Friday, March 8, 1907.

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The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

VOL XLVIII. NO. 26. VICTORIA, B.C., TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 1907. FORTY-EIGHTH YEAR

ANNUAL MEETING OF B. C. DAIRYMEN

Reports Show That Important Industry Is in Flourishing Condition

SUGGESTION AS TO INSPECTOR

The Association Favors Cow-Testing Stations as Recommended by Dominion Commissioner

At the opening session of the annual convention of the B. C. Dairymen's association held Thursday, gratifying reports were received from the directors of the organization and the secretary. They were adopted. It also was decided to recommend that the government appoint F. M. Logan dairy inspector for the province. The opinion was expressed that if he were placed in a position where he could devote his whole time to the work which would naturally devolve upon such an official, the industry would receive material benefit. Another question discussed was the advisability of accepting the suggestion of J. A. Ruddick, Dominion dairy commissioner, made through Mr. Logan, that cow-testing associations should be established in the different agricultural districts, a member of the federal staff to undertake the work of visiting the various centres at regular intervals for the purpose of conducting and recording tests. A motion in favor of the proposal carried unanimously. A. C. Wells, of Chilliwack, the president, occupied the chair. Among those in attendance were the following: J. R. Anderson, deputy minister, Victoria; A. C. Wells, Chilliwack; John Oliver, M.P.P., Ladner; C. R. Munro, M.P.P., Chilliwack; C. R. King, Victoria; E. W. Raymur, Kelowna; Thos. Cunningham, Vancouver; W. H. Ladner, Ladner; H. M. Vasey, Ladner; Alex. Davie, Ladner; Cris. Brown, Ladner; B. B. Smith, Cloverdale; W. E. Buckingham, Eburne; J. C. Collins, Salt Spring Island; R. D. Mackenzie, Cloverdale; George Sangster, Sidney; George Heggie, Enderby; S. Smith, Dewdney; C. Nixon, Victoria; Thos. Munro, Nanaimo; James Evans, Salmon Arm; F. M. Logan (secretary-treasurer), Victoria.

Directors' Report

After the usual formalities a report was submitted in behalf of the directors as follows:

Your directors beg leave to submit the following annual report:

We would call your attention to the facts that the past year has been encouraging to the farmers in this province who are engaged in the dairy industry. The average price of dairy products has been higher than during any year since creameries were established in this province, and the demand for good butter seems to be increasing considerably faster than the supply. In spite of the fact that two or three new creameries have been operated during the past year, and that each of the other creameries (with the exception of two) did a larger business than ever before, the dealers found it necessary to import a large quantity of butter from the Eastern provinces, and several shipments from Australia. Only during two months of last year does British Columbia make enough butter to supply the demand, so if the business were increased until the present output was doubled, the market would not be over-stocked, except for two or three summer months, and this surplus could be easily disposed of if put up in proper form. These things considered, the dairymen of the province can enlarge their herds and double their supply of milk with the assurance that good prices are likely to obtain for several years to come. The total output from the creameries during the year 1906 amounted to 1,687,000 lbs., an increase of 287,000 lbs. over that of 1905. The amount paid to patrons was approximately $381,000, about $67,000 more than was paid last year. These figures are encouraging when you consider that in several of the other provinces the dairy industry is decreasing rather than gaining.

While the quality of the butter is slowly improving, it is yet far from perfect. To produce the best butter in America should be the aim of the dairymen of British Columbia. This can only be made from good cream, and a large percentage of the cream coming from the farms is certainly not good. We hope, however, by visits from the inspector as frequently as possible, and by other educational methods, that these conditions may be improved, and that only butter of the first quality will some day be made.

Your directors would suggest that owing to the importance of the dairy industry, more time should be given to this inspection of farm dairies, and this association would therefore recommend to the provincial government that provision be made for the performance of this work.

The extreme scarcity of labor is a strong factor in preventing a still greater increase of dairy products. It is almost an impossibility to employ experienced milkers, so that in several instances farmers have been obliged to reduce their herds as a consequence. This being true, it is one of the strongest arguments in favor of better cows. Labor is so scarce and expensive, that no farmer can afford to be milking twenty cows, when ten good ones, with half of the labor, would give as much milk. No government or government official can do this work for the farmer; it is a labor he must perform himself. How to improve the herds of the province is one of the most important questions that this association can consider, and which we trust will be fully considered at this convention.

