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WIN. FLEWIN, Agent, March, 1905.

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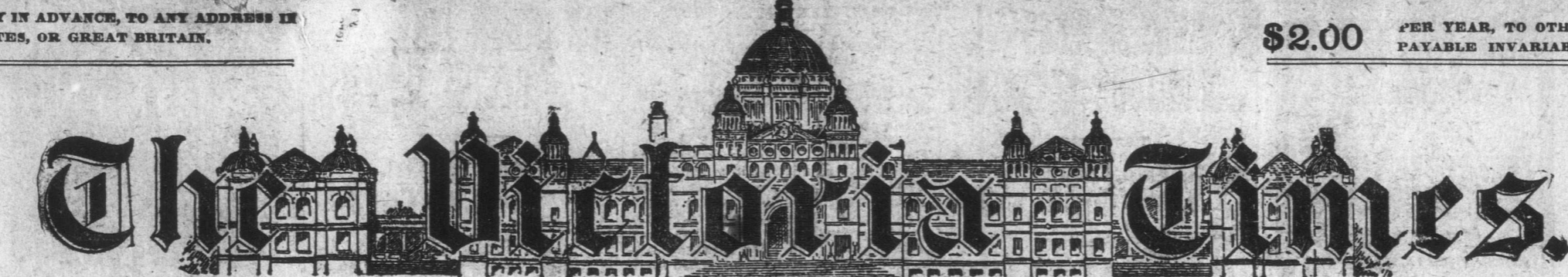
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TWICE-A-WEEK EDITION VICTORIA, B. C., FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 1905. NO. 103.

RUSSIAN TROOPS FORCED TO RETIRE

DRIVEN FROM POSITION NORTHEAST OF KAIYUAN

Gen. Sakharoff Says There is No Relaxation in Preparations to Continue the War.

Tokio, April 4.—Noon.—The following has been received from the Manchurian army headquarters: "On Sunday a portion of the force occupying Kaiyuan drove north the enemy holding Aishenkao, 20 miles north-east of Kaiyuan.

THE RUSSIAN WAR MINISTER INTERVIEWED.

St. Petersburg, April 4.—Noon.—War Minister Sakharoff, in an interview on Monday, declared that the reports of Russia countermanding orders for war material abroad are baseless and grow out of the declaration of foreign offices with which the war office and admiralty have been swamped.

Gen. Sakharoff denied emphatically that he ever intrigued against Gen. Kourapatkin, affirming that he gave the latter the most loyal support. At the same time, disclaiming that he had any influence over the Russian army, he said that the Russian army are equal to those of the Japanese, forcing the reluctant concession that the Russian army are superior to the Japanese.

THE SUNKEN SHIPS AT PORT ARTHUR.

London, April 3.—The military expert of the London Daily Times has just completed an inspection of the sunken battle-ships in Port Arthur harbor and is responsible for the statement that the Japanese declaration that nearly all of the sunken Russian ships could be rendered serviceable again is not founded on fact.

He says that the Japanese would be lucky if they could save the Poltava, Peresviet and Pallada, with just a chance that the Bayan can be raised. The Retvisan will never be of any further service and the damage to the Pobieda is so great that, even if they succeed in raising that vessel, it is extremely doubtful if she will be serviceable. The Sevastopol, taken out by her gallant captain to face three repeated final attacks of the Japanese torpedo craft, for some time stave off the attacks of her opponents with the assistance of a boom and torpedo nets, but finally the boom was blown up and a torpedo finding its way through the netting, struck her stern, carrying away the steering gear. Then, unable to do anything for his country, Capt. Von Essen and his small crew steered with her twin screws out into deep water, opened her sluice cocks and let her sink in a hundred and fifty feet of water. Her exact position has never since been learned.

STORY OF BOMB OUTRAGE IS DENIED.

Herbin, April 4.—There is no truth in the report that the explosion of a bomb on Monday in the artillery depot here killed 75 men.

ASKS TRIAL BY PUBLIC COURT MARTIAL.

St. Petersburg, April 3.—Rear-Admiral Prince Outomski has arrived in St. Petersburg and has demanded a trial by public court-martial to clear himself of the charges of being responsible for the losses sustained by the Port Arthur garrison on August 1st. He denies that he gave the order to retreat to Port Arthur. On the contrary, the admiral maintains that after Rear-Admiral Witthoff's death he intended to break the line of Admiral Togo and to go to Vladivostok. When the Russian battleship Czarvitch became unmanageable, throwing the Russian ships into confusion, Outomski signalled "follow me." Darkness fell while he was straightening his line, when, finding all the ships except the battleship Pobieda and Poltava had headed back to Port Arthur, he had no alternative but to return himself.

He says he was relieved of his com-

THE CHARTER FOR V., V. & E. RAILWAY

PRESIDENT WISHES DOUBT SET AT REST

Petition Presented to the Commons—Manitoba Demands Definite Answer Regarding the Boundary.

Ottawa, April 4.—Duncan Ross, Yale Cariboo, has presented to the House the preliminary petition from John Hendry, president of the V., V. & E. railway, asking for legislation to remedy any possible defects in the charter of the company. Mr. Ross explained that the company was incorporated by the provincial legislature in 1897. By an act of the federal parliament in 1898 the railway was declared to be for the general advantage of Canada, and in 1902 and 1904 successive extensions were secured for the commencement and completion of the railway. About 50 miles of the railway have been completed. Financial arrangements are being made to complete the road, but as some doubt has been expressed by financial men as to whether the charter right of the company has not lapsed by reason of the time limit having expired before the commencement of construction, legislation is being asked to remove any doubt in this regard.

COMPELLED RUSSIANS TO RETREAT NORTHWARD.

Tokio, April 5, 3 p.m.—Imperial army headquarters reporting to-day says: "A part of our Changtu force drove the Russians out of Tushuh, two miles north of Changtu, and also out of Sum-tcheng, nine miles west of Tushuh, and occupied both places on April 3rd." "After driving the enemy from the neighborhood of Sum-tcheng, six miles southeast of Tushuh, our force reached the vicinity of Satoku on April 4th at noon, when they were fired upon fiercely by about 500 Russian cavalry, retreating north along the railway. Our force dispersed them."

NO TRACE OF THE MISSING ATTACHE.

General Kuroki's Headquarters in the Field, April 4, via Pusan, April 5.—The Japanese army has been making fruitless search for information as to the fate of Count Schapitzky, a captain in the Austrian army and the military attaché to the Russian government in Peking. A copy of the order-in-council of the Dominion putting off the extension of the boundary of Manitoba until after the Autonomy bill was passed and Ontario consulted was sent to Manitoba a few days ago, and a reply has now been received by the Dominion government from Manitoba. It reached here last night. It is very peremptory in tone, and demands a definite answer at once, saying that Ontario, which now reaches James Bay, ought not to be consulted.

MERCHANTS AND LABOR GUILDS CELEBRATE.

Tokio, April 5.—The profits from the tobacco monopoly for the first year were 27,000,000 yen (about \$13,000,000). This exceeds the government's estimates by 7,000,000 yen.

The celebration of the victory of Mukden has been postponed until next Monday owing to the storm which occurred to-day.

THE CZAR INSISTS ON CONTINUING THE WAR.

St. Petersburg, April 4.—A meeting of all the members of the grand council was held in the palace of the Grand Duke Vladimir late last night, at which the Czar was present and the question of war or peace was thoroughly discussed. A majority of those present favored the beginning of peace negotiations, but the Grand Duke Vladimir and his intimate associates stated that in their opinion it would be far better to continue the fighting at least for the present. This view apparently met the approval of the Czar, who is an impassioned speech declared that he could not conceive how any Russian would be willing to abandon the field to any army that could yet be conquered. Another conference is planned for the near future.

HAS BEEN RE-ELECTED.

Chicago, April 5.—Frank D. Comerford, who was expelled by the House of Representatives in 1903, was re-elected early in the present session for failure to sustain charges of bribery, which he made against members, has been re-elected in the second district of Cook county.

REPORTS OF SKIRMISHES.

MANY ARRESTS BY RUSSIAN POLICE

Mistchenko's Cossacks Are Busy—Rumors of Movement Towards Taitshihar.

Harbin, April 4.—Affairs at the front generally are quiet, excepting for skirmishes by Gen. Mistchenko's Cossacks. Reports are revived of the movement of a Japanese flying column northward through Manchuria in the direction of Taitshihar.

HILL STATION DESTROYED.

Lahore, Punjab, India, April 5.—The Hill station of Dharmasala was practically razed to the ground by earthquakes. The native huts were obliterated, many of the inhabitants being buried in the ruins. Most of the houses in the European quarters were wrecked and nine persons were killed.

ANOTHER EARTHQUAKE.

Celestia, April 5.—Eight natives were killed during the earthquake which occurred during the night of yesterday, and great damage was done to buildings, both public and private. Many houses were completely demolished. The fissures in the roads have been closed, and repairs to the buildings have already been started. The weather was bright and warm when the earthquake occurred. Four or five further shocks yesterday evening caused a slight recrudescence of the panic.

ON FRIENDLY VISIT.

Prince Henry's Trip to Russia Has No Political Significance.

SERIOUS LOSS OF LIFE.

Many Persons Killed By Earthquake at Lahore, British India—Great Destruction of Property.

RECEIVED BY THE POPE.

The Duke and Duchess of Connaught and Their Daughters at the Vatican.

SUFFERS FROM LEPROSY.

Brother Von Koop Falls Victim to Disease While Working at Leper Settlement.

WINNIPEG NOTES.

BLOWN TO PIECES.

Three Men Killed by Explosion at Dynamite Manufacturing Plant.

PROFESSOR'S SUICIDE.

Vienna, April 4.—Dr. Richard Hasell, professor of physiology at the university here, committed suicide to-day by shooting. The professor's action is attributed to ill-health.

GENERAL UPHEAVAL EXPECTED IN RUSSIA

RADICAL FORCES ARE WAITING FOR SIGNAL

Workmen All Over Country Believed to Be Acting Under Instructions From Revolutionary Leaders.

BASEBALL IN EAST.

Meeting of League in New York to Draw Up Schedule for Season.

