those upon which were conducted the East India Company. If the corporation succeeds in obtaining the charter it has already applied for, it will claim as one of its privileges the right to build a railway between Berber and Soudan.

LONDON, Feb. 14.—There is a growing movement in the docks of London and among builders and other tradesmen to dispense with the services of Irish laborers, and 1,500 have already been dismissed from buildings in course of construction in and about London. Reports have been received that a similar movement has been started at Manchester, Liverpool and other provincial centres.

EGYPT.

SUAKIM, Feb. 13.—A party of Hussars returning from a village-burning expedition were attacked and had to fly, leaving eleven dead on the field.

LONDON, Feb. 13.—Gen. Butler will attack Metemneh on Sunday.

LONDON, Feb. 13.—The Canadian Voyageurs with the Nile expedition left Alexandria to-day in the steamer Poonah which will convey them direct to Queenstown. There they will embark in the steamer Hanover for home and will reach Quebec the first week in March. A dispatch from General Wolseley compliments the voyageurs for their services.

LONDON, Feb. 13.—A syndicate has made an offer to the government to construct a railway from Suakim to Berber, building block houses at intervals to guard the line for a guarantee of 4½ per cent. income on capital invested.

EASTERN STATES.

SPRINGFIELD, W. Va., Feb. 13.—Mary Cox, while suffering from neuralgia, apparently died from the effects of morphine and was buried. The night of the burial the dogs of a man living near the grave yard stationed themselves near the tomb and kept up a persistent howling. The day the grave was opened and to the horror of all it was found that the girl had been buried alive. The lining was torn from the sides of the coffin, and the pillow was in shreds. The poor girl had literally stripped the clothes from her body. Her arms and hands were torn and bleeding, her lips bitten through, and her hands full of hair torn from her head. The girl had come to life and made a fearful struggle to escape.

BALTIMORE, Md., Feb. 13.—Since January 1st, ninety large manufacturing enterprises have resumed work, giving employment to 90,000 operatives, and it is stated that fully 10,000 hands are employed by smaller works that have started up.

ITALY.

ROME, Feb. 13.—Fanfulla states that a third expedition from Italy to the Red Sea will leave Naples at the end of this month and will consist of two battalions of infantry, a section of artillery and company of engineers. The same paper also says that the government is considering a project to establish a regular packet service between Naples and Suakim, Assab Aden and Massowah.

ROME, Feb. 13.—The Pope has written the Catholic bishops of England to publish the instructions of the propaganda against the education of