CROWN LAND SURVEYS

What the Government Surveyors Did During the Past Year.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR-GENERAL

New Maps of the Province Published During 1893—One of the Most Interesting Reports Published by the Government.

The annual report of the crown lands surveys was presented to the legislature yesterday. It contains the report of Surveyor General Kains and the surveyors who were in the field for the government during 1893. In his report, which gives a summary of the subordinate reports, Mr. Kain says:

Reference was made in last year's report to the fact that the general information respecting township surveys on file in this department was being placed on maps of a more convenient size than heretofore; and as this information was useful, it was deemed advisable to have the maps lithographed by a process which would represent fair draughting, at a reasonable price. The method adopted is the ordinary "transfer process." The preparation of the plan is performed in the draughting room of your department, upon transfer paper with lithographic ink, thus reducing the works of the lithographer to the simple process of transferring the map to the stone and printing off the requisite number of copies. There are ready to be distributed lithographed maps of eighteen townships, in different districts throughout the province. These maps are drawn upon a scale of 40 chains to an inch. The publication of maps for special and general distribution still continues an important branch of this department, and although several of the maps contained in the list below were not issued from this office, still, as the original drawings were prepared in the Lands and Works Department, due credit is taken for the work performed:—

(a.) Map of the northern portion of British Columbia, including Queen Charlotte Islands, 3,300, 2 colors.

(b.) Subdivision of the Commonage Reserve, near Vernon, 500, 1 color.

(c.) Township subdivisions, north end of Vancouver Island, 2,000, 2 colors.

(d.) Lower Osoyoos country, 2,000, 2 colors.

(e.) Eighteen townships in different districts (150 copies of each), 2,700, 1 color.

(f.) Province of British Columbia (Brownlee), 10,000, 4 colors.

(g.) Province of British Columbia to accompanying pamphlet on B.C., 15,000, 2 colors.

The following sketch maps were made in the Lands and Works Department, to accompany the report of the hon. the minister of mines:—

East Kootenay district, showing principal mineral localities, 1,000, 1 color.

Plan and sections shewing development work on North Star Mine, East Kootenay district, 1,000, 1 color.

Sketch map, S.E. part of Vancouver Island, showing geological formation, 1,000, 1 color.

San Juan and Leech river mining districts, 1,000, 1 color.

Shewing auriferous region in Alberni district, 1,000, 1 color.

The edition of the general map of British Columbia, 1884, being exhausted, your department authorized the purchase of 10,000 copies of Brownlee's recent map of the province. Since their delivery, the high commissioner for Canada and the agent-general in London have been regularly furnished with a supply of the maps, to be placed at points in Great Britain and the continent where a demand would be likely to arise. A large number were sent for distribution to the World's Columbian Exposition, recently closed in Chicago, and it is the intention to similarly place the map, together with others showing portions of the province in more detail, at the Midwinter Fair now being held in San Francisco. This map was compiled, by your direction, at a time when the volume of business in your department was so great that its preparation by our own draughtsmen was out of the question, so it was decided to commence a new map of the province, which would show all topographical information, also indicate the new electoral districts, as laid down in the redistribution bill. The system of "polyconic projection" which has given excellent satisfaction in the construction of the maps of the United States Coast and Goedetic Survey, appears to be less accurate when applied to such high latitudes as British Columbia. The oblique secant cylindre projection, introduced by Captain Deville, surveyor-general of Canada, hardly affords such qualities as to render it desirable for the construction of maps of this province. A special projection was therefore decided on. It rests on the general principles of Gauss' conical development and is more particularly known as Lambert's conical orthomorphic projection. This is, however, slightly modified so that the true distances between the parallels and the proper lengths of the degrees of longitude have been maintained throughout the map. Tables for this construction were consequently calculated, and will doubtless prove of use in any future work of a similar character to be formed in the department.

This map shows information not possible to indicate upon maps of an earlier date. Townships and all other extensive surveys throughout the province, cities, town, settlements, schools, missions, Indian villages, post and telegraph offices, and, in the northern districts, canneries, mills, well known farm houses, and camps, are systematically indicated, together with means of communication. Agricultural and pastoral resources outside of surveyed tracts are shown as far as they are known to exist. Mineral locations are indicated by a system of conventional signs. The mountain ranges will be shown generally, but, as the department is now carrying on a photo-topographical survey of the province it is not deemed advisable to attempt to show the elevations in detail until the returns from that survey are at hand, when sectional maps will be issued following the progress of the survey.

