THE CITY.

Still at Low Water Mark.

A private cablegram from London yesterday announced that at Lampson's second big sale, the same low prices for sealskins prevailed that marked the January figures.

Divorce.

The divorce case of Green v. Green, has been fixed for Saturday, the 9th inst. Considerable interest attaches to the case among those who are fond of divorce proceedings.

Ducks are not Geese.

The charge of violating the provincial game law, brought against a member of the Local Legislature, in the city police court, will not be heard. The information charged the M.P.P. with having in his possession certain wild "ducks," while the birds were geese."

Warships Coming Home.

H. M. S. Champion is now hourly expected at Esquimalt, and all preparations for the reception have been completed. The Warspite is about midway between here and California, and may be looked for tomorrow night. H. M. S. Melpomene is due in harbor about a fortnight.

An Excusable Pun.

A prominent Victoria Irishman, whose devotion to the green is well-known, was yesterday rejoicing at the non-appearance of the fruit peddlars on the streets. "It's just what I thought," he said, "once let the Orangemen get quarrelling with each other, and they'll fight it out like Kilkenny cats."

Ald. Devlin Resigns.

Ald. J. C. Devlin, senior representative for Johnson street ward, yesterday, placed his resignation in the hands of Mayor Beaven, for reasons which he explains in the document, but which he declines to make public until the resignation is considered by the Council—very probably at a special meeting.

For Victoria's Tram Cars.

Mr. John S. Anderson, of the Edison General Electric Co., came over from the Mainland, last evening. He says that he has just disposed of four 4 h.p. Edison single reduction car equipments to the N. E. T. & L. Co., of this city, to replace the Thomson-Houston double reduction sets now in use, and which have been found to require too frequent repair.

A Sorrowing Sister.

A second telegram from Mary Dunn, of San Francisco, whose brother, Michael Dunn, was found drowned in the harbor several days ago, was received by Sergt. Langley, yesterday. Miss Dunn is anxious to secure the address of some friend of her brother, who will write her full particulars of his death. Mr. A. C. McAlpine has taken the task upon himself.

Union Pacific Arrangement.

Though the Union Pacific Railway Company have decided to close all their local offices, the company's office in this city does not come within the number. The agency has been transferred to Messrs. Hall, Goepel & Co., and all U.P.R. tickets now out will be honored by the Puget Sound & Alaska Steamship Company. Mr. C. G. Rawlings goes to the general department in Portland, and rumor says, will be made a general passenger agent.

Ignorance Excuses No One.

The charge of stealing $10 from an Indian friend, preferred against Frank Manene, the Kanaka, was dropped in yesterday's Police Court, and the charge of supplying liquor to Indians substituted. The evidence was conclusive, and Manene went up for two months at hard labor; he is a stranger to Canada and Canadian customs, and did not know that it was illegal to give liquor to Siwashes. In sentencing the culprit, Police Magistrate Belyea said that he was very sorry he could not prescribe the same medicine for the Indians; they knew the law, and took advantage of the ignorance of their friend.

A Very Sad Case.

The case of the young woman, Sarah E. White, who was for some time an inmate of the Rescue Home, on Cormorant street, and who, a few months ago, was taken to the asylum at New Westminster, will, no doubt, be remembered clearly by Victorians. The sequel is equally as sad. Mrs. White came back from the asylum several days ago, and last evening disappeared from the home with her little child. The last heard of the couple was at about 5:30 o'clock, when they were seen on Blanchard street. The matron, unable herself to find them, came to the police for assistance in the search. It is expected that the two unfortunate ones have been charitably sheltered, though where or by whom, is not yet known.

B.C. Gazette Announcements.

Beeton & Pyke, South Westminster, have assigned to Michael Hayes, South Westminster, and James Punch, New Westminster.

The memorandum of association of the Okell & Morris Fruit Preserving Company (Limited), is published, as already announced in the COLONIST.

The Victoria Truck and Dray Company (Limited), announce that at a meeting of the stockholders, held on March 22nd, it was unanimously resolved that the capital stock of the company be increased from 200 shares of $100 to 500 shares of $100 each.

The dissolution of the firm of Turner, Beeton & Co., Victoria, is formally announced, also the election of Benchers of the B.C. Law Society.

Victoria's New Drill Shed.

The plans and specificaations of the new drill shed, to be erected on the site of the present structure, are on view at the offices of Mr. F. C. Gamble, C. E., in the post office block, and to-day will be inspected, no doubt, by many contractors, who will figure on the job. The building will be imposing in appearance, spacious, and fitted up so as to secure the greatest possible amount of comfort and convenience within the area allotted. It will be of stone and brick, with wide and massive looking main entrance. The front elevation is pretty and substantial, the doorway and large windows being encased in solid stone masonry. On the ground floor provision is made for five armories, each 25x25 feet, sergeants' room, Quarter Master's store rooms, orderlies' and officers' rooms, besides the drill hall. A commodious stairway leads to the shooting gallery on the first floor, which runs almost the full length of the building, with every convenience for markers and spectators. On this flat good provision is made for the band; also a reading room, officers' room, ante-room, and a couple of spare apartments, which may be used for committee rooms or other purposes. The grounds surrounding the building have been admirably laid out. Tenders will be received up to the 22nd inst., and as soon as the contract is awarded, work will commence without delay.

