

The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

FORTY-FIRST YEAR. VICTORIA BRITISH COLUMBIA THURSDAY FEBRUARY 10 1898. VOLUME XLI. NO. 19

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

The Queen's Speech Treats at Length of Warfare and Pestilence in India.

Defence of Empire Now Calls for Expenditure Beyond Any Precedent.

London, Feb. 8.—The fourth session of the fourteenth parliament of Queen Victoria and the twenty-sixth of the United Kingdom, was opened by commission at 2 o'clock this afternoon with the customary ceremonies.

The Queen's speech was as follows:—
"My Lords and Gentlemen:
"My relations with other powers continue friendly.

"Negotiations between the Sultan of Turkey and the King of Greece have been brought to a conclusion by the signature of a treaty of peace, under which the territorial relations between the two powers are practically unchanged.

"The question of the autonomous government of the island of Crete has occupied the attention of the powers. The difficulty of arriving at a unanimous agreement on some points has unduly protracted deliberations, but I hope that these obstacles will be before long surmounted.

"Intelligence, which is apparently trustworthy, has been received of the intention of the Khalifa to advance against the Egyptians in the Sudan, and I have therefore given directions that British troops should be despatched to Berber to the assistance of His Highness the Khedive.

"I have concluded a treaty of friendship and commerce with His Majesty the Emperor of Abyssinia.

"The report of the commission appointed in December, 1896, to inquire into the condition of certain of my West Indian colonies has conclusively established the existence of severe depression in those colonies, caused by the heavy decline in the price of sugar, which is mainly attributable to a reduction in the cost of production and the great increase in its extent in recent years. But the fall has been artificially stimulated by the system of bounty which producers and manufacturers of beet root sugar has maintained in European states. There seems to be a growing opinion in these states that this system is injurious to the interests of the colonies, and communications are now in progress between my government and the government principally concerned, with a view to a conference on the subject, which may result in the adoption of a measure which will be proposed to you for the relief of the immediate necessities of the West Indian colonies, for the encouraging of other industries, and the assisting of the depressed and manufacturing industries to tide over the present crisis.

"On the northwestern border of my Indian empire an organized outbreak of fanaticism, which spread in the summer of 1897, has been broken up, and I have taken steps to break their engagements with my government, to attack the military posts in their vicinity, and even invade the settled districts of my territory. I was compelled to direct operations against the offending tribes for the punishment of the outrages and to insure peace in the future. A portion of the Afridi tribes have not yet accepted the terms offered them, but elsewhere operations were brought to a very successful close. The courage and endurance exhibited by my troops, British and native, overcame almost insuperable difficulties in the country in which they were operating, but I have to deplore the loss of many valuable lives, both among my own troops and those in the service voluntarily, loyally placed at my disposal by native princes of my Indian empire.

"The rest of the speech dealt with the recurrence of the plague, and says:—
"Although the mortality is less alarming than in 1897, there is still such cause for anxiety that no effort will be spared to mitigate it."

His Majesty then rejoices in the fact that the famine is ended in India, except in a small tract near Madras, and says there is reason to anticipate a prosperous year both for agriculture and commerce throughout India.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:
"The estimates which will be laid before you have been examined with the utmost desire for economy, but in view of the enormous armaments now maintained by other nations, the duty of providing for the defence of the Empire involves an expenditure beyond former precedent."

Dealing with the proposed legislation, the speech from the throne says that measures will be introduced for the organization of a system of local government in Ireland, substantially similar to Great Britain's, to secure increased strength and efficiency in the army improving present conditions of military service, to enable accused people to testify in their own defence, to facilitate the creation of municipalities in London, and to prevent recognized abuses in connection with church patronage.

There are nine other measures of minor importance.
The Queen's speech concludes:—
"I heartily commend your momentous deliberations to the care and guidance of Almighty God."

Previous to the reassembling of parliament the usual list of best-dressers, accompanied by a number of officials, headed by Chief Inspector of Police Horley, made the customary search for initiators of Guy Fawkes. They ascertained that the names of the House of Parliament did not contain anything inimical to the safety of the members.

The first member to enter the House, Mr. Robert Ashcroft, Conservative member for Oldham, arrived at 5:30 a.m. The second member, Mr. Thomas Loughy, Liberal member for the West

UNEASY AS TO YUKON.

Reasons of State Suggested to Explain Precipitancy of Stikine Railway Contract.

Senate Assured That Facts Now Kept Secret Will Justify Government Action.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
OTTAWA, Feb. 8.—The house has been engaged all day in discussing the Yukon railway bill. The terms of the contract, as explained by Mr. Blair, contain important points not covered by the biased version first given by the government press. The contractors may elect to start from either Glenora, Telegraph Creek or Clearwater river. The railway when fully completed is to be of standard gauge, equal to the Kaslo and Stocan railway. This year the line need not be fully completed, but must be available for operation. The contractors may locate the line as they please and need not file plans with the department. Power is conferred to build to Dawson City as well as certain branch lines. The company has full powers regarding docks, wharves, telegraphs and telephone lines, mining and smelting powers.

As soon as the company is incorporated to acquire the works or carry them out the contractors are to be relieved of personal responsibility. The contractors are to receive interest on their deposit.

Half of the lands given as subsidy must be chosen within three years from September 1, and the remainder within six years. No portion of the beds of the rivers Yukon, Lewis or Hootalinqua, or of lakes Teslin, Bennett, Tagish, Lebarge, or Marsh, or of the banks thereof, to 25 feet above high water mark, shall pass to the contractors.

The contract was signed January 25, and approved by His Excellency yesterday.

Mr. Blair spoke with unnecessary warmth and was evidently very familiar with his subject. Mr. Foster elicited the confession that the minister knew nothing about the transhipment of goods at Wrangell from ocean steamers to river boats, neither had he sought an authoritative opinion from law officers of the crown as to the status of Canada there.

Messrs. Haggart, Wallace, Montague and Robertson strongly opposed the deal, insisting that by Mr. Blair's admission all Canadian roads had not been unquestionably routed. The contract was defended by Messrs. McMullen and Morrison. The bill was finally read a first time.

The Senate spent the afternoon discussing the address. Sir Mackenzie Bowell said the subsidy given to Mackenzie and Mann showed wanton extravagance on the part of the government. The case for urgency was not made out.

Hon. David Mills, leader of the government, made the somewhat startling announcement that there were special reasons of state for rushing this railway. If the Senate knew all the facts not a dissent would be raised.

Sir Mackenzie Bowell remarked that this information should be forthcoming, but Mr. Mills said he was not in a position to give it.

Mr. Mills' statement is the talk of the lobby and thought to be very significant. It is said the government fears lawlessness in the country and will send more police in.

COWICHAN AFFAIRS.
A Box Department to Be Added to the Creamery—The Amateur Actors.

DUNCAN, Feb. 7.—Nansimo won the Intermediate Association football match at Nansimo against Cowichan, on Saturday last, the score being 6 to 2.

A general meeting of the Cowichan Creamery Association was held at the agricultural hall on Saturday afternoon, at which a resolution declaring the advisability of each patron owning and operating a separator was negatived by a large majority, and a resolution to keep hopes under the act was carried.

The Cowichan Inebriate amateurs go to Nansimo on Saturday next to play "Our Boys."

Homeless Through Earthquakes.
CONSTANTINOPLE, Feb. 8.—Earthquake shocks continue to be felt at Balikair, Asia Minor, and its vicinity. About 4,000 people have been rendered homeless, some 3,000 houses, 30 mosques and 15 khans have been more or less destroyed, and 120 persons have been killed or injured.

New York Canals.
NEW YORK, Feb. 8.—At a meeting of the municipal council to-day a resolution was passed denouncing the extravagant expenditure of \$9,000,000 on the state canals and calling for the appointment of a commission to investigate the independent citizens to look into the expenditure.

New Trial for Murder.
TORONTO, Feb. 8.—The Divisional court at Osgoode hall this morning granted a new trial in the case of W. J. Hammond, who was condemned to be hanged on Friday the 18th for the murder of his wife, Kate Hammond, at Gravenhurst. Hammond is very dangerously ill, and it is doubtful if he will live for a new trial.

THE TALIENWAN STORY.

Lord Salisbury Explains That Russia Has Promised to Make the Port Free.

In Meaning the British Demand Withdrawn in Consideration of China.

LONDON, Feb. 8.—In the House of Lords, after the address in reply to the speech from the throne had been moved and seconded, the Earl of Kimberley, the opposition leader, replied that he regarded the local government of Ireland as being one of the most important subjects of the Queen's speech, and while he regarded the government measure favorably, he was compelled to add that the Liberal party remained of opinion that the only permanent way of satisfying Ireland was to establish home rule. He mildly criticized the government's policy in the Sudan, West Africa, and the Far East, but he said he wished to extract no embarrassing information. When a cabinet minister, however, spoke of war he thought it time parliament was told plainly what was meant. The Marquis of Salisbury replied. He expressed the hope that the efforts of the English in Egypt would result in the capture of Khartoum. Referring to the Chinese question he said: "I will not use a word which might give the ears of the Earl of Kimberley, but I may say there no effort which this country would not rather make than lose our treaty rights. At the same time no one has ever expressed the slightest intention of infringing those rights. In regard to the loan, it is true that we suggested as one of the conditions the opening of Talienwan as a treaty port. China made some objections, and finally as a compromise the port was opened to free commerce."

Lord Salisbury said the concessions the government had asked in return for the Chinese loan were without exception the most liberal that any provincial cabinet with China and contained nothing injurious to China herself. Regarding the immediate opening of Talienwan, said his Lordship, "The Chinese council has informed us that it would not accept them much. For reasons that it is not necessary to enter into very closely and for their own personal comfort and well-being, they expressed the desire that they should not be opened until the Russian Wharves in reply to the proposal was not essential, though we thought it advantageous, and I suggested, as a compromise, that the opening of Talienwan be deferred until the railway reached the port."

"It is obvious to everyone knowing the country well that the district behind Talienwan is practically worthless. No trade could arise till the railway reached the port, and the railway is not yet open. Sir Claude MacDonald reported that the compromise was accepted as a condition of the loan, and since then I have heard no more about Talienwan. But I am bound to say I am not very much interested, as I recently received from a Russian a written assurance that any port they obtain leave to employ as an outlet for their commerce will be a free port for all in the vicinity of this country. A free port is much better than a treaty port, and thus having ascertained that Talienwan was to be a free port, it is not a matter of great importance to know whether it will be a treaty port or not."

