ISLANDER STARTS OUT

Hundreds of Nugget Seekers Go North by the C. P. N. Co.'s Star Steamer.

Over Three Hundred Tons of Freight Taken Up—Stirring Scenes at the Dock.

The steamer Islander of the C.P.N. Co. sailed for the North last evening with nearly 300 passengers, 80 horses, 250 dogs and other freight, which took up all the available space.

The passenger list was swelled yesterday morning by the arrival of fifty prospective miners from Seattle, who came over on the Kingston. Most of these came here to get mining licenses, and also to outfit. Their comments on the strike situation, when they arrived here, were unpleasantly suggestive of the wild and woolly West, and they showed schoolboy glee when they learned that the steamer would get away. From early morning till the steamer left in the evening, crowds thronged the Turner, Beeton dock, where the Islander was lying. There was an air of expectancy about every one, and wagers were made as to whether the big vessel, with her costly cargo of freight, would be able to pull out on schedule time. When the first order came to pull in the gang planks and and let go the steamer's fastenings three hearty cheers were given by the passengers and were taken up and answered by those on the docks. The scene was full of life. Prospective miners busied themselves in looking after their outfits, scores of friends of the passengers hurried around to say a last farewell, and the ship's oddly contrasted crew rushed around in the endeavor to get the ever arriving cargo stored away in the proper quarters.

Captain John Irving was in command of the Islander when she steamed out and Captain Roberts and Sears went up as pilots. The vessel carried up over 300 tons of freight, including a shipment of 40 tons of general merchandise and supplies for the Northwest Mounted Police.

How the crowds which will join the steamer at Vancouver and Nanaimo will be accommodated it is difficult to imagine. Following is a partial list of passengers:

Lang, — Hiscoll and wife, W. Wilkinson, McMurran, J. H. Cullum, R. Gurry, George Brown, H. Cropley, P. Lawson, R. S. Johonsen, P. Code, G. H. Hilluman, J. Swanberg, Bushnell, B. D. Jenkins, R. Lang, L. Cruikshank, C. Mattson, D. McKenzie, Mrs. Hepworth, C. Parnell, T. Onyom, M. W. Eslin, H. J. Roden, A. Theodore, W. Cuddeen, E. Royen, H. Hal, O'Rourke, J. P. Lowell, J. L. Jennings, W. Grant, Heath, N. Potts, Sullivan, Mrs. J. Kerr, T. Bannister, J. Ford, Carlyon, Wals, O'Brien, Jno. Sinclair, Levins, C. McCowell, G. C. Smith, J. H. Law, J. A. Gibson, W. Young, Blake, McClure, E. Burwash, E. Beachamp, J. Dalzell, A. K. Jowett, L. Cappab, W. Wilson, C. Nelson, Thurston, G. Walker, Cartwright, J. Phillips, R. L. Kinsey, J. McIvor, Jno. Thorne, Jno. Bell, A. La France, Redlaro, H. Heines, P. Hammond, A. Destises, W. Nesbit, W. Burns, W. McConnell, F. Rudge, J. Pike, A. Howell, W. Maher, J. D. Bain, J. Thorne, H. Micholsen, B. Hill, F. Powers, S. J. Green, B. Newell, C. W. Newell, J. Slater, A. Gognon, J. L. Grant, S. Blanchard, T. Hudson, W. H. Oshkoff and wife, A. A. Elke, F. Lang, D. Boyd, G. N. Morris, T. K. Morris, B. Morris, F. Petersen, E. Courtney, J. D. Hagerty, F. M. Waite, J. Johnson, G. S. McEwen, J. A. Cook, N. Carnig, J. Rodderham, C. E. Pilly, A. F. Wray, Henry Hansen, Jno. Scott, A. Scott, F. Skinner, Jno. Brood, C. W. Frudech, Geo. Wilson, Jas. Williams, J. W. Miller, A. W. Modie, A. Erickson, G. Carlston, F. Hemgren, Conway, Hatfield, Miss Baker, Miss Baur, Little, Lewis, J. W. Burge, J. H. McGregor and party of four.

