## CANADIAN INDEPENDENCE.

Some practical joker has evidently been "stuffing" the London Daily Mail regarding the "Independence Party" in Canada. That usually smart journal publishes some information about the Dominion that will be news to most people in Canada. The article begins by alleging that "seditious literature is abroad in Canada, as well as in India, although it is fortunate it has quite a different sort of public to work upon than in the Eastern empire." Very kind of the Mail to place Canadians higher in its esteem than Hindoos, but the statement of the Mail is arrant nonsense. "Abroad in the Dominion" is a very large order, and one may well ask where and when was it abroad? Strange nobody hereabouts seems to have heard anything regarding this "independence" literature. The Mail's veracious informant then goes on to describe in detail the aims and objects, even the paraphernalia of office, of the "Independence of Canada" party. The "independence" men are not annexationists it says; no; of nothing have they a deeper horror than the thought of annexation to the United States; on the contrary, the "Independents" cherish the warmest feelings of affection towards the Mother Country, whose yoke they would fain cast off. It does not require much astuteness to realise that some genial sensation faker has been "abroad in the Dominion," and has been getting Daily Mail guineas under false pretenses. There is no independence party in Canada, except in the lunatic asylums. Nobody who cares to give the subject two thoughts can fail to realise what a mad dream Canadian "independence" is. Suppose Canada did become independent and faced the world under her own flag, what about the United States then? Would Canadians sleep sounder at nights with the British flag, British cruisers and battleships and British soldiers withdrawn? Would it not be rather "an eager and a nipping air" from the hard cold world that would fall upon the "independent" youngling so soon as the broad aegis of Britannia was removed? Independence is as much a farce as annexation.

## LEAD MINERS' GRIEVANCE.

There is trouble throughout Kootenay over the conditions governing the smelting and export of lead. Briefly stated, our lead miners and smelters wish the Dominion government to place the Canadian tariff on much the same basis as that of the United States. The American tariff is $30 a ton on lead in ores, and $42.50 a ton on lead bullion. Besides, the Americans have the privilege of smelting in bond, getting a drawback of duty upon lead which is smelted and exported from Mexican mines, where the cheapest lead in the world is obtained. This lead is allowed to be brought into the Canadian market, thus placing our miners in competition with Mexican labor. The Americans have also the advantage of using the soft Mexican lead ores, which can be treated very inexpensively. Another point is that corroded lead for the manufacture of paint is admitted into Canada at a nominal rate of duty, 5 per cent., on the ground that it is raw material to be ground up in the manufacture of paint on this side of the line; but this is unfair to our own lead miners and smelters. In consequence of the disabilities which exist, the lead mining and lead smelting industries in British Columbia, except in the case of very high grade mines, are at a standstill. The plant at Pilot Bay is idle, and the works at Nelson have never even been "blown in." Unless the mine, as has been said, gives enough silver to convoy the lead into the American market, it does not pay to run it under present tariff conditions.

This is certainly a very serious state of affairs, more especially in view of the fact that were the conditions on the Canadian side as favorable to the industry as they are on the American a fine trade could be done with China and Japan, all the lead used by those countries now coming from Australia. The Canadian article, we are informed, is superior to the Australian article, and with cheap transportation British Columbia would have little difficulty in securing these lucrative markets. This question is of the most serious concern to the mining districts of the province and should receive the early consideration of the government.

