

PESTILENCE MAY FOLLOW DEPOPULATION AND RUIN

Shocking Conditions in Corpse-Strewn Towns and Villages in Calabria and Sicily.

HORRORS UNSURPASSED FOR MANY CENTURIES

Over 100,000 Now Believed to Have Perished in Messina Alone--Death Roll May Reach 200,000--Entire Infantry Regiment Drowns in Tidal Wave--Heart-Rending Stories of Survivors Ghouls at Work on Devastated Area.

Rome, Dec. 31.--To the terrifying spectacle of death caused by Monday's earthquake has now been added the horror of starvation and the fear of a spread of pestilence. In the ruins of Messina, Reggio, and various towns in Sicily and Calabria, lie the bodies of the dead, which it has been impossible to extricate, while everywhere thousands of hungry and homeless persons...

Words are inadequate to express the horror of the ruin and desolation that has overwhelmed Calabria and Sicily, where the earth's tremblings, and fire and water have combined to change the smiling and verdant country into deserts. Messina exists no longer, and at least thirty years will be necessary to repair what nature's violence has wrought there.

As yet it has been found impossible to obtain any news whatever of the fate of little villages along the coast, many of which it is believed have been swept off the map. In many cases the buildings have been swept out to sea, and no trace of them remains. It is no exaggeration to say that flourishing and industrious villages have been wiped off the map.

In some of the smaller towns such as Palmi, near Monteleone, the suddenness and completeness of the catastrophe was overwhelming. Of the 14,000 people living in Palmi, some 2,000 corpses were buried in the cemetery there. The survivors, reinforced by rescuers from other points, and under the lead of soldiers and doctors, are performing prodigies of valor.

Many of them have overcome by the awful conditions under which they are working. The Bishop of Morabito and other priests, with touching devotion and courage have done much to preserve order by the example of calmness and self denial they have given the people. They are busy carrying comfort and consolation to the dying and the bereaved.

The first of the survivors of Reggio to reach Catanzaro were so broken down by the shock of their experiences that it was almost impossible for them to give any connected account of the destruction of the city. They speak disconnectedly of whole districts swept away in a moment, and of families of well-known people annihilated. Reggio remains isolated in a ghastly silence.

The light houses on the headlands have disappeared. Numbers of rectangles from eye witnesses are becoming available. A survivor of Messina says: "The first thing I knew I was thrown out of bed, then the floor of my room collapsed, and I fell into the apartment with the dead bodies of my father and son. Here I found a distracted woman searching for her sister and son, whom she found dead. We remained in the ruins for twenty-four hours entirely alone, without food or drink."

"We made a rough shelter of boards to keep off the rain. Our ears were filled with the cries and moans of the injured. These sounds ceased somewhat during the day. Still no one came to our assistance. We were as in a tomb with the dead bodies of our children beside us. We could see no one, but every time sounds were heard from the street there would come an outburst of piercing cries for mercy and help from the injured, hidden and buried down in the wreckage."

"On Tuesday morning we finally ventured forth and were taken aboard a vessel in the harbor, which we came to Naples. Messina is entirely destroyed. This refugee lost his two children. He arrived in Rome half clad and covered with dust. His wife was clothed in little else than an old counterpane. Other refugees estimate that not more than 600 persons of the entire population of Messina, 160,000 people, escaped with their lives. The suffering was intensified by the lack of drinking water. The water system was entirely demolished. These survivors assuaged their thirst by rinsing their mouths with sea water."

Just as the British cruiser Ebro was preparing to leave, Messina with refugees, an outbreak of cholera broke out. Of frightful cries was heard from the shore. The refugees on board said crowds of maddened persons of every age break into the customs house. Some were naked, others half clothed, and they all were mud splattered and demented. Many were injured and bleeding. They sacked everything that came to their hands, seeking food, drink and clothing. Revolver shots rang out over the horrible din and confusion. Finally tongues of flame shot up in the darkness, showing that fire was completing the work of destruction.

Messina Was Burning and masses of flame in the darkness showed where the fire was completing the destructive beginnings of the earthquake. Ghoul-like figures flitted in the semi-darkness risking their lives among the tottering ruins, not to beseech the agonized sufferers, but in fendish strivings to profit by the appalling disaster which had overwhelmed the city. They were vandals robbing the dead and dying, and acquiring possessions which they had no means of protecting or carrying away.

As the Ebro steamed through the straits it was seen that many once smiling villages on the neighboring shores had been completely obliterated from sight, or were nothing more than heaps of shapeless ruins with occasional flames springing up here and there to show where they once had stood. King Victor Emmanuel, who left Messina last night with Queen Helena, arrived early this morning at Reggio, and after visiting the ruins of the town in company with the Queen, embarked on a warship, and sent the following wireless telegram to Premier Giolitti: "Return from Reggio, which I found in a condition No Less Disastrous than that at Messina. A Russian warship, with five hundred wounded on board, will arrive at Naples this morning, and everything must be prepared for their landing and housing. Another Russian ship will carry the wounded to Syracuse. It is desirable to have at Naples a Russian ship with an abundance of medical supplies."

standing, but behind was emptiness and ruin. The principal square presented an awe-inspiring spectacle. Everywhere were enormous cracks, into which the sea poured, whence clouds of steam and sulphurous vapors arose. To the right, before a big trembling building was heaped many corpses, whose desperate attitudes and contorted faces showed the horrors of the death struggle.

The crew landed, but the work of rescue was most difficult. The ruins formed hillocks thirty feet high, under which thousands were buried. The steamer was soon loaded down to its utmost capacity with survivors, and then steamed to Naples. Along the way it was seen that the smiling villages on the Calabrian coast had disappeared. The commander of the Russian battleship Makharoff, described the fearful scenes at Messina. He declared that many of the residents at that place had been buried alive as groans had come from far down in the fissures of the earth, which could only be approached with the greatest precaution. At points the tottering walls threatened further collapse.

The anguished cries of the victims caused a fearful frenzy among the sailors who in several cases ventured in dangerous places and rescued many people. In other cases they reached dead bodies that separated into many millions and soldiers. Only forty convicts succeeded in making their escape. Amidst the ruins of the Bank of Sicily, Russian sailors found the safe containing many millions, and delivered it aboard the warship. Chevalier Zenolo, a treasury official at Messina, who was among the fugitives arriving here, said that out of 60 treasury clerks, only four escaped. At the prison of Rocci Guelioni, 400 convicts were killed together with many millions and soldiers. Only forty convicts succeeded in making their escape.

Refugees to the number of 50,000 to 75,000 are expected here within a few days. Inhuman Fight For Food. Messina, Dec. 31.--A frightful scene occurred here to-day amid the ruins of the customs house. Bands of famished individuals were grouping among the debris in the hope of discovering food. The first of the searchers were successful and others, attracted by their cries of joy, fell upon them with revolvers and knives. The lucky ones defended each morsel literally with their lives.

The struggle was of the most inhuman description. The famished men threw themselves upon each other like wolves and several fell disembowled in defending their morsels of dry bread. One of the unfortunates was pinned to a plank by a knife while clinging to his hand was a little child, for whom he had fought for food. Survivors Driven Mad. Naples, Dec. 31.--The wounded refugees from Messina, who have reported here present a sickening sight. Some appear hardly human; others among the fugitives have no apparent injuries, but are in a deplorable mental condition. The horror of that tragic minute is ineradicably fixed on their faces. On the relief ships they were heaped everywhere. Some of them appeared to be stricken with a kind of idiocy, looking aimlessly before them; others, completely mad, howl wildly.

Reggio, Dec. 31.--There is reason to believe that an entire regiment of infantry was drowned by the tidal wave at Palmi. Three hundred of the soldiers' bodies already have been recovered. As a precautionary measure against an outbreak of pestilence the bodies of persons killed in the earthquake are being burned and disinfected and being strewn among the ruins of the city. The troops have set up field kitchens and are baking bread in the streets. English Tourists Perish. Paris, Dec. 31.--A special dispatch received here from Rome says that 96 guests, including English, Americans and French travelers, were staying at the Hotel Trinacria, at Messina, when the hotel was destroyed. They all perished. The proprietor of the Trinacria signs escaped. There are only two survivors of the

C. P. R. EXPRESS IS DITCHED; 2 INJURED

(Special to the Times.) Winnipeg, Man., Dec. 31.--The continental express of the Canadian Pacific westbound from here went into a ditch near Gull Lake, Medicine Hat, Sask., district at 2 o'clock this morning. The baggage and locomotive was ditched but the locomotive stayed on the rails. Two people were injured, one of whom is likely to die. No names were obtainable.

FIFTY VICTIMS AFTER EXPLOSION IN WEST VIRGINIA

(Special to the Times.) Fort William, Ont., Dec. 31.--The fire at the C. P. R. coal docks here is at last under control, after several thousand tons have been burned. Two weeks hence will see the end of the fire which has been burning for several weeks. A large army of men have been engaged for sometime, isolating a mountainous pile of coal on fire from the other fuel.

STAMPING OUT CATTLE DISEASE IN U. S. A.

(Special to the Times.) Washington, D. C., Dec. 31.--"I believe we've gotten the 'foot and mouth' disease corralled," declared Secretary of Agriculture Wilson to-day. "I want to emphasize, however, that we are letting up in our investigations very slowly, because if we did not foreign countries might quarantine against the whole United States, as they are very suspicious of getting the infection."

STARVING AND FROZEN IN WILDS OF ALBERTA

(Special to the Times.) Winnipeg, Man., Dec. 31.--Wandering about in the wilds of the north, among the haunts of innumerable timber wolves, Margaret Romano, a Mexican woman, old and frail, and her daughter, a child of 15 years, have been found by Indians in a starving condition, almost frozen and desperate from hunger.

FRIENDLESS WOMAN AND HER CHILD ENDURE TERRIBLE HARDSHIPS.

(Special to the Times.) Albany, N. Y., Dec. 31.--For the purpose of securing "the national, state and local franchise for women," the Equal Franchise Society, with principal offices in New York, filed a certificate of incorporation yesterday with the secretary of state. The society proposes to establish such offices and headquarters as may seem desirable, and maintain publicity bureaus, holding meetings and distributing printed matter.

EQUAL FRANCHISE SOCIETY.

(Special to the Times.) Simcoe, Ont., Dec. 31.--At the hearing of the Malone case on Tuesday Constable Wilkins was the only witness examined. He testified that Chief Malone when Severs' store was burglarized and when Martin's store was entered, and declared that some twenty piano draperies were stolen and divided between them. He knew Malone set fire to Madden's shop, the fair ground barns, West & Peachy's and other shops. McBride's barn and Schuyler's grocery store.

MURDERER INSANE

(Special to the Times.) Simcoe, Ont., Dec. 31.--The work of Detective Miller here has led to the discovery in Buffalo of a large quantity of goods stolen from stores here. This corroborates the story of Policeman Wilkin and indicates that Chief Malone may have had a provincial detective at the border as a confederate. The find includes \$200 worth of furs from a Falls establishment.

EFFORTS TO PROVE HAIN'S TRIAL FOLLOWING ALONG SIMILAR LINES TO NOTORIOUS THAW CASE.

(Special to the Times.) Buffalo, N. Y., Dec. 31.--With the conclusion to-day of the testimony of Major Hains in behalf of his brother, Thornton J. Hains, now on trial as a principal with his brother, Capt. P. C. Hains, in the killing of William Annis, counsel for the defense will call the parents of the defendant, Gen. P. C. Hains and his wife, to tell of the mental condition of Captain Hains following certain disclosures of alleged happenings at his home that caused a separation from his wife. The spectacle of the aged parents opening further the doors upon family skeletons and telling of mental weakness observed in Captain Hains counsel for the defendant assert, will prove positively to the jury that the army officer was insane from grief when he shot Annis down.

DORANDO-LONGBOAT RACE.

(Special to the Times.) Buffalo, N. Y., Dec. 31.--Dorando, the Italian, who is to enter with Longboat, the Canadian-Indian, in a 25-mile race at the seventy-fifth regiment Army here on Saturday night, arrived in Buffalo to-day from New York, and was given an enthusiastic reception by delegations of his countrymen.

BIG PHILADELPHIA FIRE.

