Late News Of Orient.

Ravages of the Plague Described by a Travelling Correspondent.

Another Serious Rebellion Breaks Out in the Shangtung District.

When the Northern Pacific steamship Tacoma left the Orient the plague was making great ravages on thickly settled centres of population. A correspondent who has been through the districts says: "In Canton and Fatshan, it is reported as 'bad,' but not so bad as in some cities. The city of San Ning might correctly be named, at present, "The City of Death." The plague is ravaging with special virulence, and carrying off its victims in large numbers. Shops and dwelling houses are closed, and their inhabitants have fled into the country, carrying the infection with them. Business is, for the present, paralyzed. The streets, meanwhile, are reeking in filth, and all drains are choked with rubbish. Behold the remedy employed! In one street, I observed no less sthan three matsheds erected, in which were seated, in calm complaisancy many idols which are implored to exert their power to stem and turn back the tide of death. Moreover, over almost every door are hung branches of cactus, or other thorny shrubs, also a piece of fine netting, and a bag of small cockle shells. It is believed that the malignant devils cannot well avoid all these obstacles and enter the house! They may be frightened by the rattling of the shells, as boys used to frighten birds from the cornfields by the rattle of a tin pan. If the devils yet attempt to enter, they must pass through the mass of thorns, but can scarcely avoid the small netting.

"It is almost past belief that men's minds are so dark, minds, too, that have spent years in America or Australia. Yet there it is. It is altogether tragic to see such things, and to look behind and contemplate the sorrow, bereavement, and blank despair that hover over the homes and paralyze the hearts of those who crouch in terror within. In the interests of humanity, there is every reason why all agencies, religious, educational, and commercial, should continue their propaganda, and endeavor to penetrate and dissipate this terrible gloom. Meanwhile the sun shines out of a cloudless sky, and only two showers have fallen during the last six months. The farmers look out vacantly over fields parched as hard and dry as adobes, or weary themselves by pumping up water from the half-filled river on the small plots situate on the banks. One striking feature of the landscape is the large number of bamboo clumps which rise on all hands, gaunt and dead."

A rebellion, writes a Canton correspondent, has arisen in the prefectures of Wei-chow and Chew-chow, and the local authorities have telegraphed to the Canton viceroy for aid. Colonels Sham-kishan and Ting-chi-tak have been commissioned to pacify the territory, and have gone forward with 200 and 300 "braves," respectively. After their departure by the On Lau gunboat, the viceroy, fearing the force would be insufficient, despatched Col. Ying-shiu-tak with his command.

A special telegram was received by the Chinese Mail, stating that a band of 4,000 to 5,000 men were devastating the Luk-fung district of Wei-chow-fu, the chief being a native of Chew Yeung. The rebels occupied a camp at Kim-sheung and captured Shiu-kin and other villages. They attempted to take the principal town of the district, but were repulsed by the local militia. At present upwards of 700 villages in the vicinity have combined against the rebels.

The owners of a Chinese junk have brought action against H. M. S. Hermoine for the sum of $8,000 as damages sustained by collision.

A big dry-dock was opened at Uchedacho, near Yokohama, on May 1.

The negotiations concerning the construction of the Tsin-Ching railway have been successfully concluded between England, Germany and China, says a Pekin despatch. It has been arranged that the sections between Tientsin and Tsinan, and Tsinan and Ichau, shall be placed under the control of Germany, and the section between Ichau and Chinkiang under British control. The company is in the name of a Chinese concern, the capital to be advanced being £5,000,000, at 5 per cent. interest.

An Anglo-Italian syndicate has obtained the right to construct the line from Joyau, in Hupeh, to Taochau, in Shansi, and Messrs. Jardine & Matheson have secured rights over the line from Sinyan, in Honan, to Nangking, via Luchau, in Anhui.

The extension of the settlement north of the Yangkingpang, in Shanghai, is settled at last. The chairman of the municipal council, Mr. J. S. Fearon, and the British and United States consuls-general, aided by their German colleague, have worked hard and continuously to achieve this long-sought end, to bring to a practical conclusion the long-conceded principle, and have succeeded at last. The town that is growing up round the railway terminus is unfortunately not within the extension, but the council is promised rights of policing, lighting and sanitation in it. Nothing is granted on the Pootung side.

It is reported that the French government have demanded the cession of both banks of the Yangtse river, for 100 li on either side, from Ichang upwards, Chengtu, and all the coal and oil deposits in Szechuen. In conference with Sir Claude Macdonald, the Tsung-li Yamen early last year pledged itself to the policy of non-alienation of the Yangtse region.

On May 10 a serious fire, attended with fatal consequences, occurred at Shanghai. Nine persons perished.

Mr. Edwin Wildman has resigned his appointment as United States vice-consul at Hongkong, on his appointment as special commissioner for the New York Journal for Eastern Asia.

