

CAPITAL NOTES.

Statement by Hon. Mr. Bowell regarding Compensation for B.C. Sealers.

British Copyright Privileges to be Withdrawn—Tussle Between Members—The Budget.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, April 10.—Hon. Mr. Bowell in the Senate to-day, replying to a query of Hon. Mr. McInnes, said: "So far as seal fishing this year is concerned, the Government are not aware that there is anything for which compensation could be asked. So far, the seal fishing has been carried on without any restriction. We have not received the text of the bill now before the British House of Commons, and until we do so it is impossible to say whether or not there will be any ground for asking compensation. No such claim would be justified under the draft bill, which was forwarded for our consideration, provided our suggestions for its amendment have been adopted. The Government have received no claims from those interested in the fishing in relation to the bill now before the Imperial Parliament."

Hon. Mr. McInnes moved for the papers in connection with the compensation of the death sentence, passed on the Chelmsford Indians, Peter and Jack. He said the general opinion in British Columbia is that a serious miscarriage of justice occurred.

Joe Martin and Hugh Sutherland had a lively scrap in the rotunda of the Russell house to-night. Mr. Sutherland told Mr. Martin he was coward for attacking him under cover of his parliamentary privileges. Blows were exchanged. Several members interfered. The funniest feature of the episode was that of Mr. Tarte rushing to Mr. Martin's aid.

The budget debate was continued. It will not be completed until Thursday. Geo. Macdonnell, of Algoma, was presented with a magnificent collection of cutlery by his Conservative friends in the House on the occasion of his marriage to-morrow.

An important communication on the subject of copyright has just been forwarded to the Imperial authorities. For some years past, at great expense and trouble, Canadian customs officials have been required to collect a duty of 12 1/2 per cent. on foreign reprints of British copyright works, for the benefit of copyright holders, over and above the duty payable for the benefit of the revenue of Canada. The Colonial office has been informed that after the expiration of the next session of Parliament the collection of this royalty of 12 1/2 per cent. will cease. (This action has been taken in view of the changes which are expected in the Imperial copyright laws in so far as they apply to Canada.)

For the first time for several months the returns of Chinese immigration last month show an increase. The total number paying poll tax in March was 174, of which 121 entered at Victoria, fifty-two at Vancouver and one at Montreal. In March last year the total entries were 135.

OTTAWA, April 11.—The fisheries report shows that the value of the total Dominion catch last year was \$20,688,000, of which British Columbia contributed four millions and a half. The increase is a million and a half.

Telegrams from British Columbia show that considerable anxiety exists among the owners of sealing vessels. The Colonist representative questioned Sir C. H. Tupper on the subject to-night. He said: "The Canadian government in January last, in March and even April, had pressed upon the British government the manifest unfairness of applying, without due notice and actual warning, any legislation required by the Behring Sea award, to vessels which sailed before any enactment forbidding their pursuit or affecting their industry was adopted. It was shown that as early as January vessels had left port, when they left compliance with the regulations respecting licenses and hunters was impossible, even had this been in force. Nearly sixty British vessels are now at sea pursuing a lawful industry, after having failed to obtain from either the Canadian or British governments any advice as to when the proposed regulations were to become law. It is not believed that the British bill will fail to recognize the lawful position of these vessels."

The Public Accounts committee, after a long discussion, decided not to ask indiscriminate power from the House to swear witnesses.

A deputation of cattle shippers asked the Government to introduce a bill to prevent combines among steamship men to maintain high freight rates.

The Women's National Council convened to-day. Ladies were present from all parts of the continent. Lady Aberdeen made an able introductory address. Papers were read by a number of ladies.

Mr. McCarthy will draw the attention of the House to the unfair treatment accorded the Anglican rector of Woodstock, who was charged full duty on church vestments, while the Roman Catholic priests of the same town were allowed to import similar articles duty free.

The feasibility of the Hudson Bay route received a thorough discussion in the House. The Controller of Customs stated to-day that the Government would introduce a bill for the regulation and inspection of electric lights.