A Sailor's Bride.

Mr. Wallace Langley, first officer of the C.P.N. steamer Princess Louise, was last evening united in marriage to Miss Lizzie M. Brinn, Rev. Coverdale Watson performing the ceremony, at the Methodist parsonage, Quadra street. The bride was supported by her sister, Miss Ellen Brinn, while the popular groom was attended by Mr. Charles McKendrick. After the wedding, the bridal party enjoyed a handsome and appetizing spread at the home of the bride's sister, Mrs. Wm. Croft, Bellot street. Mr. and Mrs. Langley will spend the first 10 days of their married life over the Sound, and returning, make Victoria their home.

The Cadboro Bay Road.

Public opinion is rather wrathful on the subject of the Cadboro Bay road matter. The trustees of the Royal Jubilee hospital some time ago ceded ten feet of their property, so that the road might be extended to the standard width of 60 feet, the condition being that the other property holders in the district would make a like concession. Since this arrangement was entered into the tramway rails have been laid along the road, just on the line of the hospital property. Other land owners have not, up to date, fulfilled their part of the agreement, and the trustees of the hospital now say that they will retake the strip granted by them unless the conditions under which it was granted are complied with by the others. A similar condition of affairs exists on the Richmond road.

A Case for the Cat.

William Nicolls, a hard working man whose worst enemy is drink, was in the city police court, yesterday, his wife having laid an information against him, charging him with having threatened her life. Nicolls, she said, had come home drunk, and offered to burst open the door and kick her to pieces. He made no defence other than he couldn't remember anything about it. "You were drinking, I suppose," said His Honor, "and you came home drunk and great, big, strong man as you are, were coward enough to abuse your wife. There's only one punishment that you or your class appreciate, and that is a dose of the cat-o'-nine-tails; it's about the only time, I think, that the whip should be used, and for men like you it should be well applied, so that you may know a little of what your wife and your children suffer. Your sentence is one month at hard labor; sentence is suspended during good behaviour. I give you one more chance."

FULL COURT.

(Before the Chief Justice Mr. Justice Walkem, and Mr. Justice Drake.)

Kum Shoong v. Mason—Messrs. Taylor and Helmcken applied for a new trial in this case, and argued their point at considerable length, but their lordships held that there were no grounds upon which they could make the order applied for. Mr. C. Wilson appeared *contra*.

SUPREME COURT.

IN CHAMBERS.

(Before Mr. Justice Drake).

Watson v. Fleming—To sign judgment under Order XIV. Order made with costs. T. Fell for plaintiff, Belyea & Gregory for defendant.

Walker v. Fleming—To sign judgment under Order XIV. No order; costs to be costs in the cause. T. Fell for plaintiff, Belyea & Gregory for defendants.

Cameron and Wilson v. Spencer and Bowyer—For examination of David Spencer and M. H. Cowan. Order made accordingly. Bodwell & Irving for plaintiffs, H. G. Hall for defendants. There was also an application to have judgment given against Bowyer for amount acknowledged in statement of defence, which was granted.

Byrnes v. McMillan—To examine plaintiff before Registrar. Order made. Wootton & Barnard for plaintiff, Drake, Jackson & Helmcken for defendants.

Ferson v. Woodward—For payment out of court. Order made by consent. Eberts & Taylor for plaintiff.

ALBERNI MINERALS.

An Eastern Expert Says of Them That "The Half Has Not Been Told."

Mr. J. C. Anderson, the mining expert from Pittsburg, who left here on the 15th inst., for Alberni, to inspect the mineral deposits in that section, returned last evening on the Maude. He is in the employ of the iron and steel magnates of Pennsylvania, and went to Alberni to examine more especially the coal and iron deposits in that section. He enjoyed the trip very much, and speaks highly of the encouraging prospects at the head of the canal.

During Mr. Anderson's brief absence from Victoria, he has inspected the whole of the territory along the shores of Barclay Sound and Alberni Canal. His description of that remarkable sheet of water, is most graphic and interesting, and recalls to memory the world-known key to the Black Sea—the Dardanelles. From the entrance of Barclay Sound to the head of navigation on Alberni canal, perpendicular cliffs on either side rise from the water's edge so abruptly as to make landings almost impossible, and anchorage cannot be found owing to the great depth of water and rocky bottom. From the entrance of Barclay Sound, Mr. Anderson did not see even so much as a five acre tract suitable for building purposes, until the head of the canal is reached. At this point there is an excellent harbor, with good clay bottom, sheltered from every wind, and commodious enough to afford anchorage for the whole British fleet. The canal, from its mouth to the head, varies in width from three-quarters of a mile to two miles. He speaks in glowing terms of the site for a large city at the head of the canal. At this point, the country is level and stretches for miles into the interior, under the whole of which valuable minerals are deposited. He expects to see a railroad terminus at this point in the near future.

