THE WEEKLY WORLD.

THURSDAY, FEBUARY 7.

TO COUNTRY CORRESPONDENTS.

The publishers of The World always welcome correspondence and especially so breezy items from the country. No contribution is so valuable or interesting as anything relating to any particular district in the Province. We, however, have to request that brevity be observed in every instance. Notwithstanding the immense quantity of reading matter appearing in our columns each week, fully one-half as much is omitted for want of space. Contributions not deemed acceptable, unless otherwise ordered, will not be returned. Parties desirous of acting as correspondents in localities not already represented will please address this office.

All correspondence should reach the office of publication not later than Monday or Tuesday to ensure publication in that week's issue.

Write only on one side of the paper and in as large and legible hand as possible, and, above all, remember that brevity is the soul of wit.

SIR JOHN AND HOME RULE.

The London Times is responsible for a letter signed by Mr. Joseph Pope, of Ottawa, long Sir John Macdonald's private secretary, in which he is made to deny that the dead statesman "ever moved, originated or supported an Irish Home Rule resolution in the House of Commons in 1882, as reported, or in fact, anywhere else." Aware of Mr. Pope's honorable character and his wide knowledge of Canadian politics, we felt, and still feel, that somebody, other than he, made a mistake and that a wrong has been done the memory of the Chieftain of a great party. In the year 1887, speaking of the Home Rule resolution introduced to the House of Commons in 1882 by the Hon. John Costigan, the Premier, among other things, declared as follows: "It was one I could not refuse my assent to. It was expressed "in most loyal terms. It said that under our system of Home Rule in Canada we had been prosperous and happy, "and the statement that the Irish, who "were unhappy and discontented in Ireland, under the changed circumstances "in which they found themselves when "they came to Canada had become happy and contented, was a truism so true "that one could not refuse to vote for "it." Sir John did vote for it, as well as for Mr. Blake's amended resolution in 1886. How could he do otherwise? He had seen the problem of self-government worked out in the Dominion to a successful conclusion and was astute enough to realize that to give peace to Ireland would beneficially affect the interests of the whole Empire. Sir John never wavered in his allegiance to the cause, and we are still inclined to think that Mr. Pope has been misquoted in his alleged correspondence. We give him credit for larger intelligence than to perpetrate a glaring blunder of this kind. Of course Mr. Blake has long ere this set the British press right in the matter.

AN OBNOXIOUS TAX.

We have always condemned what is known in this Province as the mortgage tax. No argument can be advanced in its favor beyond that the treasury is benefited to the extent of some $40,000 a year. This, however, is a small affair compared with the injury such an obnoxious impost inflicts upon the whole country. It cannot be called anything else but class legislation of the rankest kind. In no other section of the Dominion is such a measure to be found. In fact people anywhere else would not tolerate a Legislature that could persist in enforcing a barbarous law of this character. We have pointed out that money is required to develop our boundless resources. It has been demonstrated beyond controversy that the circulating medium is dearer here than in any of the Provinces constituting the Confederation, and that until it becomes cheaper, that is, realizing a lower rate of interest, British Columbia will not advance as it should. The borrower of capital, as is well known, is generally the person whose energy and enterprise stimulates trade and makes a community prosperous. As a rule, farmers are comprised in this category, since they must purchase more land or improve their holdings in the way of clearing, fencing, draining and the erection of new buildings, for all of which they are certain to be roundly taxed, first for municipal purposes, and then for Provincial, in addition to these comes the interest on sums borrowed and the 2 per cent. additional for what is known as the mortgage tax. Now there can be no valid excuse for continuing this abominable state of things. We have passed the stage of playing ducks and drakes with legislation that time and again has been pointed out as oppressing the most desirable of our citizenship, the artisan, the mechanic, and the farmer especially, and others who are obliged to make loans for which they pay a high rate of interest. Retrenchments can well be made in many directions, more than making up the paltry $40,000 so unjustly taken from those who can ill afford the burden. This can readily be accomplished without in the slightest degree impairing the efficiency of the administration of public affairs. The subject has been brought so often to the attention of the Government—and it being one that appeals to the common sense of the members—that the belief is prevalent that the act will be repealed at once. This is not a question of politics; it is one of redressing a wrong that has too long been allowed to weigh down the deserving and struggling. We trust the Legislature will take such action during the session as will consign the mortgage tax to oblivion. On the 10th of March, 1892, the following appeared in The World. It is so apropos that we reproduce the article, as well as the opinion of a gentleman considered in financial circles throughout Canada to be the very best of authority:

Efforts are being made to induce the Local Legislature to rescind the mortgage tax, which, it is claimed, bears heavily on the most enterprising and progressive portion of the community. Mr. George Hague, General Manager of the Merchants' Bank of Canada, Montreal, may, we think, be considered an authority on such matters, and he writes the following very terse and forcible letter to the Manager of the Bank of British North America in this city, Mr. William Godfrey, which we have been allowed to reproduce:—

"Your favor of the 16th inst. received containing an assessment of tax on mortgage I hold in Vancouver. Does this tax apply to non-residents? "SIMILAR "TAXES HAVE BEEN PROPOSED "AGAIN AND AGAIN IN OTHER "PROVINCES, BUT HAVE ALWAYS "BEEN DEFEATED ON THE GROUND "THAT IT WOULD BE A DOUBLE "TAXATION. FOR IT IS CLEAR THAT "IF THE PROPERTY ITSELF IS "TAXED, AND ALSO ANY DEBT DUE "ON THE SAME PROPERTY TAXED "AGAIN IT IS DOUBLE TAXATION. "I WOULD BE GLAD TO HEAR FROM "YOU ON THE SUBJECT.

