The Victoria Weekly Colonist.

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Weekly Colonist

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 1887.

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BY

W. H. ELLIS, A. G. SANGSTER, W. R. HIGGINS. ELLIS & CO.

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From The Daily Colonist, Jan. 8, 1887.

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

YESTERDAY'S train over the C. P. R. was cancelled. We have had no eastern mail for two days.

SPIRITUALISTIC.—Miss Johnson will lecture at Harmony Hall to-morrow evening at 7:30 o'clock p. m. Admission free.

IT is reported, though entirely unlikely, that the Chinese restriction act will be amended and Victoria be declared a free port.

THANKS to the Northern Assurance company, Commercial Union Assurance company, and A. McLean & Co., for handsome calendars for 1887.

COMING TO VICTORIA.—SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 7.—Passengers on the steamer Geo. W. Elder for Victoria: James Graham, H. O'Brien, M. L. Humber, B. Moore, A. L. Grotto, Miss Arco, Peter Leslie.

W. T. DRAKE states that the communication presented to the council complaining of the park-keeper's failure to perform his duty, was not signed by him as it purported to be. It looks like a forgery.

IN THE PROVINCIAL police court yesterday morning James Snyder and John Slattery were convicted of cutting trees on the Levnue estate, Cadboro road. They were fined $20 each and to pay jointly $20 compensation for the trees.

STARVED TO DEATH.—A report has been received by Chinese merchants regarding a large number of Chinese who left here for Mexico several months ago. The poor fellows, it is stated, have been sadly neglected by the Chinese company and have been compelled to take refuge in the mountains, where they are starving to death.

CARLYLE AND CLEAN SHIRTS.—Here is a story of Carlyle, in which he got decidedly the worst of it. He once began abusing Lord Falkland: "Puir, messerable creature, what did he ever do to be remembered among men?" "Well," replied Murphy, a brilliant Irish barrister and friend of the sage, "at least he put on a clean shirt to be shot in, which is more than ever you have done, Carlyle."

RUNAWAY.—Last evening about 5 o'clock a horse attached to a light buggy dashed through Government street, smashing everything that happened to be in its way. On nearing Bastion street the horse ran the buggy against the hind wheel of Minckler's hack, and re-bounding struck a Transfer hack. The horse then broke away from its incumbrance and was "seen no more."

POLICE NOTES.—The case of Thos. O'Brien, on remand, charged with criminal assault on Annie Moss, was brought up again yesterday morning before Edw. Johnson, P. M. and Mayor Fell. After the evidence given on former days was read, Mr. Theo. Davie, counsel for defence, re-called the prosecuting witness, and Carpenter and raised several new points. During the cross-examination of the woman Mr. Davie asked her if she had ever accused Carpenter of violating the person of his daughter. In answer the witness said that she was not here last winter. Mr. Davie was on the point of asking her what she meant by making that statement, when Supt. Bloomfield interrupted him by suggesting that the question be put in a different form. Mr. Davie objected strongly to Mr. Bloomfield's interference and said if the police were going to put words into the mouths of witnesses he was examining he would not ask any more questions. Witness then denied having accused Carpenter, but upon his evidence being read to her she said she might have done so while in liquor. The magistrate after reviewing the evidence of the prosecutrix said that no good could come from committing the defendant for trial, as a jury would not believe the statements made by the woman.

BEN. HOLLADAY'S FUNERAL.—NEW YORK, Jan. 6.—Ben Holladay, of the Overland Stage Route, many years ago owned the Ophir farm in the town of Harrison, Westchester county. He built a chapel there, and when his wife and son Joseph died, twenty years ago, their bodies were deposited in the chapel vault. He with his son, Ben Holladay, Jr., and two daughters, soon afterward left the farm. He now lives in Washington. Six years ago the farm was sold to John Roach, the ship builder, who now lies on his death bed in a Fifth avenue house. Yesterday Chas. Ollie, a friend of Holladay, appeared in White Plains with the remains of Ben Holladay, Jr., who died in Washington on Sunday. It was the wish of his father to have the body deposited in the chapel vault beside the remains of his mother and brother, but when Ollie arrived in White Plains he learned that Roach had requested that no more interments should take place there. He had not refused to permit the remains already in the vault to remain there, but had expressed a desire to have Mr. Holladay find some other resting place. Therefore, the body of Ben Holladay, Jr., was deposited in the receiving vault of the rural cemetery at White Plains to await the action of the Holladay family.

PERSONAL.

James Campbell, Cache Creek, is in the city.

S. Perry Mills is rapidly recovering from his late indisposition.

W. Gordon, manager Hamilton Powder works, returned on the Louise.

H. J. Cambie, chief engineer of the C. P. R. Pacific division, was a passenger by the Louise last night.

John A. Cameron, who has been confined to his house for the past week, is about again and as well as ever.

