Fine Shooting With Big Guns

Admiralty Secretary In Introducing Estimates Relates Astonishing Feat.

Britain's Navy Is the Greatest Power For Peace in the World.

Additional Burdens Necessary to Keep Up With Other Powers.

London, Feb. 29.—In introducing the naval estimates in the House of Commons today, Ernest G. Pretyman, secretary of the admiralty, justified the increase in the estimates on the ground that the two powers' standard must be maintained. The Russian battleship programme and that of other naval powers had been considered. Russia and France together had built, or were building 64 battleships, and France and Germany combined, were building, or had built 38 battleships, while the British total was 63 battleships.

In considering the cruiser programme, the government was not governed by the standard, but by the immense preponderance of British sea-borne commerce. While regretting the increased expenditure, the Admiralty regarded it as being insurance.

Secretary Pretyman concluded with stating the naval policy of Great Britain was purely defensive. Recent events in the Far East showed the necessity for preparedness to strike the first blow, and so obtain incalculable advantage. The greatest power for peace throughout the world, he added, was the British navy, which was also the most powerful instrument of war in the world.

In the course of his speech, Secretary Pretyman, referring to the great improvement in shooting in the British navy, instanced the British armored cruiser Leviathan, which, steaming at 12 knots, fired 10 rounds from her 9.2-inch guns in two minutes, and hit a 14 by 20 foot target ten times at a range of 6,000 yards.

Mr. H. Roberts (Liberal), moved a resolution calling on the government, in the interests of international peace, to communicate with the other great powers and ascertain whether they are willing to diminish their shipbuilding programmes and adjust the balance of relative naval strength on a permanent basis.

Mr. Arnold Forster, secretary of war, a member of the defence committee, said he was of the opinion that government had done enough in the direction of proposals to the continental governments for a reduction of armaments.

The government was prepared to consider a proposition from any foreign government, but Great Britain's naval power was a vital necessity. There was not a single country of Europe which could not abolish its fleet tomorrow, so far as any danger of an invasion by Great Britain was concerned. But the moment Great Britain's maritime supremacy was gone, she might be invaded any day. Mr. Roberts' resolution was defeated, 174 to 14.

Canadian Attache To Japan' Army

Fortunate Quebecer Selected to Represent Dominion in the Far East.

Bloems Revenue For February —West Australia Will Give Preference.

(Our Own Correspondent.

Ottawa, Feb. 29.—The government decided, with the approval of the authorities, to send a Canadian as military attache with the Japanese army. The choice has fallen upon H. C. Thacker, of the Royal Canadian Garrison Artillery, Quebec. Mr. Thacker is a son of the late Lieut.-General Thacker, and resided for years in Toronto. He is in his twenties and graduated from the Royal Military college in 1891. Capt. Thacker will study artillery work in Japan.

The customs revenue for February was $2,975,507, an increase of $263,000.

In a report to the department of trade and commerce, D. H. Ross, commercial agent for Canada in West Australia, says Australia will likely give us a ten per cent. preference. However, the existing tariff rates on Canadian goods will be continued while British imports will have to pay ten per cent. higher rate.

The towns of Port Arthur and Fort William have united in an application to the board of railway commissioners for a connection of their local municipal systems with stations and premises of the C. P. R. in both towns. The railway company and the Bell Telephone company fought the application on the ground that, for certain privileges the railway company have given the Bell Telephone Company exclusive rights in and to its station. Judgment was reserved.

The government is advised tonight that directors of the Grand Trunk Pacific, after hearing Mr. Fitzpatrick read the new agreement and had signed their report for presentation to shareholders tomorrow week.

HEROIC ACTION.

New York, March 1.—In saving a four-year-old child from being run over by an express wagon today, Frank Lyman, an umbrella mender, was probably fatally injured. He threw the child out of harm's way, but was himself thrown over and received serious injuries and fractured ribs.

THE POPE'S HEALTH.

New York, March 1.—A physician, in a despatch to the Sun from Rome, says the Pope suffers from incipient paralysis. Owing to the demoralization of the Vatican and an exaggerated notion of the responsibilities of his office, a depression has been noticed.

POLICE REGULATIONS.

St. Petersburg, March 1.—The governor of Kiev has instructed the local police not to interfere with the families or servants of Jewish surgeons who have gone to the East, although the law forbids them to remain outside the pale."

It has been said that thunderstorms are caused by the moon. Nearly 13,000 observations collected by the United States Weather Bureau show a preponderance of them in the first half of the lunar month, the greatest number of thunderstorms between the new moon and first quarter; the least number between the full moon and the last quarter. This would seem to be the only satisfactory evidence that the weather is at all influenced by the moon.

Pioneer Miners' Reminiscences

Interesting Speech by British Columbia's First Placer Miner.

Closing Business of the Recent Session of Provincial Association.