## MR. TURNER'S ALLEGED SPEECH

As a comic journal the Victoria Daily Colonist is coming to the front with a rapidity that may well excite the gravest apprehensions amongst its rivals, the Brooklyn Eagle, the Burlington Hawkeye, Life, Puck, and Judge and the rest of the cap-and-bell fraternity. And as a consumer of crow-stew, a devourer of its own words and a humble-pie glutton the Colonist of late has distinguished itself immensely. Its latest feat has been the attempt to put a speech into the mouth of its chief organist, Premier Turner, making him say things he never said, would not presume to say, and (even supposing he could) have the same acuteness of jim-jams the gentleman who composed the oration must have had when he huddled that hash of cheap ideas into a speech) could never have imagined. Premier Turner, it is true, had the reckless courage to say in support of the organ's feat that if the speech were not his the sentiments were all right. Robert Louis Stevenson used to take devilled crabs and cold slaw for supper to get the necessary nightmare to reel off such tit-bits as Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde; probably he would have said those highly indigestible comestibles were "all right," too. There is a vast universe of meaning in that common phrase "all right," and Premier Turner knows it. Fact is, the Colonist has dropped into a hole through trying to be smart. Its apology and retraction this morning are the best exhibitions of a camel going through the eye of a needle—should we not rather say a donkey going through a knot hole in a fence?—we have any recollection of ever having witnessed. Could anything be more abject than the spectacle of the dogmatic, positive, know-it-all Colonist muzzling the humble pie? Could anything be more lame and rheumatic than the excuse it offers for the extraordinary aberration which permitted the tricky insertion of that speech, which bore the hall-mark of fraud? Could anything be more nauseously humbuggish than its assertion that the premier might have done worse, than utter the crude things the Colonist put into his mouth, and which he, like a decent man spat out in disgust, wryfacedly? But there is certainly a good excuse for the Colonist's unprecedented "break," though not the one it offers. We feel it our duty, out of pure friendship to the Colonist and our feeling that a natural delicacy and modesty prevents the Colonist from making known to the public the real state of the case, to explain. The fact is the Colonist is now busy "fitting," and the operation is being celebrated with a little pardonable jollification by the staff, a member of which is in a position to replenish the office jug with copious supplies of a most excellent and very desirable article of liquid refreshment, namely, the "Colonist-cum-Tupper-cum-Yukon blend of special tanglefoot," said to be more efficacious as an imagination-fertiliser than the hottest of hot Scotch. This glorious stuff has, owing to the removal, been circulating rather more freely than per usual, so that, as was to be expected, there has been a more than extra degree of irresponsible friskiness and superabundant hilarity among the staff, culminating in the concoction of the amazing apocryphal oration ascribed to Premier Turner. In vino veritas, per Bacco! "From the multiplicity of memoranda," quoth the Colonist in explanation this morning; but the way it ought to have put it was this: "From the (hic) multipl-tiple (hic) ishity of bl-blooming mem (hic) oranda, one more than was intended (hic) got into the (nic) report."

## THE DUTY SHIRKERS.

Sometimes the Victoria Daily Colonist varies its excursions into the realms of the comic by a trip into the region of pure fiction; good-breeding prohibits us from using the coarse old Anglo-Saxon word lying, and we shall not apply that epithet to a contemporary for whom we entertain only feelings of the most sincere respect and friendship. To describe the utterances of the Colonist this morning in regard to our remarks yesterday concerning the shameful desertion of duty of which Messrs. Prior and Earle are guilty, we shall merely say that the Colonist is utterly reckless in its remarks. For a paper with a reputation as a comic journal to keep up it is really pitiful to see the Colonist using again that worn out and misfit pleasantry about "langwidge"; the Burlington Hawkeye, now, would never use such an asthmatic wheeze twice; people begin to ask if the writer in the Colonist is utterly devoid of imagination that he has to spread out a joke so thinly. But to come to the Colonist's more serious digressions from the path of truth; it says we abused Messrs. Prior and Earle. We shall have the support of every person who read our article when we say that we did not abuse either of those gentlemen.

The Colonist says: "The electors of Victoria are grossly insulted in the same article for having chosen Col. Prior to represent them in the Commons in preference to Mr. Wm. Templeman, now Senator." In the article yesterday we did not say a word about preferences or "Mr. Wm. Templeman, now Senator." It is Messrs. Prior and Earle who have grossly insulted the electors of Victoria by refusing to represent them in the House. The Colonist is here drawing upon its imagination as strongly as it did when it put that fraudulent speech into the mouth of Premier Turner the other day. The Colonist says:

"As Mr. Templeman took his place in the Senate only a few days ago, having remained in Victoria long after the opening of the session attending to his private business, the abuse comes with particularly bad grace from the newspaper of which he is manager, and since every word of it applies to him it will probably not be relished by the Senator when he sees it."

It is not necessary to say anything more to the foregoing than that it is malicious, deliberate and wanton falsification of the facts. The hard work done by Mr. Templeman for the people of the province previous to his departure for Ottawa deserves some better recognition than the slanders of company-mongering alien whose sympathies are more with the Yankees than with Canada. There are hundreds of persons in Victoria and throughout the province who can testify to the fact that the reason why Mr. Templeman's departure for Ottawa was delayed was wholly and solely that he might make himself thoroughly acquainted with the very latest developments of all the questions affecting British Columbia. When did Messrs. Earle and Prior ever exhibit a like anxiety? Besides, Senator Templeman has not started for home yet; he will do his duty to the country. The latter part of the foregoing atrocious piece of trifling with the truth applies directly to the editor of this paper. Having trounced and silenced the slanderer until there is no longer even sport in it, we can afford to overlook the Colonist's harmless attempt to hurt. But the latter portion of the Colonist's special pleading for the recusant representatives is precious beyond language to describe, as a bit of logic-run-mad and argument to the man. It is too good not to quote:

"Incidentally it may be remarked that the very fact of Col. Prior and Mr. Earle being so directly concerned, through their private business, in the Klondike trade, which means so much to Victoria, will be accepted by every sensible man as a guarantee that to the best of their ability they will further the interests of that trade, in parliament and out of it."

