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Weekly Colonist.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 1886.

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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS.

Persons residing at a distance from Victoria, who may desire to insert a notice of Birth, Marriage or Death in *The Colonist*, must enclose with each notice Two Dollars and Fifty Cents in P. O. Stamps, money order, bills or coin, to ensure insertion.

THE WEEKLY COLONIST. NOTICE.

A SPECIAL EDITION OF THE NORTH SAANICH, LAKE, METCHOSIN, SOOKE, SOOKE AND ALBERNI DISTRICTS AND BALLENAS FARM-LANDS MAIL IS PRINTED EVERY TUESDAY MORNING AND DISPATCHED THROUGH THE POSTOFFICE.

Local and Provincial News.

From the Daily Colonist, July 31.

The Coal Dust Explosion.

Another victim of the explosion of coal dust on board the steamship Queen of the Pacific—Patrick Priestly—died at the Nanaimo hospital at 4 o'clock on Friday afternoon. The deceased was a long-shoreman from Seattle and a native of Philadelphia, aged 43 years, and single. From miners who have been at or near the combustion and consequent explosion, of coal dust in the Mount Diablo mines, we learn that in nearly every instance all those who were at all burned succumbed before the ninth day, not from the burns themselves, but from the shock to the nervous system by the burning sensation. The already large percentage of deaths among the victims of the recent coal dust combustion, and various experience of miners go to show that the ratio of fatality is much greater from coal dust than coal gas. A great many deaths in this district have been borned by coal gas, apparently a great deal more severe than the unfortunates of this last accident, and are to-day among us doing their daily work.

On Friday evening the accident surgeon of the hospital received from H. Allison, first assistant engineer, and W. Parle, water tender, were progressing favorably. Jas Cuner, J. McDonald, Hy. Jackson and Geo. Watch were doing as well as could be expected, but could not be considered out of danger.

The Blue Ribbon Meeting.

The usual weekly entertainment of the Blue Ribbon Club was given last evening at the Pandora Street Hall, the vice president of the club in the chair. The hymn of "Hold the Fort," by the choir, led by Prof. Hookway, was succeeded by prayer, and the programme was completed as follows: Selection by the band; address by the chairman; song, "Willie, will you Come?" by Miss Dobbs; song by Mr. Duffy, recitation (Mr. Nichols) encored. Interval for refreshments. Selection by the band; song, "She Waited at the Door for me," Mr. Dobbs; song by Mr. Duffy, song, "Good bye sweetheart," Miss Dobbs; "National anthem."

The New Telegraph Line.

Mr. Otard, superintendent of the Dominion Telegraph Construction Company, left for Victoria on Saturday last. He is superintend the construction of a cable and land telegraph line from Port Moody to San Francisco. Three hundred men will be employed on the work will be completed in the cable line, which will be eleven hundred miles long, will be connected with the Canadian Pacific railway commercial system. The promoters are John W. Mackay and James Gordon Bennett. By an arrangement with the C. P. R. they will compete for California and Pacific coast business, which has hitherto been controlled by the Western Union.

The "Sproule" Case.

Yesterday a motion was made to His Lordship Mr. Justice Henry at Ottawa by counsel on behalf of Sproule, that the prisoner's attendance at Ottawa under the writ of *habeas corpus* might be dispensed with, and an order for his discharge made without further proceedings. His Lordship granted the application, and ordered that the prisoner be forthwith discharged out of custody. It remains to be seen what action will be taken in face of this per-emptory order of the court which having been mailed from Ottawa to-day will arrive here in about a week.

THE PACE

The attention of the public is called to the wonderful cures worked through the magnetic power of Prof. Menzies, who is as successful as ever in the treatment of the sick. Many cases considered incurable, Blind, Paralyzed and Deaf in the high number, and his list of cures is daily increasing.

First Shipment of Salmon.

Messrs. Ward & Co. received by the steamer Yosemite yesterday from the Richmond Canning Co. five carloads, 1,550 cases, Horseshoe brand canned salmon. These salmon are destined for Montreal, Toronto and Hamilton, and go forward over the C. P. R. R. and are the first shipment of this season's pack of sockeye salmon.

Violent Death.

Mr. James Cunningham, of New Westminster is on his way to Portland, having received a telegram stating that his brother William had met with a fatal accident. He received the announcement that he had died from the effect of his hurts, the nature of which was not mentioned.