Thus it will be seen, according to Mr. Hague's statement, that such a tax cannot hold water if tested, and that it has been a failure wherever tried. The inevitable result is demonstrated in Mr. Hague's case. As soon as he learned the facts he at once sold his mortgage and will probably fight shy of Vancouver investments in future. That double taxation is illegal has long been held by the courts, and it is evident that taxation on real estate, as well as on the mortgage on that real estate clearly comes under this head. We think that most of our readers will agree with us that it is injudicious to scare away capital, especially in a new and struggling city like this, and we trust that the Legislative Assembly will give this matter the most careful consideration and prevent an injustice being done capitalists who will be chary of putting their money into a Province where it is subject to heavy and dual taxation.

SILVER OR GOLD.

As a silver producing country British Columbia is interested in the Oriental war. There seems to be little doubt but that China will have to pay an indemnity. If it takes the form of silver it will give a very appreciable fillip to mining. France and the United States hold the largest stocks of silver at present and they will doubtless be cute enough to put their heads together and see that it does not go too cheaply—probably not under a parity 16 to 1 with gold. All the silver owned by the United States Government is held at par at that ratio and France's immense store of the white metal is held at 15½ to 1. Of course, England and the other European gold standard nations will urge Japan to insist upon gold as the metal in which China shall pay her war indemnity. The latter being a silver nation, as is Japan, would in that event have to go into the market and buy gold. She would have to get it in Europe, and her purchases would still further "bull" the price. A Chinese gold bond issue of say $250,000,000 at 5 per cent. would mean an annual interest charge of $12,500,000 in gold, and that would cost China about double that sum in silver. In this connection it is pretty certain that Hon. John W. Foster will advise the Chinese peace commissioners to insist on payment in the white metal of whatever indemnity is agreed upon between the empires.

AN HONORABLE RECORD.

The history of the Reformers of Canada—or, as the party is called to-day, Liberals—is one of which they have just reason to feel proud. From the earliest colonial times down to the present they have always struggled for the liberties of the subject, the greatest good to the greatest number, and equal rights for all. Had it not been for such men as William Lyon Mackenzie and Louis J. Papineau it is doubtful if we would be enjoying those blessings of responsible government which now are ours. In the early thirties the methods adopted by Family Compactism in Upper and Lower Canada became so irksome and oppressive that these grand characters risked their lives and the tarnishing of their fair names in behalf of the down-trodden people. They were called revolutionists—just as many who love the Dominion first, last and always, are at the close of the nineteenth century denominated traitors—and had to flee the country for their lives. Heavy rewards were offered for their persons—either dead or alive. But their efforts brought forth the desired result, and the people were ultimately granted what they demanded. The rising at that time was termed a rebellion. This was clearly a misnomer, for not only were the grievances laid before the officials in Downing street redressed, but all who took a prominent part in the movement were granted an unconditional amnesty and some were afterwards elected members of Parliament.

The Union of Upper and Lower Canada occurred in 1840. It was after this period that the Rebellion Losses bill was assented to by the Governor-General, Lord Elgin—the best beloved and the wisest statesman the country had up to then been governed by. Because of his actions in this matter the Parliamentary buildings at Montreal were burned, the black flag afterwards hoisted to his face at Kingston, and he was pelted with rotten eggs elsewhere. But he persevered in the good work of bringing order out of chaos, and lived to see the United Provinces become prosperous. This, also, in spite of the fact that many leading politicians—belonging to the Tory party almost exclusively—signed the famous annexation manifesto, notwithstanding which fact, many of them were afterwards knighted and made members of Her Majesty's Privy Council!

In the early fifties the Reformers continued their efforts in the direction of redressing many of the burdens under which the people still labored, and with such eminent success that every plank in their platform many years since were incorporated in the statutes. The leading questions were the secularization of the Clergy Reserves; the abolition of the Seignorial tenures, representation based upon population, and the granting to the Protestant minority in Lower Canada and the Catholic minority in Upper Canada the same rights and privileges concerning social, religious, political and educational matters. The construction of the Grand Trunk Railway was the master accomplishment of the late Sir Francis Hincks, then Prime Minister and Receiver-General. He was also the father of municipal government in Upper Canada and sponsor for the Municipal Loan Fund Act.

