

ALPHA IS GOING TO PIECES

Steamer's Back Was Broken in Three Places and Coast is Strewn With Wreckage.

FIREMAN'S STORY OF THE WRECK

Owing to Storm the Helm Would Not Answer—Capt. York and Mr. Barber Were on Bridge When First Crash Came.

(Special to the Times.)

Vancouver, Dec. 18.—Steamer Coquitlam arrived this morning from Union with further particulars of the disaster to the Alpha.

Capt. Goss says the Alpha is a total wreck and fast going to pieces, even the tops of her masts being under water at low tide. The vessel's back was broken in three places and parts of her house and portions of her cargo are strewn along the rocky coast for three miles.

A fireman told a thrilling story of the disaster to Capt. Goss. He was in the stock hole and clambered out as the vessel was going down. He dropped his jacket as he clambered out, and was swept by the suction of a heavy wave. He was carried against the rocks, where his feet caught. By a supreme effort of his own and the assistance of a wave he pulled free and left both boots in the rock crevice. He was dashed repeatedly against the rocks, and his legs were frightfully lacerated before he finally was able to obtain a footing. All his clothes had been torn off except a remnant of a shirt.

He said that at the time of the disaster the helm refused to answer, so great was the force of wind and wave. Then the engines could not be quickly reversed and delay followed. The captain and Barber were on the bridge at the time of the first crash.

Capt. Goss says the night was the most terrible he ever saw in ten years' navigation of the Gulf. Other steamers were lying in coves for shelter.

There was no insurance either on vessel or cargo. The total loss is placed at \$300,000.

The third engineer's name was Moore, not Murray, as at first reported, and he was a former resident of Westminster avenue, in this city.

Mr. Gennell, part owner of the Alpha, had two unsigned life insurance policies of \$10,000 each in his favor drawn by the Barbers, but were not completed in the hurry of the last moment.

TO BRING DOWN SURVIVORS.

D. G. S. Quadra, Captain Walbran, leaves at daybreak for the scene of the disaster to the unfortunate Alpha to render assistance to the living, and do all possible to recover the bodies of the unfortunate who lost their lives.

The plan was the one decided on by Capt. Gaudin, the local agent of marine and fisheries, who, with commendable promptness, wired to the representative owner, J. Gennell, proffering the steamer's services. In reply he received the following self-explanatory telegram:

"Chief officer and survivors of Alpha reported at Union. Can get no port here. Can you proceed to scene of disaster and bring bodies here? Will greatly oblige. Answer, J. Gennell."

In answer to the above Capt. Gaudin wired back to Mr. Gennell that the steamer will be dispatched to-morrow morning as stated.

Scene of Disaster.

Speaking of the disaster to the Alpha this afternoon, Capt. Walbran said:

"Yellow rock where the disaster to the Alpha has occurred is a small precipitous island about 1,000 feet from the eastern end of Denman Island. There is no safe passage between the rock and Denman Island. At low water this channel is nearly dry. On Yellow rock there are situated two lights, one showing a brilliant light all round the horizon, and the western one in conjunction with the first named is so placed as to guide vessels up the Sound, the direct route to Comox. In a strong southeast gale the sea beats heavily against Yellow rock and the adjacent shores."

News was received in the city last evening of the total loss of the steamer Alpha, together with nine members of her crew. She struck Yellow Island, it is said, at the base of the lighthouse

ago after long service between Halifax and the West Indies, and shortly after arrival was sold by Messrs. Pickford & Black to Captain J. D. Warren and others. Later she passed into the hands of Mr. Gennell and other Vancouverites, and the present would have been her first trip in the trans-Pacific trade. Since being brought out to this coast, the steamer has been engaged principally in the Northern trade, being first employed in the Skagway trade and afterwards in the Nome trade. She was, it will be remembered, among the first vessels to reach Nome last year, when scores of craft were striving for the honor. With Captain Otto Buckholz in command she forged her way through the ice, which encompasses Nome in certain times of the year, and was the second vessel to make port. She landed cargo, and because of this, without proper compliance with the customs regulations, as alleged, she brought about legal proceedings instituted in Seattle against her, and which are now occupying the attention of court there.

TOPEKA ALSO WRECKED.

Familiar Alaskan Liner Runs Ashore on Sullivan Island and in Bad Position.

The bad weather which has prevailed for the last week or so all along the coast is proving disastrous to shipping. Simultaneously with the receipt of the news of the total loss of the Alpha, comes word of disaster overtaking the veteran Alaskan passenger and freight ship City of Topeka, which has for years called regularly at the outer wharf on her way to and from the North. The information is received in the following dispatch from Seattle: "The Pacific coast steamer City of Topeka, Captain Olsen, was wrecked on December 8th while on her way down Skagway. She was lightly loaded, and a terrible gale was running. She struck on the southern end of Sullivan Island and what seemed to be a table rock. All the passengers were taken safely ashore, and 22 of them, with the purser and freight clerk, came down on the Dolphin. She has two large holes stove in her through which the sea washed in and out. Her chances of being saved depend entirely on the weather. If the calm weather lasted through the week she could have been safely got off and taken to Juneau. No lives were lost."

The Topeka was built at Chester, Penn., in 1844, for a Boston firm, who sold her to the Atchafon, Topeka & Saco P. & N. Co., of Seattle. She was brought around to this coast in 1886, and was in the employ of the Pacific Coast Steamship Co. She was placed in the Alaskan business. Her dimensions are: Length, 198 feet; beam, 35 feet; and depth of hold, 12 feet.

TOPEKA PASSENGER'S STORY.

(Associated Press.)

Tacoma, Dec. 18.—Among the passengers of the City of Topeka, which was wrecked in Lynn canal on December 8th, was Mrs. A. J. Clark, of Tacoma, who has arrived here and tells a thrilling story of the wreck. Mrs. Clark says:

"About 3 o'clock on Saturday afternoon it grew dark as night, the wind blew a perfect hurricane and it was bitter cold. The waves dashed eight and ten feet high over the steamer's broad rail and nothing could have lived in those waters. They attempted to run into some harbor or retreat until the storm subsided. The terror of that storm were beyond description. The steamer lost her bearings and I think something was broken about the engines. We were sitting at a table in the saloon when the steamer struck on a reef with a terrible shock, closely followed by another more severe, and a panic was created and excited passengers rushed to the deck. Many were throwing their baggage overboard."

"After the second shock the steamer keeled over on her side. Some of the men got to land and built fires and began carrying things ashore. The women lay on the deck, and then we were reached shore by stepping on the rocks."

"It snowed all Saturday night and was very cold, and continued so until Sunday night, when it moderated. One of the men walked three miles through the storm to an Indian village, or encampment, and got a tent for the women. Then we found that it leaked. The weather changed and it began to rain."

"We stayed on the island until Tuesday about 11 o'clock the little steamer Alert came by and found us. It transported some of us to Juneau and sent another steamer back after the rest. They expected the Topeka would break her back at low tide."

Since the Alpha met her doom a great deal of comment is heard along the waterfront in regard to the deep manner in which the ship had been loaded, leaving little of her, as one pilot remarked this morning, to offer resistance to a heavy sea. Then again, it is said, that had the steamer had a pilot aboard, the accident might not have happened. One of the men who had attempted to have attempted the vessel would not have attempted to do so, not having stopped at Navasino until the wind subsided a pilot, it is claimed, would have undoubtedly been kept out in open water.

In his official report of the accident W. B. Wilkinson, chief officer of the Alpha, who is among the survivors at Union, says:

"This fearful disaster will surprise you. The good SS. Alpha went on shore at Yellow rock, at 6:45 p. m. on Saturday night, during that heavy S. E. gale nine men are drowned, including Captain York, Mr. S. Barber, Mr. J. Barber, purser, the three engineers, two A. B.'s and one stowaway. Everything that human beings could do was done

for them, but without avail. The balance of the crew came down with myself to Union in Mr. Ford's boat on arrival here, I find that the wires are broken down. I left one man (the watchman) to stand by the vessel on the island on which the Yellow rock lighthouse stands.

"The hull of the ship is just under water at low water. Fore and after masts gone, and the beach is thick for a couple of miles with wreckage and cargo. I should not be surprised if the bottom was torn out of her. Mind this is only a surmise."

"I came here to wire, but find all the wires broken down. The captain of the Clear, hearing of the disaster was about to push off, came down and said that he would deliver this letter. All the crew are here, and I am doing the best for them, so please let me have instructions. I believe a boat leaves here for Vancouver on Wednesday."

"P. S.—Bendall, police officer here for the island, is looking after wreckage and cargo which goes on shore, and also collecting bodies. I have up to present seen the two Barbers and one A. B. I believe they may be sent down here for inquest. Please let me have instructions as soon as possible."

Describing the struggle for life which those aboard had, Chief Officer Wilkinson stated that Captain York was carried off the bridge almost before the unlucky ship had touched the rock. Mr. Barber, the owner, and the purser, were the next to be lost, no one knows how. It was a case of every man hanging on for himself amid the tremendous rush of sea that came aboard. The engines struck heavily to their posts and it was probably their work that enabled so many of the members of the crew to reach safety in the end. The three officers stayed in the engine room, and that was the last heard of them. Half an hour after the first grounding, it was seen that the vessel was rapidly going to pieces. One member of the crew, named Hardy, pluckily volunteered to take a line ashore, and with the assistance of the lightkeeper he was pulled through the breakers and the work of rescue began. In an hour 25 men were off, and it was not a moment too soon. The line held all through the work of rescue, and in an hour hardly a vestige remained of the steamer, as she had plied up on the rocks. The members of the crew all stay on the island with the lightkeeper. No lives were lost. It was not till evening that they were taken away by a steamer and brought into Union. Some of them are in a very low condition from shock, fever, and Hardy especially, was battered against the rocks until he was, I might say, in a bad way. He was trying to get the line ashore."