He said the German government have been made by the German government respecting the territory they recently occupied. Indeed the German government went further and were moreattering to us, for the German ambassador told me they had concluded that our manner of dealing with such things was better than theirs, and in this instance at any rate, they intended to limit our commerce.

"Regarding the loan, I hope in a few days to lay the papers on the table dealing with it, but I warn the noble earl that the information will be exceedingly scanty when it appears." Turning to India, Lord Salisbury declared that the troubles with the Afridis were not due to the occupation of Chitral nor to fanaticism, but to terror at the approach of civilization. It was only intended to occupy such additional posts on the frontier as competent military authorities deemed absolutely necessary.

NANAIMO MINERS.
A Long Meeting With Mr. Robins to Discuss an Advance in Pay.

NANAIMO, Feb. 7.—(Special)—There was a miners' meeting held in the power house yesterday afternoon. Mr. Robins addressed the meeting for two hours. Nothing was done, an adjournment being made until Saturday night. The meeting was private, no reporters being allowed, but it was stated by one of those present that a demand was made for a 10 per cent. increase.

Has Strongly Influenced the Commons.
It is a fact worthy of record that at least fifty members of the House of Commons are able personally to bear out and corroborate testimony to the good effects of Dr. Agnew's Cathartic Powder in case of colic in the head or stomach in its several different shapes. These columns have recorded the testimony of members representing constituencies in every corner of the Dominion. At this writing we have before us the words of Mr. Arthur A. Bruneau, M. P., Richelieu, Que., and Hugo H. Ross, M. P., of Dundas, who join with their other members in telling that this remedy has done for them in cases of catarrhal trouble. At the present time, when so many are suffering from influenza in the head it is a friend indeed.

For sale by Dean & Hiscock and Hall & Co.

FACING THE PLEBISCITE.

Government Not Yet Decided How to Face the Question—The Financial Problem.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, Feb. 8.—The legislative council of the Dominion Alliance met to-day to discuss the prohibition question. The consensus of opinion was that the plebiscite should be on the straight question of prohibition, and should not be mixed up with the question of direct taxation. A committee was appointed to interview the government on the subject immediately.

This deputation saw the Premier to-night and laid their views before him. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in reply, said the government desired was to get an honest expression of opinion. There was no disguising the fact that if prohibition were adopted the revenue would have to be made up. The government had not yet made up its mind as to the particular form in which the question will be put, and the views of the deputation will receive careful consideration.

A MAN CHOPPED UP.
New York Crime With Both the Victim and Perpetrator Unknown.

NEW YORK, Feb. 8.—The mutilated body of a man without a stitch of clothing on was found in the East river by a policeman to-day. Half of the head was missing, the right leg was cut off at the hip, the left leg was cut off at the knee, and both arms were gone, having been cut off close to the shoulders. The police believe that another murder mystery of a similar character to the recent Goldenshoe case has been unearthed by the discovery of this body. The man apparently had been strangled to death, scabbled with some sharp instrument, thought to be a knife, and then cut to pieces in the most ruthless manner.

MANITOBA AND NORTHWEST.
Improvements in the Telegraph Service—Contractor Mackenzie Negotiating at Winnipeg.

WINNIPEG, Feb. 8.—(Special)—Supt. Jenkin, of the C.P.R. telegraphs, says: "I have a wire this morning from the manager of our telegraphs, Mr. Hosmer, that a heavy copper wire is to be strung from Montreal through to the Pacific Coast immediately. This will greatly facilitate the service. The new cable to be laid between Vancouver and Victoria will leave England on one of the company's new steamers recently purchased for the Yukon traffic."

Mr. William Mackenzie was in conference with the provincial cabinet ministers all morning. The ministers would not give out any information for publication, but it is understood that railway matters were under consideration in a few days.

Ratepayers of Astoria municipally have petitioned the municipal commission for a special audit, alleging that taxes are being used for the maintenance of Catholic separate schools.

CHINA'S MISERABLE PLIGHT.
Afraid to Accept Either British or Russian Money and Facing Default to Japan.

LONDON, Feb. 8.—The Pekin correspondent of the Times telegraphing yesterday, says: "I have reasons to believe that China will be induced to decline the British proposals in consequence of Russian opposition, and similarly, that she will be unable to accept the Russian proposals, owing to England's opposition."

The country is helpless and unable to pay the indemnity except by instalments, but China nurses the hope that Japan will agree to an extension of time. Meanwhile an imperial decree authorizes an issue of treasury bonds at five per cent. to the amount of 100,000,000 taels (about \$78,000,000). It appears to the officials, the treasury and the mercantile community that the issue in the remote possibility of raising enough to meet the payment due next May. The method proposed increases the growing distrust in the government. Similar bonds issued at the time of the war of 1856 were repudiated in 1862.

"The unsatisfactory nature of the imperial edict in condemnation of the Shanghai murders affords Germany the desired pretext for remaining in military occupation of considerable territory, including the town of Kiaochow, beyond the area. China still maintains that the murder of the German sailor was justifiable homicide, and due to the sailor's misconduct, but she is powerless to refuse Germany's exactions."

NEWS OF VANCOUVER.
Klondike Enterprises Reported—Gun Accident Victim Identified—A New Block.

VANCOUVER, Feb. 7.—(Special)—H. Gummer, of the Guelph Herald, Chief Ranger of the C.O.F., is in Vancouver, and goes to Victoria on Tuesday.

An American firm is located here for the manufacture of a patent collapsible metal boat.

Captain Armstrong, a Kootenay steamboat man, leaves to-day for Teslin lake with forty men and the machinery for several steamers to run on Teslin lake.

The building of a two-story block on Hastings street, near Cambie street, is to commence shortly and is to be finished by May 1.

The man Richard Fraser, who died in the hospital on Thursday from a gunshot wound, was a native of Scotland, and had been living at Alleville. It is supposed that deceased was taking his gun from the boat by the muzzle when it was accidentally discharged into his lung.

The finance committee has appropriated \$250 for a Klondike pamphlet folder. The printing and circulation of the folder will be undertaken by the Board of Trade.

The Mining Critic Printing and Publishing Company has secured the contract for the city printing.

Ascended to Klondike.

CHICAGO, Feb. 8.—Edward Hodyman, the absconding treasurer of the Chicago Building Trades Council, has been located on his way to Klondike. He is under arrest in a remote part of the Northwest and a detective left Chicago to-day to bring him back. Hodyman's shortage is said to reach nearly \$25,000.

YUKON IN THE HOUSE.

Mr. Foster Says the Railway Contract Is on Its Face Very Suspicious.

Sir Hibbert Tupper Would Give Foreigners Their Treatment of Canadians.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
OTTAWA, Feb. 7.—The Yukon railway contract was not brought down to-day. Sir Charles Tupper asked if the government could furnish a statement of the gold taken out of the Yukon by Canadians and aliens respectively; and Premier Laurier said the information would be forthcoming as near as could be obtained.

Mr. Sifton told Mr. Foster that the question of permitting American soldiers without arms to pass through Canadian territory was now the subject of negotiation with Washington.

Mr. Foster made a slashing reply to Sir Wilfrid Laurier on the address, criticizing severely his speeches in England. The Yukon railway monopoly, he said, on its face looked very suspicious. Sir Richard Cartwright made only a brief reply.

Sir Hibbert Tupper then took the floor. He made a splendid speech from a Pacific Coast standpoint, arguing that the coasting and mining regulations should be enforced in the interests of Canadians only so long as Americans are not prepared to reciprocate. He advocated the speedy construction of a telephone line at the canyon of the Stikine.

Mr. Davin resumes the discussion tomorrow.

RELIEF STORES SHIPPED.
First of the United States Expedition Sets Out From Portland.

PORTLAND, Or., Feb. 5.—The expedition which the United States government is sending into the interior of Alaska with supplies of the relief of the miners who are reported to be in want, sailed for Dyea to-night on the steamer George W. Elder. The Elder carried 350 passengers, 51 of whom are officers and enlisted men of the United States army, who will act as escort to the pack train, which, it is expected, will carry the relief supplies over the passes. About 200 tons of provisions were sent forward by the government from here, and an additional supply will go from the Sound in a few days.

Brigadier-General Merriam, commanding the department of the Columbia, who has had general supervision of the preparing the expedition, has assigned Major L. H. Becker, Fourth Cavalry, to the command of the relief expedition. Major has been in Alaska for several weeks and has taken temporary station at Dyea, where he has established a camp and supply department. General Merriam expects to go to Alaska on the steamer Oregon, which is scheduled to sail from here on February 8, and from Dyea he will direct affairs until the expedition is started for the passes. Captain L. D. Brynardi, commissary of subsistence, and disbursing officer for relief supplies, will also go forward by the Oregon.

The government has let a contract to the Snow and Ice Transportation Company of Chicago for carrying 150 tons of supplies from Dyea to Dawson, but as the paraphernalia of the company has not yet arrived on the Pacific Coast, it is probable that General Merriam will push on a portion of the supplies by pack train to Lake Lebarge and there build boats in which to carry the supplies down the Yukon.

It is expected that the 600 reindeer bought in Norway by the government will be landed in Alaska within a month, and if possible additional supplies will be taken in with them.

TROOPS FOR SKAGWAY.
Washington Orders a Detachment Sent Forward Immediately.

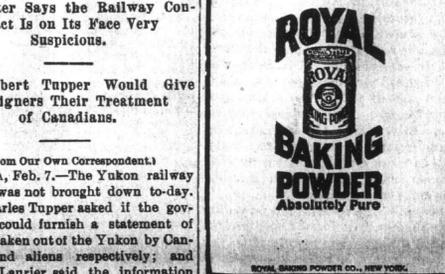
WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—In accordance with a decision of the cabinet to take steps to protect life and property at the Alaskan seaports, the war department to-day framed and forwarded the following instructions to General Merriam at Vancouver barracks, Washington: "Make all necessary arrangements to send the regimental headquarters band and companies of the 14th infantry to Dyea and two companies of the same regiment to Skagway, Alaska, prepared to stay at least through the summer season. Some suitable and temporary quarters to be arranged for the troops. Further instructions to be sent later and the troops will go as early as proper arrangements can be made."

ONTARIO ELECTIONS.
Members of the Commons Helping the Provincial Opposition—The Candidates in Frontenac.