Among other samples, Mr. Anderson brought down with him some beautiful specimens of gold, copper, and tin ore from this section. He speaks of the immense forests of timber as being unlimited, and says of the mineral wealth of Alberni that "the half has never been told."

Germany's War Preparations.

BUDA PESTH, April 1.—There was a significant scene, to-day, in the Lower House of the Hungarian Reichstag. Dr. A. Wekerle, Minister of Finance, said that, owing to the present state of European affairs a reduction in the expenditure of the army was impossible. The country must be prepared for an additional, though gradual, increase in the Army expenditures in view of the growing armaments of Foreign powers. The representatives applauded loudly and passed the budget as recommended.

HOSPITAL DRAINAGE.

The Directors of the Jubilee Receive the Report of Their Special Committee.

A Crematory Generally Favored, but Action Once More Deferred.

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Royal Jubilee Hospital was held, last evening, in the Board of Trade rooms, for the purpose of considering the report of the committee on sewerage. There were present: President Davies (in the chair), Messrs. Flumerfelt, Yates, Wilson, Hayward, Chudley, Brown, Byrnes, Braverman, Shotbolt, and Dr. Richardson.

The report of the Sewerage committee was as follows:

"Your committee beg to report that they have examined into the drainage system at the hospital, and find the great urgency that exists for some sanitary arrangements regarding solid and liquid sewerage, and that immediate steps must be taken to remedy, at least, the latter.

"We find that it is impossible to have a sewerage system of all the matter by drainage, unless the corporation undertakes the work. Anything done in this matter, unless connection be made with the city sewage system, costing $43,000, or by cremating, estimated say $4,000, must be considered only of a temporary nature.

"We have, through Mr. Mohun, communicated with Mr. Engle as to cost of crematory. A system carrying away the liquids to Cadboro' Bay Road, the only outlet available, would cost, owing to much rock and high levels, more than would be prudent to incur, in view of it being only a temporary relief.

"Your committee recommend that the memorandum and special committee's report of last year upon sewage be again brought forward, and, in their opinion, the best and most effective method will be cremation.'

The memorandum and report referred to were read. They directed attention to the defective sewerage system, and recommended that immediate steps be taken to remedy the evil.

Mr. Byrnes said that the case had been taken up very fully by the committee. They thought at first they could do the work very cheaply, but subsequent investigation showed that this economy would but afford temporary relief. They could dispose of the liquid matter by running through Mr. Rithet's land, which was objectionable. Mr. Engle, the patentee of the crematory system adopted in Vancouver, had been communicated with as to the probable cost of erecting a crematory at the hospital, which would be capable of treating about 4,000 gallons per day. The subject of improving the present sewerage system of the hospital, was one which could not be much longer deferred.

Mr. Hayward asked if any estimate had been made as to the cost of running the crematory if established.

Mr. Byrnes replied in the affirmative. It would not be much.

The president explained the working of the crematory in operation in Vancouver. He understood that for about $6,000 a crematory could be established in the hospital. This would give all the boiler heating capacity required for the hospital, and would be sufficient to warm the building and run the laundry. At present the laundry work cost about $125 per month, the heating was faulty, and the present sewerage system was decidedly defective. Something should be done, and that at once, in the matter. The question was, were they to adopt the crematory system, and, if so, how was the money to be raised. Would the members of the Board give their personal security, or would they mortgage the French hospital property to raise the money.

Mr. Hayward did not favor the crematory system, because he considered it would be too expensive. He had estimated that the sewerage of the hospital could be brought to the Cadboro Bay road, for about $1,000.

Mr. Wilson quoted from the American Architect and Building News, an article favoring sub-surface irrigation, by George E. Waring, sanitary engineer. He favored such a system as the one described, on the ground of its cheapness and effectiveness.

Dr. Richardson did not approve of the drainage system, holding that it could not be worked satisfactorily on the hospital grounds. It would be a positive danger to have the lands saturated with sewerage which was bound to pollute the waters of of the district.

After a good deal of discussion it was decided to call upon the committee for a further report, and an estimate of the cost of such systems as might be approved of.

STATISTICS FOR MARCH.

A Fortunate Dearth of Fires—One Effect of the Sunday Closing Statute.

Customs Receipts as Usual Are Heavy —New Residences in Every Part of the City.

With the close of another month comes the usual bundle of statistics, interesting and instructive, as showing the health, commercial and otherwise, of the Capital City. Figures are generally dry, but the "statistics for March," will well repay reading. Returns from the Collector of Inland Revenue and from the City Librarian, cannot be given until to-morrow.