The following is the report of Mr. Hardy's examination of the ship at Victoria: "Ballast pumps and trip valves broken. I had same repaired. After dinner had been pumped out. I made a thorough examination from forward bulkhead aft, and could find no leak in hull, and from observations taken at intervals of five hours I saw no perceptible rise in the water in the bilges. I am of the opinion the water found its way into the ship in some discharge compartments in the engine room."

Ex-Chief Engineer Gordon, of the Alpha, who is now at the provincial jail serving a sentence of ten weeks' imprisonment with hard labor, for deserting from the ill-fated vessel, was seen yesterday by a Times reporter. He was in a bad way, and he was not in possession of sufficient information to base any opinion. Any vessel, no matter how strong, would founder through striking a rock. There were circumstances, however, such as defects of various descriptions which would render it more likely to suffer from the way of averting a disaster. He then gave an account of his connection with the Alpha, which he gave in his evidence in court, and which has already been published in these columns. He could not say that the police court proceedings which resulted in his incarceration constituted a fortunate intervention as far as his existence was concerned, for even had he not been prosecuted he would not have shipped with the vessel under any circumstances. He said he supposed there would be an inquiry, and if that case the truth regarding the vessel's condition would be made known.

There is another ex-member of the Alpha's complement who is in duress vile. That man is John Dunovan, a former fireman on the ill-fated steamer, who was gathered in by the police shortly after her return from her first venture on the broad Pacific. Dunovan had indulged too freely, and was arraigned and sentenced to a short time in the city lock-up. He told a Times reporter that he had a premonition that some disaster would overtake the Alpha. In fact he would not have shipped with her again under any pretext. He felt certain that she would never reach the Orient.

"That is the third vessel that I have left to sink, and saved my life," said Dunovan. "Of the others, one was the National liner Erin, which left New York for Liverpool in 1882. Another of the crew and I, did not think she was in a seaworthy condition, and bolted. She was never heard from again."

TRAIN ROBBERIES.

Washington, Dec. 17.—Representative Day, of New York, today introduced a bill for the suppression of train robbery in the territories of the United States and elsewhere. It provides the death penalty for those guilty of a "hold-up" in the case of any person on the train remains in case no one is killed, the penalty is hard labor from 20 to 30 years.

Boer Plans Well Laid

Gen. Clements's Whole Force Had a Narrow Escape From Capture.

Determined Rushes of the Enemy Were Stopped by Artillery Fire.

(Associated Press.)

Johannesburg, Dec. 17.—Details of the defeat of the British at Noitgedacht indicate that Gen. Clements's entire force had a narrow escape from capture.

The Boer plans were splendidly laid. If the main British column had tarried a little longer there would have been complete success for the Boers, who exposed themselves undauntedly, yelling and waving their arms. Their rushes were only stemmed by artillery.

After the British retreat the Boers held a prayer meeting. Their hymns could be heard by the retiring soldiers.

All accounts indicate a heavy Boer loss.

Col. Legge exhibited splendid bravery. He shot five Boers with his revolver before he fell with three bullets in his body.

Wounded Doing Well.

London, Dec. 18.—Lord Kitchener, in a dispatch from Pretoria, dated December 17th, reports that all the British wounded in the engagement at Noitgedacht have arrived there and are doing well.

Boers in Cape Colony.

Capetown, Dec. 18.—The Boers who crossed the Orange River into Cape Colony, west of Allival North, on Saturday, encountered the Cape Rifles and Brabant's force, who retired with loss.

Salisbury on the War.

London, Dec. 18.—At the annual conference of the National Union of Conservative Association to-day, Lord Salisbury, alluding to the war, said that if they wished to sustain the Empire and maintain the glory of England, it was their duty to do so. He said that the Boer war must not be slackened until the great enterprise had been carried out, for on the issue thereof depended the glory and perpetuity of the Empire. It might require a strenuous effort and great self-sacrifice. The present was a time of some anxiety.

"We," said the premier, "do not know exactly what has taken place. We earnestly hope the issue may be better than the beginning. But we have to push it through. Maybe there were matters which have not been explained, and when explained they may be the subject of scrutiny as to the steps whereby the present results have been reached. But we must spare no effort whereby the glory and the maintenance of our Empire may be achieved."

Hutton's Thanks.

Ottawa, Dec. 18.—Col. Lessard, commanding the Canadian Mounted Rifles, sends a letter to the militia department, which he received from Gen. Hutton on October 15th, prior to the departure of that general to England. Gen. Hutton says he thinks Canada has good reason to be proud of the manner in which the regiment has upheld the reputation of Canadian troops. The general says it was a source of constant pleasure to him to note how excellently the regiment had profited by its opportunities, and he congratulates and thanks the men for the good work they have performed.

Judicial Appointment.

London, Ont., Dec. 18.—Capt. Stuart, of this city, who went to South Africa with the first contingent, has received a judicial appointment in South Africa for \$3,000 a year, with a residence and other perquisites, the district to be located when the war is over.

London, Dec. 17.—A dispatch from General Kitchener confirms the Associated Press message from Allival North, Cape Colony, announcing the capture of a detachment of Brabant's Horse on December 13th, near Bastoon, Orange River Colony, and says 107 men were made prisoners on that occasion.

The colonial office in announcing that Sir Alfred Milner succeeds Lord Roberts as administrator of the conquered territory in South Africa, says his taking up his residence at Johannesburg on account of his health must not be regarded as a settlement of the capital question.

Moving South.

Capetown, Dec. 17.—Seven hundred Boers have crossed from Orange River Colony into Cape Colony, near Allival North, and have reached Knappaal.

Sentenced for Looting.

Ottawa, Dec. 17.—Reports from South Africa were received at the militia department to-day. Colonel Evans gives an interesting account of the engagement on November 2nd near Balfirst, in which Lieut. Chalmers was killed and Major Sanders wounded. He pays a high tribute to the gallantry of Chalmers, who was formerly inspector of mounted police.

Major Hurdman, reporting doings of "D" Battery, mentions four non-coms and men, all from Ottawa, were degraded and sentenced to 84 days' imprisonment for breaking into and stealing military stores.

Preparing for Soldiers.

St. John, Dec. 17.—A large number of prominent citizens met to-day at the

call of Mayor Daniel, to consider the reception of Col. Otter and the men of the first contingent from South Africa. From information received from Ottawa, it seems that the Western man will be here for only a few hours. It was decided that the officers and men while here be entertained by the city. Citizens were requested to decorate the buildings. The city will present an address of welcome to the soldiers. Salutes will be fired as the ship comes up the harbor, and a guard of honor from the militia will receive the troops here. The returned heroes will be tendered a banquet if time permits.

London, Dec. 17.—The Capetown correspondent of the Daily Mail says: "The Boers have raided Cape Colony at two separate points, one hundred miles distant. One commando advanced upon Philippstown, between Colesberg and Kimberley. The other, supposed to be Herero's commando, crossed the Orange river between Odendalstroom and Bethulie, northwest of Burgersdorp, its objective apparently being Cradock."

"Gen. Macdonald is engaging the invaders, who have no guns, 20 miles west of Burgersdorp."

"The latest news is that they are being slowly forced back to the Orange river, where a warm reception is being prepared for them."

Lord Salisbury's gloomy reference to South Africa at the conference of the National Union of Conservative Association causes much heart-burning. The Conservative press is reluctant to admit that the situation is worse, and complains of the Premier's "needless pessimism."

The Daily News asks whether Lord Salisbury's utterances foreshadow the news of another reverse, and suggests that the government has received dispatches from Lord Kitchener asking for more troops, on the ground that the war, instead of being finished, is entering upon a new and difficult phase. All the papers are urging the government to do everything possible to support Lord Kitchener. The Queen's message to the volunteers was evidently designed to scotch the general disappointment over their retention in the field. There are rumors current that the government is not able to respond to appeals from South Africa to send out more regulars.

The contemplated thanksgiving service in St. Paul's cathedral in connection with the return of Lord Roberts from South Africa has been abandoned, owing to the government's announcement that the Boer war is not yet over. It is being considered desirable to defer a general thanksgiving until the close of the operations in South Africa.

The programme now is for Lord Roberts to debarh in the Solent to visit the Queen at Osborne House on January 2nd to re-embark and finally at Southampton, coming from that point to London.

The Queen's Thanks.

London, Dec. 18.—The government publicly requests employers who have kept open situations for Yeomanry, colonials and volunteers to continue their efforts to minimize the sacrifices of these men in the services of their country.

The war office has issued the Queen's thanks to the Yeomanry, colonials and volunteers, expressing her reliance that those abroad will continue to aid her regulars.

London, Dec. 18.—It is reported this afternoon that Gen. Knox has been forced to abandon the pursuit of Gen. Dewet, owing to the situation created in Cape Colony by the Boers crossing the Orange River.

It is said that 3,000 republicans have entered Cape Colony and that a considerable number have reached Philippstown.