(From Sunday's Daily.)

"Tell the government now what the Association wants," said Mr. Curtis. "Mr. Robertson himself was a very clever man, but the methods used were all wrong and the Bureau of Mines would need reorganizing and the staff should be greatly increased. He referred to the action of the Premier of last year, Col. Prior, and spoke of his grand work in offering to pay the expenses of the special committee to Fernie to settle that strike. That government acted as a government should and the people of British Columbia owed a great debt of gratitude to Col. Prior. Let the present government meet the Association and give their views. He proposed a committee composed of Colonel Prior, Mr. Kirby, Hon. E. Dewdney and Mr. Martin to fix up the resolution during the lunch recess.

Col. Prior said as there being no member of the government present he felt he must speak for Mr. Roberson. It was a question of more money. The bureau needed more help from the government. He said Mr. Robertson was the right man in the right place. The Minister of Mines was the responsible party and if he did not have the report ready it was his fault and not Mr. Roberson's. When he took up the department he found Mr. Robertson was doing clerk's work and told him his place was out on the hills. Until the local legislature would give more money to the bureau the bureau would be useless. The scope was mistaken, the mineralogists should not report on values but merely on mineralogical and geological formations. Regarding a monthly bulletin when he was in the department he found it absolutely impossible to get the returns from the mining companies. Further on the resolution was not concerned in a fight about a very good feeling between government and the Association, and as an old politician, he advised the committee to make suggestions rather than pass strictures.

Mr. Jackson spoke and advised caution reminding the committee that the delegates were not the whole province and he feared that if the association went on record urging the government to repress facts in order to bring capital here, the association would lose its usefulnes.

Mr. Howse said he did not intend to suggest that Mr. Robertson should mistate facts. The executive committee asked Mr. Robertson to publish the pure truth.

Mr. Kirby closed the debate by proposing a resolution as an amendment to the amendment.

Mr. Crossdaile withdrew the report and seconded Mr. Kirby's resolution, and said that unless the association could get the government to work with them that it would never do any good.

Mr. Kirby's resolution read as follows:

Resolved, That the government of British Columbia respectfully be requested to consider the question of improving the efficiency of the bureau of mines and bringing it into closer touch with the mining industry, and particularly to so improve the nature of its operations and its reports as to assist the mining industry by scientific and geological information, and to avoid anything which may be misconstrued as affecting the commercial prospects and claims of mining districts.

His Honor thanked the committee for the way they had received him. He had read the reports of the previous day's reports with much interest. He was particularly struck with the kind feeling displayed to the east of Canada by the association in this debate on tariff. He considered such conventions were well calculated to educate the Eastern people just as he considered the Western people could learn many useful matters from the East. He hoped the proceedings would be widely read there and do the good they deserved to. He closed by hoping that Providence will bless their work.

Three cheers and a tiger were given for His Honor and the meeting adjourned for lunch.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The convention resumed proceedings at 2:45.

The treasurer, H. Mortimer Lamb, then read the financial statement.

Victoria, B. C., Feb. 24, 1904.

To the Second Convention of the Provincial Mining Association:

Gentlemen,—Herewith I beg to hand you a statement of your accounts, which have passed through my hands since the last convention.

I have taken the trouble to give them fully in detail, so as to show the direct source from which the cash was received, and every channel through which it was disbursed, the vouchers of which have all been passed through the book of your audit committee. The vouchers and receipts are all on file in your office.

The books have been balanced and ruled off in conformity with this statement.

You will observe that the large items of expenditure were practically incurred for the benefit of the last convention, and in salaries up to August last, since which time the total cost of carrying on the business of the association has been under $400, or less than $70 per month; this including all expenses and the cost of calling you together to this convention.

I estimate that the cost of conducting your business in future on a sound and satisfactory basis will not exceed $100 per month.

H. MORTIMER LAMB.
Hon. Treasurer.

Balance Sheet, made up to 24th February, 1904.

RECEIPTS.