Besides the above-mentioned features, it will be found that this map has numerous additions of a topographical character not shown on previous publications. The now completed survey of the western limit of the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Company's belt, and recent mineral discoveries in Alberni district, have furnished valuable information concerning the interior of Vancouver Island, while a network of townships laid out at its northern extremity has intimately acquainted us with that valuable portion of the district. The topographical survey branch of the department of the interior has, during late years, carried on a photo-topographical survey within the limits of the Canadian Pacific railway belt, whereby the physical features of that part of the country have been accurately determined. The large developments of mineral and agricultural resources in Kootenay and Yale districts have necessitated numerous public and private surveys, furnishing much new and valuable information of those sections of the province. Certain additional knowledge of that portion of Lillooet district lying north of the South Thompson river has been acquired, which will doubtless add value to the work. In publishing this information, together with the results of the recent explorations and surveys performed under the supervision of Messrs. Poudrier and Gauvreau, the map will be more complete than any heretofore placed before the public.

Extensive areas in Cariboo and Cassiar districts have hitherto been marked on our maps with apologetic significnce as "unsurveyed regions." These tracts, it was found, had to a considerable extent been traversed by Dominion exploratory parties under Wm. Ogilvie, D.L.S., and others, the results of which were placed at our disposal by the Ottawa authorities, although they had not completed their own publications of those sections of the country. Thus it has been possible to indicate with accuracy the courses of the Laird, Nelson, Pine, Halfway, and Findlay rivers, with their tributaries.

Small reference maps will be placed in the margin of the large map, effectively showing (1) the position of British Columbia in relation to the other provinces of the Dominion of Canada, and (2) its relative position to the other countries of the Northern Hemisphere. The work has been faithfully carried out, considering the numerous obstacles which have from time to time presented themselves. It is expected the map will be ready for the press during the approaching spring.

The careful examination and plotting of the surveyors' field-notes forms only a portion of the many duties of the draughtsmen. In a great many cases the notes are returned to the surveyor for additional information, or to be corrected in such a manner as to comply with the provisions of the "Land Act" or the requirements of this department, before they can be finally accepted and published in the British Columbia Gazette. This entails a large amount of correspondence, which from its nature requires care and intelligence. The number of field-books received during the year is not so great as that of 1892, owing doubtless to the fact that the only method of acquiring land, other than by public auction, is by means of pre-emption record, or by complying with the provisions of the "Mineral Act." It is worthy of remark that although the number of field-books is far below that of last year the number of acres acquired by pre-emption is considerably greater than the combined areas of pre-emption and purchase claims acquired during the year 1892.

In addition to the long list of maps prepared in this department for lithographic purposes, it has been deemed expedient to carefully reproduce certain of the old official maps of Victoria and adjacent districts. These maps were made in 1858, and on account of their almost daily use during the thirty-five years, have become the worse for wear, and in certain places the information has become almost obliterated. Victoria and Metchosin districts are thus completed, and the district of Sooke, by the addition of a few small connection surveys, will contain all the information of the original, besides showing the result of recent surveys to date. A map of a portion of Yale and Kootenay districts, commenced some years ago, has been brought up to date. This map is for office use only, is drawn upon a scale of two miles to an inch, and shows all the surveyed claims whose position was known or could be approximately determined. It covers the country extending from North Bend on the Fraser river, eastword to Lower Arrow Lake, taking in the large group of claims in Nicola, Grand Prairie, the "Mission" on Okanagan lake, and the recent surveys in Fire Valley. It shows the Canadian Pacific railway throughout, to a point in the neighborhood of Griffin lake, including the North Thompson country as far up that river as Meredian Bend, and extends westerly to the Chilcotin river, a tributary of the Fraser.

For the Midwinter Exposition in San Francisco, a large sheet was prepared, upon which was mounted the different maps, together with Dr. Dawson's map, showing the Cariboo mining region. Appended to this sheet are voluminous tables, containing valuable information respecting the industries of the province. The work occupied considerable time, but the completeness of the index is certainly a sufficient excuse for the amount of labor involved in its construction.

