

## LAST NIGHT'S MEETING.

The meeting in the theatre last evening was in some respects one of the most remarkable that has ever been held in Victoria. The date of the election is not known. It may be postponed for months to suit the purposes of the government and to enable it to induce a candidate to take the field. Therefore there is as yet little political excitement or enthusiasm. There is no lack of interest, however, and the people are in a fit mood to appreciate such facts and weigh such arguments as were placed before them last night. The attendance was in every respect worthy of the importance of the theme and of the ability of the speaker. The house was packed and the audience listened to the speeches with patience to the end. The address of Mr. Bodwell was an appeal to reasonable women and men. It proved that there is no detail of provincial affairs with which the candidate is not familiar. His comprehension of the extent and nature of the resources of the province must have been a revelation to the greater part of his audience. His ideas of the manner in which our latent wealth can be brought forth and utilized for the benefit of the present generation are those of a practical man of affairs. The simplicity of the language; the clear-cut, well-defined sentences, with every inflection in the right place and every punctuation mark where it ought to be to make clear the meaning and intention of the speaker, must have been thoroughly appreciated by the great concourse of people who have probably become accustomed to a lack of precision in the public utterances of many of our leading men.

Mr. Bodwell announced his determination to turn over a new leaf in the book of life of British Columbia. For him there is to be no looking backward. As a public man he has no past and he intends to make no use of that of others save for the legitimate purpose of avoiding their errors. In this attitude there is no reflection upon those who must necessarily justify to the electors their past acts.

The candidate makes his first obeisance to the people upon a broad platform. His aim is to make the mineral, agricultural and timber resources, the wealth of the province of whatever kind, available for the benefit of the present generation. He thinks that can be done without adding in the slightest degree to the present burdens of the taxpayers. The first step, necessary he conceives to the stability of government, without this we are impotent, as the history of the last couple of years demonstrates. The present government has forfeited public confidence and must go. How all these things are to be accomplished is fully set forth in the speech, which will appear in full in the Times to-morrow.

Mr. Bodwell by the temperateness of his language and the cogency of his reasoning gained many votes last night. The number of those who think that his services to the province on the floor of the House would be invaluable has been appreciably increased. There can be no doubt that he will be elected, at present apparently by acclamation, in case the government shall prevail upon some one to take the field in opposition to him, undoubtedly by a large majority.

## THE BRIDGE CONTROVERSY.

It is time for the Board of Aldermen to pause and consider its ways. It is simply smiting the air, and not in a very dignified way either. The bridge business was not as fully investigated as it might have been in the first place; the matter was muddled and some blunders were made over the tenders in the second. Better to wipe the whole thing off the slate and begin over again, after clearing the way and providing against any possible misunderstanding in the future. What has passed may be set down to jealousy on behalf of the interests and good name of the city. A prolongation of the controversy may produce the belief that personal ill-feeling and rivalry have much to do with the undignified conduct.

There are all sorts of rumors afloat and all kinds of opinions are being expressed about bridges, wooden, steel and stone. Some say a bridge such as that proposed by the Puget Sound company could easily be put up for from fifty to sixty thousand dollars. One engineer holds that a stone structure, of a highly ornamental design as compared with a spider web of steel, could be placed across the arm for a sum well within the appropriation. All the labor and material for such a work could be found at home, which is an advantage of considerable magnitude, aside from the saving which would be effected in maintenance as compared with a bridge which would require constant attention from gainters, etc. It is also contended that a stone bridge would be much more durable. All these are matters worthy of attention and consideration. There are also manifest subjects upon which only professional men can speak with authority.

## MANITOBA'S LIQUOR ACT.

The Manitoba Prohibition Act is not a prohibitive measure in the real sense of the term. It is designed to prohibit traffic in strong drink within the borders of the province. As was pointed out in the Times at the time the judgment of the Privy Council was given, the provinces have since the time Sir John Macdonald undertook to pass a Dominion

license act been conceded to have control over the sale of liquor within the territories over which they have jurisdiction. They may prohibit transactions in intoxicating drink within the limits of the province, but they cannot permit it from being manufactured for sale outside the province, nor can they forbid a purchaser who has acquired his "wet goods" beyond the provincial borders to bring it in and consuming it at his leisure. The government has reached the limits of its powers when it says he must not sell it to his neighbors. Such a measure as that will hardly be satisfactory to prohibitionists, and it is questionable whether it would prove beneficial to the community. Following is the portion of the judgment of the Privy Council bearing upon this important point:

