The Colonist.

FRIDAY, NOV. 11, 1904.

The Colonist Printing & Publishing Company, Limited Liability.

No. 27 Broad Street, Victoria, B. C.

A. G. SARGISON, Managing Director.

THE DAILY COLONIST

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MR. BOGLE AND BETTER TERMS.

We welcome a letter from Mr. Bogle on the question of Better Terms, and are pleased to deal with the matters which he submits for consideration, because now that the elections are over the subject can be viewed from a standpoint largely non-partisan. Mr. Bogle admits that British Columbia is now and has always been suffering from disadvantages as compared with other provinces. The trouble from his point of view is how to apply the remedy. Briefly, we think, that fairly defines his position. He divides the subject as discussed on the platform during the recent elections into three parts.

(1.) Tariff discrimination against British Columbia, which he rightly regards as not an issue between the province as a province and the Dominion, but wholly within the sphere of Dominion politics for which the Dominion Government is responsible to the people of British Columbia as electors of the Dominion.

(2.) Excess of Dominion revenue over Dominion expenditure. Under this head the Colonist has been careful to distinguish between it and the main issue for our claims for Better Terms. As pointed out on more than one occasion this is not necessarily a permanent condition. We might some day in Canada adopt an absolute system of free trade, and then British Columbia would not be contributing a cent of revenue in the way of customs and would be receiving at the same time subsidies and expenditure from the Dominion. For a tariff would be substituted direct taxation, which the Dominion has the power to impose, if necessary. It is true, too, to a certain extent that this is also a matter of federal politics; but there is another phase of the question in which it is part of a case for Better Terms, or rather for the readjustment of financial relations. So long as a tariff is in existence there should, in our opinion, be a provision for a return to the provincial treasury of revenues paid by the people of the province in proportion to our contributions, because the people of the province are less able to bear the burden of provincial taxation by reason of inordinate contributions to the Federal treasury. At the time of Confederation the province surrendered to the Dominion wholly its indirect sources of revenue, and as experience has shown has been inadequately recouped. At the same time the responsibility of local administration, by reason of the immense extent and the rugged character of the province, has been enormous and out of proportion to the responsibilities of the other provinces.

It is a condition, which the remedy suggested of greater expenditure by the Dominion in the Province does not meet, because it leaves the Province in no better position to meet its own liabilities in the way of administering and developing the country. In fact, such expenditures by the Dominion, in many instances—take railways as one—increase the responsibilities of the Province, without proportionately increasing its revenues. That point is made very clear in the memorandum submitted to the Dominion Government by the members of the Quebec conference, and it applies with much greater force to British Columbia than to Ontario and Quebec, by the Premiers of which the argument was made.

Our argument for a commission is based on the fact that while the relations of the provinces are being considered they should be considered comprehensively as the result of the most thorough investigation of conditions. For some years there has been a growing feeling in the provinces that the Act of Confederation, while a very wise and very statesmanlike measure, is not a perfect one. It was constructed without the necessary experience regarding the developments of the future, which could not be foreseen. Nearly all our legislation has proved defective in some of its practical workings, and legislators have found it incumbent upon them to remedy those defects as far as and as soon as possible. Why should an Act of Confederation be exempt from improvement and amendment? Should we be taught to regard it as inviolable at the hands of man, who, after all, was the creature who framed and gave it effect? A fetish in politics is as grave a source of evil as the worship of false gods, or of system, which through the changing conditions of time may have become effete and anomalous.

