

The Weekly Colonist.

THIRTY-SEVENTH YEAR.

VICTORIA BRITISH COLUMBIA, FRIDAY MARCH 1 1895.

VOLUME XXXVII. NO. 12

NEWS OF THE PROVINCE.

Annual Meeting of the Westminster Board of Trade-Vancouver's Assistant Theatricals.

Sons of England Convention-A Modified Victorian Finds Himself On the Mainland.

(Special to the Colonist.)

VANCOUVER.

VANCOUVER, Feb. 21.—The amateur opera company of Vancouver gave a rendition of "Dorothy" last night which demonstrated to a very large audience the fact that they could well afford to do without the customary assistance of a chorus. The production cost of \$750. The opera house, however, was completely filled, and the affair was made a social event. The music was as good as any ever heard in the opera house and was provided by Mr. Gregory who had arranged a orchestra of fourteen pieces. The verdict of the public is sufficient to warrant generous praise of this part of the performance.

The hunting chorus received a double encore, and the opera house was completely filled. The company worked very hard through the winter, and "Dorothy" was put on the boards at considerable expense. The first production cost a total of \$750. The opera house, however, was completely filled, and the affair was made a social event. The music was as good as any ever heard in the opera house and was provided by Mr. Gregory who had arranged a orchestra of fourteen pieces. The verdict of the public is sufficient to warrant generous praise of this part of the performance.

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IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

Sir Henry James' Motion of Want of Confidence Defeated in the Commons.

The Indian Cotton Duties the Bone of Contention-The Government Alarmed.

(Special to the Colonist.)

LANGLEY.

LANGLEY, Feb. 19.—During the month of January, 1895, rain fell on eight days, while in December, 1894, rain fell on eighteen days with two days of snow. In January snow fell upon nine days. The total rainfall for the month of 6.68 inches. For the month of February the rainfall was divided as follows: First week, 0.12 inches; second week, 5.54 inches; and during the last two weeks there was but a trace of moisture on three days. The snow fall was as follows: First week, 3.00 inches; second week, none; third week, 8.00 inches; and a trace during the last week, making a total deposition of moisture for the month of 6.68 inches. For the first two weeks of February rain has fallen upon six days, all in the first week, a total of 7.12 inches, the second week being very fine—bright days with frost at nights.

LI HUNG CHANG.

LONDON, Feb. 21.—A dispatch from Shanghai says it is positively asserted that the journey of Li Hung Chang to Peking is intended to give him a chance to accomplish what he has long sought, the overthrow of the present Manchu dynasty in China. It is stated that he has been leagued with officials of the palace in Peking for the overthrow of the dynasty over since he was deprived of his yellow jacket and peacock feather.

All the foreign officers who fought against the Japanese at Wei-Hai Wei, except John W. Ward, the American who violated his oath to help China, have arrived at Chefoo on parole. Some of the Chinese torpedo boats at Wei-Hai Wei have deserted to the enemy, their crews having mutinied, and the soldiers on the island refused to fight.

An official dispatch received at Yokohama states that the Chinese steamer "Yokohama" was sunk at Kusanoshima, Manchuria, on Feb. 19. The steamer was carrying 1,000 tons of goods and 300 crew members. The Japanese steamer "Yokohama" was sunk at Kusanoshima, Manchuria, on Feb. 19. The steamer was carrying 1,000 tons of goods and 300 crew members.

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CABLE ITEMS.

Massacres of Children in Armenia-Germany's Anti-Jesuit Law Repealed.

Menacing Aspect of Affairs in Alexandria-German Warships Expected in Samoa.

(Special to the Colonist.)

ROSEBERRY'S VICTORY.

LONDON, Feb. 22.—Lord Rosebery's administration has passed successfully through a storm which its opponents thought would overwhelm it, and which many of its friends believed would require the most skilful statesmanship to weather. Despite the predictions of the Conservative press and the more or less badly disguised fears of the Liberal, the government came out of the ordeal with flying colors, and with a majority that surprised even those who would at no time admit there was a chance for defeat.

The motion that precipitated the dangerous situation was made by Sir Henry James, formerly Attorney-General, who had been elected Liberal party on the bringing forward of the Irish home rule scheme. By standing order No. 16 of the House of Commons, a member may move for the adjournment of the house for the purpose of discussing a matter of public importance. Taking advantage of this order, Sir Henry to-day moved adjournment in order to call attention to the import duties on cotton, recently decided upon by the government of India.

It is claimed by many of the manufacturers of Lancashire and other cotton centers in Lancashire that the imposition of this duty will have a most serious effect on their business, and they have urged the government to interfere for their abolition. The cotton interest is strongly represented in the house, and when the motion of the member was given it was accompanied by many Conservative papers, but by some of the staunch Liberal organs, that the government, which is bound to oppose the desired change, would be overthrown by the Lancashire party, in combination with Conservatives and Liberals interested in the cotton trade. The result, too, was expected to cast their vote against the government, but the result did not bear out the hopes or fears of the political parties, for by a majority of 197, Rosebery's ministry repelled the attacks of its assailants.