"The Liquor Act proceeded upon a recital that it is expedient to suppress the liquor traffic in Manitoba by prohibiting provincial transactions in liquor, or in a foreign country, and the Legislature set out at the commencement of the act. Towards the end of the act there occurred this section: 'And while this act is intended to prohibit and shall prohibit transactions in liquor which take place wholly within the province of Manitoba, except under a license, or as otherwise specially provided by this act, and restrict the consumption of liquor within the limits of the province of Manitoba, it shall not affect bona fide transactions in liquor between a person in the province of Manitoba and a person in another province, or in a foreign country, and the provisions of this act shall be construed accordingly.'

"Now that provision was as much part of the act as any other section contained in it. It must have its full effect in exempting from the operation of the act all bona fide transactions in liquor which come within its terms."

## WHY THIS CHANGE?

We cannot see how a government so imbued with patriotism can have any dealings with Mackenzie & Mann, who are notoriously in alliance with Jim Hill, who is well known to be scheming to skin British Columbia of all that is of value within her borders and carry it to the southern side of the line. That is what Jim is doing now with the lines we have been foolish enough to let him build in this province. To be sure, the people who are being skinned seem to consider it a rather pleasant process, and they thrive in spite of the drain upon their vital forces. Of course it is only the Colonist that says it is the purpose of Mr. Hill to drain the province of its resources. The principal wealth of the section referred to is minerals. The ore must be reduced to a very high grade and must be treated economically as possible to make its extraction possible. There is no coal on the southern side of the line; there is plenty on the northern side. The history of the smelting industry in British Columbia proves that it can be most profitably carried on in the neighborhood of a plentiful supply of fuel. Therefore it is more reasonable to suppose that the ore will be brought in from the United States to be smelted than that ours will be carried away for such a purpose. Perhaps the Premier has observed these things and such observation accounts for his change of attitude towards the allies of Jim Hill.

## CHAMBERLAIN AND THE GERMANS.

A member of the Reichstag proposes to discuss Mr. Chamberlain on the first opportunity presenting itself. The government of Germany is not anxious to hear this man, and it will deprive him of the chance he is looking for if it can manage it. The government knows the facts of the case; the man is probably not so well informed or his prejudices are stronger than his common sense. The Germans have freely criticised the manner in which the war in South Africa has been conducted by the British. The Colonial Secretary has appealed to history to prove that no war was ever prosecuted with so great leniency to the actual combatants nor with such humanity to those dependent upon them as the conflict which now appears to be drawing to a close through a slow process of attrition. All unbiased people are in accord with the views of Mr. Chamberlain, but there are men who for various reasons are not friendly to the British, and to reason with them and prove them in the wrong only makes them more inflexible in their opposition. We are all aware in a general way that if the British had meted out to the Boers the treatment accorded the French by the Germans in 1870 the war would have been brought to an end in six months or less. There was no protest entered against the tactics of the Germans for several reasons. Then the world was not as far advanced in many respects as it is now. The standards did not fly so high. The ethical and humanitarian views were on a different plane. The Germans went in with the determination to win and to conquer their enemies in the shortest possible space of time. They regarded no rules or regulations that had been set up governing men's relations with one another. They simply ground and crushed their opponents by power and might. Individual suffering was absolutely disregarded, and the one great object kept steadily in view. The press was not as active an agent in the affairs of the world then as now. If some of the facts had been brought out in the newspapers of that day, if the world had

been then as it is to-day, if the nations had been as they are to-day, we are really afraid there would have been an uproar.

A correspondent of the London Times shows in detail some of the measures which Germany took to hasten the close of the war; not the actions of soldiers or the heat of conflict, but measures carefully considered, instructions officially issued to the German army.

At Rouen, for example, the general of the 8th Army Corps proclaimed the punishment of death for any native who should guide French troops or misguide Germans; for any man who should rob, wound or kill a German soldier from a spirit of revenge or avarice; and for any man who should destroy roads, bridges, canals, telegraphs, or railways. These were salutary, and no doubt necessary, provisions, but the British have certainly not approached any such yet.