(3.) In regard to the third head of Mr. Bogle's discussion of the subject it is really the most important one. The excessive expense of the provincial administration on account of the physical character of the country is a condition which is a permanent one, and must continue to weigh on any government, which has charge of the financial affairs of the country. It is true, as Mr. Bogle says, that no very clear distinction has been drawn between this phase of the case and the others referred to by many of the speakers; but it exists just the same. This condition, our correspondent admits to be one of great disadvantage; but he asks how will the people of the other provinces look at it? He assumes that they will ask us to take the rough with the smooth, and to look out for other opportunities to counterbalance our physical drawbacks. In view of what has been admitted on all sides we do not think in justice to ourselves that that aspect of the case should trouble us or deter us from making claims. If through the investigations of an independent, non-partisan tribunal composed of members of high standing it can be demonstrated that it is all rough and no smooth with us; that we are suffering in many ways from our exceptional position and conditions, not of our own making; that there are injustices, inequalities and hardships in the relations which at present exist as compared with other provinces, does it stand to reason that those conditions should continue to exist because of the way other provinces may view it? On the other hand, is it not fair to assume, that under such circumstances, the people of the other provinces are fair and just enough to acquiesce in granting our just demands? If not, when it shall appear that our case is hopeless by appeal to the fairmindedness of the rest of Canada—it will be time for British Columbia to seek other remedies.

Nova Scotia got redress in 1868 on grounds similar to ours. The late Sir John Rose, then Minister of Finance in Canada, upon whose report finally justice was done, stated that "the local sources of revenue at present possessed by Nova Scotia are inadequate to carry on the services devolving on the province." And this was one of the grounds upon which Better Terms were granted. There were several other respects in which Nova Scotia's claims were similar to ours.

The great advantage in the appointment of a commission would be that its report would disarm the other provinces of the right to object. The report would no doubt be full, fair and based on evidence incapable of dispute. Under responsible government many things are referred to commission, and we can conceive of nothing more proper for the Government to do than to submit our claims to such a commission—not for adjudication—but for the evidence in support of the same and for suggestions in connection therewith.

BRITAIN AND THE EMPIRE.

A most interesting article in the Outlook has been contributed by Sir Frederick Pollock, a distinguished jurist and constitutional authority, suggesting a plan for attaining the practical unity of the Empire. It also appears in the latest number of the Weekly Times to hand. As outlined in the Toronto World, whose summary, for convenience, we give, Sir Frederick says that the necessary conditions of a practical plan towards consolidating the British Empire appeared to him, and those acting with him, to be these: First, it must be above domestic party controversies, and, next, "it must be capable of execution without contentious legislation, such as any constitutional innovation would demand; it must not involve any great initial expense; and it must not fetter the autonomy of the self-governing colonies by attempting to subject them to any new compulsory jurisdiction." All these requirements, in their opinion, are necessary and inseparable.

With regard to the means of satisfying these conditions, Sir Frederick Pollock thinks they are to be found in developing the functions of the Privy Council and reinforcing the Cabinet for special purposes with the new element thus obtained. "Let it be well observed," he continues, "that we do not propose to confer any kind of executive or financial power on the Imperial committee. We do not believe that the self-governing colonies would accept any such compulsion, and, for my own part, I do not think they ought. Such an avowal may seem pusillanimous to advocates of a formal federation—but I am convinced there is no other safe way."

In this way, Sir Frederick Pollock holds, the responsibility of the King's ministers throughout the Empire would be in no wise diminished. "Information and opinions of great value would often come to them from the Imperial committee, weighty advice would sometimes come." Decision would still rest with the various Cabinets, and he hoped and expected that in one way their responsibility would be increased. "For if the Imperial committee were such a body as it might and should be, rejection of its unanimous, or nearly unanimous, opinion would, in any normal case, be a heavy burden to assume. A constitutional understanding would, sooner or later, grow up; I deprecate any premature attempt to define it."

As to the practicability or usefulness of the plan suggested, that must be a matter of individual opinion. It may be a question of doubt as to whether any plan which could be devised would suit in the present state of development of public opinion on the subject; but it will be conceded that any scheme that may ultimately be adopted must rest as Sir Frederick Pollock suggests, wholly upon the free, good-will of all the parties concerned, or, as the World very aptly puts it, "it must come as a natural growth, springing and gathering strength, from a spontaneous and universal sense of loyalty to the Imperial ideal."

