

FINDING OF THE COMMISSIONER

RESPECTING LAUREL POINT TRANSACTION

Suspicious Features Warranted Making of Charges—Believes No Information Was Given Out.

The commission appointed under the Public Inquiries Act by the Lieutenant-Governor has handed in the report. The same commissioner to investigate the Laurel Point matter was Frederick Peters, K. C.

The decision handed in by Mr. Peters is as follows:

To His Honor James Dunsuir, Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia in council:

Having by commission under the seal of the province and signed by the commissioner of the said public inquiry, been directed to hold an inquiry to ascertain the facts in connection with the proposed sale of government property at Laurel Point, Victoria harbor, known as 170 B, Victoria city, tenders for which were invited on September 22nd, 1905, and the truth or falsity of any allegations of misconduct in connection with the proposed sale upon the part of the chief commissioner of lands and works, or any official of the said department, I now respectfully report as follows:

1. That upon receipt of the said commission, and before entering upon the execution of my duty, the said commission was referred to me by the Honorable Mr. Justice Irving, a judge of the Supreme court of British Columbia, and having since held a complete inquiry into the matters referred to me by said commission.

2. I find the facts relating to said proposed sale to be these. Mr. Pendray is the owner of certain property on Sehl's Point, which he uses for his business and which adjoins lot 570 B and for obvious reasons was desirous of obtaining lot 570 B. In order to accomplish this purpose he opened negotiations to buy the lot with the Hon. Mr. Green in September, 1905. These negotiations were carried on partly by Mr. Pendray personally and partly by Mr. Brown, his agent.

The result was that Mr. Green signified his willingness to sell the lot by public auction, either by tender or by public auction, at the same time making a stipulation that the lot would not be put up for tender unless he, Pendray, was prepared to put in a substantial check for that amount, at least \$2,000 should be tendered (I find that this stipulation was wise and in the public interest). Mr. Green at the same time suggested that it might be better to sell the property by auction than by tender, in order to put in a slightly higher tender might be put in, and Pendray thus lost the property, whereas at auction he would know just what he had to meet, and could act accordingly. In order to meet the matter was that the tender system was adopted, and on the 21st September, 1905, Mr. Percy Brown, agent for Pendray, put in a written tender for \$2,000, and put in a check for that amount. This tender was not sealed, but was open, the reason for this being that Mr. Brown wished to assure Mr. Green that Pendray was bona fide keeping his bargain as to the amount he would tender.

Under the circumstances, I cannot see that there was anything wrong in Mr. Green accepting the tender open. Tenders were then called for by notice dated the 22nd September, 1905. Under the terms of that notice, tenders were to be made by 12 o'clock noon of the 7th October, 1905.

On receipt of Mr. Pendray's tender, Mr. Green locked up in a private drawer in his office, apparently still open, not settled up, and the evidence satisfied me that it remained in that drawer until after 12 o'clock noon of the 7th October, 1905. It is also clear that no official in the lands and works department, other than Mr. Green himself saw the Pendray tender, or knew the amount stated in it, until after 12 o'clock noon of the 7th October, 1905.

Shortly before 12 o'clock noon of the 7th of October, Mr. Harrison, proprietor of the Driadri hotel, and a Mrs. Loggie, a stenographer, employed at the Driadri came to the lands and works department, and put in a tender for Mrs. Loggie for \$2,100. This tender was sealed and enclosed with it was Mrs. Loggie's cheque on the Canadian Bank of Commerce for the \$2,100 duly certified. There were no other tenders. At about 2 o'clock on the same day the tenders were opened in the presence of Mr. Green and then Deputy W. S. Gore, when, of course, it was found that the tender of Mrs. Loggie was the higher.

I am of the opinion that if nothing had intervened, the tenders would in the ordinary course have been laid before the council probably with Mr. Green's recommendation that the Loggie tender be accepted, but something did intervene. The board of trade, a day or so after the 7th October, sent a delegation to the government to point out that the lot in question should not be allowed to fall into private hands for the reason that if a tall building would intercept the view between vessels approaching each other from opposite sides of Sehl Point, and cause a menace to navigation. To this argument the government acceded, and both tenders were informed in writing that the lot would not be sold and the reason for the refusal to sell was given.