(Special to the Times.) Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 31.--Fire early to-day destroyed the warehouse of the Howard-Boyer Wool Company on South Second street in the centre of the wholesale district and badly damaged the adjoining buildings. The losses are estimated at \$100,000.

BIG COAL DOCK FIRE IS UNDER CONTROL

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CAMPAIGN SONG AROUSES PASSENGER'S IRE

(Special to the Times.) St. John, N. B., Dec. 31.--An incident that carries back to the federal elections of October occurred in a street car. One passenger was the son of G. S. Mayes, the dredging contractor, on his way home. Three other men in the car, who had been drinking, started a campaign song in which the names of Pugsley, Pender and Mayes were used and made remarks which Mayes considered objectionable.

GOVERNMENTS WILL NOT PURCHASE ELEVATORS

(Special to the Times.) Winnipeg, Man., Dec. 31.--The proposal to purchase the terminal elevators which was endorsed by the Grain Growers' Association of Western Canada, and which was before the members of the western provinces here at a conference yesterday, has been "turned down" owing to the immense financial obligations involved. The Grain Growers' executive have been notified of this conclusion. Premier Roblin, of Manitoba, flatly refused to go into the scheme.

FENCE BANK WITH BARBED WIRE, THEN LOOT IT

(Special to the Times.) Muskogee, O. T., Dec. 31.--Five robbers dynamited the bank at Elliston, Okla., yesterday, and escaped with \$5,000. The robbers erected a barbed wire barricade around the bank, and while some members of the gang went to work on the bank safe, others stood guard. The picket for two hours kept the townspeople at bay, while the confederates worked on the vault, and when finally the robbers succeeded in getting the money it contained the five men rode off, covering their departure with a heavy fire.

ROBBERS STAND GUARD WHILE COMRADES DYNAMITE VAULT AND SECURE \$5,000.

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DEATH BRINGS RELEASE TO CAPITOL CONSPIRATOR

(Special to the Times.) Media, Pa., Dec. 31.--William L. Mathews, former state treasurer of Pennsylvania, died suddenly at his home here, aged 46 years. The cause of death was given by his physicians as pneumonia, but it is generally believed that his illness was superinduced by the Harrisburg capitol graft case and his recent sentence of two years in penitentiary for his part in the alleged conspiracy against the state.

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LABOR-CAPITAL CO-PARTNERSHIP

(Special to the Times.) London, Dec. 31.--Former Premier Arthur J. Balfour has started a vigorous campaign throughout Great Britain for "capital and labor" combinations in many industries, taking as his text Sir Christopher Furness' monster co-operative shipbuilding scheme. Mr. Balfour is conducting his movement as president of the Labor Co-operative Association, an organization of several years standing into which, however, new life has been injected by the big ship-building experiment.

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EARTHQUAKE'S DEAD WILL TOTAL A HUNDRED THOUSAND

Tottering Ruins and Huge Cravices Mark Sites of Once Populous Towns.

ITALY IS STUNNED BY TERRIBLE CATASTROPHE

Flames Make Their Way Over Devastated Messina Torturing to Death Human Beings Pinioned Among Debris--Survivors, Mad With Terror, Flee to Mountain Sides--Awful Scenes Which Succeeded Cataclysm of Nature.

The dead in the terrible Mediterranean earthquake disaster will probably total more than 100,000. Reggio in Southern Calabria is reported to have been completely obliterated. In Messina different estimates of the number of deaths are made, and they all run into the tens of thousands. Catanzaro and its outlying districts add 30,000 victims to the appalling roll of destruction. The town of Bagnara with 10,000 inhabitants have been wiped out.

Dispatches say: "The disaster exceeds the wildest imagination. Half the population of Calabria and the eastern part of Sicily are dead; the other half is weeping."

All that human endeavor can devise to aid the sufferers is being done. King Victor and Queen Helena have arrived at Messina to help in the work of rescue.

Rome, Dec. 30.--Half the population of Calabria and the eastern part of Sicily are dead, the other half is weeping. As the great extent of the terrible seismic disturbances becomes apparent it seems impossible to exaggerate the horrors which have followed them.

The calamity which has overwhelmed Italy is almost beyond the grasp of the imagination, not only because of the dead, now known to number tens of thousands, but because of the innumerable wounded buried in the ruins, many of whom will perish because it is impossible to rescue them from the wrecks of their former homes.

The whole of Italy is absolutely stunned, and on the scene of the disaster the bulk of the people are literally demented with the suddenness and extent of the blow. The total number of victims is variously estimated from 50,000 to 150,000.

When King Victor and the Queen arrived at Messina to-day, touching scenes were enacted as Their Majesties made their way into the ruined town. The scene of disaster and horror was too much for the Queen, who almost swooned. Crowds of terror-stricken persons swarmed about the royal party, throwing themselves in the mud and screaming for pity and aid.

The latest news concerning the earthquake disaster from Reggio says that several hundred soldiers and members of the police perished, while many others are injured. At Palmi three hundred bodies have been taken from the ruins, while several hundred more are buried at Segnara.

Many terrible stories are related in connection with the rescue work. The rescuers had to contend with a superstitious, so deep-rooted in the Sicilian mind, that in many instances injured men and women clung to the crumbling walls, refusing to let go their hold and seek a safe position.

As further facts concerning stricken Messina become available they corroborate in every detail the worst fear heretofore expressed. The cathedral, municipal buildings, the barracks, and the prisons are all destroyed, and presumably all the smaller buildings shared the same fate. Of two hundred and fifty railway employees in the station at Messina, only eight are known to have survived, while at Reggio the

Silence of Death leaves to the imagination the terrible havoc wrought by the catastrophe with the horrible hush of the sea, the swallowing up of boats, the crushing of ships and the destruction of bridges and walls. The sea became almost instantly covered with debris after the upheaval, containing refuse of every description dotted with human bodies. When day dawned the entire shore line of the surrounding country was utterly changed in appearance. The coast-line was almost entirely altered while of all the magnificent houses along the shore only a few tottering ruins remained.

From the latest estimates to-day, it is feared that the total number of victims in Sicily and Calabria will reach more than one hundred thousand, while the damage to property will be several hundred millions.

Agonizing Scenes. Catania, Dec. 30.--One of the Messina survivors gave a vivid account this morning of the appearance of that city. He said that only a small proportion of the total population escaped. Thousands of persons are still buried alive in the ruins where they are suffering slow death by torture.

The flames are still making their way slowly over the devastated area in an inexorable advance. Imprisoned and pinioned human beings, unable to extricate themselves, are being buried alive.

Others are dying of their injuries, while still others are starving. The streets are filled with confused masses of brick and mortar, beams, furniture, chimneys and roofs. It is impossible to recognize one thoroughfare from another. In many cases they appear as enormous cravices or great ditches twisted into fantastic shapes.

The celebrated Avenue Palazzetti, which runs along the sea front to the Plaza, is impassable. The monuments that were there have entirely disappeared. All the water pipes, sewer and gas pipes of the city have been destroyed, and water, mud and filth are flooding the Torn Streets.

For several hours after the first destructive shock Messina was absolutely without organized relief, for the reason that the municipal authorities, the soldiers, the police, doctors and nurses by the hundreds were transformed or buried or drowned. The first work of rescue was performed by volunteers from ships in the harbor and groups of heroic survivors, who at great labor and personal danger were transformed into persons pinioned beneath the wreckage.

Doctors, nurses and firemen are being hurried into the wrecked city, but the lack of food and water makes the work of rescue almost too difficult to overcome. The British and Russian warships at Messina have sent crews ashore and are performing heroic deeds.

The vessels themselves have been transferred into hospitals, as all the hospitals in Catania are crowded, and even the schools have been transformed. The less seriously injured of the survivors of Messina are being dispatched by the dozens to Palermo.

It is reported from Palermo that Minister of Public Works Bertolino has arrived there. Assisted by deputies Camarza and Felice he has organized several corps of volunteers for rescue work.

The refugees are beginning to tell tales of their marvelous escapes. After the first shock they were for a while imprisoned in their ruined homes. The masses of wreckage made egress impossible. Many waited in terror for the coming of light. They then made their way to this, climbing over the countless obstructions in the streets, and others of the open.

They had to leave behind them under the ruins countless victims who called for help in vain.

Heart Rendng Tones. It was impossible to give succor. A large proportion of those who escaped, sustained injuries. It is asserted that probably half the fatalities occurred because it was impossible for the survivors to render assistance.

Not the least of the suffering was caused by the torrential downpour of rain. Some of the refugees walked through Messina through San Giovanni, Palmi, Scilly, Cannitello, Favizzana and Bagnara, and found practically everyone of the villages destroyed. The doctors who succeed in escaping from Messina report that fully two-thirds of the city has been ruined. Entire streets have caved in. One of the doctors was sleeping in a room on the third floor when the first shock came. He saved himself by jumping and gripping the roof of a neighboring house.

All Dead in Bagnara. Catanzaro, Calabria, Dec. 30.--A report received here early this morning says that the town of Bagnara, on the coast to the north of Reggio, has been completely wiped out. Fire completed the work of destruction. The report says that all the inhabitants of Bagnara are dead. The town counted about 10,000 people.

A volcano has been planted in the middle of the devastation, the monument will recall to posterity the dreadful catastrophe. In a few days lime will be scattered over the heap of ruins which alone mark the site of a once populous town.

Another Earthquake Shock. Palermo, Dec. 30.--A wrecking train, dispatched toward Messina in the hope of aiding the earthquake sufferers, was forced to return here, being unable to go further than within about ten miles of the stricken city on account of the demolished tracks. The engineer said that all houses along the route showed effects of the earthquake.

There was a slight earthquake last evening and it caused a terrible panic. The people invaded the churches, and carried out the images of the saints and sacred vessels, then marched in procession through the streets, imploring a cessation of the earthquake scourge.

Many are in danger of starvation in Messina. All trains bring refugees by the hundreds from the devastated city. Reggio "Non est."

Paris, Dec. 30.--A Palermo dispatch says that a torpedo boat which went to Reggio has returned, being unable to locate the site of the city, and reporting that nothing remains of the ruins.

Torpedo Boats Destroyed. Paris, Dec. 30.--The Matin's Naples correspondent says that several torpedo boats were destroyed in the harbor at Messina by the tidal wave incident to the earthquake disaster.

Giving further details the dispatch says that the stricken city of Reggio suffers a great national committee has been formed to collect funds for their assistance. The committee is headed by the Duke of Aosta, and includes the presidents of the senate and the chamber of deputies, the mayor of Rome and all prominent men in the leading towns. The subscription list has been opened with \$40,000 contributed by King Victor Emmanuel. All banks, clubs, civic and commercial associations, and the newspapers have opened subscriptions.

The Lord Mayor of London has telegraphed that subscriptions have been opened in British colonies, including the resident colonists in the United States.

J. Pierpont Morgan has sent \$100,000 for the relief of the earthquake sufferers.

Tale of Ruin. Catania, Dec. 30.--Refugees are pouring into Catania by trains, steamers and automobiles. They are stupefied with terror and despair. Some of them appear almost insane from the horrors through which they have gone. In the beginning they could only babble "Messina has been devastated, the city has been annihilated." They declare that thousands of demented survivors are still wandering among the ruins.

A wounded soldier said: "The spectacle is terrible, beyond words, Dante's Inferno gives you but a faint idea of what happened in Messina. The first shock came before the sun had risen. The shock shook the city very violently. The houses began to crumble. Those of us who were not killed

B. C.'s CHANCE FOR TRADE WITH MEXICO

(Special to The Times.) Ottawa, Dec. 30.--Commissioner Donly announces the railway to Manzanillo, on the Pacific Mexican coast, has been opened. He states this puts British Columbia merchants on an equal footing with the Canadian and United States merchants of the Atlantic coast for Mexican trade. He states that there are splendid opportunities for trade with Mexico City.

at once made our way over undulating floors to the street. Beams were crashing down through the roofs. The streets were equally unsafe.

I found the streets blocked by falling houses. Balconies, chimneys, bell towers, entire walls had been thrown down. From every quarter came the screams and moans of the wounded. The people were half mad with excitement and fear. Most of them had rushed out in their night clothes.

The city hall, the cathedral, other buildings, and the barracks crumbled, and the churches, dwellings without number, were literally razed to the ground. There were two hundred customs agents at the barracks, and only forty-one of them were saved. At the railway station only eight out of 280 employees have been accounted for.