NEWFOUNDLAND NOT FOR CANADA.

Reference was made the other day to the feeling in Newfoundland among the masses against Canada. The elections there, which were run, to some extent, upon the lines of opposition to this country, have resulted in a victory for the Bond Government, and may be regarded as the settlement of the question for some time to come. The Bond Government is opposed to Confederation. In the interests of Canada and Newfoundland it is better to make no attempts at union while such a state of feeling exists. Probably there would be no material advantage on either side, and certainly union not based on good-will and perfect accord would be a source of irritation to both. Sentimentally it would be a good thing to have the Dominion rounded off by the acquisition of Newfoundland. Some day it may come about.

ROOSEVELT ELECTED.

At the time of writing returns in detail from the various states had not been received, but sufficient information was received to place his election by a very large majority beyond doubt. His plurality in New York, the pivotal state, is very large, and his election has been conceded by Judge Parker, the Democratic candidate. There is very little to be said about the result. It was exactly what was expected from the outset, and will, we believe, be accepted as satisfactory by the great majority of Canadians. The personality of Mr. Roosevelt was in itself a strong factor in his election. The electors have admiration of strong character. In addition good times were in his favor. The people did not want a change for any personal reason and there were no distinguishing issues in the campaign to warrant a change on other grounds.

WHAT A COMMISSION COULD DO.

It is very evident from the remarks of some of the newspapers discussing Better Terms for British Columbia, and indeed for all the Provinces, that the subject is not very well understood by those who should be in a position to enlighten their readers. Commissions have been appointed to enquire into a great many things—railway conditions, labor strikes, fisheries and what not. We are now going to have a commission to enquire into the operations of the tariff. There is a commission which has been suggested, which would have an important work to do, and that is to enquire into the operations of the relations existing between the Provinces and the Dominion of Canada. It would require a lot of time and necessitate a great deal of labor being done, but it ought to arrive at certain results which would be most useful to all the governments concerned, and would undoubtedly form a basis of readjustment. Ministers, even if they had the inclination, have not the time to devote to that investigation which the importance of the questions involved demand. Besides the mind of a Cabinet Minister is naturally swayed by political considerations and he could not be expected to give that impartial and disinterested consideration which a jurist would.

One of the most important things to arrive at is the exact state of inter-Provincial trade, and to what extent dutiable goods are consumed in each of the Provinces. There is no exact data of an official character on that subject, except in so far as can be extracted from the returns of the different railways and transportation companies. The Trade and Navigation Returns do give of course, the amount of goods entered at each of the ports, but such goods, except in the case of British Columbia, perhaps, which does not ship goods entered for consumption to points east of the Rocky Mountains, are not necessarily consumed in the Provinces in which the goods are entered. To arrive at the amount of dutiable goods consumed in each Province would be to discover what each pays to the Dominion in the way of taxation. That may not be the true basis of adjusting financial relations; but it is one of the means of arriving at a basis and should enter into consideration of the subject.

The thing most important for us, however, is to arrive at a mathematical basis of allowance from the Dominion Government arising out of a comparison of the cost of administration of the country affected by the peculiar physical conditions which exist. One Province may, and this Province does, cost a great deal more to administer by reason of the mountainous character of its interior surface, its extent, etc., etc., than another Province. The disparity may be so great as to impose a heavy burden on some particular Province, and render its revenues as a consequence insufficient to adequately perform the various services devolving on that Province under the terms of Union. This is precisely what the most important feature of our claims for Better Terms really is. To arrive at a just conclusion respecting this, commissioners should travel extensively over the Province, and familiarize themselves with the conditions in mining, lumbering, fishing etc. The question of increased freight rates, the result of our distance from the Eastern markets, from which we buy most of our goods, must also be considered, as well as the disadvantages under which we labor in respect to the markets in which we sell our natural products.

