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MINERAL ACT.

ificate of Improvements. Notice—Imperial and Doubtful, fractional l claims situate in Victoria mining of Victoria district. Where locatMount Sicker, B. C., V. I. Take nothat Harry Smith, agent for The Sicker & B. C. Development Co., free miner's certificate No. B 79,560, sixty days from the date hereof, ly to the Mining Recorder for a cer of improvements, for the purpose taining a Crown grant of the above . And further take notice that acnder section 37, must be commenced the issuance of such certificate of ements.

this 16th day of March, A. D., 1904.

ONFERENCE RE FISHERIES

range the Construction of ish Ladder at Quesnel Lake.

esentatives of the Dominion and cial governments are to meet this n Victoria to settle upon a scheme viding a suitable fish-ladder to assist tion to enter Quesnel Lake and reach ning area afforded by that body of and its feeders, says the Vancouver dvertiser. The conference will be m Mr. G. A. Keefer, resident engineer Dominion government, Mr. C. rd, Dominion Fishery Inspector, Mr. amble, of the Provincial Works Dent, and Mr. J. B. Babcock, Provinsheries Commissioner.

matter has repeatedly come up he dam was built at the outlet of Lake, Mr. Babcock is of the opin the relations between Quesnel Lake and its tributaries ite about one-quarter of the natural g area for the sockeye salmon in ser river district. It is regarded cially favorable place, as no Indians the lake for the curing of salmon. he dam was constructed no fishas provided. This was remedied by putting in one which is considbe entirely inadequate for the purping only 11x10 inches in its open-

urged against it that the entrance too far away from the race to be by the fish. Those interested in stry have endeavored to have this , and made representations to the al government a few months ago. Consolidated Hydraulic Company trols the dam, and Manager Hob the Consolidated Cariboo Hydraulic y, expressed himself as only too co-operate in overcoming the difThe provincial government, howis not willing to undertake the put of a new fish-ladder, taking the that the Dominion government, ollected the license, should do the After some negotiations between authorities, it was agreed that this should be constructed by the Dogovernment, the amount expended pt out of the sum due the province final settlement of the fishery matmade.

HING FLORA'S REPAIRS.

Flora has shipped thirty tons of fuel, which will be used for up steam rapidly. The Flora lly being put in a position to e dry dock. The members of w are busy, some in replacing munition and others in painthe men engaged in the repairs hull have been working until lock every evening instead of 5, erly.

Bonaventure is expected to arEsquimalt with the Grafton. naventure is a sister ship of , but unlike her, has a stern The Bonaventure has about the umber of midshipmen as the

do boat No. 40, which is now up in the torpedo shed in the ard, will this week be floated n put in commission for instructurposes. It is quite likely she under the command of a subt and manned by a number of of the Flora.

evening the residents of Esgave another of their enjoyces in the public hall. A large of people from town attended.

The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

VOL. XLVI., NO. 31. VICTORIA, B. C., FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 1904. FORTY-FIFTH YEAR.

Blocking Port Arthur

Report That as a Result of Attack the Harbor Is Completely Closed.

Instigated By Russians Party of Koreans Attack Japanese But Are Repulsed.

Tokio Diet Now In Accord on Proposed Fiscal Programme.

SPECIAL CABLE TO THE LONDON TIMES AND VICTORIA COLONIST.

Tokio, March 23.—A rumor is in circulation in official quarters here that, as a result of the attack on Port Arthur, the Japanese have succeeded in completely blocking the entrance to the harbor. Inquiries failed to elicit any confirmation of the report.

Instigated by Russian agents, a party of Koreans, well armed, attacked the Japanese outposts at Ham Heung. They were driven off, and soon afterwards were attacked by a detachment of Japanese troops from Wonsan. A sanguinary encounter resulted, in which the Koreans were defeated and their leaders captured.

The Korean loss was two killed, 20 wounded and 35 captured.

It is announced that an imperial order has been issued by the Korean Emperor opening Yongampho to foreign trade.

The Diet has adopted resolutions thanking the navy, in the name of the nation, for the several successes that have resulted since the beginning of the war. It was announced by the leaders of both political parties that they are in complete record with the programme for raising the revenue needed for the conduct of the war. The compromise whereby the tax on land has been reduced and that proposed on salt and silk stuffs is eliminated from the bill, has disarmed the opposition and the revenue bill will likely be passed without a dissenting vote. The total amount affected by the changes is about $5,000,000. It is expected that the bill, as finally passed, will provide that the increased tax shall be levied for one year only, and not five, as was at first proposed.