Oh, this is really too delicious. Does the reader grasp what the Colonist has done? Here it is: "Messrs. Prior and Earle, being directly concerned through their private business in the Klondike trade * * * they will to the best of their ability further the interests of that trade (ergo, their private interests) in parliament and out of it!" Could an enemy of the gentlemen have hit them harder? How will they relish this stroke of Colonist pleading? Nothing the Times has said about the delinquent representatives can equal that shot. What on earth is the matter with the Colonist lately? Its freaks pass all understanding, unless we remember the Klondike company whiskey with which the office jug is kept going. The Colonist's ludicrous blunder—or is it a covert slap at the deserters?—"will probably not be relished by the couple of Number One gentlemen when they see it." The Colonist should stick to religious editorials and special-knowledge articles on the American situation; imaginative work will be its undoing. To sum the whole matter up—it does not require this ridiculous blundering of the Colonist to show quite clearly that the conduct of Messrs. Prior and Earle is utterly indefensible.

## DESERTING THEIR DUTY.

"Col. Prior left for home to-day" is the curt dispatch from Ottawa yesterday. No doubt the electors of Victoria would feel deeply interested in that laconic notification, which carries as much significance for the said electors as can well be packed into one line of newspaper type. Before proceeding to consider Col. Prior's conduct it might be as well to inform the electors of Victoria, who in their wisdom elected Col. Prior and his worthy colleague, Mr. Thomas Earle, that the latter gentleman will also leave Ottawa for home, we are credibly informed, in the course of a few days. The session has barely started; it is going to be one of the most important parliamentary sessions in the history of Canada, and it is most desirable that every member of the house should be present to bear a hand in the business going forward. Unless we have very egregiously misapprehended the spirit of the electors of Victoria and very seriously misconstrued their wishes, it is the earnest desire of these electors that these two representatives should remain at Ottawa to watch the course of events. Since confederation there has not been a time when the presence of British Columbia representatives was more urgently needed in the Federal House than during the present session, because affairs of the greatest importance to British Columbia are to be dealt with.

What mean Messrs. Prior and Earle, then, by skulking home in this cowardly fashion, basely deserting the post of duty in the hour of greatest need? Did the people of Victoria elect them to do their duty in parliament, or was it expected that they would abuse in this shameful manner the trust imposed in them? Nice representatives, truly; shirking their duty, and for what? Shall we tell the electors of Victoria for what, or do the electors of Victoria know? We strongly suspect that Messrs. Prior and Earle have proved traitors to their public trust for the sake of private gain. They are coming home to look after NUMBER ONE, the greatest person in Canadian politics to-day; they are going to pay faithful, unremitting, unwearied attention to their private business, and make the most, the utmost, out of the Klondike boom. This is carrying the good old policy of "the public be damned" into practical, every-day business with a hearty good-will. What do Messrs. Earle and Prior care about the opinions, the indignation, the displeasure of the electors of Victoria? Not a pinch of Government street mud; they know only too well that electors blind enough to pick the like of them out as representatives to parliament will stand anything. It serves Victoria electors properly; we are almost inclined to say to the brace of home-returning duty-deserters: "Sock it to 'em, lads; your constituents deserve the dirtiest you can do as a punishment for the mere crime of electing such as you as representatives."

Perhaps this disgraceful conduct on the part of their so-called representatives will serve to open the eyes of the electors of Victoria to the utter worthlessness of these gentlemen as members of parliament; perhaps the electors of Victoria will show a little more discrimination in selecting representatives next time the opportunity arises, and perhaps when the critical juncture arises in the Dominion House and Victoria realises that in that epoch-making struggle it is represented by a couple of empty seats—never much more than empty even when occupied—the full import of what those deserters have done will come home to Victorians.