It is rumored that the Venezuelan government will request your extradition from Germany, in order to indict you," Castro was informed.

"I do not consider that possible," replied Castro, since no such convention exists in existence between Venezuela and Germany. The only convention between the two countries relates to trade-marks, and is dated 1882.

London, Dec. 30.--The whole of the United Kingdom is in the grip of a violent blizzard, which has raged for 48 hours.

Northern railway service and street car traffic have been demoralized. Many towns are isolated, and numerous accidents and deaths from exposure have been reported, as well as several shipping casualties, but fortunately not attended by serious loss of life.

London is covered with a mantle of snow several inches in depth, while in Scotland and the north of Wales, snow drifts have blocked roads and railways. The cross-channel services and the telegraph and telephone lines in all directions have been suspended, and all outdoor labor has ceased. Farmers are suffering severely in the loss of cattle and sheep.

The Scottish express, bound for London, is snowed up eighteen miles from Aberdeen, and the passengers were forced to spend the night on board. The London express for Aberdeen had a similar experience.

San Francisco, Cal. Dec. 30.--Fourteen years in the penitentiary, the maximum sentence provided for bribery of a supervisor, was the penalty meted out last night to Abraham Ruef, who for four years directed the political destinies of San Francisco as adviser of the administration of Eugene E. Schmitz, former mayor of the city.

When Judge William F. Lawlor had denied all motions involving delay, the defendant arose at the court's command and stood unmoved through the recital of judgment. There was no demonstration on the part of the spectators during the reading of the sentence, nor later, when Ruef, having entered the prison van in the custody of a deputy sheriff, started in the dusk on his long ride to the county jail.

Before the adjournment of court notice of appeal had been filed on behalf of the defendant and the court had signed a writ of probable cause, which will act as a stay of execution in the case.

In a trial that was prolonged through a period of nearly four months, Ruef was convicted on December 10th, of bribing John A. Carey, a former supervisor, to favor the United Railroads. This was one of 114 indictments returned against Ruef.

One of the many incidents that tend to make the trial of Ruef remarkable was the shooting of Assistant District Attorney Francis J. Heney by Morris Haas. Haas subsequently committed suicide in the county jail.

REPAIRING ROADWAY. Part of Belleville Street Has Suffered From Undermining. The heavy rains has left a lot of water on the roadways of the causeway and Belleville street. This is playing havoc with the surface. It is not more than a month since the causeway was given a coating of three inches of broken stone, but to-day the surface, owing to the water lodging on it is heaving in a way of mind. There is no drainage whatever from the Belleville street side, and a gang of men are putting in a section of piping now with the object of carrying off the water.

At the western end of the embankment running along Belleville street, the water has undermined the soil to an alarming extent. Immediately behind the cement walk leading up to J. B. A. clubhouses there is a yawning hole a yard across and twenty feet deep. If another heavy shower comes before it can be attended to a large section of the sloping bank is likely to slide in, and with it will go the cement walk to the clubhouse, which now slopes at a dangerous angle. Park Superintendent England is taking steps to fill the hole, but the soil has been so undermined and carried away down at the water level that this will be no easy task.

CASTRO ONLY WANTS JUSTICE

WILLING TO PROVE HIS POLITICAL HONOR. Deposed President Suggests International Tribunal to Settle Matters.

Berlin, Dec. 30.--Senator Castro left the hospital and returned to the Esplanada hotel yesterday. He granted an interview to the Associated Press correspondent last night. The former president was asked if there was any truth in the statement published in various newspapers to the effect that he left Venezuela knowing what was going to happen. Senator Castro, who was already greatly irritated over unfounded reports concerning his movements and affairs, at first refused to discuss the matter, and then calmly made the following reply:

"No, for had I even suspected such a thing I would have remained in Venezuela, even had my life been imperiled through ill-health, because I always have been and am now a slave to honor and duty. The only fear I have is the fear of God."

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The local bank clearings for the week ending Tuesday were \$856,303.

WINNIPEG POWER PLANT.

Tenders amounting to \$1,000,000 for construction work are received.

Winnipeg, Man., Dec. 30.--Tenders amounting to over a million dollars for construction on the city power plant were opened at noon yesterday. A large number of tenders were put in, among those from eastern Canada being: For the general work, Henry Quinlan and Robertson, Montreal; transmission cables, E. T. Phillips, Montreal; Dominion Wire Manufacturing Co., Montreal; Northern Aluminum Co., St. Lawrence Falls, St. Lawrence, Canadian Bridge Co., Walkerville, Ont., Gold Shapley and Muir, Brantford; W. F. Klemm, Montreal, Canada Foundry Co., Toronto; erection of transmission system, R. Mackenzie Co., Hamilton; President Wm. Mackenzie, of the Winnipeg Electric Street Railway & Power Co., who is in the city, spoke freely concerning the municipal power scheme, and expressed the opinion that it would not be a profitable venture for the city.

BRITAIN SNOWBOUND, IN GRIP OF BLIZZARD

Deaths From Exposure Reported--Shipping Casualties, Trains Blocked.

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FOURTEEN YEARS FOR ABRAHAM RUEF

Judge Refuses New Trial and Notice of Appeal Is Given.

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YACUI PEACE TREATY.

Indians Embrace Their erstwhile Mexican Foes.

Nogales, Ariz., Dec. 30.--The long war with the Yaqui Indians in Mexico, in which scores have been killed at different times, including many Americans, has been terminated by a treaty of peace agreed upon by the Indian chiefs and their followers, and the governor of the State of Sonora, Mexico. The scene enacted at the treaty agreement was a remarkable one, concluding with the Mexican soldiers embracing the Yaquis and participating in a joint celebration lasting all night.

BRING NATIONS CLOSER TOGETHER

ROOSEVELT'S MESSAGE ON FORESTRY CONVENTION. Canadian Delegates Will Attend Meeting in Washington.

Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 30.--Gifford Pinchot, head of American forestry department, and bearer of President Roosevelt's message to the Canadian government, relative to the international conference at Washington on February, addressed the Ottawa Canadian Club this afternoon. He said the adian Club this afternoon. He said the president conveyed to Canada his earnest desire that as their two countries had common origin, common points of view and common needs, they should both heartily co-operate in building up on the continent nations that could be to each other the most desirable of neighbors. The step just taken by the present was a step in this direction, and he would report that it had been most sympathetically met by Canada.

Earl Grey declared the president's invitation was most cordially accepted by the Canadian government, and the names of all delegates to the joint conference would be announced soon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier and R. L. Borden also spoke briefly, declaring their fullest sympathy with the objects of the conference.

ENGLISH LACROSSE TEAM AND CANADIAN TOUR

London Paper's Reply to Advice of Toronto Telegram.

London, Eng., Dec. 30.--The Mirror quotes an article from the Toronto Telegram advising an English lacrosse team not to come to Canada as the "Beg Fawdon" game is not played there. "This perhaps," says the Mirror, "is not calculated to foster the sporting spirit which exists between the mother country and the colonies, but at the same time it is recognized that there is nothing like good, honest, hard criticism. It is to be hoped the lacrosse associations will now make a joint sending a team to Canada, and that the team will take to heart the lessons they will receive during their stay in the Dominion. We have yet to learn that Englishmen cannot take the 'blings and arrows of outrageous fortune,' as well as Canadians, Americans, Australians, or for that matter any other 'sports.'"

BISHOP McDONALD TO VISIT HOLY LAND

He Will Not Reach Victoria Until the Spring.

Bishop McDonald, who has been appointed by the diocese of the Roman Catholic church, will not reach Victoria until the spring of next year. He is now in Rome, and will as previously announced be consecrated there.

According to information received at Bishop's Palace the new bishop will make a tour of the Holy Land before returning to Canada, so that it will be spring before he can reach Victoria and assume the duties of his office.

WANT ADDITIONAL CAPITAL.

Regina, Sask., Dec. 30.--Macleod's Western Canadian Company is holding a meeting here to devise means of securing an additional \$50,000 from the shareholders to meet the plant at Medicine Hat in operation. The meeting was held behind closed doors, and members of the company present numbered about a dozen. The following is an official statement of the business done.

ADOPTS ENGLISH SPELLING.

Toronto, Ont., Dec. 30.--Dr. Zath, superintendent of education, has ordered such words as honor, rigor, favor, etc., to be spelled with "ur" in the new public school readers.

C. N. R. LINK LINE.

Ottawa, Dec. 30.--It is understood that of the applications which the Canadian Northern railroad will bring before parliament next session, the one of greatest importance is that for the construction of a line from Port Arthur to Sudbury.

ONTARIO ARCHIVES.

Addition to Legislative Buildings Will Cost Half a Million Dollars.

MIDWINTER EXAM

SUCCESSFUL AT F Those Who Ha Enter to Sch

The examiners of high school entrance have concluded the results have been 294 candidates these 219 were successful. The following is a list of the successful candidates:

- ARMSTRONG. Number of candidates: Armstrong--Number: passed, 0; Bennett Creek--Number: passed, 1; passed, 1; Enderby--Number: passed, 2; Wilfred Rita F. Marwood--Number: passed, 1; Lillian Pleasant Valley--Number: passed, 0; CHILLIWAG. Number of candidates: Sardin--Number: passed, 3; Donald Ernest H. Pearson Dandy, 660.

- GRAND FOR. Number of candidates: Grand Forks--Number: passed, 6; Har Kate Bernard, 677; 659; Athol L. Ploy Mauly, 622; Henry George--Number: passed, 0; Private Study--Number: passed, 1; KAMLOOPS. Number of candidates: Kamloops--Number: passed, 9; Margaret A. Manson, 690; George C. Eichel, 677; Harold W. Beth Irvin, 607; 55; Lily E. Dundas, 58; Falconet--Number: passed, 0; North Thompson candidates, 1; passed; Zetland (Private) candidates, 1; passed; Lean, 728.

- NANAIMO. Number of candidates: Nanaimo--Number: passed, 7; Florence James F. Hough, 674; 640; Edward G. Robertson, 602; 647; Cissy V. Fre East Cedar--Number: passed, 0; NEW WESTMINSTER. Number of candidates: New Westminister candidates, 12; passed, 3; R. Hunt, 732; James Allan Robinson, 685; 642; Edward S. Brockton, 607; Arthur John J. Gifford, 598; 585; Herman G. C. Belyea, 562; New Westminister candidates, 10; passed, 8; Phyllis H. Flood, 736; Ma 688; Gertrude E. M. Stott, 642; Ma Annie S. Turnbull, 12; 584.

- Sapperton--Number: passed, 5; Glen Neil Campbell, 632; 686; Wilson Pat Moulton, 570; Westside--Number: passed, 7; Frances J. Smith, 664; G. 636; Duncan A. M. B. McAdam, 572; V. Howard T. Furness 571; passed, 0; candidates, 3; passed, 3; Helena McCormick--Number: passed, 0; Rural Schools--Number of candidates, 5; 571; 562; Rossburn--Number: passed, 1; Signe

- ROSSLAND. Number of candidates: Rossland--Number: passed, 0; VANCOUVER. Total number of candidates, 143; Central--Number: passed, 9; Lyle M. tence Wood, 691; G. Jessie McDowell, 679; 636; Duncan A. M. B. McAdam, 572; V. Howard T. Furness 571; passed, 0; candidates, 3; passed, 3; Helena McCormick--Number: passed, 0; Rural Schools--Number of candidates, 5; 571; 562; Rossburn--Number: passed, 1; Signe

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Twice-a-Week Times
Published every Tuesday and Friday by THE TIMES PRINTING & PUBLISHING CO., LIMITED.

THE DYING YEAR.

"Shake hands before you die, old year, we'll rue for you," says the poet Tenyson in bidding farewell to the dying year. The sentiments of the great bard who is himself numbered with the departed can hardly be endorsed by Canadians. The old year has been good to us, whatever may have been the experience of the people of other lands. During the year now in the throes of dissolution peace has reigned within our borders and plenty has not been confined within the walls of palaces. While we see with sorrow that large numbers of people in various centres of the old world and in a considerable number of centres in the new are suffering for lack of the necessities of life and that the compassionate hand of charity has been more widely extended than for many years, in Canada we have had an exceedingly abundant harvest, and consequently we have felt but slightly the depression which has been worldwide. It is true that, out of sympathy with the conditions in the United States and in Europe, there has been a slight lull in manufacturing and in general business in Canada, but on the whole the masses of the people have been well employed, and the circumstances of the country as the year becomes a mere matter of record are much more satisfactory than was anticipated a few months ago.