WRECKS AND LANDSLIDES.

Trouble on the Central Pacific in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

San Francisco, March 23.—Wrecks, landslides and snowslides in the snowshed region of the Sierra Nevada mountains have impeded progress on the Central Pacific, carried away telegraph wires and cut off telegraph communication with the East. The overland passenger trains are all stalled at Reno. Trains for the east will also be tied up between Sacramento and Truckee.

The Yellow Peril Is All Imaginary

Japan Repudiates Any Desire to Add to the Present Complications.

Mikado Assures Austria That He Would Not Risk Chinese Outbreak.

SPECIAL CABLE TO THE LONDON TIMES AND VICTORIA COLONIST.

Vienna, March 24.—The number of alarming editorial articles in Austrian papers regarding the probability of China coming to the assistance of Japan and making common cause against Russia, has had the effect of creating genuine alarm all over the nation against the "yellow peril," and the Japanese minister was addressed on the subject. The result has been the receipt of an official statement from the Japanese government setting forth the "real position" of Japan.

After stating in unmistakable terms the relations between Japan and China, and the latter's intention of compelling China to maintain an attitude of strict neutrality, the statement concludes by saying: "While Chinese aid and support would be, in many respects, advantageous to Japan, yet the Japanese government cannot run the risk of Russian occupancy of other Chinese provinces than Manchuria. Neither can it risk the raising of the Chinese question again and the massacres of foreigners which would accompany Chinese participation in the war. Japan, while regarding the war as necessary, feels no desire to complicate the situation, or to make the Chinese one of concern to the various European powers."

RUSSIANS ARE FOXY.

Shanghai, March 23.—The Russians continue to evade the carrying out of the agreement to dismantle the gunboat Mandjur. A Japanese cruiser remains at Woosung (ten miles from Shanghai) at the mouth of the Woosung river.

BRITISH OFFICIALS' VISIT.

London, March 23.—The party of municipal officials of the United Kingdom which will visit St. Louis, will leave England May 21, and will visit New York, Philadelphia, Washington, St. Louis, Chicago, Niagara Falls and Toronto.

ALBANIANS SURROUNDED.

Salonica, March 23.—Twelve battalions of Turkish troops have surrounded 10,000 Albanians at Babatepe. Shakir Pasha, commander, has asked for reinforcements. Ten additional battalions will be sent. Pending arrival, he is negotiating with the Albanians.

PLEADING EXEMPTION.

"So you want to marry, young man, do you?" said the bank director.

"Yes, sir," replied the bank clerk.

"What salary are we paying you?"

"Nine hundred dollars a year."

"Don't you know we have adopted a rule that no clerk in our employ shall marry unless he has at least $1,000 a year?"

"Yes, sir, but its your daughter that I want to marry."—Chicago Tribune.

Three-fourths of the famous old buildings in Italy are said to be on the verge of collapse.

ANGLO-FRENCH ENTENTE.

Two Nations Making Good Progress in Negotiations Concerning Morocco.

Paris, March 22.—According to the Petit Parisien's London correspondent the negotiations between France and Great Britain with regard to the conclusion of a treaty concerning Morocco made a great advance at the end of last week. Agreements on important questions were submitted by both sides. The correspondent adds that it is anticipated an agreement on the essential points will be announced within a few days.

COYETTE SENTENCED.

L'Original, Ont., March 23.—At the Assizes here this afternoon Clement Coyette was found guilty of murdering Daniel Colligan of Alfred township on January 24th, and was sentenced to be hanged on April 28th. The defence will appeal to the minister of justice for a commutation of sentence to life imprisonment. Coyette broke down and wept when sentence was pronounced, and had to be assisted to his cell.

Rushing the Construction

Japanese Hurrying the Building of the Military Road in Korea.

In Fight For Manchuria New Line Will Protect Army's Rear.

Frenchmen at Seoul Accused of Assisting the Russian Cause.

SPECIAL CABLE TO THE LONDON TIMES AND VICTORIA COLONIST.

