

TALKS WITH PARROTS.

Mr. Edward Taylor, of Craigflower Road, and His Interesting Private Collection of Birds.

Three Dozen Pretty Polls, Educated and Trained Like Children—An Englishman's Hobby.

"Bats a bad bird." "You're another." "Eddie's all right." Entering a good sized one-story building directly in the rear of Mrs. Ward's residence on Craigflower road, wherein Mr. Edward Taylor, an Englishman with a hobby keeps what is perhaps the largest private collection of parrots on the continent, a Colonist reporter was gratifyingly furnished with the above interesting information in several different parrot keys.

A perfect hub-bub arose when Mr. Taylor and the scribe entered. Red parrots, green parrots, scarlet crested, white breasted parrots, and even the chirpy little Java sparrows joined in the general salutation. "You're another." "You're another."

"Again came the thrilling denunciation, in harsh uncompromising tones, and the reporter glancing in the direction from whence it came saw a large Australian parrot, known as the Major Mitchell species, solemnly swinging in an immense wire cage.

"Ryan is not very complimentary today is he?" said Mr. Taylor as he approached the cage. He had a rough time of it coming across the ocean from his native home, and he gets bad natured occasionally. "Don't you Mr. Ryan," queried Mr. Taylor pleasantly as opening the cage door, he inserted his hand apparently for the purpose of stroking the bird's plumage.

"The powerful vice-shaped beak closed with a sharp click, dangerously close to the hand, and in the same disagreeable manner he proceeded to stroke the bird's neck. "You're another! You're another!"

"Really, this won't do," said Mr. Taylor, as he yanked the bird from his perch with a quick movement, and read his relations with a severe frown. "You wicked old fellow," advancing his hand again towards the now dejected looking bird, "what do you mean by this behavior?"

"A lecture and the slight physical force used had the desired effect, for the bird thoroughly enjoyed the attention, and brilliantly plumed head and permitted his master to stroke his plumage at will.

"Such," said Mr. Taylor, "is the power anyone may obtain over these birds by constant study, and making them, as it were, companions. Ryan is the only one in the lot that cannot me any trouble now, and he is indeed a sad dog at times. You naughty fellow you!" (shaking his head severely at the bird, who was cowering in the corner.)

Although Mr. Taylor has been in Victoria several months very few Victorians were aware that the city harbored such an interesting collection of birds as he possesses.

The feathered pets of this eccentric Englishman, who has travelled over the face of the globe to possess them, have not been offered for sale, as Mr. Taylor is so attached to his "birds" that he would rather give them away than sell them.

When he left the latter country he determined that he and his feathered companions, who he claims can no longer be properly expressed, were not to be separated. He consequently brought them to Canada with him and says he never regrets the trouble and expenditure this step cost him, as he considers "that the birds have a kind of citizenship."

When Mr. Taylor left Australia he had forty or fifty parrots, well mated and carefully selected.

The rough voyage and changed climatic conditions proved too much for some of the birds, and his collection now numbers only about thirty-five. The number, however, will shortly be added to, as new birds are now on the way across the ocean, soon to pass into the hands of his master, who is ever looking to their every want, will, if his assertions prove correct, soon have them trained, educated and under his absolute dominion.

When the scribe was introduced to Mr. Taylor he shook hands with a man apparently slightly over thirty years of age, tall, slight, but erect and wiry looking. The bird collector wore the provincial tweed suit, and a Vandike-shaped beard of golden-brown hair contrasted pleasantly with the light pallor of his face. For some years Mr. Taylor has suffered very much with his eyes, and, as he explained, his passion for the study of birds did not become absorbing until he was obliged to shut off his reading.