The commander-in-chief of the Second German Army proclaimed death without trial for any Frenchman not a regular soldier or a National Guard, whether he was a "franc-tireur" or not. While this act was intended to prohibit and shall prohibit transactions in liquor which take place wholly within the province of Manitoba, except under a license, or as otherwise specially provided by this act, and restrict the consumption of liquor within the limits of the province of Manitoba, it shall not affect bona fide transactions in liquor between a person in the province of Manitoba and a person in another province, or in a foreign country, and the provisions of this act shall be construed accordingly.

Finally, the King of Prussia, Bismarck and the War Minister issued an order in December, 1870, that any man in Alsace and Lorraine who rejoined the enemy should be banished for ten years and suffer the confiscation of the whole of his property, present and future, and that absence from his house for eight days should be considered as rejoining the enemy.

## AN IMPERIAL CONFERENCE.

The action of Sir Wilfrid Laurier in suggesting a colonial conference in Egypt Britain during the season of the coronation ceremonies may have far-reaching results. It may culminate in an Imperial gathering and its deliberations may possibly be extended to include questions of Imperial import. The action of the Parliament of the New Australian Commonwealth in adopting a tariff that must have a disturbing effect upon the trade relations of the colony with Great Britain and Canada has caused some disappointment. The obvious answer by the Australian Premier to any remonstrances that may be urged by the press of Great Britain will be that the Mother Country adheres strictly to lines of policy which she considers suited to her conditions, and therefore no fault can be found with her outer possessions for following a similar course. When Imperial statements announce that they are ready to review the economic situation in the light of present-day experience, no doubt colonial will be found ready to participate in the discussion. It is understood that the Australians are prepared now to consider any proposals that may be advanced for more intimate relations between the great British family of nations. That will be the chief subject for consideration at the family gathering for consideration of Canada, with his usual foresight, has been instrumental in arranging. The discussion which will ensue will show what progress has been made upon the subject that is puzzling all our Imperialists, the consolidation of the Empire.

## THE COMING POLICY.

Hon. J. D. Prentice, Minister of Finance, informed a reporter of the Vancouver World that "a railway policy would be put before the people shortly on which the government will be endorsed by the people." That information is reassuring, even though it be bruited forth through the medium of a rather peculiar sentence. It shows that the government now feels that it must take into consideration the sentiments of the people. It also indicates it is realized that the original railway policy which was pronounced perfect, fixed and unalterable by the Premier, and was approved by his second in command on the opposite side of the House, although it has achieved exactly what was intended by its authors, is obnoxious to the country as a whole, and must be modified if the government hopes to retain its present supporters and add a sufficient number unto them to obtain a majority in the House. All this must be a source of satisfaction to the people generally and a joy to the heart of the agitators who have been chiefly instrumental in bringing it about. If it had not been for the break in its ranks, the government would probably have drifted through its term of four years in such a state of transition as characterized the early stage of its career. Having been turned from its original course, a desperate plunge in the opposite direction may now be expected. Mr. Martin is an avowed ministerialist. He is the active spirit of the governing body and creates the mental atmosphere in which it "lives and moves and has its being." But for him it would have been dissolved into its "original elements" long ago and distributed in the various parts from which it was gathered. It is understood that Mr. Eberts is still a member of the administration. His apparent obscurity is not due to lack of appreciation of his abilities or his energy

on the part of his colleagues. He is acting as director-general of the various departments, which is a very convenient arrangement inasmuch as it relieves him of many embarrassments, such as meeting members who were formerly intimate political friends. In the case of unexpected developments such, say, as the resignation of a Premier, it also leaves the Attorney-General free to act as he sees best in his own interests. It does not pay for a versatile public man in British Columbia to burn his bridges behind him and leave no clear road for a retreat, retirement, or possible alliance with former opposition forces. The finesse, foresight, and sagacity of the Attorney-General are worthy of emulation by some of our rising statesmen. The course is therefore clear for those who act in an advisory capacity to Mr. Dannevir. The Premier would probably have given up the fight long ago but for the promptings of those who are acting nominally on his behalf. He has neither taste nor qualifications for public life. But he has a spirit that is not easily subdued, and when it is aroused it means that he will fight to the last ditch. The last ditch has been reached. An appeal will shortly be made which it is expected will electrify the country. As the Colonist says, in effect, it will kill all opposition to the government. Mr. Bodwell must either retire or lose his deposit. Mr. Wells will soon be here with the outlines of the momentous policy in his pockets. Mr. Geo. McL. Brown is already here; Messrs. Mackenzie & Mann will arrive shortly; the programme may soon be arranged, after which the electrifying process will begin.