The sale by tender having fallen through, negotiations to lease the property were entered into by Pendray with the department, which are not yet complete, they having been delayed by reason of negotiations with the government of Canada for the acquisition of the lot for lighthouse purposes. The lease to be granted by the government produced. I understand, however, that it contains, or will contain, certain clauses allowing its cancellation on notice, this being necessary in order to allow the government of British Columbia a free hand in its negotiation with the government of Canada.

So far as the action of the department is concerned what I have already stated is a history of the whole transaction, and upon its face can be seen nothing but the plainest wrong about it.

On the 16th May, 1905, an editorial appeared in the Daily World, a newspaper published in the city of Vancouver, which Mr. D. W. Higgins, editor of this article was headed "Anderson and Anderson again in evidence," and will be found in the enclosed exhibits, marked exhibit 4. It contained certain charges.

The first named article was followed by a second in the same newspaper, in the issue of the 23rd May, 1905, also to be found in the exhibits, repeating and adding to the charges already made. And a third article in the same newspaper, dated 28th May, renews the same charges, with added details, and they are reiterated in a fourth article on the 6th June, 1905.

The charges made in these articles may be summarized as follows: That Mr. Green, or some person in the department, gave away the amount of the Pendray tender to Mrs. James Anderson, or some other person, before the tender was opened, with the object of securing Pendray.

2. That Mr. Green agreed to lease the lot in question to Mr. Pendray at a nominal rent, under a threat from Pendray that unless the land was given to him he would expose the whole transaction.

3. That the tender put in by Mrs. Loggie was not really hers, but that her name was only used as a blind, and that the real tenderer was Anderson.

After carefully considering all the evidence adduced, and I have been careful to obtain every witness who could give any information, I am clearly of opinion that none of the charges made in the articles referred to very clearly establishes their falsity, and with regard to the whole transaction nothing has been done by Mr. Green, or any official in the lands and works department, in the slightest degree worthy of censure.

I shall proceed to give my reasons for this finding. The first charge is a very serious one. It will be apparent that if information was given to any particular tenderer in connection with the whole system of sale by tender would be useless. Such a proceeding is not only unfair to the person whose tender is disclosed, but is calculated to cause loss to the province by tending to keep down the amount of subsequent tenders.

The ground upon which the charge in question was founded was that one Percy Brown (Pendray's agent), a real estate agent of repute, had stated that before 12 o'clock on the 7th October, Mrs. Anderson had come to his office, and showed him, she knew the exact amount of Pendray's tender, and had stated the amount to him, Brown, and told him he should bid more if Pendray wanted to get the property, and from this it was assumed that Mrs. Anderson had received the information from the department.

The evidence satisfies me that Mrs. Anderson did not know the amount of the Pendray tender, but from calculations made by other parties (to whom evidence I will refer) she was possessed of a very close estimate of what Pendray would probably tender; that when she went into Mr. Brown's office she was by no means ignorant of the amount of the Pendray tender; that she went there for the purpose of getting information upon that point, and by the rather sharp ruse of pretending to have information which she did not have, she threw Mr. Brown off his guard to such an extent that he himself actually gave her the required information, and satisfied her that the calculations she already had were correct, so that if knowledge of the Pendray tender was obtained at all it was so obtained—not from Mr. Green, but from Mr. Brown. I may say that Mr. Brown now practically admits this to me, and I see nothing surprising in the history of how the Loggie tender came to be put in as follows:

The notice calling for tenders came to the eye of Mr. Murray, a real estate agent, and he immediately came to the conclusion that he would try to get one of his clients to tender. He was moved to do this by two reasons. Firstly, he had been concerned in the sale to Pendray of his property at Sehl's Point, and he contended that in some way (not necessary to enquire into) he had not been well treated in the matter of the commission, and that Mr. Brown had received the amount of his (Murray's) work. He felt sure Pendray would tender for the lot, and he thought he might get even with Pendray's probable tender. Secondly, he saw a fair chance of making money on the deal.