BLOWN TO PIECES.

Bay City, Mich., April 4.—A small tank used for the storage of nitro-glycerine exploded at the dynamite manufacturing plant of H. H. Thomas, six miles northwest of this city, yesterday. Three men, Moses Island, an Indian, George Godfrey, of Kawkawin, and George Uhlricht, of Auburn, were blown to pieces.

ST. LOUIS ELECTION.

St. Louis, Mo., April 5.—Complete first returns from last night's election give Mayor Wells, Democratic candidate for re-election, a plurality of 1,448 over Republican Judge John Tally. The vote for candidates was as follows: Wells, 44,208; Tally, 42,700; Lee Merrin, weather, independent public ownership, 4,322. Democrats and Republicans about equally divided the other offices.

LAURIER'S REPLY TO MANITOBA MINISTER

Repudiates Statement That Papal Delegate Had Authority From Government to Discuss Extension of Boundary.

Ottawa, April 5.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier will make a full statement in the House of Commons this afternoon repudiating the statements of Hon. Robert Rogers, of the Manitoba government, that the Papal delegate had authority from the Dominion government to discuss the extension of the boundary of Manitoba.

DECLINES TO TALK.

Efforts were made to-day to get an interview with Mgr. Sbarretti, but the only reply was that "His Excellency had nothing to say."

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WEEKLY WEATHER SYNOPSIS.

Victoria Meteorological Office, 20th March to 4th April, 1905. The weather during the first half of the week was unsettled and cold in most districts...

Allen's Lung Balm. The best Cough Medicine. ABSOLUTE SAFETY. Should be rigorously insisted upon...

Messrs. B. Middleton and C. Durden; vocal solo B. Middleton; instrumental solo, Gladys Rogers; trio, D. Cleveland, H. Beckwith and Clyde Rogers...

J. A. Douglas has moved his real estate office to No. 20 Bastion square, two doors from Government street.

Mail advices from Fairbank say that "Swiftwater Bill" will clean up in the neighborhood of \$500,000 on his Clearly creek lay.

Three interesting papers were read by Mrs. Hasell, Mrs. Verrinder and Miss Claire McGregor at the meeting of the Tuesday club Tuesday afternoon.

The park committee desire to thank Hon. J. S. Helmcken for various species of shrubs and trees.

Joseph Sayward has donated a splendid oil portrait of his father, the late W. P. Sayward, to the B. C. Pioneer Society, the headquarters of which it now adorns in company with many other pictures of well-known pioneers.

The residence of David Spencer, on Moss street, was the scene of a large gathering Monday, the occasion being a farewell "at home" to Dr. and Mrs. Bolton...

The B. C. Pioneer Society met Wednesday and amended the constitution so as to render eligible for membership persons who have resided in the province for 25 years...

Dr. Hamilton, the veterinary surgeon, upon whom advice all the watering troughs of the city have been allowed to run dry, stated Thursday that from 50 to 70 per cent of the horses in Victoria are suffering in some way from influenza...

A largely attended meeting of the Spring Ridge Municipal Association was held Wednesday, Ald. Hanna, presiding...

At the meeting of the Nanaimo Agricultural Society directors Wednesday, a letter was read from Mr. Keary, manager of the Dominion exhibition...

The Victoria Trades and Labor Council met Wednesday, President Caldwell presiding. The financial statement for the quarter, which was submitted, showed a balance of \$354.88 on hand...

There was a large attendance at a social held in honor of H. J. Knott, superintendent of the Metropolitan Methodist Sunday school...

At Kamloops, highest temperature, 60.0 on 3rd and 4th; lowest, 24.0 on 30th; no precipitation. At New Westminster, highest temperature, 70.0 on 4th; lowest, 30.0 on 30th; rainfall, 0.80 inch.

At Port Simpson, highest temperature, 64.0 on 4th; lowest, 34.0 on 31st; rain, 1.72 inches. At Dawson, highest temperature, 46.0 on 4th; lowest, 8.0 on 20th; no precipitation.

Men are engaged in removing some of the buildings on the cañon grounds. The club house has been locked up, and its windows have been boarded over. This structure will be about the only one left.

There was a lively fire at midnight Monday, the house of Henry James, on Colville street, outside the city limits, being totally destroyed. Just how the fire started is not known.

At the meeting of the Friendly Help Association the honorary treasurer reported that 42 people had been assisted during March; 19 received groceries, 8 fuel, 12 clothing, and 10 milk daily...

The anniversary services of the Metropolitan Methodist Sunday school will be held on Sunday next. The pastor, Rev. G. K. E. Adams, will give an illustrated sermon to the children in the morning, and in the evening will preach more especially to Sunday school workers...

The members of the senior and junior B. Y. P. Union of Calvary Baptist church entertained a large number of their friends on Monday. A splendid programme was provided, at the conclusion of which refreshments of tea and cake were dispensed.

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After the discussion of matters of minor importance an adjournment was taken until Friday evening, the 14th inst.

—A dispute over a dog will be ventilated in the police court in a day or two. Poundkeeper DeBrisay, caged a couple of sheep dogs yesterday belonging to the B. C. Market Co., and while he was in the Driadi office one of the cattle drivers rode up to the cage and took out the better of the two canines...

—Messrs. Chalton & Mitchell have on exhibition in their windows on Government street a handsome silver cup presented by A. C. Flummerfelt to the Victoria Golf Club for the British Columbia ladies' championship. It will remain on view for a few days.

A GUARANTEED CURE FOR PILES. Itching, Blind, Bleeding or Protruding. Your druggist will refund you if PIAZO OINTMENT fails to cure you in 6 to 14 days, 50c.

—The death occurred Tuesday of W. Avons at the residence of H. Simpson, South Saanich. He was a native of England and 75 years of age. For many years Mr. Avons had followed the occupation of a gardener, during which time he occupied a residence on Meara street. He was well-known to many Victorians.

INDIGESTION CAN'T STAY where Dr. Von Stan's Pileapple Tablets are arrayed against it. Thomas Smith, of Dover, Ont., says: "I am delighted with them—from almost the first usage I have been entirely relieved of the pain of indigestion—I have the greatest confidence in the Tablets and heartily recommend them to any and every sufferer from stomach troubles." 35 cts.—112

—Steamer Princess May lost a blade off her propeller at Port Simpson on her way to Skagway. Being a twin screw vessel, it is expected that the ship will not be delayed by the accident.

—The practice of the Messiah last night, under the direction of Mr. Gideon Hicks, was most satisfactory. There were 125 present, and the parts balanced very well, indicating one of the best of the manyatorio efforts of Victoria on the 26th inst.

—The B. C. Pioneer Society met Wednesday and amended the constitution so as to render eligible for membership persons who have resided in the province for 25 years. The auditor reported that he had examined the books and vouchers of the secretary-treasurer, and found them satisfactory. Chas. Hayward presided at the meeting.

—Dr. Hamilton, the veterinary surgeon, upon whom advice all the watering troughs of the city have been allowed to run dry, stated Thursday that from 50 to 70 per cent of the horses in Victoria are suffering in some way from influenza. So far as he is aware there have been no further outbreaks of the glanders. This is a most fatal disease among horses, the animals taking it having to be killed, and sometimes the build in which they have been housed destroyed.

—A largely attended meeting of the Spring Ridge Municipal Association was held Wednesday, Ald. Hanna, presiding. The sewerage question, the proposed establishment of a park in the district, and the closing of the sand pits were discussed at length. The Alderman expressed himself in favor of the immediate commencement of the former work and the two latter proposals. Resolutions, therefore, were passed unanimously requesting the council to take some immediate steps towards bringing about the desired improvements. Other business of minor importance was considered, after which the meeting adjourned.

—At the meeting of the Nanaimo Agricultural Society directors Wednesday, a letter was read from Mr. Keary, manager of the Dominion exhibition to be held at New Westminster, asking if the Nanaimo societies intended holding an exhibition of their own this year, or to follow the course adopted by the majority of the Dominion exhibition to be held at New Westminster. The matter was thoroughly discussed, and the majority contended that local societies should bend all their energies to make the big exposition a success. Therefore it was decided to cancel the Nanaimo exhibition this year and work together with the Farmers' Institute to put up a first-class exhibit at New Westminster.

—The Victoria Trades and Labor Council met Wednesday, President Caldwell presiding. The financial statement for the quarter, which was submitted, showed a balance of \$354.88 on hand. The meeting was informed that the Model laundry on Broad street was now a union laundry, having conformed to the necessary rules. There was some discussion with respect to the establishment of a labor paper, and a committee was appointed to interview the different unions to ascertain what support would be extended to the enterprise. Credentials were presented by C. R. Carter, of the Journeymen Plumbers' Union, and H. Reid, of the Journeymen Tailors.

—Members of the committee appointed to take charge of the Y. M. C. A. summer camp arrangements held a meeting Wednesday at the rooms, Broad street. C. Mason reported having visited the George in search of a suitable site, and recommended the selection of a spot just beyond the bridge. It was explained that it would be within a short walk of the entrance when the latter is completed, and also that it had all the requirements of a first-class summer resort. This provoked some discussion, and the plan was finally decided to adopt the suggestion providing the necessary permission can be secured from the owners of the property. E. M. Whyte was requested to make an estimate of the expense for a specified time for consideration at the next meeting.

After the discussion of matters of minor importance an adjournment was taken until Friday evening, the 14th inst.

—Rev. J. P. Westman conducted the service on Thursday in connection with the funeral of the infant son of Geo. Mellor, View street.

ARRIVAL OF THE NEW STEAM WHALER

ORION HERE FROM CHRISTIANIA, NORWAY

Will Shortly Begin Business Off Island Coast—News From Sealer Agnes G. Donahue.

After a voyage of many thousand miles, the steam whaler Orion, Capt. R. Balcom, arrived Thursday. The vessel left Christiania on December 10th, and has been heading in this direction ever since. A call was made at Dartmouth, from where Capt. Balcom took a short run over to London on business. Resuming her voyage on December 23rd, the next call was made at Lisbon. The weather was very tempestuous off the Portugal coast, and for two days the Orion remained in port, coaling and waiting until the weather moderated. St. Vincent was the next place visited, then came a short stay at Sandy Point, and afterwards a long run across the Atlantic to Montevideo. Proceeding to Coronel Bay, through the Straits of Magellan, coal was taken on board at the Horn. Considerable stormy weather was encountered. Stops were made at Calico, Acapulco, Mexico and San Diego, on the Pacific Coast.