The scope of such commission should include, as well as investigation, the suggestion of an outline of a plan of readjustment to meet Sir Wilfrid's idea of a settlement that would be as uniform, permanent and automatic in its operations as possible. We do not suppose, in the light of past experience, the Dominion Government will agree to such a commission. Nevertheless it is the fair and right thing to do. The best way to deal with an agitation or movement that threatens to become troublesome is to meet it squarely, enquire into its causes, and, if real grievances exist, remove them. We do not think it wise in the political interests of the Government at Ottawa for it to ignore the question, because it is here to stay.

TREATY-MAKING EXTRAORDINARY.

This is a time of war; it is also a time of peace-making. Some time ago the Colonist dealt with the British-French arbitration treaty, or a treaty to refer questions which it may be considered possible to submit for settlement to the Permanent Court of Arbitration established at the Hague. There has been a series of such treaties made. Italy has a similar treaty with both Great Britain and France. It is only a short time ago that Great Britain concluded one with Germany. A treaty on the same lines has been signed between France and the United States, and negotiations are going on to conclude an agreement by treaty between Great Britain and the United States. These treaties provide "That they (the differences) do not affect the vital interests, the independence, or the honor of the two contracting States and do not concern the interests of third parties."

These treaties, of course, leave a very open door as to what may be considered "vital interests," the "independence" or "honor" of the contracting parties. Nevertheless, it is a recognition of the principles of arbitration by which, unless in extreme cases, the nations are morally bound. It commits the nation to an appeal to an international court of arbitration, and few differences are likely to arise that cannot be so referred.

In regard to the latest treaty it reaffirms the friendly relations that used to exist between the United States and France, and despatches from Paris state that the signing was received with the warmest expression of approval by press and people, and especially in Government circles, where, it is stated, "the treaty is regarded not only as a strong bond between the two republics, but also as another notable achievement of Foreign Minister Delcasse, whose recent pacific influences in the Anglo-Russian crisis have emphasized the benefit resulting from the various ententes he has succeeded in establishing."

In this matter England by her treaty with France has set a good example, which, as has been seen is being extensively followed, and with good results. The relations between Great Britain and France have greatly improved, and all efforts of Russia to draw France into war with Britain in terms of the Russian-French treaty have been unavailing. France, indeed, has done much since to preserve the peace of Europe, and in the very recent trouble with Russia over the North Sea "incident," France assisted diplomatically in obtaining a reference to the Hague.

Whether it be true or not, much credit has been given to King Edward's influence. He is probably the greatest diplomat of them all—a true diplomat, who is also a King. M. Hanotaux, former French Minister of Foreign Affairs, recognizes and has stated that fact. It has been, therefore, suggested that he will go down in history with the title of "Edward the Peacemaker."

Readers who criticize Canadian papers for abuse of "our contemporary" will hold their breath at this from the Seattle Post-Intelligencer in reference to the proprietor of a rival newspaper: "Dastardly and desperate, with failing fortune and mind, with only the rancid remains of a foul character, Blethen, a social pariah and outcast, seeks to drag down to his own abysm of degradation all who are engaged in the business which he disgraces and defiles." And that is only a small portion of the article.

The Parent Government of Quebec taking advantage of the great Liberal success at Ottawa, have sprung the elections a year before their time, without warning and with only three weeks in which to conduct the campaign. No wonder the Conservatives refuse to contest constituencies under such circumstances. And now in British Columbia every Liberal paper is crying from the housetops to defeat the McBride administration. If the people of Canada want to get stalled with Liberalism quickly that is the kind of thing to continue doing.

FROM THE BRITISH COLONIST 1859.

Thursday, November 11.

The Eliza Anderson arrived yesterday from New Westminster with 30 passengers. The snow was a foot deep there. The report of some 40 persons having been killed during the year on the river by the Indians is said to be correct. The Indians near the mouth all have kegs of nails and such like in their possession, which they only could have got by robbery and murder. The schooner Sherman was boarded by them six weeks ago and the jib hauled down twice. When they signalled more of their tribe to come on board, the men knocked them over with hand-spikes.

