

R. L. BORDEN USED B. C. AS CATSPAW

In Forceful Speech Hon. W. S. Fielding Pointed Out How Opposition Leader Sought to Bribe Province.

(Special Correspondence of the Times). Ottawa, Dec. 7.—The contribution of Mr. Fielding, minister of finance, to the debate on the reply to the speech from the throne, was cyclonic in its effectiveness. Full of fact, sparkling with epigrams and conclusive, it was unquestionably one of the best fighting speeches heard in the House in many a day. Like that of the premier on the preceding day, it considerably disarmed the opposition, who evidently had feared that the ministry would deal with the matter in the rather perfunctory manner which has of late years characterized the debate on the address from the throne. Much weaker in debating powers, disarmed on many important matters, the opposition, during the past two or three days, have begun to realize how impotent they are to carry out their boasts that they would show the country how heavy and deadly was their artillery.

Politically Dissected. Mr. Fielding followed Mr. Foster, who delivered the carping, abusive speech that everybody expected of him, but which did not seem to carry the usual weight with his own friends. Since Hon. Mr. Aylesworth's terrific arraignment of Mr. Foster last session, the latter appears to be somewhat in eclipse. He was handled on Tuesday afternoon by the finance minister with out gloves. His arguments were turned against himself and by the time Mr. Fielding had finished his political dissection of him there was very little left of the illustrious relic of the "Nest of Traitors."

In dealing with the sneers of Messrs. Borden and Foster regarding the action of the premier in seeking cabinet ministers from outside the House, Mr. Fielding wanted to know how it was that when the opposition selected a leader, such cabinet gentlemen as Messrs. Foster, Bergeron, Monk, Haggart, McLean, Taylor and Sir Charles H. Tupper were passed by. They had all sat in the House years before Mr. Borden entered it. Why was it? Was it because—use Mr. Foster's words—"they failed to measure up to the standard required?"

Financially Flourishing. Taking up the financial condition of the country, Mr. Fielding went on to show a remarkable contrast. During the last eleven years of Conservative regime the annual deficit averaged \$248,000. During the last eleven years the average surplus had amounted to more than \$8,000,000. With a capital expenditure of \$80,000,000 the Conservative party added \$62,000,000 to the public debt; with a capital expenditure of \$127,000,000 the Liberals had added only \$5,000,000 to the debt.

Mr. Fielding commented on the fact that during his recent tour through the West Mr. Borden very cheerfully avoided discussing the tariff and the North-west school question. He knew well enough that the people were well satisfied with the government policy on these two questions. Neither did he discuss the Robbins irrigation scheme at Medicine Hat. He did all his talking on alleged land scandals in the Northwest thousands of miles away from the districts concerned. Mr. Fielding punched a few holes in the Halifax platform of Mr. Borden, and quoted press reports to show how ill it suited the Conservatives of Manitoba, who, it was reported, present the opposition leader with a petition praying him to call a convention and draw up something real in the shape of a platform.

Provincial Subsidies. Dealing with the question of provincial subsidies, Mr. Fielding said: My hon. friend the leader of the opposition (Mr. R. L. Borden) has had some agitation began amongst the provinces. In his speech at the Russell theatre the other night he said that I had had the audacity to speak of his action in British Columbia touching the subsidy. This provoked me, and I attempted to bribe the province. I said that, and I regret that I am obliged to adhere to the opinion I then expressed. There is no doubt in the world that the attitude of the hon. gentleman on that question was a most unfortunate, a most unhappy one, calculated to breed trouble amongst the several provinces of Canada.

Let us glance at the history of these provincial subsidies. Twenty years ago and agitation began amongst the provinces for an increase of their allowances. The men engaged in Dominion affairs can easily imagine that it is not necessary to have a greater provincial revenue; but the men who had been engaged in the provincial legislatures and there are many of them here—know how restricted those legislatures have been in their operations because of the lack of finances. I do not wish to discuss the merits of our system of provincial subsidies. It is enough to say that all the provinces of the Dominion complained that the share which they received from the public treasury was insufficient to enable them to carry on their business and that they appealed to the Dominion government for a readjustment. When the Conservative government was in power, they declined to listen to that appeal. Years rolled on, and even after the Liberal party came into power, there were difficulties in the way of meeting the wishes expressed by the provinces. But, after a time, this government said to the provincial premiers: If you are able to agree among yourselves as to the distribution of this money, perhaps we can meet your views. Now that was a very reasonable proposition. This subsidy question has been one of the most delicate with which public men have had to deal since the establishment of confederation.