To loan, Bank of Montreal	$1,000.00	
Less paid off	150.00	
		$ 850.00
T. R. Cusack: bal. con. proed.		358.92
Donations:		
Brit. Am. Dredg. Co.	100.00	
B. C. Warnick & Co.	100.00	
Provis. Executive (Victoria)	142.35	
War Eagle (Rossland)	25.00	
Centre Star	25.00	
Cariboo Hyd. Bullion	100.00	
Granby Smelter	250.00	
Aspen Grove Branch	10.00	
Coutlee Branch	14.00	
Camp McKinney Brch	30.00	
Stanley Branch	15.00	
H. Mortimer Lamb	100.00	
Rossland Branch	174.00	
Ashcroft Branch	62.50	
Col. Meinecke (Vic.)	10.00	
Revelstoke Branch, per W. M. Brown	40.00	
		$1,167.85
Emblem Accounts		14.75
C. P. R. Railway Telegrams		116.50
Local Organizations, Annual Dues:		
Ashcroft	61.50	
Atlin	11.00	
Bullion	117.00	
Barkerville	16.48	
Camp McKinney	20.50	
Chemainus	21.00	
Fairview	27.50	
Golden	40.50	
Islands	11.00	
Ladysmith	10.00	
Kaslo	18.50	
Nelson	72.50	
Nicola (Aspen Grove)	26.00	
Nicola (Coutlee)	14.00	
150-Mile House	10.50	
Okalla	5.00	
Poplar	9.00	
Phoenix	18.00	
Quesnel Forks	4.50	
Quesnel Lake	10.00	
Rossland	150.00	
Soda Creek	17.00	
Stanley	12.50	
Trail	17.50	
Trout Lake	22.50	
Vancouver	135.00	
Van. Clearing House	3.50	
Vernon	16.50	
Victoria	327.50	
Gen. Membership	4.00	
		$1,262.48
Sundry Accts. Payable		293.55
		$4,054.05

EXPENDITURES.

By Officers' Bonds	$ 30.00
Exchanges on Cheques	6.75
Distribution of Convention Proceedings	211.03
Janitor	80.95
Office Expenses	222.83
Printing	236.75
Stenography and Typewriting	246.80
Stationery	390.60
Stamps	67.58
Telegrams and Messengers	125.48
Honorarium, H. Mortimer Lamb, for work, Provis. Organization	150.00
Salaries:	
A. L. Belyea, secretary	410.82
R. E. Brett, secretary	216.67
Mostyn Williams, assistant secy.	225.00
A. M. Jones	220.00
H. Mortimer Lamb, treasurer	150.00
Traveling Expenses:	
A. M. Jones, secretary	91.50
Cash in Bank of Montreal (Vic.)	876.05
	$4,054.05

Victoria, B.C., Feb. 25, 1904.

I have examined the above accounts and find them correct. (Signed,)

HENRY B. THOMSON,
Audit. Committee.

ASSETS.

Office Furniture	$ 75.00
One New Remington Typewriter	120.00
8,000 Copies Con. Proceedings, at 5c, if they can be dealt with by the Convention	400.00
Cash on Hand	878.03
Balance of liabilities over Assets	262.20
	$1,735.32

LIABILITIES.

Bank of Montreal, loan	$ 850.00
Interest Accrued (estimated)	100.00
T. R. Cusack, Bal. Con. Proced.	358.92
C. P. R. Railway Telegrams	116.50
Office Rent	45.00
Times P. & P. Company	8.00
H. P. McDowell	.75
Kamloops Standard	4.00
A. M. Jones, salary, 5½ months at $40.00	220.00
A. M. Jones, Office Supplies, and for notices of Convention	39.95
	$1,785.32

DISTRIBUTION OF CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS (DETAILS):

To Cost of Printing (Cusack)	$1,608.92
To Express Charges	26.46
To Shipping-tags	.65
To Commissions on Advtg. (Potts)	60.00
	$1,696.03
By Sale, 5,000 copies to Prov. Gov.	$1,250.00
By Sale, 50 copies to J. B. Hobson	5.00
By Advertisements:	
Granby Con	25.00
Hamilton Powder Co.	50.00
Schaw-Batcher Co.	25.00
J. Hendy Co.	100.00
By Balance, 8,000 copies on hand	211.00
	$1,696.03

Mr. Galt moved the adoption of the report. Mr. Smith seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Morley moved, seconded by H. Mortimer Lamb: "That a committee consisting of Messrs. Smith Curtis, Crossdaile, Kirby and McMillan, be appointed to draw up definite suggestions for a more efficient working of the bureau of mines, and report to this convention."

Mr. Kirby suggested that it would be a better plan to instruct the executive committee to take the matter up in friendly conference with the government.

Mr. Morley withdrew the resolution, and he moved, seconded by Mr. Lamb: "That the executive committee is instructed to confer with the members of the government of British Columbia, with the view of improving and assisting of the bureau of mines."

The resolution carried.

The president then declared the convention open to the discussion and re-affirmation of last year's resolutions.

Mr. Hobson moved that the matter of the 2 per cent mineral tax be referred to the executive for action on in conjunction with the government.

The following was last year's resolution:

That the government and legislature of the province of British Columbia be respectfully urged to abolish the so-called 2 per cent mineral tax upon the output of mines, because of its injurious effect in depressing mining and because of its effect in discouraging the investment of outside capital.

Mr. Galt said he could not see any reason for re-discussing the resolutions already passed by the association in convention.

The following were re-affirmed:

TIMBER DUES, MINERAL CLAIMS.

That the collection by the government of dues in respect of timber and cordwood used by the owner upon his own mines and mineral claims for mining purposes should be discontinued.

