

China and Chinese

Some Interesting Facts About the Land Where Everything Is Upside Down.

Age of the Empire—Spheres of Influence—The Policemen of Peking.

China and its dependencies have a total area of 4,218,401 square miles, and a population of 402,680,000. An area it includes nearly one-twelfth of the total area of the globe, while its population includes nearly one-third of all the people in the world. As compared with the United States, the latter's island possessions being excluded, China has 800,000 more square miles of territory and more than five times as many inhabitants. The population of China proper per square mile is 292; that of the State of Rhode Island is 254, and that of Texas six.

China is the land where everything is upside down. Thus in Canton the women act as sailors and boatmen, while the men are employed as chambermaids, laundresses, and seamstresses. In salutation the Chinaman shakes his own hand instead of that of his visitor. As a mark of respect he puts his hat on instead of taking it off. Their signboards are perpendicular instead of horizontal. In reading Chinese print it is necessary to begin at the right hand side of the bottom and read to the left and up. The Chinese raise the toe of the shoe and depress the heel instead of raising the heel, so that they sometimes appear to be in danger of falling over backwards.

The Tartars, who overthrew the native Chinese dynasty of China in 1644, are the ruling class in China. There are in the neighborhood of 10,000,000 Tartars in the empire. The "Chinese pigtail" dates from the Tartar invasion, when the Tartars forced the Chinese to grow ones after the Tartar custom as a mark of subjection. Thousands of Chinese were killed for refusing to plait their hair, and even now the New China party has as one of its objects the abolition of the old rule. There are, or were until recently, less than 12,000 foreigners permanently resident in China. Of this number 5,000 are British, 1,600 Americans, and 1,200 Japanese.

Most Christian ministers wear black clothes. The Chinese priests stick to bright yellow. People on this side of the world signify their sorrow at the death of a relative or friend by putting on black garments. In China the mourning color is white. In the United States most people believe that they have the first call upon their charity and care. In China more precautions are taken for the preservation of the body after death than before, and a Chinaman will lie down superciliously on his mat rather than neglect to light the evening Joss candle in honor of his dead relatives. In most countries the deceased is surrounded by weeping relatives, and often a minister and a doctor are present. In China the dying are carried out of the house and left alone in some vacant space to die.

There are three principal religions in China—Buddhism, Taoism, and Confucianism. The latter is almost without forms and ceremonies, consisting chiefly in study and contemplation of the teachings of a relative or friend. Buddhism and Taoism both have elaborate and splendid ceremonies. Taoism is the older, Buddhism having made its appearance in China about 1,800 years ago. It is now the religion of almost eight-tenths of the people. In the northeast and southwest there are 30,000,000 Mohammedans. The Baha'is have more than 1,000,000 adherents and support twenty-nine bishoprics. The converts of all the Protestant churches are estimated to number not more than 50,000. Back in the remote interior of the kingdom the hill tribes are still nature worshippers or heathen.

If the Chinese themselves are to be believed, the Chinese Empire has been in existence for more than 100,000 years. Other students say that it was founded 2,500 years before Christ, and by some Fohi, supposed to be the Noah of the Bible, is considered the founder. The great wall of China, portions of which are still in evidence, was completed 211 B.C. Printing is said to have been known in China as early as 202 B.C. In 1517 A.D. the first Europeans arrived. In 1575 Jesuit missionaries were sent to China from Rome. In 1662 a general earthquake shook the empire, and more than 300,000 people were killed. At Peking alone, 700,000 were brought to England in 1660. Commercial relations between China and Russia began in 1719.

The commencement of the establishment of the so-called "spheres of influence" in China was in 1897, when the Germans seized the Port of Kiau-Chau, on the east coast of Shantung, and during the next month secured from the Chinese a lease for 99 years of the town, harbor, and district. Two months later Russia got possession of Port Arthur and Tientsin, with their adjacent waters, on a lease for 25 years, with the privilege of renewal. Within the boundaries of the leased territory, which are as yet undefined, Russia has supreme control. Port Arthur and the larger portion of the harbor of Tientsin are, therefore, closed to all except the war vessels of Russia and China. In June, 1898, Great Britain took possession of Wei-Hai-Wei, and is to hold the port as long as Russia holds Port Arthur. Finally, the French, in April, 1898, secured a "lease" of Kwang-Chow-Wan bay, on the east coast of the Ten-Chau peninsula.