About this period the late Hon. George Brown urged the acquisition by Canada of the Red River country, and it was largely through his instrumentality that that vast inland empire—extending from Keewatin, the western limit of Ontario, to the eastern confines of our own Province—was purchased by us in 1870—that is, the Hudson's Bay Company and the Imperial Government were settled with for whatever claim they asserted towards the Northwest.

The dead-lock in 1863-4 resulted in bringing about Confederation, a scheme to which Sir John A. Macdonald was opposed, he preferring a legislative to a federal union. It was, however, George Brown's pet scheme, and he made a voluntary offer to the late Hon. Alex. Morris—afterwards Lieut.-Governor of Manitoba—to sink partyism and join hands with Sir John Macdonald and others in carrying out the idea. The innate nobility of the man was thus expressed. His fealty to the land of his adoption and his loyalty to the Queen were ever leading and distinguishing features of his untarnished career.

Canada, when Confederation was brought about, was in a very fair way. The completion of the Intercolonial Railway was proceeded with vigorously. The construction of a transcontinental railway was launched upon the public mind, and was, with the Washington treaty of 1871, the pivotal question at the general election of 1872. The Reform party, believing the undertaking to be too large for a handful of people—the population then was but 3,485,761—opposed it. During the first session of the new Parliament Lucius Seth Huntingdon made his famous charge against certain members of the Government which culminated in the notorious "Pacific scandal," the defeat of the Macdonald-Cartier Ministry, and the advent, in 1873, of the Hon. Alex. Mackenzie and his colleagues. They continued the prosecution of the public works undertaken by their predecessors in the matter of the Welland canal, the Canadian Pacific Railway and other ventures.

The depression, which was general then, as now, proved disastrous to the Hon. Mr. Mackenzie and his supporters. Conservatives who had hitherto been pronounced free traders, seeing an opportunity for riding into power again, renounced their previous faith in fiscal matters and became protectionists. The Dominion was ripe for change, things could not be much worse owing to the hard times everywhere, many said, and Sir John was returned to the treasury benches. From 1878 to the present the Conservatives have held office. Statistics tell whether or not their policy has The Liberals advocated a degree of free trade, directing their earnest attention to a redistribution of the import duties on many articles in such a manner that the load resting upon the taxpayers' shoulders will be lightened and the days of plenty restored when the tariff was a general 15 per cent. one. Their programme is explicit and it is for the electorate to declare for its adoption or rejection. This is a time for thinking men to send partizanship adrift and follow the course that seems to them best for the advancement of Canada. Too little patriotism and too much politics may block its onward march at a grave crisis in its history.

The policy of the Liberal party as enunciated by Hon. Wilfrid Laurier, does not propose to tear down the restrictions which prevent the development and success of industries. Wealth is not produced by tariff, but by human labor, and the labor which is performed, and whose product is exchanged, under natural conditions, will be the most profitable. As to whether the Laurier tariff will be 30 per cent. or 25 per cent., it will be remembered that Sir John Macdonald, when in opposition, never answered questions of that sort. He promised to readjust the tariff so as to give protection. Mr. Laurier will readjust the tariff so as to collect revenue. He believes that manufactures which are useful to Canada can thrive without robbing agriculture and other self-sustaining industries, and he will not try very hard to maintain parasitical industries.

As we surmised the blunder in the London Times concerning Sir John Macdonald's attitude towards Home Rule was not Mr. Joseph Pope's. In a letter to press he writes: "I desire to say that I have not stated anywhere that Sir John Macdonald never supported an Irish Home Rule resolution in the Canadian House of Commons. On the contrary, in my memoirs of that statesman, I quote the text of two resolutions on that subject which he voted for. The summary of my letter to the Times, in reply to one from Professor Goldwin Smith, has been incorrectly cabled." We felt quite sure that Mr. Pope could not make such a mistake.

The Toronto civic investigation will be reopened on Feb. 25th.

THE ROYAL CITY.

Happenings in and About the City of New Westminster.

From Our Own Correspondent.

New Westminster, Jan. 31.—An entertainment will be given at St. Mary's parish room next Tuesday evening in aid of the parish general expenses' fund. Miss Darragh has been hard at work during the past week arranging a varied programme, with the following result: Songs will be given by Mrs. Lyal, Misses Welch and Draper, Messrs. Blood, Keary, Leslie, Malins, Rickman and Seymour; recitations by Mrs. McKenzie, Miss Howison, Messrs. Herring, Henderson and McCullen; violin solo by Miss Moncrieff, and a stump speech by Mr. Hardman.

There was a larger attendance at last night's rehearsal of the Pirates of Penzance than on the previous occasion. Mr. Victor Austin conducted and much spirit was thrown into the choruses practised. No allotment of characters has yet been made, this important matter being held over for a time.

Dr. Boddington went over to Victoria yesterday to see the Government head of the Department with which the Provincial Asylum for the Insane is connected. He is expected to return in time to take charge as medical superintendent of the institution to-morrow.

Another local hotel is closing its doors, this time the Queen's. A general clearance-out of furniture and effects was being made yesterday. It is unlikely that another tenant will be found for the premises, not, at any rate, whilst general business continues depressed.