A. W. Dixon, of Toronto, left this morning for home *via* the C. P. R., delighted with his Victoria experiences.

Wm. Power, of Moodyville, returned home this morning after one of his customary brief but pleasant trips to the city.

Dr. McSwain leaves by the Mexico for a short visit to the orange groves of southern California for the benefit of his health.

Mr. A. W. Vowell, the worthy gold commissioner and magistrate for Kootenay district, has been made a stipendiary magistrate for the province.

Capt. H. F. Beecher has been appointed agent for the treasury department for Oregon and Washington Territory, with headquarters at either Portland or Port Townsend.

Chas. Hayward, jr., will probably go to California on Saturday, where he will spend several months. We wish him a pleasant trip and trust that his health will be benefited by the change.

WHAT SOME PEOPLE SAY.

That of seven Russians bitten by mad dogs in May last, and subsequently treated by Pasteur, three have just died.

That a committee has been organized with the view of raising a fund for a women's and girls' offering to Queen Victoria in honor of the fiftieth year of her reign. Donations of from one penny to £1 will be received. The Queen will decide the nature of the offering.

That no fewer than fourteen tenants on Lord Exeter's Burghley estate have given notice to quit their farms. Lord Exeter already has several farms on his hands for which he is unable to obtain tenants, and many others of Northants landlords are in the same plight.

That the hurricane that reached the coasts of England and Western Europe on Wednesday, December 8th ult., caused, according to the official statistics, as many as one hundred and twenty-eight actual shipwrecks, of which sixty-one were vessels that went down off the British Isles alone.

That those ancient monuments of a prehistoric race, the stones of Stonehenge, England, are in danger of overthrow from the burrowing of rabbits, and the Geologists' Association has passed a resolution to the effect that the proprietor of the stones be requested to remedy this cause of danger.

MARINE.

Steamship Mexico will sail for San Francisco to-day at 1 o'clock.

Steamship G. W. Elder left San Francisco for Victoria yesterday morning.

Nicaraguan barque Guillermo, 56 days from Corinco, arrived yesterday morning for orders.

American barque Julia Ford left Port Townsend yesterday morning, the damage sustained during the recent storm having been repaired.

British bark Shannon, 1,292 tons, is chartered to load lumber at Hastings. She left Penang, Malay Peninsula, on Nov. 2nd.

The entire crew and officers of the ship Harvey Mills consisted of twenty-four men. The captain and three men attempted to leave the ship in a boat, which, however, capsized as soon as it left the ship's side, and it is believed all were drowned. Four others took a raft, but have not since been heard of. Mate Cushman and three of the crew also left the ship on a raft, but before they were picked up one of them went crazy and jumped overboard. The remaining twelve stuck to the boat, and the survivors saw her go down. All on board must have perished.

BLUE RIBBON CLUB.

President S. Gray occupied the chair last evening. The Blue Ribbon band played a fine selection, which was followed by the audience singing "Only an Armour Bearer." Rev. W. W. Percival offered a prayer for the success of the temperance cause. Miss Jane Rudge recited "The Return," and received loud applause for the rendition of the beautiful piece. The Rev. W. W. Percival made a thorough temperance speech, calling on voters to support candidates pledged to assist in suppressing the liquor traffic. Miss Alice Hall sang "Happy be thy Dreams," and in response to loud applause, gave "In the Gloaming." The band played a bright polka and a little lady, Miss Himes, recited "Guilty or not Guilty," and was repeatedly *encored*. Mrs. H. Wright and Mr. Miller favored the large audience with a sparkling duet. In response to an *encore* the lady and gentleman sang "The Gypsey Maid." The president called attention to the regularity of the meetings and the good effects attending them. Mr. Whitbeck sang two splendid solos which met with thunders of applause. Miss Washam's solo received a well deserved *encore*. Mr. Leven, of H. M. S. Dockyard, played a piano solo in a masterly manner. Mr. Carz, a splendid singer, gave a solo which was *encored*. Before the conclusion of the meeting the president, Mr. Gray, returned thanks for the kindness received from members. He exhorted all well-wishers to sign the pledge. A vote of thanks was tendered the ladies and gentlemen. On Monday evening the Band of Hope will hold a public entertainment. A splendid programme has been arranged.

THE ALASKAN BOUNDARY.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—In the United States senate Senator Sherman reported favorably from the committee on foreign relations an amendment intended to be proposed to the sundry civil appropriation bill to provide for the expense of a preliminary reconnoissance to be made under the direction of the secretary of the navy, to examine the configuration of the conventional boundary line between Alaska and British Columbia, following the coast from Portland channel to the 141st meridian, and to ascertain and report how far the natural features of the country permit the accurate location of the line of demarkation contemplated by the treaty of 1867, ceding Alaska to the United States.