During the month now dead and gone, thirteen births were recorded within the limits of the city of Victoria; ten marriage licenses—a small showing—were issued by Sheriff McMillan; and twenty-one interments were made in Ross Bay Cemetery. Of these latter, eleven were white males, the majority under 35 years of age, seven white females, and three Chinese.

Over one hundred new buildings, including several fine business blocks in the heart of the city, but made up principally of cottage homes, which are going up in every section of town, have been commenced within the past thirty days, and the building activity will now continue through the entire summer. The majority of the new houses are for the owners' occupation, and range in value from $800 to $3,000.

The number of drunks in the police court has been noticeably less, and the receipts for the month in fines and costs, $392, away below any recent month. The officials ascribe the dullness in police circles to the operation of the Sunday Closing Act, which has brought down the number of Sunday and Monday drunks to less than one-third of their old strength. The summary of arrests, by the city police, is given hereunder: Drunks, 24; larceny, 5; safe-keeping, 2; resisting an officer of police, 1; fighting, 2; in possession of intoxicants, 5; supplying intoxicants to Indians, 5; obtaining money under false pretences, 1; wounding cattle, 1; in possession of stolen property, 1; for lodging, 3.—Total, 50.

March has been a busy month in shipping circles, the departure of the sealers for the West Coast and Behring Sea, creating the usual excitement along the water front. Three new arrivals were added to the local fleet, and the number of Custom House entries was 200.—Clearances, 202.

Below are given the Victoria customs returns for March, as usual showing a satisfactory condition of trade:

Duties Collected	$ 78,982 61
Other Revenues	13,140 79
	$92,123 40
IMPORTS.	
Dutiable, value of	$258,571 00
Free, value of	41,698 00
	$300,269 00
EXPORTS.	
Produce of Canada	$ 31,934 00
Not produce of Canada	8,360 00
	$40,294 60

THE GLOVE CONTEST.

The Victoria Champion Decidedly Outdone by His Opponent.

A Very Clever Exhibition by Foster and Reed—A Real Fight To-Day.

The much talked of glove fight for points between Bob Foster, of Victoria, and George Reed, of Portland, for $250 a side and the gate receipts, came off at the Victoria theatre Thursday evening. Both men have been in active training for some weeks past, and neither neglected the slightest precaution to put himself in good condition.

The theatre was well filled, and the preliminary bouts and the Indian club and dumb-bell exercises of Messrs. Hamilton and Richardes were deservedly applauded. There was, however, a considerable waste of time in deciding the preliminary events, and the audience expressed their disapproval in a very marked manner. They had come there to see Professor Foster spar, and nothing else would satisfy them.

The principals in the chief event of the evening appeared on the stage at 10:15, and after some discussion Captain C. J. Phillips was accepted as referee. Messrs. Wilson and Perry were appointed as judges for Foster and Reed respectively, and Foster's second having won the toss for choice of gloves, the men donned the mittens and the referee called "Time."

A description of the Professor is unnecessary to any Victorian, but his opponent, who is a stranger to British Columbia, presented a marked contrast to the local man. He is about 4 inches taller, has a much longer reach, and must be from 12 to 15 pounds heavier than the celebrated cricketer. To all appearances, Foster had a tough customer to handle, and from start to finish he never stood a ghost of a show of obtaining the verdict, as in the first round Reed scored six points to his three, and kept on increasing his lead, until in the ninth round nothing but a knock out could secure the decision for the local man.

Foster, from the moment time was called, was satisfied to remain on the defensive, and he seemed to have a very wholesome respect for his opponent's reach, out of which he kept as well as he could, by repeated and continuous strategic movements to the rear. Once or twice he countered, and in several exchanges he managed to place a point or two to his credit. On four occasions he attempted an upper cut, only to waste his energy on the air, and it was not till the last round that he really stood up to his opponent and tried to equalize matters by a little give and take fighting. His effort, however, came too late, and the referee promptly awarded the match to Reed.

The winner is not a graceful sparrer. He has a very peculiar style, but is quick, and relying on his long reach and the utter inability of his opponent to avail himself of the openings offered to him, he satisfied himself with leading, and occasionally landing on his opponent's frontispiece, whilst about once in each round, he gave a very poor imitation of the pivot blow, landing everywhere except upon the mark.

WHICH HAS THE RIGHT?

The Battle of the Western Union Telegraph Company to Build a Line to Sedro —The Claims.

The Seattle Telegraph of yesterday says: The legal war between the Pacific postal telegraph Cable Company and the Western Union Telegraph Company was on again before Judge Hanford yesterday in the United States District Court upon a motion to dissolve the temporary restraining order issued about a month ago, forbidding the Western Union to erect telegraph lines on the right of way of the Seattle, Lake Shore & Eastern railway from what was formerly known as Snohomish Junction, now Woodinville, to Sedro. The Postal company acquired the franchise from the Seattle & West Coast Co., the original projector of the line of road from Seattle to the Canadian border, which was bought out by the Seattle and Eastern company before the road was completed.