The King has approved of and accepted the following addition to the National Anthem in honor of Queen Alexandra:

In perfect peace serene,  
Keep Thou our gracious Queen,  
With her abode,  
May Heaven's own sunshine fair  
Rest on her everywhere;  
Hear Thou Thy people's prayer—  
God save the Queen."

Toronto Globe: The London Chronicle has a birthday department, in which it records the natal day of some prominent man, and follows the record with a number of quotations appropos of the facts of his career. On the 26th of last month the subject was Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and a number of rather striking lines had been collected for the occasion. They were as follows:

"A Canadian  
I project the history of the future. . . .  
I strike up for a new world—Walt Whitman."

"And now, step by step, there moved into the wilderness the restless stream of Anglo-Saxon settlement, slowly, for the valleys and plains were wide, and the old world was intent upon using its surplus population in international strife—Sir William Butler."

"Come, I will make the continent indissoluble—Whitman."

"And nations moving into manhood new, Through wisdom and authentic civil change. . . .  
"Our hemisphere cannot claim the honor of having brought him forth; but still he belongs to us—Caroline Wiseman."

"I never heard a more eloquent man—Haydon."

"A certain meditativeness of spirit—Alexander Smith."

"Not won from Asia's fetiches, Nor red from Europe's old dynastic slaughter-house, But come from Nature's long and harmless throes peacefully builded thence, These virgin lands. . . .—Whitman."

A vigorous agitation is being carried on in the East for the transfer of the Intercolonial railway to the C. P. R. Such a suggestion was made once before, but it was not particularly well received. The government road seems to be operated at a disadvantage yet, notwithstanding the fact that it has been extended to Montreal by the present government in order to give it better connections. Wherever the fault may lie, it seems to be impossible to make the Intercolonial pay expenses. If all the roads were in the hands of the government the aspect of affairs might be changed. In these days of standard gauges and through traffic isolated lines labor under a serious disadvantage.

A quart of oysters contain, on the average, about the same quantity of nutritive substance as a quart of milk or a pound of very lean beef.

One of the greatest boons a young girl ever has is a sensible, old-fashioned mother. —Ladies' Home Journal.

## NURSING MOTHERS

A mother's poor health is bad enough for the mother but worse still for the nursing baby.

Mothers find Scott's Emulsion a nourishing and strengthening food. If the breast milk is scanty or thin Scott's Emulsion will make it rich and more abundant.

When mothers take Scott's Emulsion the babies share in the benefits. Thin babies grow fat. Weak babies get strong.

We'll send you a little to try, if you like. SCOTT & BOWNE, Chemists, Toronto.

## PLANS WILL BE AT THE MEETING

## PERMISSION GRANTED BY THE COLLECTOR

Correspondence Between Mayor and Collector Milne—President of Seattle Company Arrives From Sound.

The duty demanded by the customs on the Point Ellice bridge plans, which were yesterday seized by the appraiser, is \$463, calculated on the basis that plans are valued at two and a half per cent. of the cost of construction. On this the duty tariff of twenty per cent. is charged. As the cost of construction in this case would be \$92,600, the value of the plans would be \$2,315. Twenty per cent. of this amount makes the customs charge \$463.

If, however, the action of the mayor is sustained and the contract not awarded to the Puget Sound Bridge & Dredging Company, it is altogether probable that the ordinary rate will be charged on the actual cost of the plans themselves. The appraiser points out that inasmuch as they have been in use the same rule is applicable in their case as in that of sample goods brought here for commercial purposes.

With the seizure of the plans the situation became somewhat embarrassing. The resolution passed at Monday night's session of the council required that all plans and specifications relating to the bridge be laid before the public meeting to be held to-night.