The Brunette Saw Mills were temporarily shut down last evening for the customary annual repairs. These will take from one to two weeks, after which it is anticipated work will be resumed as usual.

Wm. Goudy yesterday afternoon paid the fine of $100 and costs inflicted upon him for his share in the Jordan-Goudy affair. Doubtless he has learned a salutary lesson. The charge against Jordan for his part in the affray will be dealt with at the next assizes.

An extremely painful accident occurred on Tuesday, through which Robert Gray has lost his right eye. Whilst wood splitting a piece of steel flew off the wedge he was using, entering the eyeball and destroying the sight of the eye. The sufferer was taken to St. Mary's hospital, where Drs. Walker and Drew took out the injured organ. This morning's report is that Gray is getting along as well as can be expected.

At the Royal Columbian Hospital Samuel Thompson, who on Saturday night, 19th inst., broke his leg, is making slow progress towards recovery under Dr. Walker's surgical care. The other inmates of this hospital are much as usual, there being little change to note. Information has been received that the practice obtaining for some time past of sending disabled seamen from Vancouver to this institution will be discontinued, arrangements having been made to have these cases treated at St. Paul's hospital in your city.

Word has been received that Westminster and Vancouver may look for a visit, probably in Easter week, from a very capable amateur theatrical combination which has been organized in the Mission-Hatzic district. Should the visit be paid it will be in the interests of St. Gabriel's orphanage. Further particulars will be given.

Boutilier & Co. have several teams busily employed this week bringing ice from Coquitlam. It is intended to use it in connection with the firm's export of fish.

The school trustees held their adjourned meeting at the City Hall last night, when the 1895 estimates were considered. The respective items now stand thus:

High school—Principal, $1,308; assistant, $1,090.

Central boys' school—Principal, $1,050; first assistant, $817.50; second, $780; third, $665; fourth, $632.50; fifth, $600; sixth, for nine months, $450.

Central girls' school—Principal, $742; first assistant, $725; second, $665; third, $632.50; fourth, $600.

Sapperton school—Principal, $812.50; assistant, $600; monitor, $590.

West Side school—Principal $812.50; assistant, $600.

Janitors—Central school, $600; Sapperton, $120; West Side, $80.

General expenses—Secretary, $180; stationery and printing, $150; stoves and repairs thereto, $75; fuel, $800; janitors' supplies, $50; water rate, $150; sanitary allowance, $75; general repairs, $300; music, $380; additional school facilities at West Side, $100; sundries, $77.50; a total of $7,100.

Summary—Teachers' salaries, $14,342.50; janitors' salaries, $800; secretary's, $180; music, $300; general expenses, $1,100, contingent, do., $377.50; total, $17,100.

These estimates show a total reduction of $2,100, as compared with the 1894 total. It must be noted that the salary of an additional assistant is included in the 1895 estimates, the total reduction excluding this additional outlay being $2,450. The teachers' salaries remained at the former year's rate for January, the reductions reported in last Friday's World taking effect from Feb. 1st. The estimates, as finally passed, were today sent to the city council. The board authorized the immediate expenditure of $70 to effect some urgent repairs at the several school buildings; arranged to substitute patent seats for those of the old style now in use in Miss McDougall's division in the Central boys' school, and decided upon making desirable alterations in several other divisions of the Central schools. A complaint made by Mrs. Hughes, against Principal Graham, of the Central Boys' School, was investigated and adjudged groundless, the teachers having simply carried out the requirements of the School Act and the regulations in the matter objected to by the parent. A number of smaller details were disposed of before the board adjourned.

New Westminster, Feb 1.—Quite a number of Liberal sympathizers attended a meeting held in this city last night to talk over matters connected with the interests they are desirous of advancing. Much enthusiasm was displayed and a long conversational discussion took place, but definite proposals were deferred for fuller consideration at a later meeting to be held next Tuesday evening. A committee was appointed to make arrangements for the larger meeting.

Capt. Green, of the local corps of the Salvation Army, leaves to-day to join the east-bound express for Winnipeg. Lieut. Davidson will go over to Vancouver this evening to take up Army labors in that city. These two Salvation lasses have done good work in their respective capacities during their stay in the Royal City. Capt. Stephens is expected to arrive from Vernon to-day to take charge of the Westminster corps.

The hearing of the Dewdney municipal election case, which was to have engaged the attention of Hon. Justice McCreight this morning, has been postponed until Wednesday, the 13th inst. It is understood that an endeavor will be made to upset the election of Reeve Dion, in connection with which certain irregularities are alleged to have occurred.

About this time last year information was received here that an exceptionally large quantity of snow had fallen on the hills of the Stuart's Lake and Quesnelle districts in Cariboo. This was a first warning of last summer's freshets. News has just come to hand from the same places, under date of Jan. 10, 1895, that a still larger quantity of snow had then accumulated on the upper Fraser hills. This would seem to forebode another Fraser flood if the snow does not melt away gradually.