The reports of the different surveyors engaged upon the work of laying out the crown lands will doubtless prove interesting and instructive.

Peter Leech has been employed in making traverses of the different highways radiating from the city of Victoria, and it is the intention of your department to commence a new map of the southern portion of Vancouver island, which will supply the place of the map of the southeastern districts published in 1880, now out of print. The large Indian reserve in Quamichan, having been laid out apparently without any regard to the positions of the posts governing the section and range lines, and crown grants to certain adjacent sections having been issued, rather serious complications have arisen regarding the title to certain portions of sections bordering on the outline of the reserve. In view of this fact, it was considered advisable to instruct Henry Fry to make such surveys as would enable him to prepare a plan upon which would be indicated all the necessary information to assist the department and other parties interested to arrive at a settlement of the matter.

Mr. Burwell, Vancouver, has been subdividing into sections certain portions of the country situated at the northern end of Vancouver island. As this portion of the island is now mapped, valuable information is supplied, and when the results of this season's work are placed upon the township sheets, knowledge respecting this portion of the island will be almost complete.

Mr. Palmer's operations were confined to the work of laying out into sections the available land upon islands between Vancouver island and the mainland. He reports considerable land upon Valdez island suitable for settlement.

The surveys in the valley of the Klena-klene river, which empties into salt water at the head of Knight's inlet, were carried on by A. F. Cotton, who was successful in locating a trail up the valley of the river of such a character as to warrant the outlay of a reasonable appropriation. Serious obstacles lie in the way of constructing a trail available all the year as a highway to the Chilcotin country. Land suitable for settlement is reported very limited, and a great portion of this area is set apart for the Indians, who, as the surveyor reports, "do not cultivate at all." Mr. Cotton's remarks concerning the useless destruction of timber by men securing logs for saw mills are worthy of perusal.

All the available land for settlement in the valley of the Upper Squamish river appears from W. S. Jemmet's report to have been laid out into lots. Evidently there is not much land suitable for settlement in this valley, and what does exist appears in scattered patches along the stream. Until roads are built into this region, the difficulties met with in canoe navigation will retard settlement, especially as good land can be obtained elsewhere.

Mr. Coryell made surveys of a rather scattered character, but of importance, as all the available land in the following townships situated in the Lower Osoyoos country have been laid out into sections, namely: Townships 88, 53, 89, 50, 54, 65, 66 and 67. His report will be found to be very complete respecting the soil and timber, roads, mines and minerals. Township numbers 54, 65 and 66 contain valuable tracts of timber lands, which should be thoroughly examined with the view of placing a reserve upon them, as they appear to be the only localities where merchantable timber is to be found in the neighborhood. The field operations by Mr. Latimer in a different portion of Osoyoos were similar to those performed by Mr. Coryell, laying out into sections portions of already partially surveyed townships. The work carried on was located in Harris, Creighton and Cherry creek valleys and along the Shuswap river.

Messrs. Thomson and Strathern were instructed to work in conjunction with A. L. Poudrier, in subdividing into townships, sections, etc., certain portions of the Nechaco country, where exists a very large tract of land considered to be suitable for settlement purposes. As this portion of the province is situated at such a distance from the centres of civilization, a large portion of the season was occupied in going in and coming out, leaving a comparatively short period in which to perform survey work, and as a portion of the surveyor's work in the field consisted in first giving the Indians those portions of land which had been set aside, but not surveyed, for their use by the Indian Reserve Commissioners minutes of decision, copies of which were forwarded with the surveyor's instructions, the time at the disposal for the legitimate work of the department was thereby considerably lessened. Notwithstanding these facts, upwards of sixty-five thousand acres were laid off into sections, with the addition of a large amount of outline or framework upon which will rest the future subdivision of the country.

There have been surveyed into sections upwards of 240,000 acres of land. In other words, there have been prepared for settlement fifteen hundred farms of one hundred and sixty acres each. Surveys of considerable extent have now been completed in different regions throughout the province without any system of inspection. This is a matter which should receive consideration, as it is very important to know whether or not any blunders have been made in laying out the public domain according to the land act.