During the year 1898 China imported from all foreign nations goods valued at \$146,000,000. During the same year the exports of China amounted to \$118,000,000. As an evidence of which nation has the greatest interest in China, so far as trade and commerce so it may be stated that of the total of Chinese imports Great Britain and its colonies supply goods to the amount of \$111,000,000, while of the exports it buys about \$90,000,000, or more than one-half. Most of the English trade with China is transacted through the British Crown Colony of Hongkong, which was ceded to Great Britain by China in 1841. During the same year the United States imported goods from China to the value of \$13,000,000 and sent back in return American goods valued at a little more than \$9,000,000.

The policemen of Peking are, or at least were, armed chiefly with small drums, which they beat loudly in order, it is presumed, to let burglars and other marauders know that they are coming. All night long the watchmen beat their way around the streets, and as a natural consequence are said to make few arrests. The pigeons of Peking have each a light whistle tied to their tails, which gives forth a loud sound as they fly. Sometimes five or six whistles of different tones are attached, and the result is a more or less melodious confusion of sounds. The blind (and in Peking blind men and women are numerous) also use drums to announce their coming, and warn other people to get out of their way. By the difference in the sound as it is reflected back from walls or pavements it is said that the blind Chinaman can always locate themselves exactly, so that they need no guide. The beggars of Peking are another peculiar feature. They are organized, and have a ruler of their own, whose orders they are quick to obey. Sometimes a group of the beggars will gather in front of a merchant's store and make such an infernal racket that he is glad to bribe them to go away. Another method of extorting money is for a beggar to go to a merchant or householder and announce that unless he is promptly paid one or two dollars he will commit suicide on his victim's doorstep. If the money is refused, in which case the authorities may give the unfortunate merchant much trouble, and sometimes blackmail him out of a large amount of property.

At a grand dinner the Chinese begin with sweet meats and conclude with soup. They sit sometimes at table for five or six hours, with a midway interval or recess, during which bowls are brought in and the members of the party wash their hands and heads in hot water. Fricassee of duck is a favorite dish, a special breed of puddies being raised for eating purposes. Stewed rat is another delicacy, and the Chinese are also fond of eggs when they have passed the point where even the cold storage can't keep them fresh. Next, peacocks' livers, green ginger, cocks' combs, and fowls' hearts and brains are dishes which might be found on the menu of a high-class Chinese banquet.

FOREIGN COAL SHIPMENTS.

Following are the foreign coal shipments for the month ending 30th June, 1900:

Date.	Vessel.	Destination.	Tons.
4-S.S.	San Mateo,	San Francisco.	4,498
7-S.S.	Aztec,	Port Los Angeles.	5,491
8-S.S.	Titania,	San Francisco.	5,914
13-S.S.	R. Adamson,	San Francisco.	5,935
15-S.S.	Titania,	San Francisco.	5,935
21-S.S.	Goby,	Wangai.	2
22-S.S.	Mineola,	Port Los Angeles.	5,495
25-S.S.	Aztec,	Port Los Angeles.	5,541
27-S.S.	R. Adamson,	San Francisco.	4,582
Total			39,985

Ladysmith (Extension and Wellington).

