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Saparilla

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MINISTERS AT WESTMINSTER

Messrs. Davis and Turner Address a
Large Meeting in the Royal
City.

For Lack of Argument Their Op-
ponents Indulge in Unsuccess-
ful Interruptions.

NEW WESTMINSTER, June 12.—(Special).—The public meeting to-night in the interest of the government was the largest ever held in this city. Mr. Curtis, the Ministerial candidate, spoke first, occupying an hour, and was received with warm applause. He went briefly into the points made by Mr. Brown regarding the finance, railway, land and other questions, including the Nakip and Sloan railway, and exhibited a masterly comprehension of these and other subjects, answering Mr. Brown conclusively and pointedly on every point.

Mr. Kennedy, the opposition candidate, was invited to speak, but mounting the platform declined to speak until a future period. Premier Davis followed and received an ovation which drowned the claquers—a crowd of perhaps fifty at the back of the hall, whose evident purpose was to hiss and create confusion. Finding their efforts futile, the order was restored, and the Premier proceeded to contrast the warm enthusiastic greeting he now received with the meeting of thirteen months ago, when he had nothing but his word and assurance to give that there would be a fair redistribution bill. He had deemed that promise to be the letter. (Voice: "You are a liar," "You are a liar," "You are a liar.") His government had done this in spite of the opposition of such patriots as Messrs. Brown, Cotton and others, who tried to beguile the members from Alberni, the Islands and Lillooet, promising to retain their seats, which they never intended to do, only hoping to corrupt the members into voting with the opposition and so putting it out of the power of the government to bring in any redistribution at all. Then the parliament buildings had handicapped him, but the people now said that whilst he had accorded justice to the capital by the parliament buildings, he was equally alive to the wants of other parts, such as railway subsidies and to the bridge across the Fraser, to the Chilliwack railway, the dyking guarantees and other matters. These were not opposed by Vancouver Island on sectional grounds. He aimed to control a reunited province, and did so, and was proud that sectionalism had been excited amongst very few thinking and fair-minded men either in New Westminster or elsewhere. Occasional interruptions had no effect on the speaker, who was in excellent form. He took up the land question and answering Mr. Brown, who had said that the government had given the land away to railroads so that settlers could get no homesteads, Hon. Mr. Davis showed that all the lands granted the railroads were in distant parts of the province, and amidst defending others showed that the rich lands surrounding New Westminster were all sold off at a dollar an acre, fifteen or twenty years ago, by the government, which showed better it was to get into power. He referred to the large tracts which had been surveyed on Howe Sound, at Squamish, the San Juan valley, Nitinat, Knight's Inlet, Nechaco and other portions of the Province, in all nearly six hundred thousand acres. Dealing with the timber industry he showed that it was increasing and there must be an immense trade. Referring to railroads he said that the vindication of the Royal Commission must be sufficient for every one. It not only negatived the alleged boodling which no one dared appear to prosecute but found distinctly that the bargains under the Act of 1894 were better than the bargains of the Province than the Act of 1893, for which all parties in the house voted unanimously. This inquiry was the last judicial act of the late Chief Justice Begbie, to whom he paid an eloquent tribute, and no sounder ruling was ever given than the one delivered by him in great majesty. (Loud cheers.) Yet Mr. Williams, the opposition candidate, and a lawyer too, had said in Burnaby that he had no right to make such a finding.

Mr. Williams, from the audience: "And I say so still, Mr. Davis."

Mr. Davis: "Dignity and impudence! Who listen to your opinions against those of men of intellect as these men? (Vociferous cheering.)"

Hon. Mr. Turner followed and soon had the audience convulsed whilst he exposed the stupidity of Mr. Brown's contention that the debt cost eleven per cent. per annum. He showed clearly that Mr. Brown's argument landed him in the absurd claim that the Province at the end of the term were paying over three thousand per cent. in paying it off.