The reports add that Dewet, with about 4,500 men, is northwest of Ladysbrand, and that an attack on Windburg is momentarily expected.

Kruger's Speech.

Amsterdam, Dec. 19.—Mr. Kruger arrived here to-day. He was met at the railroad station by the municipal and communal authorities. Speeches were exchanged in the royal waiting-room. A banquet was presented to Mr. Kruger, whose appearance was the signal for rounds of applause. Very large crowds of people lined the route to the town hall, where the burgomaster made a speech, in which he said he hoped Mr. Kruger would succeed in his efforts to secure honorable peace.

Mr. Kruger, in reply, said: "In 1884 we obtained our independence, but that memorable action has been obliterated. The invaders are ten against one, but we await the day when God will make known His will. We reply on His help more than on emperors and princes. I have not come as a fugitive, but by order of my government with the object of terminating a war in which the British employ women and children against us."

A luncheon followed. Mr. Kruger subsequently visited the headquarters of the South African refugees.

LOSS OF TRAINING FRIGATE.

Twenty-Five Persons Were Drowned and a Hundred Injured.

Madrid, Dec. 18.—An official dispatch from the prefect of Malaga shows the loss of life by the foundering, on Sunday, of the German training frigate Grosses, of Malaga, to have been less than reported. According to this dispatch 25 fatalities resulted from the accident, and 100 persons were injured.

THE VOTE OF TREATY.

Washington, Dec. 17.—The Senate has reached an agreement to vote on the Hay-Randolph treaty next Thursday, beginning with votes on the amendments at 5 o'clock in the afternoon.

lives near America, T. says: "Chamberlain's is the best medicine for a fine child's never fails to cure." as the child becomes the croupy cough has had a bottle of the hand ready for these symptoms Anderson Bros., Wholesale.

A DOZEN

E. I., Dec. 14.—He that only six returned in the presence that application legislative Assembly of the Columbia, at its act to incorporate a and Districts such power to act as officers, assignees, receivers, financial and estate managers, trustees, bonds, stocks, and individuals, estates, and to carry on a and for such other purposes as are necessary to the attainment of the 1900.

F. GRIFFITHS,
For Applicants.

\$12.00 a week salary woman to represent Magazine as the Missions of the Central West given to each subscriber for a copy of the Central West. Her to the Publishing Co., St. Louis.

arm." Lake Districts on West Seattle and buildings by John B. Beach.

900 B. road feet. Feather Renovator, Richard streets.

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Another Alteration

Great Britain's Suggestion Regarding Preamble of Note Has Been Adopted.

Conference in London, Which It Is Hoped Will Clear the Muddle.

(Associated Press.) Dec. 18.—A Peking dispatch to the Pall Mall Gazette, dated December 17th, says: "The situation has not improved by reports of the powers having reached an agreement as to the scope of the negotiations is limited and the effect is neutralized. The allies have neglected to discuss the armistice and factories at Hankow and Shanghai and have failed to check the transmission of supplies of ammunition to the Chinese. Tung Fu Shiang thus has every opportunity of rallying and equipping his army. He has secured the position of dictator, terrorizes the Emperor and controls the whole movement of troops. It would be necessary to give the military operations of the allies a wider area."

Rome, Dec. 18.—A Peking dispatch dated to-day, says that the ministers of Peking will meet to-morrow, when a final agreement probably will be reached as to the text of the joint Chinese note.

London, Dec. 19.—Writing from Peking on Monday the Daily Mail's correspondent says "Great Britain's proposed alterations in the preamble of the joint note have been practically accepted by all the powers. Both Russia and Japan, whose support was regarded as doubtful, have agreed. Only the attitude of the United States remains as yet not clearly defined, but the acquiescence of the United States is anticipated, and it is probable that the joint note will be signed and delivered to the Chinese plenipotentiary within three or four days. The German minister has warmly supported the British proposal."

A Conference. London, Dec. 18.—Mr. Choate, the United States ambassador, had a long conference this afternoon regarding the Chinese situation with the Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs, the Marquis of Lansdowne, and subsequently Mr. Henry White, secretary of the United States embassy, paid a visit to the foreign office. The greatest secrecy is maintained as to the outcome of these consultations.

What could be learned from British and United States sources varied considerably, the former expressing annoyance and anxiety, the latter maintaining that nothing serious was developing. Some explanation, however, was gathered by a representative of the Associated Press of the extraordinary angle in which the Chinese negotiations have got lately mixed up, and some reconciliations of the contradictory telegrams that have emanated from Peking and various European capitals.

It appears that over a week ago the powers came to an agreement to eliminate the word "irrevocable" from the joint note. Then, when it was believed that everything had been settled, objections were raised, and Great Britain, for the sake of harmony, though much against her will, agreed to re-insert the "irrevocable" clause. In this, it is believed, she was supported by the United States. Once more the joint note seemed on the verge of signature, when a misunderstanding arose in Peking. This confused the governments and formed the subject of the discrepancy in the Secretary Hay which Mr. Choate transmitted to the Marquis of Lansdowne to-day. As the result of the interview, Mr. Choate has sent a long cablegram to Secretary Hay, in which he attributes the latest misunderstanding to "an error in forwarding the instructions, an error which occurred presumably through the cable company, and which caused Mr. Conger and Sir Ernest Satow, the British minister in Peking, to take opposite views, although their home governments were perfectly agreed."

The United States embassy, while non-committal, hopes that to-day's conference will clear the muddle and bring about a signing of the joint note in Peking within a few days.

On the other hand, the British foreign office is not quite so hopeful. Officials there profess to be rather at sea as to whether the conditions are to be irrevocable or otherwise. Indications point to their being irrevocable. British officials admit that they gave in under pressure, and with a distinct reservation that, although the demands are irrevocable, this in no way necessitates an enforcement of demands by European troops. To such course Great Britain cannot and will not agree.

Consequently compliance with the "irrevocable" clause will be somewhat of a farce on the part of Great Britain, and this feature of the case becomes more interesting when taken in connection with the statement made last night here that Great Britain and the United States are in the same boat in the joint note negotiations.

Peking, Dec. 19.—The foreign ministers met late this evening, when everything in regard to the terms of the joint note was agreed to, including the British modifications. The ministers refuse to disclose anything in regard to the matter, believing that the home government should give the particulars to the public.

Hope It Is True. Washington, Dec. 19.—While nothing had been heard from Mr. Conger up to 10 o'clock regarding the agreement said to have been reached in Peking this evening as to the terms of the joint Chinese note, the officials confidently hope that the statements are correct, and that the way is now paved for its formal presentation to the Chinese plenipotentiaries.

The officials here are unable to say

just what the modifications referred to in the Peking dispatch are, but it is believed they rest on the exclusion of the "irrevocable" clause.

Minister Conger has instructions from this government on this subject, and the preamble to the note, it is understood, will not contain that word.

The Chinese peace envoys will be given a reasonable time within which to consider the demands made, and then will follow the formal negotiations for the settlement of the peace terms.

Officials here still decline to make public the text of the note agreed upon, but it is believed that the essential features of the agreement do not differ materially from the points already made public.

Alleged Discontent. St. Petersburg, Dec. 18.—The Novoye Vremya observes that there are indications of discontent in all the armies, including the German, with Field-Marshal von Waldersee's brutality. The paper supports the demand that each army act henceforth on its own responsibility.

London, Dec. 20.—A special from Johannesburg, dated December 19th, says that heavy cannonading was heard this morning north of Krugersdorp.

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"A party of Boers, estimated at from 500 to 800, crossed the Orange River at Rhenoster Hoek.

"A second band is reported to have crossed near Sand Drift.

"They have been followed. I have sent a considerable body of mounted men, who are getting under them.

"The Boers from Rhenoster Hoek are being followed closely from Vensterstad, which they left at 3 o'clock yesterday evening, going in the direction of Steynsburg.

"The important points on the railway and the neighborhood are well guarded. I hope the band will soon be driven north again."

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A mixed force of one thousand men was dispatched north yesterday evening.

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Subsequently Mr. Kruger repaired to the palace of industry, where five thousand schoolboys welcomed him with a chorus.

May Visit America. Montreal, Dec. 20.—A Grand Rapids, Mich. dispatch says a cablegram was received on Tuesday from Oom Paul Kruger, secretary of the Boers, saying that he might possibly visit the United States when he had exhausted his efforts to secure recognition in Europe.

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London, Dec. 20.—The war office last evening could give no information regarding reports of a Boer invasion of Cape Colony.

The officials expressed the opinion, however, that the newspaper accounts were exaggerated, and that probably the troops, who have been employed in chasing Gen. Dewet will be diverted to deal with the invaders. Having regard to the customary methods of the war office, it is not to be interpreted as confirming the reports.

Lord Kitchener in the meantime keeps a tight rein over the news, which increases the public disquietude. There is a persistent rumor that he has demanded other concessions as a condition of the return of the Boers.

According to the Daily Mail, private telegrams received in London yesterday describe the situation in Cape Colony as somewhat ominous. It seems that the invading Boers are receiving considerable assistance from the local Dutch, and that the troops at the disposal of the British authorities are not sufficient to cope with any serious spread of military operations. It is believed that the government has at last awakened to the seriousness of the situation, and is making the utmost efforts to provide Lord Kitchener with horses and mules.

The British losses at Nooitgedacht, according to the official accounts, were 82 killed and wounded, with 44 missing and still unaccounted for.

