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IFICATE OF IMPROVEMENTS.  
NOTICE.

French, Little Bobs, Baden general White, Stirling Mineral Litate in the Victoria Mining and Renewal District.  
located, Bugaboo Creek, Port San

lice that I, H. E. Newton, F. M. 7907, and as agent for R. T. F. M. C. No. 157908, intend, from the date hereof, to apply to the Recorder for a certificate of improvement of the above claims. Her notice takes that action, under 37, must be commenced before the twelfth day of November,

**\$1.00** PER YEAR, STRICTLY IN ADVANCE, TO ANY ADDRESS IN CANADA, UNITED STATES, OR GREAT BRITAIN

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**Twice-A-Week Edition**

VICTORIA, B. C., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1903.

VOL. 34. NO. 75.

## ASSESSMENT ACT "CINCHES" INVESTORS

### Business Interests of the Province Will Pay in Some Cases Several Hundred Per Cent. Additional.

Fearfully and wonderfully made, the new Assessment Act, as it is studied, reveals new features which were unthought of when it was rushed through the legislature at the special request of the country's dictators, the banks. It is safe to say that there has never been enacted in British Columbia a bill which required such careful consideration, and which received as little as this one. Coming red hot from the civil servant who shaped it, the bill was presented to the House in an unfinished state. The ministers in charge of it had apparently read it through and had had it approved by the banks. Apart from this superficial scanning of the measure, there was little to indicate during the passage of the bill through the House that the Attorney-General or the Minister of Finance were any better acquainted with it, other than in its most general features, than the remaining members of the legislature.

This was most unfortunate, and as the bill is studied the various industries affected realized it more fully. The government insisted upon its passage. The opposition counselled them to proceed slowly, but in spite of everything that could be done the Conservative party, backed by the Socialist members, forced the bill through. When no other way would succeed and when the government members were apparently convinced by the arguments advanced by the opposition, the former walked out of the House and met their new act in the streets. They replied to the reasons advanced by the Liberals for the alteration of the bill, and in order to remain true to their promises to the banks that they would see it through.

The Victoria Board of Trade having the readiest access to the bill and thus being in a better position to become aware of its working, endeavored to make itself felt in getting redress from its worst features. The government refused to listen to them. The board had prepared a schedule showing the manner in which the new act inflicted disabilities upon the merchant classes by the imposition of taxes upon the full value of the stock, including the amount of the indebtedness upon the goods. In computing several totally distinct disabilities were used as examples, as follows:

No. 1—A merchant with a capital amounting to \$75,000, carries a stock of \$100,000. His book debts are \$10,000. He owes on account of stock \$75,000, however, for which he pays 6 per cent. Under the new act, if paid before June 30th, his taxes are 9-10 per cent. He pays on his stock there 9-10 of one per cent, on \$150,000, or \$1,350. But as the debts owing to him in his business are exempt only up to one-half the stock carried, the merchant would have to pay taxes on his debts to the amount of \$75,000. This at 9-10 of one per cent would make \$67,500, addition, or \$22,025, to his taxes. He pays therefore 2-7-10 per cent on his capital, or 20 1/2 per cent on his income.

Under the old act he would pay one per cent on his net capital of \$75,000, or \$775.

No. 2—A merchant with a capital of \$150,000, doing the same business with a profit of \$10,000, and in addition 6 per cent on half the stock, or \$75,000, which brings his profits up to \$14,500. He pays the same tax, \$2,025. Under the old act he would pay \$750 on the capital of \$150,000. He pays under the new act a sum equal to 1 per cent on his capital, or 13-9-10 per cent on his income.

No. 3—A merchant with a capital of \$100,000. His debts are \$150,000 and his stock \$75,000. He owes on his stock \$50,000. The business yields a profit of \$10,000. The men will pay on his stock of \$75,000 9-10 of 1 per cent, or \$675. From his debts of \$150,000 he is to be taken half the value of his stock, or \$75,000, which leaves \$112,500, which is taxable at 9-10 of 1 per cent, or \$1,012.50 is paid on it. The total taxes paid are \$1,087.50—a sum equal to 7-10 per cent on his capital, or 16-7-8 per cent on his income.

