

The Colonist.

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TERMS: THE DAILY COLONIST. Published Every Day except Monday. Per year, postage free to any part of Canada...

ADVERTISING RATES. REGULAR COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING, as distinguished from everything of a transient character...

THE NELSON & FORT SHEPPARD LAND GRANT. There will be a discussion in the house to-morrow, probably, on the resolution of which Mr. Williams, of Vancouver, has given notice.

There is said to be a difference of opinion among British Columbia members of parliament as to the vacant Chief Justiceship. We suggest that in the matter of judicial appointments the wishes of the members of parliament should play a very subordinate part.

LANGLEY NOTES. An Excellent Presentation From "Daniel" Horse Buyers Active. LANGLEY, March 8.—Mr. Hoessack of the grist mill who was thrown from a horse some few weeks ago and had two ribs broken, is gradually getting better.

THE ALASKA MINER. The Alaska Miner, printed at Juneau, says it is a mistake for any one to start North before April 1st, because it is next to impossible to get over the passes at the head of Lynn Canal, and that those who do get over will be no further ahead than if they waited until the winter is over.

THE OREGONIAN CALLS ON THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO HAVE LIGHTS, BUOYS AND BEACONS PUT ALONG THE ALASKA COAST. This is right, and if supplemented by a rigid inspection of steamships would probably result in saving many lives.

THE NEW YORK JOURNAL OF COMMERCE IS A STRONG BELIEVER IN RECIPROcity BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA. It says the advantages would be "obvious and immense," and supports its view by reference to the operation of the reciprocity treaty of 1854.

THE SEATTLE PAPERS NEVER WEARY OF COMPLAINING OF CANADA'S HARSHNESS TO FOREIGNERS; yet the Supreme court of Washington has just decided that an alien may not hold land under lease in that state.

WE think the colony will not agree with them. AN OHIO CHAPLAIN.

The chaplain of the Ohio legislature made a prayer the other day, which was greeted with loud applause. In it he prayed that, if the event of war with Spain "that barbarous and bloodthirsty nation" should be wiped out of existence, the United States would yet bow to the Divine will.

THE WELLINGTON ENTERPRISE LEARNS THAT A REQUISITION TO MR. JOHN BRYDEN, M. P., ASKING HIM TO ALLOW HIMSELF TO BE AGAIN PUT IN NOMINATION FOR THE NANAIMO CONSTITUENCY, IS BEING LARGELY SIGNED AND EXPRESSES THE HOPE THAT HE WILL ACCede TO THE REQUEST.

THE RICHMOND CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE SAYS THE CLAMOR FOR WAR NEVER COMES FROM THE MEN WHO WILL HAVE TO DO THE FIGHTING AND BEAR THE LOSS OF PROPERTY, BUT FROM SENILE RETIRED NAVAL OFFICERS, CONGRESSIONAL DEMAGOGUES AND MEN WHO WANT CONTRACTS, AND ADDS: "THE CHEAP BLOWINGS OF THESE COWARDS DISTURB THE STOMACHS OF MEN WHO HAVE SEEN THE RUIN OF A COUNTRY BY REASON OF THIS SAME KIND OF MORNING."

THE KAISER IS ALLEGED TO HAVE DECLARED THAT, AS LONG AS HE IS EMPEROR OF GERMANY, THE UNITED STATES SHALL NOT HAVE CUBA. We would not be unprepared to hear that this is true, in spite of the statements that the Berlin foreign office has instructed the press to take a friendly attitude towards the United States.

THE USUAL CROP OF WARNINGS TO PERSONS CONTEMPLATING A JOURNEY TO THE NORTHERN GOLD FIELDS IS NOW FORTHCOMING. Nearly everything said in these warnings is true; but it is waste labor to print them, for every man believes that while his next door neighbor ought not to think of going, he himself is the very man for such work.

THE POST-INTELLIGENCER HAD A SENSATIONAL DISPATCH FROM OTTAWA TO THE EFFECT THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAD YIELDED THE WHOLE CLAIM OF THE UNITED STATES IN REGARD TO THE ALASKAN BOUNDARY. The report bears evidence of inaccuracy upon its face, and we believe is wholly without foundation.

IT IS SAID THAT THE DEATH ROLL IN CUBA up to date reaches half a million, all attributable to the rebellion now in progress there. This revolt is the second that has occurred in a quarter of a century. The former lasted ten years. In the name of civilization, something ought to be done to stop this sort of thing.