We suggest that a public meeting be arranged against the arrival home of Col. Prior; that a very warm reception be given that hard-working "representative" and that the questions be asked him: "Why are you here and not where your duty calls you? Why have you deserted your post at this critical time? What do you mean by performing your public duty in this impudently perfunctory manner?" If the meeting be called we shall take upon ourselves the duty of finding a gentleman who will ask these questions and several others besides. In conclusion we further suggest that the same reception be tendered to Mr. Earle when he arrives.

Mr. Thomas Earle was one of those who voted against the Yukon railway bill, notwithstanding the fact that at the public meeting held in Victoria to urge upon the government the advisability of extending the proposed railway to a British Columbia port he had not a word to say against the measure, but evinced satisfaction with what was being done. Mr. Earle is coming home in a few days and he should be waited upon by the electors and asked what he means by his action, and also what he is doing here while so much that is vitally important to British Columbia is proceeding at Ottawa. We accuse Mr. Earle of gross neglect of his duty as a representative; we accuse him of double-dealing in regard to the Yukon railway bill; we accuse him of subordinating his public duty to his private gain. He and his colleague, Col. Prior, have shown themselves unfit to represent Victoria in the Dominion house of commons. If the electors of Victoria are not heartily ashamed of their representatives they must be indeed a peculiar people.

The government campaign in North Yale is being conducted on strictly personal lines. According to Mr. Martin's agents, Mr. Deane, the opposition candidate, is a compound of Captain Kidd, Nana Sahib, Henry Morgan, Mephistopheles, Robert the Devil and Theodore Durrant. Per contra Hon. Mr. Martin is a man whose morals are to-day as they were when he "shined in his angel infancy"; strong drink has never passed his lips; he does not know the meaning of the word lie from practical experience; he has never been seen drunk on the streets; his language has always been so choice that babes and maidens could have listened while he conversed. In brief, he is one of the purest-minded, cleanest-living, pleasantest-spoken, well-begotten, pious, sober, genteel, temperate and accomplished gentlemen God ever sent on earth as a pattern among men.

Major Mutter and Mr. Huff will not feel very much like thanking the Colonist for its left-handed championship of them for being absent from meetings at which they could have been present had they wished. The Colonist is most seriously mistaken in its snap-shot judgment that Messrs. Mutter and Huff can afford to disregard expression of public disapproval. Well do those gentlemen know that the time is approaching when they will have to render an account to their dissatisfied constituents, who may, at election time find they can afford to disregard Messrs. Mutter and Huff.

Our highly-esteemed neighbor, now across the way, draws attention to the fact that Speaker Booth though a Liberal in Dominion politics is the choice of a house overwhelmingly Conservative. The Colonist is sadly misinformed if it thinks Mr. Booth is a heart-whole provincial Conservative. Conservatism has done its worst in this province and one of the men who has come to recognize that a new order of things must replace the old if British Columbia is ever to be anything more than a backwoods province is Mr. Booth.

Mr. Sword made a splendid speech of two hours yesterday, and it was plain that during his address the government were ill at ease. The opposition members have scored several distinct victories in the debates since the session opened, and Mr. Sword's masterly grasp of the facts concerning the financial delinquencies of the government, and his skilful manner of expressing them make his speeches among the most telling delivered in the house. The Colonist's talk about obstruction shows that that newspaper is as ill-informed as ever.

Queer rumors are afloat regarding the cargo of the British ship Manauense, which recently left Liverpool, England, for this port. The Daily Post of Liverpool, alleges that she carries 600 tons of whiskey, while the list contained these items: 1,400 cases spirits; 1,000 barrels spirits; 3,000 cases beer; 70 tons salt; etc., etc. Did anyone whisper Colonist-cum-Tupper special mix of Yukon nokmeout after this? As the yellow kid might phrase it: "Say, dey's goin' ter be heaps of sport on de Yukon dis summer."

Vancouver Island seems to be simply seething with political discontent. From all quarters—Comox, the Saaniches, Cowichan, Alberni, Nanaimo—comes the cry: "time for a change." Nothing but a miracle can save the government on this island at the next election; and the electors will prove themselves miraculously stupid if they return to power Messrs. Turner & Co's. supporters.

One might imagine a countryman advising a "chum" in the style adopted by the Colonist in advising ex-Speaker Higgins what to do with himself. Probably the ex-Speaker may be trusted to look after himself without any old wives' sawder from the gentleman he so handsomely flayed with his pen no further agone than the merry Christmas tide.