The citizens of Victoria, looking back, have absolutely no reason to rue the year 1907. From a purely material point of view it has been one of the most active periods in our history. The business vitality of the community has not been affected by the fitful fever of a boom. Progress has been solid, substantial and steady. The prospects for the future are brighter than they ever were before, based upon facts which are apparent to the eye and the understanding. Nor has the advancement of the city been confined to the things of least consequence. While there may still be, as there always will be, ample scope for the energies of the reformer of abuses, moral and social, in Victoria as elsewhere, there is no suggestion of reason for thankfulness that from an ethical point of view, as the situation is reviewed at the end of the year, the city is neither going backward nor standing still.

No, when the account is balanced, we cannot sincerely say that the old year has been either unprofitable or unkind. We have no reason whatever to rue it. We are sorry to bid it goodbye. It has, after the manner of its predecessors, left a train of sorrow and bereavement behind. But these things are the common lot. We must bear them with becoming resignation. The young year will be born to-night amidst a great clamor and loud rejoicings. It would hardly be in harmony with the spirit of the season to point a moral and to suggest a more sober, sedate, and what the philosopher would term a more becoming welcome. Such advice at such a season would be, perhaps, inappropriate. It would not be listened to for a moment. The popular sentiment for the occasion has been expressed by the poet quoted above: "Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky, The flying cloud, the frosty light: The year is dying in the night: Ring out, wild bells, and let him die."

CABINET REPRESENTATION.

We regret more than we can fittingly express to observe that the passing of the year brings no reasonable thoughts to the mind of the Colonist. Our contemporary is itself well stricken in years, and ought to consider that as the year is dying, there must be an end to all things earthly—an end even to political ill-will and to personal rancor. Only the other day the newspaper in question, having, as it appears to believe, washed away the stains left upon its poor soul by mendacious conduct in the recent political campaign, announced that it had again mounted the stool of political repentance. It was once more independent in its views. Today it fell from its self-erected eminence and its fall proved the hypocrisy of its pretensions. It is independent to the extent, and no more, that it would advocate the election of either the member for Nanaimo or the member for Comox-Atlin by acclamation as a representative of British Columbia in the Dominion government, but it would oppose the election of Mr. Templeman if either one of the said constituencies were opened for him in accordance with the desire of the Premier. There would be objections to the election by acclamation of the Minister, we are told. It would be interesting to read a statement of the objections.

The Colonist has repeatedly stated its belief that Mr. Templeman had

administered his department satisfactorily. Neither did it raise any objection to him personally. Its sole reason for asking the electors to defeat Templeman was because the policy of the government in regard to Asiatic immigration did not meet with its approval. The rebuke asked for has been administered. Our contemporary's objection has been sustained by a majority of thirteen votes. But if either Mr. Smith or Mr. Sloan became a member of the government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, he would also become subject to and responsible for the policy of that government. On what logical grounds, therefore, does our contemporary take the position that under a given set of conditions Mr. Templeman should be opposed, while under conditions precisely similar either Mr. Smith or Mr. Sloan should be given a seat by acclamation? It is because the present Minister of Inland Revenue is a resident of Victoria, and might naturally be expected to be more mindful of Victoria's interests than a non-resident, that the Colonist honors him with its hostility? Does our contemporary take the position that the province of British Columbia should carry its disapproval of the course of the Laurier government on the one matter of Asiatic immigration to the point of disclaiming and flinging from it representation in that government for a term of five years, and possibly for many years thereafter, because there are provinces assiduously which will be sure to press their claims? That is practically the position in which the Colonist would place the province in the event of the rumor upon which it bases its remarks proving correct. But it is not true that Mr. Templeman has been given a few days in which to find a seat, and that he may be called upon to vacate his department by the middle of the month in the event of not succeeding. Mr. Templeman's resignation has been in the hands of the Premier for several weeks. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, whose character is possibly beyond the comprehension of the Colonist in that he is loyal and true to his friends and associates, has thus far refused to accept the resignation. All that is known definitely is that the Premier is anxious to retain the minister in the government, and will facilitate to the utmost of his power any arrangement that can be made for that purpose.

THE ITALIAN CALAMITY.

Experience suggested that possibly the first reports of the extent of the disaster in Southern Italy would be modified by later news. But it appears the loss of life has been even greater than first advice indicated. It was almost beyond the conception of press correspondents, who are usually most liberal in their computations upon such occasions. The convulsion or upheaval overtook the inhabitants in the midst of the Christmas festivities, and almost in the twinkling of an eye a territory of considerable extent thickly populated was transformed from a place of joy into a place of mourning, or perhaps a place of lamentation would be a more fitting description. The year 1907 was a memorable one for Calabrians and Sicilians. Of course instant measures will be taken for the relief of the stricken people. The response will be hearty and generous. The Parliament of Canada will doubtless vote a handsome sum; the governments of the United States and of most European countries will also give in proportion to their means. The survivors will not lack the necessities of life. They will be provided for. Their own government has already taken measures for their relief. But the harrowing thought for those directly affected, and a melancholy reflection for those not directly affected, is the utter impossibility of giving timely relief to the wounded and the thousands still alive but buried and unable to release themselves from the ruins.

LAWLESS "SPORTSMEN."

The British Columbia Electric Railway Company is not the only sufferer at the hands of the numerous youths who, before they have reached years of discretion, are permitted to carry arms in the neighborhood of Victoria. It is said, and doubtless it is true, that the death of three valuable horses last week was the direct result of insulars having been shot to pieces by sportsmen. But no real sportsmen would be guilty of such wanton destruction of property, not to speak of the risk to life involved in tampering with highly charged electric wires, any more than real sportsmen would deliberately shoot down the mall boxes of farmers erected along the public roads. Yet upon some of the highways not a box can be kept intact for a week during the shooting season. The Times has frequently called the attention of the proper authorities to this manifestation of a spirit of wantonness; but the government and the legislature, for reasons which are not apparent, and certainly never satisfactorily explained, refused to act. The result is that municipalities, whose powers are doubtful, have been forced to take measures for the protection of the property of their residents, and that all sportsmen, on the average, are just as careful in their respect for law and the rights of property as their neighbors have fallen into undervalued disrepute and must suffer in

common with the real offenders. The British Columbia Legislature will assemble for the dispatch of business in a few weeks, and we believe it to be the duty of the government to give this matter not only its most serious consideration but to act with promptitude. The community at large should be protected against the lawlessness of many who, in the guise of sportsmen, now carry firearms. Such a measure can be devised without infringing in the slightest degree upon the liberty of the subject, because the only subject who is worthy of liberty in this regard is he who is imbued with a proper conception of the sacredness of property and the inalienable rights of his neighbors.

MYSTERIES OF ELECTRICITY.

No, "Searcher After Knowledge," we cannot tell you anything of importance about the properties of that "glue fluid" called electricity. We have consulted with diligence all recognized authorities available, and have in humility to confess there is nothing in them contained which conveys to the ordinary non-technical mind an adequate conception of the "from whence and wherefore" of this most mysterious of all the natural agencies man has bent to his will—within certain limitations. It is quite certain no expert has bottled up the fluid and dissected or analyzed it for the benefit and instruction of his fellowmen. Nor can he explain satisfactorily whence it cometh and whither it goeth. But he can generate it and control it and handle it and apply it to many useful purposes. What the poet has said of steam, "Harness me down with iron bands, be sure of your curb and rein, for I scorn the work of your puny hands as the tempter scorns a chain," is even more true of electricity the supplanter. It has been brought into subjection, but when its conquerors forget that the monster is not absolutely subdued and become careless in their handling it swiftly re-asserts them either to a state of permanent unconsciousness or to an acute consciousness of the real relationship. But we can tell an inquisitive reader something he doubtless does not need to be told; that electricity controlled has brought the whole world into intimate daily communication; and that a specimen of its work uncontrolled may be seen not more than fifteen or sixteen miles from Victoria. During one of the very infrequent thunderstorms which visited this neighborhood last summer lightning struck a huge fir tree and cut a strip of timber forty or fifty feet long and a few inches wide from the trunk as cleanly and neatly as if the work had been done by a mighty chisel in the hands of a mighty man than ever set foot upon this earth. The power thus manifested is the same power that by actuating a needle keeps us daily informed, when the wires are not down, about the progress of human events in the most remote parts of the world.

THE CITY AND THE TOURIST ASSOCIATION.

One objection to the proposal to take a referendum on the question of a civic grant to the Tourist Association lies in the fact that no one seeking election to the city council is likely to feel called upon to explain to the municipal electorate the purposes and the aims of the Association, to point out the good it has done in the past or the programme in contemplation for the future. In fact, the instant is but a subterfuge upon the part of the present council to shuffle off its responsibilities and to take refuge behind the ramparts of the people. Now the Tourist Association as an institution has either been of benefit to the city or the money voted by the council has been so much money wasted. The members of the council, as intelligent, observing men, thoroughly apprehend which side of the proposition is most worthy of acceptance. Those of them who have not an opinion one way or the other are not worthy of seats at the council board. Any who have sincere convictions upon the subject should have the courage to act according to their convictions. If we are going to have government for the city upon the principles of the initiative and the referendum, let us have it in all matters, not merely upon questions which the council have not the courage to deal with directly, as they are, under present circumstances, in duty bound to deal.

FOR OURSELVES WE HAVE NO HEATATION

In saying that the Tourist Association has been of vast benefit to the city of Victoria, it is not a mere coincidence that the new lease of business life noted within the past few years made itself manifest immediately after the association commenced its work of publishing to the world the opportunities to be found in and the climatic attractions of Victoria. The men who have ungrudgingly and enthusiastically given their time, without other com-

penation than benefits which have been common to all, and generously subscribed also, to the work of the association can trace the revival directly to the advertising methods adopted. The general public is of course not in possession of this information. But if any workman—a class which is generally assumed, and we believe wrongly—is willing to be convinced, there is material in abundance that can be placed at his disposition which ought to have the effect of changing his views, if he is intelligently open to conviction.

But, as a referendum vote has been decided upon, whatever we may think of the courage of the council in dodging the issue, means ought now to be taken to insure a full and intelligent vote upon the question. The Tourist Association can hardly be expected to conduct a campaign which is in the interests of all, and in which its members have no more concern than the community generally. The candidates for the Mayoralty and for the council might with reason be expected to give the public their reasons for asking for the judgment of all the people and to explain why they believe the grant to the association ought either to be endorsed or rejected. It would be a most regrettable thing if through ignorance an adverse vote should be cast just at this time when the continuation of the work of publicity is most essential to the growth and prosperity of the city.

Any one who gives the matter a moment's thought can understand that, owing to the peculiarity of the position of Victoria amongst all the other cities of the West, great benefit must accrue from advertising. The results we all desire can be achieved in no other way.

"IDEALS IN CITIZENSHIP."

The Toronto Star of a recent date published a striking article under the above title. In dealing with the subject our contemporary pointed out that the real greatness of a nation cannot be measured by the volume of its trade, the number of its people, or by the extent of its territorial possessions. That nation only is great in which conditions exist that are best calculated to promote the happiness and comfort of the individual and the home.

The United States, the Star continues, leads the world in the aggregate of material wealth, but this wealth is not equally divided. One-tenth of the population possesses more than the other nine-tenths. There are a few thousands of millionaires at the top; there are millions of paupers at the bottom. For the few there are magnificent palaces surrounded by vast estates; in the greatest city of the Union there are no less than 300,000 inside bed-rooms into which the sunlight never enters. There are idle rich whose chief mental occupation consists in devising plans for the killing of time; at the other end of the chain are a million laborers under fourteen who are performing the work of day laborers. Finally, mainly as a result of bad housing that is part of a condition in which wealth is so unevenly divided, a hundred thousand Americans die annually from tuberculosis.