Although it was late when the Islander left the Turner, Beeton dock, close upon a thousand people watched her departure. Until nearly the time for the start out hundreds of curious people thronged the big vessel and impeded to no small extent the movements of the steamer's crew. Close upon two hundred dogs barked and growled, horses neighed and the steamer's officers severely tested their throats in the effort to make their orders heard and understood. Many pathetic and humorous scenes were enacted without any effort at concealment during the evening. Realizing that their journey through the far North would be fraught with considerable danger, some of the passengers made no attempt to conceal their emotion when the time to say farewell to friends arrived. One grey-haired mother lingered by the side of her pride and hope until the gang plank was moved and she was compelled to seek the assistance of the crew to get ashore. The crowd that went North by the Islander was indeed a motley one. The general feeling displayed was one of hope and enthusiasm. The majority of the passengers will go direct to the Yukon district, while some will remain at Skagway, Dyea and Wrangel for the purpose of going into business. Many Americans left last night by the Islander. Most of them have been in Victoria for the past week outfitting and obtaining mining licenses and all who were interviewed expressed complete satisfaction at the treatment accorded them here. A number of Victorians were in the crowd of nugget seekers. Mr. William Grant, son of Captain William Grant, and Mr. William Heath, also of this city were among these. They will go direct to Dawson City.

A number of large California parties who have outfitted here left last night. Among these were W. H. Osthoff and wife, A. A. Enk and F. Losey and party.

The following parties, who favored Victoria merchants with their orders for outfits, also left last night by the Islander: E. Buchame and E. Burwash, of Cariboo; T. Hudson, C. H. Stewart and S. Blanchard, New York; Mr. John Burg and party, outfitted here by Mr. S. A. Wiltsie, customs officer at Seattle; J. H. Thorne and H. Nicholson, of Oregon: H. J. Roden and party, of Bathurst, Australia; A. E. Egloff and G. H. Treat, of Great Falls, Montana; and "Ole" Marsh and Charles Marsh, of Decorah, Iowa.

The Boscowitz which leaves to-night will also carry a large crowd of Americans who outfitted in Victoria. From every point of view the Islander's initial trip this year has so far been most successful. All her passengers and freight was engaged before she left here, and had she been able to accommodate them many more would probably have left last night.

Mr. Douglas White, who was wrecked on the Corona and who wrote up the disaster for the 'Frisco Examiner, was one of the Islander's passengers last night.

Several passengers who were booked for the Islander did not leave last night. One of these was William Goellner, who had been employed at the cracker factory of Messrs. M. R. Smith & Co. Nearly 1,500 pounds of flour were removed from the factory, and Goellner, who was one of a Klondike party, is charged with the theft of the same. With the exception of about 200 pounds, the missing flour was found in the woods and in houses in the vicinity of the factory.

SURREY-LANGLEY FARMERS.

Proceedings at the Annual Meeting of Their Institute.

HAZELMERE, Jan. 27. — The annual meeting of the Surrey-Langley Farmers' Institute was held at Surrey Centre on Thursday, January 27, on which occasion afternoon and evening sessions were held, the attendance at both demonstrating conclusively the interest the farmers are taking in the development of the Farmers' Institute system in this province. At the first meeting there was an attendance of forty-one, and in the evening the number was forty-nine, and in respect to the membership the increase has been most gratifying, there being now forty-two paid up members on the roll, among whom the greatest interest was taken in the proceedings. The many excellent papers and addresses submitted were of a very high order of merit from the manner in which the many subjects under consideration were dealt with it is evident that they were the product of very careful study as well as of every day practical experience, and hence the results must be of a practical and far-reaching character. The annual address and officers' reports evinced a determination on the part of the executive to make the influence and future work of the institute as effective and far reaching as possible, this feature being particularly marked in respect to the proposal for taking up more aggressive work on cooperative lines, and in extending to every settlement where an opening occurs the beneficial operation of the Farmers Institute system. Among the gentlemen who addressed the meeting was Mr. C. Marker, Dominion dairy superintendent, who lectured on "Practical Dairying," his address being also illustrated by a system of charts, thus demonstrating in a most practical manner, the value, to the ordinary farmer or dairyman of the many tests carried on at the experimental farms, if they will only avail themselves of the experience thus gained. Mr. Marker's lecture was listened to with the closest attention. The discussion on the lecture brought out many valuable ideas that were regarded with a very high degree of appreciation. Mr. E. Hutcherson contributed in no small degree to the success of the meetings, his extremely practical and valuable paper on "Fruit Culture and Orchard Work" was to many intensely interesting and instructive. Mr. Hutcherson held the attention of a very appreciative audience all through his address. Mr. T. H. Shannon also assisted in a most acceptable manner through his paper "Swine Husbandry." The manner in which this subject was handled by Mr. Shannon would have done credit to many experienced lecturers or essayists; it was evident that he had not only studied up the theoretical principles involved, but that he had also a thoroughly practical knowledge of the subject. The discussions were also very much appreciated and participated in by many.