Against this under the old act he would pay \$150.

No. 4—A man with a capital of \$150,000, which is invested at 6 per cent, on mortgages yielding an income of \$9,000. He pays on income 1 1/2 per cent, on \$5,000, or \$75. He also pays 2 1/2 per cent on the remaining \$4,000, or \$100. This \$175 tax is subject to the reduction of 10 per cent, if paid before June 30th, leaving the amount paid as \$157.50. Under the old act the tax would have been \$180.

5—A retailer with a capital of \$2,500, stock \$5,000 and debts \$5,000. The profit is \$1,500, and there is owing on stock \$3,000. The retailer pays 9-10 of 1 per cent on the \$5,000 stock, or \$45. He pays 9-10 of 1 per cent on the debts up to half of the assessed value of the goods, or \$2,500. This adds another \$22.50 to the taxation, bringing it up to \$67.50. This equals 2-7-10 per cent on capital, or 4 1/2 per cent on income.

## THE SEARCH FOR ESCAPED MURDERER

### HE IS NOW BELIEVED TO BE SURROUNDED

Calgary, Dec. 14.—The mounted police believe they have Cashel, the escaped murderer, surrounded in the Springbank district, fifteen miles west of this city. A man answering his description has been seen by several farmers in the neighborhood. A man answering Cashel's description also stayed at the old Taylor ranch last Thursday night. He said that he had come from Healy's, and was well through, he had tried to swim the Bow river. This fellow went scuttling, and on Friday night stopped at a milk carrier, Dyers, telling him that he was on his way to Calgary. Saturday night evidently the same man put up for the night at Thompson's ranch, two and a half miles from Dyers. When he got up in the morning he discussed the escape of Cashel with them. Yesterday at noon he stopped at Andrew Wallace's ranch at Springbank and inquired about buying some horses. All this information was furnished to the police yesterday afternoon, and every man that could be spared has been sent out in that direction.

## THE STEVENSON MURDER.

Confession of Perjury by a Chinaman Now in Jail Leads to Another Arrest.

Vancouver, Dec. 15.—A sensational development occurred yesterday in the Charley Sing murder case. Lai Ping, who with Woo Wal is in Westminister jail awaiting trial on a charge of perjury by giving false testimony against a Japanese in order to convict him of murder, sent for the police. To Magistrate Alexander and Officer Campbell he made a complete confession of perjury. He said the evidence was arranged and declared he had been told by Chin Toy to say that he saw the Jap enter Charley's house at 3 o'clock on the morning the murder was committed. Chin Toy was the man who hid the formation against the witness, testing for other Chinamen. Magistrate Alexander and Officer Campbell had not been gone from the jail ten minutes with this sworn confession in their pockets, when they met Chin Toy, and promptly put him under arrest. He will be charged with perjury and conspiracy.

Winipeg, Dec. 14.—Ald. W. H. Laird was elected mayor of Regina today by four votes over Ald. Frank Bole.

Oreen Sound, Ont., Dec. 14.—Fire early yesterday morning did damage to the extent of \$12,000 to the clothing house of Vibeberg & Co.

Quebec, Dec. 14.—Ritchie & Co., J. S. Langiers & Co. and Larocelle Co., shoe manufacturers, opened their premises and started apprentices to work on the machinery. Everything is quiet. The whole matter of the lockout is being considered to-day by a board of arbitration.

Toronto, Dec. 14.—Annie Lynch, who roomed alone at No. 227 Victoria street, was apprehended by coal gas from a stove Saturday night. She had knocked the stove over.

Receivers Appointed.

Toronto, Dec. 14.—As expected, application was made to Mr. Justice Mahon this morning for the appointment of receivers to the Consolidated Lake Superior Company on behalf of three Philadelphia stockholders in the concern. The judge granted the application, and named John G. Carruthers, of Philadelphia, and the Toronto General Trust Company as liquidators. This step makes it impossible for Speyer & Co. to sell the property to-morrow, and brings the matter before the Canadian courts. The attorney for Speyer & Co. says the step taken does not prejudice their case, and does not put the company in any better position.

Will Be Taken Home.