"In Canada we have to-day a foundation such as the Americans began building on a century ago. We have the same extent of territory, the same abundance in natural resources, the same general basic stock in population, and the same power of attraction for the crowded multitudes of the old world. Let us see to our ideals in nation building. These should not find expression merely in total trade figures, in great cities and in stately palaces. These things will be in vain unless the average man is comfortably housed; unless cleanliness and abundance of sunlight; unless as many as possible of the conveniences of the town are placed within reach of the farm; unless the extremes of poverty on the one hand and riches on the other are avoided, and unless there is developed a spirit of citizenship under which all recognize to the full their duty to the community they live in."

Mr. Carnegie confidently expresses the opinion that the iron resources of Great Britain will be exhausted within the next seven years, at the present rate of consumption. Forty years will elapse before the United States of the same prime requisite of a manufacturing nation. This is disquieting news for the manufacturers of Great Britain; but forty years will seem like eternity to our neighbors who care not a jot for posterity. In the meantime there is plenty of iron ore in British Columbia and other parts of Canada. There is also coal here in abundance, and compressed water power in reserve against the day when electricity shall take the place of black fuel in smelting the ore. British manufacturers had therefore better take time by the forelock and get on the ground. The trade of the Mother Country, statisticians tell us, has declined by five hundred million dollars in the past year. It is evidently high time something were done by the government to avert this tendency. If any remedy can be found in legislation, if trade were in a measure transferred to Canada instead of being lost to Germany, it would at least be retained within the Empire.

There is going to be something doing in the municipal campaign. One candidate will open the ball this evening with an orchestra.

MADE HAPPY BY SANTA CLAUS CHILDREN OF SUNDAY SCHOOLS ENTERTAINED

Scholars, Mindful of Others, Contribute Gifts for Mission Purposes.

(From Wednesday's Daily.) Last evening was a night of nights for the Sunday school children of Victoria, a number of the schools holding their Christmas entertainment. Santa Claus was much in evidence and handed out gifts to the youngsters, who, on the other hand, in many cases brought gifts for mission and other purposes.

The children of the Metropolitan Methodist church Sunday school sat down to an excellent supper at half-past six, and following this a programme was given under the chairmanship of E. A. Lewis, the superintendent. A sacred cantata, "Bethlehem Chimes," was rendered by the children in a very creditable manner. The full strength of the Metropolitan orchestra, led by A. Parfitt, assisted. In the course of the cantata Misses Ewina McEwart and Lotus Griffith sang a duet, "Here Comes the Messiah"; twenty children, girls and ten boys, recited very prettily "God's Gift to Us"; and four little girls Christmas songs; Misses Knott and Parfitt, with Frank Wills and H. T. Knott, sang a quartet; Miss Leclerc recited "In Calm Judea"; and Master Roy McCallum, the "Christmas Engine"; Mrs. Knott, Mrs. Luney and Miss Parfitt sang a trio; and H. T. Knott, Frank Wills, M. Parfitt and A. Parfitt, a quartet.

Rev. T. E. Helling made a short address. The collection was devoted to the poor fund. Emmanuel Baptist.

At the Emmanuel Baptist Sunday school Christmas entertainment the church was crowded by parents and friends of the children and the entertainment was pronounced a great success. Several of the items in the programme deserve special mention. The Shepherds' drill by the girls of Mrs. Andrews' class, who were all dressed in white, made a pretty scene as they marched down the aisles, and then formed an arch with their shepherds' crooks under the centre aisle. The song by five little girls, entitled "Waiting for Santa," was well executed. Great credit is due to both teachers and scholars for the way in which all the songs and recitations were rendered. The "Limericks," which were read by William Marchant, caused roars of laughter, as each of the officials of the church were "got at" in turn, from the pastor down.

During the evening a presentation was made to the late superintendent of the Sunday school, J. Russell Westcott. An address was read to him by Miss Coates, who also presented a handsome walking stick subscribed for by the school children and teachers.

The following is the programme, which was under the direction of Fred Letts, the superintendent: Opening Address..... James Henkise Recitation..... Roy Robinson Christmas Cantata..... Leslie Barker Shepherds' Drill..... Mrs. Andrews' Class Recitation..... May McLeod Chorus..... School Recitation..... Robert Thom Recitation..... Willie Robinson Recitation and Song..... Christmas Candles.....

Recitation..... Muriel West Recitation..... Donald McLeod School Recitation..... Della Beamish Recitation..... Wide Awake Boys and Girls..... Edna Wilson Recitation and Song..... Snowflakes Recitation..... Walter Brynjolfsson "Limericks"..... Mr. Marchant Chorus..... Gladys Barker Recitation..... Hugh Wade Song..... Miss Sherk's Class Recitation..... Clara Simpson Chorus..... George Sherwood Recitation..... Claude Wilson Song—Waiting for Santa..... Gus Sivertz Recitation..... Bina Brynjolfsson Chorus..... Evelyn Pineo Song..... Mrs. Andrews' Class Recitation..... Mr. Sanderson's Class Recitation—Looking for Santa..... At the end of the last recitation sleigh bells were heard ringing outside the church, and Santa Claus arrived and distributed the great variety of gifts from off the trees, much to the delight of the children. Mr. Rigby's "set up" of Santa Claus was well done.

First Baptist Church. There was a large gathering in Victoria hall at the entertainment and Christmas tree of the First Baptist church Sunday school. The assistant superintendent, J. W. N. King, was in the chair in the absence of Angus B. McNeill, the superintendent. A Christmas song service, "Prince and Saviour," by Charles H. Gabriel, was rendered very well indeed by the children.

The young lady members of the Philanthropic and young men of the Baraco Bible class sang a quartette and chorus, "What Does It—Christmas—Mean?" The annual night school closing, rendered by a number of motion songs, Misses Middleton and Bessie Ledingham recited "Christmas Thoughts," and Clary Cochran also recited.

Santa Claus was impersonated by Dr. Russell, and everyone was remembered by him. Two special prizes were awarded to Grace Clements and Willie Burnett of the primary class, for having induced the greatest number of children to join the school.

Rev. C. Burnett spoke to the grown-ups as well as the children on Christmas giving, and a collection amounting to some thing like \$20 was gathered for mission purposes.

Congregational. The children of the Congregational church Sunday school had an entertainment and a Christmas tree. Tea was served at half-past six, and following the familiar young folk's games. At eight o'clock a concert began to which a number of the young people contributed. It began with a tuneful Christmas carol, "The Children's King," which the whole school took part. The rest of the programme was as follows: Piano-forte Duet..... Elsie McKay and Dorothy Harris Recitation..... Ethel Wilby Piano-forte Selection..... Elva Ball

Methodist Chinese Mission. The Methodist Chinese mission was crowded to the doors last evening by an enthusiastic audience on the occasion of the annual night school closing. Rev. Jas. Turner, superintendent of mission work among the Chinese on the Pacific Coast, occupied the chair.

The choruses rendered by the members of the school were exceedingly well sung and some difficult anthems were attempted. The singing of the hymn, "Gather Seeds of Kindness," recitation, "Christmas Bells," Agnes McKittick; hymn, "The Christmas Tree," recitation, "School Days"; recitation, "Sandalphon," Flora Hagenbuch; hymn, "Jesus is Calling."

Much favorable comment was occasioned by the pretty programme, the work of one of the girls, Agnes McKittick, whose untiring labors in this line is being developed under the guidance of Miss Marjorie Kito.

Recitation—The Sailor Boy, Sidney Hole Carol—Miss Brink's Class Recitation..... Elsie McKay Duet—Wonderful Star..... Ethel Wilby and Ethel Cheeseman Recitation..... Rena MacLoughlin Recitation—Two Little Kittens, Elsie Hole Chorus—Throw Out the Life Line..... J. M. Wilby, as Santa Claus, presented the school prizes and awards, besides giving everyone some of the good things from the tree. Fifteen special prizes were given for attendance. The pastor's prize for regularity of attendance at the church services was secured by two girls and one boy—Elsie McKay, Agnes Fullerton and Gordon Reid.

Rev. H. A. Carson, delivered a short address, dwelling on the significance of the Christmas season. The chair was occupied by J. E. Andrews, superintendent of the school—St. Andrew's Cathedral.

There was a crowded gathering of the children attending St. Andrew's cathedral Sunday school at the Christmas treat given in Institute hall. In addition to the children there were a large number of parents and friends. The clergy present included: Rev. Fathers Brabant, Latereau (superintendent of the Sunday school), Canon, Yvonne, Fr. Gaudin, and J. Nicolay (Ladysmith).

Some excellent lantern slides were shown by P. L. Z. Knott, Mr. Maynard, Miss Gunion, Miss Switzer and Miss Nyland sang, and all were enjoyed.

M. Doyle was Santa Claus, and he distributed gifts to the children and prizes awarded on the year's work of the scholars. First and second prizes for proficiency in church school were given by the children and for attendance were given in each class.

The annual holiday entertainment of the Victoria West Methodist Sunday school was held on Monday, and in spite of the very inclement weather proved very successful. The programme given by the children was good, and received the well merited applause of the audience.

Prizes for attendance during the year were presented to Frank Willard, Eddie Fopham, W. Mitchell, Gordon Mitchell, H. Popham, R. Homans, Fracie Bowdon, George Roberts, Hester Brennan, Aubrey Roberts, Ernest Roberts, Mabel Brennan, and Neva Goudie. All these had attended over 45 times during the year; the first named having achieved the distinction of a perfect attendance, being present every Sunday during the year.

The scholars brought with them an offering in aid of the Dr. Withrow memorial ward of the city hospital, now being built by the Methodist church in China. St. Barnabas Church.

The children of St. Barnabas' church Sunday school had a Christmas entertainment on Monday afternoon and evening. They had tea, followed by games, at five o'clock. At half-past six, in the presence of many of the older people, the distribution of prizes took place. Rev. J. H. Sweet, of St. James' church, read a most satisfactory report on the examination of the children. Bishop Perrin presented the prizes to the successful ones.

An amusing comedy was given by five boys. This was entitled "Dr. Anti-Fat," and was written by Miss Miller, sister of the doctor. George Norris, Harry Norris, Bertie Rutherford and Lester Jones all did excellently. By means of an amusing opera, and a shut, the proportions of the excessively fat patients grew greater and less, and the audience laughed heartily during the comedy.

Mrs. Jarley's waxworks were very interesting. Noel Robinson acting Mrs. Jarley, who Reginald Jones, Cherril Betterton as negro attendants. Mr. Reiner subsequently impersonated Father Christmas and distributed the gifts from the tree. The girls broke up with cheers for Rev. E. G. Miller, the popular rector; Thomas Mills, superintendent of the Sunday school; and Mr. Robinson.

Protestant Orphans' Home. The big dining room of the Protestant Orphans' Home was crowded yesterday afternoon with friends of the little ones. The forty children of the home were seated on a raised platform at one end, and a healthier or happier group could not be imagined. At the other end was a big Christmas tree, which had been dressed by the Misses McTavish and Helmecken, but it was not equal to hold the gifts which were piled upon it. There were more piled up than were received from Mrs. Herburg and Mrs. Stadhagen.

The children rendered the following programme, and the greatest credit goes to the manner in which they sang: Song, "The Christmas Tree"; song, five little girls' recitation, "Jesus Love Christmas"; hymn, "Gather Seeds of Kindness"; recitation, "Christmas Bells"; Agnes McKittick; hymn, "The Christmas Tree"; recitation, "School Days"; recitation, "Sandalphon"; Flora Hagenbuch; hymn, "Jesus is Calling."

Much favorable comment was occasioned by the pretty programme, the work of one of the girls, Agnes McKittick, whose untiring labors in this line is being developed under the guidance of Miss Marjorie Kito.

Rev. Ernest G. Miller distributed the gifts from the tree, and at the close called for cheers for Mrs. Kyo, the matron; Mrs. McTavish, president of the ladies' committee; and Ted Kyo, who is called the fairy godfather of the home. After the children had gone off served with tea and cake.

Methodist Chinese Mission. The Methodist Chinese mission was crowded to the doors last evening by an enthusiastic audience on the occasion of the annual night school closing. Rev. Jas. Turner, superintendent of mission work among the Chinese on the Pacific Coast, occupied the chair.

The choruses rendered by the members of the school were exceedingly well sung and some difficult anthems were attempted. The singing of the hymn, "Gather Seeds of Kindness," recitation, "Christmas Bells," Agnes McKittick; hymn, "The Christmas Tree," recitation, "School Days"; recitation, "Sandalphon," Flora Hagenbuch; hymn, "Jesus is Calling."