Date.	Vessel.	Destination.	Tons.
4-S.S.	Wellington,	San Francisco.	2,550
4-S.S.	Univese,	San Francisco.	4,000
9-S.S.	Wardell,	San Francisco.	4,000
9-S.S.	Tellus,	San Francisco.	4,500
9-S.S.	Flyer,	Blaine.	162
9-S.S.	Gilley,	Blaine.	162
9-S.S.	Dirigo,	Port Townsend.	150
9-S.S.	Richd III.,	Ketchikan.	150
15-S.S.	Catvase,	San Francisco.	4,000
21-S.S.	Bristol,	St. Michael.	1,600
21-S.S.	Dirigo,	Port Townsend.	150
21-S.S.	Umatilla,	Seattle.	950
21-S.S.	Al-Kl,	Ketchikan.	200
21-S.S.	Wardell,	San Francisco.	4,500
21-S.S.	Sambo,	Skagway.	50
21-S.S.	City of Puebla,	Seattle.	503
28-Bk.	J. D. Peters,	Alaska.	1,502
28-S.S.	Charmar,	St. Michael.	3,005
28-Bk.	Rufus E. Wood,	St. Michael.	2,400
28-S.S.	Walla Walla,	Seattle.	781
Total			36,440

Union Shipping.

Date.	Vessel.	Destination.	Tons.
7-S.S.	Tellus,	San Francisco.	3,450
7-S.S.	Glenora,	St. Michael.	117
7-S.S.	Louis Walsh,	Pt. Townsend.	2,214
7-S.S.	Hero,	Dutch Harbor.	5,910
14-S.S.	Pioneer,	Ketchikan.	112
15-S.S.	Jabez Hoves,	Dutch Harbor.	263
15-S.S.	Wellington,	San Francisco.	1,765
15-S.S.	Dirigo,	Seattle.	170
15-S.S.	Warrimoo,	Australia.	3,500
28-S.S.	Glory of the Sea,	Frisco.	3,500
28-S.S.	R. P. Elmer,	Ketchikan.	50
28-S.S.	Catch,	Skagway.	50
28-S.S.	Barge Ajax,	Tacoma.	338
28-S.S.	Barge Stinson,	Tacoma.	250
28-S.S.	Dolphin,	Tacoma.	15
Total			21,107

Cheminous Lumber.

Date.	Vessel.	Destination.	Tons.
4-S.S.	Glenholm,	Cape Town.	2,970
15-S.S.	Pern,	Southampton.	3,750
20-S.S.	Drummuir,	Melbourne.	3,148
Total			9,968

Ladysmith, Mount Stoker Ore.

Date.	Vessel.	Destination.	Tons.
9-S.S.	Oscar,	Everett.	150
15-S.S.	Oscar,	Everett.	150
21-S.S.	Oscar,	Everett.	150
24-S.S.	Oscar,	Everett.	150
26-S.S.	Oscar,	Everett.	150
Total			750

A PUBLIC BENEFACTOR.

Montreal Herald. Blessed be the man who invented the compilation of trade returns. Without them the country might not fully realize how lucky it is to have a government of business men.

WOMAN'S RIGHTS IN BILVILLE.

Atlanta Constitution. A Bilville item says a woman was elected mayor of her town, and her husband was the first offender who was brought before her. She fined him \$20 and costs and bought a silk dress with the money.

BURY 'S.

Chicago Journal. Oh, the busy B's of both! First the Boers and now the Boxers. Keep an eye on the Bulgarians and the Bashi-Bazouks.

Provincial News.

ASHCROFT.

The building committee appointed by the Ashcroft Improvement Society, in charge of the contract for the erection of a manse to D. Johnson. The price is understood to be about \$900, including the painting. It will be a six-roomed cottage and will be built on Bancroft street beside the church.

SIDNEY.

(Special Correspondence of the Times.) The outlook for this year's hop crop is good, in fact it will probably be the best crop the growers will have had for a number of years.

The schools of North Saanich and Sidney have each had excursion amongst the islands of the Gulf on the steamer Inoquois. Mr. Paterson carried the children free. Mr. Hammond, the teacher of West Saanich school, will take the children of his school on a similar excursion on the 14th inst.

The family of B. H. Smith, B.A., collector of customs at Nanaimo, will spend several months in Sidney during the holidays.

SAANICH.