In British Columbia photo-topographical surveys, if regularly carried on, will prove of great benefit to the province, on account of the vast amount of accurate information respecting the configuration of the country derived from scientific work of this character. It was considered advisable to commence operations in West Kootenay district and gradually extend them to other portions of the country until sufficient data were collected to enable your department to publish an authentic topographical map of the province. The work, therefore, was commenced last season under the direction of W. S. Drewry, P. L. S. It was considered advisable for the first year or so to attach a surveyor to Mr. Drewry's party, acquire a knowledge of the work, and to assist general progress in making tie and traverse surveys. As a result, some five hundred square miles have been covered, and a sufficient number of photographs obtained to enable the surveyors to make a complete map of the section of the country thus surveyed. In addition to the above, there were about seven hundred square miles partially surveyed.

As all the available space in the present draughting office is occupied, a suitable room requiring plenty of light in which to plot the photo-topographic maps had to be provided in the board of trade building. This arrangement is at present rather inconvenient, as was also the circumstance of being compelled to use one of the committee rooms of the house of assembly during the time when the large map of the province above referred to was in course of preparation.

The following were added to the authorized list of surveyors for the province: R. S. Sherman, P. L. S., (Ontario), (Vancouver; A. D. Thursby, Australian surveyor, Victoria; W. J. Holmes, Victoria. Preliminary certificates were granted to F. C. Chandler, W. N. Draper, C. Moore, R. H. Parkinson and O. B. N. Wilkie.

Skilful Mariners.

New York, Feb. 27.—In the naval inquiry into the loss of the Kearsarge, Admiral Stanton testified to-day that at 6 p. m on the day the vessel struck Commander Meyerman reported to him (Stanton) that the navigating lieutenant was sure he had passed Roncador reef. Shortly before 7 the vessel struck. Commander Meyerman, in charge of the Kearsarge when she struck, testified that the reckoning on the Kearsarge was six miles out of the way.

"All signs fail"—except pimples and blotches. These never fail to indicate an impure condition of the blood, which may be thoroughly cleansed and renewed by the use of Ayer's Sarsaparilla. The most efficacious and economical of blood purifiers.

KASLO WIPED OUT.

Or Pretty Nearly So by a Big Fire Last Night—Front Street a Ruin.

The Business Part of the Town Destroyed—All Hotels Gone but One.

Kaslo, Feb. 25.—Fire last night destroyed nearly all Front street between Third and Fourth streets, excepting three stores. All the business portion of the town is destroyed. Thirty buildings in all were burned, including all the hotels excepting the Leland and Green Bros. and Wilson's stores. Other parts of the town escaped.

Front street is the principal street in Kaslo. It contains a number of two-story frame buildings and a large number of small buildings, including real estate offices, restaurants and drug stores. There was very little insurance carried, the rates being very high. Most of the dealers carried very heavy stocks for a small town.

Kaslo, B. C., Feb. 25.—A disastrous fire occurred here this morning, which burned almost the whole of Front street lying between Third and Fourth streets, only six buildings on the south side being saved. The fire originated in the kitchen of the Bon Ton restaurant, and is said to be the result of gross carelessness or something worse. It was discovered about 2 o'clock in the morning, and in less than an hour and a half had completed its devastating work. On the north side of the street every building is burned, while on the south side, as a result of stubborn fighting and some dynamite, the blaze was got under control at the Leland hotel. Thence to Third street all escaped. Messrs. J. B. Wilson, Green Bros. and Dr. Livita's drug store suffer by removal of stock, but the loss is fully covered by insurance. On the north side Mahoney & Lundberg, Alderman Kane, A. W. Wright, James M. Donald, G. O. Buchanan, Goldstein, Ewin, Stone, Almour and the Byers Hardware Company are the principal losers, and are more or less covered by insurance, although the insurance companies have lately been canceling policies. The custom house was burned, but the books and papers were saved.