I remember very well that when it was called "better terms" were granted

in 1889, to Nova Scotia, there was a very strong feeling of hostility in Ontario. Ontario was too big a province to feel the small amount which was given to Nova Scotia, but it was the granting of the sum was a breach of faith—that these subsidies were in the nature of a treaty and should not be disturbed except by common consent. To one or other of the provinces, there was a feeling of jealousy, and no province has manifested that so strongly as the province of Ontario. Not that Ontario would care—as I have said—about the small sum involved. It was a question of principle, that the men in Ontario took it as a matter of principle, that these subsidies were a treaty between the various provinces and should not be disturbed except by common consent.

So when we came to deal with this matter with the provincial government, we said: We do not want to make difficulties. We do not want to create jealousy and rivalry. But if your provincial governments will come together and reach something like a unanimous agreement as to the distribution of the money, we will take the matter up and see what we can do for you. And to that end a provincial convention was held in this city about a year ago. As a result of the conference a scale of payments was adopted for the several provinces.

Now, I turn to the attitude of my hon. friend, the leader of the opposition, in British Columbia. He goes to the arrangement made at that conference amongst the provincial premiers of the Dominion. I complain of the hon. gentleman in this, not only that what he did was a disturbance in itself, but that he conveyed the impression to the people of British Columbia that the quarrel was between the British Columbia government and the Liberal party. He tried to lead the people of British Columbia to believe that they were being oppressed by the government of the Dominion. He said that the Liberals were doing that. That is the chief offence that I lay at his door.

Neither Fair Nor Candid. He knows he was not fair, he was not candid in so speaking. Who composed this convention? He said that this scheme of distribution? Foremost among them was the prime minister of the Conservative province of Ontario. He had also, representative of the Dominion are not in harmony with the Dominion government of to-day; and I suppose that it is not at all likely that all the provincial governments will be in harmony with the Dominion government at any time.

Did Not Want an Arrangement. We had at this conference in Ottawa, Mr. Whitney, the premier of Ontario; Mr. Foy, attorney-general; Mr. Matheson, minister of the interior; Mr. Borden, premier and Mr. Colin Campbell, attorney-general, representing the great Conservative province of Manitoba. We had also, representative of the Dominion are not in harmony with the Dominion government of to-day; and I suppose that it is not at all likely that all the provincial governments will be in harmony with the Dominion government at any time.

It is evident that he had not come to get an arrangement for British Columbia; he had come there to find a grievance. He did not want to agree to anything that the conference would agree upon. He said: I want a royal commission to look into the matter of British Columbia. Now, there was no reason why we should grant a royal commission to one province and not to another. This province, as I have said, which had been agitated for twenty years. The provinces needed the money. The time was ripe, not for commissions and further inquiry, but for action.

If it was right that Mr. McBride should be given a commission for British Columbia, why should not Mr. Whitney say: I am not satisfied with this arrangement, and I want a royal commission to investigate for Ontario? And so with the premier of Quebec, the premier of Nova Scotia and the rest. To grant a commission meant a disturbance of the arrangement.

My right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) said yesterday that no commission was better qualified to deal with that question than were the men at that conference. They were men who had a general knowledge of the affairs of the Dominion. They were not brought in by an ungenerous spirit towards British Columbia. I can speak of that with the most perfect certainty. I have said elsewhere, and I repeat now, that I was to some of the members of the conference before it assembled, and asked them to consider British Columbia's claims as favorably as possible, to strain a point in her favor, and to treat her generously. And I am glad to say that they were disposed to do that, and that a proposition was made to treat British Columbia generously. I do not want to pander to any particular section of the Dominion.

The Baby Act Required. British Columbia is a big, rich province. Her people are not a party of children and I do not believe they need a Baby Act for their protection. They came into confederation as free men, free will, and if they are asked to live up to their bargain they have no right to complain. But when the peculiar condition was known, and the other

provinces were disposed to treat them generously and liberally, the premier of British Columbia should have responded and accepted the consideration with which he was treated. He wanted a commission, and the matter was considered. The conference considered it. Mr. Whitney considered it. I say, the leader of the opposition had done his best to make the people of British Columbia believe that this was a quarrel between Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the province of British Columbia. It was not. My right hon. friend the prime minister took no part in that transaction that was not heartily supported by the Hon. J. P. Whitney and all the other Conservatives present at that conference. And that conference, not a Liberal conference, but made up in the manner I have described, having heard Mr. McBride's argument, having heard what he could say, passed this resolution:

"That in the opinion of the conference it is inadvisable that a claim in the way of subsidies any province be referred to arbitration."