The determined efforts of the obstructionists resulted only in discomfiture for them. Mr. Turner still proceeding to speak and giving facts and figures until 12 o'clock, when the opposition became more noisy, and for more than a quarter of an hour prevented him being heard. They found, however, at the end of that time that it was no use, and Mr. Turner, having conquered, proceeded with most powerful and convincing speech.

NEW WESTMINSTER, June 13.—(Special).—The water is falling faster than ever to-day, and another 48 hours at the same rate will uncover thousands of acres of land. Between last evening and noon to-day the water receded 28 inches at Esquimalt, and 24 inches at Mission to Land 17 1/2 inches and at Langley 18 inches.

The steamer Gladys, of the government relief service, arrived in port this afternoon for fresh supplies, and left for the flooded districts again a few hours later. Colonel Baker is still superintending the work of relief.

TO RESUME WORK.

PITTSBURG, Pa., June 13.—Fifty-seven coal operators in this district, pledged to abide by the Columbus agreement, are preparing to resume work. Many operators who opposed the conference say they will not pay the rate. Miners in Western Pennsylvania denounce the compromise. Many districts are in revolt and officers threaten to resign. Nothing will be done until after the district meeting of miners.

WHEREVER DARK, O. June 13.—Miners are indignant at the Columbus compromise and declare it will not stand. Firing between militia and strikers at Canal Dover is in progress. Colonel Darrow asked for reinforcements. A galling gun, a company of infantry and a battery are now at Dent. Six hundred miners met them and a riot was the result.

CROP REPORTS.

WASHINGTON CITY, June 11.—Reports for June, consolidated from returns of the correspondents of the agricultural department, make the average of winter wheat sown, compared with that which was harvested last year, 99 per cent, being a decrease of 1 per cent. There is an increase of acreage as compared with 1893 in but ten states, the principal part of which was made in the states of Kansas and Illinois. The per cent. of winter wheat acreage of the principal states is: Ohio 95, Michigan 95, Indiana 93, California 92, Missouri 92, Kansas 92, Nebraska 91, South Dakota 90, North Dakota 90. The average percentage of acreage for both spring and winter wheat for the whole country is 95.3, making a total acreage of 23,000,000 acres. The condition of winter wheat has improved since the last report a little less than two points, being 83.2 per cent., against 81.4 May 1. The percentages of the principal states are as follows: Ohio, 99; Michigan, 99; Indiana, 98; Illinois, 94; Missouri, 92; Kansas, 92; California, 90. The condition of spring wheat presents an average for the entire country of 80 per cent., and from the principal spring wheat states, as follows: Wisconsin 96, Minnesota 90, Nebraska 65, South Dakota 99, North

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VICTIMS AT APIA.

SAN FRANCISCO, June 12.—There is a movement on foot at Vallejo to raise by subscription a fund sufficient to erect a splendid monument over the graves of the sailors of the wrecked United States vessels Vandalla and Nipito, who lost their lives in the terrible hurricane which swept the bay of Apia in 1889. It will be remembered that shortly after that awful disaster in Samoa which resulted in the loss of so many brave sailors, 19 of the Vandalla and Nipito dead were brought to this port and interred in the cemetery at Vallejo. Until recently, however, only a plain board has marked the location of their graves, although it has been hoped that some day would be taken by the government to place a monument over the spot. Friends of the dead sailors, however, have hoped in vain. Unfortunately there were no funds at Mare Island which could be used for such purpose. Those who have the plan in charge propose to solicit subscriptions from residents of Vallejo and the city, and also from the men aboard the different warships, who will no doubt gladly contribute their mite towards such a fitting tribute.

GOING DOWN.

Waters of the Flooding Fraser Abating—Meeting to Discuss Relief Matters.

The C. P. R. Doing Their Utmost to Repair Damages and Resume Service.

NEW WESTMINSTER, June 12.—(Special).—Water fell five inches here last night, and reports from all up river points are to the effect that the water is gradually receding, but the ground is yet deeply covered. The total fall at Chilliwack has been eighteen inches.