A Novel Steam Launch.—Last week Mr. Kelly Gray, of the firm of Gray & Damelstun, builders and designers of steam and sail vessels, Victoria, delivered to the Rev. Mr. Croucher a handsome steam launch built by them, which, since she is to be used as a "gospel ship," has been appropriately named the "Eirene." The launch measures over all 21 feet, with a running sea draft of 23 inches, and is propelled by a 2 h. p. Shipman kerosene engine, which seems to be a marvel of cheapness, economy of fuel, convenience, safety, and ease of management. The "Eirene" with only 60 pounds of steam carried, ran down to Esquimalt in such good purpose that a distance of six miles against the stream was covered in less than an hour. Mr. Cunningham will be pleased with his fleet and pretty craft.—*Columbian.*

Alleged Robbery.—Alfred Wendall was arrested in New Westminster on Wednesday night, charged with having stolen money—amounting to from $80 to $100—from parties in Vancouver on the night of July 26th. He was formally remanded yesterday morning until to-morrow when the charge will be proceeded with before the magistrate. Wendall is a notorious character, being well known as a great opium smoker, and the police have been on the lookout for him for some time past.

Police Court.—Yesterday fines of $50 and $1 costs, or four months imprisonment, for supplying an Indian with intoxicants.... Ah Wo pleaded guilty to having a locket and bracelets in his under possession, and was remanded to Chief Sebohm for Labor.... Charles Webb, on remand, charged with shooting Benjamin Turner with intent to kill, was further remanded until to-morrow morning.

What Some People Say.

That one side of Rock Bay avenue requires a sidewalk before the wet weather setting in. Will the councillors of the ward look to this requirement?

That citizens of Dublin are indignant at the action of the band of the 4th Dragoons in omitting to play "God Save the Queen" at the conclusion of a public performance in Victoria, and that the National Anthem has been expunged from the musical programme. The bandmaster is charged with purposely omitting the hymn to please the disloyal crowd. An enquiry will be made into the matter.

That Miss Ellen Terry's voice has failed so much of late that fears are expressed of its permanent impairment.

That how does your grievance? It is a bad thing to carry a grievance. Sell your grievance for a song, and do not sing the song.

That judge every man by what he can do, and you would find no man of ability. Judge every man by what he has accomplished, and the battle with which he is familiar and you get a real size.

That a new process has been invented for working wire nails, by which the nails are cut and sharpened and strung together on a wire so that they can be wound in coils, thus saving the cost of kegs.

That there will be a veritable "man-milliner" in the new British parliament in the person of Mr. Jackson, Tory member for Shepway, who is business like as Mme. Elise, of Regent street. His millinery establishment is very fashionable and fashionable.

That an English writer says he knows of a certain cure for the gout. It is very simple. Very hard work, very spare living, and a teetotaler wife with a shrill tongue; these remedies taken together regularly, are infallible. The only question is whether the world between living with such a drawback is worth it.

That Queen Victoria, once being at an important passport office in London, England city, a paper was brought to her for her signature, and she signed it as usual, "Victoria, R. et I." Her favorite daughter's signature was also desired and duly written "Beatrice." Finally the wife of the mayor was called on to sign the paper, and not to be outdone by any mere royalties she unhesitatingly wrote "Lucinda."

That Mrs. Mary Wheeler, of New York, requested the other day that a warrant might be issued against one Bassaboy, who is an admirer of her daughter. Young Bassaboy's devotion takes the form of the serenade, which the fair Miss Wheeler vastly appreciates, but which disturbs the maternal slumbers and wakes the maternal ire. Hence Mrs. Wheeler's grim determination to commit young Bassaboy as a public nuisance. Sentimental damsels and singing swains will be alike relieved to know that the warrant was not issued.

That on the old Colony railroad a veteran Boston of Grand Walton an route for Old Colony had been unkindly watching a delegation from a salvation army corps, and wondering what was the object of their occupation in life. Finally he made bold to tap the leader on the shoulder, and said in a kindly tone: "Are you going fishing?" "Yes," promptly replied the captain, "we are fishing for souls." The old gentleman pondered deeply over the problem for a few moments, and suddenly a bright idea struck him. "Then you those English fish I've heard so much about, ain't they?" But the only answer was an explosion of laughing from all parts of the car.

That George La Rocque, whom many people of Victoria and Nanaimo will remember as somewhat of a sport and a good deal of a duffer, has been just lately charged with vagrancy at Portland. During the past three or four years he has managed to squander a small fortune, and this has been the end of it.

That probably Sir John Macdonald will feel flattered to hear that the Chinese highbinders are still flying the dragon flag which they hoisted in his honor when he arrived in Victoria.

That a murderer who was lately hanged at Gallatin, Mo., said on the scaffold that his accomplice had been as guilty as he, and then sang "Washed in the Blood of the Lamb," and "Is My Name Written There?"

That C. D. Graham, the cooper who shot Niagara rapids in a barrel, was fearfully shaken up, and the time occupied in the feat was 32 minutes.

That "Mamma, what are you looking for?" asked a little girl. "I'm looking for my wedding ring, Pet, and I'm looking high and low. I wouldn't lose it for anything." "I wouldn't worry about it, mamma. If it comes to the worst you can get married again. That's what I'm going to do when I am a widow."