Provinces Had Equal Rights. The position the government took was this: This is a delicate question as between the provinces. We remember of past differences, as I have already called the attention of the House. Now, we said, we are not going to get into a quarrel with you on this matter; but if you can come to something like an understanding—we would like it to be unanimous—then we will take the responsibility of asking parliament to vote this large amount of money.

We found in the end that the hon. gentleman who represented British Columbia apparently was not satisfied with anything except the appointment of a commission. Now, I understand that there is no more right why that the hon. gentleman's idea that British Columbia had a right to get a commission is absolutely without foundation. This question had been decided along for twenty years. The provinces represented to us that they needed the money, and there was almost an unanimous agreement. When Mr. McBride demanded a commission for British Columbia, if we had granted him that commission we would have been obliged in fairness to grant it to any other province in the Dominion who asked for it.

Mr. R. L. Borden: Did any other province ask for it? Mr. Fielding: No, the other provinces said: We do not want commissions, we do not want delay, we have been delaying for twenty years, we want action, we want the money. That was the attitude of other provinces said, not what we said.

Mr. R. L. Borden: Have they got it yet? Mr. Fielding: Yes, and they are delighted. The great deal about electoral corruption. To these Mr. Fielding paid his respects and pointed out that the history of the Conservative party was a history supplied with scandals of that kind. Among the members of that party who had been unseated for corruption were Sir John Abbott, Sir Hector Langevin, Sir Charles Tupper, Sir John A. Macdonald and the Hon. George Foster. Mr. Borden very man who had been so vigorous in his remarks on that subject.

A Party of Obstructionists. In closing Hon. Mr. Fielding said: "The present sound and improving financial position of the Home has inspired your managers to hope that the time is not very far distant when with the reading of the voluminous and detailed indictment, this institution will reach the entirely self supporting stage, and thus while enlarging and continuing its usefulness remain for all time to come a beneficent memorial to the love of humanity of the early pioneers of good work in this province. To this end your managers have carefully husbanded their resources, and have been enabled to invest nearly \$4,000 in long term Victoria city 4 per cent. debentures, and are still hoping that this year of grace will see another step in the same direction, without impairing in any way the efficiency of the work. At the same time it is desired that nothing should be done to hinder living well up to the increasing responsibilities of the work, and in this connection that action and practical assistance, may be rendered to the efforts of the local Children's Aid Society to save and reclaim neglected little ones, and also to carry out effect a systematic and effective oversight an occasional visitation to those who, sometimes at tender age, are the shelter of our charity."

The report of the ladies' committee stated: "In response to the circular appeal sent to the friends in the different districts, the cellar contains almost two tons of potatoes, a most necessary article of food, when so many children have to be provided with three meals a day; fruit was not forgotten, and the pantry shelves hold many bottles of jam ready for the winter consumption."

"The Home contains at present 41 children; 10 were received during the year."

"Our sincere thanks are due to J. B. Smith, vice-president of the Western Food Co.; Mr. and Mrs. Newton, Oak Point, B.C., for the provision of services; agricultural exhibition committee, Mayor Morley, the Arion Club, the several fraternal orders and societies, 24th May day celebration committee, friends at Duncan, Sanich, Salt Spring Island, Cedar Hill and Craigflower, Bandmaster Rumsby and his excellent orchestra; Mrs. Goldstein, for a large consignment of clothing; R. Porter & Sons, and Jabez King, expressage, and to the Provincial Royal Jubilee hospital, the Times and Colonist."

The financial report of Hon. Treas. Arthur E. Haynes was as follows: Receipts. To balance from last year—2,000.00. Current Bank of Commerce—11,238.76. Savings dept. Bank of Commerce—1,881.00. Annual subscription—1,600.00. Subscriptions collected by ladies—122.25. Donations—340.36. Proceeds of the sale of the property—1,600.00. Received for board of inmates—1,600.00. Est. John Jessop, legacy—250.00.

