The Victoria Weekly Colonist.

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IN THE COUNTRY OF BARRIOS.

A Racy Description of Life in Guatemala—Its Cities, its Customs and its People.

(BY M. LOPATECKI.)

(Written especially for THE COLONIST.)

"*Quiere Usted fumar?*" is asking me a young Guatemalian lady, offering to me a small cigarette.

"*Si senora, con mucho gusto,*" I answer, accepting from the tiny brown fingers a narrow roll of tobacco enveloped in thin dark paper.

It is a custom in Central America that in the train or in the "diligencia" a fellow traveler and especially a lady offers to you something to smoke, and you do not dare to refuse. In such a way an occasional acquaintance is made, but only for the time of travel. Arriving at your destination you are again perfect strangers to each other, until you are properly introduced. Of course I accepted gladly the kind invitation and in a gay company of a few young ladies and gentlemen I left behind me San José de Guatemala, the principal harbor of the first and the most important of the Central American republics.

San José is a very bad harbor, or rather no harbor at all; for nature, in that respect left Guatemala far behind other republics of Central America. The vessels have to land and unload their cargoes in open sea and it is very troublesome for the passengers to climb the high and incommodious pier.

I must mention here that we are on the Pacific coast of the republic, for on the Atlantic side Guatemala possesses a few commodious and deep harbors as for instance Port Barrios and Izabel.

A few houses visible on the sandy beach of San José de Guatemala, also a railroad *depôt* and a long pier. But behind the beach stretches a small village of bamboo, or rather coyoles huts. The magnificent vegetation is apparent everywhere and I behold with astonishment the mighty ceiba, the monarch of all trees, the tall cocoanut tree laden with fruit, the shadowy mango, the graceful curica papaya, the curious mata-palo or kill-tree, the giant henisaro, the precious mahogany and many other plants, as for instance tilandsia with gorgeous flowers. A broad green plain stretches itself far in the interior, covered almost to the edge of the ocean with tropical vegetation, and further on the horizon we see the giant chain of the Andes with two conical peaks of volcanoes, Del Agua and Del Fuego, nearly fourteen thousand feet high.

Under the glowing sun, reposing on the rocks or on the branches of trees are visible large iguanas, saurian reptiles, with long tails and lizard-like form. The whole length of their backs is adorned with a row of pointed scales and their meat is esteemed a most delicious article of food by the natives. On the roofs of the houses and also walking on the streets we remark the black and dirty turkey buzzards (*cotharates aura*) which in all Spanish American countries performs the duty of scavengers. It is prohibited to kill them and they are almost domesticated.

Crowds of brown children having fer all dress sombreros on head and "puro" in mouth linger around our train and regard us with curiosity, and here and there old women try to sell their magnificent oranges and ripe golden bananas. The Guatemalian soldier dressed in light blue uniform traverses the platform and a stout, short Indian of the plains tries to bargain for a cheap ticket for the interior.

But now we hear the shrill whistle of the locomotive and in a few minutes the train carries us over *tierra caliente* towards the visible peaks of the Andes. The atmosphere is as hot as a burning furnace and the air heavy with odor of the flowers. On every step we see plantations or fincas of coffee, tobacco and sugar-cane and when we reach Esquintla, a considerable town, we are in the centre of the coffee and tobacco trade.

At Esquintla, or Escuintla, the hot region or so-called *tierra caliente* ends and we proceed now upwards. The country becomes a labyrinth of rocks, ravines, precipices and mountainous streams as if the Titans of old Hellas were at work here. With astonishment we regard the magnificent scenery, radiant with the beauty of the tropics, astounding in its unequaled grandeur, bewildering in its stupendous dimensions, terrible as Dante's Inferno. Great, mighty peaks appear right and left, before and behind us, their slopes covered with a silvery lace of mist, so that it seems as if they were half in the skies and half on the earth. Here and there they glisten in the warm rays of the sun, then again our gaze descends in the dark gloomy canyons, horrible to behold, yet fascinating in their lugubrious aspect. And above all, high in the skies, tower two immense volcanos, clad in a rich robe of emerald, looking like two giants, and put there by the eternal hand of Nature. Verily the country is such as to dream of, to paint it, or to sing its praise in the melodious language of Cervantes and Calderon de la Barca.

Like a swallow's nest the city of Amatitlan hangs in those mountains on the shores of a large fresh water lake. The city has about fifteen thousand inhabitants, mostly Indians and Mestizoes. It has some fine buildings and an old cathedral, though as a rule the streets are narrow and the houses low on account of very frequent earthquakes. From this place the railroad goes for some time upwards and then we leave the mountains behind us and we enter a magnificent and fertile plain, on which we behold the fair queen of all cities of Central America—the city of Gustemala.