Uniforms for customs officials at frontier points will be issued shortly.

Mr. McCarthy was the principal speaker in the debate to-day. He strongly attacked the N. F. Hon. Mr. Foster close the debate to-morrow.

IN DARKEST AFRICA.

BERLIN, April 11.—Extracts from the diary of a resident of the Cameroons were published here to-day. The writer charges Assessor Scholz, the Governor's substitute and leader of the expedition, with ordering that the throats of old female prisoners be cut. Three of his prisoners are said to have died of hunger. Twelve others were bound to the railings of the ship for days without drink, completely exposed to the tropical heat, and with worms breeding in their hair and with worms breeding in their hair and with worms breeding in their hair.

When half dead they were shot. It is reported that Herr Leist, Chancellor of the Cameroons, who is answerable for the recent slayings; Major Vorhees, the acting governor of East Africa, and Major Francois, commanding in Southwest Africa, will be recalled.

LONDON, April 11.—(Special.)—The British Board of Trade returns show a very large increase in the Canadian export trade to Great Britain.

Healy's Liver Lozenges do not mean one like pills.

ITALY AND FRANCE.

PARIS, April 10.—A despatch from Rome to Le Temps, says: "It is rumored there that it is the intention of a member of the Italian Government to make a public statement in favor of the establishment of commercial relations with France. The rumor is denied by most of the Paris papers, many of them expressing doubt that any good would result from such a course, even accepting the report as true. It is stated here that the government has reason to believe that Prime Minister Crispien, of Italy, will endeavor to put France in a false position by professing publicly the most friendly feeling for her, and as an earnest of that feeling proposing a commercial convention. It is assumed that President Crispien has not any idea that France would meet Italy half way in any such proposition at present, and therefore, France herself would be regarded as the only obstacle to closer relations. It is rumored that in such an event France intends to ask Italy to prove her sincerity by making some marked changes in her military and foreign policies, as preliminary to commercial treaty negotiations. This it is not likely that Italy would do, as nobody believes she would forfeit her partnership in the Triple Alliance merely for the sake of getting a lower French duty on Italian wares."

THE PACIFIC CABLE.

Discussed at the Intercolonial Postal Conference and Formally Endorsed.

Troubles of the New Australian Settlers in Paraguay—A Close Call.

The Sydney Morning Herald notes that at the Intercolonial Postal Conference in Wellington, the proposal in regard to the desirability of the Australian Governments entering into a guarantee with the countries interested in the construction of a Pacific Cable was adopted, together with Mr. Walker's alternative route. The conditions to be inserted in the new mail-contract were considered, and the conference adjourned until March 17th (the date of the Arawa's sailing from Sydney). The President's amended motion in favor of the Pacific cable, which was adopted, read as follows:

"That, considering the important interests involved, both national and commercial, in the establishment of a Pacific cable, the representatives at this conference of the colonies interested recommend their respective Governments to consider the desirability of entering into a guarantee with the other countries interested for a period not exceeding 14 years to secure interest at 4 per cent. on capital not exceeding £1,800,000, to any company undertaking to lay a cable, the tariff not to exceed 2s. a word for ordinary telegrams, 2s. for Government telegrams, and 1s. 6d. for press messages between Great Britain and the colonies; that the United Kingdom be asked to join the guarantee; the routes to be either of the following:—

(A) Bahama to Ahirapa Bay (New Zealand), Ahirapa Bay to Suva, Suva to Apia, Apia to Fanning Islands, Fanning Islands to Sandwich Islands, Sandwich Islands to Vancouver; (B) from Ahirapa Bay (New Zealand) to Suva, Suva to Apia, Apia to Fanning Islands, Fanning Islands to Sandwich Islands, Sandwich Islands to Vancouver."