Expenditure. Monthly acc'ts, 12 mos.—\$1,714.48. Salaries—1,286.00. Light account—23.80. Fuel account—91.00. Printing and advertising—12.85. Sundry repairs—206.71. Furniture account—69.15. Taxes, 1907—237.40. Labor account—227.50. Insurance account—55.20. Frank White, acct. board—6.00. Legal expenses—30.38. Exchange Nelson cheque—25.25. Jos. Buckley, com. on collections—34.72. Found 20 per cent. debentures—2,965.47. Cash on hand—20.78. Bal. acct. current Bank of Commerce—42.74. Savings dept. and Bank of Commerce—615.76. Total—\$8,588.77.

The reports were all received and adopted.

CHARRED BODY TAKEN FROM RUINS

Drunken Couple Immured in Burning Vancouver House—Woman Meets Terrible Death

Vancouver, Dec. 11.—Mrs. Mary McDonald, aged 45 years, lost her life in a fire which destroyed her home at 1522 Westminster avenue, last night. Burned beyond recognition, her charred body was taken from the ruins by the firemen. Her husband, Coll. McDonald, was arrested. He was found in a drunken state in the rear of the house, with his hair badly singed. How he managed to escape is a mystery, as he was in a helpless state.

The McDonalds lived in an old shack at the rear of a box factory, away from the street, and it was not until the fire gained great headway, and had done its deadly work, that it was discovered.

The woman was in a drunken state all day, and was seen about the shack shortly before the fire. The police are investigating. The origin of the fire is a mystery.

When taken to the police station, McDonald could not tell anything, he was so helplessly drunk. He was not aware that his wife had been burned to death. An inquest was ordered and a probing inquiry will be made.

WORK OF THE ORPHANS' HOME SATISFACTORY STATE OF ITS FINANCES

The Annual Meeting Was Held Yesterday and Disposed of Regular Business.

(From Wednesday's Daily.)

At the annual meeting of the Protestant Orphans' Home yesterday afternoon, with ex-Mayor Hayward in the chair, there were also present: Secretary Scowcroft, Revs. Dr. Campbell, W. Leslie Clay and E. G. Miller, Bishop Perrin, L. Goodacre, Mrs. Higgins, J. H. Lawson, Mr. Mrs. McTavish, Mrs. Berridge, Mrs. Toller, Edgar Pawcett and several others.

Accounts were given by some of the ladies of the success of the children who have left the Home.

It was shown that the women usually paid for their children, but at least J. H. Lawson, Sr., moved that all the names be printed with the amounts each subscribed.

Rev. Miller seconded the motion, and suggested that a subscription slip be inserted in each report.

Rev. W. Leslie Clay moved, seconded by H. Dallas Helmcken, that at least 500 copies of the annual report be printed.

Dr. Campbell suggested that those sending out the reports should try to collect a subscription. This suggestion was adopted. The nomination of Dr. Campbell, made by the church society, be given effect.

Dr. Campbell thought the nominees of the church denominations should be considered before other nominations were made.

The president decided that they should not have any such preference, but that by the by-laws to prove his position.

Bishop Perrin supported the ruling of the president.

Rev. W. Leslie Clay said that he could not believe that those who drew up the constitution could have intended to insult the denominations that nominate members to the board.

Rev. Scowcroft and Mr. Pawcett also supported the proposal made by Dr. Campbell, and thought as this was a Protestant Home the spirit of the constitution intended the denominations to be represented.

The election of officers then took place, and while the scrutineers were doing their work Bishop Perrin moved that the ladies be called in.

"This annual meeting of the Protestant Orphans' Home, in prospect of the approaching birthday of Bishop Chidge, puts on record his appreciation of his charity and work."

The resolution was seconded by Rev. W. Leslie Clay, and carried with enthusiasm.

The following were elected directors for the year: Bishop Chidge, Mr. Lawson, E. C. Baker, W. Scowcroft, Chas. Hayward, Bishop Perrin, H. D. Helmcken, L. Goodacre, D. Spence, Mr. W. Leslie Clay, Rev. Dr. Campbell and Mr. Pawcett.