The city deserves its name. The streets are broad and clean, the tramways run in all directions, the public buildings and some private houses are magnificent. The city is proud of its theatre, its cathedral, university, medical school and its *palacio nacional*. The market, an immense rectangular structure, could even make a fair show in London or New York. The police service is excellent and considered to be the best in the world, the streets are full of smart looking soldiers, and the fort "Castillo San José" constructed on a modern plan, watches over the security of the city.

The houses of Gautemala, as mostly everywhere in Spanish America, are low and contain in the middle an open space, or so-called *patio*. The *patio* is usually ornamented with flowers, fountains and statues. The windows of the houses are almost in all cases without glass but are protected by strong iron bars. Behind these bars we can see the fair and dark eyed *senoritas*, for they spend mostly all of their time in these windows. Here also goes the courtship on, and we can see very often a gay *caballero* as he leans towards the window, plays the guitar and sings:

"Son tus mejillas flor de granato
Tus ojos hermosos cielo estrellado," etc.

Only a few years ago the city of Guatemala was the capital of the late president, or rather dictator, general Justo Rufino Barrios. This remarkable man possessed all the virtues and all the vices of the Spanish-Indian race. He was brave like Bayard, munificent like Soliman the Great, cruel like Louis XI or Philip II, cunning like Napoleon III. Friend of the people, he crushed the haughty aristocracy and insolent clergy of the republic. Under his rule was completed the first railway from San José de Guatemala to the capital and other line proposed to the Amatique gulf on the Atlantic. Victorious on the field of battle, he covered with glory the Guatemalian arms, and through a judicious system of law he gained even the admiration of his enemies. In the beginning of 1885 he tried, through sword, to accomplish the union of all Central American states, and found his death like a hero on the bloody field of Chalchuapa. With his death the federation of Central America is postponed to an indefinite period.

Guatemala has more Indian population than any other republic in Central America. In fact there are 700,000 Indians, that is one-half of the total population. Towards Yucatan, on the Usumacinta, dwell Lacandones, a wild tribe of Indians, and in their territory are found the ruins of immense cities of the Toltecs, that remarkable and mysterious people whose origin is unknown and who, for a long time yet, will remain a puzzle to the archeologists and explorers.

Besides the capital there are many other cities of importance in the republic, as for instance, Antigua or Old Guatemala, Quezaltenango, in the coffee district of the north, Amatitlan, Atlan and Coban, rich and lively Indian town. Guatemala exports many products and especially coffee, sugar, tobacco, cochineal, indigo, sarsaparilla, precious wood, and hides. There are over 100 varieties of timber trees in the republic, and also cocoa, aloes, rhubarb, vanilla, castor oil tree, ipecacuanha and colocynth. Quetzal, a magnificent bird of splendid plumage with metallic lustre, is a symbolic emblem of Guatemala, and is called the Liberty Bird. The postage stamps are adorned with this bird.

The first conquerer of Guatemala was Pedro Alvarado, "The Child of the Sun," the bravest besides Sandoval, but also the most cruel of Cortes' followers. After 300 years of Spanish dominion the country became independent, and from 1827 to 1851 was controlled by Salvador and Honduras. Rafael Carrera, an Indian without any education and a cowboy, but a man of vigor and resources, with the support of the clerical party, defeated the allies and declared himself president and dictator. He was succeeded by tyrant Cerna, under whose rule the revolution broke out and the insurgents led by the brothers Menendez and Justo Rufino Barrios were everywhere victorious. Cerna fled, and in 1872 Barrios became an absolute ruler over the fairest and most prominent republic of Central America. Since the battle of Chalchuapa where Barrios was killed, the republic is again in a chaotic condition, though the new president, Barillos, tries his best to bring it again in the path of prosperity.

PARLIAMENTARY JOTTINGS.

Sir Charles Tupper said in the house on Wednesday that he had received from Washington a despach stating that the protocols of the conference on the fisheries would be laid before the American senate on Thursday.

In the senate on Wednesday Senator Kaulbach said he did not consider it polite at this time to discuss the fisheries treaty, and he would not support any treaty calculated to injure the Canadian fishery industry.

Senator Dickey said that Senator Scott by his speech had done more than any other man to assist the treaty through the American senate.

Hon. J. J. C. Abbott, leader of the senate, expressed regret that the opposition had not waited till the papers were before them. The treaty would be found to be an honorable one for both nations. Referring to the proposal of the adoption of commercial union as a remedy for farmers' grievances, Mr. Abbott said the Canadian government did not purpose to hand over to sixty millions of people an inheritance of inestimable value that belonged to five millions. The trouble over the Behring's sea seizures had arisen from the grasping of a great trading company which would be reprobated by its own government as much as by that of Canada. Abbott admitted that there was a railway difficulty in the Canadian Northwest, but it had been greatly exaggerated.

The reported conversion of Sir John is exciting as much lobby comment as the fisheries treaty. Opinion is divided as to the genuineness of the conversion. An intimate friend of Sir John says that the Premier had really experienced a change of heart, and was firmly resolved to live a new life.