From the last named port travel was resumed on December 21st, but at time during the worst weather experienced—and the little craft passed through some pretty severe gales—did the Orion show other than admirable seagoing qualities. She never sustained a particle of damage, and rode the big seas, to use her captain's expression, "like a duck."

There was a man put ashore at Montevideo who was suffering from lung trouble, but otherwise all the crew as well and in good spirits. The men are all picked whalers of Norwegian nationality, the mate, Nils Nelson, who is to have command of the vessel when operating off the coast, being a man of vast experience. He has served ten years in the whaling business, having spent part of this time on the Japan coast. He is likewise an expert hunter, and to him fell the important task of manning and luring the gull aboard the steamer used for the killing of the whale. His long experience in the industry has brought him into many dangers. He has seen a wounded whale tow a vessel against the wind, his engines would be working full speed ahead at the rate of nine knots an hour, and he has seen many other remarkable feats of the big sea monster when in a toria are suffering in some way from influenza.

His mate will be Carl Sorenson, and his chief and second engineers are P. Rasmussen and Otto Gaustad. The Orion is altogether a very interesting craft. She represents the most modern whaler afloat. In fact she combines some features suggested by Capt. Balcom and his mate seen on no other whaler in service. There is a large fleet of these craft in the Norwegian whaling coast. Once whaling formed one of the principal industries of that country, the belief being that in a place of this kind the most scientific methods are seen in a compact form. The whaler, however, this the Orion was built in Christiania to the order of Capt. S. Balcom, of the city, the promoter of the new whaling industry soon to be started on the West Coast of this island.

It is interesting to note that the vessel has become famous for the construction of these vessels was given the contract. In appearance the Orion is rather peculiar. One instinctively looks for state rooms or freight hold, but on a new arrival neither is to be found. There is little in the way of superstructure to be seen. There is the wheel house, the engine casing and a galley, but little more than this is in evidence. Although the bow of this vessel is sharp, the deck is nicely rounded, and this seems expansive for the size of the hull. Beneath there is a very cosy cabin aft, the crew's quarters forward and a small hold that could be used for freight if necessary.

The Orion is, 108 tons register. She is built of steel throughout. She is 96 feet long by 11.6 feet beam. She steams 12 knots an hour, having engines of 180 horse-power. She has a small cannon on deck forward and a very powerful winch, but all her gear is not yet aboard, and will not reach Victoria until the arrival of the China Mutual steamer Ping Sney, now about due from a voyage around the world. The cannon is used for the shooting of the harpoon, as previously described in these columns. Attached to this harpoon is a grenade which explodes as the harpoon strikes its mark and kills the whale. Should the whale be not killed with the first onslaught, it is at least held, a very strong Russian hemp line, 400 fathoms long and about five inches in thickness, keeping it from getting away. The whistles about the vessel is at once set in motion, and the whale is drawn in closer to the steamer until such time as another harpoon is fired, and it has been killed.

The whaling station at Bamfield is nearing completion. It has been referred to a number of times in this paper. It is to be kept supplied with whale by the summer camp arrangements held a meeting Wednesday at the rooms, Broad street. C. Mason reported having visited the George in search of a suitable site, and recommended the selection of a spot just beyond the bridge. It was explained that it would be within a short walk of the entrance when the latter is completed, and also that it had all the requirements of a first-class summer resort. This provoked some discussion, and the plan was finally decided to adopt the suggestion providing the necessary permission can be secured from the owners of the property. E. M. Whyte was requested to make an estimate of the expense for a specified time for consideration at the next meeting.

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—Steamer Princess May lost a blade off her propeller at Port Simpson on her way to Skagway. Being a twin screw vessel, it is expected that the ship will not be delayed by the accident.

—The practice of the Messiah last night, under the direction of Mr. Gideon Hicks, was most satisfactory. There were 125 present, and the parts balanced very well, indicating one of the best of the manyatorio efforts of Victoria on the 26th inst.

—The B. C. Pioneer Society met Wednesday and amended the constitution so as to render eligible for membership persons who have resided in the province for 25 years. The auditor reported that he had examined the books and vouchers of the secretary-treasurer, and found them satisfactory. Chas. Hayward presided at the meeting.

—Dr. Hamilton, the veterinary surgeon, upon whom advice all the watering troughs of the city have been allowed to run dry, stated Thursday that from 50 to 70 per cent of the horses in Victoria are suffering in some way from influenza. So far as he is aware there have been no further outbreaks of the glanders. This is a most fatal disease among horses, the animals taking it having to be killed, and sometimes the build in which they have been housed destroyed.

—A largely attended meeting of the Spring Ridge Municipal Association was held Wednesday, Ald. Hanna, presiding. The sewerage question, the proposed establishment of a park in the district, and the closing of the sand pits were discussed at length. The Alderman expressed himself in favor of the immediate commencement of the former work and the two latter proposals. Resolutions, therefore, were passed unanimously requesting the council to take some immediate steps towards bringing about the desired improvements. Other business of minor importance was considered, after which the meeting adjourned.

Norwegian steamship Titalia, had a narrow escape from death on the recent trip of the vessel down the coast," says the San Francisco Call. "The Titalia, a command of Captain Egenes, had a narrow voyage from the time she left Ladysmith. The seas ran high, and the wind was like a hurricane. On March 31, at 9 a.m., when off Cape Blanco, the vessel encountered a storm of great fury. The sea was blowing from the north-west, accompanied by heavy seas, which swashed over the decks from stem to stern.

Christensen was washed overboard by a tremendous wave which swept the decks fore and aft. The steamer at this time was almost on her beam ends. Capt. Egenes rushed to the bridge and ordered the ship put about, and the starboard lifeboat launched. The little boat was tossed about in the seething foam like a cockleshell, and every moment it was in danger of being swamped. She finally managed to buffet the waves, and her crew succeeded in rescuing Christensen and landed him on board the Titalia."

THE COLUMBIA LAUNCHED. "Over 4000 spectators witnessed the launch, and the air was rent with cheers as the Columbia glided into the water on Thursday," says the Vancouver News-Advertiser.

"Impressive services were held prior to the launching, being conducted by Venerable Archdeacon Pentreath in the absence of His Lordship Bishop Dart, of New Westminster, and His Lordship Bishop Gertin of Victoria, both of whom were unavoidably unable to be present. All of the Anglican clergy of this city were present, while Rev. Mr. Houghton represented the church in New Westminster.

"After prayers and the singing of several appropriate hymns, an address was delivered by Rev. C. O. Owen, rector of Christ church. Archdeacon Pentreath then announced that the launching would take place, and the workmen immediately set to work loosening the blocks which held the cradle. Archdeacon Pentreath, standing under the bow of the little craft, then said: 'In the faith and fear of God I name this Columbia, and forth on thy errand of love. The blessing of the God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost rest upon this vessel and all who shall embark upon it. Amen.'

"A bugle call was sounded, Rev. J. Antle standing on the deck of the yacht gave the signal, and slowly the cradle tilted towards the water. As the new craft started on its journey, a cheer of welcome was given by the crowd. Mrs. J. Antle, wife of Rev. Mr. Antle, who will have charge of the boat, broke a bottle of wine on the bow of the steamer.

"Dr. Hutton will be surgeon of the mission craft. Besides the mission physician and surgeon, Dr. Hunter will act as engineer, having charge of the gasoline engines. A seaman and a cook will complete the personnel of the party."

WERE NOT IMPRISONED. When the whaling steamer Orion called at Montevideo on her voyage here from Christiania, Capt. R. Balcom, her master, called upon the lawyers having the case of the sealing schooner Agnes G. Donahue in charge. The sealer was seized by the Uruguayans on a charge of poaching. This vessel was released in the Times some weeks ago, but since then it was announced that her captain, Matt Ryan and crew had been imprisoned. The information, copied into the local papers, appeared in a letter from a sealer appearing in a Halifax paper but is now disproved by Captain Balcom. The latter says that when he was at Montevideo all the crew had been released. Capt. Ryan was the only one that had been held aboard, and he was still detained when the Orion was in the port. It was then anticipated, however, that Capt. Ryan would be liberated in a few days. As already told the Uruguayans failed entirely to substantiate the charge that had been made out against the sealer and there was no clear reason given of why they had held the vessel and her captain. Capt. Balcom says he heard nothing when down south of the accident to the Florence Munroe.

PREPARING FOR SERVICE. Wednesday the steamer Mount Royal was launched from the Star ways. It is reported that the work of preparing the vessel for trade on the Skeena and Skeikine will commence immediately. On these rivers the vessel will have almost a monopoly of the business done this year, owing to an arrangement entered into between the Hudson's Bay Company and the owners of the Hazelton, whereby the latter vessel will not be put into service this season.

There was but one arrival on the waterfront on Wednesday. The Queen City, which came in from the West Coast shortly after 8 o'clock, brought the news that the Nahmit mine at Alberni, better known as the Hayes property, has again been closed. The news is that the mine had sunk a tunnel to a considerable depth in the mine, but are said to have met with discouraging results, hence the suspension of operations. But for every mine that shuts down on the West Coast, there is at least one that opens up. In this instance, while men were quitting their labors on the Nahmit mine, a force of miners who had been carried up the coast on the Queen City were being sent to work on the Deer Creek property. These laborers are in charge of Watt Ward. He has before him the building of a road a mile and a half long into the mine from the coast, and it is prophesied that in a short time Deer Creek will be shipping ore to some of the nearby smelters.

A few changes have taken place at the Bamfield fish station, in consequence of which Fred Davie, a former Victorian, has been promoted chief operator. The salted salmon business being conducted by Messrs. Wallace and Brewster at Sechart, from which several shipments have been forwarded to the coast, and interruptions occur it will be in operation before the end of this month. In the meanwhile the steamer will be placed on the ways to be cleaned, and she will ship the parties apparent coming for her on the Pine Sney.