(Special Correspondence of the Times.) Friday was a red letter day for the South Saanich school. There was a large attendance and the examination was very ably conducted by H. C. Shelton, was concluded at noon, the pupils having done remarkably well. Luncheon was provided in the grove, followed by songs and recitations, in which a marked improvement was observed. Margaret Shelton, Winnie Turgoose, Margaret McKenzie, Elizabeth Rae and X. Rae were selected to receive prizes for passing the High School examination; Mildred McKenzie, in reading; Milton Shelton, in arithmetic, and May Bailey for recitation. Five dollars had been given for the most popular girl and boy elected by the pupils. Maud Harrison and Willie Shelton and Harold Bates, who had an equal number of votes, received these prizes. Mrs. Eberts gave some of the prizes.

ALBERNI.

(Special Correspondence of the Times.) At Mr. Neil's committee meeting on Saturday a resolution was passed unanimously endorsing Mr. Neil in supporting the present government during the ensuing session. Attention was called at the meeting to the wording of the application for tenders to keep the Alberni and Cape Beale line in repair. The sentence stating that a steamboat is necessary practically restricts the contract to the only men with steamboats. The weather in the canal is never bad enough to prevent a canoe creeping along in shore. It is understood steps are being taken to have the wording of the contract changed so as to give more opportunity for tendering.

The Presbyterians of Alberni held their annual school feast and picnic on George Smith's grounds at Sprout Lake on Monday.

J. Howitt has gone to old England for a well earned holiday of two months. Miss Worlock, of Victoria, is going to teach in Alberni until Mr. Howitt returns.

KASLO.

The snowslide has given up its dead. After lying for a snowslide, the remains of Eric Ericson and Peter Foss have been recovered. The two miners lost their lives in April last at Bear creek, in the Lard-Duncan country. They built their cabin last fall at the foot of a big bluff and the snowslide, which they lost, was a snowslide could never reach them at the bottom of this canyon where they were. They had safely come through the winter and welcomed the warm breezes of spring, which this season began to move the snow on the hills very early. One day, however, a snowslide came straight down the canyon and buried the miners 60 feet deep. Some days ago Messrs. Hanson and Thurston went up from here to bring down the remains. They first of all searched for them in the tunnel, but did not find them. They then dug their way up the snow above the site of the cabin and came across the remains lying on the floor of the shack. The roof and the sides of the building had been swept away and in falling had inflicted severe injuries on the unfortunate men who, however, were probably unconscious, and quickly and suffered little pain. The bodies were buried near the mine.

GREENWOOD.

Wednesday's issue of the Greenwood Times contained the following: "Mrs. Eva Hillman, of St. Louis, registered at the Windsor hotel Monday evening. W. K. Matthes, proprietor of the Midway hotel, registered at the same hotel to-day. The names on the hotel register are sufficiently modest to not attract unusual attention, but behind them is a bit of romance that would bring joy to the heart of the ubiquitous yellow journal reporter. Mr. Matthes felt lonely in the quiet village of Midway, and believing that it is not good for a man to live alone, sought a wife through a matrimonial paper published in Chicago. Mrs. Hillman felt very much as did Mr. Matthes, and seeing the advertisement a correspondent was started, which culminated in the arrival of Mrs. Hillman yesterday. The final act in the matrimonial drama will be played to-morrow, when the two are to be made man and wife. Who says that advertising does not pay?"

This is from the Times of the following day: "The wedding of Mr. Charles A. Matthes of Midway, was married to Eva Elizabeth Hillman of St. Louis by the Rev. W. A. Robin, M.A., in the Church of England, Greenwood, Mr. and Mrs. Matthes will make their home in Midway."

Greenwood's celebration has proved a grand success. The city was crowded to-day with visitors from Boundary and Kootenay points. Friday's events were won as follows: One hundred yard foot race, W. A. Smith, of Rossland, 1st; Charles Wilson, of Greenwood, 2nd; 220 yard race, Douglas Nelson, 1st; S. F. Smith, of Greenwood, 2nd. Horse race, half mile, free for all—Easter Lilly, 1st; Rossland Maid, 2nd. The pony race was won by this, with Curlew close second. Blake Wilson of Nelson acted as starter in the horse races. In the drilling contest, Ross and McLeod were first, drilling 40% inches; Erecton and Henderson second, 38% inches. In Saturday's events the bicycle race, half mile dash, was won by B. McIntyre, of Greenwood, with Thiel of Frisco second. In the hub and hub race Nelson was first and Rossland second. Time, 16 seconds. Wet test, Nelson first, Grand Forks second. Time, 29% and 34. In both these events Greenwood made good showing but lost through accidents.