That up to the last month the markets of Berlin were held in squares and open spaces. There were no covered halls. Now, however, all the markets have been swept into 8 spacious covered halls, and on Sundays and holidays the various quarters of the city have been opened for public use. At least two of the abolished markets date from early thirteenth century, and still have their peculiar historical associations.

Enormous Run of Salmon on Fraser River.

We regret to learn that the run of salmon on Fraser river has been a great failure this season, and that the canneries have shut down with scarcely one fourth of the anticipated pack. Such being the fact, our cannerymen will be very heavy losers, as they had made ample preparations for a total pack of 200,000 cases. Two hundred Chinese from the canneries returned to town last night, having been discharged.

Coal Harbor Extension.—Mr. R. F. Keefer has put on night gangs to finish the grading at all points along the road which are not under injunction. This is done under orders from Mr. H. Abbott, who wishes the work completed rapidly, so that when the injunctions are removed the remainder of the road may be finished. During the last two or three days fifty men have been engaged under Mr. Keefer says he wants all the men he can get at wages ranging from $2 per day and upwards.—*Vancouver News.*

Horticultural Show.—At the committee meeting held yesterday, at the Y. M. C. A. rooms, Mr. Shakespeare, M. P., in the chair, the secretary reported that the total receipts of the exhibition were $300 and expenditures was $197.50. The report was adopted. A vote of thanks was tendered to Messrs. W. J. Tippins and W. Chudley for their kindness and aid during the exhibition. It was resolved that the committee recommend the association to hold the exhibition annually, the time suggested being the first week in June.

Rev. Mr. Somerville, who has been traveling in Oregon and California, will return to Victoria on the steamer leaving San Francisco on the 18th. We understand that the reverend gentleman will officiate for Bishop Cridge and the Rev. Mr. Stephen on Sunday, and lecture on Monday evening in the Philharmonic hall. We will be advised from our advertising columns that his subject will be "Ministers, Beadles, and Precentors"—personal reminiscences, we presume, in both worlds. He will start for Scotland on the following morning.

A Big Fish Story.—The Columbian has caught it badly. It says that a 67-pound salmon was taken from the Fraser a day or two ago.

For the Mainland.—The C. P. N. Co.'s steamer now leaves the standard time which is 10 minutes later than Victoria time. See advertisement.

Engaging.—So great is the traffic on the Canadian Pacific that orders have been given for the construction of three hundred new box cars.

Steamer Yosemite brought local freight yesterday as follows: J. H. Todd, 1550 cases salmon; Van Volkenburg, 50 [illegible]

THE BELFAST RIOTS.

STILL FIERCELY WAGING.

Five Thousand Troops There.

The City a Scene of Devastation.

Extract to the Colonist.

DUBLIN, Aug. 8.—In response to urgent telegrams received from Belfast this evening, 400 infantry soldiers, some of them being on furlough, were summoned by bugle in the streets, and were dispatched in haste to Belfast by special train. A body of 500 dragoons and infantry will leave for Belfast at 4 o'clock to-morrow morning. Police at Belfast will be supported by military.

BELFAST, Aug. 8.—The excitement here is unabated. The rioting broke out in the Old Lodge road, and the police were obliged in the end to disperse the crowd. This afternoon rioting was renewed with great violence, and many persons with gun-shot wounds have been sent to the hospital. Additional troops have been telegraphed for. It is difficult to obtain accurate accounts of fatalities. The panic is seizing the peaceable inhabitants.

August 8, Midnight.—The rioting shows no signs of abatement. The total number of persons dead is now believed to be six; the number of wounded is unknown, but is with probably reach 200. The Inspector general has arrived with a small escort, was surrounded by a mob in Lodge street, and was obliged to run for his life.

August 9.—During the rioting which occurred here from Saturday evening to an early hour this morning eleven persons were killed and 130 seriously wounded. The majority of the injured persons have fire wounds. Rioting was renewed to-day and a fierce encounter took place between the soldiers and the mob, in which a number of the latter were wounded. An attack on a close quarters fired at a boy, shattering his hand the soldier was arrested. Reinforcements of troops to the number of twelve hundred arrived at Belfast to-day.

Noon.—Attempts to stop the rioting have been unsuccessful, and mob violence is increasing. Thirty more rioters have been wounded, and the police are keeping up a merciless fire upon the mob.

The city owing to the wreck and ruin of the houses, presents a deplorable aspect. Its appearance is compared to that of Paris after the commune. It is feared that numerous deaths resulting from the riots have taken place which will never be heard of. Hospitals are taxed to their utmost capacity to accommodate the great number of wounded. A painful feature of the riots is the number of children wounded yesterday. A boy was shot while returning from Sunday school. To-day a little girl was shot in the street, and it is thought fatally wounded. Train loads of troops are constantly arriving.

From the Daily Colonist, August 10.