TORONTO, Feb. 8.—(Special)—Dr. Montague, M.P., is taking the stump in behalf of Mr. Whitney, and will speak throughout Monck and Haldimand. Lieut.-Col. Sam. Hughes, M.P., who has just arrived home from Australia, will take part actively in the two Victorias.

KINGSTON, Feb. 8.—McRae, the Liberal candidate for Frontenac, who was supposed to be out of the field since the convention decided not to run a candidate but to leave the contest between the Conservative candidate and Patron leader Hancock, announces that he will be an independent Liberal candidate.

ROYAL BAKING POWDER.



JAPANESE FOR YUKON.

Story That Five Thousand Are About to Be Shipped from Honolulu.

They Would Work in Gangs as Contract Laborers at Plantation Pay.

NEW YORK, Feb. 8.—A special to the Tribune from San Francisco to-day reports Alexander Sheppard, who has just reached that city from Honolulu, as saying: "Japan is going to invade the Klondike. An army of 5,000 able-bodied laborers is being got together for the gold fields and in a month it will make a descent upon Dawson City. One of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha steamers will bring the men over, but as they will not land on the soil of the United States there will be no one to say them up unless Great Britain takes a hand in the matter. Either they will go to Victoria and thence over the British trail into the Yukon district or they will go to St. Michael's and then up the Yukon river steamers."

"Nearly all the Japanese who will go to the Klondike will come from Hawaii. Many laborers on the islands are getting ready to go north as soon as their contract time expires.

"A syndicate in Japan is behind the scheme, and the laborers will only get the same pay as they do in the plantations. Overseers will go with them, and the coolies will be worked in gangs. Outside of only so long as Americans are not prepared to reciprocate. He advocated the speedy construction of a telephone line at the canyon of the Stikine.

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COPPER RIVER ROUTE.
A Prospector Declares That This Alleged Entry to Yukon is Altogether Impossible.

VANCOUVER, Feb. 8.—(Special)—T. F. Sinclair has returned from the Copper River district, so much advertised by the Northern Pacific Railway as a likely route to the Yukon. He says the route is utterly impracticable. A short distance from the sea the river divides into three or four mouths, all of which are beset with flats and sand-bars, and the water is extremely shallow and swift. Further up the river are numerous glaciers which project and are continually breaking off into the river, causing whirlpools and eddies. After the glacial belt the river passes through a succession of deep canyons, resulting in impassable rapids. The river is not navigable for craft of the lightest draft; even Indian canoes in experienced hands can only be used in certain places. Valdez bay at the head of Copper river, has a glacier at the head of navigation which is impassable except on foot. Pack animals cannot cross it, and it can be only crossed on foot at great hazard. The interior of this district is unexplored, but from the nature of the surrounding country is deemed impassable.

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TO PROTECT ANIMALS.

Suggestions for the Victoria Branch of the B. C. Society for Prevention of Cruelty.

An Active Campaign to Be Commenced Against Heartless Owners of Dumb Animals.

The Victoria branch of the British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is actively taking up the good work at present and in a recent pamphlet issued this month there are embodied many excellent suggestions to individuals who see or hear of acts of cruelty to animals.

The first of these is to obtain the name and address of the offender (his number and date of same also, if the driver of a vehicle plying for hire).

In all cases persons are requested to obtain the name and address of the offender (his number and date of same also, if the driver of a vehicle plying for hire).

It is sometimes advisable that the eye-witness of an act of cruelty should give the name of the offender to a policeman or constable.

Another cruelty the society would gladly see stopped is the use of the overhead check rein.

Check-reins and cruppers are simply to give a steady pull on the reins.

Aside from a question of humanity, the more attention and care that is bestowed upon animals, with a view to their comfort, the more will they be of service and a source of profit to their owners.

WHAT IS RELIGION?

To THE EDITOR:—An article appearing in your issue of last Sunday, and under the head "The Origin of Religion," is one that will not soon be forgotten by many who have read it.

The origin of religion must be something that will satisfy our comprehensive sense, includes a belief in the being and perfection of God, in the revelation of His will to man, in man's obligation to obey His commands, in a state of reward and punishment, and in man's accountability to God, and also true godliness or piety of life, with the practice of all moral duties.

Although it was nearly midnight when the steamer Danube sailed Sunday night, several hundred people gathered on Turner Beeton & Co.'s dock to see farewell to the tugboat seekers and give a parting cheer.

A striking peculiarity of the Danube's passage was that the majority were Americans, hailing from various parts of the United States.

A number of Victorians went north, some of whom will follow mercantile pursuits, while others will engage in mining.

The Danube passenger list numbered about 200, and the steamer carried nearly 1,000 tons of freight.

The C.P.N. steamer which is being sent north with a party of thirty men and wrecking appliances to float the stranded Coronas has been delayed in port.

Prisoners of the Moors. TANGIERS, Feb. 4.—The five Englishmen belonging to the expedition sent out by the Globe Venture Syndicate, who were captured on the coast of Morocco, are being brought to this city.

Leather coats with sheepskin lining, made specially for the Yukon country. B. Williams & Co.

DANUBE SAILS NORTH.

Many Americans Choose the C. P. N. Co.'s Steamer to Reach the Yukon Gold Fields.

Over Two Hundred Passengers and Nearly One Thousand Tons of Freight Taken Up.

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WILL SERVE NORTHERN COAST WATERS.

Her Majesty's fleet in Esquimaux was yesterday enlarged by the arrival of the survey ship Egeria, Captain Smythe, which has been working in southern coast waters, and which consents to remain at the station for several weeks.

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SAVES FIFTY PER CENT.

An Emphatic Statement From Mr. C. A. Fore, an Old Miner From Cripple Creek.

While over two hundred gold seekers, who have been outfitting in Victoria for the past week or so, left for the North by the steamer Danube on Sunday evening, their absence was hardly missed in either the hotels or outfitting establishments yesterday, owing to the large number of new arrivals, many of whom came from across the border by the Kingston.

Local outfitters experienced another very busy day, yesterday, filling orders for goods which will be shipped on the Islander on the 15th instant.

Perhaps no more emphatic expression of opinion regarding outfitting than that furnished to the Colonist by Mr. A. C. Fore, of Cripple Creek, Colo., has yet been given.

It is expected that the ship Benicia will finish discharging cargo at the outer wharf, this afternoon, and that tomorrow she will tow up to Vancouver.

THE SOUTH PARK ASSOCIATION Football team defeated the North Wards in the league game on Saturday, by a score of 10 to 0.

CHARLES GUNNING got a month with hard labor in the police court yesterday as the result of not appreciating forbearance.

The British Columbia Sugar Refinery Company were yesterday fined \$25 for not taking out a wholesale license to sell in Victoria.

THE FIRM OF F. C. DAVIDGE & CO. was yesterday merged into that of F. C. Davidge & Co. Limited Liability, the house having been registered as a joint stock company.

THE FULL COURT yesterday heard the appeal of defendants E. & N. Railway Company v. New Vancouver Coal Company.

THE PROTESTANT ORPHANS. Little Folk in the Home Are All Enjoying Good Health.

CITIZENS ARE DIVIDED.

Skagway Faces a Crisis in Its Affairs Precipitated by the Fay Shooting.

Prospect That the Murderer Will Be Permitted to Escape Punishment.

Skagway, the gateway city of the White Pass, has reached that point in its career when the lawless and law-abiding elements have been brought into direct antagonism, the former with a declaration of independence for a "wide open Western town," and the latter party standing for law, order and prompt justice.

The shooting of Marshall Rowan and Andy McGrath by John E. Fay, the bartender at the People's theatre, precipitated the trouble, which had assumed very serious proportions when the just-arrived steamer Tees left Willapa left for Victoria on Wednesday last, and the coming into opposition of the two classes of the community had saved Fay's neck from the vigilantes' halter.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH. Cable to Give Connection With Victoria Shipped Several Weeks Ago.

The Port Angeles Week-end Leader has the following: "Notwithstanding the articles in the up-son-top papers some two weeks ago to the effect that the Western Union Telegraph Co. will extend its line to this city and lay the cables across the straits from this point to Victoria.

Passengers by the Tees give details of the double shooting which were not available when the Seattle brought first news of the fatality.

THE STRIKE CONTINUES. Firemen and Deck Hands Firm in Their Demand—Assistants Engaged But Not Suitable.

OF INTEREST TO LADIES. The attention of the reader is called to an attractive little book lately published by that eminent expert, Physicist, Dr. J. B. Ross, M.D., 232 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Mich.

DYSPEPSIA. HEART-BURN. Indigestion. Bile. Stomach Troubles. These are the most common ailments which afflict the human race.

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FROM THE DALLAS COLONIST FEBRUARY 9.

AN IMPORTANT SURVEY

Coast of British Columbia Surveyed for the First Time in Many Years.

H.M.S. Egeria Now at Esquimalt Is to Begin the Work in April.

Perhaps the most important move the Imperial government has taken in regard to the British Columbia coast line was when, last year, the survey ship Egeria was put in commission to make a survey of the west coast of Vancouver island and the coast line of the mainland of this province as far as Wrangell.

For many years it has been felt by mariners who travelled the waters to the north that some steps should be taken to mark out more minutely the dangerous shoals, rocks and currents, particularly in the inside channel between the mainland of British Columbia and Vancouver island. This necessity to them became paramount as soon as the Klondike excitement commenced, when, instead of one, ten vessels plied the waters of the northern gateways of the gold fields.

No steps, however, of any importance were taken by the Dominion government in the matter, and it was owing chiefly to the extensive travel of British men of war up the northern coast, that it was decided that a new survey of the whole coast line of the western coast of Vancouver island and the inner channel as far as Wrangell should be absolutely necessary for the future safety of the men of war who ply these waters.

While the Imperial government, according to Captain Smythe of the Egeria, considered that the Dominion government should assist in the work, owing to the apparent slowness of the latter to move in the matter, to send out the Egeria to remedy any defects in existing charts.

The Egeria arrived in Esquimalt on Monday, and after she is thoroughly refitted, which will take until April 1, she will start out on her long and arduous trip.

As soon as new discoveries of dangerous reefs, rock and currents are made they will be sent to the Imperial authorities, and new charts and maps for temporary use will be made and sent out here.

When it is remembered that not since 1863 have any changes of importance been made in the existing charts, the value of the present work can well be understood, particularly in the newly discovered pilots and captains who the Klondike excitement has directly brought into existence.