Steps have been taken during the past year to improve conditions with respect to the sale of creamery butter. By co-operation among the creameries in this regard we hope that the needless lowering of prices, which usually occurs when the grass is at its best, and when each creamery has a much increased output, will be overcome.

If each creamery would put up some of this surplus in boxes and sell at a slightly reduced price, or hold in cold storage for a few weeks, the wholesale price of print butter need never go below 25c. per lb. If this can be carried out several thousands of dollars will be saved for the farmers of this province.

We are looking forward with interest to the development of the milking machine, which seems to be getting nearer perfection each year.

One of the latest makes has been purchased by the B. C. Electric company, who intend placing it on trial in some farm dairy stable. If this machine proves a success, it should do much to increase the dairy output of the province, as in many case the herds could be more than doubled if the problem of milking them by machinery is satisfactorily solved.

With natural conditions so favorable to the dairy industry, it should some day be one of the greatest wealth producing features of the province. It should be the aim of each member of this association to work with that object in view, until British Columbia can boast of having the cleanest milk and the best butter produced in America.

This was adopted after some comment upon the progress which the reports demonstrated had been made along the lines of dairying during the past year.

Dairy Inspector

The dairy inspector's report then was read as appended:

Report of Dairy Inspector

Mr. President and Members of the Dairymen's Association:

As dairy inspector for British Columbia, I would beg leave to submit the following report:

First, I wish to state that I regret the fact that so much of my time during the past year has ben taken up in other lines of work, that I have been unable to devote as much time for dairy inspection work as I should have liked, or as was really needed. My time was occupied in connection with the Spring Stallion Show and auction sale until after March 20th. Then I spent several weeks engaged in institute work in different parts of the province. After that work was completed I was requested by the deputy minister to get out a Bulletin on Farm Buildings. To work out designs of this nature takes time, so three or four weeks were occupied in this way. Later in the summer the Deputy Minister was engaged for several weeks on institute work with Prof. Shutt of Ottawa, which necessitated my being in the office a large part of the time during his absence. Soon after Mr. Anderson's return, the fall fairs began, and so four or five weeks more were occupied in judging live stock, dairy products, etc. By the time the fairs were over, institute work began, which again kept me engaged for some time. Then about the middle of November, I received instructions from the Dominion Department of Agriculture to come to Ottawa to discuss matters in relation to the work in this province, and as they were paying my salary, I was, of course, subject to their instructions. Owing to the illness and excessive duties of the Minister, I was detained in Ottawa much longer than I expected, so upon my return I had to at once get out a prize list and perform other duties in connection with the spring fair, which is to open on March 20th. This programme, along with the answering of numerous correspondents upon a wide variety of subjects, has made it necessary for me to remain in the office until nearly midnight on several occasions. I thought it best to make this statement so those interested would understand why my visits among the creameries had not been more frequent. Since taking up the work, I have visited each factory in the province, and some of them several times, besides inspecting over 100 farm dairies in different parts. Most of the factories have competent butter-makers who do not need very much instruction or advice, but this is not true in all cases. I found that some of the makers had a good deal to learn. In some cases they seem to be undecided, careless about their personal appearance, or the appearance of the factory. Others have had rather a limited experience in the work, so have yet to learn some of the most important principles of butter making. It might be interesting to mention that the government of Ontario employs 36 instructors, who spent nearly all their time among the different cheese and butter factories in that province. These instructors are employed in order that they may teach the men in charge of the factories to produce a uniformly good article. As important as the instructors the maker considered that one instructor reports as having visited 18 patrons during another month, another 22, and another 24. They are beginning to realize, however, that to produce first class cheese and butter they must have good milk and cream. Before some of this educational work can be done in the farms, but of course this means more instructors and more expense.