The Institute arranged for holding a series of meetings in various places in the district, also to exchange courtesies on a reciprocal basis with the Delta Farmers' Institute.

The officers elected for the current year were: President, C. D. Moggridge; Hazelmere; vice-president, C. S. Baumgartner, Langley Prairie; sec.-treasurer, W. T. Thrift, Hazelmere. Directors, Henry Bose, Surrey Centre; Daniel Johnson, J.P., Mud Bay; W. E. Buckingham, Langley Prairie; Thos. Culbert, Langley Prairie.

THE monthly golf competition, ladies and gentlemen, handicap singles, medal play, takes place next Saturday on the United Service links, Macaulay Point. All members of Victoria Golf Club are eligible to compete.

DONATIONS during January to the Home for the Aged and Infirm are acknowledged with the manager's thanks from the following: Mrs. H. D. Helmcken, clothing; Mrs. Quagliotti, Mrs. Blaiklock and Mrs. Shotbolt, reading matter; Mrs. George Byrnes, fruits, marmalade and biscuits; and Mrs. Wey, apples.

COMPLAINTS are made by residents of Powderly avenue, Victoria West, and Craigflower road of the ruthless destruction of dogs by some unknown party or parties. Several very valuable dogs have been found poisoned and the owners declare that they will make it interesting for the guilty ones if they can but identify them.

INLAND revenue collections during January totalled $15,277.22, made up as follows:

Spirits	$9,451 12
Malt	1,689 26
Tobacco	3,400 10
Cigars	672 75
Methylated Spirits	61 64
Inspection Petroleum	2 35

THE monthly meeting of the Friendly Help was held yesterday in the market hall. After the business for the month was dispatched several difficult cases were disposed of. About forty families were assisted during the month—sixteen had groceries, thirteen fuel, the remainder clothing, and the following donations are thankfully acknowledged: Money, from the city; clothing, Mrs. C. F. Todd, Mr. Keith, Mr. W. Ward, Mrs. Flewin, Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Greenfield, Mrs. Denny, Mrs. Goepel, Mrs. Beanlands, Mrs. B. R. Seabrook and Mrs. Scaife; furniture, New York hotel; shoes, Mrs. Wm. Wilson, Quebec street; meat, Porter & Sons; and bread, J. M. Hughes.

D. D. Mann reached Vancouver from the East last evening, and is expected to arrive in Victoria to-night.

GET NO SATISFACTION.

A General Strike of Firemen and Deck Hands Yesterday Accomplishes Nothing.

Eight of the "Islander's" Crew Placed Under Arrest—Chinamen Replace Whites.

As was expected, the striking firemen and deck hands of the steamer Charmer, who "knocked off" duty on Monday last, were joined yesterday by the crews of the Princess Louise, Danube and Islander in a combined effort to secure an advance of wages, all these vessels being of the C.P.N. fleet. There was but the one demand all round—that the firemen receive $40 per month, just $5 more than the company is now paying, and that the deck hands obtain an increase of $10, making their pay $50 instead of $40 per month. The men as they quit work made no particular demonstration. They simply walked ashore, put their hands in their pockets, and for the remainder of the day stood idly around the wharves in small knots discussing their grievance as if it were an everyday matter. They evidently labored under the belief that all that was necessary for the accomplishment of their ends was to adhere to their stand determinedly. In this they were disappointed, for the company did not feel disposed to bow to any such demand. The Charmer's crew—the first to strike—have not yet got any satisfaction, and when the ship was yesterday in Vancouver new men were readily found to take the places of the absentees. Those on the Princess Louise and Danube were heeded as little, and in a very short time Chinamen were occupying their positions on board. Of course the Asiatics were not permanently employed, and the company during the day left it to the old hands themselves as to whether they would return at old wages or not. Both steamers, however, have to go out today, and it is probable that they will, by this time, have their full compliment of whites, although, as far as the strikers are concerned, it did not seem that way last night.