Personal.

Mr. Atwell King returned from the Sound [illegible]

Joaquin Miller has assumed the editorship of the Golden Era, a magazine published in San Francisco. It is the magazine in which Bret Harte made his debut.

George Venable Smith, the agitator, has shaken the dust of Seattle from his feet, leaving here on the Mexico for San Francisco, and announcing that he will proceed from there to the east. George Venable was not suited to this climate.

Rev. T. Somerville and Col. Baker were passengers from San Francisco by the Queen of the Pacific.

The Oregonian states that Mr. D. B. Munro has accepted the position of baggage master for the C. P. R. at Victoria.

Mr. C. Howes and wife are at Beccabelli.

Hon. E. H. Bristow, late secretary of the U. S. treasury, and President John King and party left for the east this morning by way of the Canadian Pacific railway.

Mr. J. B. Harrison left this morning for Vancouver.

Mr. Joseph Atcheson, of the New York, is a guest of the Driard. Mr. Atcheson will superintend the construction of the new telegraph line from Port Moody to San Francisco.

Mr. W. B. McDougall, of the Vancouver Advertiser, has arrived in town from the mainland.

At the Driard: W. D. M. Francis, New York; B. T. Lacy, San Francisco; L. O. Orton, Philadelphia; W. H. Shea, Ed. Chiner, C. W. Grifick, Kansas; J. M. Taggarts, St. Louis; A. L. Maloney, Kansas.

Col. Fairfax Ellis, Col. Baker and Mr. R. Campbell Preston, of London, who are on a pleasure trip, are guests of the Driard.

Mr. J. J. Long, C. E., of London, Eng., is in the city.

Mr. Justin Wolfson, Mrs. Wolfson and daughter, arrive by the Yosemite this morning.

Hon. Mr. Norquay, Mrs. and Miss Norquay have returned home after a brief but pleasant stay in this city.

Mr. George Olds, general freight manager of the C. P. R. left yesterday morning for Portland.

Mr. Robert Kerr, general passenger agent of the Canadian Pacific railway company, who has been in the province for some two weeks, returns to Winnipeg to-day. The results of his visit are satisfactory.

Mr. James Wilson, district superintendent B. C. telegraph system, left this morning for New Westminster via Yaucouver.

We are pleased to learn that, Mr. John Grant's wife is improving, and will, it is thought, be around again shortly.

Hon. Thos. White and Squatters' Rights.

A Winnipeg dispatch states that Hon. Thomas White has taken back all the papers connected with the British Columbia squatters' claims. Mr. White before leaving British Columbia completed the organization of the land department. The head office will be at New Westminster, and Mr. E. B. Ahrman has been appointed agent and given a sufficiently large staff to carry on the work efficiently. It is not the intention to open any agencies at present, nor until business warrants it. The department there is under the supervision of the commissioner, who will investigate matters of interest at issue between the local and Dominion governments. On his return Mr. White examined the lands in the vicinity of Donald, where a townsite is being located. The Canadian Pacific railway want an addition to their railroad accommodation. The government has set aside a whole [illegible] adjoining the hot springs at Banff for a health resort. The minister was favorably impressed with British Columbia.

Railway Competition.

Over two hundred and fifty eastward bound passengers were on board the steamship Queen of the Pacific when she arrived from San Francisco. It is said that the rates of the Northern Pacific railroad are so much more favorable than the more southern overland routes that people travellers to come by steamer to the Sound and thence east by rail. So great was the demand for passage that the steamship company stopped the sale of tickets some time before the vessel left San Francisco. It is rumored that an additional steamer will be put on the route to accommodate the large number of persons who desire to travel by this way.

Police Court.—Several citizens charged with infraction of the sidewalk bylaw were asked the cost of the subpoenaes.... Two or three "drunks" contributed to the city coffers on returning to temporary oblivion.... A Chinaman for swearing and screaming on the streets was fined $5 or sentenced to imprisonment for 14 days.... The case against the drayman Ross of assaulting Mrs. Dodd was settled out of court.... The case of Thomas Stark charged with vagrancy was laid over until Wednesday.... Another vagrant, Wm. Thompson, failed to appear when called and there was recorded in the book against him a fine of $50 or four months.

"The Clarence" is to be the name of the new hotel on the corner of Douglas and Yates streets.

The Shooting Case.

The case of Christopher Wong, charged with shooting one Benjamin Turner with intent to kill, was commenced in the police court this afternoon.

Dr. Milne deposed that on Wednesday last he attended at the jail a man said to be Benj. Turner, who had his forehead scalp wound about 2½ inches in length, and around the wound were remains of burnt gunpowder, the edges of the wound were ragged and contused—not cut. Turner said that he were his hat with the back end in front, and witness believed this to be true, from the status of powder all from the back being at the back of the hat that produced it. The wound was not dangerous. Turner had been inflicted an inch lower he would probably have been fatal. Prisoner had an abrasion of the skin on the left cheek, which could not have been caused by a blow of the hand. A blunt instrument could be made to cause such a mark, and also such an one as appeared on the upper part of prisoner's forehead. Turner was calm and apparently sober. Prisoner appeared to be sober, but was a little excited.