It is a well known fact in local marine circles that the route selected by most of the northern bound steamers is in the worst of the water, and the fact that shortly these will be made known by the work of the Egeria will be thoroughly appreciated.

In particular, Capt. Smythe will thoroughly investigate the Seymour Narrows, and to ascertain the exact conditions of the currents and the best time for vessels to pass through.

Capt. Morris H. Smythe was seen on board the Egeria yesterday, when he gave the following interesting statements in relation to the proposed work of the Egeria:

"Although I have received no recent definite orders regarding the surveys we are to make along the British Columbia coast line, excepting those given me when we were under way last year, it is perfectly understood that when we are refitting here we will go up the west coast of Vancouver island and also up the inside passage through British waters, and take surveys of the coast lines, particularly in places complained of by mariners and naval officers."

"I might state that the work done by Capt. Walbran, of the Canadian government steamer Quadra, in recent years, as regards your coast line, has been, as far as I can learn, of great value to mariners, and we will, guided to a certain extent, in our movements by information he has obtained. In fact, through the many discoveries he has made recently of dangerous shoals and reefs, the Imperial government was almost directly led to take its present move."

However, Capt. Walbran, owing to his other work, has not been able to follow out this work as thoroughly as he would wish, and our aim will be to take it up where he left off and make it most complete.

"The most important surveys along the British Columbia lines were made between the years 1856 and 1863, and by Capt. Richards, now Vice Admiral Sir George Richards, in command of the Plumper and Hecate, made the surveys now seen in the existing charts. Capt. Pender, since deceased, assisted him in what was considered a thorough survey, but at the present time the waters are more travelled, and the recent wrecks along your very dangerous coast have made a new survey imperative."

"That is what we are here for, and we hope to map the route as far as British waters are concerned at least, as safe as an accurate survey can make it. You must understand, however, that in making this survey the trend of opinion at home is that the Dominion government should take the initiative as regards the small harbors and innermost waters. We are here chiefly to inspect and survey the waters that the men-of-war will use in their trips up North, and it remains for your government to complete the survey in extent."

"I expect to receive minute particulars later on as to the exact work I am to do, and I understand that when any discovery of importance is made by us it is to be sent immediately to the home office, and the charts will be revised, temporarily perhaps, to be of immediate use."

Capt. Smythe further stated that as regards the route to the North by the river passage, he understood that the United States survey vessel Patterson had, last summer, made some important discoveries in American waters which would shortly be made public. He is of the opinion that the Dominion government might act more energetically in the matter of surveying the coast line of British Columbia, as he is convinced,

owing to the woeeful stories of recent years, that much work could be done in this respect.

The Egeria, eight years ago, was converted into a survey ship, and has since done excellent work in various parts of the British Empire. After she was commissioned last year she spent the intervening time to the present, in surveying waters frequented by British men-of-war along the coast of South America, her last work prior to coming here being along the coast of Chile. She is not a prepossessing vessel to look at, but is splendidly adapted for the work she is commissioned for. At present the Egeria is being dismantled, and soon the work of refitting her throughout will be in full swing. Mariners who have the northern route will be her arrival with unmixed joy, for her work in these waters will no doubt fill a long felt want.

Captain Smythe, while new to these waters is thoroughly acquainted with the character of the coast, having been similarly engaged in India and Australia. He is a typical British naval officer, bluff, energetic, but courteous.

CAUGHT IN THE ACT.

A Bad Man From Texas Seized Before He Could Use His Gun.

There was a little exhibition in real life early yesterday morning of the thrilling portion of the Wild West show which the public are so fond of. A hawk-eyed detective just in time grasped the weapon and overpowered the desperado. For the past few days Peter J. Neilson has been peddling around little packages of sticking plaster and appealing to the sympathy of the public on the strength of a disabled right hand. On Monday night he sold to a Miss Scott, who lives on Douglas street, an Astra-chian clock for \$7. The purchaser, on showing it to one of her friends, was told that the clock was valuable, and he was therefore probably stolen. She accordingly sent after Neilson and desired him to take the clock back, giving him the benefit of her suspicions. Neilson got angry, pulled out a six shooter and threatened to slay the lady, who then sent for Detective Perdrie. The detective discovered in the early morning hours that Neilson had a room at the Empire and he also found an owner for the clock in the person of Miss Mabel Elyers, a resident of the Palace. Knowing Neilson accompanied by ex-provincial constable Fred. Bevan, went to his room and, as he refused to open the door, a master key turned the lock and the officers entered. Just as they got inside Neilson, who was in bed, swung a pistol in his left arm with a pistol in it. Perdrie was just close enough to catch the arm as it came, Bevan jumped on Neilson's back and the bad man from Texas was a prisoner. He was locked up and a few hours later his chum, Lawrence A. Daly, alias George Miller, was also under arrest. On his way to the lockup Daly tried to get his hand inside his shirt, but was prevented, and on being searched a razor was found hidden in his shirt, the weapon being used for a long string round. Three charges were entered against Neilson, one for stealing, another of pointing a revolver at Detective Perdrie and a third of pointing a revolver at Miss Scott. Daly has two charges hanging over him, one for vagrancy and a second for carrying a concealed weapon. Both men came from the United States side and Neilson says he hails from Texas. They were remanded in the police court till this afternoon.

A TOP HEAVY ARMY.

An English Opinion of the Fighting Men of the United States.

Congressman McClellan, a member of the committee on military affairs, said in a House of Representatives hearing in Washington, that the United States army was little better than a clumsily organized police force, top heavy with gold-laced staff officers, the majority of whom were untalented and unfit to command in anything above the level of a street parade.

The London Daily Mail reports the speech, and says that Mr. McClellan declared the war department to depend largely on private manufacturers for arms and ammunition. It had prepared no plans for mobilizing the troops, enrolling the militia, enlisting volunteers, or conducting a possible campaign.

The United States, under the present conditions, declared Mr. McClellan, could not organize an efficient army of a quarter of a million men for an invasion of Canada in three or four months, as the State Militia would be of little service. Although many people regarded war lightly, the country was in practically the same deplorable condition as France in 1870.

The death recently of Mr. James Porter is the active part taken by the deceased and his surviving brother Arthur in the foundation of the city of Victoria. Mr. Arthur Porter came here in July, 1858, and commenced making brick near Mr. Finlayson's place, by the neck of the island, in 1859.

The product was bought by Mr. D. F. Adams, and built into the first brick store in the then Fort Victoria. The building is the present Bank Exchange, at the corner of Yates and Leigle streets, and was erected for Hibben & Caswell for a stationery and book store.

The late James Porter joined Arthur here in 1860. In 1862, when they ceased making brick, Arthur built Porter's wharf on Telegraph street, and another adjoining the present E. & N. wharf; this was the pioneer of the great excitement in Victoria thus providing the wharfage necessary to the Klondike Mining, Trading and Transport Corporation for the purposes of the great latter day discoveries in the North.

OH! THE TORMENT.

All Distress When the Skin is on Fire With Disease.

All the stinging, aggravating, burning and itching accompaniments to the dozen or more skin diseases which haunt humanity are alleviated by the use of the Ointment. One application relieves psoriasis, eczema, salt rheum, itch, tetter, ringworm in a trice. Never fails for cure. Sale by Dean & Hiscock and Hall & Co.

For sick or weary Carter's Little Liver Pills if you headache, biliousness, constipation, or any of the ailments of the bowels, they are purely vegetable, small and easy to take. Don't forget this.

MEETS THE DIFFICULTY.

Canadian Government Decision to Redeem Bond Certificates Received With Approval.

Business Men Consider That It Overcomes All Obstacles in a Satisfactory Way.

The decision of the Dominion government as the result of the conference between the ministers and the officers of the Montreal and Toronto boards of trade on Monday, meets with the approval of the business men of Victoria, taking as examples a number of those spoken to yesterday at haphazard. The recommendation of the conference was that the government should make arrangements to refund at the border the amount of duty deposited at Skagway or Dyea on Canadian goods, so that a man taking Canadian goods across the strip of disputed territory would not be obliged to go back to the coast to receive his refund as required under the United States regulations. The advice from Ottawa yesterday show that the government have passed an order-in-council authorizing the amount of duty deposited at Skagway or Dyea and to allow one week's time for the parties to arrange the terms for such inspection. Should no agreement be reached by then, however, the court would decide the terms and by whom the inspection is to be made. The costs to be borne by the Montreal and Toronto boards of trade in sending delegates to Ottawa in the interest of British Columbia and Canada generally. His own idea had been that the business men of Vancouver and Victoria should join together to form a strong guarantee or transportation company so that merchants in the cities could quote a rate for freight delivered at the summit so as to save the miner all trouble. However, the government had come to a good decision and he thought it would work admirably.

Mr. Thomas Earle, M.P., said that while he did not consider that the regulations offered by the United States were by any means satisfactory, nor framed in a spirit of fair play to meet the Canadian government half way, yet the Dominion Government had under the circumstances decided on as good a plan as they could to offset the difficulty.

Mr. G. A. Kirk, president of the B. C. Board of Trade, was of opinion that the plan decided upon by the government was better than having a transportation company to guarantee the duties and look after the refund. The Canadian customs officials would be taking in large sums of money from the duty on goods entering with goods bought in the United States, and therefore, when the customs people would take over their certificates, pay them their refund, and send the certificates to Dyea for the United States authorities. It would make, indeed, an easier and safer mode for the Canadian customs officers to send money to the Coast by way of certificates than by sending cash.

Mr. Wm. Wilson, of W. & J. Wilson, took a similar view to Mr. Kirk, and Mr. C. E. Renouf thought the scheme was all right.

Another gentleman spoke to was Mr. R. Seabrook, of Messrs. R. & J. Seabrook. He thought the plan decided upon was very unpalatable difficulty.

Ald. McCandless was another man who spoke in commendation of the plan and said it was the only thing that would work, unless a bond was placed on the goods to bond all goods through and charge a small percentage for their trouble.

SALVATION REJOICINGS.

General Booth to Be in Victoria Next Month—A Hallelujah Wedding.