When Capt. Balcom left Christiania some trouble was experienced in getting through the ice off the coast of that northern country. The pilot who descended the Orion's course to sea had to be sent back to Christiania on a vessel sighted outside.

THIRD MATE'S ESCAPE. "A. Christensen, the third mate of the

GARDEN TOOLS AND LAWN MOWERS THE HICKMAN TYE HARDWARE CO., LD. 32 and 34 Yates Street, Victoria, B. C. P. O. DRAWER 613. TELEPHONE 58.

Seed Potatoes We have a limited quantity of the new English variety: Up-to-Date. Price, two cents per pound.

The Brackman-Ker Milling Co., Ltd.

Delicious and Appetizing! Apricot Marmalade Jar, 25 Cents Dixie H. Ross & Co. The Independent Cash Grocers.

Hanson, Powers, MacMahon, Pollock, Halperin, Boyle and Miss Armstrong.

DAKOTA'S TRIAL TRIP. The trial trip of the steamship Dakota was held Saturday, and a private telegram received from J. D. Farrell, president of the steamship company, shows that the run was entirely satisfactory to the steamship and railroad officials. The Dakota made 17.7 knots per hour, equivalent to 20 miles. Fifty-nine nautical miles was the run made by the Dakota, and during that time she maintained the high rate of speed shown in Mr. Farrell's dispatch. The coal consumption averaged one and three-quarters pounds per horse-power per hour.

A total horse-power of 10,500 and 80 revolutions per minute were developed during the trial. The new steamship stood the strain perfectly, and all her machinery worked well. The speed made by the Dakota was approximately the same as that developed by the Minnesota. This is regarded as the maximum speed of the big liner on the ordinary conditions, but the steamship company will not force her that hard. The two steamships will be run on an average speed of from 14 to 14 1/2 knots per hour.

At the time the Dakota made her trial spin she had water ballast aboard which brought her up to about the same condition she would be in after putting cargo aboard. This feature of the run shows what the vessel can do when loaded.

Advices from New York show that the Dakota will have all the cargo that she can bring around the Horn. Orders have been received to the effect that no more orders can be booked, because the Dakota has been filled by Easterners. The most important feature of her cargo will be a heavy shipment of steel rails for use in Alaska.

Were it deemed advisable by the steamship officials to load the Dakota to her full capacity, it would be impossible to do so in New York harbor. At low tide the depth of water in the harbor will only permit the boat to be loaded to 31.6 feet.

A NAVAL SALE. A London dispatch says: "An unusual sale occurred at Chatham dockyard Wednesday, when 31 obsolete British war vessels were sold to the highest bidder. The total realized was \$600,000. The lot included twelve cruisers, among them being the warships Warspite, Northampton, Galatea and Australia; two torpedo boats, and the training ship Exmouth. The terms of sale provide that none of the vessels could be sold to a foreign power. All of them must be broken up within 12 months. The ships sold represented an original outlay of \$15,000,000."

INSURANCE PAID. It is stated upon good authority, says a San Francisco dispatch, that the Robert Dollar Steamship Company has received all but \$100,000 of the insurance

on the steamer M. S. Dollar, recently captured by the Japanese while the vessel was trying to run the blockade into Vladivostok. The M. S. Dollar was valued by her owners at about \$200,000, and she was insured for almost, if not quite, that amount.

CIVIC AFFAIRS. Streets Committee Discuss a Number of Important Matters. The streets, bridges and sewers committee of the city council held a protracted meeting Wednesday, and dealt with a number of important matters. The complete result of their deliberation will be embodied in a report to be submitted to the council next Monday.

Among the subjects for consideration last night was the matter of filling in the James Bay mudflats. In this connection the communication from Superintendent Margpole, of the C. P. R., suggesting that the city allow Mr. Haggerty to do the work at the same figure as specified in the contract awarded to him by the railway company for their portion that is 60 cents a yard, was dealt with. Members of the committee expressed the view that the city could get the work done at a cheaper figure than 60 cents, and it was recommended that the council inform Mr. Margpole that the city would fill in its portion independently of the company's operations.

Another matter, and one that will be of interest to the Tourist Association, is the desirability of establishing bathing places on the Dallas road, near the outer docks. As Times readers are aware, the first scheme was for the erection of a pavilion at Foul Bay. Attention was drawn to the splendid site for this Dallas road, where there was a natural basin, which could be easily converted into a bath. At last night's meeting the consensus of opinion favored an experiment in the shape of a cofferdam at the entrance, to this basin, to ascertain whether the water could be maintained at a satisfactory temperature. Should this be possible, a cement gate will be constructed. The Tourist Association will construct their pavilion there if the present scheme is found practicable.

Porter Harding was killed by President Roosevelt's train on Tuesday night, at Mingo Junction, O. Harding was attempting to board a freight train when the special train struck him.

BORN. HERITAGE—In this city, on the 3rd inst., the wife of John A. Heritage, of a daughter.

MARRIED. CROSFIELD-BIDDLE—At Vancouver, on April 3rd, by Rev. R. J. Wilson, W. H. Crosefield and Miss B. Biddle.

ROOMMATES—A. Revestre, of Marilla 29th, by Rev. W. C. Calder, with Angus Rooms and Clara Maud Beama.

DIED. VASEY—At Ladner, on April 2nd, Mrs. H. Vasey, aged 71 years.

AVONS—At the residence of Mr. H. Simpson, South Saanich, on the 4th instant, Mrs. W. Avons, a native of England, aged 75 years.

IN A STATE OF SUSPENSION.

There was a grand field day in the Legislature yesterday. The vaulted roof of the marble chamber echoed with the sound of many words, but all the echoes will not be heard in the distant parts of the province. Mr. Bowser's florid periods resounded through the rafters with a noise as of many waters, but the member whose mind is far above the petty details of mere provincial affairs, who deals largely with national issues, was not by any means the most important figure in the budget debate.

We hesitate to say it. It may be received with looks of incredulity. But it is a fact that a greater than our eloquent friend Mr. Bowser occupied the floor yesterday. There were speeches strongly impregnated with common sense suggestions and timely criticisms; but the chief figure in the assembly was the leader of the opposition, Mr. Macdonald, it is generally agreed, set a new standard in British Columbia parliamentary style. The prevailing fashion in Legislative oratory has hitherto been the flamboyant, affected by the Premier and his friend Mr. Bowser, who cover up many deficiencies of argument in a tremendous volume of verbal bombast and sound. Logical, forceful and convincing, the address of the leader of the opposition was a masterly effort, proving finally that those who selected the stranger from Rossland as the head of the Liberal party in this province had substantial ground for their belief that their faith would be justified. The only reply that has been attempted to his merciless dissection of the government's course of inactivity is to the effect that no assistance in a time of crisis has been received from the members on the opposition side. It is not the business of an opposition to govern, but, as a matter of fact, the timely suggestions of the opposition alone moulded the majority of government measures into presentable shape and eliminated from them the crudities of their original form.

The government members were loud in their protestations of faith in the works of the ministry. Give the Premier and his cabinet time and all the world will wonder at the prodigies of development they will accomplish for the development of British Columbia. The railway policy is yet in the egg. The Premier is sitting on it to keep it warm. When it comes out it will be a full-fledged affair, ready to go into business and to carry the province on its strong wings up into the realms of industrial activity and commercial prosperity. In the meantime the opposition exercise such admirable patience as the loyal members on the government side have exhibited in the face of great temptation to rebel. The railway policy was not sufficiently mature to warrant a special session of the Legislature to behold its advent from the shell. It is still being "sat on," but he who listens with the ear of faith may hear the tapping on the outer covering which is a sure and certain indication that there is life within. In the future they have the assurance of the eloquent, faithful Mr. Bowser that if the bill is deferred temporarily there will assuredly be "something doing" before time numbers the present provincial Parliament among the things that have been. There is comfort in this announcement for those whose hearts have been made sick in consequence of hope long deferred. The programme of the government is to sit back and wait until the time shall come for an appeal to the people. Then the fledgling policy will be uncovered with much ceremony and its appearance will be hailed with great joy as the hope and salvation of the country and a heartfelt prayer will go up that in the contemplation of the prodigy the sins of the ministry, the oppressive taxation, the "jobs" in which the government has been involved, the many things left undone which should have been done, the numerous pleasure jaunts taken for the purpose of fortifying the ministers against the arduous task of administering their departments for at least two hours a day for more than one hundred days in the year, and for many other deeds which were better left buried in darkness—all will be forgotten and forgiven in exaltation over the real railway policy of the first Conservative government British Columbia has ever had.

CANNOT GO WRONG.

The Vancouver News-Advertiser sits back complacently and asks its readers to look upon the record of the McBride government and point out if they can any flaw therein. The editor is a member of the administration, and evidently considers himself not the least important member notwithstanding the fact that he is generally supposed to act in a merely advisory capacity. Our Vancouver contemporary argues that every act the government does must necessarily tend to increase its popularity in the province. When taxation was doubled and trebled the act of doubling and trebling was commendable, because something radical had to be done to restore the credit of British Columbia. The taxation of book debts, the increase of the levies on reclaimed land and wild land and personal property and income, the following up of every dollar's worth of goods to the spot where it lay concealed from the unblinking eyes of the assessor—everything that was done to bring the people to a realization of their responsibilities for every act of the Conservative

governments of the past and of the great Conservative government of the present was viewed with a countenance of beaming admiration—everything that was done, the News-Advertiser asserted without hesitation, was perfect of its kind. This course of benign approbation was continued up till the time the administration met the legislature in the session of 1905 and began to undo or amend the majority of the acts of the previous session. Then the Advertiser, without winking and without a change of its somewhat unattractive countenance, began to approve very heartily of the radical changes proposed in the measures that in their original form were not susceptible of criticism. The people are asked to look upon the important remissions that have been made in taxation and say whether the government is not bent upon doing its duty regardless of consequences. To increase taxes one year and reduce them the next year is the clearest evidence that could be brought out of the inspired, infallible wisdom of the McBride government. To propose the giving of assistance to railways with the treasury empty and public opinion strongly set against the further sacrifice of lands would be nothing short of folly. So we were told less than a year ago. To-day the treasury bottom can be seen without turning out a very large amount of specie, but the News-Advertiser hints at the possibility of a railway policy being brought down involving cash subsidies for the C. P. R. amounting in the aggregate to millions of dollars. It is as certain as anything can be in the world of political ups and downs that if the government offered the C. P. R. all it demands, including such a monopoly as a provincial administration can give in the portion of the province the great railway company regards as its special preserve, the News-Advertiser would not its wise head in sage approval, and commend further additions to taxation in order to meet the desires of this corpulent corporation.