The meeting then adjourned. The annual report of President Hayward stated: "The present sound and improving financial position of the Home has inspired your managers to hope that the time is not very far distant when with the reading of the voluminous and detailed indictment, this institution will reach the entirely self supporting stage, and thus while enlarging and continuing its usefulness remain for all time to come a beneficent memorial to the love of humanity of the early pioneers of good work in this province. To this end your managers have carefully husbanded their resources, and have been enabled to invest nearly \$4,000 in long term Victoria city 4 per cent. debentures, and are still hoping that this year of grace will see another step in the same direction, without impairing in any way the efficiency of the work. At the same time it is desired that nothing should be done to hinder living well up to the increasing responsibilities of the work, and in this connection that action and practical assistance, may be rendered to the efforts of the local Children's Aid Society to save and reclaim neglected little ones, and also to carry out effect a systematic and effective oversight an occasional visitation to those who, sometimes at tender age, are the shelter of our charity."

The report of the ladies' committee stated: "In response to the circular appeal sent to the friends in the different districts, the cellar contains almost two tons of potatoes, a most necessary article of food, when so many children have to be provided with three meals a day; fruit was not forgotten, and the pantry shelves hold many bottles of jam ready for the winter consumption."

"The Home contains at present 41 children; 10 were received during the year."

"Our sincere thanks are due to J. B. Smith, vice-president of the Western Food Co.; Mr. and Mrs. Newton, Oak Point, B.C., for the provision of services; agricultural exhibition committee, Mayor Morley, the Arion Club, the several fraternal orders and societies, 24th May day celebration committee, friends at Duncan, Sanich, Salt Spring Island, Cedar Hill and Craigflower, Bandmaster Rumsby and his excellent orchestra; Mrs. Goldstein, for a large consignment of clothing; R. Porter & Sons, and Jabez King, expressage, and to the Provincial Royal Jubilee hospital, the Times and Colonist."

The financial report of Hon. Treas. Arthur E. Haynes was as follows: Receipts. To balance from last year—2,000.00. Current Bank of Commerce—11,238.76. Savings dept. Bank of Commerce—1,881.00. Annual subscription—1,600.00. Subscriptions collected by ladies—122.25. Donations—340.36. Proceeds of the sale of the property—1,600.00. Received for board of inmates—1,600.00. Est. John Jessop, legacy—250.00.

Expenditure. Monthly acc'ts, 12 mos.—\$1,714.48. Salaries—1,286.00. Light account—23.80. Fuel account—91.00. Printing and advertising—12.85. Sundry repairs—206.71. Furniture account—69.15. Taxes, 1907—237.40. Labor account—227.50. Insurance account—55.20. Frank White, acct. board—6.00. Legal expenses—30.38. Exchange Nelson cheque—25.25. Jos. Buckley, com. on collections—34.72. Found 20 per cent. debentures—2,965.47. Cash on hand—20.78. Bal. acct. current Bank of Commerce—42.74. Savings dept. and Bank of Commerce—615.76. Total—\$8,588.77.

The reports were all received and adopted.

ITALIAN ELECTROCUTED.

Trenton, N. J., Dec. 11.—The first official electrocution in New Jersey occurred in the state prison this morning when Servino Di Giovanni, an Italian, paid the death penalty for the murder of Jos. Sanzone, a fellow countryman, at Faritan, last September. Electrocution was pronounced a success in every way.

FOUR EXPLOSION VICTIMS.

Italians Killed While Working on Canadian Northern Ontario Railway.

Chicago, Dec. 11.—Jose M. Limatore, member of the chamber of deputies in Mexico, and his three sons, who are making a tour of the United States, left here for Buffalo last night. From there they expect to go to Montreal, then to Boston and New York. Senior Limatore is a brother of the minister of finance of Mexico.

Est. Forsyth, legacy	49.75
Est. John Nunn, legacy	250.00
Net amounts from rents	539.40
Bank of Commerce, int. on deposit Corporation, Victoria, int. on debentures	34.76
Mrs. E. L. Higgins, refunds on account's paid	18.80
Est. Kelso, refund report acct.	18.00
Est. Green, Worlock & Co., dividend 20 per cent. of call	317.20
Proceeds sale of stove and scrap iron	79.34
Monthly acct. Sylvester Feed Co.	21.75
Insurance Act. London Assurance Co. refund	10.00
Total	\$8,588.77

Monthly acc'ts, 12 mos.	\$1,714.48
Salaries	1,286.00
Light account	23.80
Fuel account	91.00
Printing and advertising	12.85
Sundry repairs	206.71
Furniture account	69.15
Taxes, 1907	237.40
Labor account	227.50
Insurance account	55.20
Frank White, acct. board	6.00
Legal expenses	30.38
Exchange Nelson cheque	25.25
Jos. Buckley, com. on collections	34.72
Found 20 per cent. debentures	2,965.47
Cash on hand	20.78
Bal. acct. current Bank of Commerce	42.74
Savings dept. and Bank of Commerce	615.76
Total	\$8,588.77

The reports were all received and adopted.