The local corps of the Salvation Army are already making preparations for the visit of General Booth, who comes to Victoria next month. Brigadier Howell, of Spokane, who was in town yesterday in connection with these arrangements, received a telegram last night stating that the General will reach Victoria on March 8, and after remaining a day goes to Vancouver and thence to Spokane. It is four years since General Booth was in Victoria, and on the present visit he will be accompanied by his daughter, Commandant Eva Booth, and also by Commandant Nicol, of Vancouver, and the General's private secretary. The meeting during the General's stay will be in St. Andrew's Presbyterian church.

There was a great celebration at the barracks last night over the wedding of Mr. W. J. Jago and Miss Mary Porter, both good soldiers of the Army, the happy groom being the musician who energetically extracts joyful sounds from the big drum when the Army is on the war path. The Army always make these hallelujah weddings events of general rejoicing, and consequently last night the barracks were crowded to the doors with people to see the ceremony. Brigadier Howell of Spokane, the provincial officer, and Adjutant Agnes of Vancouver performed the ceremony, and the proceedings were interspersed with hymns, songs, and music by the band. A wedding supper closed the proceedings, which lasted until after ten o'clock.

FOR THE GOLD FIELDS.

Steamer "Tees" Again Sails Crowded With Cargo and Passengers.

The O.P.N. steamer Tees was again filled to overflowing when she sailed on route for the cities of Lynn Canal last night. It was midnight when the steamer left the wharf, with Capt. Goese in command. Prior to the sailing an exciting time was experienced on the wharf, consequent on the loading of some twenty horses. One horse kicked so fiercely that he freed himself just in time to land on his nose on the deck. The animals were all stowed on the forward deck and none in the after hold were nearly 3,000 tons of freight, mostly from the Klondike, and also some twenty horses. There were taken up at Vancouver and Nanaimo. A party representing the Victoria-Yukon Transportation Company of this

city were among the passengers, and it was by them that the horses were being taken North. They will push their way through to Bennett lake, where commenced on the erection of a couple of sawmills. The party includes Mr. Dan Dallas, who until recently held a position on the teaching staff of the North Ward school, having taught for several years in Victoria.

Among other members of his party, will go no further than Skagway for the present, where they will keep check on the company's supplies entering the northern country. Among other passengers were a number of Seattleites, who had outfitted for the gold fields in Victoria.

Capt. Clarence Cox is going to make a round trip on the Tees with a view of making a personal inspection of the route, and there were among other Victorians aboard: H. Hawkes, Mr. Hildey, T. Dwyer, F. Holland, D. Dallas, and F. G. White.

The Tees went out carrying no old hands as fireman, all these being still on strike.

FULL COURT.

A Number of Decisions Given on Various Appeals.

The Full court gave a number of decisions yesterday on appeals that have been heard at the present sitting. In the appeal of defendants in E. & N. Railway Company v. New Vancouver Coal company, the court decided that the plaintiffs were entitled to an inspection of the plaintiffs' workings, and to allow one week's time for the parties to arrange the terms for such inspection. Should no agreement be reached by then, however, the court would decide the terms and by whom the inspection is to be made. The costs to be borne by the Montreal and Toronto boards of trade in sending delegates to Ottawa in the interest of British Columbia and Canada generally.

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MERCHANTMEN ARRIVE.

Two English Vessels Reach Port Heavily Laden—A Death at Sea.

Delayed Cargo of the "Pass of Balmaha"—Damages to the Steamer "Coquitlam."

Daylight disclosed the outlines of two English merchantmen in port yesterday—the bark Albany in the Royal Roads, and the ship Agnes Oswald in Esquimalt—both with general cargoes for Victoria and Vancouver business houses. Under a fair wind, both came to an anchorage without the assistance of a tug, having been two of that fleet of thirty-keeper vessels which the lighthouse keeper sees Carmanah reported by wire on Monday as passing up the Straits. The Albany is in charge of Capt. Kerry, and she has as a passenger Mrs. Kerry, the skipper's wife, who was Chapman, a young English lad, who was a general favorite on board. He died in Atlantic waters on the first of October. The Albany comes consigned to R. P. Rithet & Co., and of a cargo of 2,300 tons of freight a quantity of naval stores will be the first to be discharged. After this is unloaded the ship will be brought around to the outer wharf. Captain Kerry reports having spoken several ships on his voyage, the Chilean bark Hindostan, the former in these waters, and particularly at the inlet, being the first to be spoken. She was spoken off the Cape and was the only one Captain Kerry could recognize in a fleet of eleven sail. In latitude about 36 N. and longitude 135 W. he spoke the ship Ray Castle, bound for Tacoma.

With the arrival of the ship Agnes Oswald, Captain Nicol, comes the long delayed cargo of the ship Pass of Balmaha which left England for this port nearly a year and a half ago. The Pass of Balmaha's misadventure in Southern waters and the shameful conduct of her captain on occasion, which cost him his certificate, have been fully chronicled in the COLONIST. The ship only last week arrived home, having sailed from the Falkland islands the very day that the Oswald sailed for Victoria. She had repaired temporarily for the voyage. The bulk of the cargo was transferred direct to the Oswald at Stanley, which port was left 86 days ago. It is a general freight and the greater part of it has not been seen since it was shipped. The cargo consists of three sailors and three men of the Pass of the Balmaha are now aboard the Oswald, the first mentioned having only secured his officer's papers at Stanley.

MARINE NOTES.

Some few sheep skins were the only cargo the steamship Walla Walla received here for California yesterday. The cargo list was correspondingly small, those with salmon tickets embarking being: Miss L. Hurst, J. B. Stevenson, J. A. Gatty and wife, Miss B. McMillan, W. Sutherland, R. B. Garwood and Felix Hughes.

CAME HOME TOGETHER.

Steamers "Tees" and "Willapa" Return From the North—Experience With Taku Winds.

A Survey Warship Reaches Esquimalt—The "Kingston's" Overplus Freight.

At Skagway on February 2, the day the steamship City of Seattle left Lynn Canal for the South, and the day also that the Tees and Willapa left there for Victoria, there were eight vessels in port discharging freight and landing upwards of 1,400 passengers, all or nearly all being bound for the Upper Yukon. These vessels included the three named, the Oregon, Excelsior, Utopia, Santa Cruz and Wolcott, the last mentioned craft being remembered as a U.S. revenue cutter being now engaged in the Alaska coasting business, plying between Juneau and Sitka. The Tees and Willapa arrived here from the North on Sunday, their time of docking being only an hour apart, just one hour less than the time of sailing. The Willapa brought back no freight or passengers. While she was busy yesterday making preparations for her regular weekly trip, sailing from here on the 10th with a party of Norwegianers for the Cape Scott colony, together with a number of horses, the Tees was piling freight into her hold as rapidly as men could handle it, preparatory to the start for the North tomorrow night. Capt. Foot speaks of his northern trip as having been very rough, and his experience with the "Taku" winds in Lynn Canal almost gave him a longing for the West Coast breezes. Here the winds at times are strong, terribly strong, but they are not so refrigerating as the northern blows. The Taku winds generally bring with them clouds of snow from the tops of the mountains surrounding Lynn Canal. They are piercing cold and traveling at great velocity, often blow the water into spray, freezing it with the flying snow into the upper works of the steamer. After the Willapa emerged from such an experience she looked as though she had come from the North Pole. While the Skagway Captain Foot had a short talk with Norman Smith, who was formerly mayor of Port Angeles and who is now a northern surveyor. The latter had just been over the trail, and reported to the captain that the demand for what is known as the "Taku" dog trains, others behind oxen, and others again driving horses. The Skagway trail was in good shape, and the only stoppages were necessitated by occasional snow storms or high winds on the mountain passes. As for Skagway news Capt. Foot does not bring anything later than was brought by the City of Seattle. Work on the fourth wharf in port was progressing rapidly, and from the demand for what is known as the "Taku" dog trains, others behind oxen, and others again driving horses. The Skagway trail was in good shape, and the only stoppages were necessitated by occasional snow storms or high winds on the mountain passes. As for Skagway news Capt. Foot does not bring anything later than was brought by the City of Seattle. 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NEWS OF THE ORIENT

Brought by the Just Arrived Empress Throws Little Light on the Situation.

A Missionary Attempts Suicide at William Head-System's New Railway Station.

There were two ladies arriving from the Orient by the Empress of China yesterday, who, according to the others of the little company of passengers, deserve the richest reward of good Samaritanism. On the list they appear as Miss Wilkins and Miss M. Wilkins, travelling through America to England on pleasure. They are not missionaries or Red Cross nurses or anything else than companionable and agreeable young ladies, who, on the just completed voyage, made it a point to grace the board with their presence at every meal.

What this meant to the other passengers may be imagined when it is noted that all told there were eight travellers in the first saloon, and of these Miss Carrie H. Ohase and Mrs. L. H. Underwood were held prisoners in their cabins by mad mer from the beginning of the voyage to the end, and the others passed the time chiefly in the society of books, or reflection upon the boasted charms of solitude, breakfast, luncheon and dinner being the only cases in the wilderness of empty staterooms and vacant chairs, and each all being able to dine in state—with five or six waiters to stand behind every chair. The Misses Wilkins felt it their duty to brighten the general gloom—hence the general testimonial of appreciation.

The gentlemen passengers were Mr. James Cruickshank, a shrewd Scot who has been travelling around the globe on a business mission which he keeps strictly to himself—Mr. William Howarth, an American manufacturer of paper, who has been working up trade in China and Japan; Mr. G. A. Taylor, a business man who has spent many years in many and profitable years in the disturbed Hermit Kingdom, and Mr. L. Weiler, for five years past an active resident of Siam.

SIAM'S NEW RAILWAY.

An Important Factor in Trade Development—Anglo-Saxon Domination in the Orient.

Mr. Weiler is by birth a German and by profession an engineer. He is a nephew of Mr. John Weiler of this city and breaks his journey back to the Fatherland with a short visit to his Victoria relatives. His long stay in Siam has been in connection with the building of a line of railway from Bangkok to the north-west, (improperly written Zimme) which promises to be a potent factor in the enlargement of Siam's trade; and incidentally of shipping interests.

The new road commences near the Burmese frontier and practically connects Burma and Siam, making tributary to commerce the rich valley of the Menam, famous chiefly as a rice producing section, but also containing valuable teak forests, some minerals and considerable spice-growing land. The railway has been built by the government, but whether its operation will be retained by the state is a matter of question. One section of Siamese public men desire that the governmental direction of the road shall apply on the German principle—others favor a sale to an energetic English syndicate which has excellent prospects of closing a deal.