Montreal, Dec. 14.—The Canadian Pacific railway gained a decisive victory this morning in the case of the Ten Chinamen who sought, after having been refused admission to the United States who remain in Canada, and who took out writs of habeas corpus to compel the railway company to release them. Judge Lavergne held that as the Chinamen had not complied with the provisions of the Canadian law and that as they had been transported by the railway company on their having represented themselves to be citizens of the United States, which claim they were not able to substantiate, the company could not disembark them here without seriously violating the law. So far as any contract between the United States government and the railway company was concerned, it was perfectly legal and there was no ground for interference by the Canadian courts. He accordingly ordered the company to return them to Hongkong from whence it brought them.

Explosion at Cumberland.

Nanaimo, Dec. 15.—Further particulars of the recent strike of anthracite by the Wallington Colliery Company at Cumberland are contained in the following dispatch received by your correspondent from a high official of the company: "A magnificent nine-foot seam of hard, bright anthracite coal was exposed and reached the surface a few days ago. It was reached at a depth of 85 feet vertical, and was exposed by means of two slopes. For the present only two shafts will be worked until the seam is further explored. A line of railway has been completed between the new mines and Union Bay, and shipments in small quantities will be commenced next week and gradually increased as the mine is developed. While perhaps not quite so bright and clean as the Pennsylvania anthracite, the Comox product compares very favorably with it for hardness and burning qualities."

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## GERMANS AND HOTTENTOTS.

Capetown, Dec. 14.—According to an official dispatch from the Hartswater river district, a Hottentot larger than tracked and captured by a German patrol Saturday last. The Hottentots drove the Germans across the river firing bravely and bravely wounded Lieut. Bekin and one private. The Hottentots subsequently retreated losing three killed and two wounded. More fighting is expected. During the engagement the Cape police came under the fire of the Hottentots who say that they shot at the police officers by mistake.

## MURDERER HAS NOT BEEN CAUGHT

Calgary, N. W. T., Dec. 15.—There is very little that is new in the Cashel business this morning. He has eluded the police again. The police believe that at one time they were within twenty yards of him while he was hiding in the bush. They did not know this until afterwards, when he was at Rigby's on Sunday, where he changed his raiment, exchanging his own for Rigby's best suit of clothes; he also took a valuable ring. The note he left was an unusual one. It reads as follows: "Cashel, \$1,000; return in six months (Signed Ernest Cashel)." The police are still patrolling the city, including Cashel is still here. They have ordered the men from Macleod and High River to work north carefully until they reach the city. The scaffold is proceeding under the direction of Radcliffe.

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## INTERESTING EXPERIMENT TO BE CARRIED OUT ON C. P. R. BY IMPERIAL OFFICERS.

Ayr, Ont., Dec. 15.—John Watson, sr., president of the John Watson Manufacturing Company, probably one of the oldest implement makers in Canada, died suddenly last night aged 82 years. He was a native of England and came to Canada in 1845.

## NEW RAILWAY.

Montreal, Dec. 15.—A new railway line into Montreal was formally opened to-day. It was the Chateaugay & Northern, which runs between Montreal and Joliette, where the line connects with the Great Northern railway. The line leaves Montreal Island by a handsome bridge erected at the foot of the island. Among those on the first train were the Premier and Lady Laurier, the latter formally declaring the new bridge open by breaking a bottle of wine at the entrance.

## THIRTEEN KILLED

Des Moines, Ia., Dec. 13.—Two trainmen were killed and four injured in a freight collision early this morning on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul mill road near Adel, Ia. A double-header westbound and an extra freight eastbound came together in a deep cut on a sharp curve. Two engines and sixteen cars were entirely demolished.

## EXPEDITION TO THIBET.

Calcutta, Dec. 16.—The British expedition which entered Thibet after having crossed the Jelep pass at 14,880 feet above sea level, are reached the Chuang Gung on its way to the Chumbi valley, met with immense transport difficulties. The cold was intense, 36 degrees of frost being registered. Anthrax broke out among the Nepalese bullocks. He accordingly ordered the company to return them to Hongkong from whence it brought them.