INTERESTED IN S.U.

The New York Times, we are pleased to see, takes a deep interest in Canadian affairs and laments the discovery of a disposition on our part to abandon in the naming of new provinces some of the musical nomenclature of the new world. It remarks that "those of us who have worried lest, in the bickerings of politicians over the admission as states of New Mexico and Arizona, the name of the latter might somehow disappear from the map, will note with unaffected grief that a double certainty of just this sort is about to happen up in Canada. There the territories of Athabasca, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan and Alberta are to be made into two provinces and the names of them are to be 'Saskatchewan' and 'Alberta,' the other pair suffering extinguishment—which is a cruel loss and a great pity. What the process or motive of selection may have been is not revealed. In the case of 'Alberta' one can guess that the queer brand of respect for royalty indigenous in Canada caused reluctance to abandon the name which, though euphonious enough, is certainly the very worst, since the least characteristic, of the four. The saving of 'Saskatchewan' by the same officials that spared 'Alberta' is indeed remarkable, since the chances were that they would be dully unappreciative of its rugged grandeur and intimate congruity with the stern Northwest. 'Saskatchewan' is not beautiful to the eye, sweet to the ear, or smooth to the tongue, but it is a most glorious name, nevertheless, and its retention was a demonstration of wisdom that makes almost pardonable that of 'Alberta'—or would it 'Athabasca' and 'Assiniboia,' each a linguistic gem of purest water, had not been dropped into oblivion. The abandonment of names like those, possessing every known and imaginable merit, was, in these days when the English-speaking nations seem quite to have lost the nominative faculty, nothing less than criminal—it was, indeed, more than criminal, for it was stupid. The Canadians may think that what they call or do not call their provinces is no business of ours, but it really does concern us in half a dozen ways, first of all as loving neighbors and not last of all as neighbors who just possibly may in some bright future help to break down an absurd and useless division that now exists between peoples obviously destined to coalesce in brotherhood. So even to-day we have a right to mourn for 'Athabasca' to shed a salty tear for 'Assiniboia,' to regret over the perpetuation of 'Saskatchewan' and to sniff disdainfully at 'Alberta.' Canadians are flattered by the interest our contemporaries take in their affairs most trivial and in the hope that cannot be extinguished that some day the "absurd and useless divisions" may be cut down. It would be cruel to attempt to extinguish the hope that long deferred hath not been the American heart sick. It was bootless to permit the spirit of prophecy to enter in and proclaim that the ambitions of our neighbors can never be realized, because popular feeling is a very flexible "intangibility." It has been known to wear around as suddenly as the wind that blows where it listeth. But this we do know for a fact, that Canadians today are in every respect satisfied with their condition and political status. They are more hopeful for the future than they have ever been, and are more determined to maintain the independence and integrity of their country as a self-governing state within the British Empire. If the

Times sent a representative through this country he would find that 90 per cent. of the people are in this frame of mind.

MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY.

"A few irregularities" were disclosed in the conduct of the affairs of the Lands and Works Department at the meeting of the investigating committee Tuesday, we are told with becoming gravity; but nothing was revealed that in any way reflected upon the character for probity, honorable dealing, and honest service to the province of the Hon. the Chief Commissioner. Nor is any member of the government involved in the alleged scandal, nor any member of the party which sustains the government in office. We may be sure, in the estimation of the government organs. Some of the officials have been guilty of trifling lapses, but it is hypocritically trusted that further investigation will disclose that the sins of commission have been very little ones and that there may be no occasion for severe measures. The Chief Commissioner says he has not had time to investigate and act upon the impulses that will be set in motion by the results of his inquiry. When the hon. gentleman probes the scandal to the bottom he will find that nearly the whole of the water-front on Kitimat Arm has been alienated contrary to the provisions of the statutes. His hair will rise in horror when he discovers this fact. When he considers that the land is of great value and that it promises to have an exceedingly high speculative value in view of the certainty that the terminus of the new transcontinental railway will be somewhere in that neighborhood, we expect Mr. Green's hair will cease to beat for a full minute and that the morsel of the subordinates upon whom he casts reproachful eyes for their perfidy will cause some of them to hand in their resignations. But why does not the Chief Commissioner stay at home and attend to business? Is he not paid to prevent the occurrence of "irregularities" such as those under the consideration of the committee? He cannot escape responsibility by declaring that subordinates have been guilty of crookedness and that measures will be taken to punish them for their dishonesty.

POLITICAL INCENDIARIES.

Surely a good honest Tory like Mr. Roblin would never be guilty of a deliberate attempt to manufacture an excuse for an appeal to the people at a time when there is no constitutional reason for dissolution. Yet that appears to be the determination of the Premier of Manitoba. The people are being worked up into a proper state of mind by the ingenious dovetailing of the school question into the demand for an extension of the boundaries. The Tory Ministers have concocted a very remarkable cock-and-bull story, so preposterous as to provoke uncontrollable mirth in the minds of any but the most credulous, unphilosophical ones of the demands of the "hierarchy,"—demands which must be conceded as the price of boundary extension. Politics is a pretty low game when it forces men into such despicable positions for the purpose of tightening their grip upon office.

The expansion of their province, it is admitted, is a subject of deep interest to Manitobans. They do not relish the prospect of being overshadowed by the great states that have recently been created in their neighborhood. Alberta and Saskatchewan are now the land of promise to which the tide of immigration is directed. They must within a few years, now that railway extension has commenced in earnest, become more populous and quite as prosperous as the older and smaller province. But the people of Manitoba should not permit their passions to be played upon by their hurt by unscrupulous, greedy, mischief-making demagogues. The boundaries of Manitoba were not defined by the present Dominion government. If Manitoba looks like a postage stamp on the map, it was stuck there long previous to the attainment to power of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. The people of no part of the territories desired annexation to Manitoba. They preferred to commence business on their own account with a clean sheet. Their ambition was a perfectly natural one, and hostility to it on the part of the Dominion government would have been indefensible. As to the extension northward, there does not appear to be any particular hurry about that. There is at present no movement of population or no business activity in that direction. Ontario as well as Manitoba has presented claims for territory reaching to the frozen waters of the north. There is no reason to doubt that the province will be extended, but she has no ground for becoming arrogant and dogmatically taking the position that the requests of other provinces shall not be given consideration.

BASEBALL.

Victoria is to have a professional baseball team. In this respect we are but following the lines of manifest destiny. In our sports and amusements, which are the spice of life, we cannot wrench ourselves away from the propensities of the majority of the people of the "continent to which we belong." Lacrosse has, with regret, fallen somewhat from the high place it at one time held in the estimation of Canadians. The task of rehabilitation will not be easy. The only solution of the problem appears to lie in the frank recognition of the pro-

fessional element, after the manner of the admirers and promoters of British football and American baseball. Cricket is perhaps the noblest game of all, but in its deliberation and dignity it appears to be out of harmony with the genius of our institutions. Our leisure class is not large enough to insure it the patronage under which alone it can flourish and bring forth fruit approaching the quality which is attractive. In the meantime the national game of the United States has crossed over the boundary and has taken a permanent grip upon the mind and physique of our athletic youth. It may not be generally known in the West that baseball is no new game in Canada. It has been played in the East for almost as many years as in the United States. A Canadian team won the championship in one of the first professional leagues formed for the purpose of illustrating the attractions of the game. Goldsmith, one of the first men to utilize a curving ball, was a member of that club. In those days Canada produced several players of continental reputation. Mountjoy and Emale, the latter now an umpire in the National League, were great pitchers. In company with numbers of their brother experts, they drifted to the United States in search of remunerative employment. Tip O'Neill, one of the greatest hitters that ever swung a club, was a Canadian. The Delahanty family was originally from Canada. Lajoie, the strongest batter in the business to-day, is of the French-Canadian race. Harry Wright, the man who systematized the game and propounded the rules which with modifications govern it to-day, was an English cricketer. So it will be observed that baseball owes something to Canada and to Canadians. It is not a stranger within our gates by any means. Properly played, without too much wrangling about decisions and too much trickery in the effort to secure unfair advantages, it is a clean and fascinating sport. We hope the new Victoria club may not find the path too rough for its infant feet. A baseball team is almost a necessity in a city which lays claim to special attractions as a tourist resort, especially when the major portion of our visitors must necessarily be Americans. Because of this obvious fact, a general effort should be made to help the management through the initial difficulties, and the patronage should be sufficiently generous to justify the faith of the promoters.

The fate of man's good friend the horse is again causing some uneasiness in British breeding circles. A dispatch says that at one of the recent spring farm sales in the north of England there was a heavy fall in prices of cart horses. A prominent horsebreeder, asked by the Canadian Press the reason of the drop, replied that he attributed it to the increasing use of motor vehicles for town work. The motors are affecting the horse-breeder in many ways. Canadian breeders, if they have not already felt the effect of the motor invasion, are sure to do so, as the omnibus companies are among their best customers, and very soon the horse-drawn omnibus will be scarcely seen in London streets. We believe the perfection of the bicycle caused the first serious slump in the value of horse flesh. Now the influence of the motor car is beginning to bear. It is doubtful if the horse can be put out of business. He is no novelty to be thrown aside when the first glimmer wears off.

The McBride government appears to have temporarily lost favor in the estimation of Comrade Hawthornthwaite. The member for Nanaimo feigns disgust at the actions of the ministers with respect to certain measures he is apparently anxious to get through the Legislature. But it is particularly noticeable that Comrade Hawthornthwaite has not done anything to embarrass the administration. When he retires temporarily from the field he leaves his forces in action. Our esteemed comrade will be as hearty as ever in his support of the government and as bitter in his antagonism to the opposition next session. The game is being cleverly played, but the tactical movements are quite transparent.