That the government be urged to immediately obtain all necessary information and advice from both miners and mine owners to amend the code of mine signals so as to make it as perfect as possible.

F. M. AND FORFEITURE.

Resolved that it is the opinion of this convention that the law relating to free miners' certificates should be amended so that failure to keep up a free miner's certificate shall not work forfeiture of rights acquired under it.

Respecting the next resolution, Messrs. McMillan and Smith Curtis spoke. Smith Curtis claimed the indulgence of the chair for referring back to the 2 per cent mineral tax, which was so unfair, inasmuch as it meant 2½ per cent on one man's net profits, and 20 per cent on his neighbor's. The fee for crown granting claims was also an unfair tax; the very man who should be considered, viz: the prospector, was charged an enormous price. He said that if the government needed more income let them open up some of the reserves, such as that on the Kitsumat river and in Southeast Kootenay. Quite a considerable sum was another place which could be opened up he said he was credibly informed that there were valuable anthracite fields there which should readily bring $25 per acre. A policy of this kind would enable the government to reduce the taxes instead of increasing them, as they have done.

Mr. Hobson believed if there was any man on earth who should be relieved of taxation it was the prospector. He should be bonused instead of being taxed. He was prepared to vote every year for just such class legislation as this.

Mr. Lamb and Mr. Galt took a different view.

Mr. Galt said he should move for the words, "when such grant is applied for by the locator or prospector," be eliminated.

Mr. McMillan seconded.

The amended resolution now reads:

FEE FOR CROWN GRANTING CLAIMS.

Resolved that in the opinion of this convention the government fee for Crown grant of a mineral claim should be reduced from $25 to $10.

BOILER INSPECTION.

In view of the fact that there is much dissatisfaction amongst the owners of steam boilers as to provisions of the Boiler Inspection Act, which is claimed to cause unnecessary hardship, and since a large number of these boilers are in use at the present time, the government and legislature of British Columbia are requested to investigate this act with a view of improving its operation, and that to this end they invite the views and opinions of those who own and operate boiler plants. (Reaffirmed.)

Mr. Hobson moved and Mr. Brown seconded, that the following resolution be reaffirmed. Carried.

CROWN GRANTS OF PLACER CLAIMS.

That this convention favors legislation that will give Crown granted titles to placer claims for which leases are now given and for placer claims which require grouping and large expenditures to make them productive; provided, however, that no Crown grants shall be obtainable until reasonable expenditures for permanent improvement shall have been made; and provided, also, that amongst other safeguards restrictions should be imposed protecting the shallow placer miner; and provided, also, that additional taxation of Crown granted claims in years in which they are not reasonably worked should be imposed; and that in preparing new legislation upon the above lines the government and legislature are respectfully requested to give prompt consideration to the recommendations contained in the report of the placer mines committee.

James Moore, Quesnel Lake, then addressed the convention and handed in the resolution of his branch.

At a meeting held at Quesnel Lake, December 24, 1903, by the Quesnel Lake branch of the Provincial Mining Association of British Columbia, the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved: That we, the miners of this branch of the Mining Association of British Columbia, endorse the views taken by our delegate, James Moore, at the convention held at Victoria, February 25, 1903.

Resolved: That the Placer Mining Acts in force for so many years have failed to encourage either the prospectors, individual miner, or investor to enter the great placer mining fields of the province and have acted as a bar to the development of a great deep placer mining industry which would ensure the employment of thousands of prespectors and miners, the investment of hundreds of millions of dollars, the circulation annually of millions of dollars for labor and through channels of trade and commerce, besides adding new gol to the wealth of the province and nation.

II. That claims usually called deep placers, including all forms of deposits excepting veins or quartz or other metaliferous or valuable mineral rock in place, shall be subject to location, entry and Crown grant under like circumstances and conditions, and upon similiar proceedings as are provided by the Mineral Act for vein, lode or mineral claims.

III. That the two per cent royalty on gross output of the mine has proved most unsatisfactory to the mine operator and to the intending investor.

IV. That the Water Clauses Consolidation Act has proved objectionable and prevents the individual mineral and placer miners from securing the quantity of water required to operate their claims or mines at a cost within their means.

And be it further resolved, that we instruct our delegate, James Moore, to support all resolutions furthering our mining industry.

(Signed),

HUGH McGREGOR, Pres.,
JAMES MOORE, Sec.

Mr. Moore then addressed the convention and said:

"Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of this convention: I am pleased to see so many delegates here at this convention, and so many of those I met here last year. It shows the interest the people of the province are now taking in our mining industry.

"With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I would like to define my position on the floor of this convention.

"I have been sent here by the working miners and prospectors with instructions to give effect to resolutions which they passed at our own local meeting, particularly supporting Crown grants for placer mines. I was in hopes that the resolutions we passed at the last session of this convention would have been now enacted into law and placed upon the statute books, but Sir, as the political history of this province for the past few years shows that there have been a very unsettled condition of affairs, and therefore the interests of miners, as well as others, have been seriously neglected. This not only effects the mining community, but it affects the whole commercial interests of British Columbia.