There will be two lady members of the press gallery. One is Miss Brodlique, who will represent the London *Advertiser*; the other Miss Sara J. Duncan, of the Montreal *Star*.

On Saturday last Hon. R. W. Scott completed his 63rd year. He was born in Prescott, is leader of the opposition in the senate, has been in two cabinets, was speaker of the Ontario Assembly and mayor of Ottawa, is the author of the Ontario Separate School Act and the Scott Act, and has seen 31 years of Parliament.

THEODORE TILTON'S FAMILY.

New York Letter: A young man with a head of light wavy hair and clear-cut profile passed rapidly into the Erie Railway office Friday evening. It was Carroll Tilton, son of the famous editor and poet of years agone, and one of the principal figures in the great Beecher scandal. He is an expert stenographer and typewriter, and is employed as secretary of the Erie company. He is a very steady and intelligent young man, and spends all his time attending to his own business. The question is often asked, "What has become of Mrs. Tilton?" Without in any way seeking to tear open the great wound afresh, I may say that she is living quietly with her mother and two sons on Pacific street, Brooklyn. She has never been in want, as so many persons have been led to believe. Mrs. Maree, her mother, is wealthy, and her beautiful home has been her daughter's abiding place since the great trial. Ralph Tilton, her second son, is a go-ahead young fellow, and is employed in a commercial house. Her two daughters are married, and have five children of their own. And Theodore? Where is he? In Paris. A frequenter of the cafes and boulevards, a permature-ly old man, without money, or friends, an exile from his own land, a veritable wandering minstrel, for his own gifted pen is still employed in versewriting, although little of it finds its way into print.

Another Item.

Mrs. J. Thompson, of Elma, Ont., writes that she has suffered from general weakness and was so reduced that at times she became almost unconscious. Three bottles of Burdock Blood Bitters completely cured her, and she now recommends B. B. B. to her friends and neighbors. tu-th-sat-dw

Walker Bros. & Co., Hamilton, have assigned. It is said the assignment will be but temporary.

CABLE NEWS.

All Festivities Postponed on Account of the Alarming Condition of the Crown Prince.

Another War Grant Wanted—Turkey Ready to Interfere With Military Force.

Balfour Ill—The Trafalgar Square Trouble—Chamberlain on the Fisheries Commission.

Journalists Excluded.

LONDON, March 2.—A decision reached by the physicians at San Remo that they will no longer acquaint journalists with the particulars of the progress of the Crown Prince's illness was arrived at in a meeting of all the doctors, and was the result of a unanimous conclusion. This policy of silence, however, was really adopted in compliance with a request from high quarters, and this is attributed to exaggerated reports which was given by one of the Berlin newspapers upon what the editor pretended was medical authority. To shut off all possibility of such authorities of substantiation for newspaper reports, it is made known there will hereafter be no such basis for news. Observant visitors at San Remo know a good deal more about the condition of the Prince than any one would ever learn from official bulletins. They do not apparently regard an immediate crisis as probable, but they feel sure that it will come in the not distant future, and they are accordingly depressed. Dr. Waldyear, who has gone to San Remo at the Emperor's request, is selected for this critical time on account of Professor Virchow's absence in Egypt. The Emperor has the greatest confidence in his ability to conduct a microscopic examination scientifically. He was a pupil of Virchow, and is considered to be one of the first of the living pathological anatomists. He has published several important works on the origin of cancer, on which point he differs considerably from Virchow. His studies and practices have fitted him peculiarly well for the task he now undertakes.

Chamberlain's Letters.

The foreign office has made public the dispatches received regarding the new fishery treaty between the United States and Canada. Joseph Chamberlain in a letter written to Joseph Salisbury from Washington, under date of February 16th, says: "The satisfactory result obtained is largely due to the spirit of conciliation manifested by both sides of the commission and the strong sense with which all conferees were inspired with the importance of removing every cause of irritation and of promoting good, neighborly feeling and friendly intercourse between the United States and Canada and Newfoundland." Chamberlain says: The relations of the British plenipotentiaries in America were of the most cordial and harmonious character throughout. In the letter Chamberlain eulogizes Minister West and Sir Charles Tupper, his confreres, and calls special attention to the valuable services of Messrs. Bergne and Maycock, clerks respectively of the foreign office and commercial department, who accompanied him. Chamberlain expresses a hope that the arrangement contained in the treaty will extend existing cordial relations between the United States and England. In conclusion the writer eulogizes all the members of the commission and says: It was his own desire that his staff should be on a much smaller scale than is usual in such a mission, thus throwing on its members a greater amount of labor and responsibility. The American government repudiated any claim to share in the inshore fisheries of Canada. The point of dispute was therefore limited to the question of commercial facilities. In the discussion it became evident that a substantial agreement existed regarding the main facts."

Parliamentary Notes.