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May Now Be Fighting

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Preparations at Vancouver. Vancouver, Dec. 19.—Preparations are being made for the reception of the re-

turning South Africa heroes. Ever-pleasant society in Vancouver has been asked to take part in the welcome home festivities. The school children in the city will occupy a stand erected for them at the C. P. R. station, and sing patriotic songs when the soldiers step off the train.

It is expected that the contingent will reach here on Friday, the 28th inst.

A. C. Fraser has been elected mayor of Brandon by seven majority over John Hanbury.

One of the men who held up the train near New Orleans was found dead near the town yesterday. The man was wounded in a fight after the robbery, and knowing his wounds would be fatal, he committed suicide.

At a meeting in Berlin yesterday of the Pan-Germans, protests were entered against the expulsion of Germans from the Transvaal. Some speakers so expellied—allege they were brutally treated by the British government. Equality was demanded.

A message from United States Consul Gummy at Tangiers informs the state department that the Moorish government had settled the claim of the United States for \$5,000,000 in return of the murder of Marcus Esargia, a naturalized United States citizen, in Morocco last spring.

STREET CARS COLLIDE. Many Persons Injured, Several Fatally, in Accidents During Fog.

(Associated Press.) Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 19.—In a head-on collision to-day between two electric cars on the Greenfield and Indianapolis urban line, Jim and Emory Scott and John Glasscock were fatally injured. Six passengers were badly hurt. The cars were running at a high rate of speed, and the fog prevented the motormen from seeing each other.

Many Injured. Ashland, Ky., Dec. 19.—In a head-on collision this evening between two street cars in this city, three persons were fatally hurt, five seriously injured and a half-dozen sustained severe cuts and bruises. A dense fog caused the accident. The cars were nearing the centre of the city and were tilted with passengers.

SIX HUNDRED KILLED. In a Fight Between Government Troops and Rebels in Colombia.

(Associated Press.) Washington, Dec. 19.—The State Department has received a cablegram from United States Consul General Beane, at Medellin, stating that a great battle has been fought at Girardet port, Magdalena river, Colombia, which lasted two days and resulted in a decisive victory for the government.

It is reported that 600 were killed and many hundreds wounded. Other victories by the government forces of the utmost importance have been announced. The government is celebrating the victories and considers itself greatly strengthened by the success of its army.

WILL NOT RESIGN. (Associated Press.) London, Dec. 19.—United States Ambassador Choate denies the report that he is about to resign his post. He says the rumor was based on the belief that the death of his secretary, Mr. Charles C. Beaman, would necessitate his return to his law practice.

MANY MAY RE-ENLIST. (Associated Press.) Manila, Dec. 19.—The Taft commission is still at work on the tariff. United States could not afford to do anything that would offend them. For this reason he wanted the neutrality of the canal assured and the pending treaty ratified.

New York, Dec. 20.—A cable from London says: "If the Hay-Pauncefote treaty is amended in the sense in which all Washington dispatches affirm the amendment, it will not be accepted by the British government. It is not expected, in official circles here, that President McKinley will carry the matter to such an inevitable issue, but will avoid any unnecessary rebuff by withdrawing the instrument. Neither the British government nor the people will seriously regret the resulting situation, and the amendment will be dropped from an official source. Great Britain in this respect would propose a simple abrogation of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty. Lord Salisbury would declare certain rights guaranteed therein, or their equivalent, to be recovered to Great Britain by another instrument. I inferred from my informant's words that Great Britain is willing to make some concessions to the strong American feeling on the subject by accepting a slight modification of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty. Just how much or little I do not know, but according to an 'unofficial' statement from an official source, Great Britain in no circumstances will assent to a condition such as it is believed the senate will send the president to-day. I merely state the fact without comment."

Amendments Adopted. Washington, Dec. 20.—At twenty minutes to 2 o'clock to-day the Senate went into executive session for the last time upon the Hay-Pauncefote treaty. Shortly after 3 o'clock a vote was taken on the amendments suggested by the committee on foreign relations, and were adopted.

LOST HER PROPELLER. (Associated Press.) London, Dec. 19.—The British steamer Somershill, from Newport News on December 1st for Ipswich, passed the Lizard to-day having in tow the Red Star liner Westerland, Capt. Eboff, which had sailed from Antwerp on December 15th for New York. The Westerland had lost her propeller and the Somershill was towing her to Southampton.

VISITING NEW YORK. (Associated Press.) New York, Dec. 19.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier, premier of Canada, accompanied by his wife and a party of friends, are here. The Premier is here for a few days' rest. Last evening the party attended a theatre party.

Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets assist the action of the "Discovery."

The States And Canal

Committee's Report Says It Is Necessary Government Should Control Waterway.

Senator Foraker's Speech in Defense of the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty.

Washington, Dec. 18.—To-day Senator Corrihan, chairman of the senate committee on inter-oceanic canals, to which was referred the preliminary report of the Isthmian canal commission, submitted a partial report thereon in connection with the protocols of agreement with Costa Rica and Nicaragua, relating to the proposed canal, which were submitted recently to the senate.

In the course of the report it is said that the statement of the Walker commission and the protocols referred to have a bearing upon what is known as the Hepburn bill now on the senate calendar.

"That bill," says the report, "is a declaration of the policy of the United States for a canal under control of this government. It is this law of necessity rather than the expectation of the profit or advantage to the United States that compels us to construct, own and control a ship canal through Costa Rica and Nicaragua, and the geographical relation of these states to our country and the prestige of the United States among American governments point to us as the power which must incur the expenditure and be invested with the authority to control the canal as a main highway for ships of all nations. The assured profits of this enterprise in money, calculated on a basis that is even much larger than is indicated in any report that has estimated the cost, are a sufficient justification of the expenditure that is necessary to acquire the right of way and construct the canal."

The report says the passing of the Hepburn bill by an almost unanimous vote in the House must have called for a protest from Great Britain if that government considers that a right of hers is in conflict with that measure. If the passage of that measure through the senate calls forth such a protest, then it will be an appropriate time for its consideration and for taking measures for answering it. Until then we can never know the grounds of the objections that Great Britain may choose to make.

The friends of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty occupied all of the time of the senate in executive session to-day, Senators Foraker and Morgan being the speakers. Among the documents disposed of was an agreement supplementary to the Hay-Pauncefote treaty itself and extending the time within which it may be ratified until March 4th.

When the Hay-Pauncefote treaty was taken up, Senator Bard of California, gave notice of an amendment providing that the United States shall have the right to discriminate in favor of United States goods shipped through the canal in United States vessels engaged in the coastwise trade.

Senator Foraker's speech from first to last was a defence of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty. He referred to the protocols agreed upon between Nicaragua and Costa Rica regarding the canal, and said that the ratification of the Hay treaty is a debt the United States owes to them. These countries, if they should see fit, might rise up and refuse to allow the United States to do anything else to anything that would offend them. For this reason he wanted the neutrality of the canal assured and the pending treaty ratified.

New York, Dec. 20.—A cable from London says: "An extraordinary story of a woman's terrible secret has been wired from Oakland to the Daily Mail by its correspondent there. 'Some seven years ago three Belgian workmen were tried and found guilty of having committed a series of crimes, among them the murder of an elderly woman at Hatmond. Although they pleaded their innocence until the last, one of them was sentenced to imprisonment for life and the other two were hanged. Now a woman named Somme has just denounced her husband, who she says committed the crime. She is said to be quite sane, and the authorities are investigating her charge.'"

PROPOSED INVESTIGATION. Into Charges Against Administration of Justice in Alaska.

Washington, Dec. 17.—In view of the wide publicity of the charges against the administration of the United States district court of Alaska, Mr. Carter, of Montana, to-day introduced a resolution in the senate directing the committee on judiciary to investigate the conduct of the judge of the division of the district court of Alaska located at St. Michael, and to report to the senate the names of all persons connected with the litigation before that court concerning which any improper influence or illegal conduct, has been alleged.

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WRECK OF THE TORERA. Passenger of Steamer Arrives in This City—Ship's Present Condition.

W. C. James, a Dawsonite, who was one of the passengers on the steamer City of Topeka at the time she was wrecked on the Lynn Canal, is a guest at the Dominion. Speaking of the disaster, he says the steamer struck on the lower end of Sullivan Island, in Lynn Canal, about 6 o'clock on Saturday evening. She was overtaken by Juneau, and near the locality mentioned was overtaken by a severe storm. It was very dark and snowing heavily, and the steamer had not about to look for shelter. It was impossible to see any distance, and the captain, Mr. James thought, must have temporarily lost his bearings. The ship struck as the tide was rising on a narrow rock. Confusion reigned for a time aboard. The steamer began to sink from the time she struck, but it did not take long to learn the true situation of affairs. The passengers thereupon waited until a ladder was lowered and they went ashore. In the meantime, while the crew devoted themselves to making bedding and food supplies ashore, making no effort to save anything more. There were about 70 passengers all told, and these were camped on the rocks. The stay was a most inhospitable one for it was either raining or snowing the entire time. The bedding got wet, and during the three days spent on the little wooded island there was no protection from the elements. No steamers passed in the day time, and through the sky rocks becoming wet, the crew failed to signal the Dirigo, which went by on Sunday night.

The City of Topeka, Mr. James says, is lying now on the rocks with a big list. Her bow is high and dry at low tide, while at high water the sloop is half full of water. There is a hole in her port bow nearly 25 feet long, and in order that the steamer lie solidly on the rocks the crew opened the port holes.