The proposed imposition in France of a high duty upon habutaye imported from Japan has naturally aroused the anxiety of the Japanese producers of the silk tissue. The proposal, if carried into practice, would, the Kokumin says, have a deplorable effect upon the trade of the two countries. A large portion of Japan's export of habutaye, which is valued roughly at 10,000,000 yen a year, goes to France.

YUKON INQUIRY A SHAM.

Mr. Ogilvie's Orders Effectively Framed to Prevent Any Exposure.

From the Toronto Mail and Empire.

The report Mr. Ogilvie makes of his Yukon investigation bears out the popular impression with regard to that enquiry. On August 25 of last year the order to look into the scandals was issued. By February 6 of this year Mr. Ogilvie was sitting in his office waiting for somebody to volunteer accusations, or for the miners far and near to come in and tell him the particulars of the extortions of which they had been the victims. He sat from February 6, on and off, until March 15, finding out two or three of the official improprieties and discovering what was more important than anything else, namely, that he could not take cognizance of transactions that had occurred subsequent to August 25, the date of his appointment. Then the affair was closed, with the promise, however, that it would be reopened to hear what was to be said with respect to Messrs. Wade and Norwood. Mr. Wade is the Winnipeg lawyer who became registrar or crown prosecutor, and is said to have accumulated great wealth; while Norwood is the American, formerly the captain of a whaler, who was appointed a mine inspector. The enquiry was precisely what it was expected to be, incomplete and comparatively harmless. One circumstance that helped to render it futile was the report that every miner who told upon an official having a finger in his claim, would lose his holding, and would go out penniless. Another was the fact that complainants if disposed to come forward were expected to leave their work and proceed to Dawson and give evidence without receiving even the ordinary witness' fees. But the strong influence robbing the enquiry of its usefulness was the knowledge that it was not likely to be serious, except to the witnesses who might tell too much. The enquiry differed from an investigating commission. The principle upon which it proceeded required that some person other than the commissioner should seek out the facts and marshall the testimony for consideration by that official. Everybody knows that if there were irregularities in a public institution, and a commissioner were told to sit and wait until some outsider pointed them out to him, he would sit for a long time with little of any importance to do. The idea with respect to the investigation of public matters or the overhauling of departmental transactions prescribes a very different commision to that which was chosen for the Yukon. It requires the commissioners to take possession of the office, to go through all the books, and to probe and trace every transaction for itself. A commission of this nature, in view of the avalanche of complaints that came from the mining district—not from disappointed Yankees, as was once pretended, but from impartial witnesses, both English and Canadian, was required to do justice in the premises and to clear the good name of Canada of the reproach which the scandals have attached to it. This government issued such a commission to investigate the penitentiaries at Kingston and St. Vincent de Paul. It has had like commissions to enquire into the political predilections of officials against whom general complaints of partizanship have been made. In the case of the Manitoba deputy returning officers it even employed Pinkerton detectives in order to assist it in making out a case. In the Yukon affair it has not exhibited a like eagerness to discover the truth respecting the charges that have been so widely made. On the contrary, it has assumed the attitude of defence, and while attributing evil motives to those who have made complaints, it has sought to blind the public conscience by ordering an enquiry that does not enquire, and is so restricted as to be useless. That parliament will be satisfied with the futile investigation we doubt. But whether it is or not there can be no question as to what the opinion of the country will be.

RAYMOND-McARTHUR.

Two Young Victorians Married at St. Paul's Church Yesterday.

At St. Paul's church, Victoria West, yesterday afternoon, Rev. Donald MacRae united in marriage Mr. Percy A. Raymond and Miss Alson Hume McArthur, daughter of Mrs. James McArthur. The bride wore a costume of white satin duchesse, trimmed with chiffon and orange blossoms. She was given away by her brother, Mr. James McArthur, and was attended by the Misses Winnifred and Florence Raymond. The bridesmaids wore dresses of white organdie over yellow silk, and picture hats. They carried shower bouquets, gifts from the groom. Mr. Fred Maynard supported Mr. Raymond. After the ceremony a reception was held at the residence of the bride's mother, 56 John street, and in the evening Mr. and Mrs. Raymond left by the direct steamer for San Francisco. Upon their return they will take up their residence on Springfield avenue, Victoria West. The groom's present to the bride was a pair of diamond ear-rings. The other presents folllow:

Mr. J. Raymond, sr., check; Mrs. J. Raymond, sr., onyx clock; Mrs. J. McArthur, silver tea service; Mr. and Mrs. J. Raymond, jr., silver sugar bowl and cream pitcher; Mr. J. McArthur, silver lifting water jug and goblet; Rev. D. and Mrs. MacRae, Morocco Bible; Misses W. and P. B. Raymond, salad cut glass; Miss Workman, pin cushion; Miss R. Hall, oil painting; Mrs. Mannahan (New Westminster), silver cake knife; Miss A. Rogers, silver salad knife and fork; Mr. J. S. Annett, epergne; Mrs. Tugg, toast rack; Miss Tagg, sugar spoon; Mr. and Mrs. J. Holland, carving set; Miss Holland, silver fruit knives; Mr. and Mrs. D. McIntyre (Vancouver), silver pie knife; Mr. and Mrs. A. Gray, five-o'clock teaspoons; Mr. and Mrs. Hiscocks, silver card receiver; Miss A. G. Wilkie (Edingurgh, Scotland), apostle spoons and sugar tongs; Mr. and Mrs. G. Wilkie (London, Eng.), silver salt cellars and spoons; Mr. T. A. Robertson (Dundee, Scotland), satin tea cosy and drawn-work tea cloth; Mr. and Mrs. P. Dickinson, berry spoon; Mrs. Rusta, clock; Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Mann, silver butter dish and knife; Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Gilley (New Westminster), silver egg set; Capt. and Mrs. Geo. Collins, biscuit jar and fruit dish; Mr. and Mrs. H. Murray, foot stool; Mrs. F. P. Watson, silver cake dish; Capt. and Mrs. S. F. McKenzie, silver pudding dish; Capt. Wm. McKenzie, silver soup tureen and ladle; Mr. and Mrs. Geo. McCandless, silver vegetable dish; Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Keown, vase; Mr., Mrs. and Misses Bishop, cut glass berry set; Mrs. Patton and family, drawing room lamp; Mr. F. W. McIntosh, glass and silver cake basket; Miss Barker, silver fish knife; Mr. and Mrs. Mullon, china five-o'clock tea set; Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Bechtel, berry spoon; Mrs. G. Keown, china cake dish; Mr. D. Spencer, jr., Honiton lace handkerchief; Mrs. M. A. Hall, silver sugar sifter; Miss A. Goldie, lemonade set; Miss M. E. Hall, silver button hook and shoe horn; Mr. W. B. Hall, china tea set; Mr. H. Keown, rosewood rocker; Mr. and Mrs. Townsley, glass set; Mrs. Curry, teaspoons; Miss S. McKeon, pair vases; Mr. F. G. Maynard, silver knives, forks, tea and dessert spoons; Mrs. Geo. Keown, lemonade set and tray; Miss M. McIntyre, book; Miss E. McCandlish, fire screen; Mr. and Mrs. F. Keown, silver teapot; Mrs. M. McKenzie (Vancouver), gravey ladle; Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Jones, berry spoon; Mr. C. and R. Stephens, silver tray.

Fancy Fair Is Opened.

Ladies of St. Andrew's Cathedral in Possession of Institute Hall.

Booths Filled With Articles of Every Variety and Description.

The ladies of St. Andrew's Roman Catholic cathedral yesterday morning took charge of Institute hall and will be in possession for a week. The change that they made in the appearance of the interior of the building within a few short hours must be seen to be appreciated, but a short description will not be out of place. Firstly it must be remembered that the ladies of St. Andrew's cathedral have had long experience in arranging and carrying to successful completion bazaars and fancy fairs. This year it is called a fancy fair and well it may be, for a prettier show was never presented to Victorians. In all ten booths have been erected in the hall, four one either side and two in the centre, each trimmed and decorated as best pleased the ladies in charge, all of whom have shown excellent taste, while at the same time the decorations are marked contrasts.

On entering the hall the first invitation extended is to quench the thirst with soft drinks which are dispensed from a gaily decorated booth which guards the entrance and which is presided over by the Misses O'Sullivan. These young ladies will watch the weather reports carefully for upon the continuance of the warm weather depends the success of their enterprise on behalf of charity.

Two more warm weather advocates, Miss S. McNiffe and Miss D. Sehl, are to be found nearby, they having charge of the first booth on the right, where the tastiest of ice cream and other light delicacies are served. There will be no standing up and eating ice cream around this booth, for the two young ladies have furnished a little dining room after the style of a Japanese summer house, which no self-respecting young man will be able to take his best girl past.

Then comes another booth, which will be of particular interest to the children. Such candies as are offered for sale here would put the most famous confectioners to shame and the variety is almost unlimited. Mrs. A. E. McPhillips, Miss Davie, and Miss Patton preside over the booth and will be ever ready during the week to fill the orders of their customers.

The ladies of the Altar Society have their booth adjoining the confectionery stand. They offer for sale plain and fancy work, not as it is offered over a commonplace counter, but from beneath a canopy made of flags prettily intertwined and draped. Mrs. Fletcher, Mrs. Radiger and Miss Davie will for the week become saleladies.