## RECEIVERS APPOINTED TO THE CONSOLIDATED LAKE SUPERIOR COMPANY.

Toronto, Dec. 14.—As expected, application was made to Mr. Justice Mahon this morning for the appointment of receivers to the Consolidated Lake Superior Company on behalf of three Philadelphia stockholders in the concern. The judge granted the application, and named John G. Carruthers, of Philadelphia, and the Toronto General Trust Company as liquidators. This step makes it impossible for Speyer & Co. to sell the property to-morrow, and brings the matter before the Canadian courts. The attorney for Speyer & Co. says the step taken does not prejudice their case, and does not put the company in any better position.

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## Fifty Years the Standard

and securities in New York, Speyer & Co. are still willing to carry out the reorganization scheme as soon as the shareholders can raise two million dollars. James Bicknell, Toronto, solicitor for Speyer & Co., says the winding-up order will have little effect, as the Consolidated Company was only an intermediary, and as all its assets were handed over to Speyer & Co., everything was sold, and there is nothing to wind up. The Soo committee, including B. K. Clergue, James Comroe, O. W. Smith and others, saw Premier Ross this afternoon, but the result of the interview was not learned.

Assigned.  
E. Bastian, wholesale clothing and boot and shoe dealer, of Soo and North Bay, has assigned, with liabilities of \$15,000.

Judgment By Default.  
The Bank of Hamilton to-day obtained judgment by default against Thomas Dunn, of Vancouver, for \$70,000. The bank has already obtained judgment for that amount in British Columbia, and sued for it here on the British Columbia judgment.

Died From Injuries.  
Ottawa, Dec. 15.—Father McGurty, aged 71, the priest-in-charge in the Ottawa university fire, died tonight in the hospital. He was 28 years old and beloved of Lowell, Mass.

MARINES ON DUTY.  
Will Protect Isthmus Until the Ratification of Canal Treaty.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 15.—Regarding the various reports about the dispatch of troops to the isthmus of Panama the Associated Press is enabled to make this statement: "Until the Senate has ratified the Hay-Panama-Yarilla treaty, the administration will look to the marines to protect the isthmus and keep order there, unless in the meantime it is learned that a considerable force of Colombian troops are to attack Panama. In the latter event, the protection of the republic could be accomplished by the army, and troops would supplant marines. It may be stated, however, that the United States government does not expect such an emergency to arise at present, and has prepared to retain the present force of marines in isthmian waters until after the ratification of the canal treaty."

THINK END IS NEAR.  
Koreans Fear That the Extinction of the Empire is Imminent.

Seoul, Dec. 15.—More rioting has occurred at Mokpo, and yesterday a Japanese mob wounded 17 Koreans. So far Russia has not interfered. Despite American, British and Japanese pressure, Russian influence over the Korean government is apparently unshaken, and it is expected that Korea will procrastinate in dealing with the matter, and possibly may refuse to act at all. Korean people fear that, whether it be peace or war between Russia and Japan, the extinction of the empire is imminent. It is believed that the outbreak of hostilities, or the announcement of a protectorate of any kind, will precipitate trouble. Foreigners in Seoul desire a warship. Part of the Russian squadron has already departed for Port Arthur, and the remainder of the fleet will follow, leaving two warships of that nation in Korean water.

SIGHS FOR NEW LANDS.  
United States Senator Wishes President to Annex San Domingo and Haiti.

Washington, Dec. 15.—Mr. Simpson, United States consul at Puerto Plata, San Domingo, called the state department, under to-day's date, that a revolution has broken out at Santiago, and that the revolution is extensive and serious. The navy will take precautions to protect the American legation in San Domingo. Senator Heyburn, of Idaho, to-day introduced in the senate a joint resolution requesting the President to acquire by annexation the Island of San Domingo, the dependencies of San Domingo and Haiti.

Robbery.  
The Ogilvie Milling Company's safe in their elevator at Argue, a small station on the Canadian Northern railway near Hartney, was blown open by burglars last night and \$1,200 taken. There is no trace of the robbers.

The Soo Property.  
Toronto, Dec. 15.—T. J. Drummond, of Montreal, is here. He says, notwithstanding the sale of the Soo property