Having concluded he would induce some person to tender he made a careful calculation to ascertain what Pendray would probably tender, and found that Mr. Murray was in a peculiarly good position to make this calculation. He was intimately acquainted with the property, and with Pendray's ideas of value, and I see nothing surprising in the fact that he and Pendray came to about the same valuation. The result of his calculation was that he concluded that Pendray would probably value the property at \$2,000. That in order to cover that value he (Pendray) would probably tender \$2,050, or thereabouts, and that a second tender of \$2,100 would be successful. Having made this calculation he approached Dr. Gibbs on the subject, showed him the calculation and tried to get him to tender. Dr. Gibbs was not then able to go into the matter. He next tried to get Mr. Laid to give him the same information. If we stop at this point it will be seen that before Mrs. Anderson, or her husband, had anything to do with the transaction, Mr. Murray had settled the amount of the second tender he could get, and had given the figures to Dr. Gibbs and Mr. Laid, who were both called as witnesses. It is clear that Murray got no information from the department, but that the amount of \$2,000 was arrived at by well considered calculation. I think a fair consideration of this evidence removes every shadow of suspicion that might arise from the fact of the tenders being so nearly of the same amount.

Up to Thursday before the tenders were opened, Mr. Murray had accomplished nothing, but on that day met Mr. James Anderson at his club, and laid the matter before him, giving him the same figures he had given the

others, and also a sketch of the property. Anderson seemed pleased with the proposition, and spoke of some person in Seattle who might take it. Anderson told his wife about the matter, particularly upon Friday evening. Anderson and his wife talked the matter over, and it is clear Anderson gave his wife the particulars of Murray's interview. On Saturday, at about 11 a.m., Mrs. Anderson had the conversation with Brown referred to.

Brown's office is on Broad street, near Trounce Alley. Anderson says this meeting was accidental, and also that it was an accident that he should be on Broad street just when his wife was at Brown's office. I have my doubts on this point. I am disposed to think the whole thing was arranged between Anderson and his wife beforehand. I will state my reasons for this view later, and will now continue the narration of the facts.

Anderson and Mrs. Anderson explained the position of affairs to Harrison, and gave him the figures and advised him that it was a good chance. Harrison was present to Mr. Loggie, who is a stenographer at the Driadri hotel, and laid the matter before her, with a strong recommendation that she should tender. As a result of this she conveyed the information to the department, and put in the tender. Neither Anderson nor his wife had any communication with Mrs. Loggie. In fact, she did not know the amount of the tender, and she was concerned she put the tender in relying solely upon the judgment of her friend and adviser, Harrison, and that she did so for her own benefit, and was not acting for any one else. Mrs. Loggie gave her evidence in a very satisfactory manner, and by the production of her book, which she allowed me to see, showed clearly that she was well acquainted with the transaction of this kind. The charge that Mrs. Loggie was acting as a blind for the Andersons is in reality not strongly urged. In fact, in an article in the issue of the World of the 15th of May last, it was practically withdrawn. Whilst entirely believing that Mrs. Loggie's tender was for herself only, and that the Andersons had no interest whatever in it, I am disposed to think that they did not hope to get some later date to try and obtain an interest in the deal if Mrs. Loggie succeeded—probably by re-purchase from Mrs. Loggie. I am satisfied the Andersons thought the deal a good one, and I cannot see how it would have taken the trouble they did about it if in some way they did not hope to profit by it. I consider, however, it is utterly immaterial to this inquiry whether or not the Andersons had any hope to get into the transaction later on or not, and in any case I have only the evidence of the Andersons upon the point, and the last few words of Mr. Anderson's evidence referring to her having by sign told her husband that the amount of the tender was all right, and her subsequent complete change of this statement, such change being made at the instance of her husband, convinced me that no finding depending solely upon her evidence can safely be made.

As to the second charge, namely, that Mr. Green had agreed to give Pendray a lease under a threat of exposure, it will be sufficient to say that the evidence clearly shows that no such threat was ever made, and there is no foundation whatever for the charge.

As to the third charge, namely, that Mrs. Loggie was merely a blind for the Andersons, I have already disposed of this.

I might stop at this point, as what I have already reported disposes of all the matters referred to in my commission, but in view of the fact that the World, I think it proper to express the opinion which I have formed—that the editor of the World cannot be blamed for publishing the charge against Mrs. Loggie, and that he was at the time he did. I am further induced to express this opinion, upon the ground that Mr. Taylor, counsel for Mr. Green, cross-examined Mr. Higgins very ably with a view to showing the contrary. In order to arrive at a just conclusion on this question, I must put myself in the position of the editor at the time he published the article, and forget the evidence that I have before me now, and what he did not have then. I think the story told by Mr. Brown, unexplained by further evidence, was calculated to arouse suspicion, and to remove happily, been completely removed.