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HORROR GROWING IN MAGNITUDE OFFICIAL ESTIMATE OF EARTHQUAKE'S DEAD

Number May Greatly Exceed 115,000—Scenes of the Weirdest Description.

Rome, Dec. 31.—Slowly the measure of the disaster that has depopulated Calabria and eastern Sicily, is being taken and as the reports accumulate, it is seen that the estimates in no sense exaggerated the horror and extent of the visitation. An official estimate places the dead at 115,000, but there is reason to believe these numbers may be greatly exceeded.

The day the pitiable plight of the survivors claims universal attention. The relief of their sufferings calls for the concentrated effort of all the energies of the nation. The dead are dead, but countless thousands of half-demented, and starving survivors, wounded and unfortunates crying piteously for food, water, clothing, shelter and medical attention.

No news yet has been received of any of the Americans thought to have been in the devastated district, excepting the Rev. David Sessums, of New Orleans, and his daughter Alice, who are safe at Rome.

It is estimated that 100,000 people have fled from the desolated territory in fear of further convulsions.

BUILDING IN THE PAST YEAR RECORD OVER MILLION AND A QUARTER

These Figures Are Exclusive of the Large Values in Suburbs.

The building inspector has closed his books for 1907 and shows a total value of building during the year, for which permits have been issued, of \$1,200,700. The list, with the exception of the few taken out this week, appeared in these columns a few days ago.

In addition to this, there has been \$4,000 worth of work done by the Dominion Government on the Immigration Hotel and post office, and \$3,500 by the provincial government at Government House, for which no permits were required. Estimating another \$100,000 for minor repair work which did not make a permit necessary, the total value of the buildings erected this year is \$1,235,200. This is only \$150,000 less than last year, but in a sense represents much more building, as the figures last year were helped out by some large amounts, such as the expenditure on St. Joseph's hospital addition and part of the cost of the Empress hotel.

The last permit of the year was issued to Mrs. Annie Hill for a residence on Queen's avenue, to cost \$2,000. These last few permits do not include the work done in Oak Bay, Esquimalt and parts of Saanich municipality, where there has been wonderful activity.

BUILDINGS PLANNED.

Many Houses Are Being Built in Different Districts of the City. A large number of people are laying their plans for building operations for the coming year, and the estimates will include a good many business blocks as well as residences, the rapid growth of the city having made it necessary to provide both for increased business accommodation and also houses for the people—workmen and other residents. A commencement has already been made on the houses planned on Hulton street by G. Meagher & Co., and the several new business blocks already announced are either building or will be started in a few weeks.

Parfitt Brothers, the local contractors, are about to build eight cottages, the approximate value of each being \$3,000. These will be built on an acre block which they have just purchased from W. Snider, of Vancouver. The property is situated on Fernwood road, Vining street and Gladstone avenue, a district which is fast being improved and which should prove an admirable quarter of the city.

The same firm will also build a business establishment at the same place in the neighborhood of \$5,000. A building permit has been issued to Kendrick for a new house on Port street to cost \$3,000.

NARROW ESCAPE OF INDIANS.

New Westminster, Dec. 30.—An Indian and his little grand-daughter had a narrow escape from drowning owing to their canoe upsetting when they were embarking at the Sixth avenue slip, the current almost carrying them away. Fortunately, their plight was noticed, and with some difficulty they were taken out of the water and taken to the police station, where, after getting their clothes dried, they were soon all right.

The new scavenging contract was signed on Tuesday by Mayor Hall, on behalf of the city, and Capt. William E. Gardiner, the contractor. It is for two years from Thursday, expiring on December 31, 1910. The contractor is to be paid \$2,882 each year, or \$7,764 in all. For the work he undertakes to dispose of all garbage either by carrying it out to sea or consuming the combustible material in the incinerator. For each load of refuse received at the wharf, at the foot of Beisgraph street, the contractor is entitled to demand 15 cents.

The funeral of the late Mrs. Eliza Ann Yalem Baynton took place Tuesday afternoon from the family residence, 2140 West 10th street, where services were conducted by Rev. T. W. Gladstone. There was a large attendance of friends and many floral offerings were sent. The following acted as pallbearers: H. C. Smith, T. Langlois, C. H. Gordon and W. C. Smith.

PESTILENCE FOLLOWED

(Continued from page 1.)

Palm, perched jauntily on olive trees, and completely swept away the wreckage from the trees in the visible to approach the land. For a distance of a few miles the footpaths have been changed. It is believed that a great number of birds of prey starved to death because it is impossible to go to the news of their being there. The crowded streets of Messina, bereaved of their usual stamp of great faces.

Several Calabria relatives have gone because it is impossible to go to the news of their being there. The crowded streets of Messina, bereaved of their usual stamp of great faces.

The of the refuge with a German city, said: "Mess destroyed. Nothing left but a part of the ruins. I was shocked awake me; all was quiet, and again. Suddenly violent and quickly, but the door and my sheets from the bed and lowered myself to the street. An American person escaped by the aid of my hands. No sooner was than the house was destroyed. The street was useless. The fusion was indeed wandered in the food could be seen and a few rescued. There was no more to be seen. The most of the convulsions were the murdering. They of the dead and the rings. Some of the sons of liberty a knife.

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GROWING MAGNITUDE

QUAKE'S DEAD

Greatly Exceed Scenes of the Description.

Slowly the measure that has depopulated Sicily, is being reported to have accumulated in no order of the horror and excitement. An official estimate at 115,000, to believe these numbers greatly exceeded. The attention of the survivors calls for the energies of the dead are dead, but of half-demented, and survivors, wailing and crying pitifully clothing, shelter and...

PAST YEAR

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pector has closed his show a total value of \$1,130,741, for which he received, of \$1,130,741. The caption of the few ek, appeared in these ago. This, there has been done by the Dominion Immigration fall of \$2,000 by the provincial Government House, units were required, \$100,000 for minor result not make a percentage of the buildings \$1,130,740. This is one year, but in a sense before building, which are helped out by some of the expenditure total addition and part Empire hotel. of the was issued for a residence on cost \$2,000. Oak Bay, Summit in municipality, where wonderful activity...

PLANNED.

Being Built in Different of the City.

of people are laying the operations of these will include a few blocks as well as growth of the city necessary to provide both accommodation and people-workmen. A commencement made on the houses at G. Mesher & Co. a new business blocks are either building or on the way.

PE OF INDIANS.

Dr. Dec. 30.—An In-

grand-daughter had been drowning swimming meeting when they at the Sixth avenue most carrying them their plight was in some difficulty they the water and taken in, where, after get-ting, they were soon...

the late Mrs. Kijiza took place. The in the family street, where services Rev. T. W. Glad a large attendance by burial offerings following acted as Smith, L. Langlois, W. C. Smith.

PESTILENCE MAY FOLLOW DEPOPULATION AND RUIN

(Continued from page 1)

Palmi, perched jauntily among orange and olive trees, have become mere blots. The sea front at Reggio has been completely swept away, according to statements of refugees. It is a mass of wreckage from vessels of every kind that were in the harbor. It is impossible to approach Reggio by sea or by land. For a distance of twelve miles from the city, the roads, bridges and footpaths have been uprooted. Even the face of the country has been changed. It is believed that there is a great number of people still in the ruins dying, not from their injuries, but of slow starvation, simply because it is impossible to get in supplies.

Several Calabrians here, who have relatives and friends in the stricken district, have gone out of their minds because it is impossible for them either to go to their homes or get news of their beloved ones. The steamer Therapsis is lying off Naples crowded with refugees from Messina, brawling men, starving women and weeping children, all with the stamp of great fear still upon their faces.

One of the refugees, a man employed with a German cotton firm in the last city, said: "Messina is utterly destroyed. Nothing remained when I left but a part of the citadel. A few soldiers alone survive of the whole garrison. I was asleep when the first shock awoke me. I lit my lamp, but all was quiet, and I turned to sleep again. Suddenly fresh shocks occurred, violent and terrifying. I arose quickly, but the house was swayed and my door was jammed. I tore the sheets from the bed and made a rope and lowered myself from the window to the street. An Italian family of five persons escaped from the house by the aid of my rope.

"No sooner were we in the street than the house collapsed. I tried to assist in the work of rescue, but it was useless. The horror and confusion was indescribable. All day I wandered in the wrecked streets. No food could be secured; I had only a few nuts to eat. The head of my firm was lost, and his brother had to go through the streets begging for bread for his wife and children. "There was no organization in the work of rescue. The prison was destroyed and the warden killed, but most of the convicts escaped. They crowded about the ruins, robbing and murdering. They cut off the fingers of the dead and wounded to get the rings. Some of them were singing songs of liberty as they piled the knapsacks.

"A Russian vessel lying in the harbor was thrown into the street by the tidal wave. Other vessels foundered. Railway lines were swallowed up. The only known escape route, the Canal collapsed and sank. Only the summit of a few ruined buildings still emerge from the wreckage. What remained of the population, when I left, was camping near the harbor."

Devastated Reggio.

Catanzaro, Calabria, Dec. 31.—No direct news was received yesterday from Reggio, a city of 30,000 people, but everything goes to confirm the report that the city has been practically obliterated. The prefect of Reggio, Signor Orzoi, who was thought to have been killed, has reached a coast point in safety after 24 hours of fearful experience. He could hardly talk, but he reported that the death toll was in the thousands, and that the surrounding villages also have been destroyed. A laborer who escaped from Reggio relates that shortly before daybreak a deafening noise, like the roaring of a hundred cannon, was heard. This was followed by the subsidence of the entire lower part of the city. At the same time, the sea to an accompaniment of a roaring, swept over the municipal buildings, the barracks and the fine palaces that lined the corso rose heaps of ruins. The agonized shrieks of the people, and the roar above the crash of falling buildings.

Aeolian Islands Isolated.

Rome, Dec. 31.—Cable communication with the Aeolian islands, north of Sicily, is interrupted. It is evident that the line is broken, and it is thought that the islands also have been devastated. The largest of the group is the island of Lipari, and the capital town has a population of 12,000.

SOCIAL IN MISSION.

Chinese Scholars Enjoy Annual Treat in Local Home. The annual social of the Chinese Presbyterian mission of this city was given Monday evening to the teachers and friends and others interested in the mission. Notwithstanding the unfavorable weather, the attendance was quite large.

The hall was very nicely decorated, the festoons and lanterns being decidedly Oriental in effect. The programme was well rendered and interesting. One of the features of the evening very much enjoyed was the singing of the "Holy City" by one of the Christian Chinese named Lee Chan. The precision, mellowness and range of voice with which he rendered it proved beyond cavil the capacity of the Chinese voice to excel in Occidental music. The three choruses rendered by Wong Wa, Kwun Kun and Wong Yuen, were very much appreciated.

GARBAGE CONTRACT PASSED BY COUNCIL

Capt. Gardiner Consents to Number of Amendments to Original Draft.

(From Tuesday's Daily.) The contract with Capt. W. F. Gardiner for the handling of the scavenging of the city for the next two years was passed by the city council last night, and will be signed to-day. There was considerable discussion of the matter first, however.

A communication was read from J. A. Price, who sent in a protest last week against the giving of a contract without calling for tenders. He renewed his protest and expressed the opinion that the council was exceeding its prerogative in making a contract for two years.

Ald. Henderson asked the city solicitor if this latter was so, and Mr. Mann replied that he did not think so. Mayor Hall mentioned that he had received a letter from Capt. Goodwin objecting to the contract being awarded to Capt. Gardiner, and the other members of the council said they had received similar letters.

Ald. Fullerton asked if it was the intention to make the contract in face of the objection of many citizens to awarding it without calling for tenders. The committee seemed to think they had made a good bargain but the question the people were asking was whether it was right to give a contract without tenders having been called. The people in ward 3 were calling a public meeting for Wednesday evening and had invited the aldermen to attend. In view of the protests had the committee changed their minds?

LONGBOAT AND SHRUBB MARATHON POSTPONED

Indian Asks \$2,000 to Come West—Amateur After Honors.

New York, Dec. 28.—As the craze for Marathon racing continues unabated in Greater New York and vicinity, and as the professional contest between Tom Longboat, the Canadian Indian, and Alfred Shrubbs, the Englishman, has been postponed from January 9th to January 28th, a great amateur Marathon is being arranged for Madison square Garden to be held on the date previously set for the professional struggle.