The whereabouts of Mike Lasate, for whose arrest a warrant was issued by Capt. Pittendrigh, upon an information charging him with misappropriation of moneys, appears to be known to the police. It appears that the informant does not now wish to press the charge, in which case Lasate will probably miss receiving the pressing attentions of the police.

At the market this morning supplies generally were more plentiful, and the attendance showed a marked improvement on last month's numbers. Beef was well represented and met with ready sale. Pork was in excess of requirements. A few carcasses of mutton were offered and soon bought up. Fowls were more numerous and good business was done in them. Potatoes were in quantity and were not freely sold, although prices were maintained where sales were effected. There was little call for the retail supplies of vegetables offering. Feed and grain were much as usual, as also were butter and eggs. Altogether business was somewhat lighter.

A meeting of those interested in the Surrey Agricultural Society was held in Cloverdale yesterday. There was a good attendance and an animated discussion took place respecting the place at which the next show shall be held, some advocating Surrey Centre and others favoring Cloverdale. Eventually Chris. Brown and Major Hornby were appointed a committee to make choice of the locality for holding the show. The meeting was afterwards adjourned till Thursday, 28th inst., at the same time and place.

A natural curiosity was exhibited at the market this morning in the shape of a cluster of potatoes of the white elephant variety grown on the ranch of John Keery, of Kensington Prairie. A large central tuber was surrounded by 14 or 15 smaller ones, which had grown out of it, the whole forming an interesting group.

The assessment commissioner and two of the assessors commenced their duties yesterday, making a beginning of their valuing at the southwestern portion of the city.

The tug Comet yesterday brought down from one of the company's camps at Port Kells a boom of logs for the Royal City Planing Mills.

The Midnight Adieu Club held a very enjoyable dance last night in the K. of P. hall, Burns' block. There was an attendance above the average and dancing was kept up until about 2 o'clock a. m. The Quintette Club, which for some time past has held fortnightly dances in the same hall, appears to have collapsed, perhaps only temporarily.

Some little excitement was aroused on Columbia street last evening by a bolt. A team belonging to a Mud Bay rancher named Johnston was tied up to a post outside of a butcher's shop, when a Chinaman let off a string of firecrackers on the sidewalk a short distance ahead of the horses, causing them to plunge violently until they broke away. Fortunately they turned up hill, and a passing horseman, whose horse was also much frightened by the firing of the crackers, managed to head them in time to prevent much damage being done. The carelessness of the Chinaman in firing crackers on the main street might well be made an example of.

Activity continues at the McGillivray pipe works, where about 22 men still find employment. The last of the steel pipes under order for the Horsefly Hydraulic Mining Company and the Cariboo Company were shipped this week. These orders included a larger number of "specials"—that is Y's, bends, etc.—than any order hitherto executed in the Province. These particular pipes have been so numerous, over 100 being required, that the foreman has had pretty well all the time taken up in developing the special joints. An order for pipes for the Bridge River Mining Co., Lillooet is now in hand. A smokestack for Alex. Ewen's down-river cannery is nearly completed, and another for the International Cold Storage Co., Vancouver, is about ready for delivery. The latter shows especially strong work. No. 10 (Birmingham wire gauge) steel plates having been used in its manufacture. The stack is 45 feet in length, with a diameter of 32 inches. It is hoped that sufficient orders will continue to come in to keep these works fully employed.

Announcement is made by McBride & Whiteside, solicitors for the assignee, that H. B. Shadwell and W. C. Cheatham, trading in this city as H. B. Shadwell & Co., dry goods merchants, have assigned to J. W. Lawrence, of Toronto, Ont. Stocktaking is consequently now proceeding at Au Bon Marche.

The January customs returns for the Port of Westminster show the value of goods imported to have been: Dutiable, $25,525; free, $16,308; total value, $41,833. Amount of duty collected, $8,427.31; other revenues, $121.90; total revenue, $8,559.21. The value of the exports for the month was $133,645.

The late special car from Vancouver last night was well patronized, a large number of people having gone over to attend Nellie McHenry's A Night at the Circus.

New Westminster, Feb. 2.—The Woman's Hospital movement is at length showing practical results. A house on Third avenue, known as the Ackerman house, conveniently situated near the tram line, has been secured, and it is intended to open the hospital about the middle of the current month. The responses to the appeal for furnishings, blankets, etc., have not been so numerous as was expected they would be, so it is proposed to appoint sub-committees next week to make personal applications for assistance in this direction. Five hundred copies of a circular announcing the projected early opening of the hospital have been sent to women resident in the municipalities surrounding the city. The committee of ladies are to be congratulated upon having so far succeeded with the establishment of an institution which will meet a real necessity.