The trouble over the deck hands on the Islander striking for $40 instead of $35 a month, culminated yesterday in eight of the men being arrested on the charge of refusing to obey the orders of the mate. When mate Morgan yesterday told the men to turn to they refused and told him there was a misunderstanding about the wages, and they would not work till they saw the captain. The mate reported this and as the men insisted that they must be paid $40 and that they would not work for $35. Captain Irving, manager of the company, laid an information against them and had eight arrested. In the afternoon these eight men were tried before Magistrate Macrae in the police court, the charge under the shipping act being subject to summary trial, the penalty prescribed for refusing to obey the lawful orders of an officer aboard ship being punishable with imprisonment for not less than two weeks nor more than a months, with a fine at the option of the court. The men took the ground that they had not understood when they were signing that they were to have only $35; whereas Capt. Lewis, the shipping master, produced the articles showing that $35 was the amount for which each had signed. Capt. Lewis stated, and in this he was corroborated by Capt. Irving and Mr. H. Bishop, purser of the Islander, that he had mentioned $35 when he initialed each man's name on signing. The men could not contradict Capt. Lewis' statement, but explained that they had not heard him mention the amount, and one or two said that as the quarter-masters had signed for $40 they supposed that the men got the same.

Mr. Bodwell, who appeared for the company, stated that if the men were willing to go to work again the company hoped that the magistrate would not inflict any punishment on them. The men were quite willing to agree to this, one or two of them stating that it being the first time they had signed articles they did not know that it bound them for any length of time. As they had signed, however, they were willing to carry out their bargain.

This being the case the Magistrate, while convicting, allowed the men to go on their agreeing, with the consent of Capt. Irving, to go aboard the Islander and get to work. Thus what had started in an angry mood ended up quite amicably for all concerned.

MR. ORPH, the lessee of the Rock Bay hotel, who was concerned in the alleged crimping case just made public, is not to be found, and the supposition is that he has left for Seattle to avoid the serious consequences, the acts charged against him, the shipping of deserters from H.M. fleet being an indictable offence.

FROM the city library there were issued in the month of January 2,113 books; to ladies 1,001, to gentlemen 1,112. The highest number issued in one day was 134, while the average was 84. During the month 38 new members were enrolled, and of these 12 were ladies and 26 gentlemen. The month's contributions to the library were: "Old Santa Fe Trail," Col. Inman; "About Catherine de Medici," De Balzac; "The Chouans," De Balzac; "Miss Bretherton," Mrs. Humphrey Ward; "Soldiers Three," Rudyard Kipling; "Soldier Stories," Rudyard Kipling; "Pietro Ghieleri," Marion Crawford; "Corleone, Tale of Sicily," two volumes, Marion Crawford; "The Witch of Prague," Marion Crawford; "Tom Cringle's Log," Michael Scott; "On the Face of the Waters," (Indian Mutiny), Mrs. Steel: "In the Tideway," Mrs. Steel. The above fourteen volumes were purchased with part of a donation from Mrs. Dunsmuir, senr. In addition there were contributed: "The Mysterious Island," by Jules Verne; "Favorite Christian Biographies"; "Year Book of British Columbia" and Yukon District, 1897; Canadian Maps, Diagrams, Illustrations of British Columbia and Yukon, Western Australia Finance, 1897, and Manitoba Gazette, 1898.

☞ THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST leads.

POISONED HER SISTER.

Dreadful Crime of a Jealous Woman in New Brunswick.

WOODSTOCK, N.B., Jan. 31.—(Special—A dreadful tragedy is reported from Johnsville, a village 30 miles from here. Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Canadan. Mrs. Canadan's mother, and her sister Minnie resided together. The wife became jealous of Minnie, and decided to do away with her by poisoning. She purchased strychnine and putting it in tea gave it to Minnie who died in a few hours. The inquest resulted in a verdict of murder and Mrs. Canadan is under arrest. She is only 20 years of age and has one child.

MR. SIFTON'S VIEWS.

He Thinks the Yukon Railway Contractors Have Undertaken an Almost Superhuman Task.

TORONTO, Jan. 31.—Hon. Mr. Sifton is interviewed in the Mail to the following effect this morning:

"It is said that the Yukon railway contract is a job. What about that?"