Seoul, March 23.—The most interesting feature of the situation in Korea is the vigor with which the Japanese are working on the railway between Wiju and Seoul. The immediate object is the construction of a light military line to run as far as Ping Yang. This will later be made permanent and extended to Wiju. A force of 3,000 military engineers, under the command of a major-general, has been assigned to this task, and the majority are already at work. One hundred miles of rails, with the necessary equipments, have already been shipped from Japan, and will be placed in position as soon as they arrive. The Japanese have rejected that part of the original French plan which provided for the terminal in the heart of Seoul, and have selected another route which crosses the hills to the west of the town, thereby saving several miles of construction and effecting a junction with the Seoul-Fusan railway where the large joins the Seoul-Chemulpo line, some miles west of Seoul. Nearly 100 miles of the roadbed is already in position and the line should be completed by next autumn.

The haste that is being made in the construction of this railway shows that Japan is going to leave nothing undone in the way of providing a way for the transfer of troops to Manchuria. She is also admitting the possibility that she may not succeed in driving the Russians from Manchuria, and therefore, may have to defend Korea. With the railroad completed, her rear will be adequately protected and she can send supplies to the Yalu in an expeditious manner.

The Japanese minister, M. Hayashi, has addressed the Emperor in connection with the appointment of foreign advisers in the various departments of state. He recommended that no further appointments of that nature be made and that the foreign advisers at present in the service be gradually eliminated.

At present the positions occupied by foreigners are chiefly filled by persons of French nativity, and it is claimed by the Japanese that they are doing all in their power to advance the interests of Russia among the Koreans, and even in some ways are suspected of furnishing information to the Russians of Japanese military movements.

Most of these foreign advisers are connected with the military department, the engineering and mining industries, and in many cases they have not been called on for their services since their appointment. Their annual salary is $1,000, and it is alleged that in many cases they are not qualified for the posts to which they have been appointed. It is believed that, as the foreigners are weeded out, their places will be filled by Japanese experts.

The recent appointment of a Japanese officer as chief military adviser of the Emperor, indicates that the Japanese intend that the army shall be in sympathy at least, with their cause. There are but fifteen thousand men in the army, and they are, for the most part, ill armed and equipped, and almost without the first rudiments of military education. It is believed that this army can be reduced to five thousand men who will be much more effective than the present force.

GUILTY OF MANSLAUGHTER.

Valleyfield, Que., March 23.—Duncan McCaig has been found guilty of manslaughter for causing the death of John Kilgour at Huntingdon, Que., last Dominion day, and will be sentenced April 5th.

OPENING OF THE QUEBEC LEGISLATURE

Prospects For a Lively Time Look Favorable—Contents of the Speech.

Montreal, March 22.—The session of the Quebec legislature opened today and the prospects are that it will last some time and be a lively affair. It is true that the legislative programme is a short one, but as it is probably the last session before the general elections good deal of time will be devoted to the production of campaign material. The speech from the Throne contained a reference to the recent death of Provincial Treasurer Duffy, the prosperity of the province, the successful ending hoped for in connection with the fisheries dispute with the Dominion government, mineral resources, an expression of hope that the Dominion government was a last prepared to carry out the recommendations at the Quebec conference provincial subsidies and a statement that the public accounts again showed a surplus for the year.

Constructing Railway Across the Ice at Siberia.

FROM THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

Summing Up The Campaign

London Times Specialist, Outlines Probable Movements of Japanese.

New Chwang Likely Objective of Large Number of Departing Transports.

SPECIAL CABLE TO THE LONDON TIMES AND VICTORIA COLONIST.

Tokio, March 24.—A correspondent who has had considerable experience with Japanese military officials, and who also passed through the Chino-Japanese war, sums up the present campaign as follows: "The large number of transports which have sailed from Japanese ports during the past few days are hardly destined for either Chemulpo or Chinampho, but rather are probably intended for New Chwang. The Japanese can be expected to retain a considerable army in Korea for the purpose of keeping the natives under control, but can hardly be expected to fight the Russians south of the Yalu, or even to attempt to transport an army over more than 200 miles of the worst mountainous roads in Manchuria in order to reach the open country and the towns along the Manchuria railway.