I found 16 creameries in operation during the past year, an increase of two over the preceding year, one new one being established at Lumby and another at Vancouver. The output from these creameries, as stated in the directors' report, amounted to 1,687,176 lbs., valued at about $430,000, quite a sum of money to be divided up among less than 1,000 patrons. One of the best features in connection with the industry is that in spite of the scarcity of labor there has been a decided increase in the output, several of the creameries gaining as much as 20 per cent. when compared with the previous year's make. Another interesting feature is that the average price of butter has also increased considerably when compared with 1905. When we consider that one cent per lb. on the total output means $16,000 more for the patrons, we realize that this, too, is important. You may be interested too, in learning that the first cheese factory ever operated in the province was started last year. This is situated at Langley, and was built and operated by Mr. B. G. Sherwood, of Everett, Wash. This factory did a very fair business this season, and bids fair to have a much increased output next year. Another factory was built about four miles from this one late in the season, but was not operated. There is a large amount of cheese consumed in the province, so there would be a ready demand, at a good price, for the output of several such industries. Cheese factories are less expensive than creameries, and might well be started in districts where the amount of milk is too small to warrant the building of a creamery.

Since becoming interested in the dairy industry of this province I have been trying to work out some plan which would prevent the market being over-stocked with print butter when the grass is at its best, and when each creamery has a largely increased output. In September last I wrote to each creamery in the province, asking them to send at least one representative to a meeting to be held in New Westminster at the time of the Fall Fair. Nearly all the creameries complied with this request, and after the object of the meeting had been explained, it was unanimously decided to form what is now known as the Creamery Owners' Association. The object of this association is for the purpose of co-operating as far as possible, in the sale of creamery butter, and in other matters of mutual interest. At a later meting a committee was appointed to arrange as far as possible, the selling price of butter. After this committee has agreed upon a price, a fine of $50 may be imposed upon any company or individual for selling below this price. The creameries' representatives also agreed that, instead of putting up their surplus butter in prints, that will pack it in tubs or boxes and sell at the market price of such butter, or hold in cold storage for a few weeks, until the market has improved, instead of forcing it on the market and lowering the price. This agreement is sanctioned by the different creameries, and carried out, it will be the means of saving them several thousand dollars. During the month of June last year, there was probably made 250,000 lbs. of butter. By the action of one or two creameries the price was dropped from 25c. to 21c. This reduced price, for one month, meant a loss to the farmers of this province, of $10,000 to $15,000. You may say that the consumer gets the benefit, but the point is this, that at the present price of labor no farmer can afford to produce butter to be sold at 21c. per lb., and if conditions compel him to do so, he will certainly go out of the business which, in the end, will be much more disastrous for the consumer. I am hopeful that this new arrangement will do much to obviate this defect in the marketing of creamery butter.

The more I have to do with the dairy industry, the more convinced I am of the need of improved conditions at the farms. If we are going to produce butter of the highest quality, the butter makers must have better cream. Some of the patrons seem perfectly willing to try and produce good milk and cream, but they do not know how. They have no idea how a separator should be kept, how a separator should be washed, or how cream should be cared for, after it is separated. There is little use in sending this patron's cream back, because he does not know what he should do to improve it. The only way is to go to his place and teach him how, and what to do. This takes time, and when you realize that there are hundreds like this man you begin to realize what the inspection of each farm dairy means.

There are others who know how but who are too careless to do this work, as it should be done. For a man like this the

(Continued on Page Nine).

BRITAIN AND RUSSIA WATCH OVER PERSIA

Erstwhile Enemies Agree on Policy to be Followed in the East

GENERAL SETTLEMENT IN SIGHT

Understanding Between the European Powers Facilitates Russo-Japanese Negotiations

London, March 9.—The internal affairs of Persia, which, according to official information, are far from satisfactory, are being closely watched by the officials of the Foreign Office here. While it is hoped that the intervention of the powers will not be necessary, Great Britain and Russia have already agreed on the steps to be taken by them in such a contingency. Great Britain anticipates that should the condition of the country reach a critical stage, the Shah, who, before he ascended the throne, frequently called on Russia for financial assistance, and sought the advice of the representative of that country in other emergencies, will ask for Russian help to restore order. The Russian government could comply with the request with the full knowledge that no objection would be made by Great Britain. Russia may even offer assistance without the invitation of the Shah, an offer which Great Britain would advise the Persian ruler to accept. Great Britain would do her part by sending warships to the Persian gulf ports, but this would not go further unless the landing of a force became necessary to protect foreigners in southern Persia, which, in an agreement between Russia and Great Britain, would be recognized as the latter's sphere of influence.