From here attention cannot but be directed to the flower stand in the centre of the hall, one of the prettiest sights of the fair. The stand itself is formed of flags of all nations. But these are almost hidden by the profusion of evergreens and flowers. It is safe to say that the Misses Sehl and Miss Reid, who will dispose of the flowers, have a busy few days ahead of them.

Next in rotation is a booth filled with fancy goods, the work of the ladies of the St. Ann's Society. Yellow and white are the colors here employed as decorations and a very pleasing effect is secured. Mrs. Deasy, Mrs. L. McQuade, Mrs. E. McQuade and Mrs. T. S. Burnes are in charge for the society.

White and Nile green are the distinguishing colors in the decorations of the corner set apart for the ladies of the Parish Society, but the decorations are nothing as compared with the great variety of plain and fancy goods that the ladies here offer for sale. Mrs. Lukbe Mrs. Dunlevy and Mrs. Aikman are in charge.

The younger ladies of the congregation have taken entire possession of the left side of the hall. In the first place the members of the Young Ladies' Institute have a large booth, where articles of every description are offered for sale. This booth is a veritable hive of industry, the members of the institute vieing with each other to make their sale a success.

Now comes a bit of a mystery, the fish pond. It costs but ten cents to fish, but what the hook will bring forth, there is no telling, but in any event it will provide some fun. Miss K. McDowell and Miss McKinnon are the fishwardens.

Then last but far from least of the booths comes the toys and dolls department, over which Mrs. F. B. Williams and Miss K. Burnes hold sway. To the children no doubt the articles offered for sale prove the chief attraction but to others the novel and effective decorations will appeal. Mayflowers were exclusively used, making as attractive a little bower as could be imagined.

But this is not all the ladies have to offer. There are raffles innumerable, the prizes running from beautiful cushions to, as the ladies say, "the sweetest little collie pup that ever was," a Punch and Judy show, in charge of Mr. C. A. Lombard and the popularity contest between Miss Conlin and Miss O'Sullivan and Chief Deasy and Chief Sheppard.

Last evening dinner was served at 7 but for the rest of the week it will be high tea from 6 to 8 and lunch from noon until two o'clock. Miss Skinner and Miss McDowell preside over the destinies of the culinary department and have an able staff of assistants.

The fair was formally opened last evening by the Lieutenant-Governor and Mrs. McInnes, in the presence of a large number of visitors. The formal opening was followed by a promenade concert by the Rochon family orchestra.

The sale will be re-opened at noon today and in the evening the Mayor and aldermen will be tendered a reception, when a second promenade concert will be given.

THE TEES CARRIES MAIL.

The C. P. N. Vessels Will, It Is Said, Handle Alaskan Mails.

The Tees, which sailed last evening for Alaskan points, carried her first regular mail, consisting of 11 sacks. Heretofore the Cottage City or some other Pacific Coast vessel has always carried the Canadian mails. In the future, however, there is to be no longer any long delays in despatching it, for the C. P. N. Company as well as the Pacific Coast Steamship Company have been arranged with to carry it.

Mrs. Figg—Why can't you wash your face once in a while without my having to tell you every time?

Tommy—I'm afraid you'd think I'd been in swimming.—Stray Stories.

THE SLOCAN SHUT-DOWN.

Miners Unanimous in Declining Shorter Pay for the Shorter Hours.

From the Sandon Paystreak.

Outside of the Slocan Star, which is still working under the old order, not a drill has been struck in the Slocan camp since the 31st of May.

With a unanimity that could leave no doubt as to their intentions or the completeness of their organization, every miner in the camp drew his check for the month and in the most matter-of-fact manner imaginable they rolled up their blankets and wended their way down the hills.

No questions were asked, and no explanations given on either side. No employment was offered and none solicited. The difference between employer and employee was thoroughly understood. Each claim to be in the right, and both expect to win.

To-day over 400 men are in town and are prepared to stay untill they receive the wage they ask. No effort is being made to re-employ men on the $3 scale, as such an attempt would be merely a waste of time.

The Star is still working ten-hour shifts and will continue to do so up to the 12th. The management absolutely refuse to state what their intentions are, but it is more than probable that the Star will pay $3.50 for the eight-hour shift. Ninety men are now on the pay-roll, and the force is being steadily increased.

There is a street rumor that some of the mine owners are trying to employ men in the Iron and copper districts of Michigan.

The local union is taking the usual steps to warn the outsiders all over America to keep away from the Slocan until the trouble is over.

Between 200 and 250 men have left the camp since Sunday last and doubtless many more will follow.

The conduct of the men while in town is quiet and orderly. There is boisterous demonstrative about them. All are sober and non-committal. Aside from the fact that the streets are slightly crowded, there is nothing to indicate that a strike is on, but by their actions more than their words the men seem to indicate that the grass will grow knee-deep in the streets before they will work at a wage which they believe to be less than fair.