"It is the most onerous contract ever undertaken on this continent, in my opinion," said Mr. Sifton.

"You think, then, the contractors will have hard work in getting their money out of it?"

"I think the task almost superhuman."

"Do you think they will succeed?"

"I don't know; we have a very heavy guarantee."

"When will you get it started?"

"The contractors will get it started as soon as they can, I suppose."

"Do you think there will be any difficulty with the American government in bringing in supplies?"

"At Stikine river? No."

CAUGHT WITH THEIR BOOTY.

A Boston Embezzler and His Wife Found on a Transcontinental Train.

WINNIPEG, Jan. 31.—(Special)—Tibbets, the Boston embezzler arrested yesterday near Regina while en route to Vancouver, was concealed in the state room of the sleeper. Both he and his wife protested their innocence and bluffed a good deal. On searching the woman $26,000 in bills and bonds was found in the form of a bustle. They had also about $30,000 worth of jewellery. Their baggage has not been searched. United States officers are expected here for them.

Tibbitts and his wife were brought up for trial before a magistrate at Regina to-day and remanded for two weeks. Tibbitts appears to be a victim of the morphine habit, as the drug was administered to him by a doctor while in court to-day.

EVENTS OF VANCOUVER.

An Absconding Elk Arrested—C. P. R. Improvements Commenced—An Evangelist's Views.

VANCOUVER, Jan. 31.—(Special)—At the instigation of the police at Portland W. Olkerman was arrested to-day at Hastings. He is charged with absconding with the funds of lodge 142 of the Elks.

Work on the wharves and new terminal buildings is to start in a few days.

Evangelist Munhall has been saying some very unkind things about Vancouver. A local paper suggests that the city council take the matter in hand.

THE GOLDEN NORTH.

Overland Party for Klondike Find Gold in Large Quantity Near Great Slave Lake.

WINNIPEG, Jan. 31.—(Special)—News was received from Regina to-day that the first party of persons bound for the Yukon by the Prince Albert route have found gold in large quantities in the Hay, Buffalo and other rivers running into Great Slave lake, seven hundred miles from Prince Albert. The news comes through Bishop Pascal and is considered reliable.

SILVER RESOLUTION KILLED.

House of Representatives Further Postpones the Day of the White Metal.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—The house today buried the Teller resolution declaring the bonds of the United States payable in silver, under an adverse majority of 50 votes. The Republicans were solidly arrayed in opposition with two exceptions, Mr. Linney, of North Carolina, who voted with the Democrats and Populists, and Mr. White, of North Carolina, the only negro of the house, who answered "yes" when his name was called. The desertions on the Democratic side were Mr. Elliott, of South Carolina, and Mr. Clarke, of Pennsylvania; both voted with the Republicans against the postponement. Speaker Reed, although it is not customary for him to vote, had his name called, and amid the cheers of his followers went on record in opposition to the resolution. The majority, under the leadership of Mr. Dingley, who made a carefully prepared speech sounding the key note of opposition, assumed the position that the last clause of the resolution was in reality a disguised declaration for the free coinage of silver, while the Democrats under the direction of Mr. Bailey maintained that the defeat of the resolution was another step in the direction of the establishment of the gold standard to which they alleged both President McKinley and Secretary Gage committed the Republican party. The vote on the resolution was: Ayes, 132; nays, 182.

No Bail for Lord Neville.

LONDON, Jan. 31.—Lord Neville was committed for trial at the Old Bailey this afternoon charged with forgery, bail not being allowed. Prior to his committal Lord Neville declared he was perfectly innocent.

The Maine Central Accident.

BANGOR, Maine, Jan. 31.—Four dead and more than thirty injured is the sequel to the accident that took place on Saturday on the Maine Central railway, near Orono, two of the most seriously injured having died yesterday. During the day a large corps of physicians attended to the needs of the sufferers. As to the cause of the accident, there are many conjectures but no definite knowledge.

ALASKA IN BAD SHAPE.

While Klondike Flourishes United States Fields Adjoining Filled With Distress.

Special Agent Asks Government to Stop Immigration to Alaskan Interior.

Lawless Bands Preparing to Rob Steamers Passing Through United States Waters.