"The Japanese know every minute point of the country around New Chwang, having occupied that region for more than a year after the war with China. In operating there she would also have the good-will of the natives, who esteem Japan highly. Moreover, the country, while admirably suited for the operations of infantry, is so much cut up with ditches, dikes and tidal creeks as to be practically impossible for cavalry, in which force Japan is the inferior of Russia.

"Japan, it can now be confidently asserted, knows her plans go astray, will soon be near New Chwang. She has little to fear from sunken mines, despite the assertion of Russians to the contrary. The river is still frozen, but the ice is getting ready to melt, and as it sweeps out to sea it will carry before it all of the mines which are said to be placed at the entrance to the harbor at Yinkow.

"The Japanese are expected to come in with the flow of the tide which will sweep up the river so soon as the ice melts, and land the troops which will seize the town under the guns of the fleet, which can readily reduce the ancient forts now occupied by the Russians. It is admitted that Russia will do all in her power to stay the Japanese, but her efforts will be handicapped by nature, which this time will prove no mean ally for the Japanese.

"New Chwang will prove a magnificent base for Japanese operations. From there she can cut the railroad and isolate Port Arthur and the garrisons on the line south of Mukden. She will also be able to make use of natural earthworks near the town, as well as much rolling stock along the Chinese railway.

"The supplies destined for the Russian army along the Yalu can be cut off and the detachments of Russian forces practically starved out. Japan can also occupy Hai Cheng, giving her a strong position from which it will be hard to dislodge her.

"From there she can be expected to move against Ans-Han-Chu, a natural fortress, twenty miles east of Hai-Chen, which is held by a Russian force of about 20,000. If Japan can take this position she will be in a position to wait in comparative security the attack by the main Russian army, which will have a hard task to recapture the three natural fortresses which are sure to be well armed and defended."

"Farmer Sawyer, what is your daughter Mary going to be when she finishes at college?"

"Well, I kinder reckon she'll teach school. She thinks she'll like the vacations."—Harper's Bazar.

Koreans Repulse Cossacks.

Special Cable to the London Times and the Victoria Colonist.

Seoul, March 24.—A party of four well-armed Cossacks attacked a detachment of Korean troops in Northeastern Korea, northeast of Wonsan. After more than an hour's fighting the Russians were repulsed with the loss of thirty-five killed. The five survivors succeeded in making their escape. The Korean loss was seventeen killed and twenty seriously wounded.

MOROCCO NOT CEDED.

London, March 23.—Foreign Secretary Lansdowne in a letter replying to an enquiry from merchants says that no agreement has yet been concluded with France concerning Morocco and that none was ever contemplated by which Morocco would be ceded to France.

BARON DE ROSEN'S IDEAS OF THE WAR

The Jingo Element In Japan Responsible For Present Hostilities.

Paris, March 22.—Baron De Rosen, former Russian minister to Japan, who arrived today at Marseilles, refused to be interviewed, but a correspondent of the Journal, who traveled with him from Port Said, telegraphs a summary of numerous conversations he had with the Baron aboard the vessel. According to this correspondent Baron De Rosen said that since October last the talk of war had been universal. The Chauvinist party heading public opinion by stating that Japan would beat Russia as she had beaten China, and would be sure of the support of Great Britain and the United States. The Mikado and most of the elder statesmen were opposed to the war, the Baron said, as Count Inouye said that the country would be ruined whether victor or vanquished. Count Muitsukata, another of the elder statesmen, expressed the same view, and Baron Komura, the Japanese foreign minister, advised the continuance of the friendly negotiations, but the ministers of war and marine were absolutely determined to fight.

Foreign Minister Delcasse has received a copy of United States Secretary Hay's despatch from United States Minister Conger at Pekin, containing assurances of the unprovocative action to be taken by China against either of the belligerents. The authorities here have no doubt that China is ready to give assurances, but they consider that the conditions on the Manchuria frontier are somewhat at variance with the assurances. It is said that Gen Kuropatkin's plans for a defensive campaign have been given unusual importance to China's activity. If the Russians had taken the aggressive near the coast, it is said, that war probably would have been short and decisive, but as General Kuropatkin's campaign is based upon awaiting the enemy at Harbin and Mukden it is said this completely changes the military situation requiring the Japanese to push inland thus giving up their strong naval support. As their land forces are comparatively limited for an invasion of Manchuria, it is the belief in high quarters here that they will increasingly feel the need of auxiliaries. It is not believed that Japan will openly seek the aid of China, but that China will be gradually drawn in by Gen. Kuropatkin's tactics of remaining on the defensive in the interior of Manchuria.