A conference of delegates to discuss relief measures and other matters in connection with the flood met in the Board of Trade rooms this afternoon. There were present about fifty gentlemen from Victoria, Vancouver, Nanaimo, the district municipalities, and New Westminster. John Wilson, president of the Board of Trade, occupied the chair and briefly stated the objects of the meeting. Premier Davis and Hon. J. H. Turner were present. Delegates from the cities expressed their sympathy with the sufferers, after which the district delegates related their flood experiences, and described the situation in the submerged localities. By request the Premier stated that the government's intention in the matter of relief was to provide where required grain and potatoes for seed, and it might make advances for lumber in urgent cases. The delegates spoke warmly of the government's action, and particularly commend Col. Baker's work.

An executive committee to superintend the general relief work was appointed, consisting of the mayor and president of the Board of Trade of the four cities; also D. Robson, Westminster, William Templeton and A. D. Salisbury, Vancouver.

VANCOUVER, June 12.—(Special).—Chief Engineer Peterson, who has reached here after an inspection of the line damaged by the floods, says that though the repairs needed to the railway are very extensive, owing to the number of bridges and culverts and the long stretches of track which have been washed away, and it will, therefore, be a considerable time before the necessary repairs are completed, still it is hoped by means of transfers to have passengers brought through within a day or two. Mr. Peterson has carefully examined the whole line as he came along and large numbers of men are already at work upon it. The danger is not it is feared by any means over. There is a large volume of water covering the Sumas and Matsqui prairie and its only outlet is by the Fraser river. If hot weather ensues the flood will be augmented by a still greater torrent which the channel of the Fraser will be unable to carry off. If the water remains cool the water will subside gradually.

As to the cause of the present phenomenal rise. There was an exceptionally heavy snowfall last winter, which on top of the accumulations of several previous years was let loose by several days of unusually hot weather and chinook winds, which melted the vast accumulation of snow high in the mountains and started the water on its career of destruction. The usual "June rise" was expected and would have been enough to contend with, but the people and the railroads were entirely unprepared for find large lakes transplanted to their midst.

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CAPITAL NOTES.

Seeds for the Flooded Farmers to Come in Free—No Change in Chinese Act.

Charlton's Disloyalty to Canada—Mara's Amendment to the Sunday Observance Bill.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, June 11, via Seattle.—The Governor General has announced that he had received a message from Lieut. Governor Dewdney, mentioning that the effect of the Fraser river floods had been somewhat overrated; and that he would wire His Excellency any further information he might obtain. Mr. Corbould will bring up the subject of government assistance for the sufferers to-morrow. An order-in-council has been passed authorizing the admission free of duty of the seeds required by the farmers of British Columbia consequent upon the losses through the floods. It is hoped that they will yet be enabled to sow again this season for a crop in the fall.

Superintendent Sharpe wires the department that the farm at Agassiz has not suffered by the floods.

Hon. Mr. Bowell has informed Senator Macdonald that the government will not make any change in the Chinese act this session. The question was put on the paper in view of the petition of Chinese residents of British Columbia for the extension of return certificates.

Sir John Thompson will move an amendment to the criminal code, making it an indictable offence for railway conductors to allow passengers to travel free or at a reduced rate.

A big sensation was created to-day by the publication of a document forwarded by Mr. Charlton to the U. S. congress, urging the United States to strike at Canada if the log duty be imposed.

The House spent the greater portion of the day in supply.

Mr. Brodeur's motion for a committee of inquiry into the irregularities connected with the civil service examinations last November has been negatived by 68 to 42.

A return just presented states that in view of pending negotiations between the United States and Canada in reference to the Alaska boundary, it is not considered opportune to bring down the papers on the subject.

Mr. Mara has succeeded in restricting Mr. Charlton's Sunday closing bill to forbid the sale of Sunday newspapers. They may of course be distributed to subscribers. It is expected the Senate will throw the whole bill out.