The customs authorities, however, have no desire to act in an arbitrary manner, and the collector has given permission for the plans to be taken to the meeting, to be afterwards returned to the collector's custody. The correspondence on the subject between the mayor and Collector Milne follows:

Mayor's Office, Victoria, Dec. 10, 1901.  
A. R. Milne, Esq., C. M. G., Victoria, B. C.:  
Dear Sir:—With reference to the seizure of the plans submitted in tender for construction of a new bridge at Point Ellice, which are now in the custody of the collector of the customs, and the removal of same to the office of H. M. Customs, I beg to express my regrets that this action by the customs authorities in regard to the plans should be taken at the present juncture, for the reason that it is liable to misconstruction.

As you are doubtless aware, this question of acceptance of tender and award of contract has given rise to considerable difference of opinion in the council, the majority of whom favor awarding the contract to a Seattle firm, the plans of which are included in these plans.

By request of council I have advertised that a public meeting will be held to-morrow, Wednesday, evening, the 11th inst., at 8 o'clock. The object of this meeting, as contained in the request submitted to me, is to afford an opportunity of those desiring to do so to obtain information concerning the council's action with reference to the Point Ellice bridge matter, and the council have also requested that all plans and specifications relating to the bridge which have been considered be laid before such meeting.

In view of these facts, you will readily see that the present seizure might give rise to misconstruction of the action taken, both as regards the customs authorities and myself, should the plans be retained and not presented, as was originally intended, at the said meeting. I sincerely hope that you may see some way of having them brought to the meeting in charge of one of your officers, so that they may be inspected there and taken away again, but always retaining in the custody of the customs authorities until released by your instructions.

Yours faithfully,  
CHAS. HAYWARD, Mayor.

Victoria, B. C., 10th Dec. 1901.  
Chas. Hayward, Esq., Mayor, Victoria, B. C.:

Sir:—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of even date, with reference to the detention for payment of duty of imported building plans, to be used in the construction of the new Point Ellice bridge.

I beg to say that paragraph 131 of the tariff requires that duty must be paid on any such, and as the plans were not imported in the usual and ordinary way by express or mail, I was not aware of their extent and value until to-day. As soon as I ascertained that the plans were the working plans, and not a mere certificate of competency before a board of duly elected examiners. It is also stipulated that no certificate shall be granted unless the examiners are perfectly satisfied that the candidate is acquainted sufficiently with the English language to make his employment in any mine safe.

The deputation interviewed Hon. Mr. Eberts to ascertain what had been done in the way of drawing up the forms and regulations.

This morning Mr. Hawthorthwaite, when seen by a representative of the Times, stated that the interview had been very satisfactory. They had found that everything had been prepared and that the government was evidently doing its best to see that the act, when it comes into force, shall be carried out to the letter. Mr. Hawthorthwaite says that the forms and regulations were fairly satisfactory. A few slight changes were advised by the deputation, which Mr. Eberts promised to take into consideration.

The questions which it is intended shall be asked the candidate at the examination have not as yet been arranged. They will be compiled at a meeting of the inspectors of the mines at Nanaimo, Estensson and Alexandria. A few slight changes were advised by the deputation, which Mr. Eberts promised to take into consideration.

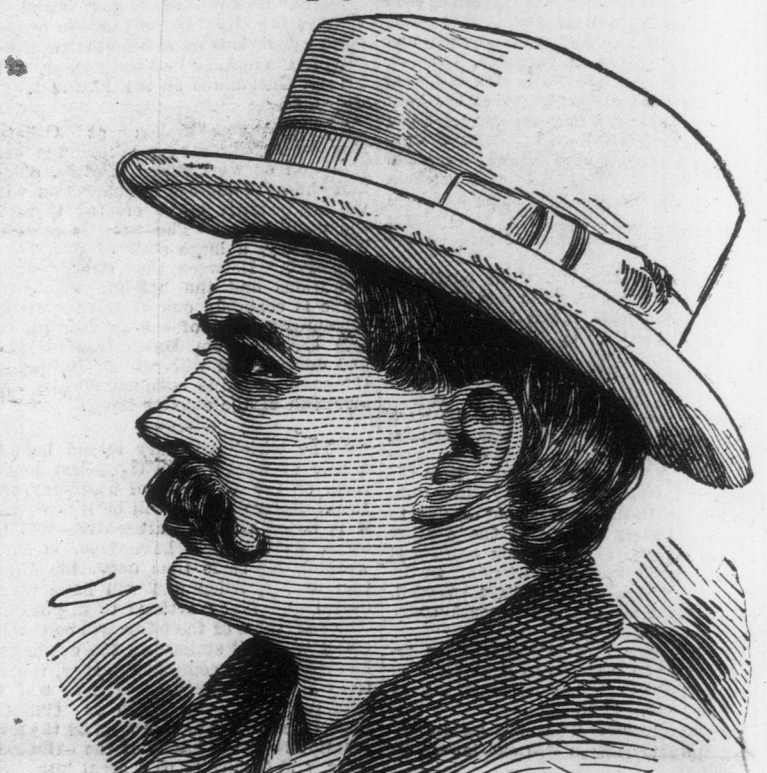
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## MARSHALL FIELD AND CO'S WAREHOUSE MANAGER Cured of Catarrh of Kidneys by Peru-na.