There is no official confirmation of the reports from Teheran that Germany has demanded an indemnity from Persia for the murder of a missionary, and that Tphesey, acting for Germany in the matter, will occupy a coal field near the proposed terminus of the Bagdad railroad until this indemnity is paid. The men who murdered the German missionary have been executed, but the British minister at Teheran has been asked to investigate the case.

There is a complete accord between Great Britain and Russia with respect to the action to be taken in Persia. This condition is a result of the negotiations that have been going on for the past twelve months, for the settlement of all outstanding differences between the two nations which continue to progress satisfactorily and which may shortly be brought to a successful close. This better understanding between Russia and Great Britain has made smoother the negotiations between Russia and Japan, but the Associated Press is officially informed that there is no foundation for the recently published report that Great Britain, Russia, France and Japan are about to conclude an agreement regarding far eastern affairs. This report doubtless arose from the fact that Great Britain and Russia and Russia and Japan are carrying on negotiations which France, as a friend to both, is interested in seeing concluded to the satisfaction of all parties.

From St. Petersburg

St. Petersburg, March 9.—An official denial was made today to the report from Vienna that the negotiations between Russia and Japan had resulted in an agreement. It was stated that the negotiations were still progressing without any hitch, but that definite results would not be in sight for weeks, or even for months. The Associated Press is authorized to deny the report published in St. Petersburg and London that the Anglo-Russian negotiations have been practically completed. An agreement on several points has been reached, and better progress is being made than with the Russo-Japanese negotiations, but the completion of an entente may not be expected for a long time.

It is understood that the points already settled with Great Britain are covered in a mutual agreement, and include the question of Persia, as the uncertain trend of events in that country necessitated a prompt decision.

PROMINENT JAP IN TROUBLE.

San Francisco, March 9.—F. Kuranaga, known as one of the richest Japanese in California, and prominently connected in Japan, was arrested here last night on a charge of obtaining more than $21,000 under false pretences.

TO VISIT CANADA

Washington, March 7.—Ambassador Bryce called upon Secretary of State Root today and had a general talk about pending matters of business in which the state department and the British embassy are mutually interested. The ambassador has arranged to go to Canada next month to confer with Earl Grey, the governor general, concerning all questions of a diplomatic nature now at issue between the United States and Canada.

TWO NEW BULLETINS

The provincial bureau of information has two new bulletins in the hands of the printer. One is a large new edition of the "Handbook of British Columbia," that has been so largely asked for. It has been revised to date. Another edition of the same pamphlet is now being printed in England for circulation there. The other is also a new edition, the sixth of Bulletin No. 16, on "Agriculture" in the province. Many interesting statistics, not in previous editions, have been embodied in it, as well as the latest information.

MYSTERY CLEARED UP.

Montreal, March 9—After nearly two weeks of anxious waiting on the part of relatives and friends the mystery which surrounded the disappearance of Mrs. Arthur Behenna, was yesterday cleared up by the receipt of two messages stating that the New York artist was in Norfolk, Virginia, alive and well. One of the two messages was received direct from Norfolk, Mrs. Behenna's daughter wiring the news to an intimate lady friend, while almost at the same time cousins of the missing lady received word to the same effect from a relative in Detroit. In neither case was any explanation attached to the brief message that Mrs. Behenna was in Norfolk.

MONTREAL CALAMITY.

Coroner's Jury Late School Authorities Down Easy.

Montreal, March 9.—The following finding was reached by the coroner's jury in the recent school fatality: "That the children who lost their lives were asphyxiated as the result of Mr. Hands having left certain doors open and thus involuntarily having allowed smoke to reach and pass through the halls of the building. That the fire drill, of which the school had boasted, had been omitted, besides which the Protestant school commissioners should have ordered a more frequent practice of the same. That Miss Maxwell, the teacher who lost her life, waited too long in notifying the children in the upper stories of their danger. That the fire apparatus, namely, exterior fire escapes, was missing from the grounds. We, the jury are of opinion that none of the grounds given constitute crime, and that the Protestant school commissioners cannot therefore be held criminally responsible. We suggest the following recommendation: That in each school a marshal or caretaker shall be employed who shall watch for such exigencies as that of the recent sad affair."