In the house of commons this evening Bradlaugh proposed as an amendment to Sir Charles Russell's motion to appoint a committee to inquire as to the government's right to suppress meetings in Trafalgar Square, that the inquiry be especially directed to the circumstances of the meeting held in Trafalgar Square on the 13th November, at which Messrs. Graham and Burns were arrested, and to the conduct of the police in connection therewith.

Sir Richard Webster, attorney-general, maintained that nobody had a right to make speeches on the public highways, and no inquiry was needed to confirm the power of the executive to stop meetings in Trafalgar Square.

Bradlaugh's amendment was rejected by a vote of 322 to 207 and the original motion of Sir Chas. Russell was voted down by 316 against 224.

Will Help to Sooth Him.

Commoner John Hooper who, as editor of the Cork *Herald*, served a sentence of imprisonment of two months for printing proclaimed publications, and who was released week before last, has received, as a solace for his confinement, a purse of £125 from his constituents.

Trafalgar Square.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* urges that a meeting be held at once in Trafalgar Square, and declares that the people are confronted with a distinct crown usurpation which can be dealt with only by resolution and assertion of popular rights.

Balfour Indisposed.

Chief Irish Secretary Balfour is seriously indisposed at present with a cold.

In a Critical Condition.

Official news has been received which states that Prince Frederick William's case has assumed an alarming aspect. In consequence the Queen has declared the postponement of all proposed levees and festivities.

Prize Fighting in England.

Charles Mitchell, the pugilist, was summoned before a local magistrate at Chertzey, to-day, to answer the charge of arranging for a prize fight with John L. Sullivan. Mitchell, accompanied by Charles Powell and Jake Kilrain appeared and disavowed any intention to break the peace in England. He was bound over in £200, two sureties, qualified in £100 each.

Another War Grant.

VIENNA, March 2.—It is expected an extra war grant will be demanded by the government at the next meeting of the delegations, which will exceed 100,000 florins.

Ready to Interfere.

MOSCOW, March 2.—The *Gazette*, a government organ, says: Turkey will declare Prince Ferdinand a usurper in Bulgaria and will interfere with military force to establish a status therein, in accordance with the Berlin treaty, either on receiving notice made by all the powers or *carte blanche* from Europe.

Going Back to Germany.

SAN REMO, March 2.—Arrangements are being privately made to transport the Crown Prince to Berlin, whither he will be taken shortly. On account of the animosity felt towards Dr. Mackenzie at Berlin, the English physician will not accompany the Prince to Germany, but will proceed directly to London. Prince William, who arrived to-day, is superintending arrangements for his father's removal.

Deserted to the Enemy.

MASSOWAH, March 2.—Chief Debeb and his followers, who have been staunch allies of Italy, have deserted to the enemy and joined the forces of King John, with the arms and equipments which had been furnished them by the Italians.

A SCOTS TROUBLES.

Ill-Luck Follows a Gray-Haired Scotchman From One Continent to Another.

Andrew J. McDonald, a feeble and white-haired Scotchman, told the story of the later years of his life before Judge Reardon yesterday morning. He is the defendant in the case of Gallagher & Wilson against McDonald, and it was in the course of his testimony that he told of "a the troubles that ha' turned these hairs as white."

For many years, indeed all his life, he said he had been a pharmaceutical botanist in Glasgow, Scotland, and things went as fairly with him that as old age came on he felt easy for he had £12,000 "nigh sixty thousand of your coin," laid aside in the Glasgow bank. This bank failed and in that failure was swept away all the poor Scotchman's means. So, unwilling to begin life again in that country, he resolved to take a fresh start in the New World. He left his wife and children, bade good-by to his friends of over half a century, and then he took steamer and in time came to Victoria, B. C.

He had invested the few dollars left him after the wreck in Scotch cloths, and these he brought with him. But finding no sale for them in British dominions, he came to San Francisco.

"Here," as he said, omitting his rich Scotch accent, "I was in a new land, thousands of miles from my wife and babies, without a friend and without hardly a dollar; nevertheless the hotel men fought for my miserable satchel as if it had been filled with jewels till finally the runner for the Golden Eagle prevailed, and here again my ill luck 'was to follow me.' His goods he was forced to leave in British Columbia, because he had no money to pay either the freight or the duty. This difficulty, however, the proprietors of the hotel offered to overcome; they said they would advance the money and hold the goods as security for their loan. The goods were accordingly sent for, and meanwhile, in return for their kindness, McDonald took the hotel's cards and bills and went among the wharves along the water front drumming for custom for the hotel. The old man almost broke down in telling of his humiliation when at this work; the rebuffs he received and the ignoming he felt at one of his age and a short time since so proud and well-to-do, mixing with the water-front "bums" and the filthy passengers from the steerage. The goods came at last, and then he tried to sell them. The money received on sales he turned over to the hotel-keepers for the money they had advanced. At half the time came when he had paid them all, but some of his goods could not be found. He complained that some one was stealing the goods, and took the few that were left to his own room for greater safety. On doing this, so he testified, the proprietors of the hotel turned him out of his room and "walked him out of the house" without letting him have enough clothing for decent appearance on the streets, and since that time he has neither been able to get his clothing, his goods or some money that was in his trunk.