THE COLONIST HOLIDAY NUMBER.

We have still a quantity of the Christmas number of THE COLONIST on hand. By enclosing amounts of cost at ten cents per copy, and addresses, the holiday number will be forwarded in stout wrapper to any part of Canada, the United States, or the United Kingdom. The paper is, without doubt, the finest publication ever brought out in the province, and gives a good idea to people in the east and abroad of the character of the climate and resources of British Columbia.

NEWSPAPER SALE.—MRS. A. S. Duniway and Mr. H. R. Duniway make the following announcement in the *New Northwest* yesterday: "The members of the Duniway Publishing Company have this day sold the *New Northwest*, its plant, title, business and good will, to Oliver Perry Mason, Maggie Allen and Lucca Mason, who assume charge with the next issue."

JOHNSON STREET WARD.

A Well-Attended Meeting in the School House.

Coun. Robertson Explains his Position—Coun. Humber Follows Suit—J. Coughlan announces Himself as a Candidate—Mayor Fell to the Front—Coun. Smith Sure of Election—Amor DeCosmos Secures a Chance to Speak.

The Johnson street ward school was well-filled last evening to hear Coun. W. A. Robertson and others of the council give vent to their views on municipal matters and also render an account of their stewardship. On the meeting being called to order, Mr. E. E. Johnson was voted to the chair.

Coun. Robertson in coming forward was loudly received. After a few introductory remarks he said in reference to the new reservoirs he had objected to any other being employed upon them but the city engineer, Mr. Hendry, who had brought the scheme forward. However, the majority ruled otherwise and employed Mr. Hargreaves at $150 per month. There had been a great many improvements in streets and those which had been overlooked the past year would be attended to in the present. He understood Hon. Mr. Smithe was going to place a sum on the estimates for a drive from Beacon hill to Cedar hill if the council would continue it by a winding drive to the top of the latter hill. The building of this road he thought would be a good investment. He was against councillors being elected for two years, (hear), and if he was placed at the head of the poll this year he would move that it be abolished. Another question was the equalization of taxation. All merchants or traders paid $10, and he thought it unfair that this should be so. He thought taxes should be graded according to extent of business done. He thought the government should hand the personal property tax over to the city. He had said at the council meeting that he thought the defeat of the bylaw to establish a public library a disgrace to the city. (Applause.) He believed to the honor of the mayor that he had secured the books so that it might be brought before them again. (Applause.) He also understood that a number of religious bodies had opposed it, and as Coun. Humber was a good Christian and had opposed it he supposed he was right in thinking so. He was sorry that his old friend, Mr. DeCosmos, through his organ the *Standard*, had opposed the market.

Mr. DeCosmos—Mr. Chairman, I wish to state—

Voices—Sit down. Let us hear Mr. Robertson first.

Mr. DeCosmos—I only wish to say that the statement that the *Standard* is my organ is incorrect. I am not an owner or contributor to it in any way. [Cries of "Oh!"]

Mr. Robertson—Well, all I know is that it is called your organ, and we generally know when you write by your style. He (Mr. Robertson) always thought that a public market would be very beneficial, as it would help keep money in the city now sent out for produce. Mr. DeCosmos had before advocated a public market to the farmers and now opposed it in every way.

Mr. DeCosmos—The gentleman is making a misstatement. I always favored a public market when a suitable place could be secured, but not such an one as proposed.

Mr. Robertson—Well, why didn't you give your advice on the matter to the city?

Mr. DeCosmos—I was not elected for that purpose.

Mr. Robertson—Well, that is a queer way. A man so unpatriotic that he wants give advice unless he be first elected for the purpose.

Mr. DeCosmos—Are you a registered owner?

Mr. Robertson—Yes; I have been such for two or three years at Spring Ridge.

Mr. DeCosmos—Are you sure of that?

Mr. Robertson—Well, I ought to know, as I paid my taxes.

Mr. DeCosmos—Well, I will read a document from the land registry office. [The speaker here read a document signed by the registrar-general which stated that W. A. Robertson was not registered for any property in Victoria.]

Mr. Robertson—Well, whether I am registered or not I am on the assessment roll for $2,500, and only $500 is required. (Great applause, during which Mr. DeCosmos sat down and wrapped his martial cloak around him and lapsed into satisfactory silence.) Mr. Robertson then thanked the audience and requested Johnson street to return him at the head of the poll.