Germany, Britain, and the United States are taking great interest in the country, and as a result its interests are being extended in all directions. The growth of United States shipping interests on the Chinese coast during recent years has particularly impressed itself on Mr. Weiler, the stars and stripes being now familiar to every harbor between Hongkong and Yokohama, although half a decade ago an American merchantman was rare indeed.

Of course the British merchant flag is everywhere—no comparison with it in mercantile importance, but American craft are growing numerous. Illustrating the Anglo-Saxon domination of the Orient coast Mr. Weiler points to the fact that as French was formerly and to a certain extent still is the general tongue of Europe—everyone in the Orient must understand English to make his wants and wishes known. It is the vulgus of the wharves, the shops, the hotels, the state and society. In Japan a rickshaw man cannot get a license unless he has learned his little English—the sampan man must be educated on the same lines. Even in the exclusive German quarter the masters speak of Europe arrogantly asserts itself.

"You can't get a glass of beer in any of these Teutonian resorts," says Mr. Weiler, "unless you are able to ask for it in English of the Chinese boy."

A BRIDE OF HIGH DEGREE.
Lee Chong Becomes a Belle of the Quarter—A Missionary Attempts Suicide.

THE STATIONARY CAPITOL.

Splendid Provincial Headquarters of Which the Legislature To-day Takes Possession.

Description of Leading Architectural Features and General Plan of the Buildings.

The magnificent parliament buildings in which the legislature of the province are this year assembling for the first time, have been in course of construction since 1883, the contract for the foundations having been let on May 31 of that year. The beauty of the structure calls forth the admiration of everyone who has seen it, while the perfection of the work and the thoroughness in which the details have been carried out is a surprise to visitors. In general design and in choice of the stone for the buildings the good taste and judgment displayed has been decidedly happy, the result being a harmonious picture delightful to the eye.

When the grounds, now under process of laying out from a design by Mr. E. C. Howell, the superintendent of construction, are completed, the finishing touches will be given to the scene; the shrubbery and the lawns will be laid out here and there a touch of color from cunningly placed flower beds will then give just the contrast that is needed to bring out in perfection the lights and shades of the soft, silvery grey stone walls.

The buildings cover an area of more than an acre and the design is a combination, or blending into one design of the Romanesque, Classic and Gothic, not a jumble by any means, but an adaptation and modulation to the general effect in a masterly and artistic whole, pleasing to the eye and yet not sacrificing the utilitarian purposes which public departments require. Seen from a distance the main outline of the building is Classic, the great entrance with its broad flight of stone steps and the great central dome being the chief features. The main entrance of this main building are the wings, connected to it by open colonnades. A bird's-eye view from the top of dome shows the buildings to have in general design the shape of the letter T. The main entrance may be represented by the centre of the two arms, the wings the extremities of these arms and the legislative hall forming the stem of the letter.

The front of the building, including the dome, is 500, and the central building is 200 feet deep. To the top of the gilded figure of Captain Vancouver which surmounts the dome the distance is 105 feet. This gives an idea of the proportions of the structure, and if the outside walls were all placed in a straight line they would extend half a mile in length.

Simplicity of treatment is the general effect as one gets a closer view of the building, for a deeper and more artistic work of ornamentation, carving, but on the combination of rock-faced stone and chisel work and the contrasting of the solid walls and ranges of windows. Not that the walls look bare, for there is just enough carving to relieve any appearance of monotony, and the play of light and shade due to the beauty of the stone itself has been skillfully taken advantage of by the designer. Surmounting the main entrance is the great arm of the province carved in stone, while stone statues of the late Chief Justice Begbie and Sir James Douglas are in niches on either side of the entrance. Carved female figures representing the arts and sciences surround the wings and gargoyles and ornamental carving judiciously relieve the walls here and there. Small towers rise on either side of the entrance and the roof line of both central building and wings are broken by small towers and the great central dome being covered with copper. The main approach is particularly handsome with its solid stone archway and stairs, the entrance closing with a massive iron gate of wrought iron gates, and the stairs flanked with massive bronze lamps with the arms of the province in bas-relief.

The east wing of two stories and basement is entirely devoted to the provincial museum, the government printing department, and the central building or administrative block contains the other departments and the legislative assembly hall with its accessories.

The massiveness of the great structure may be best understood by a visit to the huge basement which extends under the whole building. Here it is to be noticed that the arches ways are all formed of a particularly strong ironproof concrete, tougher and harder than stone itself. So very strong is it that it has been used in place of beams with such good results that not the slightest crack or settlement can be detected when it lends itself to the finest ornamental work. The basement is perfectly honey-combed with rooms, all of them used for some useful purpose. In the central part are the huge steam furnaces for heating the building, with a pipe measuring nearly three feet in diameter to lead the smoke into the big chimney. So big are these furnaces that they remind one of the engine-room of an ocean steamer. An idea too may be had in the basement of one of the big vaults for the lands and works departments. There are besides multifarious store rooms, work rooms for the gardener and carpenter and in the east part of the main basement are the caretakers' rooms, comfortable apartments, with pantry, parlor, three bed rooms and a kitchen, a private door opening from the grounds, but not elaborate, are so well built and comfortable that a person living in the ordinary rented house may well envy the lucky man who gets them.

The ground floor may be entered by doors on each side of the main entrance or by the end doors opening off the colonnades. The entrances from the front lead to the central dome whence the various offices may be approached. To the left is the auditor-general's office and the treasurer's and finance department offices extend to the east, terminating in the Premier's room at the north-east corner. This is handsomely paneled in burr oak, the big plate glass window giving a splendid view of the grounds and the harbor. The treasury has a large fire proof room in

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The ground floor may be entered by doors on each side of the main entrance or by the end doors opening off the colonnades. The entrances from the front lead to the central dome whence the various offices may be approached. To the left is the auditor-general's office and the treasurer's and finance department offices extend to the east, terminating in the Premier's room at the north-east corner. This is handsomely paneled in burr oak, the big plate glass window giving a splendid view of the grounds and the harbor. The treasury has a large fire proof room in

the basement, and the offices themselves are handsomely fitted with oak. The ceilings of every room in the building it may be noted are of different designs. The assessors room is in the southeast corner of the main building across the hall from the premier's room and to the left of the door from the colonnade. A corridor extends clear through from east to west of the main building, the floor is laid and the handsome marble ceiling being of fire proof concrete. In the ceiling on this floor beneath the dome can be seen the best example of this concrete work cornice, panellings and beams being shown in a beautiful clear design. The floor of the dome here is of ceramic mosaic of a very pretty pattern.

South of the dome, and approached by the front doors, is the lands and works department, the finest of all the departments in the building and the largest, as, owing to the immense amount of work, it requires large floor space. The public office looks like a fine banking room, with a counter of oak and plate glass that the public may approach on three sides. From this opens off a huge vault, bigger than all the spaces that the department had in the department, the finest of all the departments in the building and the largest, as, owing to the immense amount of work, it requires large floor space. The public office looks like a fine banking room, with a counter of oak and plate glass that the public may approach on three sides. From this opens off a huge vault, bigger than all the spaces that the department had in the department, the finest of all the departments in the building and the largest, as, owing to the immense amount of work, it requires large floor space.

THE STATIONARY CAPITOL.

Splendid Provincial Headquarters of Which the Legislature To-day Takes Possession.

Description of Leading Architectural Features and General Plan of the Buildings.

The magnificent parliament buildings in which the legislature of the province are this year assembling for the first time, have been in course of construction since 1883, the contract for the foundations having been let on May 31 of that year. The beauty of the structure calls forth the admiration of everyone who has seen it, while the perfection of the work and the thoroughness in which the details have been carried out is a surprise to visitors. In general design and in choice of the stone for the buildings the good taste and judgment displayed has been decidedly happy, the result being a harmonious picture delightful to the eye.

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The

The Colonist.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1898.

REMEMBER SAN JUAN.

An esteemed caller said to the Colonist yesterday: "Remember San Juan." Asked what he meant, he replied that the United States was permitted to land troops on that island, and the result was that Canada lost it. Something like this, he went on to say, might possibly happen if the United States should be allowed to send troops into the Yukon. It is perhaps some consideration of this kind that has led the Canadian government to refuse permission for an armed force to accompany the proposed relief expedition. We would not like to say that this expedition was only an excuse for getting an armed force into the country; but if it is to be abandoned, as is now alleged, there would seem to be some foundation for such a suggestion. No conditions exist that render it necessary for troops to be despatched to Alaska before the Yukon opens. We mean now to the interior of Alaska. If they did, and the troops could get there, some reason could be advanced for assenting to the proposal; but under the most favorable circumstances soldiers sent down the Yukon to Circle City would not reach there until June or about a month later than that month calling for the presence of soldiers because every one will be getting ready to go to work or be actually at work.

In this connection a petition which has been sent to Washington from the people of Dyes and Skagway is worthy of comment. This petition calls for the proclamation of martial law at those points, and asks for a force of at least 300 soldiers to maintain order. If this is not done it is said there will be serious trouble before the season's rush is over. We are quite prepared to think that there is need for something of the kind; but suggest that the Canadian government should notify the Washington authorities that, while no objection will be raised to the presence of troops in what is disputed territory, it ought to be understood that any occupation by the United States government of the head of the Canal is not to be construed as a waiver by Canada of her rights there, in case it shall be found that the locality ought to be a part of the Dominion under any fair interpretation of the treaty. It is as well to remember San Juan in this matter also.

JINGOISM RUN MAD.

We find in the Argonaut an article treating of the military spirit that is rampant in certain quarters of the United States. Our contemporary points out that during the past week the House of Representatives at Washington has been wrangling over intervention in Cuba and the Senate has been fighting over the annexation of Hawaii. The first means war; the latter large expenditure upon military and naval preparations, for it is evident that if the United States is to hold Hawaii, the towns must be fortified and garrisoned and a fleet must be available for the defence of the islands. The secretary of the navy wants the batteries of all the ships of war modernized; the chief of the bureau of ordnance wants all the 6-inch guns now in possession of the United States converted into rapid-firing weapons; the assistant secretary of the navy pleads for a larger navy; Senator Teller, of Colorado, cries out that Spain must be driven from Cuba, and that no one is a free man who refuses to fight to make her go; Representative Bailey, of Texas, exclaims in a fine frenzy: "A little blood-letting will do us good. We do not fear war." While all this is going on, the Argonaut says, "our coasts are undefended, our ships lack gunpowder for one day's battle, our arsenals are empty, we have few or no guns at the gates of our great cities, we have not enough men to work the guns we have."