The best thing with which a mother can crown her daughter is a common sense knowledge of the distinctly feminine physiology. Every woman should thoroughly understand her own nature. Every woman should understand the supreme importance of keeping herself well and strong in a womanly way. Nearly all of the pains and aches, nearly all the weakness and sickness and suffering of women is due to disorders or disease of the organs distinctly feminine.

A woman who suffers in this way is unfitted for wifehood and motherhood. Maternity is a menace of death. Thousands of women suffer in this way because their innate modesty will not permit them to submit to the disgusting examinations and local treatment insisted upon by the average physician. These ordeals are unnecessary. Dr. R. V. Pierce, an eminent and skillful specialist, for thirty years chief consulting physician to the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, at Buffalo, N. Y., has discovered a wonderful remedy with which women may treat and speedily cure themselves in the privacy of their own homes. This medicine is known as Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. It acts directly on the delicate and important organs concerned. It makes them well and strong. It allays inflammation, heals ulceration, soothes pain and rests the tortured nerves. Taken during the critical period, it banishes the usual discomforts and makes baby's advent easy and almost painless. Thousands of women who were once weak, sickly, nervous fretful invalids, are now happy, healthy wives, because of this medicine. It is sold by all good medicine dealers and no honest dealer will advise a substitute.

"When I commenced using Dr. Pierce's medicines some three years ago," writes Mrs. Ella J. Fox, care of W. C. Fox, of Eldorado, Saline Co., Ills. "I was the picture of death. I had no heart to take anything. Weight was 125. My husband had been to see five different doctors about my trouble (female weakness). I commenced taking Dr. Pierce's medicines, also wrote to him for advice. I took four bottles of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, and one vial of his 'Pleasant Pellets,' and am now a well woman."


## Correspondence.

### DISSATISFACTION AT ALBERNI.

To the Editor: Both members for Cowichan-Alberni were elected as independent supporters of the government, a combination I could not define until a friend explained to me that it meant independent out of the house; supporters of the government in the house. It must be galling to those who supported them on account of their independent spirit to find that they have now two of the most servile supporters of the government. If I am not mistaken, Major Mutter opposed the mortgage tax last year, and I am surprised at his supporting it now; but with Mr. Huff it is different, he, being a money-lender, would naturally vote for his own interests. One day he advocates devising some means of securing cheap money for the use of settlers, then turns round and votes for a measure entirely opposite. Mr. Huff used to point the finger of scorn at our late member, Mr. Fletcher, whom he styles "the dumb member," but if the papers give a fair report, we have in him also a "dumb member." Mr. Fletcher sailed under no false colors, he was a government man, and supported the government, right or wrong; Mr. Huff, with all his boasted independence, does the same thing. Mr. Fletcher by way of reward got the position of gold commissioner, at $1,200 a year, which up to that time had been a $600 job, and, if I am not mistaken, Mr. Huff has his eye on some fat recompense for his servility—stipendiary magistrate, gold commissioner or anything with a few dollars attached to it. Of course, he does not need money; still he likes it, and must have it, even if someone else has to go without. Surely these men will never have the face again to seek the support of their deceived constituents in case they do not get their pensions. As reported in your paper, Mr. Huff called a meeting just before the house opened, when he tried to explain to us what a valuable member we have, how he induced the government to do this, that and the other; you would think by the way he spoke the laws were made by him and "without him was not anything made" that was worth making; but he carefully avoided saying a word about what course he intends to pursue. He must wait till he got outside so as to ascertain the way of the wind, which, I believe, we shall see change to a very different quarter a few months hence. Hoping we shall all have at least a chance to vote against the Dunsmuir-Turner-Chinese government. AN OBSERVER.

Alberni, March 5th, 1898.

### OMINECA GOLD FIELDS.

To the Editor: In the issue of the 3rd of March the Colonist makes a very one-sided report and unfair allusion respecting the California party en route to the Omineca; misleading to the public, injurious to the reputation of persons connected, and causing silly deductions of the value of a prominent portion of the gold belt. My connection with the Grider expedition was rendering information, and sobering an oversanguine party of gold seekers; for it would cause an irreparable injury to the fair name of Omineca to allow men to go in there with such promising expectations to be metamorphosed to the grim reality of hard work and vigorous prospecting.