OTTAWA (via Seattle), June 13.—Mr. Earle received a telegram from Mayor Teague to-night, asking him to urge the Minister of Agriculture to order the disinfection at William Head of all steerage passengers from China. Mr. Earle acted promptly and orders were sent to the quarantine officers.

Mr. Mara urged the cabinet to-day to take prompt action for the protection of Revelstoke. The department officers say that nothing can possibly be done until the water subsides. Mr. Gamble reported in March last that cribwork and mattresses were required to protect the town. Mr. Mara is urging a substantial appropriation. The redistribution bill will probably be introduced this year. The insolvency bill will be hung up until next session. All the other government business will be pushed, and Parliament will probably prorogue by the end of June or the first week of July.

The witnesses Larose and Prevost appeared at the bar of the house to-day, and said their failure to attend before had been due to serious sickness. The house ordered their release from custody on their promise to testify in the Turcotte matter.

Mr. Charlton was fairly ridiculed by members to-day for his unpatriotic conduct in securing an amendment to the Wilson bill by which Canada will suffer severely if the export duty on logs is imposed.

The opposition to-day attacked the fishery regulations. Sir C. H. Tupper spoke five hours in reply.

The Dillon divorce bill was placed on the order paper to-day by a vote of 73 to 29.

THE BLACK PLAGUE.

SAN FRANCISCO, June 13.—While conditions in San Francisco are not at all favorable to any pest of the kind becoming epidemic, the fact that steamers running between these ports and this city bring hundreds of Chinese each trip is sufficient to stir up the board of health to take extra precautions to prevent the entry of suspicious cases. The steamer Belgic is the next vessel to arrive from Hongkong on the 19th. She left Hongkong when the plague was beginning there, but the trip to Yokohama and Seattle will probably prove a safe one. The period of incubation given by medical scientists for the "black death," it is very possible that any case of pestilence would have been discovered during that period. However, in view of the dangerous nature of the disease the strictest watch will be kept on all steamers coming to this port from China. A conference of members of the board of health is also to be held to consider whether some special precautions should be taken in view of the prevalence of the black plague in the Chinese seaport towns.

WINNIPEG WIRINGS.

WINNIPEG, June 13.—(Special).—Hall, wind and lightning caused considerable damage to the crops and buildings at Wapella, Assiniboia, yesterday. Atkinson's grain warehouse was blown over, and rain was general throughout the province.

Through traffic on the C.P.R. has been resumed in the morning.

The Mascoo Grand Lodge of Manitoba and the Northwest opened to-day at Banff. The claim of \$61,000 made by Wm. MacKenzie, of Toronto, against the Winnipeg Gas Co., has been recognized by the Court.

When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria.

When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria.

When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria.

When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

Rheumatism Cured in a Day.

'South American Rheumatic Cure, for Rheumatism and Neuralgia, radically cures in 1 to 3 days. Its action upon the system is remarkable and mysterious. The first dose greatly benefits. Sold in Victoria by D. E. Campbell.

NEWS OF THE PROVINCE.

Electric Railway By Law Before Nanaimo Council—The Late Bishop Sillitoe.

Two Farmers Charged With the Serious Offence of Attempting to Wreck a Dam.

(Special to the Colonist.)

WESTMINSTER, June 12.—Many more friends called at the See house to-day to have a last look at the remains of the late Lord Bishop of Westminster. The dead Bishop lies in a plain pine coffin, which is covered with violet cloth, and is dressed in full episcopal robes, in which, as is customary, the body will be buried. His face bears a calm and peaceful expression, indicating that his last moments must have been painless. The arrangements for the funeral were completed to-day. In accordance with His Lordship's last wishes on the subject, the funeral ceremonies will be nonsectarian and only the plain burial service of the Church of England said. The Lord Bishop of Columbia will officiate, assisted by the Bishop of Colorado and all the clergy of the diocese who have been able to reach the city. The congregation of St. Mary's, Sapperton, have taken charge of the grave. The body was removed from the See house to the Cathedral this evening, when the opening sentences of the burial service were said by Archbishop Wood. The body will be watched continually during the night. To-morrow morning at 8:30 o'clock there will be a celebration of the Holy Communion and the choral service at 9 o'clock. After the funeral service which commences at 11:30 a.m., the body will be taken to the Church of England cemetery at Sapperton and interred there. The coffin will be carried to the cemetery by relays of bearers.