Coun. Humber said he would not go over the whole ground, but he could state that without fear or favor he had endeavored to do his duty, and all that he undertook he had faithfully accomplished. He had been chairman of the electric light committee, and had only tendered on the building to give the council an idea of its cost. He had supplied the brick to the contractor, but could he be blamed for that? (No, no.) He contended that the electric light was a good one and of greater benefit to the citizens than gas. He had been a member of the police committee and they had done good work. He was on the water committee and had been blamed for delaying the reservoirs, but this was not so, as the work had been delayed by Coun. Smith until the plans were prepared. He had voted against the library bylaw because he thought the manner in which it was prepared wrong. He thought there was more money spent in the Work estate during the past year than it would pay in taxes in seven. He had heard that they were going against them to a man—he didn't blame them. If they thought he had not done right vote against him. However, he was before them again, and hoped they would place him in the council. Coun. Robertson had stated that he (Coun. Humber) was the most religious man in the council. It would not require much religion to be that. (Laughter.) However, they were a pretty good set of men. He would never vote for a library of the sort proposed—the taking over of a few old books at the expense of the people. He had stated that $500,000 would not begin to build the sewers. Mr. Pickering was wrong when he thought that $3 would bleed the city—it would take $9 instead. The speaker here unfolded a new sewerage scheme for $30,000, which he thought would last the city for twenty-five years.

A Ratepayer—What platform did you take last year. Did you not state that you would do away with Chinese labor?

Mr. Humber—Yes, I did, if others would do the same. But if others employ Chinese I cannot employ white. I have as many white men in my yard as any one else. One year I was a big fool and discharged all Chinese and employed whites. I lost $1600 through it and decided I would not do so again.

In answer to a question as to whether he would favor loans, he said he would favor any of those which seem a necessity.

Mr. Beaven said that Coun. Humber was blamed for employing Chinese, but the very men who blamed him probably had their linen washed by Chinese.

Mayor Fell was received with applause. He would like to make a few remarks now and was going to meet them all in the city hall. He was not afraid of meeting anyone. He was not satisfied with many things that had been done in the council, but taken upon the whole he thought that they had done the best for the interests of the city. (Hear, hear.) He despised the man who would make, under an anonymous name, an attack upon anyone. He was not afraid of such attacks. They only advertised him. (Applause.) The attacks that had been made upon him were falsehoods that he was always prepared to meet. The mayor now had no vote. It had been taken away from him. The dual vote should be given back to the mayor, for he was there representing the whole city, and should have some power vested in him. Had he a dual vote the sewerage by-law would never have been placed before them. He was not in favor of running the city into a debt that it would take many years to recover from. He had been called a missionary. If he was, it was at his own expense, and the city derived the benefit from it. With regard to loans they had rival cities around them which would make it necessary to keep the city up to its present standard or they would be outrivalled (hear). The worthy mayor here perpetrated the old chestnut about the press publishing statements about the filth of the city, and told the old story about floundering in the mud at Quebec, where he had stepped off the sidewalk and the mud splashed over his shirt front. He referred to the mud of Montreal, and the borrowing money there. He felt sure that if Finlayson and some of the properly owners resided there and saw the city ($11,000,000 in debt and borrowing a million a year they would die. (Laughter.) He had propounded a good scheme to secure the gas works to the city but it was rejected. The electric light was a failure—it was an experiment. Half the time it was out—there was always a screw loose or belt broken. With regard to the public library he was in favor of establishing it. The library of the mechanics' institute had cost many thousands of dollars, and should have been taken over. He hoped still to preserve the library to the city. He had been speaking the other day to Mr Finlayson (he did not want the press to take this down) about the old pioneers who were passing away without leaving a green spot behind them. He had heard stated that there was a rich man here worth two millions, and would it not be generous for him to erect a library building and donate it to the city as the Finlayson library, and it would be ever an honor to his name when he had passed to his rest. (Hear, hear.) He was in hope that some of the wealthy gentlemen here whose hats covered their family would, when their earthly pilgrimage was drawing to a close, place a codicil in their wills leaving $30,000 or $40,000 for a public library. (Hear, hear.) If the electors were dissatisfied with his course then vote him into private life. But if they believed he had done right let them return him to office. He had been very much abused, but he gloried in that, for a man who was not abused in the way he had been never amounted to much. (Applause.) If they built a road or boulevard to Cedar hill and then by a winding drive to the top of the hill, they would have one of the best advertisements and one of the grandest views in the world. He did not want to run them in debt. They were not in debt. They had the water-works, an asset which would pay off all their liabilities. He did not oppose sewerage, but thought a main sewer should be constructed and those now built could be utilized. He left himself entirely in their hands, and when the time came to cast their votes they would return the best man. Mayor Fell retired amid applause.