The proprietors of the hotel claim that McDonald was still in their debt $150 and for this they held the goods. The evidence of the debt produced in court was a slip of paper about one inch by two on which were various figures, without dates or any reference to the transaction other than the amount itself. One peculiarity of the case is that the plaintiffs admit paying more money than the defendant claims to have received, and yet there is considerable due. This difference the Scotchman claims to be owing to their defective bookkeeping system.—*S. F. Chronicle.*

THE PARKES SMELTING PROCESS.

A method of treating the concentrated pyritic products obtained in the working of gold and silver bearing quartz has lately been perfected by Mr. Alexander Parkes, the well known inventor of the process of desilvering lead by means of zink, which has now almost entirely replaced the Pattinson process both in Europe and America. These concentrates, which even in their most enriched forms are very siliceous, contain iron pyrites and other sulphides and arsenides so intimately associated with the gold and the silver that they can as a rule only be very imperfectly reduced by amalgamation, even after undergoing a preliminary calcination. Mr. Parkes proposes to treat them by a concentrating fusion resembling the Swansea coarse metal process, for which purpose they are fluxed in a reverberatory furnace, without previous calcination, with a mixture of ferric oxide, lime, sulphate of soda, flour spar, and cashen, the ores and fluxes being finely reduced and intimately mixed. The charge is completely melted in about three hours and a half, giving as products slag and regulus. The latter, which is exceedingly fluid, is essentially ferrous sulphide, and contains practically the whole of the valuable contents of the ore, while the slag, from the diversity of the fluxes employed, being comparatively low density, and fusing easily, is sufficiently free from interspersed regulus to be regarded as clean, and may be thrown away. The regulus contains a small quantity of sulphide of sodium, and falls to powder when damped with water, in which state it is subjected to a partial calcination until about half the sulphur is expelled, when it is run down with lead in order to collect the gold and silver for cupellation. The latter stages of the process may, however, be varied according to circumstances; the essence of the method being the retention of the whole of the original sulphur in the material, and utilizing it as a vehicle for the collection of the metallic contents, instead of getting rid of it by a preliminary calcination. The London *Engineer* says: The process has been carried on experimentally for some time at East Greenwich, where a large number of samples of refractory concentrates from many of the principal gold and silver producing localities in America and Australia have been treated with considerable success, the assays of the slags made by Messrs. Johnson, Matthey & Co. showing that very complete separation has been effected in most cases. The first practical trials of the method are to be made in New Zealand under the personal supervision of the veteran inventor, now in his 74th year, who sails for that colony shortly.

FOUR CASES OF OPIUM.

A Slight Fuss on the Sound About the Packages Discharged from the Premier—Suspicious Circumstances.

Says the Seattle *Post-Intelligencer*: W. D. Hughes, travelling passenger agent of the C.P.R., and E. W. McGinnis, passenger and freight agent, a few days ago went to Deputy Collector of Customs Winslow of this city and said that twelve packages of freight from China had been wrongly shipped from Vancouver and were now in Seattle. They wanted the packages returned to Vancouver as they were consigned to a firm in San Francisco. There were six packages of rice, two five-gallon jars of China sauce, and four cases of what is now said to have been opium. Messrs. Hughes and McGinnis were authorized to take the twelve packages away to Vancouver. About November 1st last the steamer Premier dumped on the dock at her landing in Seattle twelve packages. None of the packages born a Seattle mark. The customs inspector on the Premier was Frank Boyd. Just how it came that those packages should have been discharged in this city, no one has been able to tell. Deputy Collector Winslow, Inspector Rogers and Inspector Boyd know, it appears, that those twelve packages were in the warehouse and that they were wrongly shipped, and also that they bore the marks above indicated. Of course as they were wrongly shipped there was no manifest for the twelve packages. Deputy Collector Winslow says that he saw by the marks that the packages had been wrongly shipped, and he thought the best thing to do was to hold them until some inquiry was made for the lost packages. The packages lay loosely about the warehouse and no one paid serious attention to them for about six weeks after they were discharged from the Premier.

About the middle of December some one, it is not known who it was, thought that these packages should be forwarded to Tacoma, as some consignment to them may have been short that number. So the twelve packages were piled into the Premier again and taken to Tacoma. The packages lay in the Northern Pacific warehouse until representatives of that company sent a protest to the Premier people to take the packages away. About the middle of January Inspector Boyd had them brought back to Seattle. Just why this was done no one appears to know, as it had already been determined that the packages were not intended for Seattle. On the contrary, the marks on them plainly showed that they were intended for San Francisco. By the time they were returned a locker had been constructed in the warehouse where the Premier discharges her freight and the twelve packages were locked up. Then when Messrs. Hughes and McGinnis appeared and claimed the goods on the part of the Canadian Pacific company the packages were examined. One was sampled and found to be prepared opium. The others were superficially examined and pronounced as containing cans of nut oil.