At Chilliwack on Friday last John Edwards, Alfred Unsworth and Thomas Lewis were charged with attempting to cut away the Luk-Kuk dam, and were committed for trial without bail. The presiding magistrates were G. R. Ashwell and S. Melard. The accused are now in the provincial jail in this city. It is alleged that these men, who are well-known farmers, had been working on the dam trying to break it ever since the flood commenced and that had their efforts succeeded the course of Vedder creek would have been diverted into the Luk-Kuk, a most flourishing section of Chilliwack, would have been ruined instead. There has been trouble for years over the log jam. One section of the community is anxious to see it removed and the other equally anxious to keep it there.

NEW WESTMINSTER, June 13.—Indian Agent Devlin returned to-day from San Francisco and leaves to-morrow on a visit to every Indian reserve on the river, to inquire into the condition of the Siwash and assist those who suffered by the flood.

NANAIMO, June 12.—The following programme has been arranged for the Knights of Pythias memorial services on Sunday next. The procession will form at 2 p.m. in front of the Opera House, march down Commercial street to Wallace, and along Wallace on to Comox road and out to the cemetery. There addresses will be delivered by Col. M. E. Richardson and Rev. R. E. Melard, after which the graves will be decorated. The order of march will be as follows: Marshal, S. R. J. Crossan; B. C. B. G. A. band; Uniform Rank; Victoria lodge, No. 17; Maple lodge, No. 15; Sunset lodge, No. 10; Wellington band; Myrtle lodge, No. 9; Damon lodge, No. 8; Nanaimo lodge, No. 4; St. Peter's lodge, No. 2; and Far West lodge, No. 1.

At last evening's meeting of the city council the electric railway by-law passed its first and second reading. The by-law was brought in by Ald. Churchill. Ald. Wilks, in a most able and timely speech, seconded the bill, but could not get his motion seconded. Ald. Dobson favored the carrying over of the by-law for another week, though he made no motion to that effect. The first reading carried on a vote of 5 to 2. Ald. Nightingale, Churchill, Cocking, Wilson and Callaghan, for; Ald. Wilks and Dobson, against. Ald. Plase and Morrison being absent. The second reading carried on the same vote. The by-law will be read a third time at the next meeting of the council, but in the interval it is expected that some amendments will be made.

The excursion up the Fraser river yesterday was poorly attended. Those that took it were greatly impressed with what they had seen.

NANAIMO, June 13.—A stained glass window is to be placed in St. Phillip's church, Cedar district, in memory of the late Charles York.

Work on the China Creek mine is being resumed. The King Solomon mine is worked by a large party. A few days ago a button was found in the mine valued at \$880. Harold Baker has gone up to the crest to start work on the Golden Eagle. A number of prospectors and miners have already left town for these gold fields and within the next week or so many more will be going.

The inquest into the fire on May 7 last was closed this afternoon, a mass of evidence having been taken. The jury found the following verdict: "That, having heard all the evidence adduced, we are unable to come to any conclusion as to how the fire originated."

B. H. Smith, collector of customs, has been notified from Ottawa that an order in council has been passed authorizing the importation of cattle without quarantine for immediate slaughter, and appointing him quarantine officer and guardian of the enclosure where the cattle so imported must be slaughtered.

The funeral of the late Mrs. Sidney Lobb took place on Saturday morning here.

Arrive steamer Empire.