Mr. Smith said so much had been said he would speak mainly on the water question. Under his management the revenue had been increased to $37,500. The worth $760,000 to any man. Very many improvements had been made, but out of the general revenue. When the reservoirs were built he thought the revenue would be increased to $40,000 or $50,000. With additional water they would be able to supply many manufactories. He had been thrown up to him lately that he had obstructed the building of the works; but what he wanted was details of the work, so that they could be intelligently constructed. They were now blasting out an excavation which would be 12 feet deep and 140 feet square. The cement for same and pipes for connections had been secured at a low cost. He had been elected a member of the council for the past five years, four times returned at the head of the polls. He had little to do with the electric light. The building was constructed without a chimney, which had cost $500 additional. He had been returned at the head of the poll on the sewerage question last year. Previously he had been on the sewerage committee, which had secured plans of undoubted worth in every respect. If they elected him as mayor he would not run them in debt. He believed that the rate for sewerage should be chargeable to the property which abutted on the street along which the sewer ran. He had voted against the frontage scheme when the bylaw was in the council, for it was apparent that the taxation would be unfair. It would be far better that every ratepayer should pay for the sewer in front of his own residence. If they did not carry out Pickering & Crompton's scheme they would have to construct a certain amount of sewerage. He had been blamed for being concerned in the James bay bridge contract. This was not true, for he was not interested in any way whatever, and was prepared to swear to that effect. He had endeavored to keep James bay bridge open for pedestrians as long as it was safe.

Coun. Humber—Were you not the main mover in the building of James bay bridge?

Coun. Smith—Yes.

Coun. Humber—Did you not oppose the building of Rock bay bridge?

Coun. Smith—Yes, because an engineer gave it as his opinion with a little bracing it would last several years.

Mr. J. Coughlan being called for, said it was only to-day that he had decided to come before them as a candidate for councillor. He would not make an elaborate speech. If they would elect him he would endeavor to carry out the best interests of the city and of Johnson street ward in particular. He did not think that $500,000 would complete a system of drainage, but it would construct a main sewer and a few branches. Coun. Humber had laid claim to the honor of one one year losing $1,600 in employing white labor. This was untrue; the honor, if any, belonged to some one else and not Coun. Humber. The latter was in the habit of making false statements.

Mr. Humber—You had better take that back.

Mr. Coughlan—I don't intend to take it back nor anything else I may say to-night. After going over a number of the items Mr. Coughlan asked them to return him as their representative.

Mr. Smith again took the floor and said he had forgotten the main business that brought him there—that was to ask their vote for him as the coming election. On being asked if he intended to resign his position as councillor he replied that he had already handed his resignation to the mayor. He had no doubt that they would return him at the head of the poll.

Mr. A. DeCosmos favored Coun. Robertson' contentions on the taxes question. An appeal to the legislature should be made to have two years' representation abolished. He did not believe in a member of the legislature holding a place at the council board—they could not attend well to both. A petition should be presented to the legislature for the purpose of rendering it illegal. He proposed that means be taken whereby real estate owners would be secured against a minority of such owners being allowed to vote money. Two-thirds in value should be necessary to enable money to be borrowed. Mr. DeCosmos at length gave his views as to the best means of reducing taxation, and after a number of requests to desist, he at last sat down.

After a vote of thanks to the chairman the meeting adjourned.

BURIED IN SNOW.

All Railway Traffic in Indiana Suspended.

CHICAGO, Jan. 2.—A special to the *Times* from Michigan city, Ind., says: The present storm on the railroads is the worst in this locality in five years. Fortunately the weather is not very cold, or the roads would be unable to move a train. There is more than five feet of snow on the level, while in the ravines it is some six feet deep. The Michigan and Central road has abandoned several passenger trains, one at Niles going west and two east bound trains here. Three west bound passenger trains became installed in drifts five miles east, and it required nearly all day with five engines to bring them into this city. Last night's eastbound trains had another bad time. No trains are running on this line. On the Wabash road much the same trouble is being experienced. Three engines were required to take out the regular day train, which has not reached Indianapolis after twenty hours' hard fighting with the snow. Tonight the weather is getting colder and bids fair to make railroading impossible to-morrow.

NARROW ESCAPE.

An Immense Boulder Falls in Front of the Pacific Express near Yale.

Shortly after the western bound train passed Yale, B. C., yesterday morning, the engineer espied an immense boulder of several tons weight on the track a short distance ahead. He immediately reversed the engine and applied the air brakes, and succeeded in bringing the train to a stop just in time to avert the terrible disaster. The boulder, which had apparently fallen only a few minutes before, destroyed part of the roadbed and bent two rails out of shape. Powder was procured and the rock blown to pieces. The roadbed was repaired and two new rails laid, after which the train proceeded and arrived at Port Moody four hours late.—*Vancouver News.*

THE PARTY WRECKER.