RENEWED OUTRAGES. Chinese Desperados Are Burning Houses, Murdering and Pillaging.

(Associated Press.) London, Dec. 20.—A dispatch to the Herald Telegram Co. from Peking, dated Wednesday, Dec. 19th, says the situation throughout the provinces is rapidly growing worse and is causing grave anxiety.

The dispatch adds that unless a definite system of government is speedily installed renewal of the anti-foreign outrages will certainly occur. The pressure of winter begins to be felt by the people, and they are also suffering on account of blackmail levied by native employees of the allies, for which the foreigners are blamed. A number of desperadoes are at Pan Chow Fu by General Nei and released by the Germans are now on the Chi Li and Shan Tung borders, burning houses, murdering and pillaging.

BRUSH WITH FILIPINOS. Small Force of Americans Surprised Natives, Twelve of Whom Were Killed.

(Associated Press.) Washington, Dec. 20.—The following cablegram from Admiral Remy, giving account of a sharp brush with Filipino aggressors, was received at the Navy Department: "A small force of the 40th Cavalry and five of the crew landed from gunboat Basco yesterday at Limbonoy. They met 20 insurgents, and a sharp skirmish of half an hour followed. Thirteen insurgents were killed, 12 rifles captured, and a large amount of stores destroyed. One soldier was wounded. Signed, Remy."

DENOUNCED BY HIS WIFE. Says Husband Committed Crime for Which Two Men Were Guillotined.

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"FAARDEBERG GATE."

The report of the sub-committee, the scheme of which for the perpetuation of the memory of the volunteers who died in South Africa was made to the general committee some days ago, has made its appearance somewhat prematurely, judging by the statements given to the press at the time of its presentation. But with that the public have little concern. The idea is a good one, and there can be little doubt, will meet with general approval. It will not be too costly, it will be in a commanding position and it will give a clean, neat, and possibly artistic, appearance to a part of the city which at present is anything but pleasing for the eye to dwell upon. It would be well if that work and the reclamation scheme could go on at the same time, for certainly the memorial would not be in harmony with a large part of its surroundings with the present James Bay bridge standing. All these things are matters which will be dealt with at the proper time, however. The monument will have a beautiful background and a noble structure behind it, will present a fine appearance to visitors entering the harbor, and is a most happy inspiration for the purpose for which it is designed.

THE BOER CONSPIRACY.

The revelations which are being made in regard to events antecedent to the outbreak in South Africa are not likely to have the effect expected by Mr. Kruger. Sir Alfred Milner, the British High Commissioner, writing to Mr. Chamberlain, quotes from a letter, dated Kromstad, September 25th, and written by Mr. Bignaut, brother of P. J. Bignaut, State Secretary of the Orange Free State, as follows: "The only thing we are afraid of is that Chamberlain, with his admitted fineness of temper, will cheat us out of a war and consequently out of an opportunity to annex Natal and Cape Colony and to form a republic in the United States of South Africa." Mr. Wessels, a member of the Cape House of Assembly and of the Afrikaner Bond, an association of Dutch conspirators against the South African dominion of Great Britain, states that 65 per cent. of his constituents joined the Boer commandos of their own accord. He supplements this with the assertion that "not only the border Dutch but Dutchmen all over the colony one by one made their way to the Boer lines." These statements show not only the task which confronted Great Britain in the first place but the work that still remains for her to do. It is well for the world that settling day was not postponed too long. Kruger, we suppose, was anxious to reign a few years before he was gathered to his fathers and his recalcitrancy made the task of deciding which flag should float over South Africa comparatively easy.

"WESTERN IMMORALITY."

Mr. Speer has been saying some very hard things of British Columbia to an audience of his ministerial brethren in Toronto. That seems to be a habit of his. He has said that the clergy in this province are sometimes rather hard up to it, we suppose, to find fresh subjects of discourse. British Columbia is a long distance from Toronto, it can be made a picturesque subject in proper hands and almost all the world is more or less interested in us at the present time. We are quite willing to admit that there are evils here which are an abomination in the eyes of every clean, healthy-minded man and woman, and which we are all working to have eradicated. The same thing has been going on in Toronto for a great many years, and there still remains much to be done unless a great deal has been accomplished within a comparatively short time. Here are the words of the reverend gentleman. They will probably amuse some of us and may cause others to mend their ways:

Then there are the "immoral" ministers, who are chiefly known by the elevation of their "blasphemous" language. By some means or other they become "dandified gentry," but they can't grow enough on their land to feed a superannuated gentry. They hate the "Canadians," whom they call "bloody colonialists" and do not exercise a healthful influence on the colony.

The mining class, now chiefly controlled by syndicates, is hard to handle, the miner being looked upon as detached from the bodies politic and ecclesiastical. Then the soldiers, who get the largest kind of license to do as they like, and who are a constant menace to morality, and "the men of the royal navy cannot be reached by ordinary methods. This work must be done chiefly by moral influence."

There is no Sabbath observance, the Sabbath-breaking law being a not appended saying: "This law is obsolete!" The liquor traffic is immense, in seventeen months one railroad car carried into British Columbia as many tons of liquor as it did tons of five other commodities. In Victoria, with its 25,000 inhabitants, there are 98 places in which liquor is sold, and there are 100 houses of ill-repute.

The papers lose everything by taking a stand against all this evil, so that their only policy seems to be to let it alone.

Mr. Speer spoke a good word for the Chinese, saying that the grandfathers of some of the Chinamen at present living in the West had been born in British Columbia. He spoke highly of their industry, temperate habits, frugality, and

personal cleanliness. The unsanitary condition of their quarters he lays at the doors of the civic authorities. It will be observed that the speaker attacked almost everybody and everything save the clergy. We have read somewhere that in Toronto the Sabbath is not observed in the manner it once was. Even in Scotland, where it was at one time considered a sin to "whistle" on the Lord's Day, a new spirit has taken possession of the people. Perhaps they have taken to finding sermons in stones and good instead of evil in everything. Torontonians boast of their city of churches, and if the attendance at Divine service is falling off there, whom does it reflect on?

CANADA AND THE EMPIRE.

All Canadians will agree with Principal Grant that the time has come when Canada should take active measures for her own defence. We have depended too long on the strong arm of the Mother Country to shield us from possible enemies. The navy the Mother Land will have to maintain in its present relative strength as compared with the ocean-going armament of the other nations of the world, and in such a condition it will always be equal to the defence of the commerce and the shores of the Empire. Some time ago certain of the Australian colonies decided that in order to maintain their self-respect it was incumbent upon them to contribute to the cost of maintaining and constructing the naval armament of the other nations of the world, and in such a condition it will always be equal to the defence of the commerce and the shores of the Empire. Some time ago certain of the Australian colonies decided that in order to maintain their self-respect it was incumbent upon them to contribute to the cost of maintaining and constructing the naval armament of the other nations of the world, and in such a condition it will always be equal to the defence of the commerce and the shores of the Empire.

HONORING CANADIANS.

As was expected, the scheme by which Victoria proposes to perpetuate the memory of the dead who died in South Africa and to honor the living who served their country there has been approved, but the work of greatest magnitude in connection therewith yet remains to be done. Details must be arranged and the necessary funds gathered together. As it is a work of utility and in that respect concerns this city alone, besides being ornamental and patriotic, it must necessarily be a purely civic undertaking, and the work of collecting the funds must be done by the citizens of the city, within our own narrow limits. The Dominion government cannot be expected to come to our aid, because that would be setting a precedent which might be taken advantage of by all sections of the country, and the ultimate effect of which might be far-reaching indeed. We shall have to rely on our own resources, then, unless the provincial government should see fit to do something, which it would be justified in doing, seeing that the work would greatly improve the appearance of its principal property in the province. The city also has had many calls made upon it of late, but as its property will be improved and beautified, the committee to which has been entrusted the task of raising the necessary amount have good reason to expect very substantial assistance from the city council.

BRITAIN AND SOUTH AFRICA.

It is unfortunate for the country, and may prove disastrous to the fortunes of the Liberal party in Great Britain, that some of its leaders are so carried away by party prejudice that they will not read correctly the later history of Boer rule in South Africa. The evidence is becoming more conclusive every day that if the Imperial government had not acted as hastily as it did Britain would have been forced to confront on the field a united Dutch South Africa. Kruger claims to have had promises of assistance from Europe also, but of that there is no evidence but his word which despite his piety has not proved to be impeachable. He says he will prove the truth of his assertions when the time comes, and if the time ever does come his documents will make a sensation in the world. According to the evidence of men who were in the Transvaal capital at the time the negotiations with Great Britain had assumed such a critical aspect, Kruger and Reitz were eager for war, were determined that there should be no other end to the negotiations and issued their "insolent ultimatum" with a light heart. They expected their armies to sweep down through Basutoland, Natal and Cape Colony, gathering Dutch recruits by the thousand in their march. There were wiser counsellors and more farseeing men ready to advise caution and moderation, but their words of warning were unheeded. Joubert's advice was rejected and his predictions have been verified. The Boers were checked at the outset. Whatever qualifications they possess as guerrillas, they were unequal to the task