A meeting in the interest of Ralph Smith, the opposition candidate in North Nanaimo, was held in the K. of P. hall at Northfield last evening, with a very small attendance of the electors. John Horrobin presided. The first address was by the candidate, who spoke in a stirring but hopeful manner, admitting the difficulty of defeating a man so popular as government candidate John Bryden. The last named gentleman was unavoidably absent, but Alexander Sharp made a forcible speech on his behalf. He emphasized the fact that Mr. Bryden is an old resident of the province, and is well acquainted with its needs, and is besides a gentleman who has well earned the confidence of the public. The next speaker was Tully Boyce, the opposition candidate in South Nanaimo. Other speeches followed, and Mr. Smith made the closing address.

Premier Davis is advertised to address a meeting of the electors in South Nanaimo at the Cedar district Institute hall on Friday evening next. The following morning, at 11 o'clock, he will address the electors on the south end of Gabriola Island.

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DUNCAN, June 13.—Captain Tremch, R.N., of H.M.S. Royal Arthur, returned to Victoria on Saturday, having tried the anchorage at Sahlam last week and in the Cowichan river, near Duncan, with success. Mr. C. Melrose, of Kokila, surprised a man on Friday night in the act of trying to break into his hotel by boring auger holes in the door. Owing to the darkness of the night the culprit ran off when challenged, and though pursued some distance and running the gauntlet of a few shotguns, got off clear.

Joseph Lafortune and W. T. Chapman secured a panther last week at Cobble Hill that was found in the latter's barn enjoying a breakfast of chickens.

Haying has begun in the neighborhood.

Rt. Rev. Bishop Lemmens returned to Victoria to-day after conducting services Sunday at the Cowichan R.C. church. The Kuper Island Indian band also assisted in the services as usual.

HOPE, June 5.—The first band of cattle from Similkameen are expected in about June 21.

Illingworth & Co., prospectors, are getting ready to cross the Hope mountain.

Politics are very quiet up here; all interest seems to be centred in the flood, and it is suggested that the elections be deferred.

Rainfall last month, 3.75.

THE BLACK DEATH.

An Epidemic Similar to the "Great Plague of London" Raging in Southern China.

It Spreads to Hongkong—Dirt and Drouth the Cause.

Latest advice by the steamer Empress of Japan bring news of a terrible epidemic that is raging in Canton and Hongkong, a disease said to be similar to or identical with that which under the name of the "great plague of London" proved so fatal to the inhabitants of that city in 1665.

The present outbreak of what is now called the "black death" occurred first in Canton in the last week of March, and was confined to a poor quarter of the city, near the South gate.

The symptoms are as follows: Without premonitory warning in the shape of malaise or chill there is a sudden onset of fever, rising to 105° or over. There is much headache and cerebral disturbance, accompanied by stupor. In from twelve to twenty-four hours a glandular swelling occurs in the neck, armpit or groin, rapidly enlarging to the size of a fowl's egg; it is hard and exceedingly tender. With or without a decline of the fever, the patient sinks deeper into a condition of coma and dies usually at the end of forty-eight hours or sooner. If six days are reached recovery is hoped for. The glandular swelling shows no signs of suppuration. In some cases epistaxis or vomiting of blood occurs; petechiae appear in a few cases, but no regular eruption.

This horrible disease spread rapidly to other parts of the city and also to Honan, the mortality being very great, though no statistics as to the exact number of deaths were obtainable.

On May 5 the disease spread to Hongkong, in which city up to the 15th of the same month 91 cases and 51 deaths occurred. Stringent quarantine precautions against steamers from Canton and Macao were taken, but too late to prevent the disease getting a strong foothold.

At first, it seemed as if the Chinese were willing to co-operate with the authorities in bringing to light known cases of plague, but probably on account of the heavy mortality their attitude became more and more distrustful. The first determined stand against the authorities was made on the 15th, when houses were barricaded and stones were thrown at the officers making the house-to-house visitation.