KAMLOOPS.

Miss F. M. Baker, nurse at the Royal Inland hospital, left for a two months' visit to Manitoba on Sunday. Her position will be filled by Miss Janet McDonald, of Vancouver.

Miss Norris, teacher at the public school, who has resigned her position, was on Friday the recipient of numerous tokens of affection and regard from her pupils, who all regret her departure. Miss Norris intends leaving Kamloops this week for the home of her parents in the east.

The new machinery for the Shields' sawmill, including the planer, has arrived from the East, and will be installed at once.

John Hilbert, organizer for the Ancient Order of Foresters, was in town last Saturday and made preliminary arrangements for the organization of a local lodge.

GRAND-FORKS.

Mrs. Jessie Allard killed herself a day or two since at the residence of Mr. McCool, her father, who lives on a farm a few miles from Grand Forks. The unfortunate woman was afflicted with epileptic fits, and deeming herself incurable, she killed herself by putting a rifle bullet through her head. She was only 22 years old.

A petition has been presented to the city council asking that laborers on city works be paid 30 cents per hour, and that no Japs or Chinese be employed.

A. Miller, local manager of the Merchants Bank of Halifax, has received from the East the plans of the new bank building.

The crop outlook in the Kettle River valley is exceedingly bright. The fruit crop promises to be large.

PHOENIX.

On Wednesday evening the members of the organization heretofore known as Phoenix No. 2 Carpenters and Joiners, affiliated with the United Brotherhood Carpenters and Joiners of America, under the title of Local Union No. 681. The officers elected were: President, J. A. Dunbar; vice-president, D. R. Martin; recording secretary, Thomas R. Conner; financial secretary, W. L. Allen; treasurer, H. E. Cramer.

Phoenix is to have a large office and store building, and it will be erected at once, on the corner of Old Ironsides avenue and First street, by Jay P. Graves and Wm. Loren Williams. The building will be two stories high, on Old Ironsides avenue and three stories on First street. It will contain two large stores, 25x80 feet each. The second story will have 13 office rooms.

REVELSTOCK.

Two weddings were solemnized in town last week. Mr. Paget officiating in both cases. The first took place on Tuesday evening at the residence of Hugh Bruce, brother of the groom, George Bruce, of Vancouver, who was escorted by E. Burnell. The bride, Miss Jane Robina Thomson, of Orillia, Ontario, was assisted through the interesting ceremony by Miss M. Corley. Wedding number two took place on Wednesday afternoon in St. Peter's church. The principals in this happy affair were William Corley, a popular young man of Rossland, and Miss Helen Henrietta Woodrow, sister to James I. Woodrow. The bride was given away by her brother and the happy couple were supported by Mr. H. Cook and Miss Savage.

R. C. Weldon, of Halifax, N. S., and Miss Mary Evelyn, of Moncton, N. B., spent Wednesday in town looking up information regarding transportation to the north of Revelstock. These gentlemen are interested in the Tete Jaune Cache mica mines, and being desirous of doing some work on the property they are now looking for the best route over which to bring out the product of their mine, and after talking with some of the trappers acquainted with the Canoe River district have decided that this is the proper route. However in order to make shipping possible, while it would be necessary to use a boat service, and they express their willingness to put a boat on above Death Rapids provided one is put on to ply between the rapids and Revelstock with a tramway connection to avoid the rapids. They are calling for tenders for the carrying of mica at Revelstock—Kootenay Mail.

ROSSLAND.

Herbert McArthur, who was shot by Rafael Albi several weeks since, is recovering, and his physician now says that he will be entirely recovered. He is commencing to be able to use his legs. The supposition is that a blood clot was formed on the spinal cord at the time he was shot, and that this is now being absorbed, and when it has been entirely absorbed the paralysis of his lower limbs will disappear.