Before this agreement was made, however, the Northern Pacific, which is the Western Union ally, had executed an ironclad agreement through the instrumentality of Jay Gould whereby the Western Union company acquired the right to operate telegraph lines upon the right of way of all lines owned and operated, or to be in future owned or operated, leased or otherwise acquired by the Northern Pacific railroad company.

The recent absorption of the Seattle & Lake Shore property by the Northern Pacific, it is claimed, gave the Western Union a right to build upon the right of way in question.

The Postal company basis its exclusive rights on the theory that the acquirement of the franchise was at a time before the West Coast company had operated the right of way as a railroad, and hence could not have been considered a "post road" within the meaning of the act of congress July 24, 1866, which gives it a right of property in the right of way itself. It bases its claims also on this contruction of the statutes, that the right of eminent domain secured to the telegraph companies who availed themselves of the passage of the acts of congress in their behalf, did not grant the exercise of the right without due compensation. Hence, if the Western Union is decreed the right to build the line of telegraph in question, it must compensate the Postal company for the privilege and not the Northern Pacific, for the right in controversy could peculiarly belong to the Postal company.

THE CITY.

Tram Service Defended.

A letter signed "Tramway," in reply to previous correspondence, is unavoidably held over.

New Post Offices.

The new post office at Kettle River, B. C., was opened for business for the first time, yesterday, that at Cedar Hill will be opened in a few days.

The City Peacock.

The fine peacock, which in life was an ornament to Beacon Hill Park, has been handsomely mounted, and is honored with a position of prominence in the free library.

Church Arbitration.

The arbitrators in the Methodist church matter had a long session yesterday, sitting up to six o'clock in the evening, at which hour they had not completed their labors.

Strawberries—But, Oh! so Dear!

Once more the delicious strawberry appears, but in small quantity, in the windows of a few restaurants in the city. The berries were brought by the San Francisco steamer, yesterday, and are the first seen in the city this season.

Their First Meeting.

The first meeting of the provisional trustees of the Okell & Morris Fruit Preserving Co., Limited, will be held at the office of Morrow, Holland & Co., 44 Broad street, on Monday evening. The subscriptions for stock are now being received.

Will Have an Early Hearing.

The statement of defence in the case of Miss Esther Lyons, leading lady, against John E. Rice, ex-manager of the Imperial Stock Co., for breach of contract, is expected to be filed to-day, and the case will be listed for immediate hearing.

Tenders Invited.

By advertisement appearing in another column, Mr. A. Maxwell Muir, the architect, invites tenders for the erection of the new Board of Trade building on Bastion street. The bids are to be all in not later than noon of Friday, the 22nd inst.

In a Bad Position.

Vancouver street was the scene of a break down, yesterday morning, when a hansom cab, in which an invalid was taking an airing, broke an axle, and the occupant was unceremoniously deposited in the dirt. The upset did not have a serious effect.

Have Returned Their Keys.

The offices of the City Engineer and City Police Magistrate, were dark and deserted, yesterday, Messrs. Leech and Belyea having returned their keys to the City Clerk, and retired on the last day of March. There was no Police Court business, yesterday, to require the attention of a magistrate.

Young Bros'. New Block.

Messrs. Young Bros., of the New England bakery, announce that they will invite tenders for the construction of their new brick block on Government street, just as soon as the Legislature rises. The architect is Mr. John Teague, and the plans show that the new building will be substantial as well as a beauty.

Sewerage Commissioners Meet.

A special meeting of the Victoria Sewerage Commissioners was held, yesterday morning, at which a number of accounts, aggregating several thousand dollars, were passed, and the subject of right of way through private property was discussed, it being finally decided to again remind the Council that they are required to act in this matter.

Delighted the Chinese.

The biggest audience that the Ball Family Jubilee Singers have yet delighted in Victoria, was that which filled the Chinese mission to the very doors, last evening. The songs of the South were given, illustrating Uncle Tom's Cabin, the story of which was explained in Chinese by Rev. Mr. Gardner. To say that the Chinese were pleased, expresses but mildly their appreciation of the treat.

Inland Revenue.

The collections for Inland Revenue Division No. 37, Victoria, for the month of March, amounted to $11,870.13, this total being made up as below:

Spirits	$ 7,171 33
Malt	1,107 00
Tobacco	2,516 50
Cigars	931 50
Petroleum Insp	149 30
Total	$11,870 13

A Promising Investment.

By reference to advertising column, persons desirous of rapidly increasing their spare capital will see an announcement of a sale of town lots in Kootenay City, to begin on Monday next. The natural position of this town site, apart from all the other advantages enumerated, should make it an important centre of the Kootenay District, and the promoters have every confidence in the future of the "Boundary City."