A TACOMA MAN HAS TRANSMUTED ANTIMONY INTO GOLD. At least he says he has; and the distinction is worth remembering. A few years ago a good many Tacoma men transmuted earth, water, atmosphere and things like that into gold, and lived very rich.

THE SEATTLE PAPERS NEVER WEARY OF COMPLAINING OF CANADA'S HARSHNESS TO FOREIGNERS; yet the Supreme court of Washington has just decided that an alien may not hold land under lease in that state.

There seems little doubt that Canada will soon have a railway to James Bay, and the Victoria sheet of water of that name, but the southern prolongation of Hudson's Bay. Such a line will open an immense and valuable area.

RECORDS ARE IN PROGRESS IN ONTARIO, BUT THE PROSPECT SEEMS TO BE THAT MR. HARDY WILL BE ABLE TO RETAIN OFFICE WITH A NARROW MAJORITY.

BY WAY OF VARIETY. Penelope's Mamma—Have you given him any encouragement? Penelope—Yes, I have advised him to get a divorce.

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simply talking for the sake of saying something. THERE SEEMS LITTLE DOUBT THAT CANADA WILL SOON HAVE A RAILWAY TO JAMES BAY, and the Victoria sheet of water of that name, but the southern prolongation of Hudson's Bay.

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A FOUR DAYS' BATTLE. A Handful of Cubans Hold in Check an Army of Spaniards. NEW YORK, March 10.—The Cuba junta has received by messenger the official report of General Reicio, who commanded the Cuban forces at the battle of Najasa, February 21-24. The details of the battle show that while the Cubans were outnumbered four to one, for four days they held their position and caused the Spanish troops to retreat, leaving 200 dead men upon the field.

On February 18, General Siminel Castellano left the city of Puerto Principe with 4,000 Spanish soldiers. In addition to three squadrons of cavalry, the Spaniards had two small Krupp field pieces. Three days previous Castellano was defeated at the Cuban stronghold in the hills of Najasa, which was not well protected and could be taken. Najasa is situated on a plateau less than forty miles from the city of Puerto Principe. It is the Cuban base of supplies for Puerto Principe province, and is used as a hospital station and several attempts have been made to take it in the past.

On the morning of February 21, while more than ten miles from Najasa, the vanguard of the Spanish army, composed of guerrillas under Lieutenant Perajo, was attacked at a turn in the road. The Cuban cavalry, under Brigadier-General Branlio Pena, numbered 70 men. The vanguard comprised 50 men. Of the 50, three escaped and 47 were killed. The Cubans lost 14 men. The Spanish cavalry, under Major Copaz, was attacked by the full Cuban cavalry, 500 strong. The loss in the charge by the Cubans was slight. The men under Major Copaz were charged from the front and rear. They were literally cut to pieces. They defended themselves with the butts of their carbines.

The Cubans secured 80 cavalry horses, with equipments; 100 carbines and ammunition. After the cavalry rout they were forced to retreat, as the Spanish army, 4,000 strong, came into action. Retreating for more than a mile, the Cubans made a stand behind rocks and checked the advance of Castellano's troops until nightfall. In the night the Cubans wounded were sent to the rear and earthworks thrown up that would each protect half a dozen rebels. Troops were moved to higher ground and everything possible done to make the fortifications. The battle of the second day opened with an attempt by the Spaniards to take a knob of ground holding 20 men.

After several ineffectual attempts one of the Krupp guns were used, and the position was abandoned for one higher. During the shelling of the small fortifications the Cubans twice caused the piece to be withdrawn out of rifle range. There was no attempt made to advance by the Spaniards on the 22nd. They kept up a continuous fire, shooting whole volleys whenever a Cuban showed his head.

Twice on the third day General Castellano made an attempt to advance. On both occasions his troops were driven back. On the 24th, the fourth day of the fight, he suffered a loss of more than 100 killed and wounded, leaving his dead upon the field. They retreated to Puerto Principe and announced that they had defeated a force of 3,000 Cubans. The dead were buried by General Reicio's troops. His own loss was 78 killed and more than 100 wounded. Major Copaz, commander of the Spanish cavalry, was court-martialed after the first day's fight for cowardice. The Spanish official reports state they fired 65,270 Mauser bullets and 33 shells in four days. The shooting of the Spanish artillery, according to the Cubans, was always wild. No shells were fired, according to them, west anywhere near the mark.

By the same messenger was brought General Reicio's reports, came the story of a Spanish outrage upon a pacifico, Debio Betancourt. Betancourt was sick in bed on his plantation and was attacked by a Spanish column under Pedro Gonzales. He was attended by two of his daughters, 15 and 17 years of age respectively. After the soldiers murdered the father, the elder girl was subjected to indignities which led to her death. The younger girl attempted to escape. She was caught. Her struggles provoked a Spanish soldier, who severed her left leg near the knee with a stroke of his machete. The girl was left to die where she fell.