"In connection with the questions affecting placer mining, now before the convention, I would like to give a short resume of the mining industry from its foundations to the present time. It seems to me that there are a number of delegates here from the quartz mining districts, professional men and farmers, who possibly are not well posted regarding the placer mining of British Columbia. I will, therefore, commence by saying that when I first entered the Fraser river, with a few associates, all we found in this province were three Hudson Bay trading posts, and a number of Siwashes. That was the whole population of the part called, at that time, New Caledonia. I shall speak of this province in future as British Columbia, as this province was made a Crown colony after we discovered placer mines on the Fraser river.

"In ascending the Fraser river, we camped one evening on a bar to cook lunch, when one of my associates noticed particles of gold in the moss which was growing on the rocks on the bar. He washed a pan of this moss, and got a large prospect. After our gastronomic needs were satisfied, we all went prospecting, and discovered a rich bar; in fact, Sir, the richest bar ever discovered on the Fraser river or its tributaries. We named the bar in honor of my associate who washed the first pan of moss 'Hills' Bar.'

"Now, Mr. Chairman, I wish it distinctly understood that we do not claim to be the first discoverers of gold—as gold was discovered in the year before in small quantities by Indians on the Thompson river—but, Sir, when we located this mine, we laid the foundation of mining in British Columbia. I may go a little further and say that we laid the foundation-stone of British Columbia, and I am proud to have the honor of stating upon the floor of this convention that I helped to lay the foundation-stone. But, Mr. Chairman, I am sorry to say that I am the only one left of the party that discovered those first placer mines on 'Hill's Bar,' as my associates have crossed the 'Great Divide.' I trust they have struck it rich, and I hope they have a place for me when I join them.

"When I was in Victoria last winter, I met a gentleman, a Mr. Ladd, who told me that he now owns 'Hill's Bar' in the Fraser river, near Yale, as a mining proposition. He estimates that the output of gold already discovered from that bar will be approximately two million dollars. But, Sir, in those days, no matter how rich a camp we discovered, we could not remain long in one camp. We had to explore, and I am now of the same disposition, and will not remain long in one camp today, but will proceed into the interior. But, Sir, before I do so, I would like to say that in the fall and early spring, when the river was at its lowest stage, we were enabled to take up boats laden with provisions from Yale to Lytton through the canyon of the Fraser. When we got to Lytton, some of our party continued up the river in these boats and discovered other rich bars. Others of our party, myself included, got horses and started inland and discovered the Horsefly country, and located what was then known as the celebrated 'Blue Lead Claim.' I paid the Horsefly a visit forty years after our discovery in 1859, and paid a visit to the old discovery claim, and found the company was still working that claim. The foreman of the company showed me a pan of gravel he recovered a few days before but had not yet washed. It looked to me to be almost as much gold as gravel in the pan; but that claim is now better known as the Ward claim. Sir, I could not help notice the contrast between the present mode of working, which is by hydraulic elevators, the camp being now lit up by electricity, and our crude mode of working forty years before with rockers, and our camp lit up by camp fires. But, Sir, we were able to declare a dividend every night of about one hundred dollars per man. In the next year, 1860, we discovered Duck, Keithley, Goose, Harvey, Snowshoe creek, and in 1861 we discovered the richest creeks in Cariboo, namely, Williams, Lightning and Lowhee, Grouse and other creeks, and some of the claims were fabulously rich. I will just state one claim for example, the Diller claim on Williams creek, where two men were working on the face of a drift with picks. They took out by twenty-four hours' work 204 pounds of gold, avoirdupois, and this figured into ounces at $16.00 per ounce, would be something like $47,600. But shallow placers do not last, however, they are soon worked out. There are a few yet that will last for some time, but not enough to make a prosperous mining camp. In speaking of these shallow placers, I do not speak of the Atlin district. We have in the interior of British Columbia a vast area of great alluvial deposits of auriferous gravels which have been lying dormant for centuries. These deposits are not confined to any one district, but we can find them in Yale, Lillooet, Cariboo, Omenica, and Cassiar districts, which I may classify in three different classes.

"First, I class them as deposits which lay above the surface of creeks and rivers, and which are suitable for hydraulic propositions. Speaking of these propositions, I am now speaking from my own knowledge as an explorer and prospector in the province for the last forty-six years, which I can say, as far as my knowledge goes, that this class of mines is most extensive, and I am sure will make valuable hydraulic propositions.