The mine owners express themselves as satisfied with the outlook. In most of the properties it would be impossible to work for a month or so yet anyway, as the water makes mining a practical impossibility. The Last Chance, Payne and Whitewater are so wet that very little stoping could be done, but to some of the properties it is a great disappointment to close down.

The forces employed previous to the shut down were about as follows: Payne, 135; Whitewater, 125; Last Chance, 70; Queen Bess, 60; Noble Five, 35; Idaho, 30; Jackson, 20; Ruth, 18; Ivanhoe, 16; Wonderful, 16; Rambler, 12; Dardanelles, 10; Antoine, 10; Lucky Jim, 10; Washington, 8; R. E. Lee, 8; Sovereign, 8. Besides these there are many prospects not here enumerated, as their working forces are difficult to ascertain. The total of the forces formerly employed on Four-Mile is about 150.

PROVINCIAL RIFLE MEETING.

Long Range Shooting to Be a Feature This Year—Ottawa Team in the Balance.

The council of the British Columbia Rifle Association held a meeting last night in the commanding officer's room at the drill hall. The president, Hon. T. R. McInnes, presided, and the others present were Lieut.-Col. Peters, Lieut.-Col. Gregory, Lieutenants Tite and Stuart, of Vancouver, Mr. Taylor, and the honorary secretary, Capt. Fletcher.

Messrs. Tite and Stuart, from the committee appointed for that purpose, presented a draft of the programme for the prize meeting which it had been proposed to hold at Nanaimo at the usual time. The Nanaimo rifle Association offer to provide five long range targets, which will be the only targets in the province available for use at distances beyond 600 yards. Following the lines of the changes made by the D. R. A. this year in consequence of the introduction of the Lee-Enfield rifle and the suggestion of General Hutton that long range shooting be made a feature, the committee have substituted 800 and 900 yards for some of the shorter ranges in last year's programme, which otherwise has been pretty closely followed. It is proposed to set apart the morning of the first day for practice at 800 yards, so as to give the militiamen a chance to sight their rifles. Action on the draft was deferred until an adjourned meeting to be held in Vancouver on the 15th inst., when also the date of the meeting will, if possible be finally determined.

With reference to a letter sent from the militia department at Ottawa last August, stipulating as conditions upon which the Dominion government grant would be issued in future that the council should consist exclusively of officers of the militia, and that the association should cease to pay for the transportation of the team to represent the province at Ottawa, Col. Peters reported having received word that provided a majority of the council were officers the department had no objection to other places being held by militiamen not officers or by private citizens, on condition however, that the executive officers of the association should be officers of the militia. A letter on the subject is now on the way from Ottawa, and will come before the adjourned meeting. It transpires that the department has now in preparation a rule to be applied to all provincial rifle associations.

The department has been made aware of the fact that the Ottawa team expenses do not come out of the Dominion grant, but have always been provided for from other sources—the provincial grant, for instance, for several years past—and in consequence it is expected that the order referred to will be amended in that respect also. Mr. W. W. B. McInnes, M. P., who is a member of the council, has had an interview with the minister on the subject.

THE VOICE OF THE ALL FATHER

When aspens turn their silver cheeks
To woo the zepher's kiss,
That voice is heard in woodlands green
With ecstasy of bliss.

When thunder hurls its fiery bolt,
And wild waves lash the beach,
That voice to all who wander near
In awfulness doth reach.

Where brooklets wander through the woods,
And sparkle in the light,
That voice is tun'd by feathered throats,
Through morn and noon and night.

No language can its words pronounce;
But sunlit leaves can show
The glory of its lovliness,
By their soft, golden glow.

It's written on the fleecy clouds,
And azure space doth lead,
By glist'ning stars and cycling worlds,
Its wond'rous words to read.

It echoes through all people's creeds,
Heeds not what dognas teach;
But to the heart of hearts of men
Its words in silence reach.

—Senaib.

For Atlin Government.

Officer Appointed to Attend to Registration and Court Business.

Other Official Notices From the Current Issue of the Gazette.

Considerable space in the current issue of the provincial Gazette is devoted to the affairs of the Atlin and Lake Bennett mining divisions. Formal notice is given of the appointment of Mr. Justice Irving, who left this morning for the North, "for the purpose of settling disputes and difficulties with regard to matters arising out of the Mineral act and Placer Mining act in connection with the Lake Bennett and Lake Atlin mining divisions, with full power and authority under said acts to inquire into, settle and dispose of in a summary way all matters which may be brought before him by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, or by the government agent for the said district." The fees to be paid in connection with the proceedings of the commission are:

Upon filing petition (to cover all charges in connection with same), $25.