SEATTLE, Feb. 1.—There came on the Rosalie to Seattle on Sunday a newspaper correspondent named E. H. Wells, who left Dawson on December 20 and made the trip to tidewater in thirty-five days with three companions. Mr. Wells was the bearer of important dispatches to the United States war department regarding Captain Ray and the situation at Fort Yukon.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—Gen. Merriam, under instructions from Acting Secretary Meiklejohn, yesterday opened at Seattle the despatches brought by special messenger Wells from Capt. Ray, the department's special representative in the Klondike, and forwarded an abstract of them to the war department by telegraph. Acting Secretary Meiklejohn was so much impressed with the statements wired that he submitted the despatch at once to Secretary Alger, who is now convalescing at his home from a long illness, and after consultation between these officials the paper was sent over to the White House, where it formed a subject of consideration for the cabinet meeting to-day. The abstract of Capt. Ray's report, as telegraphed by Major Robinson, is as follows:

"Seattle, Jan. 31.—Complying with telegram of to-day, five letters and two packages from Captain P. H. Ray addressed to you, in hands of special courier E. H. Wells, were intercepted by me. Their substance was as follows: The latest bears date of November 2 and 3, and refers to attempted robbery of caches. It recommends that the United States government take steps effectually to check immigration to the interior of Alaska of all persons not fully supplied to last two years. It gives as a reason that there is no way of earning a living, and no placer discoveries have been made within the last eight months either in Alaska or the Northwest Territories.

"There is no employment for any large number of people in any capacity. All values are speculative. There is no fixed standard for labor. There is not now or likely to be within twelve months adequate or efficient means of supplying the people now in Alaska or the North West Territories. He is of opinion that only seven per cent. of all the people who have entered during the past year have earned their living, and hundreds are now scattered along the river destitute of food, clothing and money. People coming in have not had the faintest conception what to do to earn a living and spending the money they bring, become dazed and helpless. He states that the rush will be great next year, and a step taken to prevent people from coming in their ignorance will be an act of charity.

"In view of recent development and the knowledge that the lawless are banding together along the river for the purpose of robbery, he renews the suggestion for the government placing on the river steamers with high power, armed, and used to patrol the river, and the placing of detachments as the movement of people demands. He also recommends a preliminary survey from Cook's Inlet to the interior for an all-American road."

HAWAIIAN TREATY.

Its Prospects in the Senate Greatly Improved and Adoption Looked For.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—The condition in the senate respecting the Hawaiian annexation treaty has greatly improved and the friends of the treaty, including Senator Davis, chairman of the foreign relations committee, are confident that sixty senators whose votes are necessary for two-thirds majority will vote for ratification. Confidence in the changed condition is found in the determination of the friends of ratification to press forward the treaty to a final vote.

ANOTHER CUBAN SKIRMISH.

Spanish Forces Suffer Severely Though They Report an Insurgent Defeat.

HAVANA, Feb. 1.—A skirmish between the Spanish and the insurgents has taken place, it is announced, at the central plantation of Constancia, province of Santa Clara. The Spanish version of the affair is that the sugar cane cutters assisted by a military force defeated the insurgents, killed two of the latter and compelled the enemy to retire. But it is admitted that the commander of the Spaniards was wounded and that the chief of the guerilla force in the province and five laborers were killed and four wounded.

MANITOBA AND NORTHWEST.

Black Diphtheria in Crow's Nest Camp—A Hotel Burned.

WINNIPEG, Feb. 1.—(Special)—An outbreak of black diphtheria is reported at one of the camps of the Crow's Nest Pass road. Two young men from Nova Scotia have succumbed and four or five more cases were reported a couple of days ago. The case of the two victims was a very sad one, especially as they were left to die in a box car without any medical attendance or comforts. Everybody was afraid to go near them.

A despatch says that the Alberta Railway and Coal Company have offered to Mackenzie & Mann for the Stikine-Teslin road steel rails for eighty miles, and also four locomotives.

The Seine City hotel, at the Seine River mines, has been burned to the ground. The proprietor was Louis Larsan and his loss $6,000.

A WARLIKE RUMOR.

Believed That Japan is Now Actively Preparing for Trouble.

LONDON, Feb. 1.—A despatch to the Daily Mail from Nagasaki says: "The Far Eastern situation is very serious and it is believed that Japan is most actively preparing for war."

PROSPECTS FOR WHEAT.

Russia Selling Promptly Because Hard-Up—Greater Fluctuations in Prices Likely.