BUYING CHILI'S WARSHIPS.

Santiago, Chili, March 23.—A representative of Charles R. Flint, of New York, says the Chilean warships Capitan Prat and Cacabuco, have been bought ad referendum, but an understanding has been given that they shall not be sold to any belligerent power. The sale will be ratified when approved by Congress.

THE DIVORCE PROBLEM.

New York, March 23.—Agitation against divorce and the marriage of divorced persons has resulted in a meeting here of eminent Protestant ministers and laymen, who will attempt to solve the problem of uniform legislation on the subject by the states of the Union. A meeting of the executive committee of the conference, presided over by Bishop Doane, of Albany, drafted a rough outline of the proposed law, which later will be presented to the full meeting for discussion. The conference is a direct result of action taken by the Protestant Episcopalian church in its last conference at San Francisco.

DR. PARKIN ARRIVES.

New York, March 23.—Dr. Geo. R. Parkin, who represents the trustees of the will of the late Cecil Rhodes, arrived today from Liverpool to hold examinations in Canada and the United States for Rhodes' scholarships at Oxford University.

No Damage Yet Reported

Togo's Last Attack on Port Arthur Presumed to Have Been Ineffective.

Private Advices From Vladivostock Report Squadron Still There.

Despatch of Troops to Far East Proceeds With Great Vigor.

St. Petersburg, March 24.—No further despatches, official or otherwise, arrived here from Port Arthur up to this morning. The officials have come to the conclusion that the bombardment of the Japanese fleet on the night of March 21st and the morning of March 22nd, failed to cause any damage considered worthy to be reported to the Emperor. In consequence considerable satisfaction at the continued fruitlessness of the Japanese assaults on Port Arthur prevail in high circles.

According to private advices from Vladivostock the Russian squadron is still there. Private telegrams received at the Admiralty here say that immediately following the Port Arthur bombardment on Tuesday the Japanese again spread reports among the Chinese that the Russians had abandoned the town.

The despatch of troops to the Far East is proceeding with increased vigor A rifle battalion left St. Petersburg yesterday and three others will follow this week, the largest draft going from the Moscow district. The Grand Duke Sergius, the governor-general of Moscow and brother-in-law of His Majesty, came to St. Petersburg especially to discuss with the Emperor the question of replacing the men drafted away. They conferred on the subject at the Winter palace. The young Empress and the Grand Duchess Sergius, her sister, took a long drive in the streets yesterday afternoon The crowds enthusiastically cheered the august sisters. The Emperor has decided not to go to Moscow. He will remain at the Winter Palace until the end of April. The Emperor then will go to the Sarkoye Selo, where His Majesty may stop all summer owing to the war.

The Emperor received the rector of the university and three students representing the students' corporation, who presented His Majesty with a loyal address. The Emperor expressed his sincere thanks. This was the first time students had been granted an audience by the Emperor Nicholas.

The reports printed in Europe and the United States to the effect that a state of siege such as has been proclaimed in Siberia and at Saratoff province in Southeastern Russia through which the Siberian railroad runs, will be extended to the whole of European Russia, is officially declared to be absolutely false. No such measure has even been contemplated, it being considered quite unnecessary. The authorities express the greatest satisfaction with the internal situation of the Empire. The hearty patriotic responses which the war with Japan has been met in all parts of Russia has profoundly impressed the authorities. All the reports received by the ministry of the interior indicate that the critics of the government instead of profiting by the war have been almost completely dispersed. The attempt at government demonstrations in Kieff and Odessa according to these reports found the temper of the people violently opposed to them. Within the past fortnight only a single incident occurred which could be construed as an evidence of disaffection This was the throwing of a bomb at a chapel in Vilna, the capital of the Lithuanian government in Western Russia, a few days ago, and up to date the author and the purpose of the outrage have not been discovered.

Two belated press despatches, dated Mukden, March 22, have been received. They refer briefly to the last bombardment of Port Arthur, but shed no new light on the result of the combat.

The Novosti holds that the failure of this bombardment, despite the different disposition of the enemy's ships from that of the fruitless attacks of March 9th, confirms the opinion of the inability of the Japanese to effectively conduct war.