I understand the object of the leader of the party was not in consideration of a knowledge of the country personally, but to guide, maintain and expeditiously locate them with ultimate destination Omineca. I understand he spoke of certain resources of certain portions of the district, and brought into requisition reports of an ill-fated couple, upon the remains of whom fine gold was found in amalgam, supposed to come out of one of the tributaries of the Nation, since then prospected by a party sent out last year by us. Furthermore, I understand he guarantees no distinct place, having obtained a knowledge of the country and its prospective results by diligent and systematic prospecting; he utilized his brain in a business way and consequently asks remuneration, which, indeed, is very sensible; much more so than myself in sowing information promiscuously, with philantropic objects. It is more advantageous for a large party to have a competent guide to supervise, rather than spend a much greater sum in roaming over country without information seeking desirable locations.

On my arrival from the north in mid-December, no doubt I could have given a more glowing account than I did, but prospecting is a game of chance, with many hardships and trials in its train; it would not do for me to give a fairy tale to divert attention, though it would be a humanitarian act to do so for the thousands that are flocking to the frozen north. Magnificent indications have been found along the Finlay and other water-courses further in an apparently impenetrable, unexplored region between Omineca and Cassiar. We have climatic advantages and better sources of food supply, and I see no reason why I should be faint-hearted in recommend as without disseminating exaggerations for an unhealthy boom.

Men must fortify themselves with an undaunted perseverance and fortitude; then I cannot see why they should be unsuccessful.

Sorry for trespassing upon your space, but I think Omineca must have fair play.

A correction is necessary. I never said Tom creek was a tributary of the Nations. It is about 135 miles northwest and flows into Silver creek, where the course gold I spoke of was found. Nation streams so far have rendered nothing but fine gold prospects. Since no work has been performed to reach bedrock in deeper ground further up stream, where it is currently believed coarse gold exists. J. D. WELLS.

### NURSES FOR KLONDIKE.

Government House, Ottawa, March 4th, 1898.

To the Editor: Every newspaper we take in tells us of fresh travellers to the Klondike. Allow me to tell your readers of the Victorian Order of Nurses' Klondike expedition.

Those who have read letters from pioneers who have gone into the country, and especially any who have noted letters from the missionaries who were sent forward, will remember the emphasis laid upon the sufferings of those who have been overtaken by accident or illness or frost-bites. Under these circumstances, the hardships which press heavily enough on travellers in perfect health must become terrible indeed; and heavy must be the hearts of those whose friends and relatives are amongst the adventurers who are seeking their fortunes in these inhospitable regions.

And, let alone the ordinary chances of sickness, we need but reflect but little before we realize how great must be the danger from epidemics and fevers during the brief intense summer in a district where no sanitary arrangements exist, where swamps abound and where crowds are pressing in day by day.

The work of the Victorian Order is but in its infancy, and it needs all its resources at the present time for the work of its training homes now being started at Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto, Halifax and elsewhere. But the provisional committee felt that it could not remain deaf to a call such as this for help, and decided that the Order must prove at once its national character and its worthiness of the name it bears by sending a contingent of Victorian Nurses to the Yukon, to work under the direction of the medical men there. Four fully trained, efficient Canadian nurses of experience will therefore be ready to start for their arduous post by the end of March, or sooner, if we receive sufficient special contributions to equip them.

The government are affording us all possible facilities and assistance, and the nurses will be under the special protection of the Northwest Mounted Police. But it is estimated that the outfits, the year's provisions and the medical appliances for each nurse will not come to less than a thousand dollars for each; and then we must guarantee their salaries, although we fully believe that the patients will be willing to give ample remuneration for the nurses' services, and that once on the spot the Victorian Order will not lack for means for prosecuting and developing its work.

Those devoted women fear not to face the perils and privations which their mission must necessarily impose on them. On the contrary, they rejoice at such an opportunity being afforded so soon to the Victorian Order to show what nurses may do for suffering humanity under the most adverse circumstances; and as they are prepared to go forth in this spirit, we fear not to send them, and we are confident that we shall not appeal in vain to their countrymen and countrywomen to supply the Victorian Order with adequate means to equip them fully.

Contributions to the Victorian Order Klondike expedition may be either sent to me direct at Government House, Ottawa, or to Mrs. Edward Griffin, treasurer at the fund, the Russell House, Ottawa. I remain, yours faithfully, ISHBEL ABERDEEN.

## FATAL FIRE AT DYEA.

Body of One Man Found and Others Supposed to be in the Ruins.

Dyea, March 3.—By the burning of a saloon and lodging house this morning several lives were lost and a valuable building destroyed. A large fire was averted by prompt work of citizens and the providential lull in the wind at the time.

The dead are:

Bert Meeker, of Portland, Ore.

Two or three unknown men and one woman are supposed to have been sleeping in the house, and it is likely that they were burned to death.