Kane has no insurance; Wright has $1,500 on his house, but nothing on his stock; Mahoney has no insurance; Goldstein, Buchanan and Ewin are insured; Stone has $1,000 on his building; Almour has some insurance; the Byers Hardware Company has $10,000 on the stock and something on the building. Many tenants have lost heavily, and only a few were able to save any of their belongings. On the south side Fletcher & Fletcher have lost the Grand Central hotel, with partial insurance; Wilson & Perdue lost their building, but saved most of their stock; Stalding's building, occupied by Henderson's store, was uninsured, as was also the tenant, and both lose heavily; Geigerich was able to save much of his stock, but lost the building, though his loss is covered by insurance. Mrs. Gunn, of the Baldwin hotel, got out a portion of the furniture, but had a narrow escape herself. John Ward, of Coeur d'Alene, saved his bar fittings and furniture in a damaged state. He had $750 insurance on stock, but the policies on the building were cancelled two or three weeks ago. John M. Burke's bank building was burned, but it is covered by insurance. The Washington mine had an office in this building, and Mr. Irwin, the secretary, reports that the papers are probably secure in the bank safe. Retalleck, receiver of Burke's bank, loses his furniture and other office property, uninsured. There were several buildings pulled down and two or three blown up by dynamite, and among them Byers hardware building, where the explosion was very heavy, shattering most of the glass in town and injuring two or three people, but not very severely. The building occupied by the Galena Trading Company was severely injured by the explosion, but the stock was not damaged.

Business has already been resumed. Most of those burned out are already housed, and there is no report of distress. The disaster has not crushed the energy of the people. Three attempts have been made to burn the town within five weeks. It was totally without fire protection, and the insurance companies had canceled many policies of late.

BONILLA IN POWER.

He Will Grant General Amnesty and Hold an Election.

La Libertad, Salvador, Feb. 27.—General Bolanos, commander of the port of La Union, thirty miles west of Ampala, on the west side of the Gulf of Fonseca, telegraphed to President Ezeta to-day that the fugitive president of Honduras, General Vasquez has telegraphed to him asking for an asylum for his followers in that town, and that he, General Bolanos, had granted the request. The Sanvadorean government will probably bring the exile into the interior of the republic for safety. President Exeta is now ready to recognize General Bonilla's government of Honduras, and so is Guatemala's president. General Bonilla telegraphs that the entire loss of the allied forces during the siege of Tegucigalpa consisted of two generals, seven colonels and 400 privates. The entire country of Honduras is reported to be dissatisfied with the change of governments and General Bonilla intends to decree a general amnesty, and call for a new election. When peace is firmly established General Ortez, who is in command of the forces from Nicaragua, will return to his country with his army.

Big Woolen Mill to Close.

Auburn, N. Y., Feb. 27.—Receivers were appointed at Rochester to-day for the Auburn Woollen Co., to forestall a suit of the Auburn National bank which held $10,000 of the company's paper. Samuel Laurence, president and superintendant of the company, and Captain John Martin of Geneva, who represents the Swift estate, were appointed. The Auburn Woollen Co., was organized in 1881, and its mill is one of the largest and best equipped in the country. The plant is worth over $100,000. The capital stock of the company is $200,000, divided in $200 shares, of which the Swift estate holds 84, the Fearing estate 68, and Samuel Laurence 34. The stock was considered good security. The sales of the mill amounted to $800,000 annually, and Metcalfe Bros. & Co., of 59 Worth street, New York, handled the entire output. The indebtness of the company is estimated at $350,000. Among its creditors are Metcalfe Bros. & Co., the Broadway National Bank, the Swift estate and the National bank of Auburn. The receivers will operate the mill for two weeks and then close for an indefinite period, throwing 500 men out of employment.

The Paris Accident.

New York, Feb. 27.—A number of passengers who were on the American liner Paris when the accident to her rudder happened, arrived to-day on the Aurania. All agree there was excitement when the accident happened. The fact was not known until stated by the ship's officers. The passengers say the Paris was steered quite readily by use of the twin screws.

Fighting Wilson's Tariff Bill.

Pittsburg, Pa., Feb. 27.—According to a letter received to-day at the headquarters of the window glass workers' association from expert Jas. Campbell, a leading member of the committee which is in Washington to fight for a window glass tariff, several democrat senators, including Senator Hill of New York, will fight the Wilson bill. Senator Hill assured the committee he would fight the bill in every way, both in the committee and on the floor of the senate, and that his voice and vote will be against it. It is believed Senator Hill's action will be imitated by Senator Murphy, his colleague. Senator Cameron promised to work and vote against the bill. Senator McPherson promised that he will do all in his power to get a better tariff on window glass, while the bill is before the finance committee, but he said he would be forced to vote with his party when the bill comes in senate.