This result was in a measure due to the attitude of Mr. Goschen who, though a Liberal Unionist, dealt with the question in a spirit of great fairness toward the government. He suggested the holding of a conference in order to remedy the deficit in India, for which purpose the cotton import duty and the excess duty on cotton were laid. When the division came to be taken on the motion it was found that a large number of Conservatives and Liberal Unionists, and also several members representing Lancashire districts, went into the government camp in a body. Among those who voted against the government were Right Hon. James Caird, who, it is said, was responsible for the publishing of the motion. Baron Rothschild and several other Liberal Unionists abstained from voting.

Dadabhai Nauroji, and Hon. Indian, who represents the central division of Bombay in the Liberal interest, warned the opposition that if the motion were adopted the first rail would be driven into the coffin of British rule in India.

HOT SPRINGS SWEET. HOT SPRINGS, Feb. 22.—A great fire is raging in this city. Eight persons are reported to have been burned to death. The fire originated in the business portion of the city and spread rapidly. At 10 o'clock, four hours after the flames were discovered, every business house and a number of boarding houses and residences were burned. It is now known that eight people have perished, and it is believed that this number will be exceeded. The victims thus far are the inmates of boarding houses. A number of hotels are threatened. The guests are panic stricken and are hurriedly leaving. The loss will exceed a million.

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ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

Toronto, Feb. 21.—(Special)—The first session of the eighth legislature of Ontario was opened this afternoon by His Honor Lord Governor Kirkpatrick. The house is composed as follows: Government, 52; Opposition, 28; Patrons, 12.

The Daily Chronicle discusses Henry James' motion in a leader headed: "The government in danger; a possible dissolution."

(Special to the Colonist.)

BISHOP OF NEW WESTMINSTER.

VANCOUVER, Feb. 21.—(Special)—The special synod of the diocese of New Westminster, convened for the purpose of electing a bishop to succeed Bishop Shillito, adjourned to-day without making a choice. At the session last evening several ballots were taken, but the house of lay delegates was unable to reach a decision. The clerical delegates finally giving Rev. Dr. Stott, president of the Diocese, the necessary two-thirds majority. The house of lay delegates, however, failed to elect a bishop.

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CAPITAL NOTES.

Sir Oliver Mowat Likely to Take the Lead of the English-Speaking Liberals.

Hydrographic Survey of Lake Erie-Cheap Whisky Not to Be Admitted Free.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, Feb. 21.—A firm of Ontario manufacturing chemists wish to import cheap whisky duty free for the manufacture of patent medicines, but the government will refuse.

There are good grounds for believing that Sir Oliver Mowat will be induced to lead the Ontario Liberals in the coming Federal campaign, the strongest pressure being brought to bear on him. The international fishery commissioners are given until June 1 to hand in their report. The Marine department will undertake a hydrographic survey of Lake Erie during the coming summer.

SUFFERINGS OF ARMENIANS.

(From the Review of Reviews.) Not only as to the primary fact that there has been a frightful massacre of Armenian Christians by Kurdish cavalry and regular Turkish infantry regiments stationed in Armenia, but also as to the immensity of the massacre and the horrible atrocities accompanying it, we have received information which more than confirms that which was published in this magazine last month. Instead of five or six thousand victims it seems to be more probable that the number exceeded ten thousand, and may have fallen far short of twenty thousand. Information has also come from sources upon which we rely implicitly to the effect that the dead were gathered in great heaps, covered over with the branches of trees and inflammable materials, which were then saturated with petroleum and consumed as vast funeral pyres, in order to remove so far as possible, all traces of the British soldiers.

Our readers must bear in mind the remoteness from railway and telegraph lines of the regions thus devastated, and the certainty that the number exceeded ten thousand, and may have fallen far short of twenty thousand. Information has also come from sources upon which we rely implicitly to the effect that the dead were gathered in great heaps, covered over with the branches of trees and inflammable materials, which were then saturated with petroleum and consumed as vast funeral pyres, in order to remove so far as possible, all traces of the British soldiers.

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WINNIPEG WIRINGS.

Winnipeg, Feb. 21.—(Special)—An application is now before the Manitoba courts to set aside the local option by-law recently passed by the municipality of London, on the ground that the Manitoba Liquor License Act is unconstitutional.

The Duffin house at Manitowish was badly damaged by fire last night. The building was owned by S. Whalen and was occupied by E. Cassin; loss \$1,000—fully insured.

(Special to the Colonist.)

RUSSIA AND ARMENIA.

LONDON, Feb. 21.—The Daily News correspondent in Marcelline says: "Official circles in St. Petersburg deny that the czar refused to receive the Armenian Catholicos. It is stated that owing to grave reports from her consulates in Erzerum and Van, the Empress has appointed an imperial commission to examine the reports of alleged barbarity in Turkish provinces."

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