Wells, Fargo & Co. shipped yesterday by the Brother Jonathan $51,451, and McDonald & Co., $11,500.

A few handfuls of salt scattered on the pavements of the shady side of Yates street would remove in a few minutes the ice and snow. Try it.

The Columbia is expected today. Gen. Scott will return to San Francisco on her, and remain there until some final arrangements are entered into as regards San Juan. He has proposed to His Excellency Governor Douglas to make a joint occupation; but the proposal has been met by another, that the whole of the said soldiers shall be withdrawn, Capt. Pickett's company and all. That's right. We cannot negotiate with the bayonets in sight.

Friday, Nov. 11.

The news from England by the Brother Jonathan, in relation to San Juan, is rather belligerent. The Manchester Guardian, in an editorial upon Gen. Harney's occupation of San Juan, says: "The American general's exploit seems to have been one of those acts of piracy by which lawless representatives of the United States are accustomed to settle disputes with weaker and barbarous neighbors, but which it is time they were taught that they cannot safely indulge in against powerful and civilized nations."

The article concludes as follows: "We trust that the government of the United States will speedily disavow the acts of its officer, otherwise the English government will be forced to take immediate steps to vindicate the honor of the country, showing the licensed ruffians that they must not appropriate British territory as cooly as if they were cutting off another slice of Mexico."

The London Post characterizes Gen. Harney's conduct as totally opposed to the first principles of public law, and hopes the American government will disavow it.

The New York Times, in an article on San Juan, says: "We should be very unwilling to do the President injustice in this matter, or suspect him of trying to use for his own partizan and personal purposes the name and character of so eminent a soldier and patriot as General Scott. But the movement is of so extraordinary a nature, as naturally to get suspicious in the public mind. It looks very much as if the administration had already decided that the island is to be surrendered; and as if they preferred to throw upon General Scott the responsibility of such a retreat, rather than assume it themselves."

Retail Markets

Little change is to be noted in the quotations in the retail markets this week. Butter is cheapening, prime local creamery selling at 30c instead of 35c, the price which has prevailed for months past. There is a very great shortage of strictly fresh ranch eggs, though the higher price at which they are now selling, mentioned last week, still prevails. No changes are to be noted in the price of flour and other staples. Local grocers are getting in their stocks of dried fruits and other Christmas delicacies. The West End Company yesterday received a shipment of walnuts. The quotations follow:

Corn, whole, per ton	$30
Corn, cracked	$32
Corn, feed meal	$32
Oats, per ton	$28
Oatmeal, per 10 lbs.	40
Rolled oats, B. & K., per lb	4
Rolled oats, B. & K. per 7-lb sack	25
Hungarian, per bbl.	$6.50
Hungarian, per sack	$1.75
Pastry Flour—	
Snow Flake, per sack	$1.55
Snow Flake, per bbl.	$5.60
Three Star, per sack	$1.55
Three Star, per bbl.	$6.00
Drifted Snow, per sack	$1.50
Drifted Snow, per bbl.	$5.60
Feed—	
Hay, Island, per ton	$16.00
Hay, B. C., per ton	$14.00
Straw, per bale	75
Wheat, per ton	$37.00
Middlings, per ton	$28.00
Bran, per ton	$25.00
Ground feed, per ton	$28 to $30
Vegetables—	
Cabbage, per lb.	3½
Cauliflower, per head	10
Tomatoes, per lb.	5
Cucumbers, per doz.	25
Onions, 6 lbs.	25
Carrots, per lb	1½ to 2
Beet root, per lb.	3
New potatoes, per 100 lbs.	$1.00
Eggs—	
Fresh Island, per doz.	50
Manitoba, per dozen	30
Fresh cream, per pint	25
Cheese—	
Best Ontario Cheese, per lb.	20
California cheese, per lb.	25
Canadian, per lb.	20
Butter—	
Manitoba, per lb.	25
Best dairy, per lb.	25
Victoria creamery, per lb.	30
Cowichan creamery, per lb.	30
Delta, per lb.	25
Fresh Island	25
Fruit—	
Apples (island), per box	$1.00
Pears, per box	$1.00
Prunes (local), per lb.	5
Muskmellons, each	12
Currants, per lb.	10
Cooking figs	10
Figs, lb.	20
Valencia raisins	10
Lemons, California, per doz.	25
Cocoanuts, each	10
New dates	12½
Beans, per lb	05
New cleaned currants, 3 lbs. for	25
Best Sultanas	20
Table raisins	25 to 35
Bananas, per dozen	25 to 35
Oranges, per dozen	25 to 40
Poultry—	
Dressed fowls	20 to 25
Fish—	
Smoked salmon, per lb.	15
Spring salmon, per lb.	10
Cod, per lb.	8
Halibut, per lb.	8
Smoked Halibut, per lb.	12½
Halibut, frozen	6
Flounders	6
Finnan Haddock, per lb.	15
Crabs, per doz.	50
Salt mackerel, each	15
Salt cod, per lb.	12½
Salt tongues and sounds, per lb.	20
Salt Holand herring, per keg	$1.50
Salt salmon, each	15
Salmon trout, per lb	12½
Meats—	
Beef	10 to 12
Mutton, per lb.	8 to 15
Ham, American, per lb.	22
Bacon, American, per lb.	22 to 27
Bacon, rolled	16
Pork, per lb.	10 to 15
Coal Oil—	
Pratt's coal oil	$1.50
Eocene oil	$1.60

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FOR SALE—Thoroughbred Dashund, age 5 months. Mrs. J. E. Elliott, 35 Alfred street. n7

FOR SALE—Two dozen well bred Leghorn pullets, 50c. each. F. Reade, Mt. Tolmie. n7

FOR SALE—Irish setter puppies by Mickey Green; also Irish setter bitch, good hunter. Apply evenings, except Saturday or Sunday, Wm. H. Peter, Harriet road, off Burnside. sn24

FOR SALE—Highly bred pedigreed Scotch terrier puppies. Apply "X.," this office. o29

FOR SALE—One cow and 4 calves, one calf 1½ years old, 3 calves 6 months old, cow 4 years old; 2 dozen hens; 2 dozen chickens; 1 sewing machine. Apply Mrs. M. J. Virdier, Richmond avenue.

FOR SALE—Pure bred Berkshire pigs for sale. Address G. H. Hadwen, Duncans Station. n5

FOR SALE—Young pigs for sale. John Turner, Royal Oak. o12

FOR SALE—Minorca pullets, $10 dozen; Minorca-Orpington pullets $9 dozen; Orpington hens $1; also cocker spaniel, broken, $10. Miss Exley, Sidney. o11

WANTED—200 pullets; state when hatched. Cameron, 19 Catherine street, W.

BORN.

FOSTER—On November 6, at 37 Frederick street, the wife of F. Foster, of a daughter.

MAHER—On November 5, at Oak Bay, Victoria, the wife of William S. Maher, of a son.

CALDER—In this city, on the 3rd instant, the wife of George Calder, of a son.

SAVAGE—In this city, November 1, the wife of R. W. O. Savage, of a daughter.

MARRIED.

EBBS-CANAVAN-CLARKE — On Monday, November 7, 1904, at the Palace, by His Grace Archbishop Orth, Harold Worsley Ebbs-Canavan, of Atlin, B. C., to Frances Alice, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank I. Clarke, of Victoria, B. C.

BELL-DODGSON — August 23, at St. James' Church, Graaf Reinet, South Africa, by the Rev. J. H. Carter, M.A., P. W. Wentworth Bell, C. E., of Vancouver, Canada, son of the late P. W. Bell, of the Hudson's Bay Company, to Frances Isabel Dodgson, third daughter of the late Henry Dodgson, M. D., F. R. A. S., of Cockermouth, Cumberland, England.
(Vancouver, Kingston and Toronto papers please copy.)