A letter has just been received from Mr. W. Pope from Villa Rica, dated Christmas Day, in reference to the disagreement in the ranks of the New Australia settlers at Paraguay. He states that the eviction of the expelled members reminded one of the illustrations depicting similar events in Ireland. Many women and some men were in tears, while every face in the crowd showed the deepest concern. A few hours after the eviction a notice was posted to the effect that families desiring to leave would be allowed £8 5s. for a man and his wife, with half that amount for each child; single men, £4 10s. During the day fifteen married couples and seventeen single men intimated their intention of taking advantage of the offer. Altogether, the people who have left the association have, Mr. Pope states, paid in about £1,600 and received something under £200. There are now in Villa Rica eighty-one souls who have left the settlement. He adds:

"It is now when we are gathered together in Villa Rica that the utter hopelessness of our position has come upon us with all its force, and we cannot hide from ourselves that we are in a very tight place indeed, but all are hopeful and agree to remain here together for a few days until we can get information and advice as to the best course to pursue. Our circumstances have been placed before the British Consul and Mr. Finlay, secretary of the British Legation in Buenos Ayres. The latter advised that we should fix up a scheme of proposed reconciliation; but he was assured that there could be no possibility of inducing their wives to return, even if the men were inclined to. Mr. Finlay agreed to send a telegram to the Minister at Buenos Ayres, who would transmit it to the Home authorities."

Mr. Pope adds that Mr. Lane had decided to send a man back to Australia to revive interest in the movement among the adherents in Queensland, and Mr. Whelan had been selected for this purpose.

The Tasmanian Government has just had a very close call upon a want of confidence motion brought forward by Sir Edward Braddon, who severely criticized the Government for its arrangements in connection with the floating of the new loan. The Premier, Mr. Dobson, replied that the Government had acted for the best under the circumstances, and during the week through which the debate progressed strengthened his position as least he could by securing one or two Opposition country members on the understanding that a compromise will be effected in committee with the graduation and income tax derived from land. The result was closer than anyone had anticipated, the ministry being sustained by a bare majority—19 to 17.

Rev. Campbell Rogers, pastor of the Congregational church at West Devonport, N. S. W., and his congregation refuse to acknowledge the Congregational Union. Recently the congregation was assembling when three men, acting for the union, entered the building and demanded the key of the church. This was refused by the Rev. Mr. Rogers, who was forcibly ejected and received injury to the head. The minister and his congregation then battered the door in and resumed possession. The case will now go to the Supreme court to enable the union to get possession of the building.

One might as well try to stem the rapid flow of blood, as to expect perfect health while a dangerous latent poison is in the blood. Through its alternative and purifying properties, Ayer's Sarsaparilla removes every vestige of impure blood from the system.

NEWS OF THE PROVINCE.

B.C. Sugar Refinery—Provincial Board of Horticulture in Session—Heavy Rainfall.

Vancouver Wants Free Postal Delivery—Criminal Libel Suit—Shingle Trade Improving.

(Special to the Colonist.)

VANCOUVER.

VANCOUVER, April 10.—The B.C. sugar refinery is closed down, owing, it is said, to a syndicate of Victoria firms importing 800,000 pounds, considerably more than the entire consumption of the Province, within the last month. In 1890 the net duty on refined sugar, *ad valorem*, and specific, amounted to 11 to 13 cents a pound, and the importation of the Chinese product was unknown; but in June, 1891, the tariff was reduced to 80 cents per 100 pounds, and Chinese competition began to be felt. In 1893 the importation of Chinese sugar exceeded 1,000,000 pounds. The local refinery in three years has only paid 44 per cent. on its capital stock, and is now obliged to close down. The managers claim that the tariff rate of 80 cents is not sufficient to protect them from the competition with the Hongkong refineries. So soon as the news of the recent tariff amendments arrived announcing that a further reduction of 64 per cent. had been made, several members of the Government were notified that it was the death blow of the Vancouver industry.

A meeting of the poultry and pet stock association of Vancouver was held on Saturday. The constitution and by-laws were passed. An effort will be made to retain the services of first class exhibition judges at an early date.

The two year old daughter of Walter Jordan, the carman, died on Saturday from diphtheria. Mr. Jordan is away from home on the Empress of Japan.