John Houghton, who, with a car, fell off the dump of the Le Roi and sustained a rupture of the kidney, is convalescing rapidly. He expects to be able to leave for the East on a visit in about ten days.

Mrs. Thompson, wife of Mr. Thompson, engineer for the B. A. C., who has been in that hospital for the past ten days, is convalescing.

The marriage of J. B. Manroes and Miss Hattie Davis took place on Monday at St. George's church. Rev. Mr. Hoyer officiating. The best man was John Embleton, and the bridesmaid was Mrs. Paille.

It is stated on very excellent authority that the new Lieutenant of British Columbia, Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere, asserts that the Earl of Minto, the Governor-General, has declared his intention of making a tour of the western provinces this summer. Mayor Goodere states he intends to bring the matter before the city council and forward an invitation to Lord Minto to visit Rossland.

Inspector Paul arrived on Monday in

wood, 2nd. Horse race, half mile, free for all—Easter Lilly, 1st; Rossland Maid, 2nd. The pony race was won by this, with Curlew close second. Blake Wilson of Nelson acted as starter in the horse races. In the drilling contest, Ross and McLeod were first, drilling 40% inches; Erecton and Henderson second, 38% inches. In Saturday's events the bicycle race, half mile dash, was won by B. McIntyre, of Greenwood, with Thiel of Frisco second. In the hub and hub race Nelson was first and Rossland second. Time, 16 seconds. Wet test, Nelson first, Grand Forks second. Time, 29% and 34. In both these events Greenwood made good showing but lost through accidents.

VANCOUVER.

A fatal accident happened in the baggage elevator of the Hotel Vancouver on Sunday. The engineer of the hotel had occasion to go to the baggage elevator, and found a Japanese—pauity boy, name Wishyoun, employed at the hotel, lying on the floor of the elevator dead, with the back of his head taken off. It is supposed that the boy was experimenting with the elevator, which was run away from him and caught his head between the elevator and landing. It is not known, however, exactly how the accident happened.

At a largely attended meeting of Japanese and white fishermen on Saturday, it was decided to charge 25 cents each for sockeye during the season. It is stated that the committee decided to give 20 cents per fish during the season, unless the fish were very scarce, in which event 25 cents would be given.

At St. Paul's church on Saturday morning a very pretty wedding took place, when Helen Louise Faith, young daughter of the late Dr. Nichols, of Knightsford, England, and Mrs. Helen Nichols, of Burrard street, city, was united to L. Edgar Spott, of Burnaby, Mayfield, Sussex, England. The groom was attended by his brother, C. P. Spott, J.P., of Burnaby, and the bride by her sister, Miss Annie Nichols. The Rev. J. H. Underhill, rector of St. Paul's, officiated.

Nurse Wright, of the city hospital, is dangerously ill from blood-poisoning, caused by a cut on the hand, accidentally inflicted a few days ago.

Robert Watchour, special commissioner of the United States department of immigration, with headquarters at Washington, left for the East via the Imperial Limited on Sunday. As a result of his western tour it is understood that a sweeping restriction is to be put on Japanese immigration to the States.

—News-Advertiser. Captain D. McPhaden, brother of Alderman McPhaden, arrived in the city from his home in the East on Tuesday. The two brothers had not met previously for 50 years, and their Dominion Day reunion was a joyous one. Burglars effected an entrance through a back window of the Dominion Grocery store on Tuesday night. The till was broken, but fortunately nothing had been left in it when the store was closed.

At the residence of D. Stevens, Fairview, on Tuesday, Miss Ethel Tate was united in marriage to Peter Burke of Van Anda. The ceremony was performed by Rev. A. E. Green.

Mrs. Dorman, the lady missing since Tuesday, turned up all right yesterday. Mr. McMillan, brother of J. O. McMillan, agent of the Northern Pacific railway here, was one of those killed in the Tacoma horror.