DIED.

DURRANCE—At the family residence, Lake District, on the 1st instant, John Durrance, a native of Leicestershire, England; aged 76 years.

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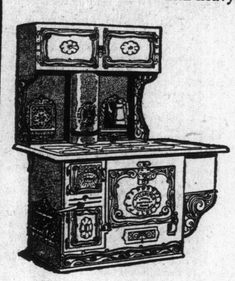
The oven is lined with heavy sheet steel, which is a great radiator of heat and insures a uniform heat throughout the oven—no danger of a loaf of bread being half done on one side and burned on the other.



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FINEST CALIFORNIA SEEDED RAISINS, 16 oz. pks., each	10c.
NEW CALIFORNIA CLUSTER RAISINS, per lb.	20c., 25c. and 35c.
FANCY CALIFORNIA SULTANAS, 2 lbs. for	25c.
FANCY CALIFORNIA FIGS, 1 lb. pks, 2 for	25c.
NEW CALIFORNIA WHITE COOKING FIGS, per lb.	10c.
MISSION BRAND BLACK FIGS, 2 lbs. for	25c.
MEXICAN TAMERINDS, 2 lbs. for	25c.
RICE POP-CORN (for popping) per lb.	10c.
NEW CALIFORNIA WALNUTS, per lb.	20c.
NEW I. X. L. ALMONDS (in shell) per lb.	25c.
WETHEY'S MINCEMEAT, 2 pks. for	25c.
COOKING BRANDY, per bottle	$1.00
SWEET CIDER, per bottle	25c.

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" " " " Boxes - - - .10
" Malaga Table Raisins Boxes - - .50
" Stuffed Dates Assorted Fillings .50
" Walnuts Soft Shell lb. - - - .20

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"In order that Consumers may feel assured of genuineness, we would requ Atention to this our Special Export Label, and to our Trade Mark and Name on all rks, Capsules and Cases, also to age mark.
John Jameson & Son" Ltd.

Local

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

Legal Business.—Mr. Justice Martin presided in chambers yesterday and dealt with several applications as follows: In Hale vs. Atlin & Willow Creek Company, statement of claim amended. Breen vs. Chaplin et alia., motion to dismiss action stood over until the 14th inst.; estate of H. B. W. Aikman, deceased, letters of administration with will annexed granted to the three children.

Branch at Kelowna.—The Kelowna Clarion, in its issue of November 3rd, referring to the opening of a branch of the Bank of Montreal at that point, says: "The opening of a branch of the Bank of Montreal in Kelowna, which took place on Tuesday, marks another step in the progress of our town. The inconvenience experienced in having to do all banking business at a distance has been a great annoyance to everybody in this locality. The system in vogue of paying by check has often left the place with comparatively little cash. This evil is, however, permanently removed by the establishment of the bank and the improvement will be welcomed by all. The Bank of Montreal does the greatest business of any bank in America, and its methods are much approved. The establishment of a branch here will doubtless assist materially in the upbuilding of the place."

Fatal Gun Accident.—One of the most distressing shooting accidents of the season occurred at Mayne island on Saturday morning, which resulted in the death of Catherine Emilie, the 12-year-old daughter of Frederick David. Mr. David's children were playing about the beach when they noticed an otter close into the shore. The eldest boy procured a rifle with which to shoot the animal, and when about to do so the little girl ran in the line of fire to pull her little brother out of danger. The boy with the gun pulled the trigger before he noticed his sister, and the bullet passed through her abdomen, killing the otter at the same time. The wounded child was brought to St. Joseph's hospital and every means taken to save her life, but she died at 6 p. m. Dr. Hart, considering an inquest unnecessary, the remains will be forwarded to Mayne island this morning for interment. Much sympathy is expressed for the parents, who are in poor circumstances, and the Sisters and others at St. Joseph's hospital took up a subscription to defray expenses as far as possible.

