

WESTMINSTER SPECIAL.

Bad Termination to a Christmas Dinner Party.

Four Persons Orphaned to Death by a Falling Tree on the North Arm Road—Sudden Death of a Pioneer.

From Our Own Correspondent. New Westminster, Dec. 28.—At 3 o'clock this morning a party of Vancouver people, consisting of J. Lawson, well known in this city, Miss Lawson, his daughter, A. Cheesman, an employee of the Royal City Mills, J. Y. Bodwell, Jasper Locke, and Wm. Masther, were on their way, having been the guests of W. H. Rollins, of the North Arm, at a dinner party given by him on the North Arm. The party were in a sleigh drawn by two horses, and had only proceeded down the North Arm road a short distance when a large birch tree was blown across the road by a burning branch falling from a tree which had been struck by lightning.

THE SEAL FISHERIES. Teachers Invited for the Exclusive Right to Cash Seal in the Alaska Waters.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Secretary Windley this afternoon prepared the following advertisement inviting proposals for the exclusive right to catch seals in Alaska: "The Secretary of the Treasury will receive sealed proposals for ten years to be made on the 1st day of January, 1890, for the exclusive right to take seals upon the islands of St. Lawrence and St. George, Alaska, for a term of 10 years from the first day of May, 1890, agreeably to the provisions of the act of Congress of the 23rd day of March, 1875, and to the specific requirements of the statute, the conditions of which will be found in a suitable building for the purpose of this seal upon the islands of St. Lawrence and St. George, Alaska, for a term of 10 years from the first day of May, 1890, will be received by the Secretary of the Treasury, at the office of the Secretary of the Treasury, at Washington, D. C., until the 1st day of January, 1890, at which time the proposals will be opened in the presence of the Secretary of the Treasury, and the award will be made to the proposer whose proposal is found to be the most advantageous to the Government."

OBITUARY. Col. Robert J. Stevens, U. S. Consul, Dies Very Suddenly at His Daughter's House in Seattle.

On Christmas evening the many friends of Col. Robert J. Stevens, U. S. Consul at Victoria, were surprised, as well as saddened by the news of his death. He had been in Seattle for a few days, and was in the city on his way to his daughter's house in Seattle, where he was to spend Christmas with his family. He was a well-known and popular man, and his death was a great loss to the community. He was born in New York, and had spent most of his life in the United States. He was a member of the U. S. Army, and had served in several campaigns. He was a man of high character and ability, and his death was a great loss to the community.

MATRIMONIAL. HEARD-SIXPENCE. The residence of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Simpkins, Bay Street, was the scene on Christmas night of a happy event. The bride and groom were Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Simpkins, and the ceremony was performed by the Rev. J. H. Hall, brother-in-law of the bride. The ceremony was a simple one, and was attended by a number of friends. The bride and groom were both well, and the ceremony was a happy one.

CHRISTMAS AT WASHINGTON. Washington, Dec. 25.—Christmas day opened up rainy. Subsequently the rain ceased, but it remained cold and damp. The weather, however, had a little effect on the religious observance of the day. Services were held in most of the Catholic churches as usual, and in the morning and evening in the Episcopal churches in honor of the birth of our Lord. In other Protestant churches services in honor of the birth of our Lord were also held. In the afternoon a number of the business men of the city were in the city, and a number of the business men of the city were in the city, and a number of the business men of the city were in the city.

EUROPEAN GOSSIP.

Merry Christmas in London—Owing to Improved Trade.

The London epidemic spreading in Europe—the case and kind of fever that among the English.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS IN LONDON. London, Dec. 25.—Owing to the improved condition of trade that has been the result of the epidemic spreading in Europe, the Christmas season in London has been a very merry one. The streets were filled with people, and the shops were crowded with goods. The weather was also very pleasant, and the people were in high spirits. The Christmas dinner was a grand affair, and the people were all well.

THE INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC. One-Third of the Population of Paris Afflicted.

The epidemic spreading in the States and Thousands Suffering in the Eastern Cities.

PARIS, Dec. 27.—The influenza epidemic is spreading rapidly in the States, and thousands are suffering in the Eastern cities. The disease is characterized by a sudden onset, and is accompanied by a high fever, aching muscles, and a sore throat. The mortality is high, and the disease is spreading rapidly from city to city. The authorities are doing all they can to prevent the spread of the disease, but it is still spreading rapidly.

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DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.

Four Business Houses Burned at Westminster.

The Columbia, Lyall Book Store, Deane's Hardware Store, and Wm. Anderson's Dry Goods Store.

From Our Own Correspondent. Westminster, Dec. 27.—The fire at Westminster, which has been the result of the epidemic spreading in Europe, has caused a great loss to the community. The fire was caused by a gas stove, and it spread rapidly, burning down four business houses. The loss was a great one, and the people were all well.

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ENGLAND AND PORTUGAL.

The Dispute Between the Two Powers Growing Serious.

The Mediterranean Squadron Ordered to Prepare for Action—The U. S. Ready to Co-operate with England.

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