Enquiries were made and the question was, how did these packages get aboard the Premier without Inspector Boyd examining them? This query was answered by the statement that an ocean steamer was loading at this same time as the Premier and that the freight got mixed. How did it come that those twelve packages were discharged at Seattle, when they bore no Seattle marks? Why were they shipped to Tacoma when no request was made for the packages? Why were not the packages immediately shipped back to Port Townsend, at least? After they had been refused at Tacoma, why were the packages again discharged at Seattle, when it was known that they were not intended for that point? After being discharged a second time at Seattle, why did they lie there until accredited agents hunted them up and took them away?"

THE OPIUM RING.

A San Francisco Paper Sends a Private Commissioner to this City and the Sound—He Learns a Great Deal About Opium Smuggling.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 3.—The *Examiner* which a few weeks ago so fearlessly exposed the operations of the opium ring and the prominent men in connection with it, appears this morning with nearly six columns giving the details of the investigation by its special commissioner of the doings of the ring at Portland, Tacoma, Seattle, Port Townsend and Victoria. The investigation shows that the main body of the ring has its headquarters at Victoria and that pliable agents hold positions in the government service at Seattle and Port Townsend. Collector Abraham at Portland is credited with stating to the commissioner that he was satisfied that Tacoma and Seattle are used by smugglers for getting their goods into the country duty free, as they offer unrivalled facilities for entrance of schooners and small craft. At Seattle it was stated that there is a banker at Port Townsend to whom are attached grave suspicions that he is engaged in smuggling opium on a gigantic scale. The bank is merely conducted as a blind. At Victoria a list of 12 firms engaged in the preparation of opium was secured. They are all Chinese and not one of their names appeared upon the records of the custom house as exporters of the drug. The commissioner learned that a man named C. S. Joslyn was the leader of the ring at Victoria. Presenting himself to Joslyn he told him he had a lot of opium he desired to have smuggled into the United States, and enquired which would be the safest route. Mentioning the Canadian Pacific, Joslyn replied: "I wouldn't do that if I was you. The arrest of Gardiner, my partner, has caused lots of trouble, and they are watching the border too carefully." "How about taking it down the coast to San Francisco," asked the commissioner. "That was a good route before Fogarty let himself get caught," said Joslyn, "but with him in trouble there, and Gardiner arrested back east I'm afraid the Sound is the only route open to us. There's—to pay all around."

Depend Upon It.

Accidents will happen despite all care and painful injuries such as Sprains, Bruises, Cuts and Burns result. Every family should therefore keep Hagyard's Yellow Oil on hand; it is the greatest family remedy for all Pains, Coughs, Colds and Sore Throat; Croup and Whooping Cough yield quickly to this excellent remedy. tu-th-sat-dw

One Good Point

Out of the many possessed by Burdock Blood Bitters is that it may be taken at all seasons of the year, and by sither young or old. In this way the three busy B's are always at work and doing good. tu-th-sat-dw

AMERICAN NEWS.

Chamberlain Banquetted by the Canadian Club in New York—A Cyclone in Kansas.

A Locomotive Explodes With Fortunate Results—Engineer Thrown Forty Feet.

A British Bark Quarantined at San Francisco—The Coal Famine.

Locomotive Explosion.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., March 2.—A Delaware and Hudson engine, No. 35, exploded this morning with singularly fortunate results. The disaster occurred while the locomotive which was attached to a freight train was running down grade between Pittston and Pleasantville. The entire front of the locomotive back to the boil was torn off and sent flying in all directions. The boiler jacket was hurled one hundred feet and the smoke stack two hundred yards. The boil took an easterly course and had not been found two hours after the accident. Engineer Westcott was hurled about forty feet away into an adjoining field. He escaped with a slight contusion of the breast. The fireman remained in the cab and was not scratched. A brakeman who was forward holding the train was plastered with a shower of asbestos, the lining from between the boiler and the jacket. The explosion did not force the engine from the track and the train ran nearly three quarters of a mile before it was stopped. The cause of the explosion is unknown.

Chamberlain Banquetted.

NEW YORK, March 2.—The dinner by the Canadian Club to the Hon. Joseph Chamberlain took place this evening at the Hotel Brunswick. Upwards of two hundred covers were laid. At 6:30 p.m. the guests were seated, Hon. Erastus Wiman, president of the club, presided, at his right sat the guest of the evening and upon his left Hon. G. E. Foster, Canadian minister of marine and fisheries. Among those present were: Consul-Gen. Booker; Jonathan A. Lane, president of the Boston Chamber of Commerce; Gen. Horace Porter, ex-governor; D. H. Chamberlain, Conrad N. Jordan, C. H. Canda, Rev. Robt. Collyer and Gen. Schuyler Hamilton.

The Coal Famine.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 2.—Nine thousand and ninety-seven tons of coal have been brought into this port within the last three days and the demand for coal is still large.