William Parker, an old resident of North Vancouver, died at his home yesterday.

NEW WESTMINSTER.

There was a pretty wedding on Thursday evening at the residence of the bride's mother, 436 Seventh street, when Miss Florence Gregory was united in marriage to William Archibald, both popular young men of Westminister. The bride was attended by Miss M. Archibald, sister of the groom, and D. J. Stewart acted as groomsmen. The ceremony was performed by Rev. P. H. McEwen, pastor of Oliver Baptist church.

The death took place on Friday of C. White, of Sapperton. The deceased was 42 years of age and a native of Ireland. He came here several years ago. He was an employee of the Sapperton Orphanage until that institution was destroyed by fire last year, and while in the discharge of his duties in connection with the large laundry business carried on there, he became well and favorably known to many citizens. For several months he had been an inmate of the Royal Columbian hospital, suffering from consumption, to which he succumbed, as above stated.

A quiet wedding was celebrated at the residence of the bride on Thursday evening, when Rev. J. P. Bowell united in marriage Mrs. Odin, widow of the late Captain Frank Odin, and Christian Holt, of the staff of the C. P. N. Co.'s steamer "Princess Louise, Victoria. Mr. and Mrs. Holt will reside in Victoria.

A small fire occurred at the Brackman & Ker Company's flour mill on Thursday afternoon. The trouble originated from a spark lodging on the roof of the feed department near the smoke stack, and before the firemen could extinguish the flames a small hole was burned in the roof. The damage, however, will probably not amount to more than \$5 or \$10.

James Leamy has just received another letter from his son, Charles, now serving with the First Canadian contingent in South Africa. The letter describes the engagement at Zand River in which the contingent was engaged. The writer sent kind regards to all friends and reported himself in the best of health.

Mrs. Thompson, wife of Mr. Thompson, engineer for the B. A. C., who has been in that hospital for the past ten days, is convalescing.

mon season, now open, along the Fraser, are about complete, and men of all nationalities are flocking to the Westward from all directions. The Columbian thinks that the number of licenses issued this season, but it is impossible to tell just present. A considerable part of the increase, it is safe to say, will be in the number of Japanese fishermen. The total number of canneries in British Columbia is now 72. Four new ones will be in operation this season, but at Coala and China Hat, in the Fraser Inlet district; one at Point Atkinson, entrance to Howe Sound, and one in New Westminster City, the St. Marys. The English Bay canneries in the Fraser River district. The Sea in the Cannery (Munn & Company), on the North Arm, which was destroyed by fire, has not been rebuilt.

Columbian in its Tuesday's issue contained the following report of the floods in the vicinity of the Meadows: Chief Louis James, of the Pemberton Meadows Indians, was in town to-day, and confirmed the report that the recent unprecedented rise in Harrison lake was due to a cloudburst, and not to the action of the sun and Chinook winds on the snow and mountains. The chief says that on the Meadows the rain fell heavily and incessantly for two nights and one day, so that the water rose "just like the tide," and touched a point six feet higher than any of the old Indians could remember it having reached before. The chief is a hale old man himself, and cannot recall anything like it. In ordinary high water, he said, the potato crops were not hurt, but this time they were buried out of sight, and the waters under the windows of the church. Numbers of pigs were drowned, the rise having been too sudden to let the swine on higher ground. Some houses at Skookmehc were swept away, as also were the bridges on the trail to Squamish and Howe Sound. The chief adds that the water is going down almost as rapidly as it rained, which, he says, never occurs in the snow-melting. It dropped four feet in two nights, and by this time has resumed its normal proportions. There is no doubt the bulk of the damage from this year's high water was caused by this exceptionally heavy rainfall.

NELSON.

The stonecutters resident in the city have organized under the name of the Nelson Local Journeymen Stonecutters. The officers elected are: W. W. Lindsay, president, and C. C. Simpson, secretary.

Ewart & Carlie have closed the contract for the erection of the Kirkpatrick-Wilson-Clements block. W. G. Gillette gets the general work which includes the walls, carpentering, plastering, roofing,