For any person other than the petitioner, who, as notified by the commission, and who is desirous of being heard in connection with any petition (to cover all charges in connection with same), $25.

The territory comprised in the Atlin Lake and Bennett Lake mining divisions has been constituted a district for the purposes of Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration act; and a registry of the Supreme court is to be established on June 15. Mr. E. M. N. Woods, barrister, of New Westminster, has been appointed stipendiary magistrate for the district; district registrar under the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration act, and registrar of the Supreme and County courts. Mr. Woods also leaves for the North to-day. Capt. John Rant, S. M., of Lake Bennett, has been appointed a registrar for the purposes of the Marriage act.

Notice is given by the minister of mines that an extension of time during which all placer mining claims legally held in Atlin or Bennett Lake mining divisions are declared laid over, has been granted to August 1.

Still another notice of interest to Atlinites respects the Atlin Waterworks Co., recently incorporated. The company propose to convey water from Surprise lake by a 14-inch pipe, 29,000 feet, to a wooden cistern situated 50 feet above Discovery townsite, thence westerly 15,000 feet by a 12-inch pipe to storage reservoirs, with a capacity of 3,500,000 cubic feet of water, and from said storage southeast about 12,000 feet to distributing reservoirs with a capacity of 100,000 cubic feet of water, and situated 183 feet above the highest point of Atlin townsite, where it is to be distributed by branch mains.

THE WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS.

Besides the Atlin officials, notice is given of the following appointments:

Edward C. Hart M. D., of Victoria, to be a coroner for the province of British Columbia.

Alex. Morin, M. D., of Nelson, to be a coroner for the province.

William Henry Vickers, of Atlin, to be a J. P. for the counties of Victoria, Vancouver, Westminster, Yale, Cariboo and Kootenay.

Isaac Heard, of Sandsdowne, to be a license commissioner for the Northeast Yale district, vice C. S. Smith.

F. Fraser, of Revelstoke, mining recorder, to be a registrar of the county court of Kootenay, holden at Revelstoke, vice H. N. Coursier.

Gordon E. Corbould, of New Westminster, police magistrate, to be a J. P. for the county of Nanaimo.

The names of Charles S. Rashdell, J. P., New Denver, and Peter E. Wilson, license commissioner, of Nelson, and W. S. Deacon, Rossland, J. P., are as now described and not as in the Gazette of May 23.

The resignation of J. F. Gibson, J. P., of Lillooet, has been accepted.

THE PRICE REDUCED.

Notice is given by the Dominion government of the price of land in the railway belt. The notice in effect is as follows:

"His Excellency the Governor-General is pleased to order that the price of all lands of the Dominion, which may be for sale from time to time within the railway belt of British Columbia containing mineral, within the meaning of the Mineral act of British Columbia, and not being Indian reserves or settlements, or portion thereof, and not being under lease from the Dominion government, and which under order-in-council of February 11, 1890, are open to purchase by the provincial government at $5 an acre, shall, when such lands are of no value for agricultural purposes or for the timber growing thereon, be reduced to $1 an acre, if the written application to be furnished by the order-in-council is accompanied by a solemn declaration, made by a Dominion or Provincial land surveyor, in which it is stated: (1) That he has examined the lands which are the subject of the application; and (2) That such lands are of no value for agricultural purposes or for the timber growing thereon."

COURT HOUSE CHANGES.

Sealed tenders will be received by the chief commissioner of lands and works up to noon of Wednesday, 21st instant, for certain alterations and works to the interior of the Law Courts, Victoria. Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted bank check or certificate of deposit for the sum of $2,000, made payable to the deputy commissioner of lands and works, as security for the due fulfilment of the contract. This check will be forfeited if the successful tenderer fails to enter into contract when called upon to do so, or if he fails to complete the work contracted for. The checks of unsuccessful tenderers will be returned when the contract has been signed. Drawings, specifications and conditions of contract can be seen at the lands and works department. Tenders will not be considered unless made out on the forms supplied and signed with the actual signature of the tenderers. The department is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender.

NEW COMPANIES.

The companies incorporated during the week are: Gold Drop Mining Company, Limited, of Kootenay district, capital $1,000,000; Certainty Gold & Mining Company, Limited, of Golden, capital $1,500,000; White Pass & Yukon Express Company, Limited, of Victoria, capital $100,000.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The partnership lately existing between A. J. Thomas, J. A. Grant and C. G. Thomas, of Victoria, under the firm name of Thomas Bros. & Grant, has been dissolved as from the 31st day of May.

The Gordon Mining Co., of Spokane, capital $50,000, local office Greenwood, W. S. Keith, attorney, is licensed as an extra-provincial company.