of taking place with moderately effective defences. They did not sweep down to the sea and the Dutch uprising was a weak affair compared with what it was expected to be. But with the war practically at an end there is still a great deal of uneasiness among the people of foreign extraction in South Africa. They are intensely hostile to Great Britain because she has announced her determination that the late republics shall not be restored to their former condition. Many of them evidently hold the opinion that although they have fallen in their efforts to erect a Dutch republic this time another opportunity may come if they are allowed to continue the old methods of raising money and securing arms. They have even held meetings in Cape Colony and passed threatening resolutions regarding what will happen if the right of the Dutch to rule be interfered with. Newspapers in the United States which at one time professed to be friendly to Great Britain say that if absolute self-government be not granted in the provinces of South Africa immediately on the conclusion of the war the little sympathy at one time felt in the republic for the cause of the British will entirely disappear. That seems rather unreasonable, but it is no doubt substantially correct. It will not alter the determination of the government as announced by Mr. Chamberlain, however. It would be a most preposterous thing to hand over the administration of a conquered territory—conquered and subdued because of an act of unprovoked aggression—to a people avowedly hostile to the institutions of the conqueror and with the evil passions which the war aroused still ranking in their hearts. There must be an interregnum of administration by the Crown, but there is an absolute guarantee of justice, freedom and fair play for all. The remoteness of the nearness of the day when the colonists shall have entire control of their own affairs depends entirely on themselves. That they will very speedily decide in respect of the inevitable and make the most of a situation in which they stand to lose none of their former independence was all hope and believe. But as the conditions are now, with the world practically hostile to Great Britain, with the United States carrying on a war with France in such a condition that no one knows what a day may bring forth, with the population of Germany antagonistic whatever the policy of her government may be, and with Russia pursuing her traditional course, surely now is the time for the Empire to be united in all its parts. There should be a cessation of citizen until the war is over. Such exhibitions as have been given in the House of Commons of late simply encourage the Boers to keep up a species of warfare which is but adding to the ruin which has overtaken their country and is piling additional misery and hardship upon its inhabitants. Moreover they are doing a grievous injury to the Liberal party.

in that great city of commerce, Liverpool. It is said that the scene in the Exchange newsroom as the blinded boy appeared, supported by two of his comrades in uniform, was such as had never before been upheld in an audience of British business men. There was plenty of enthusiasm, but there was something deeper than that, something that is at the foundation of all that is admirable in the British people and has made them the power they are in the world to-day. Private Mulloy spoke as follows:

"I am glad that I have the privilege of speaking to a portion of the people of our British Empire. I am not a regular soldier. A year ago I was a student studying in the university, and ought now to be in the university out there. But when Canada was called upon to send out men, she did not send her 'common boys' but the best she had to give. (Cheers.) I do not know how it came about, but I happened to be in that crowd—(cheers)—and I came because, like the cat, I could not stop away. (Cheers.) I could not attend to my business. I have no regrets for the past. I think if a man decides that a course is right and has followed that course out, he has no right to regret afterwards, whatever the consequences may be. Of course I had my hopes and aspirations all cut down at a swoop, sudden and irrevocable, but there are conditions which alter circumstances to a certain extent, and I believe that the truly brave man and soldier will accept with manly fortitude the vicissitudes of fortune—(cheers)—and will not be overwhelmed by any circumstances, but will still, with a calm heart and serene mind, go bravely forward. (Loud cheers.) I thank you very much in the name of the Canadian soldiers for the reception you have given us. That is all I have to say. I will not take up your time longer. I have now called for three cheers for the beloved Queen whom we love quite as well as you do." (Loud and prolonged cheers.)

If the spirit which entered into the merchants of Liverpool at the sight of that blind patriot takes possession of the people of Victoria, if they remember the deeds which and the men whom the work to which they have set their hands is intended to recall to the memory of the present and future generations, then the task of the committee should not be a very difficult one.

GOOD ROADS.

The construction and maintenance of roads and trails must be considered as one of the most important subjects that engage the attention of the government of a province of the extent and peculiar formation of British Columbia. There is no possibility of instituting comparisons between this province and Ontario, or any of the other provinces of the Dominion. In places where the population is dense from the point of view of people on the American continent, the work of building and maintaining the arteries through which the commercial life of the country flows may be left to local councils. But there are few parts of British Columbia in which the conditions are such as to warrant a departure from the system which has been in vogue for many years and which has resulted in the building of many substantial highways, though doubtless at great expense to the taxpayers. It is clear, therefore, that there can be no radical departure from the present road-making policy in one direction. But there may be a revolution in another. There must be a different system inaugurated, and if the present government proves itself equal to the task of doing so, the devices which certain of its members found so useful in maintaining themselves in power in times past, it will deserve the thanks and merit more confidence than the public have at present in the heads of some of its departments. It is believed that there has been expended an amount of money on the improvement of roads in the province, and that there are many roads in a worse state than they were before. In other words, that the funds for the improvement of the highways should properly be designated election funds and that the works have been largely undertaken to reward faithful political workers. With an efficient supervision of all such works by an intelligent and faithful servant of the province such charges as these would be impossible, the effects of system would soon become apparent, the funds would be economically applied, and we would soon have our roads and trails co-operating with railways in making the vast territories and resources of British Columbia accessible to all mankind. If the Good Roads Association be instrumental in ushering in such an era it will have done more than sufficient to justify the wisdom of those whose efforts brought it into existence.

OUR NATURAL MARKETS.

As we cannot sell machinery in the United States because of the prohibitive duty, as all the products of the farm are virtually excluded from the American markets, as the goods we send over the border are insignificant compared with what we take from our neighbors, and as all their actions tend to establish the conclusion that they want as little to do with us in a fair business way as possible, we fall to see what great good can be accomplished by Canadians exhibiting at the Pan-American exhibition in Buffalo. What profit would there be for manufacturers and merchants in exhibiting goods in a country in which there is no market for them? The United States government has given a fair

indication of its views on the matter by charging duties on all the exhibits that have been sent from this side so far. During the coming year a great fair will be held in Glasgow. We submit that that is the institution the Canadian people should patronize and be assisted by the government in supporting to a reasonable extent. The consumers of Great Britain are our chief customers, taking liberally of the products alike of the East and the West. It is a market that is continually expanding, and while the products of all countries enter there free, yet Canadians, partly on account of the excellence of their goods and partly because of the fact that blood is thicker than water and the drawing together of the various parts of the Empire within the past year, have a preference there over all-comers, and it is therefore a field which is worth cultivating to the utmost extent.

Oom Paul says he puts not his trust in princes but in the Lord. All the same he laid in a good stock of implements designed for carnal warfare, and he appealed to all the lower earthly courts before he decided to look up higher, and it is a fairly safe conclusion that the aged humbug felt when he declared war against Britain that some of the glory he would doubtless have ascribed to the Lord in the event of victory would have been reflected on the person of Mrs. Kruger.

The Americans have succeeded in securing a captain whom they judge to be capable of commanding the yacht which is to defend the America Cup against Lipton's challenger. He is not a Briton, and if the ship should lose the races, it will not be possible to throw the blame on a despised foreign skipper. There has been enough complications and heartburnings over that old cup in the past without the introduction of a new element of discord.

The profits of the White Pass railway were considerably in excess of four hundred thousand dollars last year. It is said to have been a liberal subscriber to the Conservative campaign fund in the late contest in Burrard. It is such the case it made a very injudicious investment. It will never derive large dividends from that source.

YACHTING.

YACHTING. A DEADLOCK. (Associated Press.) Toronto, Dec. 16.—Faction is said to have arisen between the Chicago Yacht Club and the Royal Canadian Yacht Club, which may result in the Canada cup races not being sailed next summer. The Toronto club suggested the insertion of a clause in the rules that an expert be appointed to whom all questions of construction and other matters be referred, and mentioned the name of W. P. Stephen, of the Forest and Stream, New York, as the best person for the position. The Chicago club has not acquiesced, hence the deadlock. The Toronto men insist that this clause be inserted before the agreement is settled. One club must consequently concede, otherwise there will be no race.

POULTRY AT SHOW.

To the Editor—I understand that the committee who are making arrangements for the proposed exhibition in Victoria are engaged in an engine, and it is to be hoped the poultry fanciers of Victoria will come forward and make some practical proposition to the committee, in order to convince them that it will be greatly to the interests of the exhibition, not only to allow poultry of all kinds, but, if possible, to make it a special feature. Who wouldn't go a long way to see a fine collection of the feathered tribe? POLTRY.

POULTRY AT SHOW.

Sandon has organized two fire brigades. Sandon has no vacant houses or stores. Sandon's taxation for the ensuing year is 27 1/2 mills.

NELSON.

Owing to continued ill health, Rev. Robert Prew, the popular pastor of St. Paul's Presbyterian church, is giving up his work in Nelson. He will leave shortly for Kamloops to visit for a time with a clerical friend there.

GRAND FORKS.

This city is essentially a healthful residential centre. There is not a case of sickness in the city, and the only cases in the hospitals are those of men who have suffered accidents in the mines, mills and smelter. This fact is doubly significant in view of the fact that this is considered the most unhealthy season of the year.

NANAIMO.

The Waterworks Purchase Loan by-law, to borrow \$125,000, was carried yesterday by 122 majority. The vote was 279 for, 127 against. A young Vancouver man known as Gus was drowned off Mistaken island, Nanos Bay, on Saturday afternoon. He tried to go out in a slimy cedar skiff, cod-fishing, and was seen at the height of the gale hailing out his boat. When next seen he was standing up in the boat, and then jumped. The skiff and man were never seen again. Fishermen put off to the rescue, but in vain. The drowned man was only 22 years old.

VANCOUVER.