This is certainly a striking arraignment. We are not discussing the policy of interference in the affairs of Cuba or the merits of Hawaiian annexation. Our reference is wholly to the extraordinary spirit of jingoism manifest in some quarters at Washington. To properly appreciate it, one must recall the fact that not a government in the world is exhibiting anything but the utmost friendliness towards the United States. No nation contemplates attacking the republic; no nation has anything to gain by a war with it. All that the nations ask is that the United States will refrain from interfering in their affairs. It is the most remarkable exhibition in the annals of politics.

NOT VERY NEIGHBORLY.

The plan adopted by the United States government for the purpose of solving difficulties in the transport of Canadian goods across the strip of country at the head of Lynn Canal is certainly not very neighborly. To propose that the owner of goods, after having paid the duties at the waterfront and carried them over the pass, should go all the way back again to get a refund shows either a disposition to put obstacles in the way of the entry of Canadian produce into Canada or else extreme ignorance of the situation. We were not aware that this was the way the matter was arranged when we commended the regulations as reasonable.

The Canadian government can meet the exigencies of the case by appointing an officer at the frontier to cash the receipts and collect them later, and this we suppose will be done. In the case of goods sent through Canada to interior Alaska, the Canadian government will provide for the cashing of the receipts given by the collector at Tazeh. It would have been a very easy matter for the regulation to have omitted to provide for this, and thus make it necessary for an American to plod back up the Yukon to Tazeh to get his refund; but our government was hardly prepared for such a small piece of business.

We are inclined to think that the omission by the Secretary of the Treasury to provide for the refund of the money by an officer stationed at the conventional frontier was not due to any desire on his part to interfere with Canadians and persons carrying Canadian goods; but was simply a Smart Aleck trick devised by some too clever people, who will find their scheme recoil upon their own heads. The fact that a Canadian officer is at hand to cash the receipts will be a capital advertisement.

VICTORIA'S GOOD NAME.

Victoria is gaining a splendid name these days. Every man who comes here to buy goods goes away more than pleased at the manner in which he is received. He finds our merchants prompt to do business, and eager to get all the trade possible; but at the same time they are courteous, obliging and straightforward. The quality of the goods sold is excellent. Customers are met frankly, and told the truth, and prices are in all cases reasonable. Comparisons are proverbially odious, so we shall not make any in this matter. We will leave this part of the case to the miners who speak through our columns to our readers from day to day.

We feel that the business men of the city deserve the hearty congratulations of the citizens for the manner in which they are dealing with the outfitting trade. The good name they are earning for our city will be worth much in the future. It is impossible to fix a money value upon the reputation of a city for fair dealing, and this reputation Victoria is getting all over the world, for the men who come here represent all countries. It is pleasant to be able to write thus, and still more pleasant to do so with the consciousness that what we say will be fully endorsed by the men who are the best possible witnesses, namely, those who have come here as strangers to buy from men, whom they never saw before, for a journey about which they know very little. These men will come back here, and what is more, when they tell how well they have been used here, those who feel that they have been robbed elsewhere will come to us when they have any more purchases to make. Honesty is better than the tactics of the Smart Aleck, even in the outfitting trade.

THE SCHOOL TRUSTEES AND THE CITY COUNCIL.

A question of considerable interest is raised by the letter of Mr. Jas. A. Raymur, city auditor, read at the meeting of the city council on Monday and printed in yesterday's Colonist. It is as to the right of the auditor to pass upon the expediency of expenditures by the school board. This is not exactly the way it is raised, but substantially it comes to that. In effect the school board contends that the only duty of the auditor is to examine the accounts, and if they appear correct upon their face to certify to the statement. The auditor appears to hold that he is charged with the duty of examining into the nature of the several items, and that he may properly refuse to certify, if in his opinion some of the expenditures ought not to have been incurred. For example: It seems to be the rule of the board when it hires a teacher or other person not to recognize the broken parts of a month, when the term of hiring actually begins before the middle of the month, and when it begins after the middle of the month to begin payment at the middle. To this the auditor objects, and the question arises as to whether his objection shall prevail. The law on the subject of teachers' salaries is found in section 24 of the School Act, which reads as follows: "The salaries of the teachers employed in the public schools of Victoria, Vancouver, New Westminster and Nanaimo shall be fixed and paid at the discretion of the school trustees of the said cities respectively."

The trustees claim that this gives them discretion to say at what date a hiring shall be understood to begin, and even if that discretion seems to have been improperly exercised the auditor has no right to refuse his certificate to the accounts. It is obvious that such a claim cannot be admitted in its entirety, for in such a case the city might be called upon to sanction expenditures that are grossly improper. The word discretion does not mean whim, but what is known as a legal discretion, and it is obvious that if the auditor should find in the accounts sent to him to be certified a charge that was clearly irregular, it would be his duty to refuse to certify and report the same to the council. At the same time, we do not see how the auditor can set himself up as a court of appeal from the discretion of the school board. We think there is a difference in principle between two such

cases as the following, namely, where the board pays a salary for a month, when in point of fact the person was not in its employ during that month, and where it pays a salary for a month, when the teacher has been in the employ of the board for only a part of a month, the custom being in such cases to pay for a whole month.

Mr. Raymur very properly thinks that his duty in the premises should be defined. Section 40 of the School Act says that "the City Council shall annually appoint an auditor to audit the accounts of the Board of Trustees." Mr. Raymur probably does not want to do anything more than he is required to do by law; but in order that he may do this, there must be a definition of what the law means by the words "to audit the accounts." If it only means that he shall see that the bookkeeping is correct and vouchers tally with the amounts, he cannot possibly be required to inquire into the nature and policy of the expenditures.

We concede that both bodies being elected by the people to discharge certain duties prescribed by law, there is no principle at stake in the matter. It is simply a question of interpretation of the statute. If the legislature has seen fit to say that the school board shall be responsible to any one except the people for the manner in which the money for school purposes is expended, there is the end of the matter. If the intention of the legislature was that the auditor appointed by the city should exercise a supervision over the accounts of the board it is his duty to do so, and there is nothing more to be said.

In regard to one of the matters mentioned in Mr. Raymur's letter a few observations seem called for. He objected to the payment of Mr. Doran's salary for July on the ground that he resigned during the month, which was a holiday month. The board claims that this payment was obligatory upon it, under Article 4, Clause 1, of the Rules and Regulations prescribed by the government, which have the force of law. That regulation says:

Teachers on the permanent staff at the close of the school year (June 30th) who have been employed for more than half of the prescribed teaching days in the year, shall be paid their usual salaries for July.

It seems reasonable to hold that even though Mr. Doran resigned during July, he did so knowing that under the regulation he was entitled to his full salary for the month. The law of the land is a part of every transaction.

A recent despatch says that Russia is about to make overtures to the United States to secure the moral support of that country in the event of its becoming necessary to oppose, by force, the determination of Great Britain and Japan to keep the ports of the Orient open to the commerce of the world. We have no reason to expect very much wisdom from Washington, when it comes to international politics, but think there will be so strong a pressure from all sides that the administration will take sides with Great Britain in this affair, if it ever comes to a head.

The Board of Trustees shall, on or before the first day of February in each year, cause to be prepared and laid before the City Council, a detailed estimate of the sums required by the Board for the current year's ordinary expenses of maintaining the schools as they exist at the time of the making of such estimate, which sum shall be paid over from time to time as required upon the order of the trustees by the city treasurer to the several persons or corporations for whose use such moneys are payable.

The section then goes on to speak of special or extraordinary expenditures, the estimate of which is subject to alteration and approval by the council, and in the event of a refusal by the council a by-law must be submitted to the electors if the board shall so desire. It is claimed, and apparently with great force, that this section gives the board the right to say how much money shall be spent on the schools for ordinary expenditure, and that the council must find the money. At present there is no question about special expenditures involved. If the city shall refuse to pay the orders of the board, and by reason of non-payment a judgment is secured against the board, the city council must levy and collect the amount. Now, if the board has the exclusive right to make contracts and if on its failure to carry them out through lack of funds and judgment being recovered the city must pay, it would seem to follow that the city is bound to pay without the judgment being obtained. Hence if the board estimates that \$52,000 is needed for ordinary school purposes, it seems as if the council has no alternative left but to find the money.

We present these observations tentatively and in order that the matter may be fully discussed. WHY is there so much more respect for law in Canada than in the United States, even in such remote localities as Alaska and the Yukon? The answer is that in Canada the laws are administered without fear or favor; while in the United States they are enforced with the duty of seeing that law is enforced, and the political influences of their acts, and are too much given to favoring influential friends. Permanency of office in the one case and short tenure in the other are doing their natural work. Of personal fearlessness there is quite as much among the judges and officers of the law in one country as in the other. The respective systems and their traditions produce good results in Canada, and evil results in the United States.

The Inland Sentinel says that the farmers and miners of the interior will have to pay interest upon a million dollars spent on the parliament buildings for many years to come. Will our contemporary take its pencil and figure out just how much of the interest on the \$850,000 the buildings will cost any particular farmer and miner will have to pay? We do not think the farmers and miners of the interior will feel especially grateful to the Sentinel for suggesting that they are unwilling to pay their share towards seeing that the provincial legislature and the public departments are properly housed. If we may judge from what is said by the farmers and miners, who come to Victoria and express their views, we are warranted in concluding that they are perfectly satisfied that the province has no better buildings than it needs and that it got good value for its money.

The Tacoma Ledger severely scores Seattle for its \$500 license, which it deposed "Queen City of the Sound" expects will keep Victoria from disseminating correct information about the Yukon within its limits. It calls the ordinance "a fool proposition," "a confession of weakness" and something "calculated to provoke retaliation." It is all that the Ledger says of it, yet we are glad it was adopted. We are glad to know that Seattle has been compelled to acknowledge in such a conspicuous way her inability to compete with Victoria. This is a pretty position for a city of such pretensions to be placed in. It is the worst blow the credit and the enterprise of the place ever received. We do not wonder that the Ledger ridicules the ordinance. It will be ridiculed from one end of America to another.