The annual general meeting of the Pathfinder Mining, Reduction & Investment Company, Limited, will be held at Grand Forks on June 26 at 2 p. m., for the election of directors.

New definitions are given by the minister of mines of the boundaries of the Ainsworth and Goat River mining divisions.

David F. Douglas, real estate agent, of Vancouver, has assigned to Walter S. Lozier. A meeting of his creditors is called for June 29.

William I. Redden, of Rossland, has been appointed attorney for the Bute Gold-Copper Mining Company, in place of A. B. Irwin, of Rossland.

THE PELICAN'S COMPANY.

Reasons for the Hope that They Still Survive on the Aleutians.

From the Tacoma Ledger.

There has been a doubt in the minds of most Tacoma seafaring men as to the authenticity of the message purported to be found by Captain Thunell, for the reason that it was not dated, and was sparing in details, while evidently not written in a hurry. The receipt in Tacoma yesterday of a San Francisco paper containing a facsimile of the message, removed all doubt of the officials of the steamship company. There are a dozen different signatures of Patterson in the office and they compare exactly with that on the note. It is written on a memorandum sheet of the company with its name and regular printed head. Precisely the same blanks are used here in the office.

The bearings given, latitude 50 north, longitude 175 west, show the ship was abandoned but a few miles out of the regular course from Tacoma to Japan and about 150 miles from Amchika island, one of the largest Aleutians in that neighborhood. One or two other islands are almost as near.

These islands are said by some to be inhabited by Aleuts, but to have infrequent communication with the world. Captain Gatter, the company's pilot, has visited the region and states they are nearly all tenanted. On this point, however, there seems some doubt, for it was stated at the office yesterday that in good weather the company's ships frequently keep inshore along the Aleutians in this neighborhood, but have never seen evidence of life.

If any of the ship's company should have reached these islands in safety, they might be there yet. Even if there are no natives, stranger things have happened than for men to subsist on sea birds and fish for a year and a half. If there are natives there, or if they should have been picked up by roving parties from other islands, it is not probable they would have been killed by them.

No one seems to know whether there is any systematic visiting of these islands by traders. On Attou island, the westernmost of the archipelago, there is a store station at which vessels of the revenue fleet touch once a year. It was at one time a base of supplies for Russia smugglers, who sent in tea for distribution among the inhabitants of the Aleutian islands and northern Alaska without paying duty.

The point where the Pelican foundered and the nearest islands are both fully 1,700 miles from Kodiak, where the bottle was picked up. The fact that the bottle was carried northeast is accounted for by the splitting of the Japan current, which for some mysterious reason is divided at the entrance of the Gulf of Alaska, the main stream flowing south along the Pacific coast and another following the shore line around the gulf.

The local officers of Dodwell & Co. do not hazard any theory or say whether they believe anyone was saved, but they think a search should be made. Mrs. Patterson and Mrs. Gove, wives of the captain and first officer of the Pelican, both believe their husbands are alive. Besides the assuring features of the case, Mrs. Gove has an intuition which has never been shaken, that her husband is not lost.

DISTRICT LICENSES.

What a Licensee Has to Go Through to Have His License Renewed.

Attorney-General Martin's new liquor license act for the districts is about to be put to a test, and at the same time is testing the patience of those who come within its operation, for there is one thing certain about it, and that is that it makes a lot of work for those concerned. In the first place the act created 25 license districts in the province, for each of which there is a board of licensing commissioners and a chief license inspector.

The holders of licenses must yearly or half yearly, before May 15 or November 15, as they wish, send an application, accompanied by a fee of $10, to the finance minister. He issues two receipts, one of which is sent to the applicant and the other to the chief license inspector for the district in which the premises are situated. The inspector examines the premises and prepares a report, to be submitted to the commissioners at their meeting on June 15 or December 15. Before this meeting the applicant is called upon to make another contribution to the provincial exchequer of either $100 or $200. How the applicant is to decide which amount he will have to pay for his yearly license is something that will puzzle most people. The act provides that in localities where there are more than 50 residents the license shall be $200, and where there are less than 50, $100. What radius is meant by "locality" the act does not state, so here is stumbling block No. 1 for the commissioners.

The licensee is also required to produce an affidavit as to his age, character and length of residence in the province, and a similar affidavit from some neighbor. He must also give a bond of $500, with two sureties of $250 each, as a guarantee that he will conform to the rules and regulations made and provided.

In addition to all these requirements, an applicant for a new license is required to present a petition signed by two-thirds of the householders and their wives within a radius of five miles of the premises, not however including any part of a municipality or encroaching upon the vicinity of other licensed premises.

All licenses are to date from July 1 or January 1.

Under the old act the license fee was $60, except in extraordinary cases, such as saloons and hotels in outlying districts of the province, when the license sometimes reached $200.

Looks Bad For the City.