With the heartiness of an enthusiast he spent considerable time in explaining the habits of his pets, the various species represented, and how he became possessed of them. The temperature of the building he had erected expressly for his pets is carefully regulated by a wood heater. It is completely filled with cages, several of the largest being divided into compartments. Here may be seen gorgeously plumaged parrots, which only a few years ago were luxuriating in the dense forests of the Amazon, the tropical mazes of a South African jungle or in the sweet scented trees of a South Australian bush. Perhaps the finest specimen he had erected expressly for his bird "Ryan." Mr. Taylor says he named the parrot after a sailor who rescued it from the rigging of the ship, when it escaped from its cage on the journey out. "Ryan" is a very intelligent but irascible bird and he has learned a number of phrases and expressions which

are with great frequency uttered with a startling effect. His master says he trained and educated the bird with great difficulty, but he has been able to teach it this lesson. A fine King parrot, a native of Australia, also gave its master any amount of trouble, for it was taught the manner and speech of civilization. The latter is a splendid looking bird, with brilliant red and green plumage. With great difficulty Mr. Taylor taught it to repeat a few ordinary phrases and he has also succeeded in taming it completely, so that he can say, for this species of parrot fight and hard against human interference and instruction. A number of macaws, with green plumage and scarlet-tipped crests, chattered away gaily while their master visited them in their cages. The conversation power of these birds is limited, and while they can nearly all repeat a few simple words, Mr. Taylor has not yet succeeded in teaching them a phrase of any length.

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The married life of the Prince and Princess is pictured as nearly as the surroundings at Sandringham and Marlborough are described with minute details which will delight persons who have an appetite for this sort of small detail. The Prince's private library at the former residence is filled with the furnishings from the cabin of the Seraphic, in which he sailed to India. All the furnishings are in dark blue or green leather, and the Prince's monogram, His literary tastes, judging by his books, tend toward English history. Many shelves are devoted to documents on India, in which he is greatly interested, with a great array of volumes about the mutiny, as well as a complete collection of literature about the Crimean war and of colonial histories.

The Emperor of Austria and the Czar of Russia send each Christmas a box of cigars.

THE STICKING ROUTE.

The Klondike Mining Trading and Transport Corporation Getting Ready for a Start.

The stern-wheel steamer Louise arrived yesterday afternoon from Seattle, in charge of Capt. More, her former owner, and Capt. Gray, of Portland, her present registered owner. She will go North on Tuesday for the Klondike Mining Trading and Transport Corporation, who will use her as a ferry between Wrangell and the Sticking Island in the mouth of the river at that name, where all parties going up the river must take the ice.

THE PRINCE OF WALES.

First Complete Biography Now Interesting the British Public.

The desire of the English people to know all the details of the official and private life of their royal family has been partly answered by the publication in London of a biography of the Prince of Wales. Singularly enough no complete record of the remarkably diversified career of the heir to the throne has been given to the world before. Attempts in this direction have been discouraged by the subject himself, but the present book furnishes internal evidence that it was completed under the royal sanction, for while it breathes the spirit of the court, it is not written in the style of a eulogium, but in that of a candid and disinterested chronicler.

An estimate of the Duke of Clarence in connection with his career at Trinity college, Cambridge, illustrates his qualities which would commonly pass current as being the attributes of a prince, viewed through friendly spectacles.

"He has not, nor was it desired that he should have the specialized intellect which," says the writer, "wins universal admiration and scholarships, but he displayed in a marked degree that peculiar royal quality of recognizing intellect in others."

The authorship of the new book is sealed in the public, but the Associated Press reveals that it is the work of a journalist well known in London, Mary Jellicoe (Mrs. Lowndes, formerly of Mr. Stead's paper). It will be issued in the Devotion next month by Appleton. In pictorial embellishments, containing no less than eighteen portraits of the Prince of Wales alone, and many other likenesses of him in company with other members of the royal family, it is in every respect a rich and interesting volume. The Prince is illustrated from infancy to the present day. There is the Prince in shooting clothes, as sportsman, yachtman in a rakish cap, as an admiral, in fancy costume for the Devonshire, in his knickerbockers with the garter on his leg, on horseback in his capacity as colonel on the Tenth Hussars and other uniforms and ordinary clothes.

A flow of the historical chapters deal with matters already published. In describing the tour of the Prince through America in his youth it reveals the interesting fact that before he was launched on his journey his father, the Prince Consort, supplied him with memoranda to be used in replying to the addresses which would be made to him during his progress. It says: "The best proof of the Prince's intelligence is in the fact that everyone of these notes afterwards turned out to be simply invaluable, owing to the peculiar aptness with which they had been framed to suit the circumstances of each locality where an address was likely to be received."