Thos. Thompson, sworn, said he was a gunmaker on the 4th of this month prisoner came to his store, on Yates street, and asked to be shown some pistols. He came back again about six o'clock and enquired if the weapon shown him would shoot a grouse. Told prisoner it would and sold him the pistol, with a box of 50 cartridges, 32 rimfire. Thought the box produced was the one identified the pistol produced; instructed prisoner how to load and carry the weapon. The total price paid was $4.50. (To the court) Didn't remember the prisoner being drunk or sober.

Benj. Turner, sworn, deposed that he was a bricklayer. About half past six o'clock on Wednesday last entered prisoner's house on Quadra street, in company with a man named Matt Stewart. The prisoner, who was there, talked about four paces, put his hand to his pocket and bring out what he recognized as a revolver. I ran and caught his hand in which he held the weapon, which went off. (Here, at prisoner's request, Stewart was ordered to retire.) Then I saw him attempt to grasp the pistol with the other hand. In the scuffle I think I hit him with the butt of the pistol that he held in his own hand. After a little struggling he let go of the revolver, which I put in my pocket, and afterwards unexpended the cartridges. A little while after was the officers came, none of whom did we find on him. They arrested prisoner and took me to see with them. Pistol produced is the one we saw there we took one cartridge in it. It has produced a mine, and I was wearing it at the time. Stewart and I were both drinking. Webb put his hand to his pocket immediately. I entered the door. New prisoner was excited, but he made no resistance. Heard him cock the pistol, and as he passed it from his left to his right it gave me the privilege of grasping the weapon before it went off. I heard the report and then felt my head bleeding. Prisoner was standing opposite me, about four feet from the window. Presume the holes in my hat, and the wound, were caused by the bullet; they were not done when I entered the house. After the struggle there was some talk, but I cannot remember what it was. Prisoner the night before accused me of something that was not true, and he boasted of friends with whom he was on the beat. Stewart was behind me when I grabbed the revolver. Prisoner's wife was in the house, standing on the other side of the doorway. I cannot say if a child that the woman in prisoner's wife, but it is reported that she is. Knew Webb in England. This is not the wife he had in England. Knew the woman, now reported as his wife, when I was in England. She was then reported to be the wife of another man. (To prisoner) I am not aware that about three weeks ago you came home and accused me of being no familiar with your wife. Swear not at that time, for but one your house. You and your wife prevailed and I prevented you from striking her with a chair. I have never been friendly with you since you attempted to strike her. On the 3rd of August you ordered me to quit the house, but you never came home on that evening and caught me and your wife in an embarrassing position. You never told me you would take means to keep me away. You did not say to me on the 4th of August, when I met you with Stewart. So you are determined to come back, how did you [illegible] the pistol that you were standing on your rights in your own house. I am not sure whether I did or not. Swear I did not. Swear I did not fire you jealous lot of time. I did not lend me $50; you have acted kindly to my children since I have been with you, and squarely to me until this last month. (To Superintendent Police.) The wife screamed out that prisoner had a revolver, seeing it at the same time that I did. (To the court.) My wife died last September. I have three children; had been living at Webb's house about two months. I did not know until the 3rd of this month that Webb was jealous of me. Stewart has been there longer than I. Prisoner has not to my knowledge shown jealousy of Stewart, though he has of other men. On the 3rd of August he was angry with me. The [illegible] home to dinner; [illegible] said nothing to me. At supper time when I went home [illegible] prisoner.) You never spoke to me when I went to [illegible] morning. Prisoner continued questioning on the point when the magistrate told him he could see nothing material in the point [illegible] invariably paid the landlady.

[illegible] called as a witness on the ground that she [illegible] the court denied the statement [illegible] tioned by the court denied the statement.

Mr. Duncanmuir, the active and enterprising president of the railway, is to be congratulated on the success which has been achieved. To his untiring labors is largely due the early completion of the line, and it is safe to say that no better road-bed exists anywhere. Mr. Dunsmuir had invited Sir John and Lady Macdonald to take a trip over the line, and visit the coal fields and mines at Extensive in and around Nanaimo. The invitation has been heartily accepted and the premier will drive the golden spike which will effectually complete the building of the Esquimalt and Nanaimo railway—a consummation which has long been looked forward to by the living at both ends of the line. Mr. Dunsmuir has purchased Mr. Alexander's private car "Rose," and the party, including a few invited guests, will have ample opportunity to view the grand scenery along the track.