Gold watches are to be purchased for 15 returning South African heroes, with tablets for the dead will be erected with money contributed by citizens and the city council. Joseph Martin, M. P., whose health has caused his friends much anxiety lately, underwent an operation in St. Paul's hospital on Saturday and will



it is expected to be confined to his bed for some weeks. E. M. Morrison, who was taken ill during the boxing bout at the Theatre Royal on Friday last, and who was taken to the hospital on Sunday, was reported to be very much improved on Monday night.

SPORTING NEWS.

RUGBY FOOTBALL.

VICTORIA AGAIN CHAMPIONS. The Victoria Rugby football team returned from Vancouver yesterday after having played the fiercest and most stubborn game of football in the annals of B. C. Rugby. The game was started in pouring rain, with the water 2 inches deep all over the field, and Vancouver by some good rushing got the ball in Victoria's 25 yard line, where Marpole kicked over the line, and Rithet, fumbling the greasy ball, Miller fell on it and scored first point for Vancouver.

Tait failed to improve. Shortly after Woodward again got away on an intercepted pass, and sent the ball to Jenkinson, who added three more points for Vancouver, Tait again failing to improve. Half-time was called soon after.

In the second half Victoria had things all their own way, and the prettiest piece of play in the match then resulted in Gamble crossing the line, making first blood for Victoria. The Victoria forwards then seemed to carry everything before them, hitting the opposing forwards right off their feet, and rushing after, led by Bromley, Schwaberg and Lorimer, seemed certain of carrying the ball over the line. Matters at this time were playing a magnificent game. Finally, within five minutes from time, the forwards got away with the ball at their feet, and Lorimer kicked over the line. Schoefeld, by a marvellous sprint, succeeded in grounding the ball and winning the score. Rithet failed to improve.

THE WHEEL.

NEW MILE RECORD. New York, Dec. 18.—Jimmy Michael, the great cyclist, broke the world's record for a mile yesterday at Madison Square Garden, while practicing for his 15 mile race with Harry Elkes, which takes place next Saturday night. The "Wash Midget" set the last mile of a ten mile trial in 1:30 1/2, according to the timepieces of half a dozen spectators.

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PROVINCIAL NEWS.

VANCOUVER.

Robberies continue here almost nightly. On Sunday night Mathews's furnishing store, corner of Cordova and Cambie streets, was robbed.

SANDON.

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ARRIVED

VINOLIA SOAPS. PERFUMES. (English, French and American.) EBONY GOODS. HAIR BRUSHES. TOILET SETS. TOILET MANICURES. SHAVING SETS, ETC.

Our store is a good place to secure attractive Xmas presents. We invite inspection. Gyrus H. Bowes, GEMIST. 98 Government St., Near Yates St. Telephone 426. VICTORIA, B. C.

For Better Health. Second Convention Association of day in V. Urgent Need of Methods of R. istra

The second convention of the Roads Association of held at the departure yesterday, there being an enthusiastic gathering of all parts of the province. The liveliest interest in the proceedings, many stating that the question of important one before the present system roads under government with general of all shades of politics was the fruitful source of waste of money, and the association should its energies primarily this abuse.

The necessity for a provincial institution such as Mr. Campbell also generally felt. The following delegates: Ald. Gilley Westminister; John Joseph Shaw; Colwyn Comox; Percy Purvis Webb; Esquimalt; Colwood; H. Webb; Black; Onimica; J. S. Shaw; J. L. Ladders; R. Wood; Jas. Kerr; George Langley; G. H. Berper; Otter Point; South Victoria; J. D. Graham; Victoria; D. Johnson; Mitchell; Kamloops; name: Jas. Dougan Thompson; Saanichton; J. J. Jardine; B. C. Mission; City Klowna; Col. Warren; Vancouver; Toronto; J. C. Metcalf; O. H. Topp; Victoria. The guests also included Messrs. Brice and Messrs. Munro, M. P. P.'s. Alex. Phillips was present.

Stephenson proposed that the ministers for conveyed an invitation to the delegates to the room of the legislature for 9 o'clock this evening. The chair was occupied by J. P. Deane, general complaint of the roads and of the way they were located, and the organized had been a feature of the Ontario legislature, that alterations to suit local conditions the association would be necessary. Capt. Black suggested that the letter already sent to the president and all the delegates, in which he pointed out the weaknesses of the roads, be put to a vote. It was decided to have a joint-dog of the roads, which would be a watch-dog of the Ontario legislature, that alterations to suit local conditions the association would be necessary. Capt. Black suggested that the letter already sent to the president and all the delegates, in which he pointed out the weaknesses of the roads, be put to a vote. It was decided to have a joint-dog of the roads, which would be a watch-dog of the Ontario legislature, that alterations to suit local conditions the association would be necessary.

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IN EVERY MINING CAMP

Dr. Chase's Ointment Finds a Hearty Welcome as a Cure For Chafing Sore Feet, Itching Skin and Piles. In the mining camps of British Columbia there is not a single preparation to be found that is so highly prized by the miners as Dr. Chase's Ointment, and no wonder, for it is specific for the very ailments from which the miner most frequently suffers.

From being continually on his feet and wearing heavy boots, nearly every miner suffers from chafed, sore and burning feet, a trouble which is promptly cured by the use of Dr. Chase's Ointment. The dampness to which the miner is exposed is conducive to itching piles, and for this torturing disease Dr. Chase's Ointment is the only actual and guaranteed cure obtainable.

To prove to every miner the wonderful soothing and healing merits of Dr. Chase's Ointment we shall send a sample box free of charge to any miner sending his name and address and a two-cent stamp to pay postage. Mention this paper. Dr. Chase's Ointment 40 cents a box, at all dealers or Edmanson, Bates & Co., Toronto.

H. Outburr re- lution: "That a ed to impress upon the ability of by a local govern- tect of establish- the pr of building and

Passes the Council

By-Law For Re-Opening of Craigflower Road Goes Through Final Reading.

Important Clauses Added Last Night—Routine of Regular Meeting.

After long controversy the by-law for the re-opening of Craigflower road passed through the city council last night, Ald. Kinsman alone opposing it. Two important amendments were made to it, and as passed the by-law provided that:

"All that piece of land which runs diagonally through blocks N and P Victoria West, being a portion of section 31, Esquimalt district, of the full width of sixty-six (66) feet, and which said piece of land or some part thereof originally formed a portion of the Craigflower road so closed as aforesaid, is hereby declared to be a public highway, and is from the date hereof re-opened to public traffic, and any land necessary for the purpose shall be taken, entered upon, expropriated and used for such purpose; and compensation shall be paid therefor except for so much of the proposed road as may have at any time heretofore been actually used as a public highway according to measurement shown on the map or plan prepared by the city engineer, numbered 1,403, marked thereon with blue lines and described thereon as travelled road."

"The corporation shall forthwith refund to the owners of the lots abutting on the proposed new highway all taxes heretofore paid by the corporation in respect of the land heretofore designated as 'travelled road' together with interest thereon at the rate of 6 per centum per annum."

The by-law is cited as the "Craigflower Road Re-opening by-law, 1900." In its second-reading Ald. Kinsman protested against a refund of the taxes not being stipulated, but his fellow aldermen were not opposed to this, and the clause as given was thereupon added.

Ald. Williams also wanted to know of the city solicitor if it would not be better to compensate the property owners for the whole road and to not court a law suit by doing otherwise.

To this question the city solicitor showed how the by-law was a compromise of the dispute and the easiest way out of the difficulty.

In the course of regular business a communication from Wm. Templeman, manager of the Times Printing and Publishing Company, was read asking the council to subscribe for 5,000 copies of the special number of the Times at 10 cents a copy. The paper will be illustrated, will deal with the resources of the Island, and will be issued early in the New Year. Referred to finance committee for report.

F. C. Elworthy wrote asking the council to re-consider its decision in regard to the Board of Trades annual report, and vote \$250 towards the publication of a few thousand additional copies, the letter being also referred to the finance committee for report.

F. Mortimer Lamb acknowledged the receipt of \$200 subscribed for copies of the Mining Record, Received and filed.

L. McMillan drew attention to the absence of an electric light on Fort street, near Vancouver street, where the tramway line crosses the drive way.

Mr. Hutcherson, city electrician, reported however that the electric power was already too weak to supply all the lights at present in service without placing additional strain on it. Owing to this condition of affairs it was decided to inform the writer that it is impossible to accede to the request at present.

F. J. Deane drew attention to the fact that a meeting of the British Columbia Good Roads Association was to be held to-day, and asked that the council send a delegate to the meeting.

Ald. Cameron, seconded by Ald. Hall, moved that the invitation be accepted, and that the mayor should represent the council at the meeting, and the motion carried.

The following communication was read from W. J. Dowler, C. M. C.

I have the honor to inform you that since the last meeting of the city council the following communications have been received and referred to the city engineer for report, namely:

Andrew Gray, requesting that a drain be laid down on Pembroke street to allow of connection being made with the building of the Marine Iron Works.

George C. Mesher, desiring that a drain be constructed on Dallas road opposite his property.

Fred. A. Paine, calling attention to the condition of the road opposite 47 Ontario street.

B. G. Prior, calling attention to the condition of the sidewalk past Government House (old) grounds.

John Weston et al. re condition of the sidewalk on the south side of North Park street, between Quadra and Cook streets.

The Central Institute

Many Subjects of Interest to Farmers Discussed at Yesterday's Meetings.