CHARRED BODY TAKEN FROM RUINS

Drunken Couple Immured in Burning Vancouver House—Woman Meets Terrible Death

Vancouver, Dec. 11.—Mrs. Mary McDonald, aged 45 years, lost her life in a fire which destroyed her home at 1522 Westminster avenue, last night. Burned beyond recognition, her charred body was taken from the ruins by the firemen. Her husband, Coll. McDonald, was arrested. He was found in a drunken state in the rear of the house, with his hair badly singed. How he managed to escape is a mystery, as he was in a helpless state.

The McDonalds lived in an old shack at the rear of a box factory, away from the street, and it was not until the fire gained great headway, and had done its deadly work, that it was discovered.

The woman was in a drunken state all day, and was seen about the shack shortly before the fire. The police are investigating. The origin of the fire is a mystery.

When taken to the police station, McDonald could not tell anything, he was so helplessly drunk. He was not aware that his wife had been burned to death. An inquest was ordered and a probing inquiry will be made.

The woman was in a drunken state all day, and was seen about the shack shortly before the fire. The police are investigating. The origin of the fire is a mystery.

HEARING NOT FAIR IN STOESSEL TRIAL

Port Arthur's Defender Not Allowed to Call Additional Witnesses—Alexieff Absent.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 10.—The entire afternoon at the Stoessel trial was taken up with the reading of the voluminous and detailed indictment. The trial was held in the presence of a large number of witnesses, and the evidence was heard by the court.

These witnesses could give evidence of vital importance to Stoessel. One, Dr. Rosenoff, was chief of the Red Cross within the fortress. At the preliminary hearing he testified that at the time of surrender General Stoessel had at his disposal only 8,000 able-bodied men, the defense hundreds of miles of fortification, and the bitter cold winds at the time made it difficult for the soldiers to even hold their rifles in their hands.

General Nadezhdin, the other witness excluded, is the author of a deposition similar to that of Dr. Rosenoff. The general commanded the firing line at Port Arthur.

To the correspondent of the Associated Press to-day witnesses with whom he talked declared the trial to be an insult to General Stoessel and to his army. A prominent colonel said: "If Stoessel is guilty we all are." The absence of ex-Viceroy Alexieff from the trial is interpreted to mean that the government is not willing to enhance the magnitude of the proceeding. Alexieff escaped going on the stand with difficulty.

ITALIAN ELECTROCUTED.

Trenton, N. J., Dec. 11.—The first official electrocution in New Jersey occurred in the state prison this morning when Servino Di Giovanni, an Italian, paid the death penalty for the murder of Jos. Sanzone, a fellow countryman, at Faritan, last September. Electrocution was pronounced a success in every way.

MEXICAN DEPUTY TOURING.

Chicago, Dec. 11.—Jose M. Limatore, member of the chamber of deputies in Mexico, and his three sons, who are making a tour of the United States, left here for Buffalo last night. From there they expect to go to Montreal, then to Boston and New York. Senior Limatore is a brother of the minister of finance of Mexico.

FOUR EXPLOSION VICTIMS.

Italians Killed While Working on Canadian Northern Ontario Railway.

Chicago, Dec. 11.—Jose M. Limatore, member of the chamber of deputies in Mexico, and his three sons, who are making a tour of the United States, left here for Buffalo last night. From there they expect to go to Montreal, then to Boston and New York. Senior Limatore is a brother of the minister of finance of Mexico.

TIMBER DEMAND AT ALBERNI VISIT NEW TERMINUS

Industries on West Coast Have Closed Down With the Exception of Sydney Inlet Mine.

Alberni, Dec. 2.—While sportsmen and business men looking for investments continue to arrive in Alberni by the most daily motor-cars which brings Alberni within four hours' reach of Nanaimo, yet the traffic on the West Coast otherwise has decreased considerably during the last month. The prevalent heavy gales make travelling by water both dangerous, unpleasant, and tedious.