Appended hereto is a complete report of the evidence and all proceedings had before me, with the several exhibits produced, also the original commission.

All of which I respectfully submit. (Sgd.) FREDERICK PETERS, Commissioner.

30th July, 1906.

CUTTING NORTHERN TRAIL

Progress of Work Now Being Carried Out by Mounted Police

Edmonton, Aug. 1.—Fred. Brick, brother of A. L. Brick, M. P., who is in the employ of Revillon Brothers in the North, arrived from Peace river last evening. He was accompanied on the trip in by Corporal Bowler and Constable Shand, of the Mounted Police, who came down from Fort St. John. B. C. These men were members of a party of 30 men who were engaged in cutting the trail from Teslin Lake to Fort St. John, a distance of 600 miles. This trail is a portion of the Yukon-Peace river road, which is now being cut through the mountains of the north. Fort St. John are now working towards Fort Graham, and when Corporal Bowler and Constable Shand left they had reached a point 200 miles from Fort St. John. The party expects to arrive at Fort Graham this month. The work of cutting the trail is difficult, as the country traversed is very rocky and hilly. The men work from 7 a. m. until 5 p. m., camping at intervals along the route.

VANCOUVER NOTES.

Vancouver, Aug. 3.—The Trades and Labor Council last evening accepted Victoria's offer to hold Labor Day celebration in Vancouver this fall. A resolution was passed against the reduction in the head tax on Chinese. Legislation against Hindus will be introduced at the next session of the legislature. Fishermen are to-day being paid 30 cents on the Fraser river for sockeyes.

THREE PROPOSALS BEING CONSIDERED

BY CITY COUNCIL FOR A WATER SUPPLY

Gravity System, Pumping Station at Elk Lake and New Reservoir Form Different Schemes.

(From Friday's Daily.)

After three more hours of discussion last evening on schemes to obtain an increased water supply, the city council is still in doubt as to what is best to do. The meeting had been called specially to consider the various reports prepared on available sources, and after two lengthy meetings the council is now divided on three proposals. Briefly these are: The laying of a 30-inch main to Elk lake for a gravity system; the improvement of the present distribution pipes, the purchase of the waterworks company, and the installation of a pump at Elk lake at a total cost of \$190,000; and the building of a large reservoir on Bald mountain beyond the Rifflet farm, with plan, layout and drawings. Discussion during the evening was not confined alone to these different projects, but wandered off at times to the disgust of individual members of the council. As one alderman put it, there was too much talk about what different members said.

Ald. Douglas set the ball rolling. He asked the Mayor if His Worship had had any communication from the Goldstream Waterworks Company. His Worship replied in the negative. Ald. Stewart pointed out that the company had not yet had time in which to communicate with the council, as it would first have to call a meeting.

His Worship then disclaimed all secrecy with respect to the preparation of the reports, and that he had nothing to do with Mr. Topp signing the report against the latter's will.

Ald. Vincent asked the water commissioner what the cost of a steel pipe would be for a 30-inch or 24-inch main. He would be \$175,000. The alderman considered that the recommendation of Mr. Adams for a duplicate pump a very good one.

A report from the water committee was then read as follows: Gentlemen—Your water committee beg leave to report and recommend as a means of speedily remedying the shortage of water and lack of pressure, sufficient to meet present requirements, until a full and complete system is evolved and laid before the people, that a by-law be submitted to the ratepayers for the purpose of borrowing the sum of \$300,000, said moneys to be expended in the following manner: 1. For the purchase and erection of a pump and boiler and the erection of building and installation of said pump and boiler therein at the lake, same to be connected with the existing system of pipes, which we believe will double the capacity of said main and materially increase and constantly maintain a good and sufficient water supply for all reasonable purposes, and \$3,000. 2. For the purchase and installing of 3,400 metres throughout the city. 40,000. 3. For ascertaining the flow of water in the reservoir on Bald mountain, the Highlands watershed. 1,000. 4. For redistribution, this being necessary no matter what plan was adopted, and \$17,000. 5. For a high level water tank situated somewhere on Rockland avenue ridge or other suitable site. 15,000. 6. For connection with the above, which cannot be estimated at present, say. 9,000.

Total. \$190,000.