Capt. A. Freeman, of the steamer Capilano and Miss Susie Brown, of Newfoundland, were married yesterday afternoon in St. James church.

Silas Fisher, the B.C. fish king, went east yesterday to improve his salmon and halibut connections at the great centres.

Mr. Harry C. Allingham and wife of St. John, N.B., have arrived in Vancouver. Mr. Allingham takes the place of Mr. Garvey in the C.P.R. operating rooms; Mr. Garvey takes Mr. R. Fraser's place as assistant night chief, while Mr. Fraser has been promoted to the position of night chief, made vacant by the departure of Mr. Wood and to fill a more lucrative position in San Francisco.

A burglary was committed at Mission City last Thursday, Nelson's drug store being robbed of \$50.

The Board of Trade and City Council have endorsed a petition to be forwarded to Ottawa, praying for free postal delivery, and Post Office accommodation in the city and vicinity of the city. The petition contained 3,000 names.

At a meeting in Richmond Mr. Kidd was named as a candidate for the Local Legislature in the coming elections. The meeting was called by those opposed to the Government. There are 300 votes in the riding of Richmond.

Yesterday Rev. Father Emmelen refused to marry a couple because the groom was not a Roman Catholic. The license had been secured, the breakfast was waiting and everything was in readiness, but the knot was not tied, for the bride refused to be married by a Protestant minister.

VANCOUVER, April 11.—Justice Drake disposed of seventeen cases in chambers yesterday.

The Independent Order of Foresters held a dance in the new Sullivan hall, Cordova street, last night.

The steamer Arawa arrived at noon yesterday, but, owing to lack of wharf room, it was 5:30 p.m. before she was tied up. The steamer Empress of Japan arrived in Esquimaux Bay last night, and made the Esquimaux Bay late last night, and made the Esquimaux Bay late last night, and made the Esquimaux Bay late last night.

The Arawa arrived yesterday the steamer Premier, Walla Walla, Signal, Cutch and Kerr were alongside the wharf. The Signal brought 300 tons from Portland. She will return on Saturday with a trans-Pacific steamer cargo. The Walla Walla discharged 50 tons of freight and returned southward.

Mrs. Fiewelling and Mrs. Gowan, wives of Revs. Messrs. Fiewelling and Gowan, of Vancouver and Westminster respectively, returned by the steamer Arawa yesterday from visiting Honolulu.

The D.D.C.M. R.W. Bro. W. O. Miller, paid his official visit to the Westminster lodge yesterday. A large number of Free Masons accompanied him.

Conductor Gregory and the members of the Philharmonic society should feel very much gratified at the favorable comments of the press and spectators upon their presentation of Haydn's Creation at the market hall last night.

Mr. W. Farrell, manager of the Yorkshire Guarantee Association, has returned from England. In an interview with a reporter Mr. Farrell especially mentioned the favorable position of British Columbia bonds in the English markets.

NANAIMO.

NANAIMO, April 10.—Alderman Craig is dangerously ill and in a critical condition. Fears are entertained for his recovery.

The hearing of the criminal libel suit against W. J. Gallagher, of the Telegram, was continued this afternoon. The prosecution called several witnesses to show the impression caused by the publication of the article complained of. No witnesses were called for the defence. The defendant, through his counsel, declined to make any retraction or apology; the prosecution having expressed their willingness to accept a proper explanation. Magistrate Platt at the close of the case for the prosecution, adjourned the further hearing to one week.

Sailed—Barry Wilna and McNeil.

NANAIMO, April 11.

Alderman Ralph Craig satisfactorily underwent a critical operation this morning. He is now doing well, with good prospects of his ultimate recovery.

Arrived, ship Sea King. Sailed, ship Raphael; steamer Costa Rica.

WESTMINSTER.

New Westminster, April 10.—The Provincial Board of Horticulture is in session here in its regular quarterly meeting. All members are present, with J. R. Anderson, secretary of the Board of Horticulture, and B. M. Palmer, inspector of fruit pests. The business of the board is to draw up rules and regulations for carrying into effect and enforcing the Horticultural act.