An incident is related of a hunting trip which the hunting party made to Dwight, Ill. When the prince and his retinue approached the farm house, the host was a Briton, invited everyone to enter except the Duke of Newcastle. "Notice, Newcastle," he shouted, "I have been a tenant of yours and you shall never set a foot on my land." The southern slave-holders attempted to lure the prince into the South to exhibit to him the better side

of slavery, but the biographer avers, he was not impressed by the slave cities and refused to leave his carriage to visit the negro quarters at Haxhall's plantation. A great part of the work describes in detail the onerous public formalities which have constituted the life of the heir apparent, the coronation layings, monument unveilings, the dedications of canals to India and Egypt, to Ireland and other parts of the kingdom. The royal passage through India in 1875, it appears, cost the government about \$1,000,000, but by way of compensation presents were received by the Prince from Indian potentates which aggregated in value \$1,250,000. For one trip on the Nile the boat which carried the prince's suite was stocked with "among other things," 3,000 bottles of champagne, 2,000 bottles of wine, 4,000 bottles of claret and ample supplies of other drinkables. It is pointed out as an evidence of the great personal popularity of the prince that all the politicians who advised the people to Ireland in his presence in Ireland in 1885, insisted upon abstinence from any display of personal enthusiasm.

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NEWS OF THE CAPITAL.

Contractor Suing the Government—Mr. Scriber's Prospects—Hon. David Milne's Problem.

(From Our Own Correspondent.) OTTAWA, Jan. 28.—The name of Julius Scriber, M.P., is now mentioned as lieutenant governor of the Northwest Territories.

THE CITY.

The Full court yesterday dismissed without costs the appeal in the case of Regina v. Little. J. D. Little, of Union, was last spring fined \$100 by James Archibald Stewart, J.P., for employing Chinese underground in a coal mine contrary to the Coal Mines Regulations Act. The matter was brought into the Supreme court on certiorari to quash the order of the J.P., and the ground that prohibiting the employment of Chinese underground, the act provided no penalty for its enforcement. From this the Crown appealed, and the appeal is now dismissed with costs. Mr. Gordon Hunter for the Crown (appellant), Mr. Robert Cassidy for defendant (respondent).

A RAIN OF LETTERS.

Advertisements in the "Colonist" Attract Klondike Trade—Samples From the Correspondence.

If the flood of letters now pouring in upon local outfitters from prospective gold hunters from both America and Europe continues, they will one day have to increase their staffs of correspondents. Most of the letters contain requests for information regarding the receipt of letters in most instances, and subsequent letters from enquirers prove that this promptness on the part of outfitters here has had good results. Mr. W. G. Cameron, the Johnson street chieftain and outfitter, has alone received letter representing 500 people who will probably come here to outfit between February 1 and March 16. Some of the letters are interesting and characteristic of the thirst for information bearing on the gold fields by prospective miners. Nils Frisk, of Hudikvalf, Norway, writes:

"I have seen your advertisement in the Semi-Weekly Colonist and hereby with take the liberty to ask you to send me books, circulars, maps and price lists relating to the Klondike. I hope to be in Victoria with a party for the North about the middle of March."

A Yukon Transportation Company, of Boston, Mass., has also written Mr. Cameron, asking him what he can outfit a party of 100 men for whom they are getting striking for the Northwest and Alaska.

From Greater New York comes the following characteristic letter: "In the Colonist of December 27, of Victoria, I have lately received from a friend in Manitoba, I see your add. and invitation to write for your book Klondike. And as this is the kind of literature that a million of men or more in Greater New York are most interested in, I accept the invitation, and all the books, maps, etc., giving information on the subject will be thankfully received. "301, 11th street."

The above are but a few samples of the hundreds of letters received by local outfitters during the past three weeks.

SITUATION IN KLONDIKE.

There Will Be Food for All—Between Three and Four Thousand Claims Recorded.

Joaquin Miller, writing from Dawson City on the 10th of December, says: "All things here average \$1 per pound, but there is no panic now, nor the ghost of a fear about food. Still, the prices will remain high until the boats come, and this is, of course, tempting to small freighters and traders."

Some enormous strikes are reported down on Hunker creek, where hardly expected. But all reports of big strikes now are a sealed book, pending the final action at Ottawa on the 20 per cent. tribute laid recently on big output of gold.