MATTERS OF STATE.

B. C. Fishery Regulations—McGreevy and Connolly May Go Free.

Ottawa, Feb. 27.—A committee of the cabinet is carefully considering certain amedments which are being asked to the British Columbia fishery regulations.

Lord Aberdeen did not sign Thompson's report in the McGreevy-Connolly case at four o'clock to-day when the state department closed. Secretary of state scarcely expects to receive it back from the government house to-night.

At a meeting of the cabinet to-day an order-in-council was passed commuting the death sentence passed upon Ed. Wheary, a young deaf mute at Fredericton to imprisonment for life. He was tried by Judge Parker and sentenced to be hanged on April 20th next. The jury recommended him to mercy and it is understood that the judge in his report to the government also made a similar recommendation. In view of this and all the circumstances surrounding the case, the prisoner has been saved from the gallows.

Sir John Thompson has prepared a report recommending the release of Thomas McGreevy and Nicholas Connolly and all that is now wanted is the signature of Lord Aberdeen and the state prisoners will be free men. The chief ground given for release is that the men are breaking down in health.

Eastern Canada.

Toronto, Feb. 21.—At the council meeting begun last night and wound up this morning, the long-talked-of salary reduction by-law went through the final stages. All civic salaries have been reduced, with the exception of that of the medical health officer.

Mr. Conmee's (Liberal) proposal to abolish royalties on mining is receiving strong support from the Conservatives.

Mr. Clarke Wallace has been waited on by the deputations of the board of trade, who explain that in the tariff charges and in the compilation of statistics Toronto importers were unfairly treated as compared with the Montreal importers. The comptroller promised to investigate.

Mr. Waite, architect, of Buffalo, wants $28,000 as a percentage of extras at the parliament buildings. At present the government refuse to pay it.

Rev. W. J. Maxwell, the pastor of the Elm street Methodist church in this city, died this morning of hemorrhage.

Russians and Prussians Fight.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 27.—It is reported that a battle has been fought on the frontier between Russian and German troops, several on each side being killed. The affair is said to have grown out of the use by the Prussian Uhlans of the Russian eagle as a target for rifle practice.

Five Dollars Damages.

London, Feb. 27.—The trial of the case of Mrs. John Biddulph Martin (Victoria Woodhull) against the trustees of the British museum, in which the plaintiff charges the trustees with exposing upon the shelves of their library books containing statements libelling her character, was concluded to-day. The jury awarded Mrs. Martin £1 damages.

Brazilian Matters.

Montevideo, Feb. 27.—No official candidate has yet been announced, though the presidential election here takes place next Thursday. These tactics of the official party are incomprehensible to the general public.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 27.—A dispatch received from the minister at Rio states that it is reported the insurgents have captured Sapo, a town on the coast, eight miles out of Desterro.

Into An Air Hole.

Ogdensburg, N. Y., Feb. 27.—Matthew Steiner, of Syracuse, and B. Barrett, of Montreal, while driving across the St. Lawrence from Prescott to this city last evening, drove into an air hole and were drowned.

Victoria Healthy and Gracious.

London, Feb. 27.—The Queen's drawing-room to-day was held in perfect sunshine, and there was a large attendance of privileged persons. Her majesty was in excellent health and extremely gracious in demeanor.

An Alarming Showing.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 28.—The official statement of the treasury receipts and expenses is to be issued to-morrow. They will show in round figures that for eight months of the present fiscal year the expenses of the government exceeded the receipts by $4,800,000.

TORY CROAKINGS

The Conservative Press Pursues Its Usual Tactics

IN REFERENCE TO HON. MR. GLADSTONE

More Reports About His Inevitable Resignation.

T. P. O'Conner, M. P, Gives His Opinion—Saying Mr. Gladstone's Eyesight is the Cause of Trouble—The Whole Matter Fittingly Wound Up by an Emphatic Official Denial.