"The question may be asked, how do I know that these deposits are auriferous? That is a hard question to answer, and it would take a life-time to prove the values of these mines, and still, Sir, I would not have time to prove the values of one-half of them, but as far as I have prospected, I have found in all cases of high-grade gravels. I may say that the Consolidated Hydraulic Mining property is of this class. Some gentlemen may say that this mine never paid a dividend, but I can say, Sir, that it paid British Columbia a dividend something like $150,000 a year for the last ten years, and also that the share-holders of this mine are some of the shrewdest business men of Canada today, and would not spend that amount of money if they had no confidence in the mine.

"Now, Mr. Chairman, to illustrate the cost of opening up these hydraulic mines, and putting them on a paying basis, I will again refer to the Cariboo Consolidated Mine, which has cost something like two million dollars, and Sir, as I understand that they have assessed themselves this year at a quarter of a million dollars more to bring in another water supply to enable them to work their mine to advantage. I may say that the snow fall in Cariboo the last three years was very light, and the Cariboo Consolidated Hydraulic Company had only a short time to work; four years ago when that mine had a full supply of water, it demonstrated what it could do if worked to its full capacity, when there was recovered in gold $355,000, and I can say that the prospects of that mine today are as good, if not better, than they were four years ago.

"Now, as to the second class of mines. There are those mines which lay partly above, and partly below the drainage, and the principal parts of those deposits of gravel are valuable for hydraulic mining, and the lower gravels can be worked by hydraulic elevators. The Spanish creek mines are of this class.

"The third class of mines are those which lay altogether below the surface of the creeks and rivers, and what are known as drifting mines. In this class I will refer to Willow and Slough creek mines. The difference between this class and the first class mines I have spoken of, is that the first class needs a large quantity of water to work them to advantage, while in the third class, the great difficulty to overcome is the amount of water we will have to raise out of the mines to the surface with pumps. To work drifting mines to advantage, we practically want very little water.

"Now, Mr. Chairman, I cannot see why any gentleman who takes any interest in the welfare of the mining industry of this province can object to give titles to these mines which have been lying dormant for centuries, when the working of these mines would not interfere with the working of our placers, as it takes a very large amount of capital to operate and equip them. We cannot induce investors to part with capital in opening up these mines until such time we can give them a title. And why not give us a title to our placer mines, when by doing so it will open up a large area of the mining ground all over the interior of the province? Are we going to leave these vast areas for centuries to come as they have been in the centuries of the past? If so, it is time we are leaving the province, and at the rate the prospectors are now leaving it, it will only be a short time until the placer mining districts are deserted.

"Now, Sir, if you will allow me to go back ten or twelve years, I will refer to the towns of Rossland, Nelson and others which are now prosperous and were, a few years ago, only a wilderness. If we get the same laws enacted for our placer mines as we have for lode mines, it will not be long until our prospectors return in hundreds, and prove the values of our mines. They can then go to investors and say, 'I have found values, and want you to come in with your capital, so I can now get a title to my claim;' and, Sir, the investors and prospectors can come to terms satisfactory to both parties, and the towns in the interior, of our placer districts, will spring up in what is today a wilderness. Some people may say that if we give titles we will lock up our country; that is child's talk. We do not want to lock up the country, it is not already locked up. Now, Mr. Chairman, what would we say if a merchant bought a large bale of goods and put them in his store while he then locked his door and put the key in his pocket to keep these goods locked up? Now, Sir, he bought the goods to make money out of—thus it would be the same with the investors of the mines. They will open these mines, and we will have a properous country.

"Mr. Chairman, I will have to apologize to you and to the gentlemen met at this convention for the high tone and eloquent language which I have been using here tonight, but when you and they know the college in which I have been educated, they will not be surprised when I tell them that that college is the 'Mountains of British Columbia.'"

Mr. Moore's speech was received with the utmost enthusiasm and the delegates sang, "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow," and gave three cheers and a tiger.

The following resolutions were reaffirmed:

INDIAN RESERVES.

10. That the convention respectfully urges upon the Dominion and Provincial governments the desirability of opening Indian reserves in British Columbia for mining purposes, and that copies of this resolution be forwarded to both governments and the senators and members of the federal parliament from British Columbia.

CONSOLIDATION OF MINERAL AND PLACER ACTS.

11. That in view of the ambiguity of many of the clauses of the Mineral and Placer Acts, the government be asked to revise and consolidate these Acts and place them in as clear and concise language as possible, so as to make them more intelligible, and it is to be hoped that they will consult with the executive committee of this association on this matter.

Mr. Hobson then moved that the proposed amendments to the Placer Mining Act be now taken up.

Mr. Brown seconded.

The convention then resolved itself into a committee of the whole and passed the following proposed amendments:

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO PLACER MINING ACT.

On page 1, after section 1, add section to read as follows:

"Claims usually called 'placers,' including all forms of deposit excepting veins of quartz or other metaliferous or valuable mineral rock in place, shall be subject to location, entry and Crown grant under like circumstances and conditions and upon similar proceedings as are provided in a general way by the Mineral Act for lode or mineral claims."