Ald. Stewart moved the adoption of the report. In submitting this the committee was aware that it would overcome much difficulty. The committee did not agree with the proposal to dredge out the lake. The present main delivered 800,000 gallons a day. By putting a pump at Elk lake, the water delivery could be raised by 700,000 gallons a day. The cost of this would be \$8,000, which would provide for an entire pumping plant. Besides, the distribution system would be improved at a cost of \$17,000. In the matter of meters, the committee's opinion was but in accordance with the report of Mr. Adams. There was objection to meters, but they saved half a million gallons a day. Metres were the only way to check up the waste. A tank for Rockland avenue all agreed was necessary. The item of \$1,000 for the Highlands district was for the purpose of testing that supply. By holding over for a year, the council would then be in a position to decide as to what source was best to be drawn from.

Ald. Fell seconded Ald. Stewart's motion. The only feature not common to all schemes was the pumping station at Elk lake, but this could be used at any time.

Ald. Fell was alluding to other recommendations of the committee's report when Ald. Vincent asked about pipe. It was a mistake, he said, to put in iron pipe. Ald. Vincent asked where it was proposed to place the most powerful pump.

Ald. Fell replied at Elk lake. Ald. Fell, continuing, said that the proposal made in the report was simply to dredge out the present difficulties. With a very good scheme yet in prospective, the committee thought it unwise to ask for any very large expenditure until something definite could be placed before the citizens.

Ald. Fell said that there had been a wonderful conversion with respect to the metres. At one time there were many who opposed the use of these, but there were now not so many. He had made a little calculation on his own account, and taking the consumption

of six houses as a basis for investigation, he endeavored to show by figures that there was a great waste of water. Ald. Douglas drew attention to a pump at the supply. He noticed that no provision had been made for filtering it, and this was an important omission.

Ald. Fell said that all knew that in the summer months Elk lake was not very sandy. Something would certainly have to be done toward cleaning out the lake. As to the great fish supposed to come through the pipes he believed that these did not enter the mains as such. There was a great deal of vegetable matter in the water.

Ald. Hall agreed with the committee's report. No matter what scheme is eventually adopted, all that is now proposed he considered is needed. It would be impossible to raise the lake by next winter. If a 30-inch main is laid it would have to be extended; that a great deal of water not properly filtered would be sent to the city, as the lake is now very low. The filter bed at Beaver lake is now resting on two or three months' to clean out this lake.

Ald. Stewart said he would like to have a vote taken on the report. He would say, however, that he would not vote for any expenditure of \$50,000 for leaving him behind, and no other system than Elk lake was to be drawn on for many years.

Ald. Yates thought that all argument appeared to be based on the assumption that Elk lake did not contain sufficient water. Mr. Adams' report was that there was a supply of water in Elk lake sufficient for 25 years.

After some further discussion His Worship said his plan was to enlarge the present system by the installation of a 30-inch pipe to safeguard the Highland supply so that it can in future be resorted to and then secure rights at Sooke, where the largest supply of any could be obtained. He had thought of the city's water supply by increasing in the future, and then Sooke would be the proper source. Goldstream would not be in it; Goldstream had its limits, and more so than many thought.

Ald. Hall wanted to know if the city could retain the Highland system and not develop it immediately. His Worship said that he had the opinion of the city solicitor that the corporation could retain the right. Ald. Hall doubted this, and wondered if His Worship knew if parties were now at work endeavoring to organize a company to get rights in the Highland district.

Ald. Fell wanted to know if His Worship had the city solicitor's opinion in writing. His Worship said no, but he would have it.

Ald. Fell said he had talked with the city solicitor and he did not get the same opinion from him as did His Worship. He thought that the Mayor might have misunderstood the solicitor.

At this juncture another six took place between Ald. Hall and His Worship over the purity of the Elk lake water. Ald. Hall was willing to wager that no medical man in the city would recommend the Elk lake water.

His Worship was quick to take up Ald. Hall, he was willing to put up \$100 at once. Argument of the question continued for some time, when the discussion changed again.

Ald. Yates rose at length to say that there was too much discussion on what various members of the board had said. He was under the impression that there was a little bad feeling between the water committee and Mayor.

Ald. Stewart said His Worship—Oh, no. Ald. Yates then called attention to the statement in the press that His Worship promised water for next year. He did not think this statement coincided with the discussion on the water question brought in reports and the committee other reports, and there was an apparent under-current.