COMMITTED ON CHARGE OF ATTEMPTED MURDER

Man Gets Four Years in Penitentiary for House-Breaking.

Vancouver, Dec. 23.—Al. Howe was committed yesterday on the charge of the attempted murder of Ellen Burns, four years in the penitentiary for house-breaking imposed upon Robert Hunter, who on Thursday pleaded guilty to house-breaking. He was caught in the act of his last theft on Cordova street on the previous day. Nearly \$200 worth of jewelry and silverware was found in his possession.

STANFORD TAKES SECOND RUGBY GAME

Vancouver Beaten in Series for Cooper-Keith Trophy.

Vancouver, Dec. 29.—Ten points to three in favor of Stanford in the first of the ten-day settled the ownership of the Cooper-Keith Rugby cup for the year. The Cardinals repeating their win of the trophy. The third game will be played Friday.

HEART DISEASE VICTIM.

CHOLERA IN RUSSIA.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 30.—The cholera has again increased in this city owing to the cold weather. There were 26 new cases and four deaths for the 24 hours ended at noon to-day.

THE COMMON APPLE A GREAT SOURCE OF HEALTH

THE JUICE OF THE ORDINARY APPLE IS ONE OF THE BEST THINGS IN THE WORLD FOR KEEPING THE BLOOD PURE.

Few people there are but enjoy a ripe, juicy apple, but many realize that it is a medicine as well as a treat? Apple juice has a very marked effect on the kidneys, increasing their power to throw off the waste products of the body, called urea, and thus prevent Rheumatism, Sciatica, Neuralgia, and similar troubles that come from poisonous blood.

Similarly, other fruits stimulate the action of the liver and bowels—others of the skin. Combined, they keep the blood pure—the body clean and healthy. To get this effect, however, one must eat a great deal of fruit, or better, eat a little fruit and take "Fruit-a-tives," "Fruit-a-tives" are tablets in which the juices of ripe fruits, with their medicinal value intensified, are combined with valuable salts. They act directly on Bowels, Kidneys and Skin and put them in perfect condition—thus ensuring the thorough elimination of the body. Tablets, Regular size 50c—6 boxes for \$2.50. "Fruit-a-tives" Limited, Ottawa.

INQUEST CONCLUDED ON DEATH OF J. EVANS

Jury Brings in Verdict of Accidental Death by Discharge of Shotgun.

After a week's adjournment the jury empaneled by Acting Coroner Stanler to inquire into the death of Joseph Evans at Elk Lake, on Dec. 20th, sat Tuesday afternoon and returned a verdict of death through the accidental discharge of deceased's shotgun.

MISSONARY LAUNCH SAILS.

The Udal Will Ply Between Seymour Narrows and Portland Canal.

Vancouver, Dec. 29.—The new Methodist gasoline launch Udal, which was built by Captain William Oliver, is now on her way to Queen Charlotte Islands. The Udal's name was originally intended to be The Good Samaritan, but as this name had already been registered it was found necessary to change it. She will ply between Seymour Narrows and Portland Canal, under the direction of the Methodist church. Rev. M. L. Swart, who will travel on the boat, will have charge of the missionary work and is taking a regular library with him, and it is his intention to stop at every place on the coast where there is a sign of habitation, and leave tracts, copies of the Bible, etc. The Udal is 46 feet in length, with a beam of 12 feet, and is fitted with 40 horse-power engines; she draws five feet and is a sloop-rigged vessel of 20 tons. The engines are built right forward, which leaves the whole of the after end of the boat for cabin accommodation, and this has been divided into two state rooms, a large stateroom and a little galley. The saloon is very elegantly furnished, and is fully furnished and contains pictures of Rev. E. Robson and wife and Rev. T. Crosby and wife.

You cannot possibly have a better Cocoa than ERIPUS

A delicious drink and a sustaining food. Fragrant, nutritious and economical. This excellent Cocoa maintains the system in robust health, and enables it to resist winter's extreme cold.

ERIPUS

Sold by Grocers and Storekeepers in 1-lb. and 1/2-lb. Tins.

CAN SINK DREADNOUGHT OUTSIDE OF HER RANGE

Claim Made for New 14-inch Gun of United States.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 28.—The new naval gun, which the American is able to describe for the first time, is to be the most powerful in the world. It will be five feet longer than the 12-inch gun now used on our battleships, and will have sufficient muzzle velocity to fire a shell 1,300 pounds in weight 9,000 yards, or more than five miles, at which distance it can penetrate the best armor in use by any of the great naval powers of the world.

This gun will have an initial velocity estimated at 3,100 feet per second. The breech will be so reinforced that an additional weight over the present 15-inch charge of powder can be safely used. One secret which is reserved for obvious reasons is the precise quality and nature of the powder which is to be used in the charge of the new gun. New battleships armed with this gun should sink a Dreadnought before the latter's guns get within effective range.

WELL AT GOLDFIELD

John Lucas, Now in Victoria, Tells of Conditions in Nevada Camp.

John Lucas, a brother of Oscar Lucas, of "The Fair," Douglas street, who has just returned to the city after a residence for some time in Goldfield, Nevada, where he is interested in mining claims and property, speaking this morning of the big Nevada camp as a population of fifteen thousand, and is a go-ahead city. During summer months the population rises to the neighborhood of twenty-five thousand owing to there being more work during the warmer months. At present the country is under snow, but the work on the big mines still continues. The Florence has now one hundred stamps, and is running its full capacity of 600 tons of high grade ore per day. Mr. Lucas considers Nevada the richest mining territory in the world, and at the present time despite the enormous output, is only scratched. The owners and the miners have, he says, now come to a definite agreement, and after the last trouble there is not much fear but that all will be peaceful in the future.

THE UNDERWEAR THAT EVERYBODY LIKES

FINCH & FINCH HATMAKERS

1107 GOVERNMENT STREET. Sole Agents for ATKINSON'S IRISH POPLIN TIES.

LADIES RINGS

One very strong point in our business—perhaps the strongest—LADIES' RINGS. We pay special attention to this line and consequently show a large and very choice selection.

DIAMONDS, PEARLS, RUBIES, EMERALDS, SAPPHIRES, OPALS AND TURQUOISE

Set singly and in combination in all the newest and most approved styles. The values, too, are the very best, and are made possible by personal selection.

J. M. Whitney Co.

Diamond Merchants, Jewelers, Silversmiths and Opticians. Old Number 39 Govt. St. New Number 1003 Govt. St.

DE CASTELLANE CHILDREN.

Court Rules They Shall Remain in Custody of the Countess De Sagau.

HEART DISEASE VICTIM.

Toronto, Ont., Dec. 30.—George Dunlop, secretary of the Standard stock exchange, and a well known city broker, died suddenly in his bed yesterday of heart failure. He had been in excellent health up to the time of his death.

HEART DISEASE VICTIM.

Paris, Dec. 30.—The petition of Countess de Castellane for the custody of her children was denied to-day by the court which ruled that they shall remain with their mother, the Countess de Sagau, who was formerly Miss Anna Gould, of New York.

BARGAIN SALE OF HEATERS

15 p.c. DISCOUNT - ON HEATERS - GOOD UNTIL DECEMBER 31ST, 1908.

B. C. HARDWARE CO., LTD.

CORNER YATES AND BROAD STS. Warehouse Phone 1611. Phone 82.

NEW YEAR BARGAINS

3 LBS. MIXED NUTS 50¢
LARGE NAVEL ORANGES, per dozen 25¢
4 LBS. NICE RED TABLE APPLES 25¢
LARGE TABLE RAISINS, per lb 25¢

PURE PORK SAUSAGE PURE PORK SAUSAGES

The Family Cash Grocery

Cor. Yates and Douglas Streets. Tel. 312

IMPERFECT DIGESTION

Causes a thousand ills, such as constipation, that mother of maladies, sour stomach, biliousness, water-brash, dyspepsia, etc.

BOWEN'S LIVER AND IN-DIGESTION CURE

Is a marvellous remedy for these, one we can safely recommend. It has benefited hundreds and will benefit you.

CYRUS H. BOWEN

CHEMIST Government St., Near Yates VICTORIA, B. C.

The Underwear That Everybody Likes

CARTWRIGHT & WARNER'S, DR. JAEGER'S, STANFIELD'S, TURNBULL'S, BRITANNIA. These are made of pure wool, and range in prices from \$1.00 to \$4.00 per garment.

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WARD THREE AND ITS ALDERMEN RATEPAYERS HAVE A FRIENDLY TALK TO THEM

Condition of Streets, Water Rates and Garbage Removal Discussed.

(From Thursday's Daily.) A heart to heart talk was had by half a hundred ratepayers of Ward Three with their representatives, Aldermen Gleason and Fullerton, last night. The meeting was called as soon as the renewing of the garbage contract with Capt. W. E. Gardner was announced, and while originally intended to deal with that matter was understood to offer the aldermen a chance to explain their year's work.

Ald. Gleason began by telling what had been done for the sewerage and lighting of the ward, and for the streets. He felt that the only solution was an extension of the local improvement system. The council could not attend to them out of general revenue, and to the garbage contract, Capt. Gardner's after negotiations, agreed to handle fifty per cent. more at a saving on the present contract of \$1,072 for a year or \$1,286 a year on a two-year contract.

"Give us figures," said J. A. Price, and other ratepayers repeated his demand. Ald. Gleason said that the estimated receipts from tickets were put at \$101 a year. With the \$3,222 paid under the contract the service would thus cost the ratepayers \$4,013 annually, whereas at the rate of the old contract it would cost \$5,005.

"You don't know," retorted J. A. Price. "You don't know because you did not call for tenders. I think if one tenderer could do the work for less under the arrangements to collect 15c a load others could do it, too."

Work on the Streets. William Marchant wanted to know if Street Superintendent Warwick superintended anything, what he was paid his salary for, or whether it was true that someone in authority was interfering with the work, that Mr. Warwick does not superintend.

"I would like to run whoever is interfering to earth," said Mr. Marchant. Another ratepayer complained that there were altogether too many foremen, that there was frequent lack of common-sense in the work, and he instanced a case on Stewart street where the earth from an excavation had been thrown up on the pipes to be laid, and these had then to be dug out to be laid.

"It all comes back to having a good, efficient head in that department," said Ald. Gleason, who went on to say that both a better head and better men were needed. He had no objection to cases where the men stopped work and put away their tools some time before five and then stood around until the clock struck. This case would be investigated.

"That foreman should be fined," declared Mr. Marchant. "There has been so much laxity of late years that we are not getting the benefit out of this labor that we should. The council should take hold and get into this whole matter of the lack of system in street work."

EDMONTON FAILS TO LIFT STANLEY CUP

Western Team Wins Second Game From Montreal Wanderers by 7 to 6.

Montreal, Que., Dec. 31.—Edmonton defeated the Wanderers in the second and final game of the Stanley cup series last night in one of the closest and most exciting games witnessed at the arena in a couple of seasons. The Wanderers, however, failed to lift the cup, their victory last night being by a score of 7 to 6, while their defeat in the first game was 7 to 3, leaving the Wanderers with a margin of three goals on the total.

Edmonton, with two home players on the team that had been gathered together from all over Canada, proved a 100 per cent. better team than in the first game, Miller and Deeton, who replaced the injured Phillips and McNawara, being the stars of the forward line. Deeton scored three goals and Miller two, and both played hockey of a high order.

For all around work the Edmonton forwards were better than the Wanderers, although the Wanderers' defence was the strongest. Three Wanderer players were benched in the first five minutes of the play, and before they were back in the game, Edmonton had scored two goals. This seemed to upset the home team, and the best they could do was to score one goal before half time, leaving Edmonton in the lead, 2 to 1.

In the second half Edmonton again scored the first two goals, but the next three went to the Wanderers, evening the score, 4 to 4, and killing the western team's chances of winning out on the series. Of the last five goals Edmonton secured three and the Wanderers two. The score was tied three times in this period, and the crowd of 4,500 were keyed up to a high pitch of excitement.

GROWTH OF CITY BIG SURPRISE TO VISITOR

Maintains Cost of Living is Lower Than on Mainland.