Counsel for Respondent Not Heard in One Bridge Case.

Mr. Taylor Opens the Argument in Lang vs. the City.

Two of the actions brought against the city for damages arising out of the Point Ellice bridge accident in May, 1896, were before the Privy Council in London yesterday, and from a special cable received by the Colonist it looks very much as though one of the cases is going against the city. The two cases which went to the Privy Council were Patterson vs. Victoria and Lang vs. Victoria. In both cases the judgments of the British Columbia courts were against the city.

The former was heard first, and of it the Colonist special says: "Haldane and Crawford finished the arguments for the appellants. Blake was not called upon." This would seem to indicate that the Privy Council did not consider it necessary to hear Mr. Blake, the counsel for the respondent, Mrs. Patterson. The action was brought by Mrs. Patterson for the loss of her husband, and she was awarded $13,500 by Mr. Justice McColl, and the judgment was upheld by the Full court.

The Lang case was opened yesterday afternoon by Mr. W. J. Taylor, the city barrister. This case is considered more favorable to the city, although the British Columbia courts awarded Mrs. Lang $20,000 for the loss of her husband.

A stay of proceedings was granted in the other cases, pending the decision of the Privy Council in the two mentioned.

INEXPLICABLE SEA DISASTERS.

Instances Where Great Ships Disappear, Leaving no Trace.

It seems passing strange, considering the enormous amount of ocean traffic carried on nowadays, that it should be possible for a vessel to put out to sea in fit condition, only to vanish from the face of the waters and leave no indication of their fate, says the London Mail. True, there are hundreds of unidentified derelicts floating about the seas, and some of them may be the vessels which have so mysteriously disappeared. It is appalling to think of such mysteries as the fates of these vessels, which, setting sail with hundreds of passengers, to whom the voyage perhaps promises happiness, wealth and all the joys of life, never reach their destination and are never again heard of.

Take the case of the Burvie Castle as a striking example. She vanished not in mid-ocean, but between the ports of London and Plymouth. Into the latter port she should have put on her way to Australia. But she never reached Plymouth, and not a living soul knows how or where she vanished. It is most extraordinary that she should have been lost so near to the land without so much as a spar being washed ashore to tell of her fearful fate.

Equally mysterious is the case of the Atalanta. This famous training vessel was stationed off Bermuda with more than 250 souls aboard. Early in 1880 she set sail for a short cruise and from that day to this she has never been heard of.

A very considerable percentage of the vessels which disappeared forever in this mysterious manner were running between England and America at the time. It might be thought that the terrific seas of the vast Atlantic were responsible, but it has been proved that many vessels were lost when the ocean was almost at dead calm.

A large sailing ship left New Orleans some years ago for London. Thrice she was spoken and reported all well, and she was facing exquisite weather and a smooth sea at the third time. Yet it is known she was lost with all hands within 24 hours, and to this day no trace of her has been discovered.

In the early part of 1892 a five-masted bark, the Maria, a newly-constructed vessel, and at that time the third largest in the mercantile marine, set sail, in beautiful weather, from one of the biggest ports in Cochin-China for Hamburg, with every promise of a fair voyage. But she never reached Germany. She vanished shortly after being spoken off the west coast of Africa, and nothing has been found since to indicate the fate that befell her.

Another vessel running between England and America which met an end of a kind none but those who shared it ever knew, was the first-class steamship President. She sailed from New York for a journey to Liverpool, in the spring of 1841, having on board a full crew of experienced hands and officers and a distinguished company of passengers. She left New York in fine weather, in splendid condition, and with no reason for fearing anything she was likely to meet. But she was never spoken and never heard of again, and, although 57 years have passed, no one yet knows to what dire calamity her end was due.

FAME'S PATHWAY.

A colossal bronze statue of President Kruger is about to be erected in Pretoria, capital of the Transvaal. It will be surmounted by a monument 60 feet high.

David Rankin, the Missouri millionaire farmer, says he began life with a Colt revolver and a dollar bill. "For me," he adds, "there has always been an eleventh commandment, 'Thou shalt not sell corn.'"

Ex-Secretary of the Interior Francis, who is being boomed as the next governor of Missouri, has already served one term as chief executive of that state. He is still a young looking man, of medium height, portly figure, large, blonde mustache, light hair and blue eyes.

Admiral Sir Henry Keppel is about to retire after having served in the British navy for 78 years. He is over 90 years old, has been on active duty longer than any other man in the service, and, barring Lord Charles Beresford, is the most popular man in the navy, which he joined in February, 1822.

Miss Lillie J. Martin, who has just been appointed professor of psychology in Leland Stanford University, studied for four years with Professor Muller in Germany, and was the first woman ever admitted to that scientist's laboratory. The professor thought so much of her ability that he requested her aid in preparing one of his books.