Probable Change in the Toronto Mail.

The statement made a few days ago that the Mail newspaper was shortly to change hands is now very generally believed. It is stated that the business is to go out of the hands of Bunting and Mr. Riordan, and to be conducted by a joint stock company the shares in which are to be dispersed liberally among the conservatives in order that the change in front which the paper is shortly to make will come with every chance of being credited as genuine. It is stated in some quarters that Mr. Martin J. Griffin, who was appointed librarian at Ottawa two years ago, is to be recalled to the editorship, during Griffin's *regime* the paper made more headway both politically and commercially than ever before or since, and the strong pro-Catholic and anti-prohibition sentiments that its columns breathed during that time will in the event of Mr. Griffin's return, very likely be resumed. The conservatives attribute Mr. Meredith's large gains in the election of 1883 to Griffin's policy in that campaign, and believe that the tories would have secured a victory in Ontario this time if that policy had been constantly maintained. If it is decided to put off the Dominion elections till the fall, the change in the *Mail* will probably be made about the beginning of February.

AGAINST THE MONGOLIANS.

Vancouver is Greatly Excited Over the Chinese Question.

Twenty Chinamen, says the *News*, arrived on the Louise yesterday, from Victoria and were met by a number of their brethren. It is said that some twenty-five more will be landed here from the steamer to-day. Batches of Mongolians are expected to arrive until the number of 300 is reached. They have been engaged to clear the Brighouse estate.

The feeling on the part of the citizens is unmistakably against the engaging of Chinese, while there are in the city enough unemployed men to do the work and to whom preference should certainly be given. A Knight of Labor said yesterday that he considered the loss to the city at fully $500 per day. If 300 white men were engaged to clear the trees at the ordinary wages, they would spend at least $1 per day each for board and lodging, and the remaining $200 would be distributed by the workers among the stores of the city in one way and another. The Chinese, on the other hand, being herded together and living on food which no white man would touch, spend the smallest fraction while they remain in the city, and take away with them nearly all the money which they earn. There was no difference of opinion among the citizens whom the *News* reporter addressed, but no one seemed ready to say what course should be pursued in the matter. The price which is being paid for the clearing was yesterday stated to be $200 per acre. Another informant said the rate was only $150, and that the railway company was paying cash for the work, while the other owners were deeding lots to the contractor on the basis of $200 per acre.

PROBABLY DROWNED.

Have They Met a Watery Grave?

[Nanaimo Free Press.]

On Thursday afternoon Messrs. Jas. Harper and E. Foster found an upturned dug-out, on the gulf side of Newcastle Island and near the entrance to Departure Bay. They righted the boat and found that it had upset while the sail had been set. It was recognized as the dug-out belonging to Mr. Chas. Drummond, of the Ballinac Islands. The boat was towed to a safe place on the island, and the matter reported to Constable Stephenson, of Departure Bay. Mr. S. Brightman, of the Queen's Market, states that on Tuesday he was on Newcastle Island in company with Mr. McLeod, Messrs. Charles Drummond and Robert Beck came there, and after having something to eat, left in the dug-out. At first it appeared that they intended to proceed to Entrance Island lighthouse, but subsequently they changed their course and headed towards the Ballinac Islands, where Mr. Drummond resides. Nothing has been heard of them since, and the finding of the dug-out near Newcastle Island, leads to the conclusion that in all probability Drummond and Beck have found a watery grave. Mr. Drummond has been reported drowned several times before, and about a year ago, Drummond had a narrow escape, but was saved by Mr. L. Page. At the time they left the wind was light from the southeast, but afterwards changed to the northeast.

SOCIAL.—The American club intend giving a social in W. Denny's new hall on Friday evening next. The Queen city orchestra has been engaged for the occasion and an excellent programme of vocal and instrumental music will be prepared.

MASONIC BANQUET.—A. McDonald, of the Windsor hotel, superintended the preparations for the banquet held at the Masonic Temple on Thursday evening. All present pronounced the affair a grand success and gave Mr. McDonald the highest praise.

CLERGYMEN COMING.—HAMILTON, Jan. 3.—Rev. Thos. Scanlan, of Erskine church, who has accepted a call to St. Andrew's, New Westminster, B. C., preached his farewell sermon yesterday. He leaves on the 10th. Rev. Findlay McCraig, of Kingston presbytery, also leaves for British Columbia on the 20th.

CABLE NEWS.

Leo's Reminiscence.

ROME, Jan. 7.—The pope will present $100,000 to the Congregation de Propagandis Fide on the occasion of the coming jubilee.

Four Hundred and Five Persons Burned.