The injured:

Gus Kahler, of Juneau.

The fire started at about 6 o'clock this morning by the careless handling of a cigar stump by a drunken lodger in the Everyone's Home House, owner by J. A. Douglass.

The discovery of the fire was followed by a wild alarm through the building. But so quickly did the blaze spread, fanned by a stiff breeze, that some did not have time to get out. Several escaped in their night clothes.

Gus Kahler escaped with his life, but the doctors say he will not live. The flesh fell in large pieces from his face and arms when he was taken out. He has a wife and child at Juneau.

In the ruins, not yet cool enough to make a thorough examination, was found the trunk of what was supposed to be Bert Meeker, a dealer in one of the gambling houses.

The hotel was in the centre of Dyea, and had not the wind shifted when it did, the entire south end of the town would have been burned. The bartender was just fixing up things after a busy night's work, and barely escaped with his life. A fund for the sufferers was started before the flames were out, and by noon $2,000 had been raised. A large sum was also subscribed for the purchase of a chemical engine and outfit.

## AN IMPORTANT INDUSTRY.

In the minds of most people the manufacture of paints and colors is not thought of as of much importance, and this branch of business is little understood by the public generally.

Twenty-five or thirty years ago paint was made in a very crude way, and consisted mainly of grinding white lead and colors in oil—the mixing or preparing for use, being done by the consumer.

To-day it is different. This branch of business, like all others, has made rapid improvements. The best paint is now made ready for the brush. Paint for every use can be bought ready to put on.

This change has been brought about by the application of special machinery for the fine grinding and thorough mixing of the different pigments and ingredients. This, with skilled labor, produces paints better and cheaper than under the old method.

Much of the improvement and advancement in paint making is due to the Sherwin-Williams Company, who are without doubt, the largest manufacturers of paint in the world. This company has an extensive plant—the largest of the kind in existence—at Cleveland, Ohio. It will give an idea of the extent of their premises when it is stated that their floor space exceeds nine acres. Many thousands of gallons of paint, ready for use, is delivered every day. Besides the Cleveland plant the company have their own factories at Chicago and Montreal, Canada, also branch houses at New York and Boston.

The Sherwin-Williams Paints are used by the principal railways and steamship companies in the United States and Canada. There is scarcely a town or village in either country where the well known S.-W. P. may not be obtained. Fifty travellers are constantly on the road, covering every point on the continent in the interests of the extensive business.

The business was built up from small beginnings, and its great success is largely due to the fact that from the start the proprietors have never allowed more than one quality—the best they could make—to go out under their label. The result is, wherever the Sherwin-Williams name is found on a package of paint it stands for the best there is in paint.

## POLICE CLERK PAGE CLEARED.

Board of Police Commissioners Hear Evidence in the Paddon Letter Case.

The Mayor, the Police Magistrate and Dr. J. D. Helmcken, sitting as the board of police commissioners yesterday afternoon heard evidence regarding the charge made by a son of Rev. Canon Paddon, to the effect that Police Court Clerk Page had received, opened, read and detained a letter addressed by the Canon to the Chief of Police, and handed by young Mr. Paddon to Mr. Page in error.

The evidence in support of the charge consisted of a notarial declaration made by young Mr. Paddon prior to his departure for the north, which contained a very circumstantial account of his having handed the letter to Mr. Page, of a subsequent meeting he had with the Chief of Police, and a brief altercation which occurred between himself and Mr. Page. Canon Paddon relied upon this notarial declaration, and Mr. Page called witnesses to prove, first that young Paddon did not deliver the letter to him (Page) as alleged, secondly that the Chief of Police did not make use of certain expressions which it was stated he did make use of, and thirdly, denied on oath that when he (Page) met young Paddon on Fort street, he had used the language attributed to him in the declaration.

The evidence for Mr. Page was very strong, and the Mayor at the close of the investigation said the commissioners were unanimously of the opinion that their duty was to exonerate Mr. Page of the charge made against him.

## A.O.U.W. GRAND LODGE.

The Victoria members of the Provincial Grand Lodge of the A.O.U.W. returned yesterday from the annual meeting of the lodge in Nanaimo, well pleased with the work accomplished. The most important decision arrived at during the deliberation was that affecting insurance policies upon those going into the Yukon goldfields. Owing to the magnitude of the risks in the trip and during residence in that country, the subordinate lodges are to be warned against effecting insurance upon the lives of those undertaking them. The question of classification assessment did not come up. The following Grand Officers were elected:

G. M., Workman, A. Stewart, Victoria; G. Foreman, E. J. Salmon, Victoria (re-elected); G. Overseer, A. M. Bullock, Vancouver; G. Recorder., J. T. McIlmoyle, Saanich (re-elected); G. Receiver, R. T. Williams, Victoria (re-elected); G. Medical Examiner, A. De Wolfe-Smith, New Westminster (re-elected); G. Trustees, J. D. Warren, George Adams (New Westminster), J. E. Church and J. T. McIlmoyle (Victoria).