Ald. Stewart took exception to the statement that there was bad feeling between the Mayor and the water committee. There was nothing of the kind. A little discussion next took place between His Worship and Ald. Stewart, which ended in the latter declaring that the water committee would bring in no more reports on water while he was chairman. There would either be a water committee or there would be none, he warmly asserted.

From this little side discussion another issue between Ald. Hall and the Mayor arose. The former, who had occasionally been reminded by His Worship during the evening of his changeable attitude on the water question, saw an opportunity, as he thought, to bring the Mayor's attitude to the attention of the council. He reminded the Mayor of his election promises about Goldstream, and wanted to know if the Mayor would favor extending a main to Elk lake if Goldstream water could be obtained.

His Worship's reply was in effect that he anticipated some such question. He did not believe in throwing away Elk lake water, and his idea about Goldstream was that it could be used for power purposes.

Ald. Vincent thought that some consideration should be given Mr. Adams' report on Elk lake, and read from the report showing that pumping to a reservoir was recommended by the committee. His Worship—There is a weak part in his report.

Ald. Vincent—He is one of the best in America, and should know what he is talking about.

DECISION WAS IN FAVOR OF SAILOR

JUDGE LAMPMAN HAS MADE WAGES PAYABLE

He Finds No Desertion Proved in Case of Cairns vs. B. C. Salvage Company.

In the County court on Friday Judge Lampman gave a decision in the case of Cairns vs. B. C. Salvage Company. This case was argued before His Honor some days ago. J. Cairns, the plaintiff, was employed by the defendant company for the wrecking voyage of the Salvor when she was wrecked, and raised the steamship Marlechen in tow. The agreement was for a three months' voyage.

At Juneau on the way back to Victoria with the Marlechen in tow the plaintiff demanded his pay; the three months having expired. The captain of the Salvor refused to pay him, and he went to Victoria. Cairns went on shore and consulted a lawyer, and while away from the steamer the Salvor started for Victoria, leaving him behind.

The defendant company claimed that there was desertion and refused to pay the amount claimed in wages, namely, \$200.25, with deductions amounting to about \$75.50.

In order to enforce payment the case was taken before Judge Lampman. W. J. Taylor represented the plaintiff in the action, and W. J. Taylor the defendant company.

His Honor was given on Friday. His Honor decided in favor of the plaintiff, who was allowed \$152.75, the amount remaining after \$75.50 standing against him was deducted. His Honor held that according to the act the trial was validly held in Victoria on shore to seek legal advice. He further decided that there was no desertion shown within the meaning of the shipping act.

A question was raised at the trial as to whether His Honor had jurisdiction, inasmuch as the claim did not really amount to \$200, the minimum amount of an action within the jurisdiction of a County court. Judge Lampman ruled in favor of the plaintiff, and decided he had jurisdiction.

Another decision was given by Judge Lampman on Friday. This was an appeal from the Victoria police magistrate, who had convicted a local hotel man, Herscov, for selling liquor to a woman who was under the Liquor Act. The woman had given a wrong name, which was the defence offered.

The appeal taken by Herscov was allowed by Judge Lampman.

HON. J. W. LONGLEY HERE, Well Known Public Man and Literary Writer is Visiting Victoria.

(From Friday's Daily.) Hon. J. W. Longley, K. C., is in Victoria, arriving from the Mainland last evening. He is accompanied by his wife and is making his first visit to the West. Among the public men of Canada, Mr. Longley occupies a very prominent position. Since 1882, until a year ago, he was a member of the legislative of the province of Nova Scotia, serving as attorney-general nearly all the time in the Liberal government, which assuming power in 1884 is still in control of affairs in that province.

Hon. Mr. Longley has the distinction of being the only member of the inter-provincial conference of 1887 who assembled with the next inter-provincial conference in 1902.

But in addition to his political duties he has always found time to devote considerable time to literary work. His name is among the best known in the Dominion as a magazine contributor, and perhaps no other writer in Canada has written so many magazine articles as Hon. Mr. Longley.

Hon. Mr. Longley a year ago was appointed a justice of the Nova Scotia court. He is continuing his literary work, and he has written a number of volumes which will appear from time to time, and it is possible the work when completed will run into six or seven volumes.

This history will be exhaustive, and the writer will lay bare many incidents and many scenes which have hitherto been concealed. It will be a full history of the political events of Canada since Confederation.