Part 1, section 5b—Strike out on the 5th line all after word "certificate" to "shall" on the 6th line.

"All after 'certificate' on eighth line to 'and' on 11th line, and change "three hundred" to "one hundred and fifty" on the 13th and 14th lines.

And make corresponding changes in form of special certificate following:

Section 6—Add words to end, "or satisfactory proof of statutory declaration or otherwise accounting for the non-production thereof."

Section 9—Insert after "shall" on the 7th line the words "subject to the provisions of clause (b), sec. 5," as amended.

Add at end of sec. 9 the words, "or shall thereafter be issued."

New Section 17)—Every free miner shall be entitled to locate and record and hold only one claim on each separate creek, ravine, hill or bar diggings. He shall be allowed to hold any number of claims by purchase, and shall have the right to work said claims so held under one general system; and every free miner may sell, mortgage or dispose of his claim or claims, or any interest therein.

Part II, section 17—Add following new sub-section (20): The Gold Commissioner or Mining Recorder shall, immediately after being advised of the discovery of new creek diggings, have a survey made of same, said survey to be made by a provincial land surveyor on each newly-discovered creek, placing monumental posts every 500 feet, to be numbered consecutively 1, 2, 3, above, and 1, 2, 3, etc., below discovery; and the initial post of every claim shall be tied by survey or description to the nearest monumental post. Maps of such surveys shall be kept at the office of the Gold Commissioner or Mining Recorder.

Sec. 18—Strike out.

Sec. 20—On 4th line strike out all after "locator" to "the" on 5th line.

Sec. 27—Strike out on the second line the words "one or more years" and all of last sentence.

Sections 28 and 30 and 31 strike out, and substitute the following (31): Any free miner having located and recorded a placer mining claim shall be entitled to hold the same for a period of one year from the date of recording the same, and thence from year to year without the necessity of re-recording; provided, however, that during each year and each succeeding year such free miner shall do or cause to be done work on the claim to the value at least of $100, and shall satisfy the Gold Commissioner or Mining Recorder that such work has been done, by an affidavit verified by the oath of the miner or by his agent setting but in a detailed statement such work; provided, further, that any free miner or company of free miners holding a group of placer mining claims to be worked under one general working system shall be allowed to perform on any one or more of such claims all the work required to entitle him or them to receive a certificate of work for each claim so held by him or them. If such work shall not be done, or if such certificate shall not be obtained or recorded in each and every year, the claim or claims on or in respect of which the requisite work has not been done shall be deemed vacant and abandoned, and open for re-location.

Hyades Arrives From Orient

Big Freighter Brings Some Interesting Particulars About Belligerents.

Port Arthur, Dalny and Vladivostock Described By Officers.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

Like all the other big freighters which have come across the Pacific lately, the steamer Hyades, 2,932 tons, Captain Wright, which arrived at the outer wharf yesterday morning from Nagasaki, which port she cleared on February 10th, had nothing fresh to report regarding the war situation in the Far East. Since her last visit to Victoria the Hyades has made the round of the Chino-Japanese-Siberian ports, and the officers could observe during their brief stay in those ports that trouble was brewing.

A Colonist reporter who had a pleasant chat with Captain Wright, learned that many weeks before the critical time arrived both sides were busy preparing for a struggle. The fortifications at Port Arthur, where the Hyades lay a week, were undergoing constant strengthening; the troops in the peninsula, and they numbered then, according to Capt. Wright's estimate, anywhere between 20,000 and 30,000 men, were engaged in throwing up earthworks and in other military engineering work, while their drills and manoeuvres seemed to be carried on for hours every day.

The Russian soldiers at Port Arthur are fine, big husky fellows, averaging about five feet ten, but they are so muffled up in baggy trousers, long jackets and monster overcoats ("nimmeskikoffs") that it was really a wonder they could move about at all. They look placid, phlegmatic men, and they go about their work in a listless fashion, strongly in contrast with the alert movements of the stocky little Japanese, or the British or American service man. The officers appear to be haughty and autocratic. When the Russian soldiers meet one of those officers the men make a most humble salute, which the officer never acknowledges, even by a look. They seem to look upon the men as dogs, or so much dirt, and treat them accordingly. The effects are plainly to be observed on the dull, sad countenances of the men. What they do they do because the coal mines of Saghalien Island, or penal settlements, the mining pest, are the alternatives. It is quite a fine sight to see the Russian troops entering Port Arthur after manoeuvres in the open country inland. They march well, but without the elastic swing that accompanies the quickstep of the Mikado's men.

There is quite a large body of Cossack cavalry camped in tents near Port Arthur, indeed there are yet no regular barracks, and the vast majority of the soldiers sleep under canvas. Plans for immense permanent stone barracks had been drawn, and the work had actually been commenced when the tension between the two powers began.