The news of Betancourt's death was announced in Havana and as a great victory by the Carter organ. If you once try Carter's Little Liver Pills for sick headache, biliousness or constipation you will never be without them. They are purely vegetable, small and easy to take. Don't forget this.

THE FUNERAL OF THE LATE MRS. H. H. McDONALD TOOK PLACE YESTERDAY FROM THE FAMILY RESIDENCE ON PANDORA AVENUE, REV. DR. CAMPBELL OFFICIATING THERE AND THE CEMETERY. There was a large attendance of sympathizing friends, and a wealth of floral tributes of love and regret. The following friends were the pallbearers: Dr. Lewis Hall, J. F. Burgess, William Moore, M. McCrezior, H. Edwards and M. Baker.



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NEWS OF THE C

Bank of Commerce at Da Take Gold Dust for Payable at Par Applications for Charters Lighting, Telegraph and ing Enterprises

From Our Own Correspondent OTTAWA, March 12.—In the ment with the Bank of Con garding the branch at Da government does not assume a sibility. The bank's officers under police protection in a less than three times a year cort will be furnished for g tances of not less than a tho cases where full royalty is pai will handle the gold dust drafts therefor, which will be par at any bank in Canada, York, San Francisco or Chicag Mr. Dupont, M.R. for Bagot terday at his home. His death regretted, as he was universa Robert Cassidy, Victoria, g in to-day's Canada Gazette of plications to parliament to op ric plant in Dawson, to bui graph line from Victoria to Da to establish a bank. Messrs. Costigan, Hale a chard, who voted against Mr. amendment, say they did so they don't believe any money spent building a railway to until the possibilities of the di better known.

From Our Own Correspondent OTTAWA, March 14.—(Delayed mission)—The name of Mr. Ne deputy minister of instruction mentioned for the vacant Supre judgeship for British Columbia D. C. Fraser, M.P., mentio aspirant, has been asked by M. Martin to join him in a law pa in British Columbia, and will H sent.

Feeling references were ma Commons to-day by Sir Charles Premier Laurier and Adolphe to the death of Mr. Dupont. Speaker Edgar announced that received a letter from Mr. Brun before he opened it on Friday Mr. Brunson came and recalled Speaker did not know, officiall tents, but everybody understa be his resignation, which Mr. was indeed a sad business. Mr. Sifton stated to-day that not know whether Judge McGu remain permanently at Dawson the intention of the govern extend homestead laws to the Maj r Wash is not authorized to of timber in the Yukon district. Mr. Blair announced that the ment had under consideration bring down of a bill next to establish a railway commission; the whole day was taken up di the question.

Mr. Bostock moved for paper nection with the case of the against J. B. Cameron for lib Bostock read a statement setti the manner in which Cameron h taken from Boundary Creek, Montreal at a few minutes' not private detective. The case, he ered, was one of great justice. O. E. Tupper objected to parliament made a court of appeal in a l Solicitor-General Fitzpatrick sa injustice had been done by rea defect in the law. Mr. Bostock j justified in calling the attention house to it. Hon. David Mills informed Macdonald that the attention of erment had been called to the of the board of trade of Vancou reference to the importation timber and shingle trees of duty Manager Mills, of the Dawso of the Bank of Commerce, is says he and his staff leave for May 1.

Mr. Fisher has introduced protect Canada from the ravage San Jose cable. (From Our Own Correspondent OTTAWA, March 16.—The vaca ish Columbia judgeship is greati the government. The Brita lumbia contingent are at issue subject. Messrs Maxwell and favor D. C. Fraser, the Nova S P., but Messrs. Bostock and want a home man and strong against the appointment of an Mr. Morrison wants one of the judges promoted and a local mated puisne judge in his place. Mr. Bostock nor Mr. Davis wo the position. The name of Jud of Manitoba, is now mentioned. The Yukon railway bill has y third reading. Yesterday a was inserted that the compan bound to operate the railwa years, the government retain fifth of the land grant for the No member of parliament may the enterprise. The majority board of directors must be Bri jets. Mr. Quinn wanted the stock placed at \$10,000,000, in open to the Canadian people scribe, but this amendment rejected.

The government bill to pro importation of nursery stock States, Japan and Hawaii do prevalence of the San Jose se passed the Commons at one j becomes law to-morrow. Mr. Sifton told Mr. Foster government has no officia