The closing down for the winter of the two whaling stations at Sechart and Kyquoot and of the two canneries at Howe Sound and at Clayoquot have materially reduced the freight and passenger traffic. The continuous wet weather which makes timber cruising almost an impossibility has also had its effect coupled with the money market conditions in the United States. From this source came most of the capital behind the numerous timber cruisers operating on the coast during the past season and it is probable that but few new limits will be staked for some considerable time. As an illustration of the brisk demand for timber on the Island, it may be noted that the last issue of the local newspaper contained advertisements of timber lands aggregating over 120,000 acres, and that entirely on the West Coast and only on part of that coast.

About the only industry working at present on the West Coast is the copper mine at Sydney Inlet from which the Tees brought down a trial shipment of twenty tons of ore. A steamer was also loading lumber at the wharf. Co's sawmill at Mosquito Harbor, but otherwise that plant is entirely shut down with only two or three men kept on.

A good demand is still evinced for Alberni real estate, and anything offered at reasonable prices finds a ready market.

Amusements in Alberni. The recently organized Athletic and Social Club gave an opening dance in Brandt's hall on the 6th inst. A large gathering assembled as guests of the club and a most enjoyable evening was spent. Under its auspices also was held a smoking concert on the 30th ult., presided by a three-round glove contest between G. Spittal and W. Prior, who gave a good exhibition of close boxing.

At all times by holding a public debate on the 27th ult. The subject was the question of the public ownership of public utilities. A French, seconded by C. M. Bann, spoke in favor of public ownership, while R. Blandy, seconded by R. J. Burde, supported the negative. After an interesting debate participated in by many of those present, the motion in favor of public ownership carried by a large majority.

King Edward Hotel. J. S. Rollins, who moved into his new premises, the King Edward hotel, at New Alberni, last week, will give a dance in connection therewith on the 14th inst. The King Edward hotel, which has just been completed, was specially designed to meet the expected heavy traffic in the spring, and has ample accommodation, with modern furnishings, for a large trade. The application for a liquor license for the New Alberni hotel has been withdrawn.

Mrs. C. Taylor and Mrs. J. Thomson returned on the 4th inst. from Ucluelet, where they had been visiting Mrs. Swartout. J. Beck was also a passenger on the Tees from Clayoquot. Mr. Beck is heavily interested in timber limits in that neighborhood.

A. W. Nell, S. M., returned on the same steamer from Clayoquot and Ah-susset, where among the things he had been drinking or selling liquor to Indians. Fines aggregating \$150 were collected.

NOBEL RECIPIENTS. Prize of Literature Awarded to Rudyard Kipling at Stockholm Yesterday.

Stockholm, Dec. 10.—The ceremonies attending the distribution of Nobel prizes, apart from the peace prize, which was awarded at Christiania, took place to-day at the Academy of Sciences. Owing to the recent death of King Oscar, there was no public function.

The prize for literature was awarded to Rudyard Kipling, that of physics to Prof. Albert A. Michelson, of the University of Chicago, that of medicine to Dr. Laverin, of Paris, and the chemistry prize to Prof. Edward Bichner, of the University of Berlin. All the recipients were present.

TREASURER ARRESTED. A. H. Anderson of Quebec Central Railway, Charged With Embezzling Funds.

Sherbrook, Que., Dec. 10.—A. H. Anderson, treasurer of the Quebec Central railway, was arrested to-day on the complaint of General Manager Walsh, for Buffalo last night. From there they expect to go to Montreal, then to Boston and New York. Senior Limatore is a brother of the minister of finance of Mexico.

Anderson admitted his indebtedness and elected to be tried before Judge Mul-tomah. Anderson is a highly respected citizen.

UNEMPLOYED IN TORONTO. City Finds Work for 200 Men at Cost of \$2,000.

Toronto, Dec. 10.—Two hundred men applied at the city hall for work this morning. Relief work is to be started at the sand pits to-morrow. A sum of \$2,000 has been voted for the purpose.

A defendant at Sharncliffe court, London, said he had written to his creditors: "My bankers have closed their doors, my tenants will not pay me any rent, and all the best who owe me money have absconded."

DEBTOR'S TALE OF WOE. A defendant at Sharncliffe court, London, said he had written to his creditors: "My bankers have closed their doors, my tenants will not pay me any rent, and all the best who owe me money have absconded."

DEBTOR'S TALE OF WOE. A defendant at Sharncliffe court, London, said he had written to his creditors: "My bankers have closed their doors, my tenants will not pay me any rent, and all the best who owe me money have absconded."

DEBTOR'S TALE OF WOE. A defendant at Sharncliffe court, London, said he had written to his creditors: "My bankers have closed their doors, my