On his way to the West Hon. Mr. Longley visited the scenes connected with the Riel rebellion, and is taking advantage of his trip to familiarize himself with the scenes of which he writes. He will leave to-morrow for his way East.

PROSPECTOR DROWNED.

Tom Moffat, a well known trader and prospector, met his death at Esquimalt on Sunday last. Moffat went into the river for a swim, but he had only been in the water a very short time when he threw up his hands and disappeared. One of the mill hands saw the apparent drowning, and once upon the rescue, jumping into the water with his clothes on. After diving, he succeeded in bringing Moffat to land. A doctor was summoned and spent three-quarters of an hour trying to resuscitate the unfortunate man, but without success. It is thought that death was from heart failure, and that Moffat was dead before going to the bottom. The deceased had just the day before received a letter in the Esquimalt mail from his old mother, aged 85 years.

General Brugere, the former commander-in-chief of the French army, is in a dangerous condition as the result of an operation for appendicitis.

FROM CAIRO AT CABBAGE

AFRICAN GOOSEBERRY SUCCESSFUL

Victoria Lady Adds Another to City's Acclimatization Products.

(From Saturday's Daily.) When the little bit of located at Oak Bay a Toronto's wonderful climate. To-day adds another item to the tale of success. South Africa has fitted to Cabbro Bay Mrs. W. H. Richards, of "Hastings" at the end of the West has successfully grown Cabbro from seed with two placed some on exhibition at the Tourist Association street. Not only this, she got enough to also show and a branch, only a few bearing some 20 specimens of fruit.

Until Mrs. Richards' covering a period of two months, it was not known that the successful culture of South Africa Cabbro in the northern isle of Zealand. She tried to England and other places. It was with some trepidation she commenced in 1904 with some seeds from Australia. They were planted successfully. The "fearful frost might kill" the plants, but when they arrived the plants appeared and to-day she had the plucking the ripened fruit. The Cape gooseberry has a distant resemblance to the brack plant. There are prick those who would pick which is of very uncertain nature, and is enclosed in a husk the fruit is firm, but brown as the husk opens, it is delicious in flavor. It is most delicious when eaten.

Mrs. Richards stated that the seeds were in addition to Victoria's "The plant requires a volcanic loam, lots of water in winter. It is very hardy and endures frost. Wherever it can be grown a ready sale, having a flavor. It is most delicious."

There are great commodities for this city in the berry. It is to be hoped positive of its commercial value has been given. The Cape gooseberry produced to the list of those of the island. Those interested to inspect the plant and exhibition. Mrs. Richards consented to furnish those with all the information within.

SWIMMING TOURNAMENT.

Coming Aquatic Sports on This Month Arousing Interest. Great interest is being shown in the swimming tournament which will be held at Victoria Arm on the 25th. The principal event will be the relay of four teams, covering a distance of four miles. The teams will be the Victoria, the Spring Island, each team distinctly colored caps so as to be identified. The Victoria has been practicing steadily for some time, and is expected to be a very strong team. Other interest in the rescue contest for the medal presented by Hon. Mr. Brice. There will also be a contest for the prize list.

There will be a large number for the different events. The Premier, the Royal Society, Mayor Morley, and other prominent citizens. Lieutenant-Governor Dunsuir donated four medals in honor of the late Premier. These progress for some weeks with Ian St. Clair's swimming. The finals will be held on Monday. This is the twenty-third time that Mrs. St. Clair has donated, and she requests that the increase the prize list by cash or goods. This method of raising the fund is being met by the public. Those who are asked to apply to the British Association.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION Session Will Be Held in Victoria on 1906.

York, England, Aug. 3.—News from the British Association for the Advancement of Science, which is to be held in Victoria on the 19th and 20th of August, has just been received. The session will be held in the Victoria Hotel. The association is one of the largest in the world, and is expected to be a very successful one. The program of the session is very full, and includes a number of interesting papers and lectures. The association is expected to be a very successful one, and is expected to be a very successful one.

SUICIDE AT SEA.

London, Aug. 3.—News here to-day of the death of a young man, who committed suicide at sea, is a sad story. The man, who was named Eastwick Compton, was a student at the University of London. He was found dead in the water, and his body was recovered by a fisherman. The cause of his suicide is not known, but it is thought that he was suffering from some mental ailment.