Rowdyism in the City.

One of the members of C Battery, named Wm. Taylor, was arrested, yesterday evening and taken to the lockup, where a charge was entered against him of having wantonly and maliciously assaulted Mrs. Foote, wife of Dr. Foote. He had previously broken a pane of glass in a store on Yates street, and was indulging in general rowdyism, when the lady in question happened to pass. He is said to have used insulting language towards her and then struck Mrs. Foote with his clenched fist.

Will Go Back to the Asylum.

Mrs. White, the unfortunate young woman who wandered away from the Refuge Home, with her babe in her arms, on Thursday night, found shelter for the night at 173 Johnson street, and returned to the Home yesterday for her child's clothes. An attempt was made to detain her, and she at once ran up the street, taking refuge in a Pandora street residence, whose occupants were naturally startled on seeing her, a total stranger, rush in and turn the key in the lock behind her. The police were telephoned for, and Officer Abell arriving quickly, took the poor creature to the lock-up, where she will remain until she can be returned to the Westminster Asylum.

A Golden Dragon

In the window of Jamieson's book store is one of the quaintest curiosities ever seen in Victoria,—a heavily gold embroidered dress that was presented to Mrs. Kittie Baldwin, the somnambumancist of the Butterfly company, by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan. It represents a fierce dragon about to attack a palace and devour its inhabitants, while the Prince or Dromio is trying to calm the angry reptile by offering it a plate of fruit. The entire robe is extremely quaint, the embroidery being of gold and silk papetrie, and the talons of the demon of real tiger claws. The robe is the only one of the kind that has ever left Japan, and should be seen by all the ladies of Victoria.

Victoria's Free Library.

The month of March has not been a particularly busy one for the city librarian, in consequence, chiefly, of unfavorable weather. The number of books issued was 3,015—to ladies, 1,439; to gentlemen, 1,576. The highest day's issue was 165 volumes, and the average 112. Fifty-four new cards were taken out during the month, 24 being taken by ladies and 30 by gentlemen.

A Troublesome Tar.

On Yates street, yesterday evening, a drunken sailor named Pearson, belonging to the Thermopylæ, was creating a disturbance at the Vancouver Hotel, and Officer Kenny proceeded to reason with him. The tar, who was "three sheets in the wind," showed fight, and the officer called upon a few citizens, who were spectators of the disturbance, to help him to arrest the fellow. Two volunteered, but the tar was more than a match for them. A third, a fourth, and a fifth gave a hand, and at last the prisoner was overcome. He kicked and struck out in every direction, and ultimately had to be carried to the lock-up, a couple of score of jeering youngsters forming a procession. When lodged in the cell, Pearson cooled down.

A Noble Brute.

For several days past the body of the big elk, shot at King's Camp, has been in the workshop at the museum, undergoing the process of preparing and mounting. This having been completed, the monarch of the forest was yesterday moved into the museum, where he will remain an object of awe to peaceful visitors to the provincial treasure room. It required the efforts of six powerful men to remove him to his new quarters, and some idea of his size may be gathered from the following measurements: From hoof to tip of horn, ten feet; girth, seven feet; length, nine feet; and weight, dressed, 900 lbs. He had 12 branches in his horns, and his weight when alive was probably 1,500 to 1,800 lbs. He was undoubtedly the largest elk ever killed in British Columbia, and it is well worth a visit to the museum to inspect him.

THE ESQUIMALT FORTIFICATIONS.

No Armament Ready in Case of an Emergency.

Esquimalt, the only Imperial naval station on the Pacific Coast, is at present virtually defenceless. Should the Imperial Government decide to fortify it, Esquimalt can readily be made as impregnable as St. Lucia, the Gibraltar of the West Indies, and in the event of an agreement being made between the Dominion Government and the Home authorities as to the proportion of the cost of the proposed defences to be borne by each, work will be commenced immediately on a strong fort, to be erected either at the meteorological station or on Brothers Island.

At Macaulay's Point and other available positions outside Victoria and Esquimalt harbors batteries will be erected, to be armed with heavy guns of the latest type; but at present Victoria will have to rely upon the Pacific Squadron for protection from a foreign foe.

The only guns now in the navy yard are five 5-inch Armstrongs, breech-loading, five 6-inch guns of the same type, and one 22-ton breech-loader, by the same maker, all being held in reserve for ships of the Pacific squadron. In addition to these are six 40-pounders, two each to be mounted on the Empress of India and her sister ships in case of war at any time being declared and their services claimed by the Imperial Government as cruisers. There are also a few old muzzle-loaders, whose services might have been of use at Sebastopol, but which would bark in vain against the sides of a modern ironclad.