MADRAS, Jan. 7.—It is officially stated that 405 persons were burned to death in the incendiary fire which destroyed the reserve enclosure in People's Park last week.

Earthquake Ravages.

TUNIS, Jan. 7.—The village of Djemel was severely shaken by an earthquake today. A number of houses fell. Seven persons were killed and many hurt.

Muzzles the Press.

ST. PETERSBURG, Jan. 7.—The government has suppressed *Russkoie Dielo* for publishing an article violently attacking Germany.

The Deadly Avalanche.

BERNE, Jan. 7.—Numerous avalanches have occurred in the Cantons of Lucerne, Schyts and Uri. Several villages have been completely cut off from communication with the outer world. A number of houses have been destroyed and many cattle killed.

The Pope Prepares.

LONDON, Jan. 7.—The Vatican has made an arrangement with the Prince of Monaco by which, in the event of an outbreak of war involving Italy, the pope, with his ministers and prefects of congregations, will remove their residence to the principal city of Monaco, and there transact all business until peace shall have been restored and some kind of European agreement obtained guaranteeing the independence of the Holy See in its dealings with the Catholic world. The special clause of the convention with the prince pledges the abolition of the gaming table. It is expected that an adequate compensation for the loss of revenue thus involved will be afforded by the crowds of visitors or by indemnity to the prince.

Strike Ended.

One thousand tin plate workers, who have been on a strike in Pontipool, arranged terms with the masters and will resume work on Monday.

Bulgaria's Ruler.

The Bulgarian delegates expressed their willingness to accept the Duke of Luchtenberg, the latest candidate proposed for the Bulgarian throne, who, it is rumored, is favored by Russia.

The New Colonial Secretary.

It is reported that Sir Henry Holland has been appointed secretary for the colonies.

To Kiss the Queen's Hand.

The cabinet council convened for to-morrow has been further postponed. Lord Salisbury informed the Queen that he hopes the cabinet will be completed by Tuesday. The privy council has been called to meet at Osborne on Wednesday when the new minister will kiss the Queen's hand.

Alexander to Tour.

Prince Alexander of Battenburg authorizes the announcement that he is about to make a tour of Egypt and the east in order to put an end to the rumors that he intends to return to Bulgaria.

A Noble Duke.

The Duke of Bedford remitted the whole amount of the rents of his tenants on his Bedfordshire estate for the current half year.

The Reunion Conference.

Harcourt, Trevelyan, Morley and Chamberlain open the reunion conference at the house of Baron Herschell on Thursday. Baron Herschell presides. Gladstone and Chamberlain have exchanged friendly letters on the subject.

"Sandy" Roams.

LONDON, Jan. 8.—It is stated that the Russian government has made proposals which are calculated to peacefully solve the Bulgarian difficulty. Prince Alexander of Battenburg, who intends to make an extended tour in the east in order to set at rest many rumors regarding his alleged purpose of returning to Bulgaria, will start for Egypt in a fortnight.

A Big Strike.

A strike of 30,000 miners in north Cumberland is owing to a dispute against wages.

Invited to Osborne.

PARIS, Jan. 8.—*Le Francais* says: That Queen Victoria has invited the Count and Countess of Paris to spend Sunday and Monday at Osborne.

Don't Want Him.

The Bulgarian delegation intend visiting Messieurs Flourens, De Freycinet, Fry and Clemenceau. They will ask that France propose to Russia to withdraw Prince Nicholas as a candidate for the Bulgarian throne.

Presents For the Vatican.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Jan. 8.—The Catholic American patriarch is going to Rome as the bearer of the Sultan's presents of a diamond ring for the pope and decorations for the cardinals.

CANADIAN NEWS.

A Friendly Invitation.

OTTAWA, Jan. 7.—It is stated that a very pressing invitation has been sent from Rideau hall to president and Mrs. Cleveland and members of the United States cabinet to become guests of the governor-general at Montreal during the carnival.

PARLIAMENT DISSOLVED.

The General Elections to Take Place on February Ninth.

(Special to the Colonist.)

NEW WESTMINSTER, Jan. 7.—The *Mainland Guardian* will to-morrow publish a despatch stating that the Dominion parliament will be dissolved immediately and elections throughout the Dominion take place on the ninth of February.

[We endeavored last night to secure from Toronto a verification of the above, but were unable to do so. In response to a despatch from THE COLONIST the following message was received early this morning from the St. Paul *Pioneer Press*: "We have no information on the matter. It may be only a *canard*.—ED.]

WEATHER REPORT.

(Special to THE COLONIST.

DONALD, Jan. 7.—Clear and cold; 15° below zero.

North Bend—Clear and frosty.

New Westminster—Clear and bright; sunshine all day with thermometer at 44°. Turned colder at night, thermometer at 8 p. m. standing at 34° above.