LONDON, Jan. 31.—The Mark Lane Express says: Although the French wheat fields promise well it is feared that they affected by rankness and weeds. Austro-Hungary is suffering from a plague of field mice and moles, which is spreading over the vast plains of the Leitha and Danube. The news from Russia is satisfactory so far as the Azima wheat of 1898 is concerned, but threshing of the 1897 crop indicates that the yield is very small in the provinces which have hitherto been credited with an average crop. The large sales of Russian wheat point therefore to a very bad agricultural situation, showing that Russia, while not increasing her total production, is becoming through agricultural poverty a prompt seller for cash after the harvests. With America also a weak holder we must be prepared for increased fluctuations at lower prices from October to February and higher from March to June. In ordinary years from July to September the harvest may be expected to control prices with actual reaping. The reduction of the Italian duty on foreign wheat is expected to cause the bulk of Russian and Roumanian wheat to be shipped to Genoa, even in February and March.

CHILLIWACK NEWS.

Survey and Estimate for a Dyke—Opposition Talking Politics.

CHILLIWACK, Jan. 29.—Wm. Tytler, C.E., has been sent by the government to survey and make estimates for the dyke running from Cheam peak to the head of Camp and Hope sloughs much to the satisfaction of the residents who own ranches in that vicinity, thus keeping the promise made by the minister while here some time since.

Messrs. Vedder, Sword and Foster, M.P.P.'s, have been holding a series of meetings throughout this riding, trying to keep their party into line from now until the time comes to settle the matter for another four years. From the grumbling one hears it seems that little success attends their meeting (and very few people.) The opposition will shortly reorganize for the purpose of selecting a candidate to stand at the coming general election, and Mr. Vedder will have to pull the wires tighter this time than he did at the bye-election if he succeeds in securing the nomination, as much dissatisfaction prevails not only against Mr. Vedder, but all those who are doing their best to keep this vicinity isolated. Chilliwack wants workers in parliament not kickers and agitators, and will send a government supporter next opportunity.

The Queen's hotel here has been closed for an indefinite time owing to the proprietor's failure through a technical point in law and a chattel mortgage on the household effects.

No boats have arrived in Chilliwack since the 24th inst., this demonstrating the need of a railway or other means of transportation.

The appointment of Mr. Tytler as commissioner of dykes gives general satisfaction to everyone here with the exception of a few of Mr. Vedder's followers. Mr. Tytler previously lived here, being clerk of the municipality for some time.

Mr. William Hooper, who left for Kingston last October, arrived here this week. In the interval he had fallen heir to a respectable legacy.

ROSSLAND'S WINTER SPORT.

Grand Programme for the Coming Carnival in the Clouds.

ROSSLAND, Jan. 31.—The Rossland winter carnival, to be held February 17 and 18, promises to be a huge success. Several championship events will take place. They include the championship ski jumping of Canada, championship ski running of Canada, hockey championship of British Columbia, curling, championship of British Columbia, the championship coasting of British Columbia, and the snow-shoeing championship of British Columbia.

Mr. T. G. Blackstock, of the War Eagle, gives a valuable cup made of Kootenay silver for the ski jumping; Mr. C. H. Mackintosh gives a similar trophy for the ski running, and the Le Roi company will contribute a costly flagon for the snowshoeing. Citizens have subscribed liberally for the other prizes and towards the expense of entertaining the crowds of visitors who will attend.

The ski run, which extends from the top of the Red Mountain to the Black Bear compressor, a distance of 1½ miles, will be covered in 2 minutes. There is a descent in this of 2,000 feet. The runners will have to make jumps in certain places, notably at the railway track, of over 100 feet.

The excitement over the event is growing in intensity every day and the affair will undoubtedly be a huge success.

THEATRICAL EVENTS.

Dublin Excited Over Prohibition of Amateur Theatricals—The Plays in London.

LONDON, Jan. 29.—The patentees of three Dublin city theatres, under the old law of George III., have issued a notice prohibiting amateur theatricals, as the act referred to gives them a monopoly of theatrical performances. All Dublin is simply in arms at this and threatens not to attend the theatres.

The fashionable theatrical success at present is undoubtedly Arthur W. Pinero's new comedy, "Trelawney of the Wells," and all society is flocking to the Court theatre, chiefly to see Lord Roselyn, who, under the name of James Earskine, has a part in the production. The play of itself would fill the theatre for a long time.