HON. JOHN T. SHEAHAN, OF CHICAGO.

Hon. John T. Sheahan, who has been for seventeen years manager of Marshall Field & Co.'s wholesale warehouse, and is corporal 2d Regiment Infantry, I. N. G., writes the following letter from 3753 Indiana avenue, Flat-Six, Chicago, Ill.:

Gentlemen:—Last summer I caught a cold which seemed to settle in my kidneys and affected them badly. I tried a couple of kidney remedies largely advertised, but they did not help me any. One of my foremen told me of the great help he had received in using Peru-na in a similar case, and I at once procured some.

"It was indeed a blessing to me, as I am on my feet a large part of the day, and trouble such as I had affected me seriously, but four bottles of Peru-na cured me entirely and I would not be without it for three months salary."—JOHN T. SHEAHAN.

Mr. Jacob Fleig writes from 44 Sumner avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y.: "I am now a new man at the age of seventy-five years, thanks to your wonderful remedy Peru-na."—Jacob Fleig.

Catarrhal inflammation of the mucous lining of the kidneys, also called "Bright's disease," may be either acute or chronic. The acute form produces symptoms of such prominence that the serious nature of the disease is at once apparent.

Peru-na can be obtained for \$1.00 a bottle at all first-class drug stores in Canada. "The Pills of Life," which can be secured at all up-to-date drug stores, and upon request is sent free to all, gives a short description of all catarrhal diseases. Address Dr. Hartman, Columbus, Ohio, U. S. A.

suspected, but the chronic variety may come on so gradually and insidiously that its presence is not suspected until after it has fastened itself thoroughly upon its victim.

At the appearance of the first symptom Peru-na should be taken. This remedy strikes at once at the very root of the disease.

A book on catarrh sent free by The Peru-na Medicine Co., Columbus, O.

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## INTERVIEWED ACTING MINISTER OF MINES

Hon. D. M. Eberts Received Deputation From Miners of Vancouver Island—Satisfactory Conference.

Yesterday afternoon at 3 o'clock the deputation consisting of Ralph Smith, M.P.; J. H. Hawthorthwaite, M.P.P.; and James Bateman, of Alexandria, waited on the acting minister of mines, Hon. D. M. Eberts.

Their mission to Victoria, as explained in yesterday's issue, was for the purpose of interviewing the minister in connection with the coming into force of the amendments to the Coal Mines Regulation Act, passed at the last session, which came into force on the 15th of January. They provided the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council with the power to draw up forms and regulations for the carrying out of its provisions. It is provided that a fire boss or shot lighter in any coal mine shall not be employed until he has obtained a certificate of competency before a board of duly elected examiners. It is also stipulated that no certificate shall be granted unless the examiners are perfectly satisfied that the candidate is acquainted sufficiently with the English language to make his employment in any mine safe.

The deputation interviewed Hon. Mr. Eberts to ascertain what had been done in the way of drawing up the forms and regulations.

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explained to the deputation the regulations framed. The duties and expenses of the mine examiners were explained. Mr. Eberts and Mr. Bateman for the trouble they had taken in explaining the matter on which they had come to Victoria, and at the reception they had received at the office of the acting minister of mines.

Messrs. Hawthorthwaite and Bateman left for Nanaimo on this morning's train.

It is reported that when the Imperial parliament reassembles the British government will bring forward a new proposal in regard to the concentration camps in South Africa. It is believed that this proposal will suggest the distribution of the refugees in the settled districts.