Clinton—4:15 p.m.—Clear and calm; thermometer 10° above.

Bridge Creek, Soda Creek, Quesnelle and Ashcroft—Clear and cold.

Kamloops—Clear and very cold.

A NIAGARA SUICIDE.—Niagara Falls, Jan. 3.—This morning an unknown man jumped from the suspension railway bridge into the rapids below, a distance of two hundred feet. The bodies of persons who suicide in this manner are never recovered.

CONDENSED DISPATCHES.

Prince Louis Napoleon will finish his military education in the Italian army.

E. Sniffin, advertising agent, of New York, failed Thursday for the amount of $100,000.

The Russian military commission has decided to adopt a new repeating rifle for use in the army.

Chicago is suffering from a severe cold snap. The thermometer registered 14 degrees below zero yesterday morning.

Salisbury will make no further effort to complete his cabinet with whigs and will fill vacant offices with conservatives.

There were more than thirty murders in San Francisco last year and only one hanging. It now looks as if Gardner will be acquitted.

Eleven sergeants who were in prison at Madrid for complicity in the military revolts last September have escaped and are now at liberty.

Four of the condemned boys, for an outrageous assault upon a servant girl, were hanged at Sidney, N.S.W., yesterday. Two others were reprieved.

The three express robbers were sent to the penitentiary from St. Louis on Thursday. As the train left the station three cheers were given for "Jim Cummings."

Fred Wittrock.

The Vienna correspondent of the London *Times* contradicts Blowitz's statement regarding the Russian-German alliance, and says that no such alliance exists.

Frank S. Lewis, a fisherman of Freeport, Cal., was assassinated on the 5th instant. Lewis was 45 years of age and leaves a wife and three children destitute.

The wheat harvest at Victoria, Aus., is 12,000,000 bushels, and the average is 12 bushels per acre. The exported excess is 150,000 tons or 60,000 tons over that of the preceding year.

Prof. Joseph Tosso, the celebrated violinist, is dead. He had become famous throughout the states by reason of the composition of that grand melody "The Arkansaw Traveller."

Crowds of unemployed workmen assembled in front of the offices of the local government board at London yesterday morning. A breaking out, of new socialistic riots is feared

The Dublin *National* contains the following: "Justice can be done to Ireland only by defiance of the law; injustice is embodied in the Irish statute book, while justice, benevolence and charity languish in prison."

The French government has ordered its agents in Egypt to foster French commerce and endeavor to decrease to a minimum the difficulties in the way of Frenchmen competing successfully for public contracts.

A fire took place in the Northern Pacific machine shops at Fargo, Dak. The boiler and blacksmith shops were burned. Three locomotives and a number of valuable machines were destroyed; loss from $150,000 to $300,000.

Bishop Patterson, of the Columbus, Ohio, diocese, has arrived in Rome. The Vatican is debating whether the K. of L. of America is a proper organization for Catholics to join. The papal consistory has been postponed.

Wm. Findlater Blood, brother of Lady Colin Campbell, was united in marriage with Grace Warland, a member of the "Tangled Lives" company now playing in New York. Beekman, acting mayor, performed the ceremony.

The Methodist Episcopal conference of West Virginia has sent an appeal to congress, which was presented to the house on Thursday, praying that protection be given the unoffending Chinamen in California, Oregon and Washington Territory.

Right Honorable Edward Stanhope, present colonial secretary of war, has accepted the office of secretary of war. The Marquis of Lansdowne's declination of the office proffered by Salisbury has been received by the latter.

The announcement of the sale of the Troy & Boston railroad created quite a sensation at Troy among businessmen and lawyers. The Fitchburg company now has control of several of the best lines in New York state.

Willie Stiebeling, a bell boy in one of the Detroit hotels, died on the 28th Dec. from fright. He was sent into convulsions at the sight of blood which bathed a boy friend's face who had fallen down a pair of stairs. Young Stiebelling was only fourteen years of age.

The Marquis of Queensbury, who is being sued for divorce by his wife at Edinburgh, has not lived with her for over twelve years. A charge of adultery is brought against the marquis, and neither he nor the woman named will deny the charge. The Scotch law grants the wife divorce for adultery alone.

In response to a writ of *de lunitico inquirendo* issued by Judge James upon the petition of Prof. Emmons, a jury was summoned by the marshal to try the question of the sanity of Prof. Emmons' wife, Mrs. Weltha Emmons, whose eccentricities in Philadelphia and in Europe have been the subject of so much newspaper talk. Startling revelations, it is expected, will be made.

A young man recently pardoned from one of the states' prisons in the United States called upon the president on Thursday morning to thank him for rest