None of these guns would be available for coast defence, as it would be highly imprudent to infringe on the reserve armament of the fleet. With the exception of the 22-ton gun which, carrying a 317 pound shot, has an extreme range of about nine miles, with a piercing capacity at 2,000 yards through 8 to 10 inches of armor, they are not sufficiently powerful to repel an attack by a foreign fleet.

H.M.S. Champion may not reach Esquimalt till Monday or Tuesday next, as she is reported coming up the coast under easy sail.

The City of Puebla passed the Warspite, the flagship of H.M. Pacific squadron, off Cape Blanco, yesterday, and the flagship will, it is expected, anchor in Esquimalt Harbor this morning.

A MINISTERIAL BANQUET.

It May Have Been Only a Mock Parliament, but the Spread Was Genuine.

Some seventy or more of the members of the Y. M. C. A. mock parliament of this city gathered around a heavily laden table in the Association Hall last evening and discussed—not the speech from the throne or any such heavy and usually indigestible commodity, but a genuine never-to-be-forgotten banquet, a spread, in short, that would have done credit to real live legislators. Mr. Speaker Teague presided, and the vice chair was ably filled, and comfortably as well (it was not a large chair) by Mr. W. S. Hampson. After partaking freely of the delicious viands provided by the caterer, Mr. F. W. Garland, what was perhaps the most interesting debate of the many that have taken place during the season was commenced, the Chairman leading off by proposing the health of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, to which the company responded by singing the National Anthem. After this came the following in the order stated, which were responded to both wittily and eloquently by the various gentlemen, whose names are mentioned, to wit:

The Government of Canada—Messrs. H. A. Sutherland, P. Cregg.

Army and Navy Volunteer Forces—Messrs. C. King, W. Farmer.

Public Works and Cumtoms—Messrs. R. Marwick, —Bennett.

Marine and Fisheries—Mr. A. G. Hay.

Trade and Commercial Interests—Messrs. W. S. Hampson, C. Spencer.

The Land We Live In—Mr. J. Boyd.

The Provincial Governments—"Jolly Good Fellows."

The Opposition—Messrs. F. Davey and Stocke (jun.).

Mr. Speaker and Young Men's Christian Association—Mr. F. W. Teague.

The Ladies—Mr. A. Wilson.

The Press—D. J. Kinz and L. D. Henderson.

Needless to say, the event was a complete success. It formed a fitting conclusion to the industrious labors of the mock parliament during the session, which was just closed, and with pleasant recollections of last night's banquet to crown the enjoyment and utility of the year, the members will once more meet again next session to renew the discussions pro and con "across the floor of the House.

Cold Weather Trials.

DEAR SIRS,—This fall and winter I suffered from neuralgia in my face, and had the best medical advice without avail. I at last thought of trying B. B. B., and after using one bottle, have not felt any symptoms of neuralgia since. I regard it as a fine family medicine. J. T. DROST, Heaslip, Man.

THE WASHINGTON MISSION.

Hon. Mr. Foster's Statement as to the Conference With Mr. Blaine.

The Pros and Cons of the Propositions—Cannot Discriminate Against Great Britain.

The following is the passage of the Budget speech, in which the Finance Minister gives an account of the conference which the Dominion delegates had with Secretary Blaine and General Foster on the subject of reciprocity in trade between the United States and the Dominion of Canada:

On the 10th of February of this year, by appointment of the Secretary of State, a delegation from the Canadian government went to Washington and met the Seretary of State in conference. I may say this, and I think it is nothing more than right to say it, that Mr. Blaine met us with the greatest kindness and the greatest courtesy. Although not in the enjoyment of robust health in the midst of the busy duties of a session of congress, in the midst of diplomatic correspondence of a weighty and grave character, he gave up his time to the delegation from Canada, and for five successive days met them in full and frank and prolonged conference upon the various points treated of between the two. I will say nothing as regards the other points discussed, which have been more or less fully laid before parliament; but with reference to the discussion and outcome of the trade question, I think it my duty to make parliament acquainted with what took place and the results that came therefrom. In conference with Mr. Blaine, the Canadian delegation proposed as a basis for negotiations the reciprocity treaty of 1854, with such modifications and extensions as the changed condition of the country might render necessary or desirable. They pressed the conclusion of a treaty upon that basis. They were met with the reply from Mr. Blaine that a proposal looking to a treaty based upon natural products alone had not in it the essential elements of reciprocity so far as the United States was concerned, and consequently they were unable to entertain it. He raised the question, as did also General Foster, who was his coadjutor in the conference, as to whether we were prepared to make a proposal which would go wider than natural products and take in and include a general reciprocity in manufactured articles as well. When that point came up the Canadian delegation immediately raised the question and discussed it fully and freely with Mr. Blaine as to what would be the necessary conditions of such a reciprocity. Did it mean that we were to give the United States products a manifest preferential treatment in our country and discriminate against like articles from Great Britain and other parts of the World? The reply came, after a full discussion of the matter, that a reciprocity would not have any compensating advantages to the United States unless they were given preferential treatment in our markets, especially against Great Britain, who was their chief competitor in nearly every line of manufactured products; that under any scheme of reciprocity which would be looked favorably upon the United States would compete with Canadian manufacturers in Canadian markets on even terms, but with no others. Well, when that point was reached a discussion took place as to