Union evangelistic meetings have been held in several of the city churches during the last three weeks, the following ministers in turn leading the devotions and addressing the congregations: Revs. Dr. Reid, Reformed Episcopal; E. B. Chesnut and T. Scouler, Presbyterian; T. W. Hall and J. P. Hicks, Methodist, and J. H. Best, Baptist. The services were held in St. Paul's Reformed Episcopal church during the first week of the series, in the Central Methodist church the second week and in the Oliver Baptist church through the week now closing. As a rule the attendances have been good and much zeal and earnestness have been displayed. Next week the services will be continued in St. Andrew's Presbyterian church.

The Cunningham Hardware Company has gone into liquidation. The liquidator, James Cunningham, is offering the business for sale as a going concern.

Several scowloads and carloads of lumber have been shipped from the Royal City mills during the past few days. A quantity of lumber of different sizes is being stacked on the mill wharf in readiness for shipment abroad as soon as a vessel comes to take it.

The secretary of the Wanderers' Football Club has been advised that the Nanaimo Hornets will visit Westminster to-day to play against the local team in a Rugby match. So many postponements of this match have taken place that there appears to be no inducement to believe that it will come off until it is actually in progress. A little rain has fallen, so the ground will be rather slippery, but there will not be any snow to interfere with the play. The match will be played at Queen's Park.

The president of the Art & Scientific Association, Rev. H. H. Gowen, delivered his lecture on Robert Louis Stevenson before the members of the association and others last night. Dr. Newcombe also gave an address, his subject being Glacial Action.

Westminster apparently has at least one sneak-thief of literary tastes. This week the latest number of the Pall Mall Magazine disappeared from the table of the Public Library Reading room within two or three hours of its being placed there by the librarian. As the peculations of this nature which occasionally take place are exceedingly annoying, especially to those who look forward to reading the better-class magazines soon after their receipt, it is to be hoped that the delinquent may be discovered and made an example of.

A meeting of Liberal-Conservatives resident in the electoral district of Westminster, is being convened for Friday the 8th inst., when a Liberal-Conservative Association will probably be organized. The prospect of an early general election is causing a little flutter in the local political dovecots.

The Reid & Currie Ironworks Co's. assets were offered for sale by auction. The works, including machinery and stock, scheduled as valued at $19,219, were knocked down to John Wilson, of the Brunette S. M. Co., for $5,000. The book debts totalling $9,954 were sold at 9c. on the dollar. The carriage stock, valued at over $300, brought only $90. There was very little competition, consequently bidding was slow.

"Shorty" Wilkinson was again before the police magistrate, on remand, this morning. It was announced that there is every probability of Robert Hogan, whom he shot, being sufficiently recovered to appear in court shortly so a further remand of eight days was granted. Shorty has thus far managed to secure for himself a winter's board and lodging at the city's expense.

There has been no more important discovery in medical science during recent years than the invention of Esclaja's Liver Lozenges. Their discovery is of interest and benefit to nearly every person living.

NOTES FROM RICHMOND.

Municipal Management and Its Cost to the Taxpayers—A Grist of Local Gossip.

Lulu Island, Jan. 30.—Since writing last we have had delightful, bracing weather, fine clear days, with just a touch of frost at night.——Our elections passed off very quietly. The dominant party must feel proud of the great (?) victory they have achieved. They have now entered on their third year, and what have they accomplished during their reign? They have tried every possible way to bring some serious fault against their predecessors, but have failed. They have spent a large amount of the people's taxes trying to fight the McLean Bros. Now they have to eat humble pie and to acknowledge that they were in the wrong. It is stated that if the arrangement made is not attended to at once the sheriff will step in and take charge of the building until the box. That is the cause of all the manoeuvring to injure the innocent. It appears the more costs the suffering taxpayers are put to the better. When I said they had not succeeded in gaining any case in connection with the defeated party I made a mistake, for they did last week. They helped to win one. They worked in a body, tooth and nail, if it throve go for anything. Some of them may find themselves in the hands of Gov. Moresby for the part they have taken in this matter, and which is also likely to prove dear to the municipality. It is hard to say when or where the matter will end. Jos. Pierson, auditor, has again had to leave on account of the books not being ready. It was the same thing last year. It was thought they were going to do wonders this. A change of clerk, too! Mr. Pierson doesn't care. It is a very pleasant little trip for him to and from Victoria, expenses paid and $5.50 per day besides. It is a fine thing to be auditor for such a wealthy (?) municipality as Richmond. On nomination day he recommended the payment of McLean Bros.' bill. Had he done so two years ago things would have been different now. He seemed to know as much about law as Mr. Kidd did when he recommended the council to fight it out and make Mr. Sexsmith pay it. All the surcharging will be at the people's cost, not that of individuals. Many people hereabouts think it would be well for the council, before doing any business of importance, to see if its members are eligible to sit at the board. There is considerable talk about the way the taxes and assessments have been conducted. If things are as rumor says they are an enquiry may be found necessary and things looked into.

The men at the South Arm apprehended for stealing, a short time ago, have been released and acquitted free of all charges brought against them. My opinion is that had the magistrate appointed by the council been left in office he could have tried this case in Steveston. But instead it has been going on for a long time in Westminster, putting the municipality to more unnecessary expense. But the spleen of one or two goes a long way. As far as I can learn the captain gave general satisfaction and did the best he could for all concerned. I hear from good authority that this case will cost the municipality at least $300. Our own J. P. would have gone through it for a mere trifle compared with what it will cost the already over-burdened taxpayers.