Investigation Delayed.

Charles Wilson, local inspector of hulls, is very ill and nothing toward investigating the causes of the loss of the Julia, or of the San Vincente, or of the Yaquina City will be done until he recovers.

Another Small Pox Victim.

Another case of small pox was found on the steamer San Pablo this afternoon, the victim being a Chinaman. The steamer is now in quarantine.

British Bark Quarantined.

When the British bark Valparaiso, from Janiqua, came into port to-day she was quarantined by order of Dr. McAllister. She comes from cholera-infected South American ports, and although she has a clean bill of health, she and her cargo of nitre will be delayed for two weeks.

Another Body Recovered.

VALLEJO, Cal., March 2.—The body of John Popovich, a fisherman, aged 30 and unmarried, was recovered from the wreck yesterday morning. This makes 18 bodies recovered.

Visited by a Cyclone.

NEWTON, Kas., March 2.—A cyclone passed over this place about five o'clock last evening, coming from the south-west. Two persons are known to have been killed and a number injured. Newton carriage works was almost totally destroyed, and the loss on buildings and stock is estimated at $15,000.

LATE CANADIAN NEWS.

ONTARIO.

Laurier will be retained in the leadership of the Opposition.

William Dixon was killed at Newtonville by his team running away.

Neil, who was hanged at Toronto on Tuesday, confessed to two murders.

Louis Constant, Cornwall, was killed by receiving a kick from a horse in the groin.

Thomas Ryland, the Irish creek fire bug, was sentenced to fifteen years in the penitentiary.

Fire destroyed Murray & Taylor's dry goods house, Kingston. The loss is about $20,000.

Thomas Murray was killed at Toronto, by falling twenty feet from a roof on which he was working.

Wylie's saw-mill and machinery, Midland, were burned; loss $8,000; insured for $4,000—incendiary.

Sir Geo. Stephen says the C. P. R., interests will not be touched by any Dominion legislation this session.

The Dominion elections in Prince Edward and West Middlesex counties will take place on March the 10th.

Walker Bros. & Co., Hamilton, who have agencies in Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto, have assigned. Liabilities unknown.

George Eyvell, the well-known Mansard reporter, died from injuries received from exposure after being robbed in the streets of Toronto.

Sir John has stated that with MacKenzie's water stretches it would have taken six and a half years to carry out Manitoba's surplus wheat.

The dead body of an infant was found in a valise at the Union depot, Toronto. The coroner's jury found a verdict of murder by unknown persons.

Rev. Mr. Meikle has been presented with a gold watch by the young men who have been attending his services in Ottawa, also a purse of $250 for Mrs. Meikle.

A partner in a firm in Brockville which dealt largely in bankrupt stocks of clothing, levanted with $25,000 and is now in Detroit. The firm's liabilities are said to be $60,000; assets nothing.

Goldwin Smith believes that the Imperial government has given a private intimation to Sir John that the course pursued towards Manitoba in not in harmony with the confederation act.

The Prince Edward county Dominion nomination takes place on March the 3rd and the election on the 10th. Dr. Platt, Liberal, Robt. Clapp, Conservative, and J. T. McCuaig, Independent Conservative, are the candidates.

The rumor is revived of a pool between the Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific railways, but both Mr. Van Horne and Mr. Wainwright deny it, though admitting that the relations of the rival roads are more friendly than in the past.

About forty rods of high trestle work in course of construction on the Niagara Central railway, near Thorold, was blown down by high winds. Fortunately the men were not at work owing to the heavy rain. The loss will be considerable.

Geo. W. Austin, commercial traveler of McRae & Co., Kingston, was sent to the reformatory for two years for embezzlement. The defalcations amounted to $1,400. He claimed he had used the funds in paying freight to secure trade for the firm.

Robt. Neill was hanged in the Toronto jail on Tuesday morning for the murder of guard Rutledge. The doomed man spent most of the night reading the Bible and singing hymns. Howland and Gooderham were his spiritual advisers. He was hanged at nine o'clock, and declared on the scaffold that he never meant to kill the guard, but he had been treated like a dog. The execution was well performed.

Recently the Bishop of Ontario preached in Kingston and made the statement that he had received a great many converts from Romanism during his episcopacy. The *Free Press* had it that the number was 150 in three years. The bishop says the accessions to the Church of England in his diocese, from the various religious denominations during his lordship's episcopate aggregated not less than 3,250, of which at least 200 were Roman Catholics, without reference to a large number respecting whom no record had been kept.

QUEBEC.

A fire in Shearer's lumber yard, Montreal, did $14,000 damage.

Alex Spence, a well-known citizen of Montreal, heretofore of good repute, has been arrested on a charge of attempting while drunk to murder his nine-year-old daughter. He will probably be indicted.

E. Boivin, shoe manufacturer, Montreal, has been appointed a member of the labor commission, actively succeeding Mr. Cole, who is in ill health. Mr. Cole remains a member of the commission.