The finance committee consists of J. E. Church, Wm. Scowcroft, Victoria; and J. Hilbert, Nanaimo. By-laws committee, H. Hoy, New Westminster, and D. C. Webber and R. D. Featherstonhaugh, Vancouver.

A STARTLING S

Emperor William of German the United States Mus Touch Cuba.

The Berlin Foreign Office, Says Germany is Favor to America.

New York, March 12.—The is a cable dispatch from Mad World:

"The Madrid Corresponden to-night the following telegram lin, received late this p.m.:

"I know from a sure soure night at a family dinner pa palace, at which was presen Irene, wife of Prince Henry peror's brother, who is now i of the German squadron in the William II uttered the follo startling words in consequenc versation having arisen in Cuban affairs. The Emperor, hilt of his sword on the t 'What I declare is that as lo liam II. is Emperor of Ge Yankees shall not take pos Cuba.'"

Berlin Foreign Office Speaks

Berlin, March 12.—The Be office has instructed the pre emphatically that Germany wi in the case of war with the Un It has instructed these new point out that the United St good a customer for German Spain has repeatedly shown ness to Germany.

The Elections in Sp

Madrid, March 12.—Placard ed throughout the city setting the national candidates all iards should support are Ge rero and Sigura. The pl "Long live the Fatherland," the Army." These candidates inated by the Weylerites. Th an and Carlists newspapers that they will not support the

Madrid, March 12.—The S pedo flotilla has not yet left vessels will sail for the Can as soon as the weather mode

THE YUKON RAIL

The Toronto World Publishe sational "Rumors.

Toronto, March 12.—The correspondent of the World paper as follows:

"Two very important rum here to-day from the Cana chambers, and, it may be ad World's correspondent has th the most reliable source. A who fully believes it to b that in the first place the senators have a big surprise the government when the Yu bill comes before the upper said that an offer will be tab ilton Smith to put up a depo 000, and asking for a contr a railway from Teslin lake t

"The second rumor is one est importance, and if the on, as is stated here to-nigh doubt be resented by eve man in the senate, irrespecti It is stated that an attempt to bribe the Canadian senate ing the famous contract, and of at least $300,000 is availa purpose. No one here beli tempt will succeed, but it g that the men who are inter ting the scheme through par stop at nothing to ensure suc

SOUTH AMERICAN ST

Probability of Three or Mo Being Involved.

Panama, March 11.—Advi from various points in Cent state that war clouds are s over those countries.

The correspondent at ,L Salvador, says:

The controversy between and Nicaragua is very seri reported that troops have to the field.

It is thought that Hondu Nicaragua in a war agains and it is reported that Hon ready sent 5,000 armed me gua to combine with the lat forces.

Salvador, meanwhile, is efforts to avert war, but th is resolved not to take any Nicaragua is concerned.

A well known diplomat says in case of the interven duras, Salvador will neutr tion. The only interpretati said to be that Honduras caragua and Salvador will Rica in the struggle.

It is the belief that there in which three or more Cent countries will be involved.

BIG FIRE AT TOR

The Warehouse District the Extent of Many T

Toronto, March. 12.—A red here at half past four doing about $150,000 dam tablishment of the Robert age warehouse, Dominion facturing Company and Chemical Company. The bad situation and hard to smoke poured out in dense made the work of the firem cult. One fireman was fell from a ladder. The time threatened to fall in were withdrawn. The fire covered until after 3 o'clo lada Tea Company's prem was affected, the stock b to the extent of $40,000, surance.

CHINESE MURDERER

San Quentin, Cal., Ma Tung, a Chinese murderer this morning for killing Lick Chung, at the Globe Francisco, last September. with the characteristic st race.

OCEAN STEAMERS

London, March 11.—The inquiries to-day at the American line for the which left New York Mar due to arrive at The Nee day morning last.

QUIET PREVAILS

Rio de Janeiro, March 1 prevails here, but the g called an extra session financial situation caused exchange and reports military clubs of a coming