We shall send, perhaps, a copy of last night's Times to the Contemporary Review, which will be, no doubt, delighted to know that the world Mithraicism does not meet the approval of so high an authority. The article in Sunday's Contemporary, wherein reference was made to Mithraicism as the origin of certain religious forms. This led the writer of the Colonist article to look the subject up, and a part of the result of his search was the article in which the word Mithraicism occurred, which was not invented by the Colonist, nor yet by the Review writer, but can be found in various articles upon this very interesting subject.

A recent despatch says that Russia is about to make overtures to the United States to secure the moral support of that country in the event of its becoming necessary to oppose, by force, the determination of Great Britain and Japan to keep the ports of the Orient open to the commerce of the world. We have no reason to expect very much wisdom from Washington, when it comes to international politics, but think there will be so strong a pressure from all sides that the administration will take sides with Great Britain in this affair, if it ever comes to a head.

The Tacoma Ledger thinks the statement of the Colonist, that very little more provocation would cause the Dominion to close the mines of the Yukon to aliens, hysterical. That is where our contemporary makes a mistake. The Colonist's statement was based upon a knowledge of the situation. It was not intended as an expression of ill-will, but as a notice to our neighbors as to what they might have expected if their government had not been more reasonable than some of their newspapers, the Ledger not included.

Clear and cold weather and fine ice is the report from the Stikine river. It has been said that if there is much travel on the river the road will be broken up. This seems like an odd statement. Most people, who are familiar with ice traveling, will bear us out in saying that the roadway is usually the last part of the ice to break up. It gets solidified by constant travel, and is invariably stronger than any other part of the surface.

It has been a long time since a lieutenant-governorship went begging as that of the Northwest Territories is going. What's the matter? When did it come to pass that there could not be found in all the ranks of the amiable Grits a gentleman so self-sacrificing as to be willing to take that by no means un lucrative or uninteresting position? Verily, we have fallen upon strange times. "Laurier's luck" seems to have deserted him.

The Seattle Times questions the honesty of Captain Ray, whose alarming report from Circle City was recently given to the press, and thinks he may have been acting in the interest of the great trading corporations. The Times says that not an army officer on the Coast believes him worthy of belief.

The Colonist congratulates the Seattle Times upon the new evidence it furnishes of its prosperity. The Times is an excellent newspaper and deserves the popularity which it enjoys.

It was Ottawa last week. It is London to-day. It will be Victoria on Thursday. If this keeps up, speeches from the throne, like Britain's morning drumbeat, will encircle the world.

And so Victoria is to have new telegraphic connection with the Mainland by April 15th. Well, we can all stand it.

In order to carry their respective points, it is said that those United States senators who favor the annexation of Hawaii and those who favor the recognition of Cuban belligerency, have agreed to unite their forces and pass a single resolution favoring both schemes. It seems hardly credible that so unseemly a thing could be done even in the United States senate, and perhaps the story is only one of those sensations that ingenious Washington correspondents invent from time to time. It is interesting to note in this connection that there is considerable fear manifest in Madrid of some step being taken by the United States that may precipitate trouble.

There is a report that Russia, Germany and France propose to take the side of Spain in case of any difficulty arising over Cuba, but that Great Britain refuses to commit herself to their plans. We have no particular reason in Canada to feel kindly towards the United States, but if any European combination endeavors to crush that country, we will forget all our little differences and join the Motherland in saying that the men who speak the English language and maintain the institutions that have their foundation in the Common Law shall not stand alone in the contest.

We do not want to interfere in the administration of justice, but, in view of the fact that many desperadoes are likely to visit this city in the near future, cannot forbear expressing the hope that in cases of crime, where the evidence is abundantly clear, the accused should receive the maximum punishment provided. If he behaves himself in prison his term can be shortened. What we want to see is crime prevented by a few good wholesome lessons at the outset.

The Nanaimo Review is very severe upon the Chief Justice because the latter, when Attorney-General, framed a law which he now says is inoperative. If the Review were a little more familiar with the history of legislation it would know that frequently judges have to decide against opinions expressed by them while at the bar. It is only given to newspaper editors to be absolutely infallible at all times.

The Post-Intelligencer says that a Canadian gold commissioner at Lake Bennett will issue timber licenses, and doubtless will be able to issue mining licenses. We doubt the whole statement. The latter part of it is certainly untrue; for the regulations, which are the law, say that licenses can only be obtained in the Yukon territory at Dawson City.

Now that the Stikine-Teslin railway bill is before the house, we hope it will be put through in the quickest possible time. If it is to be passed, it ought to be passed just as soon as the discussion of its details can be disposed of. If it is to be rejected, the fact ought to be made known without delay, so that people can govern themselves accordingly.

The Queen's speech from the throne is very pacific in tone; but the habit of ministers nowadays is not to tell anything more than they are compelled to on such occasions.

The government should bring on the elections as soon as possible or a certain journalistic candidate for legislative honors in the interior will have the cost of the parliament building rolled up to \$50,000,000.

THE CANADIAN PRESS.

COAL MINERS' WAGES.

In our news columns will be found the particulars of the ten per cent. advance which has recently been accorded by Messrs. B. Dunsmuir & Sons to all their underground employes in the Wellington collieries. We have also endeavored to make a comparison between the wages paid here and at Nanaimo from time to time. This comparison throws a most favorable light upon the treatment of their employes by this company, and one too with which the men have every reason to be satisfied.—Wellington Enterprise.

CANADA AND IMPERIAL DEFENCE.

She is the natural keeper, in the first instance, of several points of importance on our "far flung battle line"; and, if she spends what she can afford on making these more secure, she will be doing the Empire good service. It is not difficult to imagine circumstances in which the terminal of the Canadian Pacific at New Westminster and Vancouver would be points of the first importance. The same thing is true of the coal stores at Nanaimo. It seems to us that defensive works at these points cannot be undertaken too soon.—Columbian.

THE FIERY DEMON.

The recent fatal fire in Spokane should be a warning to those in New Denver who are sleeping in five story blocks. We would advise them to sleep nearer to the ground, and to be more careful of their resources. It is much more pleasant to have a notion to paint the scenery a lurid tint.—Denver Ledger.

BY WAY OF VARIETY.

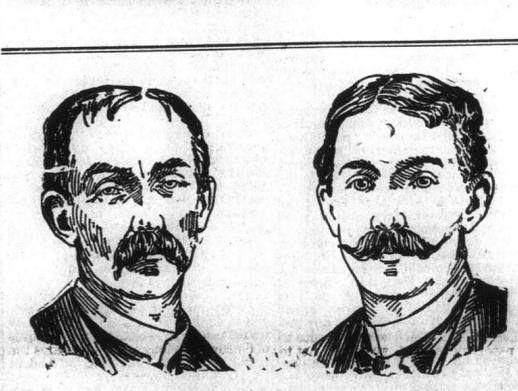
Hicks—You know that Gray has been going about with Miss Klondyke a good deal. He and his people have been making all sorts of inquiries regarding old Klondyke's resources. It really looks like an engagement.

Wicks—Should say rather that it looks like a reconnaissance in force.—Boston Transcript.

When Renand first went as senator to Paris he engaged a room at a hotel and paid a month's rent—150 francs—in advance. The proprietor asked if he would have a receipt. "It is not necessary," replied Renand; "God has witnessed the payment." "Do you believe in God?" answered the host. "Most assuredly!" replied Renand; "don't you?" "Not I," said the host. "Ah," said the senator, "I will take a receipt, if you please."—San Francisco Argonaut.

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TRADE NOT TE. Great Britain's Position Chinese Situation Mr. Balfour. No Desire to Assume the Hundred Million Chinamen.

Effectual Check Upon Balfour for Exclusive Position in Port Arthur.

LONDON, Feb. 5.—The principal passages of Balfour's short report of cables last evening: "Kunpion has been given credit effect that the government from the firm position it the Chinese question, abandoning the principles had given public utterance, brave words of the minister I can say with confidence rumors, which have been in quarters where one thought more confidence been placed in the wisdom of Her Majesty's advisers, foundation. (Loud cheer not true that the govern in the smallest particular from their declared policy East, or that they have, in of pressure from any other po any of our just claims. T ations which govern that been stated clearly to the pu than one cabinet minister. declarations the government Mr. Balfour recalled the made by his brother, Mr. A four, first lord of the treasury cent speech at Manchester, statements he asserted with He declared that the govern desire to possess any of China except such points as might be for strategic purposes. To ness territory would simply b an immense additional burd corresponding advantage. Great treaty rights secured equally any for trade, and the could not if it assumed charge of a bu lion Chinamen. Continuing four said: "So long as our tr are protected, and so long as t ment make no conditions by w rights would be jeopardized, government are entitled to de fence of the nation, and so I lieve, they will retain that e (Cheers.) As to the negotiati on in connection with the loan an not in possession of any I cannot impart any, but I hop lie will realize that the effect ture criticism is only to embu mine of foreign affairs and the difficulty of his task. Mr. Balfour urged the publi vate a wholesale scepticism o authorized statements with re the negotiations, and above make any inference from the statements made by the minist neither denied nor affirmed by iters. "Negotiations of this d and critical character, and to firm or deny unauthorized at that may appear would necess duce a false impression. The therefore, of the ministers on ject is not to be taken as affi denying what is said. The tim y come for statements conce negotiations which have taken are still taking place. In the I am sure you will rest satisfie assurance, which I now repeat, not the intention of the minist Torise of their heaven-sent fo shken by mere speculations." The Standard (Conservative) appressed by Mr. Balfour's sp this appeal to Lord Salisbury the nation into his confidence, clares it is confident that go than harm will result theref paper contends that when ment meets the government, pressed for the facts, and more hindrance will be c piecemeal interrogation and evasion, than by a business-lik of the proposition. The evidently fears that the gove heging with the different nitions that are based upon it policy. It says: "What th wants is not so much a minute of what has passed at the which the Tseung Yamen tra government, as a statement of in which Lord Salisbury under principle formulated by the cabinet." The Times dismisses the s brief allusion declaring that four do not throw much ne the subject.

LONDON, Feb. 5.—It is pro but little further reliable regarding China will be ob the ministers have chance by their assailants during the co debate in parliament on the reply to the speech from the Great Britain has never dem. Tseung Yamen has made a treat was merely one of the sugge stants of the bargain, and be withdrawn it can only be is a barrier to the negotiati loan. The object of the con to check the scheme for the tian of Port Arthur into a cli sion port and the object w secured by exacting from C Russia together a pled them in regard to Korea. T evacuation of Port Hamilton and this will probably be th The semi-official statements p to, notably, the specific assu