London, Feb. 27.—Rt. Hon. Mr. Gladstone's followers, the Tory press assert, have become agitated almost to the verge of a panic by the statements of his intended resignation. Though there are still many doubters, the reports of his immediate withdrawal from office find most credence among his supporters. In to-day Sun T. P. O'Connor, M. P., says: "A competent authority gives it that his eyesight is the actual reason for his resignation, but the situation is further aggravated by the position of a certain member of the cabinet with reference to the naval programme. Nobody has the least idea what a day may bring forth, though my own opinion is that Mr. Gladstone will refuse to resign."

Later.—The rumor that Mr. Gladstone will resign office is officially denied.

Several morning papers state that Mr. Gladstone's resignation is a matter of a few days. The Edinburgh News says he will call on the Queen to-day and recommend Lord Rosebery as his successor. The News says, however, he will retain his place in the cabinet. Failing eyesight is the cause of his retirement from the premiership.

British Fighting the Africans.

London, Feb. 27.—A despatch from Admiral Bedford, commanding the British fleet at Bathurst, West Africa, says that a large force of natives under Chief Fodisalah invaded British Gambia. There was two hours' fighting between the natives and a detachment of the West Indian Regiment. The natives were routed with a number killed and wounded. Only three of the British were wounded.

CENTRAL AMERICA'S WAR.

Turmoil and Confusion Reign Supreme in Honduras.

Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Feb. 28.—Great disorder prevails here; General Ortz and Bonilla are both issuing proclamations. All property of the adherents of Vasquez has been confiscated, and a forced loan of $250,000 to pay the troops has been made. There has been much pillaging.

Managua, Nicaragua, Feb. 28.—General Ortez has formally turned over the city of Tegucigalpa to Bonilla, who has already arranged on election for members of assembly and president. The Nicaraguan troops will remain until order is restored. Villela's and Gatierrez' troops have disbanded and the chiefs are trying to join ex-President Vasquez in San Salvador. Policarpo Bonilla has been recognized by San Salvador, Costa Rica and Guatemala.

San Salvador, Feb. 28.—Six prisoners, principally military, were shot to-day.

Nicaragua's demand was indemnity for all expenses incurred by her troops from Bonilla, probably over $200,000.

Dr. Parkhurst's Crusade.

New York, Feb. 27.—A gentleman connected with one of Dr. Parkhurst's good government clubs states that Dr. Parkhurst will become the real prosecutor before the sensational police investigation committee. The inquiry would fall flat. It is claimed, without the presentation of the great mass of evidence against certain police officials which it is believed Dr. Parkhurst now has in his possession.

This informant goes back to the beginning of Superintendent Byrnes' incumbency of his present office, as the time which the inquiry will cover, up to the date of the charges made by Mr. Byrnes against Captain Price. It will include flagrant and trivial matters which had passed before the police commissioners as involving policemen and their superiors, and go into the conduct of several of the commissioners in connection with certain ward or precinct detectives.

"It will do more than that," was said. "I have the best reason to believe that the alleged conspiracy against Charles W. Gardner, Dr. Parkhurst's former agent, will come before the committee in a brand new light, which may show up certain police officials in a very disagreeable manner."

From others who claim to know something of the inner movements of the politicians it was learned that the main objects of men powerful in the councils of both parties would be to stave off as much of the investigation as possible until after the next election for members of the legislatures, the purpose being to change the personnel of the senate committee or bring certain influences to bear upon that body as may mitigate in favor of some of the accused persons.

The Kaslo Fire.

A special from Spokane gives an estimate of the losses at Kaslo. The total loss is now estimated at $117,000, with less than $20,000 insurance. Among the principal losses are:

Byers Hardware Co., stock	$12,000
Byers Hardware Co., building	6,400
F. Geigorich, merchandise	20,000
Grand Central Hotel	7,000
Ward's Coeur d' Alene Hotel	7,000
Burke's Bank	2,000
Dardenelles Hotel	5,000
Palace Hotel	5,000
Bon Ton Hotel, Freeman, Lon & Co.	3,000
Balfour Trading Co.,	8,000
G. H. Williams, drugs	3,000
Baldwin Hotel	3,000
A. T. Cook, stationery	1,000
R. T. Lowery stationery	1,000
Henderson, Clothing	5,000

Relief committees were organized and food, clothing and shelter provided for those who needed them. Guards were posted over the burned district, and warehouses found for rescued goods. Before noon seven tents were up and a number of the merchants were getting ready to open new places of business.