RUSSIA WANTS GOOD CANADIAN TALENT

Report That C. P. R. Vice President Offered Charge of Siberian Line.

Montreal, March 22.—It is reported in railway circles that the second vice president of the C. P. R. with supervision over all western lines, has been asked by the Russian government to take charge of the Trans-Siberian railway. The report further stated that he had been offered a five years' engagement and at the end of that time the Russian government expected the road would be in a prosperous condition

Advices received today from Scotland point to the probability of Rev. P. Carnegie Simson of the Renfield United Free Kirk, Glasgow, being appointed principal of the Presbyterian Theological College in succession to the late Rev Principal MacVicar.

In a billiard room in Paris is a billiard table made of glass. It is much more difficult to make a shot upon it than upon the ordinary baize covered table.

Wild Rumor of Port Arthur's Fall

After Two Day's Bombardment Japanese Said to Have Captured Place.

Sharp Engagement on the Yalu River Reported by Same Correspondent.

London, March 22.—A number of rumors are printed in the newspapers this morning, but they must be taken with great reserve.

The Daily Telegraph's Tokio correspondent cables a newspaper report of the Japanese occupation of Port Arthur after a combined land and sea attack Saturday and Sunday. It is asserted that a division of Japanese landed on the Liao Tung peninsula Saturday and engaged the Russians near Port Arthur, while the fleet bombarded from Saturday evening until Sunday morning. The same correspondent reports a sharp encounter at Chyong, on the Yalu river, about thirty miles northeast of Wiju, in which the Russians lost 600 in killed and wounded.

The Daily Chronicle's Shanghai correspondent hears from New Chwang that the Jananese have crossed Tatung pass forty miles from Hai Cheng, and that collisions have occurred with the Russians.

Reports from Seoul and Tokio are to the effect that Marquis Ito has arranged to lend $2,500,000 to Korea on easy terms.

According to the Standard's Tien Tsin correspondent China is appealing to the powers for an extension of a year in the period for the payment of the indemnity growing out of the Boxer troubles.

A correspondent at Tien Tsin of the Daily Mail reports that Kataoka, a Japanese merchant, but a Russian spy, has been assassinated, but that the Japanese authorities disavow any knowledge of the assassins.

The Morning Post's Hamburg correspondent says that Russia has purchased the Hamburg steamer Hatis, which is now at Vladivostock, for $250,000, and that the vessel's name has been changed to Alexeitrapani.

EARTHQUAKE AT SYDNEY.

Halifax, N. S., March 23.—A second earthquake shock was felt at Sydney yesterday morning, window panes rattled and nearly every person in the city was aroused by the shock. Some alarm was felt at the frequency of shocks.

LIFE'S LITTLE ILLS.

Are the Ones Which Cause the Greatest Amount of Suffering.

It is every day ills that distress most—those which seize you suddenly and make you irritable, impatient and faultfinding. The root of these troubles lies in the blood and nerves, and you cannot get rid of them until the blood has been made rich and pure, and the nerves strengthened. Dr. Williams Pink Pills will do this, and will do it more speedily and with more lasting results than any other medicine. In proof of this Mrs. James Patterson, Chillwack, B. C., says: "My daughter was in poor health, and her system badly run down. She was pale, suffered from severe headaches, and very nervous. We decided to give her Dr. Williams' Pink Pills and after using six boxes, she is a strong, healthy girl. I gladly recommend the pills in similar cases."

These pills cure all blood and nerve troubles, such as anaemia, neuralgia, indigestion, heart trouble, rheumatism, St. Vitus' dance, partial paralysis, kidney troubles and the weaknesses which afflict women. Be sure you get the genuine pills with the full name "Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People" printed on the wrapper around the box. If in doubt, send direct to the Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont., and the pills will be mailed, post paid, at 50c. per box, or six boxes for $2.50.

A medical authority declares that hearty sneezing is an evidence of a robust constitution. People in feeble health seldom sneeze, and when they do, there is little force to it.

Working For Short Session

All Government Business Is Now Before the Ottawa House.

Premier Asks Followers to Refrain From Prolonging Discussion.