Raid on Tremont.—At Tacoma on Sunday undeclared dutiable goods to the value of several thousands of dollars were found on the Oriental liner Tremont. They consisted of Chinese laces and silks, Canton fabrics of various kinds, fine cigars, dress goods and Oriental novelties. The members of the crew, who are the supposed owners of the goods, were not expecting a search and were taken by surprise when Customs Inspectors Loftus, Brinker and Knox, of Seattle, and several inspectors of Tacoma, boarded the vessel. The goods were found in every conceivable place. Beneath several tons of rice in the storeroom a valuable cache was found, another was unearthed beneath a bunk in an officer's stateroom, and crannies and nooks gave small batches of costly goods. Inspector Dorsey, under whose supervision the search was made, estimates the total duty on the goods seized at $1,000. In the quarters of some of the officers and crew who had reported to the customs department that they had certain amounts of goods, was found much more which was concealed. All undeclared was confiscated.

Spanish Chestnuts. — The first chestnuts of Spanish variety to be grown in marketable quantity in Victoria have been placed on sale by Robert Monteat, the grocer. They were raised by Wm. Robertson of North Chatham street, and are pronounced of excellent quality.

Opens in Ladysmith.—Roy Dier, of the firm of Dier Bros., dental surgeons of this city, is to open a branch office at Ladysmith during the course of a few days. Ladysmith is going ahead at such a rapid rate that it is considered a very promising point for all kinds of business ventures.

Grand Trunk Rumor.—The Vancouver Province is authority for the statement that private information has been received from Eastern Canada to the effect that the Grand Trunk Pacific people have acquired the charter held by British Columbia syndicate for the building of a railway from Kitamaat to Hazelton.

Hotel Foundations.—A third large scraper was yesterday afternoon placed at work by the contractors for the C. P. R. hotel foundations. It will be manipulated by a huge donkey engine of 75 horse-power which has been placed in a position on the extreme eastern end of the flats. Notwithstanding the prevailing rains the work is proceeding in a fairly satisfactory fashion.

"To the Victors," etc.—An interesting political rumor was afloat yesterday to the effect that the various names which had previously been mentioned in connection with the vacant collectorship at the port of Victoria, have now been sidetracked in favor of that of Rev. E. S. Rowe, who is considered by those "in the know" to have the best chance of getting the position which is now being so capably filled by Mr. John Newbury, the deputy collector. Rumor further has it that a series of other official changes are on the tapis.

Yukon Coal.—A Dawson exchange just to hand contains the information that the Klondike coal output for the year just ended will aggregate 6,000 tons, more than double that of any previous year. Over $50,000 have been expended this season at the mines in the way of permanent improvements. The docks and ore bins which were built last year have been abandoned owing to such having been constructed alongside an eddy, which, during the summer, has shoaled to such an extent that steamers can no longer get within reach to take on cargoes.

Long-distance 'Phones.—Cable connection for the new telephone service between Victoria and the mainland having been completed last week, as recorded in the Colonist, on Sunday Steve Jones, proprietor of the Dominion, received a "call" from G. McCartney, constructing superintendent, who is in charge of operations at San Juan. He announced that the cable had just been regulated and offered Mr. Jones the honor of being the one to first converse over the line. Mr. Jones says the conversation was carried on with remarkable clearness. It is anticipated the system will be in working order with Vancouver and other points on the mainland, all that now remains being the connecting of the cables between San Juan Island and Vancouver.

A Great Attraction.—The new C. P. R. wharf is proving a great attraction to Victorians and also to visitors. The wharf was visited by a large number of people and keen interest was manifested when the Princess Victoria steamed up. This magnificent steamer has been receiving an overhauling on Bullen's marine slip. It was a treat to see the easy way the boat glided up to the wharf. She was moored alongside the dock in a very few minutes, the new wharf being splendidly situated.