FIRE IN CHEMAINUS CAUSED MUCH DAMAGE

Hotel, Store and Number of Smaller Buildings Completely Destroyed

Nanaimo, Feb. 9.—The town of Chemainus was the scene of a $20,000 fire last night, when the Lewisville Hotel, a large two-storey frame building, a grocery store and dwelling house and a number of outbuildings, all in the same block, were reduced to ashes. The fire broke out in the hotel shortly after 10 o'clock, and made rapid headway, so much so that the guests had only time to escape in what clothing they had on, losing all their personal effects. The upper part of the building was by that time a mass of flames and quite beyond the efforts of the volunteer fire brigade, who worked like Trojans to save the adjoining buildings.

So fiercely did the hotel burn that not a single article in the building was saved.

By this time matters began to assume a serious aspect. The large grocery store adjoining the hotel took fire, and ten minutes later was a seething furnace, and was built and operated by Mr. B. G. Sherwood, of Everett, Wash. This factory did a very fair business this season, and bids fair to have a much increased output next year. Another factory was built about four miles from this one late in the season, but was not operated. There is a large amount of cheese consumed in the province, so there would be a ready demand, at a good price, for the output of several such industries. Cheese factories are less expensive than creameries, and might well be started in districts where the amount of milk is too small to warrant the building of a creamery.

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ARMAMENT REDUCTION HAS DOUBTFUL PROSPECT

Some Powers Unwilling to Consider it at Peace Conference

GREAT BRITAIN IN ITS FAVOR

Lord Tweedmouth Says Responsibility For Rejection Must Be Assumed by Other Powers

London, March 9.—The British government is now confident that the question of the expenditures on armaments will be discussed at the approaching conference at The Hague. Although there have not been any formal exchanges of views between the powers, the subject has been informally discussed, and thus far no power has offered any objection to the question being included in the programme. Germany, it is learned, has not yet officially consented. With many powers favoring the discussion and others not opposing it, it is not considered likely that Germany will offer any serious opposition, although the German officials are believed to be skeptical regarding the results of such a discussion. Great Britain, on the other hand believes that much good will follow therefrom, and this view is shared by other powers. Whether Russia will include the subject in the large programme of Professor de Martens, the Russian representative is not certain, but if not, Great Britain will suggest its inclusion, with the full confidence that she will have the support of all the other powers.

St. Petersburg, March 9.—Prof. de Martens, the Russian imperial councillor of state, who has been making a tour of the capitals of Europe to determine the programme to be discussed at the peace conference at The Hague, is expected back in St. Petersburg next week.

The announcement of the results of his trip will be made after he has reported to the Emperor. The introduction of any measures for the limitation of armaments is regarded here as definitely excluded by reason of the attitude maintained by several of the powers consulted on this question. The date for holding the next conference proposed by Holland, June 1st, is acceptable to Russia.

London, March 9.—First Lord of the Admiralty Baron Tweedmouth delivered a speech at Oxford tonight in which he referred to the fact that the government was receiving considerable obliquy from the untruthful statements regarding his action in the matter of The Hague peace conference. The government, he said, did not intend to weaken its naval power, believing that whatsoever the cost, the British navy must be kept sufficient for its purposes. "We should go to The Hague," he said, "fully desirous of reduction, and if the other powers do not meet us they must take the responsibility."

BIG STRIKE ON LAKES

Employees of Shipbuilding Combine to Leave Work

Cleveland, Ohio, March 9.—Vice-President Veyand of the International Boilermakers' and Shipbuilders' organization, tonight issued an order for a general strike of shipbuilders in the employ of the American Shipbuilding Company, effective on Monday.

The American Shipbuilding Company will close all its yards on the Great Lakes and spend all of $2,000,000 before it will yield to the demands of the Shipbuilders' Union. This is the statement made today by one closely in touch with the affairs of the company.

COMPROMISE REACHED ON FRASER FISHERY

Restrictions Above Bridge—Appointment Made to Nova Scotia Judgeship

Ottawa, March 9.—A compromise was reached on the fisheries question late this afternoon. Residents of Westminster and further up the river will be permitted to fish above the bridge, and for this section of the river a weekly close time of 48 hours will be adopted. Below the bridge the weekly close time will be 36 hours.

Attorney-General Drysdale has been appointed to the Nova Scotia supreme court judgeship, which has been vacant for nearly a year. The Government was afraid to open Colchester by appointing Mr. Lawrence.

The revenue last month totalled $7,327,320, an increase of $1,822,264. The customs revenue only shows an increase of $329,972.