By May 22, a rough approximation gave the number of cases at 393 and the number of deaths at 320. Towards the end of the month, however, the disease seemed on the decline. The outbreak in both Hongkong and Canton was attributed by physicians to the lengthy drought from which the whole of southern China is at present suffering, and to the accumulations of sewage, and other filth necessarily following a dearth of water.

SALVADOR'S REVOLUTION.

LA LIBERTAD (via Galveston), June 12.—The revolution is practically finished, and all is quiet in La Libertad under the new state of affairs. The American tars from the Bennington who did so much to protect the helpless during the change of mastery here yesterday have re-embarked, leaving only a few mariners behind to guard the consulate and cable station. General Antonio Soto, vice-president of the Republic, erroneous reports of whose death have been freely circulated and have been believed by many in La Libertad, appeared here again at the head of a small force of soldiers still loyal to him. The party comprised seventeen in all, and as they were being followed by an overwhelming force of victorious rebels, they quickly put out from the shore in lighters of the Bennington, where they asked for refuge from their pursuers. Captain Thomas was in some doubt at first what he should do in the matter, but when the party of General Gutierrez' men were seen coming out to attack the fugitives, he decided to take them aboard.

WEALERS SENTENCED.

LOS ANGELES, June 13.—Judge Ross in the U. S. circuit court to-day sentenced the 170 wealers who stole the train of the Atlantic and Pacific Railway at Barstow on June 6 to four months in the county jail each. Judge Ross started the court by announcing that he had received the following threatening letter: "You sentence one of the Industrial army to jail and you will get dynamite. By order of K." Judge Ross was very indignant, and stated that if he knew the man who sent that letter he would never send another letter. Judge Ross found that the men were acting as an army, and some of the men knew that the A. & P. Railway was in the hands of the robber, and thus the whole army was in contempt. The men were divided among the seven county jails of this district.

Subscribe for THE WEEKLY COLONIST.

"THE ISLAND HERMIT."

An Esteemed Correspondent Contributes Interesting Reminiscences of a Remarkable Man.

Early History of John Kergan—His Desire for Solitude Explained.

An esteemed correspondent, "W. G. H. E.," writes the COLONIST as follows in connection with the death of John Kergan, better known to the public as "the hermit of Trial Island."—"Your description of John Kergan, the hermit of Trial Island, an account of whose death by drowning appeared in your issue of June 8, does not quite do justice to the true character of this strange man. From one who knew him well the following facts may interest your readers: "John Kergan was an Irish-Canadian by birth, brought up in East Canada, where as a waterman on the lakes and rivers he developed that fearless skill and daring upon the waters for which he was well known. The writer showed him your description of 'the hermit,' as it appeared in your issue of March 24, 1893. I drew a smile from him as he remarked, 'So they call me a hermit! Well, if they knew how I hate the drinking, smoking habits, and general conversation of those with whom I have to mix, they would not wonder at my living away from them. It is true I left Trial Island because I was constantly being robbed of my small possessions, and tried to stop it by placing a cartridge over the door, intending to catch the intruder, but the man who intended to rob me evidently told the police.' "The writer's first acquaintance with this strange yet gifted man was off Cape Flattery, where, alone in an open boat with his own construction, he was seeking a new abode, far from the maddening crowd of ignoble strife—for above all things he was a man of peace.

"He found a suitable spot in a lonesome bay in the harbor of San Juan, where he built a cabin, cleared some land and carried on some experiments, of which his fertile brain seemed full. Equally at work either by wind or water power, would cut up cedar planks from drift wood, and with hammer and nails construct a water tight boat, with which in the stormiest weather he would travel from San Juan to Victoria often in less than twelve hours.

"He had also plans of an air engine to drive his boat; he showed me once more his impervious tarpaulin, both lasting and sound, the materials for which (except the cloth) came from the sea shore. What was remarkable was he always carried out his plans to perfect completion before he left them, and usually with simple and inexpensive materials.

"His sterling qualities of uprightness, honesty and straightforwardness were made