THE DIFFICULTIES TO BE MET

by Canada in subscribing to a treaty of that kind, and they were fully and frankly laid before Mr. Blaine. They were in brief these: That in going into a treaty of that kind Canada would stand to lose what we could less afford to lose than the United States, namely, a considerable proportion of our revenue. First of all there was eight millions or so which we collected upon products from the United States imported into Canada, and, secondly, a diminution, whatever it might be, which would result from the smaller importation of manufactured goods from the outside world owing to the competition and entrance free of duty into our own country of United States manufactured goods. Thereupon Mr. Blaine raised the question as to whether we had not other methods of taxation. We explained to him that we had a method of internal revenue the same as they had, upon which he remarked that in a treaty of this kind the inland revenue duties upon liquors and tobaccos would require to be equalized, and that immediately brought up the point that if they were equalized and the United States were not willing to lift theirs up to our rate Canada would stand to lose a large proportion of revenue in excise duties, inasmuch as our rates are much higher than those of the United States. We also pointed out the grave difficulty which met us in considering a proposition to

DISCRIMINATE AGAINST GREAT BRITAIN,

with whom, as a colony, we had close and valued relations and of the disadvantage of throwing a cordon of discrimination about ourselves against the whole world with the exception of the United States. We raised that question after a full and fair discussion of our difficulties, and presented them plainly and fairly. At this point another question came up. It was this, supposing that Canada were willing to discriminate against the goods of Great Britain and the outside world on this proposed basis of a treaty, who should fix the discrimination and what should be the measure of that discrimination? As a point in question the article of wool and woollens was instanced, in which the duties upon the raw materials varied in both countries as well as the duties upon the manufactured goods. Mr. Blaine admitted at once that this was a vital point; that the United States had its policy of protection, and gave large protection to both wool and woollen goods, and that unless this vital point were guarded, there would be no security to the United States on the one hand against smuggling along a frontier line three thousand miles in extent, and no security on the other hand for the permanence and preservation of the policy of protection which they had, up to this time, maintained, and which they proposed to continue, and that he saw no way out of the difficulty except by making

THE TARIFF OF CANADA UNIFORM

with that of the United States (prolonged ministerial cheers.) Well, sir, the discussion passed on. We had pretty well exhausted the subject, when the Canadian delegates after having presented these difficulties and canvassed them fairly and honestly, said to Mr. Blaine: "This is the position in which we stand. These are our difficulties. You acknowledge that they exist. You have had experience in framing reciprocity treaties, and have had much to do in the study and arrangement of reciprocal matters. We lay these points before you, and we ask you whether or not, out of your experience, you are not prepared to propose a modification of this basis in order that we might diminish at least to some extent the difficulties we foresee as to loss of revenue and to discrimination against Great Britain, and as to the adoption of a high uniform tariff." After a discussion of that subject for some time we received the answer from Mr. Blaine that he acknowledged our difficulty, but that he was clear in his own mind that no other arrangement would be satisfactory to the United States, that their manufacturers must have preferential treatment, including, of course, discrimination against foreign countries and especially against Great Britain; that there

MUST BE A UNIFORM TARIFF;

and that that tariff must be practically a tariff of the United States. (Cheers.) With this remark we passed on to other points in the discussion, and did not after refer to the trade question. Sir, this is in brief a fair and candid account of what took place at our conference. I think it is only necessary for me to add, that so long as the present policy is maintained in the United States in one branch or the other, or in the executive, we cannot hope for any treaty with that country except upon these lines, which will take in the natural products and manufactured goods unlimited in its scope, the basis of which is a preferential treatment in our markets with discrimination especially against Great Britain and other countries, that must be accompanied by a uniform tariff, and that this tariff must be equalized to that of the United States. These are in brief the results which have been arrived at. After years of discussion from the time that our reciprocity treaty was denounced in 1865 to the present there have been various thoughts and various ideas put forward; there have been various plans proposed, there have been assurances and counter assurances, proposals but not counter proposals, and up to this date we have been unable to get a counter proposal from the United States. Now the matter is settled. (Hear, hear.) It is settled in point of clearness and definiteness. For my own part, I regret that it is settled as it is, and I am glad. I regret that no modus could be found by which profitable trade arrangements could be made between these two countries without our being called upon to sacrifice too much of Canadian interests, and of Canadian nationality (cheers); I am glad, however, that from this time forward there need be no lack of definiteness, that all parties and all people in Canada may know exactly the basis upon which trade can or cannot be obtained.

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