Railroad Company Asks Power to Construct Line on Island.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Ottawa, March 23.—According to an announcement made by the prime minister at a Grit caucus this morning, it is the intention of the government to rush business with a view to reaching early prorogation. Sir Wilfrid said that practically all the government business was on the order paper, and he hoped that there would be nothing to unduly prolong the session.

Mr. Daniel, the newly-elected member for St. John, was chairman of the Conservative caucus, when the sessional programme was discussed and the usual standing committees were appointed.

The customs department confirms the report that the United States vessels are not to load goods of Canadian origin at British Columbian ports destined for the Yukon.

The Dominion Rifle meeting has been postponed to April 22nd.

E. W. Fowler, M. P.; Geo. McCormick, M. P.; Peter Ryan, Toronto; John Shields, Kamloops, and others are asking for incorporation as the Thompson River Improvements Company.

The Vancouver, Victoria and Eastern Railway Company is asking for an extension of time.

F. Burnette, senior; F. Burnett, junior; W. S. Holland and G. V. Fraser, of Vancouver, are seeking incorporation as the Dominion Fire Insurance Company.

D. G. MacDonnell asks for the incorporation of the Vancouver Island Company to build a line from Chatham sound to Alberni, thence to Quatsino sound.

Premier Laurier and Mr. Borden effectually sat on the anti-cigarette movement yesterday. Several members supported the resolution, but the two leaders showed its utter impracticability.

Discussion is not terminated on the bill to amend the Steamship Act, increasing the qualification of steamship engineers and designed to shut American engineers operating Canadian vessels.

J. W. Greenway, son of ex-Premier Greenway, has been appointed Dominion land commissioner.

Parliament will adjourn on Wednesday, March 30th, until Tuesday, April 5th, for the Easter holidays.

Production of Rossland Camp

Le Ro Reports For February Show a Handsome Net Profit.

Shipment For Year to Date Exceeds One Hundred Thousand Tons.

Rossland, March 19.—The Rossland Miner publishes the February report of the Le Roi mine as cabled to London. Estimated profits for the month is given at $58,500 on a production of 19,244 tons. Manager Parris says he has reason to believe a fine body of ore has been opened up on the 700 foot level that may prove equal to the vein on the 800 level. At present it is most promising on the 900 level. The vein matter assays very well indeed. The diamond drill hole between 900 and 1,050 levels looks most promising. He hopes to be able to report more valuable ore discovered during March. The shipments for the week ending tonight are: Le Roi, 4,524; Centre Star, 1,470; War Eagle, 450; Kootenay, 150; Jumbo, 225; Le Roi No. 2, 665; White Bear, 100; total, 8,074 tons; year to date 100,250.

The camp is now on the verge of spring, although the weather has not changed materially yet. It is thought inevitable that the next week or two will see spring thaws and a breaking up of the roads. This will only affect the Kootenay and Jumbo mines, all other shippers loading directly on the cars. The mines specified will be compelled to suspend shipments until the roads are passable for teaming, but they will take advantage of the advent of spring to make a permanent connection with the railroad, obviating such conditions in the future. It is incidentally of interest to note that the snowfall this winter is unprecendented. Since November 7th last a total of 206 inches has fallen which is ten inches more than ever recorded previously.

The White Bear mine is now arranging for the construction of an oil concentrator as soon as weather conditions permit the laying of foundations. The Rossland Power Company's 200-ton concentrator is progressing rapidly and sixty days will probably see the wheels started.

ASBESTOS WE TRUST.

"Mistah Jinglesnapper," said Mistah Johnsing, "I has er c'nund'um fo' yo' dis ebenin'."

"Yo' has? Den, suh, tell me what hit is."

"Wat am de diffunce ertween a drop curtain an' a actoh?"

"Easy, simple! De curtain gits a roll an' de actoh gits a role."

"No, suh; no, suh!"

"Den, what is de diffunce?"

"De actoh in his time plays many pahts, an' de curtain in its time pahts many plays."

At this juncture, Mr. J. Roozlety Flopper, the eminent contra tenor, arose and sang his lovely ballad, "The Moonshine of Kentucky Is the Sunshine of My Life."—Judge.

JAPANESE OFFICERS SAIL.

San Francisco, March 23.—The steamer Siberia sailed today for the Orient with 52 passengers and a full cargo of general merchandise. Among the prominent passengers were twenty-five Japanese army officers returning home from England.