Claims are being recorded night and day. The Gold Commissioner told me yesterday that over 3,200 had been recorded. More are recording now than ever before. Some of them are 'wildcat.' Let the stranger beware. I am told by the responsible miners here, and I believe it, that such new-fangled prospectors, who are not worth anything and only recorded to sell, will be well to be cautious of ground recorded since September, as about the end of that month snow had fallen and legitimate prospecting from the creeks remote from the mouth of this promising river. At the same time all know that there is too much recording for the number of men in and around Dawson.

The real miners are nearly all at work in the Bonanza, Eldorado and Hunker creek claims, making hay while the sun shines, or rather, while it doesn't shine, and they can mine below the mud and frozen mud. The output will be enormous, whether we hear of it or not."

JUBILEE HOSPITAL DIRECTORS.

Decline to Give Any Insurance to United States Companies.

President Alex. Wilson, H. Dallas Helmcken, Thos. Shotbolt, J. S. Fayer, G. W. G. Cameron, and James Archibald Stewart, of the Jubilee Hospital directors, had little to engage their attention at the regular fortnightly meeting last evening.

A letter from a city firm asking for a share of the fire insurance called forth a little patriotic expression, first from Mr. Joshua Davies and other members of the board. The insurance company mentioned happens to be American, and Mr. Davies considered it now time, in view of the American action in the Klondike business, for Canadians to deal with British companies. The board acquiesced, and it was decided to notify the firm accordingly.

Dr. Hassell, the resident medical officer, wrote asking that several minor improvements be made about the hospital, including the renewing of some surgical instruments, the substituting of the present electrical lamps for one of lower candle power where a strong light is not required, and the renewal of some ash-boxes. In connection with the new instruments, a request was also made for a microscope. The board, however, did not see their way clear at present to secure the kind of instrument they would want, but in the other matter referred to, everything was left in the hands of the city engineer, who is in the case of the instruments to expend not more than \$100. A motion was passed confirming the action of the president in securing a box in which all the company have also ordered the Barbara Boscovitch to take up to Wrangell their advance Sticking expedition, consisting of about forty horses, with a full equipment of sleds, together with supplies for all kinds. J. McLennan will have charge of the expedition and will take between thirty and forty men with him.

The company has secured wharf privileges on Wrangell Island and on Sticking Island, and the Lochs will be registered owner. She will go North on Tuesday for the Klondike Mining Trading and Transport Corporation, who will use her as a ferry between Wrangell and the Sticking Island in the mouth of the river at that name, where all parties going up the river must take the ice.

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Ald. McGregor has given notice of a motion to the effect that sealed tenders for the purchase of the Yates street fire hall and lot be received until February 28. The tenders will be opened at some time ago. It was felt then that the Pandora and Yates street fire halls were too close together, and it would be better to sell the Yates street property to the city, and erect a fire hall on another fire hall more towards the outskirts. However, the price offered for the property was too low, and it was withdrawn from the market for the time being. The city council will order the council decide to sell the property, and a satisfactory price is realized, that a new fire hall will be erected somewhere near the foot of Fort or Yates streets, so as to furnish much needed protection to a large district which at present is very far from a fire hall.

FRANCIS A. WILSON seems to have an opinion on the matter. To his clerk judging from his actions. It is only a couple of months ago since he made an attempt to assault Rev. Mr. Ellison and had to be locked up for a couple of months as a salutary lesson. No application has been made for his release, and he is likely to be in the clink until he can pay the fine. He is likely to be in the clink until he can pay the fine. He is likely to be in the clink until he can pay the fine.

NOTICE is hereby given that application will be made to the Parliament of Canada for the government of Canada, provincial or other municipal bodies, corporations or persons, to obtain, and to carry out, or to construct and operate telegraph and telephone lines, also to construct retaining dams or other structures on said water to obtain power for the generation of electricity to be used in connection with said railway and for other purposes, also to acquire lands, bonus or other aids, and to obtain from any such authority any rights, privileges and concessions which the Company may think desirable to obtain, and to carry out, or to construct and operate telegraph and telephone lines, also to construct retaining dams or other structures on said water to obtain power for the generation of electricity to be used in connection with said railway and for other purposes, also to acquire lands, bonus or other aids, and to obtain from any such authority any rights, privileges and concessions 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