The Government has decided to give a bonus of ten shillings per adult and five shillings per child to the continental steamship booking agents on all emigrants they book for Canada.

ADAMS JURY DISAGREES

Wallace, Idaho, March 7.—The jury in the trial of Steve Adams for the murder of Fred Taylor, after being in deliberation since 7 o'clock yesterday evening, tonight announced through Foreman George Ellers that it was impossible to agree on a verdict, and was discharged by Judge Woods. The disagreement means that Adams must be tried again.

MAJORITY REDUCED.

Winnipeg, March 9.—The final returns give Premier Roblin a majority of 175 in his district. Last election he had 419.

A CARBERRY BLAZE.

Carberry, Man., March 9.—John Read's shop was destroyed by fire last night, with its contents, owing to a lamp explosion.

THROUGH BROKEN HATCH

New York, March 9.—Six persons were precipitated into the hold of the Hamburg-American Line steamer Romanic at Hoboken today, when the hatchway on which they were standing gave way. Boatswain Lewis, Seamen Walker, Morton and Kanork, and Messboys Parsley and Gater were removed to a hospital in a serious condition. Walker and Parsley will probably die.

APPOINTED AGENTS.

L. U. Conyers & Co., Now Represent Manitoba Assurance Co.

J. Gardner Thompson of Montreal, managing director of the Manitoba Assurance Company, and resident manager in Montreal of the Liverpool, London and Globe, has been visiting Victoria, and during his stay appointed a local agency. Messrs. L. U. Conyers & Co., of 18 View street, were appointed agents for the Manitoba Assurance Company, the policies of which are guaranteed by the Liverpool, London and Globe.

Mr. Thompson, who left yesterday by the steamer Princess May for Seattle, has visited Victoria on several occasions, and was charmed more than ever with the city on his present visit. He noted considerable progress that had been made since he last came, and also remarked the general air of activity.

CENTRE STAR SHAFT REACHES LOW LEVEL

Expectation That Zone of Secondary Enrichment Will Soon Be Encountered

Rossland, March 9.—The shaft of the Centre Star mine has reached the fourteenth level. A station has been cut out, and in a day or two the work of deepening the shaft another 150 feet to the fifteenth level will be commenced. The shaft is now 1,900 feet deep. It is expected that when the latter level is reached, the secondary enrichment of ore, which is usually found in copper mines, will be encountered. The second enrichment was found in the mines of Butte at the water line, and the ore was as rich there as it was close to the surface. As the mines here are similar in many respects to those of Butte, it is thought a similar condition will be found here. The water level will be reached when the workings go down to the level of the Columbia river.

The following are shipments for the week: Centre Star, 1,920; Le Roi 2, 415; Le Roi 2, 450; total for week, 4,775, and for year, 44,847 tons.

At the Trail smelter there was received during the week 5,182 tons of ore.

Nelson, March 9.—The following are the ore shipments and smelter receipts in southeastern British Columbia districts for the past week and for the year to date, in tons:

Shipments	Week	Year
East of Col. river	2,586	21,320
Rossland	4,969	44,815
Boundary	28,383	146,487
Total	30,938	212,122

Smelter receipts	Week	Year
Grand Forks	13,394	80,782
Greenwood	3,130	34,807
Boundary Falls	4,238	25,725
Nelson	45	31,455
Trail	5,183	39,363
Northport	687	13,356
Marysville	500	6,000

TOOK PARIS GREEN.

Galt, Ont., March 9.—Mr. Herbertson committed suicide at his residence on Metcalf street, by taking paris green. There is no motive for the act.

POST OFFICE ROBBED.

New Hamburg, Ont., March 9.—The New Hamburg post office was entered last night. The safe door was blown off with dynamite and $300, $200 being in stamps, were stolen. The fittings of office were badly damaged by the explosion.

OCEANIC WITHDRAWS.

Operation of New Zealand Service No Longer Profitable.

San Francisco, March 9—The Oceanic Steamship Company has notified the Government that it purposes withdrawing from the American-Australian service, the vessels now running on that line. This decision, was, it is said, the result of the failure of Congress to pass ship subsidy bill, together with the fact that the New Zealand government did not include an appropriation for a mail subsidy in its last budget, making the operation of the company's line unprofitable.