Beerbohm Tree's production of "Julius Caesar" is receiving the greatest praise on all sides as surpassing anything in London in the way of scenery and staging.

NEWS OF THE CAPITAL.

Government Called Upon to Make Good Their Bluff of an Export Duty on Nickel.

While Canada Supplies the Ore United States Labor Alone Profits by Refining.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, Feb. 1.—A large deputation representing the nickel industries of Canada interviewed the government today to ask for the imposition of an export duty on nickel and copper ores. Last session the government took power under the tariff to impose an export duty on all ores, but so far nothing has been done. The deputation pointed out that there is only one other nickel deposit in the world which compares with those at Sudbury, namely the mines at New Caledonia. Canada has vast quantities of iron, but under present conditions not an iron mine in Canada is worth one dollar. She has vast quantities of nickel and copper, but these deposits as operated are of very little value to Canada, although of great importance to the States and Europe. The only way in which benefit may be conferred upon Canada would be by joining the nickel and iron interests together, which could be done by placing an export duty on nickel and copper in their crude form which would compel the refining to be done in the Dominion. It also was pointed out that if the Dominion government imposed an export duty of 10 per cent. upon nickel in any form short of being fully refined the American consumer would have to pay that much more for his nickel. Supposing American manufacturers added but five per cent. of nickel to their steel, or 100 pounds to the ton, under the Dingley bill it would cost him $8 per ton more than it now costs him. In other words Canada would receive equivalent benefit and few countries in the world would be able to compete against her with such advantages as these. The government were assurred that if an export duty were imposed an immediate arrangement could be made for erecting refiners and furnaces in Canada. They promised careful consideration.

The Trade and Navigation Returns are out. Their salient features have already been dealt with in Ottawa despatches.

The speakers of both houses are here, but owing doubtless to the storm few senators and members have arrived. All trains are late on account of the bitterly cold weather prevailing.

The list of Supreme court appeals for the coming term is smaller than usual.

ONTARIO ELECTIONS.

Chief Government Organ Invites the Opposition to a Stand-up Fight.

TORONTO, Jan. 29. — (Special)—The Globe says on the Ontario elections: "The policy of the Liberals is to compel their opponents to fight in the open, to encourage a most thorough enquiry into the provincial administration and discuss provincial questions on the broadest grounds, to inform the people, to trust the people and await with calm confidence the public verdict."

There are twenty-five constituencies in which the Liberals have not yet nominated candidates, and twenty in which Conservatives have yet to place men in the field.

KINGSTON, Jan. 29.—Hon. Wm. Harty, minister of public works, was nominated yesterday for the Assembly. A ratification meeting will be held on Monday, at which Premier Hardy will speak.

BELLEVILLE, Jan. 29.—John Stokes, of Hungerford, has been nominated by the Conservatives of East Hastings for the legislative assembly.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

The Great News Distributing Body Has a Patent Right to Its Name.

LONDON, Jan. 31.—About one year ago the United Press, a news organization which has since discontinued business and gone into the hands of an assignee, placed signs upon its quarters in London using the name of Associated Press in a manner calculated to convey the impression that it was the headquarters of the Associated Press. One of the signs was "The United Associated Press." At the same time companies were incorporated in England under the title of "The Associated Press of America" and "The Western Associated Press." Since the collapse of the United Press another news company has retained the quarters and signs formerly used by the United Press. This created confusion in the public mind and the Associated Press filed a bill for an injunction to restrain any parties from using the name of "Associated Press." Justice Stirling on Saturday last granted an injunction perpetually restraining the United Press, either alone or in combination, from using any name calculated to lead to the belief that the United Press was the same as the Associated Press. They were likewise restrained from in any manner representing themselves as being in any way connected with the Associated Press and from promoting any company in which the words "Associated Press" form a distinct part. The court also assessed the costs against the United Press.

OF INTEREST TO LADIES.

The attention of the reader is called to an attractive little book lately published by that eminent Expert Physician, G. H. BOBERTY, M.D., 252 Wosdward Avenue, Detroit, Mich. This book is one of genuine interest to every man, and its plain and honest advice will certainly be of the greatest value to any one desirous of securing perfect health and vigor. A gequest for a free and sealed copy will be complied with, if addressed as above and the COLONIST mentioned.

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