Hon. J. A. Chapleau and Dr. Brisson, the defeated Tory candidate in Laprairie, has a long interview with a view of pairing off the disqualification proceedings against McShane with Caron's contestation. Brisson would not agree to any compromise.

The conservatives won a big victory in the municipal elections in Montreal securing the retirement of Beausoleil, M. P., Mercier's henchman, who found the prospect of defeat so certain that he threw up the sponge and resigned the contest. The new council will be overwhelmingly conservative.

NOVA SCOTIA.

Neil McDonell's body was found in a snowdrift near Sidney. He has been missing over a month.

A twelve-year-old son of Peter McNaughton coasted under a moving express at New Glasgow and was instantly killed.

Walter Hartten, aged 25, an employee on the Intercolonial railway, fell from a shunting engine, which passed over his head, causing death instantly.

Wm. Taylor, ex-alderman of Halifax, died on Sunday, aged 68. He was past grand master of the Freemasons of Nova Scotia, and had been an Episcopal clergyman in early life but quarreled with the bishop and resigned.

It is said that Boodler Billy Maloney "tipped" the porters on the Pullman on which he arrived at Halifax from Montreal with a fifty cent piece each. They thought him a very generous gentleman till they found that the pieces were counterfeit.

The Halifax *Recorder* says: "The governors of King's College held a meeting on Thursday, and there are rumors afloat as to its object. It is said that a change in the members of the faculty may be looked for, and that altogether quite a 'social' sensation has been developed, over which Windsor is deeply interested."

NEW BRUNSWICK.

A statement of the affairs of H. A McCullough, dry goods, St. John, shows assets $34,000, liabilities $62,000.

MANITOBA.

Thomas Forster, a farmer living near Kilarney, was burned to death by his house taking fire during the night.

Doyle, a Winnipeg butcher, skipped across the line, leaving a number of mourning creditors behind him.

A new frame house owned by German H. Bothe, Langenburg, has been destroyed by fire. Loss, abt $800; no insurance.

The *Free Press* says: If Greenway should make a call to arms in connection with the Red River Road, thousands of the best citizens would respond.

The Manitoba legislature met on Thursday. The government measures dealt with the franchise and redistribution questions and included railroad legislation.

The blockade in Manitoba has been considerably reduced. At some points, however, the buyers have been compelled to cease operations for the want of cars.

Major Bell had an interview with the local government relative to the Port Arthur and Winnipeg railway. The members of the government stated afterwards that they believed Bell's scheme was intended to delay the construction of the Red River Valley road.

The party with whom Greenway is negotiating for the construction of the Red River Valley road is the Manitoba Central company, represented by Duncan Macarthur.

The train from the east which arrived at Winnipeg on Saturday night, brought in a number of passengers who received injuries in an accident near Sudbury Junction, owing to several cars being railed. None of the injuries were serious.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.

A steamboat for Lake Athabasca is on the road between Calgary and Winnipeg. On reaching Calgary it will be taken on wagons by Douglas & Stirret to Scarletts, where it will be transferred to sleighs and taken north. It weighs 60,000 lbs. (the boiler weighing 3 tons) and is owned by the Hudson Bay Company.

The announcement of the government's policy respecting the system of government in the Territories has revived the fond hopes and aspirations of the advocates of responsible government at Regina. The names mentioned in Regina district for the proposed Territorial Legislature are Secord and Jelly, the present representatives, and Mowat, McNaul, Mayor Hamilton and Col. Scott are also mentioned. The Liberals talk of bringing out two candidates. Bole, president of the board of trade, and Atkinson, of the *Journal* are mentioned in this connection.

Books vs. Experience.

Books are useful to add to our knowledge, but practical experience teaches us that the best remedy for all diseases of the Stomach, Liver and Blood is easily to be had and is called B. B. B. tu-th-sat-dw

CAPITAL NOTES.

Greenway Trying to Reach a Settlement on the Disallowance Question.

Mara Will Ask if the Government Intend Appointing County Court Judges—The United States Commissioners Refused Our Offer of Negotiations for Extended Trade Relations—The Commons Dull and the Senate Adjourned for a Week.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

OTTAWA, March 2.—This was a dull day in the Commons. The Senate adjourned for a week.

Mr. Mara will interrogate the government whether they intend to appoint additional county court judges in British Columbia.

Premier Greenway, of Manitoba, is coming here to interview the government to try to reach a settlement on the disallowance question.

It is stated authoritatively that the United States commissioners positively refused the Canadian offer of negotiations for extended trade relations, holding that Congress was the only body to deal with the matter.

ONE THOUSAND HOMELESS.

Words Fail to Describe the Destruction of Property and the Suffering of the Unfortunate People at Mt. Vernon.

(Special to THE COLONIST.)

MT. VERNON, ILLS., March 2.—To the United Press, Washington:—I reached Mt. Vernon yesterday. While reports have been correct it has not been