All peace negotiations have been declared off, it is said, because the treaty of the United States has left Washington on a special trip to the uttermost bounds of his empire. Next we shall hear that the sun has been commanded to stand still until the imperial dictator and master has completed his tour.

Society in Seattle is adjudged to be in a satisfactory, if not in a particularly healthy, condition. The record for the month of March shows that for every couple divorced two and a half, or thereabouts, were married. The divorce court still has a prospect of material to work upon.

THE BAIT ACT.

St. Johns, Nfld., April 5.—Premier Bond introduced in the legislature last night a bill to increase the stringency of the Bait Act against American fishermen. The government also has dispatched the revenue cruiser Fiona, with Inspector O'Reilly and Magistrate Avery and a force of regular police preventative officers, to begin a campaign against American fishing vessels, which may attempt to secure bait in these waters.

MINISTER SHIFTS RESPONSIBILITY SAYS HE SAW ONLY TWO APPLICATIONS

Evidence Given at Investigation That Hon. Mr. Green Made Dire Threats Towards Officer.

(From Tuesday's Daily.) The committee investigating the issuing of crown grants to lands about Kitimat began its labors this morning, with A. H. B. Macgowan presiding and J. R. Brown secretary. This is in pursuance of the resolution introduced by John Oliver yesterday, which passed the House.

Hon. R. F. Green was the first witness. He said that the first time this matter came to his attention was when Mr. Munro, of the B. C. Book & Stationery Company, applied for an extension of time for completing the survey on his application. He found that two applications, A. K. Munro and Gordon Hunter, had been before his predecessor in the office, the Premier. An extension of time was allowed. Just before the House met he learned that crown grants were being issued. He sent instructions to stop everything and called for the production of papers. He had not had time to look into the papers.

In reply to John Oliver the Chief Commissioner said that the applications of Mr. Munro and Mr. Hunter were the only ones which came to his attention. They had been dealt with by the Premier when Chief Commissioner. He presumed that he knew that these applications were for lands covered by reserve. Nothing further than gathering the material for investigation had been done. The application of Mr. B. Green had not come before him personally before this. In reply to W. J. Bowser, Hon. Mr. Green said that he certainly knew nothing about the issuing of these crown grants except those of Munro and Hunter. In the natural course of affairs the crown grants did not come to the attention of the Chief Commissioner. From Mr. John the grant went to Mr. Gore, who signed it. It then went to the Provincial Secretary, and then to the Lieutenant-Governor.

The Chief Commissioner said he intended to thoroughly investigate the matter. He had talked it over different times with Mr. Gore. He stopped one crown grant. The rest were issued without the hitting of the reserve. It was fair that rights existing before the reserve was placed should be recognized. Governments prior to the present one had issued crown grants. When persons had shown that in good faith they had complied with the law, they were allowed to complete the transaction and grants were issued. Previous governments had done this.

In reply to Mr. Brown, Hon. Mr. Green said that the only crown grant referred to the Chief Commissioner were those in which there was a question of doubt. The vast majority of cases never came to the attention of the Chief Commissioner. He accepted full responsibility for these two particular crown grants.

In reply to Mr. Oliver, the Chief Commissioner said that he understood that all the applications made previous to the reserve being placed had been turned down by previous governments. An application might be refused to-day and allowed to-morrow. He thought that he was within the statute in allowing the crown grants to be completed although the reserve was placed on the land.

Crown grants were issued, he believed, on reserve lands only under exceptional circumstances. The circumstances in the cases of Munro and Hunter were not of this. The application of Mr. B. Green and A. I. Church was never brought to his attention.

W. S. Gore was the next witness. He produced a large number of papers. Dealing with the grants in question, Mr. Gore said F. M. Raley applied for his land before it was reserved. G. H. Hall also applied before the land was reserved. Geo. Robinson applied after the first reserve was cancelled and before three months expired, which was required by law.

In explanation Mr. Gore said the first reserve was placed on 10th March, 1898, and applied only to lands on the west side of Kitimat Inlet. This land of Geo. Robinson was on the east side of the Inlet. Gordon Hunter gave notice when the land was not reserved. In the case of A. K. Munro, notice was also given when the land was not reserved. In the case of G. H. Raley, notice was published very shortly after the reserve was placed. There was every reason to believe that the land had been staked before the reserve was placed, and lack of postal facilities had prevented the notice arriving in time. In the case of Kate Robinson, notice was published after reserve was established. The notice of Mr. E. Oliver appeared the same day as the notice of reserve was given. In five cases out of the eight the reserve was not established when the notice was given.

In reply to Mr. Brown, Mr. Gore said that he did not believe that the sixty days' notice of intention to purchase had not been given by these parties before the reserve was placed. This Mr. Gore did not think was necessary. The person applying was entitled to a favorable consideration. With reference to the grant of G. H. Hall, Mr. Gore said this was originally applied for in the name of W. Magnuson, February 10th, 1898; a search showed that it was Mr. Matheson.

Semin-Cotton government's policy was to refuse to sell lands generally. All the applications were refused. With a change of government the applicants renewed their applications. Under the new government, with W. C. Wells as Chief Commissioner, in a number of instances these were allowed to complete their purchase. The present government had granted two—Gordon Hunter and A. K. Munro. Personally he thought that one government might counteract the decision of a previous government. There were peculiar circumstances in these cases. The Semin-Cotton government refused to sell these lands and persons refused to attempt to purchase them. In the lands department the greatest librarians.

Mr. Oliver called attention to the fact that the date of application in the case of F. M. Raley was April 20th, 1904. Mr. Gore said an attached letter would explain that.

Further questioned, Mr. Gore said that he did not know that these applications went before the Chief Commissioner personally. He had himself understood at one time that all these applications went before the Chief Commissioner. When these applications were received he (Mr. Gore) had given the chief clerk, Mr. Johns, instructions to lay all of them before the Chief Commissioner, Mr. Wells.

The application of F. M. Raley was endorsed by the member, C. W. D. Clifford. Mr. Raley had not made application previously because the government was not disposed to issue these grants.

Mr. Oliver called attention to the fact that the application was made May 12th, 1898. The Semin-Cotton government did not come into power until August 15th, 1898. Therefore if this man had complied with the law he would have made application before the Semin government came into power.

Mr. Gore admitted that this was right. Mr. Oliver contended that therefore the policy of the Semin-Cotton government could not have deterred the applicant.

With respect to Mr. Hall's grant, Mr. Gore supposed that Mr. Brown or Mathison, the original applicant, had assigned his rights to Mr. Hall.

In this case Mr. Oliver pointed out that application was made in July, 1904. He wanted to know what rights the original applicant would have to transfer the application.

Mr. Gore admitted that these were all extraordinary cases. The department, Mr. Gore said, recognized the right of the person to transfer any right he had in timber lands, etc.

In reply to Mr. Brown, the witness said it was the rule never to allow a second grant to a person before a previous grant was improved.

Mr. Oliver wanted to know if this was an invariable rule.

Mr. Oliver called attention to the fact that Geo. Robinson within two weeks got two grants.

Mr. Gore said he did not know that this was the rule. He said Mr. Oliver did not know that it was not the same person.

Mr. Oliver produced applications to purchase, which specifically stated that it was not transferred. Mr. Gore said this was not the practice, and transfers were allowed.

The application for lot 101, granted to Geo. Robinson, it was found was made by E. Church. As there were two grants were issued to Kate Robinson. These were applied for February 3rd, 1898, and on March 10th, 1898. There could be no certificate of improvement, Mr. Oliver contended that the first before the second application was made.

Mr. Gore said the chief clerk and conveying clerk looked into these applications and initiated them. It was not the intention of the department to keep in mind all these particular cases.

Mr. Oliver asked if it was evident that a fraud had been perpetrated on the department?

Mr. Gore said he did not care to give an opinion on this subject.

Mr. Oliver pressed for an answer as to what was done to prevent a violation of the statute with respect to the grant being issued to a person who had not complied with the law respecting the certificate of improvement being given on a previous application.

Mr. Gore supposed the chief clerk took every precaution. Witness was not personally concerned with it.

The grant to M. E. Oliver was next taken up. This application was dated November 15th, 1898, the date of advertisement being March 10th, 1898.

Mr. Gore said there was no letter accompanying the application as to transfer.

In reply to Mr. Bowser, witness said the chief clerk had been with him about 20 years. The order in council to establish a reserve would be prepared by himself (Mr. Gore). The chief clerk would not know of the intention to establish a reserve before the notice appeared. Mr. Wells as chief commissioner had not refused any of the applications going before him.

Mr. Green had spoken to witness about these crown grants only a few weeks ago. Mr. Green then said that he had had no knowledge of the issue of these. Mr. Green said he would prepare the matter, and it would be bad for the one responsible. Up to that time witness had thought that the applications had not gone before the chief commissioner. He could not remember conversing with the chief clerk respecting these applications not going before the chief commissioner. When the crown grants came before witness he was not acquainted with the fact that there was anything peculiar in the circumstances. Had he had his attention called to the fact that six years had elapsed between the advertisement and the date of application, he would have at once had it referred to the chief commissioner.

The correspondence he said showed that Mr. Wells had promised to grant the application to Mr. Hunter.

Mr. Brown called attention to the fact that the crown grant might as well be signed by the chief clerk as far as the signature of witness was a check, because the latter did not go into the merits of the case.

Mr. Gore said he signed the grants under the statute. Before closing his evidence Mr. Gore said that he had known his chief clerk for many years. He had found him a capable and trustworthy official. He had no occasion to doubt the reliability or efficiency of that official.

The committee of the legislature investigating the issuing of crown grants there were special reasons. The committee of the legislature investigating the issuing of crown grants there were special reasons.

Prayers were read. The following time: By W. R. Woodman's Lieut. Hon. Charles, the Special St. J. Oliver motion: "That a select committee be appointed to inquire into the accounts of the V. & Slocan railways or governments, and the present lumber industry an insult for the say that the que. The Laurier government should be set to settle it.