Establishment of an Agricultural College Considered—Native Study in Schools.

At the meeting of the Central Farmers' Institute yesterday afternoon the members undertook the consideration of the rules and regulations governing farmer's institutes and necessary amendments thereto.

A long discussion took place of an amendment submitted by Secretary Hadwen, providing that the act be so amended that any agricultural organization willing to undertake institute work be entitled to the institute grant.

This proposal was opposed by the superintendent, who held that it would involve a great deal of work upon the government in the way of grants.

Messrs. Philip, Hutcherson, Hadwen and others also opposed it, it being held that in many districts the agricultural associations and the institutes could not exist side by side, and that the agricultural association was bound to kill the institute, owing to having a vested interest.

It was general opinion that the multiplicity of agricultural organizations was a weakness which the institute should endeavor to overcome. A committee was appointed, to consist of Messrs. Hadwen, Raymur, Hutcherson, Philip and Palmer.

It was decided to recommend the change of the name of the Osoyoos district institute to that of the Kelowna institute.

J. Metcalfe introduced a motion asking the government to amend the Education Act so as to make agriculture and nature study compulsory in the public schools. The speaker said that such a rule was in operation in the United Kingdom and in Germany where agriculture was highly emphasized, and where in consequence agriculture had reached a high standard.

Mr. Philip regarded the resolution as impractical, owing to the ignorance of teachers in agricultural subjects, which he would not be held by the mover.

Mr. Stewart referred to the prizes which had been offered in Nanaimo and Cedar districts for a collection of insects, but it had not been taken up, showing the lack of interest in the matter.

J. Palmer said he would support the resolution of last year, in which nature study only was recommended as a compulsory subject. To make agriculture compulsory in the curriculum, would be a foolish step.

Mr. Hutcherson referred to the good effects of laying out a plot of land in his school section, the cultivation of flowers, vegetables and trees there. This came in the form of recreation, and did not interfere with the regular course of studies.

The superintendent entered a protest against the crowding of useless studies in the public school curriculum.

Mr. Shopland also opposed the proposal to teach agriculture. There were enough subjects taught already. If his boy wanted to farm he would send him to the O. A. C. at Guelph.

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The Central Institute

Many Subjects of Interest to Farmers Discussed at Yesterday's Meetings.

Establishment of an Agricultural College Considered—Native Study in Schools.

At the meeting of the Central Farmers' Institute yesterday afternoon the members undertook the consideration of the rules and regulations governing farmer's institutes and necessary amendments thereto.

A long discussion took place of an amendment submitted by Secretary Hadwen, providing that the act be so amended that any agricultural organization willing to undertake institute work be entitled to the institute grant.

This proposal was opposed by the superintendent, who held that it would involve a great deal of work upon the government in the way of grants.

Messrs. Philip, Hutcherson, Hadwen and others also opposed it, it being held that in many districts the agricultural associations and the institutes could not exist side by side, and that the agricultural association was bound to kill the institute, owing to having a vested interest.

It was general opinion that the multiplicity of agricultural organizations was a weakness which the institute should endeavor to overcome. A committee was appointed, to consist of Messrs. Hadwen, Raymur, Hutcherson, Philip and Palmer.

It was decided to recommend the change of the name of the Osoyoos district institute to that of the Kelowna institute.

J. Metcalfe introduced a motion asking the government to amend the Education Act so as to make agriculture and nature study compulsory in the public schools. The speaker said that such a rule was in operation in the United Kingdom and in Germany where agriculture was highly emphasized, and where in consequence agriculture had reached a high standard.

Mr. Philip regarded the resolution as impractical, owing to the ignorance of teachers in agricultural subjects, which he would not be held by the mover.

Mr. Stewart referred to the prizes which had been offered in Nanaimo and Cedar districts for a collection of insects, but it had not been taken up, showing the lack of interest in the matter.

J. Palmer said he would support the resolution of last year, in which nature study only was recommended as a compulsory subject. To make agriculture compulsory in the curriculum, would be a foolish step.

Mr. Hutcherson referred to the good effects of laying out a plot of land in his school section, the cultivation of flowers, vegetables and trees there. This came in the form of recreation, and did not interfere with the regular course of studies.

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OLD PORT WINE 50c. bottle
JAP. ORANGES 40c. box
MIXED NUTS 25c. box
FINNAN HADDIES 12 1/2c. lb.
MORGAN'S EASTERN OYSTERS.

Dixie H. Ross & Co.

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intendent of institutes." Carried.

Moved by D. Graham, seconded by P. Philip, "That the municipal act be amended so that it will not be necessary to go through the doors of the council chamber applications for the borrowing of municipal moneys."

"This motion was lost.

Moved by T. C. Oldershaw, "That if a sufficient proportion of the appropriation in aid of Farmers' Institutes at the disposal of the Central Farmers' Institute be left, it be devoted towards paying the expenses of the committee of three appointed to inquire into freight rates and matters connected with the subject."

The committee on clause 19 reported as follows: "We recommend that clause 19, the terms of agricultural society and institute should be reversed so that an agricultural society which is in several instances, the strongest body should not lose its identity in any way. We further recommend that the government, through the superintendent, endeavor to bring about such amalgamations as are thought advisable. We consider that this consolidation is in some cases absolutely necessary to retain in their districts the useful work of the institute system." This was adopted.

Moved by F. J. Deane, and seconded by E. Hutcherson, "That the executive of the institute be instructed to secure a report covering all data and information obtainable in the matter of storage of water and the subject of irrigation generally." This was carried.

Moved by E. Hutcherson, seconded by A. Philip, and carried, "That the institute should actively take up the matter of assisting to find judges for the local agricultural exhibition when required to do so, and suggests that early intimation of dates fixed should be given the superintendent, and that if necessary the local association should submit to a change of dates to suit requirements, and keep down expenses."

The question of asking aid from the government for the purchase of dynamite was laid over, owing to the opinion of a good number of the delegates, who thought the farmers should not ask for such exceptional favors.

Moved by Messrs. Metcalfe and Deane, "Whereas, it is known that for the development of the export trade in agricultural products of a perishable nature the establishment of cold storage stations in rural districts where fruit, dairy products, fowls, meats, etc., can be kept ready for shipment is necessary; therefore, be it resolved that in the opinion of the members of the Central Farmers' Institute it is important and necessary that the legislature of the province should introduce a measure to provide for the incorporation of co-operative cold storage associations, and to further provide and assist by paying in part the cost of construction and equipment of any buildings erected for cold storage purposes incorporated under the act in rural districts."

\$1.50 Per Annum

VOL. 21.

Canadian

Mr. Chamberlain
Thousand Recruits
Powell's P

The Men Will Receive
Portation From
Capetown

Returned Soldiers
Welcomed By
of Halifax

RECRUITS W

(Special to the
Ottawa, Dec. 24—
has received a cable
Chamberlain, asking
thousand recruits
for Baden-Powell
force at five shillings
If this number is
the Dominion, then
six and fifteen lie
the imperial army
Dominion militia.

(Associated P
Halifax, Dec. 23.—
lain arrived at 3 o'clock
all well. The men received
ings. There was a long
embarking and entrain-
ment until 2 o'clock this
under way. It is ex-
pected about 2 o'clock
The Western

Halifax, Dec. 24.—
tion of the first contin-
on the Lake Champlain
morning left for Mon-
and will go direct from
adrian Pacific to their
will Government

Montreal, Dec. 24.—
don cable says:
"London, Dec. 24.—
evidently made earnest
British government to
drafts of the British
to hasten the end of
Some say he has asked
"New Zealand is sen-
sitive, and the Canada
force in South Africa
ing the result of privy
Canadians may not wis-
corps of five hundred in
the Northwest, to be
by the Canadian gov-
Transportation E

Ottawa, Dec. 24.—
ment will shortly cau-
posted up throughout
for recruits for Gen-
Transvaal—constantly
pay for the men will
day from the date of
town, with free trans-
Canada to South Africa

Churchill's
Ottawa, Dec. 24.—
cer Churchill, M. P.,
from Boston yesterday
with His Excellency
eral, Mr. Churchill,
says the Boers will be
long time yet, because
are the finest nature
and they are too proud
of outside affairs to see
results, while only the
come back to their fa-
in which are the most
less of the terms, and
ures possible will be
bringing them into
Churchill expressed his
terms of the work of
days.

London, Dec. 23.—
celebrating events in Africa
public since Lord Kitch-
of Wednesday last, re-
ing of the Orange riv-
ony of two bands of
the news was most
were received from
north of De Aar, and
A column of 500
command of Major Sh-
on December 18th by
road to relieve a pos-
were invested on
founded. The Boers
by the Yeomanry
column arrived. They
were captured. The
party had lost two
wounded.

A Standard dispa-
ber 18th, says a situa-
place with two part-
Kalksput, ten miles
way. The Boer party
Both were routed after
hours. One retired into
Willemsdorp. It is
lost severely. The
two wounded, and
of five stock and for
About the war office

Standard Family Pill

Dizzy? Then your liver isn't acting well. You suffer from biliousness, constipation, Ayer's Pills act directly on the liver. For 60 years the Standard Family Pill. Small doses cure. 25c. All druggists.

Want your mouthache or head ache? Buy the **BUCKINGHAM'S DYE** for the Whiskers. It is the best. 25c. All druggists.

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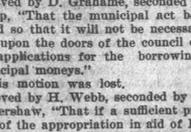
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