RUSSIAN ROBBERS.

Bombs Thrown at Official and Treasure Seized.

Kutais, Trans-Caucasia, March 9.—The treasurer of the local revenue, accompanied by two policemen and several local officials, was driving through the streets in a carriage yesterday when three bombs were thrown at his party. This attack was followed by a volley of revolver shots from the bandits. Both the policemen and the driver of the carriage and one of the officials were killed, and the treasurer and four other officials were wounded. The robbers seized the money and escaped.

GAY PARIS DARKENED BY ELECTRICAL STRIKE

Chinese Lanterns and Candles Stuck in Bottles Used for Light

GENERAL PARALYSIS OF BUSINESS

Serious Consequences Averted by the Companies Conceding Demands Made by the Men

Paris, March 9.—The strike of the electricians of the city of Paris, which threw the city into obscurity for the better part of last night, has come to an end as abruptly as it began. Through the intermediation of M. Deselves, the prefect of the Seine, the electrical companies have conceded the principal demands of the workmen in the matter of pensions, and have agreed that they shall be placed on the footing of the men employed by the city as regards hours and wages. The strikers will go back to work tomorrow.

At 11 o'clock tonight one of the electrical companies, with the assistance of firemen, succeeded in generating sufficient current to light the central districts of the city and to run the newspaper presses. Up to this hour the boulevards and the cafes had been but dimly lighted with Chinese lanterns, while the use of candles stuck in bottles in the restaurants presented a forlorn sight. A drenching rain fell tonight, and only a few of the theatres were open.

The strike had assumed a serious aspect. The men employed by the two remaining independent companies went out early this morning, and if the disputes had not been settled quickly the firemen of the gas companies and the employees of the underground railroads, on which the majority of the population rely for transportation, would probably have been induced to leave their work in sympathy with the strikers.

Not since the siege of Paris in 1870 has the city been plunged into such darkness, and last night's experience, coming without warning, has caused intense excitement. In addition to the inconvenience resulting from the closing down of amusement and the stopping of boulevard and cafe life, the business interests of the capital were keenly alarmed at the prospect of heavy material loss.

The strike brought about remarkable scenes in the vicinity of the newspaper offices early this morning. In front of the building occupied by the city firm of private steam printers who have presses large enough to take plates the size of a daily newspaper there drove up early this morning a number of vehicles loaded with the plates and rolls of paper from the different morning papers, each of which hoped to discover some means of bringing out even a small edition. Not a single newspaper was obtainable in Paris until long after the regular hour of their appearance. The Figaro, the Petit Journal and the Petit Parisian finally succeeded in developing electricity and made their appearance at a late hour. Each of these newspapers printed papers for their rivals after their own editions had been run off.

The strike resulted early this morning in a serious flood in the tunnel of the Paris subway system in course of construction on the south side of the Seine. The reason for the inflow of water was that the electric pumps ceased working. There is over 12 feet of water for a long distance in the subway, and it is feared that the sides and roof of the tunnel will fall in. The men who were at work in the tunnel at the time of the flood made their escape hurriedly and had to leave behind their tools and other property.

W. J. MANSON CHOSEN CANDIDATE IN DEWDNEY

Premier McBride at Conservative Convention in His Old Constituency

Vancouver, March 9.—At a well attended convention of delegates at Mission City today W. J. Manson was chosen by the Conservatives of Dewdney riding as their candidate for the legislature in place of the Premier, who has announced his intention of retaining his Victoria seat.

The Premier first addressed the meeting, announcing his decision and expressing his keen appreciation of the loyalty of Dewney riding to himself. He explained that it was considered best that he should sit for Victoria, and the gathering broke into thunders of applause when he asked them to give unanimous support to the man whom they would choose as his successor. Before leaving the delegates to make their selection, the Premier presented the veteran Col. J. T. Scott, who presided, with a gold locket as a souvenir of the many political campaigns in which he had assisted Mr. McBride.

Two names were submitted to the convention, those of J. A. Catherwood and W. J. Manson. Mr. Manson got the majority of votes, and the nomination was then made unanimous. The proceedings throughout were most enthusiastic.

COBALT FATALITY.

Cobalt, Ont., March 9.—Geo. Thompson, shift boss at the Tretheway mine, was killed by a dynamite explosion.