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With reference to the applications of F. M. Raley, witness admitted that the lands applied for were without the reserve.

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The application of M. E. Oliver, the date being 1904, was taken before the Chief Commissioner by witness, a note to that effect being endorsed on it. The application of A. I. Church was also taken by witness to the Chief Commissioner. It might be that the circumstances were not impressed upon the mind of the Chief Commissioner.

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MINISTER SHIFTS RESPONSIBILITY

(Continued from page 4.)

question as to whether these crown grants were not illegally issued in view of the fact that they were not granted within the statutory time for doing so. That was a matter of law.

In the case of the applications of Mr. Hunter and Mr. Munro, witness admitted that the description of the land advertised and the sketches did not correspond with the land granted. He could not explain this error.

In the case of the lot of H. G. Hall, which was also wrongly described, Mr. John said that he thought that probably another application to Cartwright, which was referred to, had been made.

In reply to Mr. Brown, witness said that in the application of H. G. Hall, which was made by W. W. Magnesen, he had seen Mr. Gore, who said that in view of the talk of railways in the north he thought it should go before the Chief Commissioner. When it came before the Chief Commissioner, it was probable that he called attention to the fact that this was similar to that of the applications of Mr. Hunter and Mr. Munro. He had presumed that these latter had come before the government and the Chief Commissioner would know the circumstances.

Mr. John said he submitted only three applications to the Chief Commissioner. He submitted that of Theodore M. Magnesen to the Chief Commissioner also.

The committee adjourned at 12 o'clock until to-morrow.

The committee of the legislature investigating the issuing of crown grants about Kitimaat sat again this morning.

The first witness was H. G. Hall, of this city.

Mr. Hall explained in connection with the crown grant issued to him that he had been asked to allow a crown grant being issued in his name. He believed he signed a receipt for the crown grant and immediately transferred it. Geo. Robinson asked him to allow his name to be used. Witness transferred the crown grant either to Geo. Robinson or a nominee of his. Witness had understood something was being done to transfer a right to himself in the way of an application. He had no interest whatever in the land. He understood the land was about Kitimaat.

In reply to J. H. Brown, witness said he had never on his own behalf made application for any land at Kitimaat. It was not this lot, however, and he believed the application made for his client was refused.

J. H. Gray, C.E., was the next witness. He said he had surveyed two lots for Mr. Riley, one for A. W. Jones, one for C. Magnesen, one for Mr. Oliver and one for Mr. Kirk. The lot of Mr. Jones was outside the reserve.

In reply to John Oliver, witness said that the lot granted to H. G. Hall was four lots south of J. A. Cartwright's when the description of the lot would indicate that it should have been the next lot to J. A. Cartwright's. Mr. Gray could not explain this.

In reply to W. J. Bowser, witness said there might have been another lot in Cartwright's name near this. He had been asked to survey this lot when he was at Kitimaat, and had not the Gazette notices with him.

In reply to Mr. Oliver, witness stated that he was shown the location by Geo. Robinson. He admitted that the stakes might have been moved down then, but had no reason to believe so. Attention was called to the fact that Jas. Cartwright gave notice in 1898 of a lot further south than that issued to J. A. Cartwright. This might be the lot referred to in the Hall application. Jas. Cartwright did not put in an application.

In reply to Mr. Oliver, Mr. John said that Mathieson applied for a lot.

Mr. Oliver called attention to the fact that the lot granted to Mr. Hall exactly being the description of the lot applied for by Mathieson. Mr. Oliver wanted to know if this granting of lands by the elimination of lots did not suggest fraud.

Mr. John said it would not.

Mr. Gray in explanation said that he believed the old staking was short and that the bounds of all the lots were moved south.

C. W. D. Clifford was the next witness. He said that his attention to Kitimaat and the need of a road to open up the country was called in 1896. In 1897 he got an Indian to accompany him and was the first white man to pass from there to the Skeena. He had got a man, Wilkinson, to stake some land on Kitimaat in 1896. At the present time he was interested in about 297 acres, his wife holding an interest.

In 1898 D. Mann while out here was attracted to Kitimaat as a probable gold mine. Mr. Mann got witness to have lands staked for him, and he got Wilkinson to do so.

He recalled the fact that the land grants for a party of eleven, of which he was a member, had been prepared by the government. While the Semlin-Cotton government came into power these were all refused. They were afterwards renewed when the following government came into power. Mr. Clifford said it was not his intention to renew applications. It was only fair that this should be done.

Mr. Oliver called attention to the fact that an application was made in 1896 by Mr. Clifford for lands which were now held in abeyance. He said that Mr. Clifford said that he had considered this was gone.

Mr. Oliver pointed out that Mr. Clifford had last year applied for leave to survey the land.

Mr. Clifford said his attention had been called to the fact that he might get it, and he made application. He paid the cost of survey, and found that the lot had already been crown granted to Mr. Singlehurst.

"Although you were the first applicant, you got left," suggested Mr. Oliver.

"Yes," replied Mr. Clifford. "I often have been in that position."

Mr. Oliver called the attention of witness that he had endorsed the application of W. Magnesen.

Mr. Clifford said "yes," and he would do it again, as he considered the persons were entitled to it.

With reference to the endorsing of the application of F. W. H. Riley by him-

GOOD ATTENDANCE IN CITY SCHOOLS INTERESTING RETURNS FOR THE PAST MONTH Five Divisions Reach Ninety-Five Per Cent.—Showing in Manual Training Department.

USE FRUIT-A-LIVES Fruit-A-Lives or Fruit Liver Tablets

There was generally a good attendance at the public schools during the month of March, although a great deal of petty illness among the children, especially of the younger classes, prevented a high degree of regularity as during the earlier months of the year. In forty out of the sixty-four divisions the regularity record was 90 per cent. or over, but in only five did it reach 95 per cent. These were: High school, division 1, 98 per cent.; Boys' school, division 11, 96 per cent.; South Park, division 3, 96 per cent.; Boys' school, division 8, 95 per cent.; Girls' school, division 7, 95 per cent.

Out of a total attendance of 2,761 there were 1,322, or 48 per cent., against whom no absences were recorded during the month. The best record in this respect was made by the Spring Ridge school and the poorest by the High school. The percentages are given in the last column of the table below.

The attendance at the manual training classes is uniformly more regular than at the other classes of the school. For the month of March the regularity percentage at the Central school centre was 95, the best record, 98 per cent., being credited to the third and fourth divisions of the South Park school, and the lowest, 82 per cent., to the first and second divisions of the same school. At the North Ward centre the general average was 96 per cent., the highest being that of the third division of the North Ward school, 99 per cent., and the lowest the first division of the same school, 90 per cent.

The general attendance average in the domestic science classes was 88 per cent., the highest being that of the Girls' Central third division, 98 per cent., and the lowest, North Ward, first division, 75 per cent.

Following is the abstract for the several schools:

Table with 4 columns: No. Daily Complete, Present, Ave. Attend., P.C.

High ... 228 90.15 88 39 Boys' ... 337 90.83 82 22 Girls' ... 450 91.42 231 51 North ... 426 88.84 183 43 South ... 363 92.19 179 49 West ... 235 88.52 106 45 Spring Ridge ... 150 89.78 107 59 North Ward ... 115 82.78 67 48 Hillside ... 115 92.91 64 55 Rock Bay ... 70 88.40 30 43

2,761 90.60 1,322 48

THE WILL APPEAL

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WEAVER'S SYRUP Boils, Humors, Salt Rheum

INTERVIEWED MINISTERS. Clergymen Put Their Case Before Members of the Government.

Tuesday afternoon a deputation from the Ministerial Association, consisting of Rev. J. P. Westman, president; Rev. H. Carson, Rev. A. Ewing and Rev. W. Leslie Cole, members of the executive council and presented the resolution passed by the association relative to the abolishment of the legislation preventing clergymen from becoming members of the school board. This resolution was published in full in the Times. The clergymen were cordially received by Hon. Chas. Wilson, attorney-general, and Hon. F. J. Fulton, provincial secretary.

After the deputation had advanced their arguments in favor of their request, the attorney-general drew attention to the exemption from taxation that clergymen had enjoyed. The reverend gentlemen replied that they had never opposed taxation, and welcomed any legislation which would place them in a similar position to other subjects. What they wanted was their right to the control of the school board. The ministers frankly admitted that they had a leg to stand on as far as the principle advocated by the deputation was involved, but pointed out that the question was one of expediency. A compliance with the request might result in an interference with the present non-sectarian character of the school system. The attorney-general, in the province, was quite plain in his jurisdiction. The clergymen's representations were received in a friendly spirit they were not given any assurance one way or the other.

EXECUTIVE MEETING. Business Transacted at Tuesday's Session of Tourist Association Management.

An important meeting of the executive of the Tourist Association was held at the rooms, Fort-street, Tuesday afternoon. F. W. Vincent occupied the chair and among those present were J. L. Beckwith, H. Thompson, J. E. Wilson, Ald. Hanna, Ald. Oddy, B. S. Heisterman, A. Henderson and Secretary Cuthbert. T. M. Henderson, formerly a valued member of the association, who was dancing was kept up until a very early hour. The prizes awarded reflected the popularity of the fire-boys, and perhaps acted in no small way to make the affair one to be remembered for some time to come.

On Thursday last Charles McDonald, of Simons Leiser & Co.'s store, and his bride (Miss McNeil) were the recipients of a handsome present in the shape of a set of carpets, and a set of silver and services, which bore the following inscription, neatly engraved: "Presented to Mr. and Mrs. McDonald by the employees of the big store." Manager Ludstone, on behalf of the staff, made the presentation. Both Mr. and Mrs. McDonald have been employed as clerks in the store for a number of years, where Mr. McDonald still holds forth.

T. N. Hibben, of T. N. Hibben & Co., Victoria, is spending a few days here. As this is Mr. Hibben's first visit to the city, he is naturally delighted with its appearance.

Houses are scarce. The Wellington Cullery Company owns a few residences here, which are not likely to be empty for some time to come, as there are about 70 applicants waiting for the next vacant house. The hotels are crowded.

A. because of the miners' aid off some time ago at Ladysmith have secured employment in the mines here. All shifts are working full time.