The intention of the Russian authorities was to make Port Arthur the great military and naval base of the East Asian possessions, and make Dalny, 30 miles north and ten miles east of Port Arthur, the commercial centre of the Eastern empire. But for the outbreak of the war all commercial vessels were to be barred out of Port Arthur and ordered around to Dalny, where a system of docks has been erected and nearly completed, estimated to cost twelve million roubles. The great breakwater at Dalny is one of the wonders of the Pacific; it cost many millions of roubles.

Port Arthur is not an ideal naval base, as the entrance to it is no wider than the space that lies between the two outer wharves at Victoria, about 200 feet. Two vessels the size of the Hyades could not possibly pass in the channel, and to prevent mishaps there is a signal station high up on the hill at the entrance, and entering vessels have to keep a sharp lookout for the signal to stand off to let the outcoming vessel pass. The inner harbor is spacious enough, but when the Hyades was there it was nearly filled to its capacity with all sorts of craft.

The big Russian men-of-war were evidently then preparing for possible trouble, for the woodwork on all of them was being taken out, while not a few were having their engines overhauled. The vessels ready for active service relieved one another in guardship duty in the roadstead; but there was a slackness and slowness about all their movements that made the American officers shake their heads.

"We weren't a bit surprised to hear that the Japs had got in the first blow so neatly," said Captain Wright to the Colonist. "It was exactly what we all expected they would do. And it is quite likely that the first blow in every succeeding encounter will come from the same side. The Japs excel in initiative, and that is going to help them mightily with an enemy whose movements are always ponderous and slow. I am confident you will see the same thing happen when the fighting on land begins."

"What sort of appearance do the Japanese troops cut on parade?"

"Why, they are about as smart and active as any men I ever saw," replied the captain. "They move with precision and every man looks just as if he was a member of some champion athletic team going through moves where every motion counts points for his side. It is a pleasure to see them."

"Rather undersized little chaps for soldiers, aren't they?"

"No, I would not say that; oh, no, they are not so big and heavy as the Russians, but they seem to be more athletic and wiry. They run about five feet seven, maybe five feet six on the average, but some of the troops down Nagasaki way were really fine-looking men, being much taller than the average Jap, and heavier. I don't suppose they are a bit handier with the rifle, or better on a march, than the rest of 'em. Their cavalry? Well, what I saw of it in Yokohama looked good enough to go anywhere and to do any kind of work; and quite a lot of them, too. The Japs seem to be particularly strong in artillery, and the way they serve those guns is a caution. Quick is no name for the way they move around. It is my humble opinion that the Jap soldier can outmarch and outstay the Russian at any stage of the war game, and the power to do forced marching will count heavily in this campaign."

Captain Wright's description of the wonderful city of Dalny was most interesting. It is almost sad to think that Russia, after spending so many millions of roubles to build up a model city, a city which now boasts business blocks which would be no disgrace to New York city, public libraries that would be an honor to any country, an electric tramway service equal to anything on earth, docks which make the place the Liverpool of the Pacific, private residences which are not surpassed for elegance and design and commodiousness by those to be found in the greatest cities of the world, may lose it all should she meet disaster and defeat at the hands of her foe, the Japs. The prospects for Dalny were very bright before the war, but now—

The Hyades took on board at the various Russian ports a great deal of cargo from Russian vessels war-bound in those ports.

When the ship was at some of the Japanese ports the government officials came aboard and took ashore a number of Japanese wanted for military purposes. The inspection of shipping was pretty strict, both on the Russian and the Japanese sides. At Vladivostock the Russian officials required a good deal of satisfying that all was right, and had any member of the ship's company wanted to take a ramble amongst the fortifications or "up town," it would have been strictly at his own risk, and might have led to awkward consequences.

As showing the anxiety of the Japanese government just before the war to complete all arrangements for transport and secure all the avenues of traffic under the management of its own officials, it may be stated that an unfinished railway line at the southern end of Japan, being built by a private company, was taken out of the company's hands, a strong force of government railway builders being put on to finish and up the work, which they did in short order. It was in full operation before the war broke out, and was mainly used for conveying immense stocks of food, ammunition, guns and other necessaries from far inland points to the fortified seaports on the southwestern and southeastern coasts.

Regarding those fortified seaports, the captain of the Hyades is in agreement with the opinions of military experts who have lately expressed their views. They are, to all intents and purposes, impregnable by land or sea.

The Hyades landed eight tons of freight and 110 Japanese here, and left for the Sound early in the forenoon. She had a calm and uneventful passage across from the Orient, escaping the fierce gales which made things so uncomfortable for the Athenian and the Lyra.

Fire Destroys State Capitol

Magnificent Public Building at Madison Totally Destroyed Yesterday.

State Carried Nearly All