The rainfall on Friday night to 3 o'clock last night was 5.73 inches. From 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. yesterday the precipitation was just 3 inches, the greatest on record for a like period. The streets in many places were

badly run up by the torrents, and men had to work all night keeping the gutters open. Peter Johnson sounded the alarm to-day across Annville bar, and found it had been deepened several feet since the last sounding.

A grand fancy dress ball was held here to-night over a hundred couples were present. The shingle trade is improving steadily, and the shipments East are largely increasing.

Millard's store was burglarized on Sunday night, presumably by Chinese.

New Westminster, April 11.—The Horticultural board finished its meeting last night. Rules and regulations were drawn up, and these, when printed, will be issued from the head office, Victoria, by Mr. Anderson.

The Mayday celebration will be carried out on the usual large scale this year. On the occasion of the Grand Lodge, A. O. U. W., meeting at Delta on May 11, the local lodge will give a grand ball in honor of the visitors.

DUNCAN.

DUNCAN, April 10.—Mr. J. Musgrave arrived home on Saturday from a visit to England. Sir Richard Musgrave arrived on Saturday morning's train to try the Cowichan river.

A panther destroyed yesterday at Quadra Island four lambs and two sheep belonging to Mr. H. O. Wellburn. An organized hunt for the animal will take place to-day.

ELECTIONS IN HOLLAND.

THE HAGUE, April 11.—Through the general election in progress to-day it is probable that Holland will shortly enter upon an era of electoral reform. A month ago the electoral reform bill favored by the government, which materially extended the franchise, was defeated by the States General by a small majority. Thereupon the government decided to appeal to the people, and the queen regent issued a decree dissolving the house and expressing her conviction that an appeal to the country was necessary in order to place the question of the franchise upon a satisfactory basis. The election is being conducted quietly throughout the country. The government expects a substantial majority.

VICTORIA MARKETS.

Changes in the tariff will not, it is thought, increase local trade with Australia as the reductions in duties are, in the opinion of merchants, too small to make the business profitable. Fruit was the principal freight brought by the last Australian steamer, the receipts of canned meats by the same vessel being rather small. The demand for fresh meat is better than it was but former prices remain as quoted below. In the fish market there has been a scarcity of salmon. Vegetables are now plentiful and the indications point strongly to bigger and fresher supplies shortly, as gardeners' early crops look flourishing. The amount of land under cultivation in the neighborhood and district this year is much greater than in any previous year, as will, no doubt, be shown by the quantity of home produce to be offered for sale later in the season.

Current retail quotations:

Flour—Portland roller per barrel	\$5.50
Olive oil (disregarded)	\$2.00
Lake of the Woods (Hungarian)	\$3.75
Pommes	\$3.75
Three Star	\$5.00
Victoria	\$5.50
Bay	\$5.00
Wheat, per ton	\$20.00
Barley, per ton	\$20.00
Midlings, per ton	\$20.00
Brass, per ton	\$20.00
Ground Feed, per ton	\$20.00
Corn, whole	\$20.00
Cracked	\$20.00
Commeal, per 10 lbs.	\$20.00
Oatmeal, per 10 lbs.	\$20.00
Rolls, per 10 lbs.	\$20.00
Potatoes, per lb.	\$20.00
Cabbages, per lb.	\$20.00
Hay, bales, per ton	\$20.00
Straw, per ton	\$20.00
Onions, per lb.	\$20.00
Silver, per lb.	\$20.00
Gold, per lb.	\$20.00
Perk, frozen, per lb.	\$20.00
Chickens, per pair	\$20.00
Turkey per lb.	\$20.00
Geese per lb.	\$20.00
Pigeons, each	\$20.00
Fish—Salmon (Spring), per lb.	\$20.00
Shrimps, per lb.	\$20.00
Lard	\$20.00
Golden Cattle, per lb.	\$20.00
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