The public school is overcrowded, and it is probable that another teacher will be added to the staff in the near future.

The gun club is again fully organized, and the old Kimberland Koon Klub is to be given an entertainment for an explosion in one of the buildings of the Union Metallic Cartridge Company at Bridgeport, Conn., on Tuesday.

English Testimony. COLDS, HEADACHE, INFLUENZA AND CATARRH RELIEVED BY MEXICAN PINK PILLS.

Prominent people throughout England, the United States and Canada praise Dr. Agnew's Catarrh Powder will cure any cold.

Miss Blanche Sloan, London, England, writes: "I have suffered for years from colds, coughs and influenza. Dr. Agnew's Catarrh Powder gave me relief in 10 minutes. It is worth all other remedies combined."

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After the deputation had advanced their arguments in favor of their request, the attorney-general drew attention to the exemption from taxation that clergymen had enjoyed. The reverend gentlemen replied that they had never opposed taxation, and welcomed any legislation which would place them in a similar position to other subjects. What they wanted was their right to the control of the school board. The ministers frankly admitted that they had a leg to stand on as far as the principle advocated by the deputation was involved, but pointed out that the question was one of expediency. A compliance with the request might result in an interference with the present non-sectarian character of the school system. The attorney-general, in the province, was quite plain in his jurisdiction. The clergymen's representations were received in a friendly spirit they were not given any assurance one way or the other.

EXECUTIVE MEETING. Business Transacted at Tuesday's Session of Tourist Association Management.

An important meeting of the executive of the Tourist Association was held at the rooms, Fort-street, Tuesday afternoon. F. W. Vincent occupied the chair and among those present were J. L. Beckwith, H. Thompson, J. E. Wilson, Ald. Hanna, Ald. Oddy, B. S. Heisterman, A. Henderson and Secretary Cuthbert. T. M. Henderson, formerly a valued member of the association, who was dancing was kept up until a very early hour. The prizes awarded reflected the popularity of the fire-boys, and perhaps acted in no small way to make the affair one to be remembered for some time to come.

On Thursday last Charles McDonald, of Simons Leiser & Co.'s store, and his bride (Miss McNeil) were the recipients of a handsome present in the shape of a set of carpets, and a set of silver and services, which bore the following inscription, neatly engraved: "Presented to Mr. and Mrs. McDonald by the employees of the big store." Manager Ludstone, on behalf of the staff, made the presentation. Both Mr. and Mrs. McDonald have been employed as clerks in the store for a number of years, where Mr. McDonald still holds forth.

T. N. Hibben, of T. N. Hibben & Co., Victoria, is spending a few days here. As this is Mr. Hibben's first visit to the city, he is naturally delighted with its appearance.

Houses are scarce. The Wellington Cullery Company owns a few residences here, which are not likely to be empty for some time to come, as there are about 70 applicants waiting for the next vacant house. The hotels are crowded.

A. because of the miners' aid off some time ago at Ladysmith have secured employment in the mines here. All shifts are working full time.

The public school is overcrowded, and it is probable that another teacher will be added to the staff in the near future.

The gun club is again fully organized, and the old Kimberland Koon Klub is to be given an entertainment for an explosion in one of the buildings of the Union Metallic Cartridge Company at Bridgeport, Conn., on Tuesday.

English Testimony. COLDS, HEADACHE, INFLUENZA AND CATARRH RELIEVED BY MEXICAN PINK PILLS.

Prominent people throughout England, the United States and Canada praise Dr. Agnew's Catarrh Powder will cure any cold.

Miss Blanche Sloan, London, England, writes: "I have suffered for years from colds, coughs and influenza. Dr. Agnew's Catarrh Powder gave me relief in 10 minutes. It is worth all other remedies combined."

Claude G. Wood, Palace Theatre, London, England, writes: "One puff of Dr. Agnew's Catarrh Powder will cure any headache."

Miss Biju Russell, 10 Kettle St., London, England, writes: "One bottle of Dr. Agnew's Catarrh Powder cured me of chronic colds and relieved my headache in 10 minutes. Dr. Agnew's Heart Cure relieves heart disease in 30 minutes."

BRIGHT PROSPECTS. General Manager of Fit-Reform Company Pleased With Outlook.

Arthur A. Sandeman, general manager of the Fit-Reform Clothing Manufacturing Company, Montreal, who, as announced in the Times, is here on business, is highly gratified at the prospects of the spring and summer trade throughout Canada. In the Northwest Territories, Manitoba and this province, he says the outlook is very satisfactory. In fact so satisfied are the company with conditions at Winnipeg in particular, that they have decided to open another agency there, which will be ready for the fall business. A new building will be erected having a depth of one hundred and forty feet and capacity for a large number of wardrobes. Since his last visit here a number of other agencies have been opened, while the headquarters at Montreal has been increased proportionately.

Mr. Sandeman attributes a great deal of the success of the Fit-Reform concern to the fact that they are the original founders of the wardrobe system of tailor-made garments. They guarantee every garment, and if satisfaction is not given money will be refunded. They are, he claims, the first people who have made that offer. He further holds that no tailor can make garments at the price named by the Fit-Reform people, and that given money will be refunded. They are, he claims, the first people who have made that offer. He further holds that no tailor can make garments at the price named by the Fit-Reform people, and that given money will be refunded. They are, he claims, the first people who have made that offer.

Mr. Sandeman is much pleased with the increase in the business of the local agency and hopes that Messrs. Allen & Ashwell will be compelled to still further enlarge their wardrobe capacity before very long.

GERMAN EMPEROR AND MOROCCAN AFFAIRS

How the Russian Papers Regard the Latest Developments in the Mediterranean.

St. Petersburg, April 3.—1.05.—Emperor William's speech at Tangier and prospective developments there have taken up the attention of Russian newspapers here. Her treaty relations with France and the friendly attitude of Germany during the war place Russia in an awkward position. Nevertheless, the difficulties of floating further loans in France and the absence of assistance, on which the Russian government has relied, a Manchurian army so well supplied with artillery. Decided pleasure is also expressed at the rocks encountered by the new Anglo-French entente.

The Russ terms the visit of the German Emperor to Tangier as a demonstration against the entente, and points out that the refusal of Emperor William to recognize French pretensions must deeply impress the Moroccans to the disadvantage of both France and Great Britain. "Expectedly," the Russ says, "a grouping of powers in Western Europe has begun, and perhaps we are on the eve of great developments in international events. The German and French brigades are to be congratulated on the excellent entertainment provided on this their third annual celebration. The Camberland hall was very tastefully decorated with flags, bunting, and fire-lighting apparatus, much to the admiration of dancers and spectators. The music was also much appreciated. Many quaint, original and picturesque costumes were worn, and dancing was kept up until a very early hour. The prizes awarded reflected the popularity of the fire-boys, and perhaps acted in no small way to make the affair one to be remembered for some time to come."

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THE CANAL COMMISSION. Work of Construction Will Be Divided Among the Members.

Washington, April 3.—President Roosevelt has carried out his plan for the reorganization of the Isthmian canal commission as to its personnel and business methods, generally, on the lines of the legislation he suggested to congress at the last session, which failed in the crush of business in the closing hours. To-day, within half an hour after the President's departure from Washington, Secretary Taft, directly in charge of canal matters, made public the personnel of the new commission and the division of duties among them.

Only one member of the old commission, Benjamin Harrod, was re-appointed. Finding he was obliged legally to appoint seven commissioners, the President did so, but he carried out his own plan by making three of them practically the commission—the other four, although bearing the title of commissioners, not only receive a lower compensation, but are assigned to much smaller fields of activity.

The President also has carried out the scheme of dividing up the work of canal building among the commissioners, so that nominally acting as a body on stated occasions, each individual member would operate in a special field. The head of the commission is a trained railway man chosen for his administrative ability in the financial and purchasing field. The new governor of the zone is a lawyer, who has also had to do with state affairs. The engineer commissioner already is known for his abilities in execution of the practical work of canal cutting. The other members of the commission are pledged to comply with the law as to the number of commissioners, but are men of high ability as hydraulic engineers. Secretary Taft told them today that they would be expected to show results, and that is said to be very keynote from the President's action today.

The personnel of the new Isthmian canal commission is as follows: Theodore P. Shotts, chairman; Charles E. Magoon, governor of the canal zone; John F. Wallace, chief engineer; Rear-Admiral M. T. Endicott, U. S. N.; Brigadier-General Peter C. Hains, U. S. A. (retired); Col. Oswald Mark, corps engineer, U. S. A.; Benjamin Harrod.

CANADIAN NOTES.

Fire at Winnipeg—Thirty-Nine Horses Lost at Toronto.

Frankfort, Ont., April 4.—Bert Bowman, clerk in the Molsons Bank here, shot himself twice over the heart this morning. He will recover. He cannot give a reason for the deed.

Fire at Toronto.

Toronto, April 4.—Thirty-nine horses owned by the City Dairy Co. were destroyed in a fire in their stables last night.

Winnipeg Blaze.

Winnipeg, April 4.—Prompt work by the firemen averted a serious conflagration in the Bright & Johnson building. The loss is estimated at \$10,000.

Galicians Sentenced.

Winnipeg, April 4.—Three Galicians who are firm believers in Dr. Agnew's Catarrh Powder to "live up to the precept" in all its claims. One was Swainson, Rev. Dr. Langtry (Episcopalian), Rev. Dr. Withrow and Rev. Dr. Chambers (Methodist); and Dr. Newman, all of Toronto, Canada. Copies of their personal letters for the asking, 50 cts.—106.

THE INDIAN FRONTIER.

War Office Is Acting in Accordance With Advice from Government in India.

London, April 3.—In the House of Commons to-day War Secretary, Lord Foster, replying to Winston Churchill's motion to reduce the army vote by \$50,000,000, said the only method of combating efficiency of the army as a fighting force with economy was by reduction of the volunteers. Mr. Amold-Foster said his critics charged him with exaggerating the danger on the Indian frontier, but the government and the war office were acting entirely in accordance with the advice of the government in India.

MRS. STANFORD'S ESTATE. Is Valued at \$7,000,000