The company have three locomotives in and a full supply of freight and flat cars. The passenger cars will shortly arrive from San Francisco, where they are being built. It is believed the line will be completed to Comox in [illegible] days. The [illegible] of men [illegible] preparation [illegible] Early [illegible] locomotive [illegible] will be heard in our streets and Victoria and Nanaimo will be united by a [illegible]

Six Years' Prisoner Men of Sandwich Found in Lake Superior.

Sarnia, Aug. 9.—The pleasure yacht Cruiser [illegible] storm on Sunday night and [illegible] Lake Huron. She had a crew of four men who were all [illegible] Frank [illegible] Pat. [illegible] J. W. [illegible] C. Morrison had [illegible] recovered. All the young men belong to the first families [illegible] at business.

Quebec, Aug. 9.—The pleasure yacht [illegible] on Sunday night, after we had received a portion of our report.

THE LAST RAIL

Of the Island Railway To Be Laid Shortly.

Sir John and Lady Macdonald to Traverse the Line, the Premier Driving the Golden Spike.

As the end of the last rail of the Island Railway will be laid, the last spike—a golden one—will be driven by Sir John Macdonald, sometime during the present week, just when has not as yet been definitely settled. The 10th of June, of last year, was the time set for the completion of the road, and it has been finished fourteen months prior to the date of its limitation. The line may be said to have been commenced on the 1st of October, 1884, and it will reach Victoria West, it is hoped, sometime early in September. The total length of the line is seventy-five miles, the distance from Esquimalt to Nanaimo being seventy-one miles. It is difficult, of course, to approximate the cost, but it cannot be stated at less than $3,000,000.

The construction of a line of railway from Esquimalt to Nanaimo was one of the provisions of the Railway Settlement Act of 1883, since the passage of which the island has rapidly advanced in prosperity. By this provision between the federal and local governments the former was to give $750,000 and the latter certain lands along its route to the contractors. Under the energetic direction of Mr. Robert Dunsmuir, M. P., president, and his associates and engineers and sub-contractors, this year witnesses the completion of the line. A reference to the general route followed by the railway, now that it is almost completed will be appropriate.

The line commences at Plumper bay on the east side of Esquimalt harbor, where a wharf has been built. Crossing the Victoria-Metchosin road near the Four-mile house, the line ascends by easy grades to the Colwood plateau, which it crosses on a straight level stretch of one and a half miles, falling slightly to Langford lake. Passing around the south shore of this lake the line rises by a long and gradual ascent to a small gorge, by which it touches on the eastern shore of the Saanich range, trending on the Finlayson arm to Saanich inlet, round the shores of which the old government line was located. In order to keep the country as much as possible, and thereby encourage settlement and development, the line was projected to cross the Saanich range, the remaining point of which, after some and careful exploration, was discovered in a narrow level pass, nine hundred feet above the sea level. From Goldstream the line reaches the pass by gradually ascending grades and then follows along the western slope of the range to Shawnigan, which is reached in the 22nd mile, from Esquimalt. At this point the line is 6 miles further inland than the old government line of 1875. From Shawnigan the route is outlined through the fertile settlements of Shawnigan, Cowichan, Quamichan, Somenos, and Chemainus, striking the east shore of Oyster bay, near the Chemainus sawmill. The line runs along in a direction nearly parallel to the shore of Oyster bay, and crosses the flat land to the Nanaimo river, from whence it passes the divide into the valley of the Alexandra and Southfield coal mines, and thence to the city of Nanaimo, which it enters by the high ground on the west. As the line runs in a lateral direction to the valleys on the eastern slope of the island the structures are numerous and expensive. Goldstream, Double ravine, Niagara Canyon, Arbutus gorge and Chase river are crossed by trestle work, 100 to 130 feet high, while the rivers Kokeesalah, Cowichan and Nanaimo are spanned by iron bridges of modern design. The construction was commenced on the Nanaimo section in the month of October, 1884, and on the Esquimalt division in March, 1885. The total length from Esquimalt to Nanaimo is 71 miles, and the cost may be set down at $40,000 per mile. The most beneficial result will [illegible] from the completion of the railway are already apparent. Settlers have located on lands along its route, while Victoria and Kent will be brought within a few hours run of the various settlements, conferring a great boon on the farmers, who can thus easily command a profitable outlet for their produce. As these contentions that, hitherto, fought will offer to be carried over the line, but the hauling of coal, timber, produce, supplies to settlers, etc., will be considerable items, while travel will be greatly increased when once it is found that merchants and citizens in Nanaimo and vice versa can reach Victoria and return the same day. The great Sound and mainland of the country along its route will be an incentive to travel. It is also a well demonstrated fact that a railway creates trade for itself. Small settlements will spring up all along its route and contribute their quota to passengers and freight traffic. The development of the fertile Cowichan valley and timber limits will gradually increase the volume of traffic, and augment the earnings of the line until it will become more than self sustaining. Whether a ferry will be established between the terminus of the C. P. R. and some point on the Island railway remains for the future to determine. It has been asserted by many practical and experienced men that such a thing is possible, but whether it would be less expensive than fast steamers to Victoria from English bay or Sapperton, time will easily solve.