The wreckage caused by the recent floods is being removed and the dykes getting fixed up, gravel being shovelled back on the road and bridges being repaired.

We have been reveling in most beautiful weather. Folks in the East will be envying us where they are having so much snow and stormy weather.——Your correspondent takes this opportunity of tendering congratulations to L. Munn on the occasion of his marriage and wishing both Mr. and Mrs. Munn long life and happiness.——Sea Island cannery is still in the same place, notwithstanding the high tide of a few days ago.——Capt. Goss, the rustling contractor, is now putting up another cannery at Steveston for Costello and McMoran. I tell you the captain is a rustler and in a few days the cannery will be showing up well. Ira McLaren, another celebrated contractor, has the Oddfellows' hall well under way. I believe the boys are going to have a big time at the opening. I wish them success and every prosperity in their undertaking.——A. Kilgour, Sea Island, is building a dwelling house. His friends will be pleased to see him in harness once again.——Mr. Wells has rented part of Mr. Kilgour's farm fronting on the Centre road.——The contract has been given for piles for another cannery, which is to be built in the vicinity of the bridge.——Measles are quite prevalent amongst our children just now. They are of a mild form and the little ones are doing well, some of them being able to go out again.——A baby daughter has come to gladden the hearts of Mr. and Mrs. J. McLaren.

MOUNT LEHMAN.

Mount Lehman, Jan. 30.—On Tuesday evening last a very pleasant affair happened at Mr. and Mrs. James Merrifield's. The event was the marriage of their daughter Rebecca to Robert K. Nicholl, of Aldergrove. The happy couple were supported, the bride by her sister Sara, the groom by his brother Simon Nicholl, of Vancouver. Rev. R. J. Irwin officiated. The ceremony took place at 6 o'clock, after which the company sat down to a table laden with such viands as would be irresistible to to the most dainty and fastidious appetite. The evening was filled with music and other pleasantries that stole away the hours with wonderful rapidity. Mr. and Mrs. Nicholl go to their home in Aldergrove, where he is a young and enterprising farmer. The World joins with their numerous friends in wishing the young couple a long, happy and prosperous journey through life.——The winter has been one of the most pleasant for many years here. Everybody seems to be in the best of health and in the highest spirits. Winter sports have occupied no little attention of late. A longer period of skating has remained with us than has been enjoyed in many a year, with brilliant, starry, frosty nights and sleighriding and bright sunny days interspersed.——The I. O. G. T. elected their officers for the ensuing quarter last Friday evening. Nearly all the officers were re-elected, with J. D. McLean as chief Templar. The lodge is in a good, healthy condition and is growing. The members have decided to give an open lodge once a month for the purpose of scattering more widely temperance truths and principles in the community.

A SUCCESSFUL POULTRY MAN.

Interesting Description of a Visit to Arthur O'Connor's Yards.

Among the poultry fanciers, who, by reason of their not having been free to give personal supervision to the transit of their birds to and from Vancouver, and to their care while there, were unable to compete at last week's poultry show held in the Terminal City, was Arthur O'Connor. With him poultry keeping is not a main occupation, other business taking up the greater part of his working time. Yet, by dint of industry he manages to keep in good fettle a surprising number and variety of fowls, chiefly of well-known and popular breeds. That his is not an idle fancy, or mere pastime is evident, for in 1893 he took the Westminster exhibition diploma for the best display of birds, his other awards on that occasion having been 22 firsts and 10 seconds. In the 1894 local exposition he met with even more gratifying results, receiving the $30 award for the largest number of prize points scored by any one exhibitor, his record having then been 28 firsts and 20 seconds. For a man who six years ago knew little or nothing of chicken lore this is an excellent showing. Doubtless his success may be attributed to close observation, careful selection and proportion and tireless oversight of his birds. In his breeding pens to-day may be seen barred Plymouth Rocks, silver laced Wyandottes, golden Polish, brown Leghorns, buff Cochins, black Langshans and light Brahmas, while running out he has black-breasted, brown-breasted and duckwing game, some black Javas, which latter he imported last year. In each of the breeding pens are 13 birds, 12 hens and one cock. The birds for sale are kept separate from those reserved for breeding purposes. Among the many fowls in the several pens are some with many good points, but since these are details of particular interest to those well versed in such matters, rather than to ordinary readers, they will not here be narrated. After the unbiased visitor has remarked the general handsome robustness or appearance of the fowls before him, and strong contrasts between some of the breeds, and has also expressed his admiration of the attractive plumage of the Polish and Wyandottes especially, he will probably have reached the end of his chicken knowledge. Then he may learn that the owner thinks the Plymouth Rocks the best general purpose fowl; that for usefulness the Wyandottes come next; that the Leghorn's superior laying qualities are here fully appreciated; that the Polish are free layers and non-sitters, whilst on the other hand the Cochins make good mothers, as well as being useful layers; and that the Brahmas combine excellent laying habits with strong recommendations for table purposes. Asked how he hatches his young birds, our chicken friend replies "both ways, by incubator and by setting hens," then, in reply to a query as to what becomes of the increase, it is ascertained that both eggs and birds find a ready sale to others requiring good stock. Further conversation reveals the fact that Mr. O'Connor is jointly interested with T. C. Pearson in white Leghorns and black Minorcas, and that he sold out his imported white Cochins to Capt. Pittendrigh, who does not regret his purchase. A final query as to immunity from visits of roost robbers finds a significant answer in attention being called to the presence of a big, business-like looking bull-terrier. Then, after thanking the fowl fancier for the courteous attention shown him, the visitor quietly saunters homeward, reflecting on the way that enthusiasm makes for one man an interesting relaxation what to another lacking the impulse would be a tedious labor.