## CHILBLAINS

Are Prevented and Cured by FOOT ELM.

Some dealers offer substitutes because they make bigger profits. Shun such men. Honorable Druggists sell Foot Elm.

## A CARD.

To the Electors of Victoria City and District:

Gentlemen:—It is now more than fifteen years since I first entered public life as one of the representatives of this fair city in the local Legislature. After 18 months' service in that position you elected me to represent you at Ottawa, where I have served continuously ever since. I have never been unseated owing to the fact that some of my friends, in their zeal and energy, have appealed to them on behalf of the cause which I have endeavored to represent.

It is well known that my political opponents were just as guilty of this contrivance of the Election Act as my friends were. I had to suffer. I therefore will take this early opportunity of publicly thanking you and all of my numerous supporters in this district my most sincere and heartfelt thanks for the very generous and hearty support which you have given me on every occasion on which I have appealed to them on behalf of the great Conservative party of Canada; the party that I still most firmly believe is the best calculated to govern the country in an upright, honest and statesmanlike manner, and which is bound to be returned to power once more at no very distant date.

I also wish to thank those electors, who, for political or other reasons, have felt it their duty to oppose me, for the unvarying courtesy and freedom from personal abuse which has always characterized their actions in our political fights. I may not have satisfied everybody on all occasions by my votes and remarks, both in and out of the House, but I can conscientiously say that I have tried my utmost to do my duty to my country, and also to my constituents, and to the best of my judgment. In this I always had the assistance of one of my colleagues who I am glad to say, still represents me as a candidate for a seat in the House of Commons. I would say that although I feel deeply the confidence shown in me, I am unable to see that there is any need for me to take such a step at present. There are many able men in the local House as at present constituted who are perfectly capable of formulating and carrying out the policy which I have referred to, and I feel that I should be doing my duty to my country by being safely left. Again I beg to thank you for the confidence shown in me, and to say that I am sure that if you ever feel that I can be of further service to you in public life I shall always be found willing and ready to obey the call of duty.

Yours faithfully,  
EDW. GAWLER PRIOR.

W. F. Robertson provincial mineralogist, was present at the conference. He

explained to the deputation the regulations framed. The duties and expenses of the mine examiners were explained. Mr. Eberts and Mr. Bateman for the trouble they had taken in explaining the matter on which they had come to Victoria, and at the reception they had received at the office of the acting minister of mines.

Messrs. Hawthorthwaite and Bateman left for Nanaimo on this morning's train.

It is reported that when the Imperial parliament reassembles the British government will bring forward a new proposal in regard to the concentration camps in South Africa. It is believed that this proposal will suggest the distribution of the refugees in the settled districts.

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## BRIDGE PLANS ARE HELD BY CUSTOMS

## BIG SUM DEMANDED BY COLLECTOR MILNE

Three Thousand Dollars Collectable on Fraser River Plans—New Phase to Point Ellice Bridge Matter.

A matter of some three thousand dollars is at issue between Collector Milne, C. M. C., and the provincial government in regard to the plans called for by the latter for the new bridge to be built across the Fraser at New Westminster. In consequence the plans for the structure have been in the possession of the customs since yesterday, and will not be surrendered until the duty on them has been paid. In the meanwhile the collector is in communication with the authorities at Ottawa, and while it might be possible that a reduction in the 25 per cent. duty, chargeable on the documents, may be made, it is not probable that it will be entirely exempted.

What makes the situation somewhat embarrassing to the provincial authorities, is that in calling for these plans advance was made in the appropriation for the structure for the duty collectable on them. This now appears to be a grave oversight, and cannot well be rectified. Mr. Milne has not examined the plans in question. He estimates the duty on the minimum cost given by the deputy minister of lands and works, namely, of \$600,000. According to this official the expense of building the bridge would be from \$600,000 to \$800,000. But in taking the former amount for a basis of reckoning the collector feels as though he were well within what the actual cost will be. He is governed in the matter by the clause laid down in the regulations which provides that on "photographs, chromotypes, drawings, pictures, engravings or prints or proofs therefrom, and similar works of art, n.o.p., blue prints, building plans, maps and charts, 20 per cent. ad valorem may be collected."