No matter whatever extensive developments the future may bring, certain it is that the residents of this city and island generally will hail, with delight, the opening of the railway for traffic. Another problem, of the future is the extension of the line of railway to Comox, possibly by way of the rich Alberni district, and thence through the well watered valleys to Comox.

Mr. Dunsmuir, the active and enterprising president of the railway, is to be congratulated on the success which has been achieved. To his untiring labors is largely due the early completion of the line, and it is safe to say that no better road-bed exists anywhere. Mr. Dunsmuir had invited Sir John and Lady Macdonald to take a trip over the line, and visit the coal fields and mines at Extensive in and around Nanaimo. The invitation has been heartily accepted and the premier will drive the golden spike which will effectually complete the building of the Esquimalt and Nanaimo railway—a consummation which has long been looked forward to by the living at both ends of the line. Mr. Dunsmuir has purchased Mr. Alexander's private car "Rose," and the party, including a few invited guests, will have ample opportunity to view the grand scenery along the track.

The company have three locomotives in and a full supply of freight and flat cars. The passenger cars will shortly arrive from San Francisco, where they are being built. It is believed the line will be completed to Comox in [illegible] days. The [illegible] of men [illegible] preparation [illegible] Early [illegible] locomotive [illegible] will be heard in our streets and Victoria and Nanaimo will be united by a [illegible]

THE DECLINE IN SILVER.

The Way it Threatens the Mining Interests of Montana.

Grave alarm exists throughout the mining districts of Montana over the rapid decline in silver. The Inter-Mountain estimates that 50,000 people in the Territory are dependent on the mining industries and dogmatic enterprises, including merchants, farmers and mechanics. The recent depreciation of ten cents per ounce in silver represents the profits of mining companies, which will have to close down unless a reaction occurs. The lead and copper mines in which silver is an important by-product, are also seriously affected. The Glendale works, employing 1,000 men, will shut down on the 15th. The Alice, Moulton, Lexington, Wicker Works and many other great enterprises, which for years have paid heavy dividends, and employing thousands of men, cannot run if the present depreciation in the silver market continues. A general paralysis of business will result, unless a change speedily occurs. Butte, a substantial city of 22,000 people, is entirely dependent on mining. 5,000 miners being employed. The copper smelters will probably be operated, but with reduced profits. The silver mills of Montana represent an investment of $2,000,000 and nearly as many more much more. The silver product of the Territory the current year, estimated as $12,000,000, will be suddenly cut short, and fully 12,000 miners will be thrown out of employment, unless things speedily change. The people are still brave and hopeful, but indignant at the action of Congress and the administration.

Marine.

Steamer Ancon will sail for Alaska to-day.

Steamer Alexander left last evening for Cape Flattery, having in tow the bark Chevy Chase bound for Astoria, under charter from there for Europe.

British bark Viola was on the beach at Liverpool for Victoria July 24.

Bark Zoroya sailed from Yokohama for Port Moody August 9.

Bark Carrie Dunlap was loading at Hiogo for Port Moody August 8.

Steamship Queen of the Pacific arrived from San Francisco at 8 o'clock Sunday evening.

Steamship Wellington from San Francisco for Departure bay passed up yesterday morning.

German bark Gotha, in ballast from Hongkong, arrived in the roads Sunday and left yesterday for Burrard Inlet under sail.

Ship Andola from Hongkong is still in the roads.

Port Townsend, Aug. 7.—Bark Pearl, the first vessel loaded at Port Hadlock mill, left to-day for San Francisco in tow of the tug Mogul. Ship Melrose, under charter from Tacoma for Honolulu, and bark Nauna, with lumber from Port Blakely for Melbourne, went to sea to-day in tow of the tug Tacoma.

San Francisco, Aug. 7.—Arrived—Steamer Queen, from Victoria.

Sailed—Steamer Umatilla, Seattle; bark Sagamore, Puget Sound.

Steamer Alki was towed off the Bell Chain reef on Saturday by the steamers Maude and Caribou City. Divers are examining the extent of her injuries.

[By Telegraph.]

San Francisco, Aug. 9.—Steamer San Blas, which arrived yesterday from Panama, brings news of the wreck of the Pondicherry, June 16th, off Valparaiso, with the loss of all on board, numbering 14 persons. The cargo of lumber was insured in this city.

The Mondicherry was a Chilian bark, Capt. Valk, master, and was 802 tons burden. She left Seabeck on March 26th, and arrived at Valparaiso June 11th. The date of her loss was June 16th.

Midsummer Fete.