ST. LUKE'S HOME.

One of the most deserving institutions in the city is, undoubtedly, St. Luke's Home, which has no endowment of any description. The annual report, which has just been received, is a very interesting document, in which the facts surrounding the financial condition of the Home are set out, together with the cases treated. In regard to the former it is pointed out that $500 is wanted to set matters straight, and at present the general expenses are running on and charity nursing has at this very time to be given. In addition there has been much nursing among the sufferers by the Fraser river flood, who were unable to pay anything. In the face of all these difficulties it is a mystery how the little band of noble women, headed by energetic Sister Francis, who constitute the Home, keep things going. Nurses Hester, Annie, Bessie and probationers Amy and Henriette have done loyal service. There were eight other nurses employed in the Home who were engaged from time to time as occasion required. In all 95 cases were dealt with during last year, 58 in and 37 outside the Home, of which number there were six deaths, four being adults and two children. Of these 55 paid, 17 were assisted cases and 23 were nursed free of cost. The work of the Home is extending throughout the district. Donations have fallen off, but to the following thanks are due: Gen. Hay, $10; Mrs. Coutts, $5; Anon, $5; S. S. Warrimoo, $9.60; Miss Kendall, $10; Violet Guild, $13.50; C. Nelson, drugs, $10.

SNEAK THIEVERY.

On Thursday night some one entered the residence of D. McGillivray, Georgia street, and stole two overcoats. There was a gold watch in one of which on the lapel and the thieves took the contents thereof, and also the silver ring that was around the bottle with the word Whisky engraved on it.

A man has been trying to sell a set of fire irons in several stores on Cordova street. It was probably stolen and anyone having lost such articles should communicate with the police. The man said he was a stranger in the city.

T. Dunn this morning had considerable fun at the expense of D. McGillivray over the fact that the latter's overcoat had been stolen. Mr. McGillivray was going over to New Westminster, and feeling chilly he thought it would be a good idea to appropriate Mr. Dunn's coat for use on the way. He accordingly had Mr. Dunn's attention diverted, and took it. When Mr. Dunn missed it he telephoned at once for the chief of police, but no trace of the thief was discovered. Mr. McGillivray, having missed the tram, learned that the police were after the coat so he returned it, and all was again serene, but Mr. Dunn has no more to say about how foolish a man it is when he allows his overcoat to be stolen.

THRIVING SETTLERS.

Squamish Valley, Jan. 24.—Sleighing is just splendid, writes a correspondent of The World, and settlers are taking advantage of it to visit each other, and surprise parties are all the rage. The last, which seems to have eclipsed any previous one, was held at Fred Thorn's, the hop ranch, on the 18th inst. Nearly everybody in the settlement was invited. There were dancing, games and singing. The party continued until 4 o'clock in the morning, when all dispersed to their homes well pleased with the evening's enjoyment. So far it has been a very good winter for out-of-door work. Messrs. Hayden & Anderson have quite a piece of ground slashed on their ranches on the Cheackamus. Mr. Hayden hopes to have some 10 acres in the crop the coming season. Their cattle ran out until Jan. 4th and are rolling fat. I might say that the Cheackmas is one of the best trout streams in the Province and at this season great sport can be had with rod and line. Many of the trout are over 10 lbs. in weight. Deer have been very plentiful, too.—Our school, under the able management of Miss Magee, who is much thought of by children and parents, is progressing well.—Religious meetings are held in the school room every Sunday, which, though they may be of a primitive character, help to draw our thoughts to things above.

A TALE TOLD BY THE EDITOR.

MR. THOMAS STRANG SPEAKS THAT SUFFERERS MAY READ AND LIVE.

Attacked With La Grippe, the After Effects Developing Heart Trouble—His Friends Thought Him Near Death's Door—After Many Failures He Has Once More Regained the Blessing of Perfect Health.

Strangfield is a post-office corner about six miles from Comber. It was named after the highly respected and well-known family of Strangs. The neighborhood is a quiet one, being inhabited by a church-going, sober, industrious people. Among the people of that neighborhood none is better or more favorably known than Mr