The midsummer fete to be held in the rectory grounds of St. John's Church this evening promises to be a grand success. The ladies who have so kindly volunteered their services for the occasion have arranged for a short concert as a prelude to the instrumental music. After the concert, tea and other refreshments will be served and the grounds will be brilliantly illuminated with Japanese and Chinese lanterns, and with myriads of colored lights. The admiral and officers of H. M. S. Triumph, having kindly given their consent, the fine band of the flagship will discourse sweet music during the evening. In case of rain, which we sincerely hope may not mar the pleasure of what promises to be a most delightful entertainment, the entertainment will be held in the rectory. Both Sir John and Lady Macdonald intend gracing the entertainment with their presence. Tickets of admission can be obtained at the rectory, and from Mrs. Douglas, at the Douglas House.

The California and Oregon Railway.

We have been informed by the Rev. Mr. Somerville, who has just returned from a journey overland to San Francisco, that the railway from that city to Ashland is now completed as far as Sontilern's, and in a few weeks the cars will be running to the Soda Springs, near Mt. Shasta, leaving only about 20 miles to be staged from Ashland, the terminus of the Oregon section. That gentleman, our old townsman, Mr. Scobie, is constructing the bridges and other masonry work, and has 400 men working in the Siskiyou range. He is now at the fourteenth crossing of the Sacramento, near the base of Mt. Shasta. There are many parties, both from the east and from San Francisco and Portland, at Sisson's and at the Mountain House, and parties are out every day exploring the beauties of that delightful region—visiting Castle Rocks, the Waterfall, and the Soda Springs. Nothing is wanting but the completion of the railway to make it one of the best and most popular resorts for all desiring healthful recreation.

Hops.

The failure of the hop crop in central New York now proves to be so serious that last year's pickings have been sold as high as 40 cents a pound—the best price in three years. Advices from Oregon favor high prices. Cultivation has been careless, the expectation of a continuation of low prices, the crop is shortened by dry weather, and will not exceed three quarters of an average. Some contracts have been made in Oregon at 25 cents a pound. The growers contemplate substituting white for Chinese labor in picking the crop. Last year the Chinese held out for such high wages that many hops were not picked, and this year they think they can nearly get the crop for the picking, but the white-hop movement promises to shut them off. Many California growers dug up their hops last fall and substituted other crops. They are kicking themselves now. Those who have stuck to hops are likely to make up for several bad years. With last year's crop selling in the vat at 40 cents, it is difficult to set the price in advance for this year's product. On Puget Sound the value of the hop crop is estimated at $2,000,000. Last year the crop was sold at a heavy loss.

The Vancouver Island Building Society held their sixth drawing for appropriation at "Harmony Hall last night, and did the correct thing for Mr. G. A. Carleton by drawing his number, 84, and entitling the holder to $2,000.

The rain of Sunday and yesterday was very welcome in the city, but was not so warmly received in the country, where some of the standing grain was thrown down by the weight of water.

Portland, Aug. 9.—The Athletics will leave for Portland on the 20th inst., to play two matches—one with the Willamettes and the other with the Portlands.

The Wizzs went down again about midnight, after we had received a portion of our report.

BY ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH

EXCLUSIVE DISPATCHES TO THE COLONIST.

CABLE NEWS.

ENGLAND.

LONDON, Aug. 9.—The national liberal federation, the outgrowth of Chamberlain's caucus, has issued a manifesto saying that although the result of the elections has not been completely satisfactory our position is considerably, the supporters of home rule have made the smallest gain in parliament. Gladstone has secured the support of a vast majority of liberals, and liberal opinion is, as far as federation is concerned, the result of the appeal completely justifies the course taken by its counsel. Greatly as we regret our losses, the manner in which liberals responded to Mr. Gladstone's appeal proves that federation represents the opinion of the liberal party and that party being committed to effecting a union between England and Ireland will never abandon that object. Until that goal has been reached progress is impossible in liberal work. Until that has been settled conservatives will almost be justifiable in refusing to indulge in congenial inactivity. It is the imperative duty of the liberals to obtain at the earliest possible moment an explicit statement of the tory policy in regard to Ireland. Gladstone's policy still lives, and its ultimate triumph is assured.

The Chronicle's Rome correspondent telegraphs that the pope had two fainting spells on Saturday. He is much exhausted, but continues to perform his usual duties. His physicians have no fears of fatal results.

The government has decided to reinforce the fleet on the American station, to allow of more vessels being employed in the protection of the Canadian fisheries. The corvettes Pylades and Tourmaline will leave for that station shortly.

Gladstone, who was returned to the House of Commons for both Midlothian and Leith, Scotland, has chosen to sit for the former district.

The government has adopted the proposal of the naval commission on the depression of trade, to appoint a general commission to examine the currency question.

The home office has been informed from New York that a number of dynamiters have left the United States for the purp