"It is as different in the last four years as day and night," said H. J. Knox, of Chilliwack, this morning at the Dominion hotel in referring to the many changes noticeable in the city of Victoria since 1905. During that period, said Mr. Knox, this city has done a new garb and grown in such a manner that it is now hardly recognizable. "New and substantial buildings have been erected and stand where four years ago were vacant blocks in the city and vacant fields in the suburbs."

When four years ago he was here, Mr. Knox remembers big vacant spaces around Oak Bay and recalled the receipt of a letter from the municipality which has had since that time had to close down on sportsmen owing to the rapid settlement and increase of the number of residences within its bounds.

Out in the direction of Mount Tolmie Mr. Knox has also noticed a rapid development and was surprised at the large number of handsome dwellings which have been erected there and are now permanently occupied by families. In the intervening time he mentions among the additions to the city the Merchants' bank building, Yates and Douglas streets, the Empress hotel, the additions to the Dominion hotel and the completion of the Carnegie library. The dwellings, however, he speaks of with more admiration and praise, pointing as they do to the increase in population and quick permanent settlement of the near outskirts of the city.

Mr. Knox attributed the rapid growth largely to the climate. Other reasons, however, are found for Victoria's rapid advancement in her excellent geographical position and the low cost of living here. He contradicts positively the statement that Victoria is more expensive to reside in than many other towns. Living here is cheaper, he declares than in Chilliwack and on the mainland, while the hotel accommodation is equal to any city in British Columbia and superior to most. Mr. Knox has been a resident of British Columbia for some thirty odd years and has lived through Victoria often, having lived here some years ago. He says he has watched the development of Victoria for a long period and has still been surprised at its growth within the last four years.

SANTA CLAUS AT Y. M. C. A. Boys' Department was Entertained Last Evening at Local Quarters. (From Thursday's Daily.) The first Christmas tree entertainment was held in the auditorium last evening. R. C. Horn, the vice-president of the association, presided. In his opening speech he said that it was a pleasure in running the boys' department he had ever witnessed in the local Y. M. C. A. The room was crowded with boys, their parents and friends.

OBJECTS TO STERN.

New Steamer Does Not Please Everyone in the City.

YEAR'S WORK OF LOCAL MARINE DEPARTMENT

Many New Lights and Fog Alarm Stations Have Been Installed.

(From Thursday's Daily.) The total amount of work done by the marine department on this coast during the past year makes a good showing. It indicates that the government is taking care to have every useful thing done to protect the lives of mariners and the property of the shipowners and shippers. Probably the most important work of the year, one at any rate that appeals most strongly to those who pass in and out of the Straits of Fuca, is the installation of a first order light and apparatus at Pachena Point. This light can be seen for something like forty miles, and is the first mark picked up by the ships entering the straits during clear weather. When the weather is thick the light on Swiftsure banks is useful, but the light at Pachena is the one that all look for.

New apparatus with stronger power has been placed at Fisgard, Discovery and Cape Mudge. New gas lights have been placed at Helen Point in Active Pass, in the first Narrows at Vancouver; at Chatham Point, Discovery; at Casey's Point, Prince Rupert; at Stenhouse Shoal, Brown Passage and Lookout Island, Kitimat. This makes the total number of acetylene gas lights 51.

New fog alarm stations have been installed at Estevan Point, The Sisters, Yellow Island, Belleinas, Ivory Island and Cape Esplanade, all of which have been equipped with modern apparatus and are up to date in every respect. The total number of lighthouses now on the coast is 57.

COBALT'S \$10,000,000 YEAR.

Toronto, Ont., Dec. 30.—Cobalt ore shipments this year will exceed ten million dollars. Last week's total was 49 tons. Total for the year, 12,550 tons. Last year's total was 14,000 tons.

UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CLUB HOLDS RECEPTION

Pleasant Evening Spent--Number of Visitors From Vancouver Present.

(From Thursday's Daily.) A number of interesting reunions have followed the arrival of the Princess Charlotte from the Old Country. Captain Troop at once found that at least two captains of craft now lying in port were old friends of his. Yesterday afternoon Captain Davis, of the steamer Aganathan, and Captain Kinney, of the steamer Senator, went around to the new steamer and were entertained by Captain Troop. Needless to say, the three captains spent an enjoyable time together.

Second Officers come here, and secretary residents of this city, and it is not unlikely that he may remain here in the employ of the C. P. R.

DEATH OF U. S. CONSUL

Kenora, Ont., Dec. 31.—John Bean, United States consul here, and secretary of the board of trade, is dead from diabetes. He was well known throughout the West.

CORNELL MINE SHIPS HIGH GRADE ORE

Texada Island in a mining standpoint. This time it is the Cornell mine that is producing high class ore. S. G. Faulkner, treasurer and president of the Northern Texas Mine, Limited, which owns the Cornell mine, paid a flying visit to Victoria yesterday.

YEARNING FOR THE WEST

Eye Witness Tells of Whannock Tragedy

Logger Will Be Arranged on Charge of Manslaughter.

New Westminster, Dec. 30.—"That Odin Lee was struck on the head with a bottle in the hands of Joseph Kincaid in the presence of Peter Murphy on the C. P. R. track, half a mile east of Whannock, and the blow or blows either caused his death directly or left him unconscious on the track, in which state he was run over and cut to pieces by the C. P. R. passenger train No. 307, and the jury are of opinion that no blame is to be attached to the crew of the train."

This was the text of the verdict rendered by the coroner's jury empaneled at Whannock to investigate the circumstances attending the violent death which overtook Odin Lee, a young farmer of that district on Christmas eve. The sensation of the inquest was the arrest of Joseph Kincaid, a logger of the district, whom Murphy accused of striking Lee on the head with a bottle which stretched Lee on the track either dead or stunned to be horribly mangled by the advancing train.

Kincaid was charged with manslaughter by Chief Constable Spain and remanded for preliminary hearing before the police magistrate of Maple Ridge, on Monday next.

According to a witness named McKinley, from Ruskin, where Kincaid went after the tragedy, the accused man told him that near Whannock he had been attacked by two tramps, but luckily he had a bottle with him which he used to defend himself, and with which he had struck the other man down. This leads to the belief that he will enter a plea of justification on the grounds of self-defence. It is quite possible that the date of the preliminary trial may be changed from Monday, that date being only set temporarily.

CHINAMAN FINED FOR ALTERING PLANS

Convicted on Two Charges and Must Pay \$200. Vancouver, Dec. 30.—Loo Gee Wing will have to pay two fines aggregating \$200 for altering the plans of his buildings on Pender Street East, without the consent of the building inspector.

Magistrate Alexander said that he had alleged that he had leased it to a certain Tai Hing who had made the alterations and fitted it up with gambling tables. He knew his knowledge. A diligent search failed to discover Tai Hing, and when Loo Gee Wing appeared before Magistrate Alexander yesterday in the police court, he was given a severe lecture.

Mr. Woodworth, counsel for Loo Gee Wing, crossed-examined the building inspector with a view to finding whether he was acting under powers conferred by the by-law or was simply taking arbitrary action on his own part.

Magistrate Alexander said that had nothing to do with the charge before him, and on the evidence of the building inspector and two other witnesses who corroborated him as to the fixtures of the building he imposed a fine of \$100 and costs.

NORTHERN TRAVEL INCREASES

Steamer Cowichan Crowded With Passengers Returning After Holidays. The development of the northern trade has been mentioned often in these columns, and every day instances of it are being noticed. Another evidence of the steady growth of travel was furnished when the big steamer Cowichan left Vancouver for her run to Northern British Columbia ports.

The steamer had also a good quantity of freight. Not since the various points in the north now included in the calling places of the steamers were made such, has there been such a traffic as this part Christmas season has shown. On every boat the people flocked down, and as a result, the remarkable traffic on the Cowichan.

IMPORTATION OF GAME BIRDS.

Chilliwack, Dec. 30.—The response to the call for subscriptions to the fund for the importation of game birds is very gratifying to the members of the Chilliwack Game Protection Association, and the money already subscribed will go quite a way towards the object the association has in view, that of importing a fresh supply of partridges from the New England states.

KAUFMAN WINS IN THIRTY-NINTH

Barry Puts Up Game Struggle in a Disappointing Exhibition.

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 31.—Al Kaufman, of San Francisco, won from Jim Barry, of Chicago, last night in the 39th round before the Jeffries Athletic Club. Barry's seconds threw a towel into the ring in the middle of the 39th round after their man had been badly beaten, and was all but out. Barry's chief second stated that both his man's hands were badly injured, and that it was useless for him to continue and suffer punishment.

The Chicago man was game and wanted to continue. He was completely exhausted, and had been put almost out in the previous round. In that round Kaufman sent a hard right to the jaw and Barry went down for the count of 8. Barry's strength and beam of will go quite a way towards the object the association has in view, that of importing a fresh supply of partridges from the New England states.

When sixty miles to the south of Cape Flattery, a few days ago, the British steamship Tweeddale, Captain Milne, bound for Portland from Nanaimo, was struck by the big storm which swept the coast last week. It soon developed into a gale and came from the south-southwest. For safety the captain headed the steamer offshore. The storm increased in fury until Christmas day, when it began to moderate. But an extraordinary heavy sea was running, retarding the progress of the steamer.

Before leaving Nanaimo the steamer cooled and about sixty-five tons of the fuel was stacked on the deck. As an evidence of how little roll there is to the steamer during a big storm, the fact is cited that she never lost a pound of coal overboard. The officers declare that it was not even shifted about in the least, remaining in the precise position it was originally placed.

CAPTAIN TROOP MEETS OLD FRIENDS

Encountered Gale on Way to Portland From Nanaimo. Two Skippers Waiting in Port Prove to Be Companions of His.

(From Thursday's Daily.) A number of interesting reunions have followed the arrival of the Princess Charlotte from the Old Country. Captain Troop at once found that at least two captains of craft now lying in port were old friends of his. Yesterday afternoon Captain Davis, of the steamer Aganathan, and Captain Kinney, of the steamer Senator, went around to the new steamer and were entertained by Captain Troop. Needless to say, the three captains spent an enjoyable time together.

Second Officers come here, and secretary residents of this city, and it is not unlikely that he may remain here in the employ of the C. P. R.

TYE SMELTER AT LADYSMITH WILL HANDLE THE OUTPUT.

He has decided to ship his ore to the Tye smelter at Ladysmith, and received yesterday the assay results of the first shipment of ore from the new bodies cut a few weeks ago. The first class ore netted over \$20 per ton, after payment of all freight and smelter charges, and Mr. Faulkner is evidently well pleased with the result, which is convincing proof of the value of the recent discoveries.

OPENED JAPANESE HOME.

Enjoyable Evening at Methodist Mission on Pandora Avenue. (From Thursday's Daily.) The formal opening of the new Japanese Mission property, on Pandora avenue, lately known as the Corona house, but now acquired by the Methodist church for their work among the Japanese of this city, took place last evening.

VALUED DOG SEIZED

Steps Are Taken to Punish Those Who Are Responsible for Act. (From Thursday's Daily.) Another instance of unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of those who carry guns in the woods around the city occurred last Sunday at Somerton Lake. The dog was shot by a rifle shot at R. E. Smith's prize Irish Setter bitch. The dog has since died.

THE BATTLE OF THE BAY

Encountered Gale on Way to Portland From Nanaimo. Two Skippers Waiting in Port Prove to Be Companions of His.

(From Thursday's Daily.) A number of interesting reunions have followed the arrival of the Princess Charlotte from the Old Country. Captain Troop at once found that at least two captains of craft now lying in port were old friends of his. Yesterday afternoon Captain Davis, of the steamer Aganathan, and Captain Kinney, of the steamer Senator, went around to the new steamer and were entertained by Captain Troop. Needless to say, the three captains spent an enjoyable time together.

Second Officers come here, and secretary residents of this city, and it is not unlikely that he may remain here in the employ of the C. P. R.

DEATH OF U. S. CONSUL

Kenora, Ont., Dec. 31.—John Bean, United States consul here, and secretary of the board of trade, is dead from diabetes. He was well known throughout the West.

CORNELL MINE SHIPS HIGH GRADE ORE

Texada Island in a mining standpoint. This time it is the Cornell mine that is producing high class ore. S. G. Faulkner, treasurer and president of the Northern Texas Mine, Limited, which owns the Cornell mine, paid a flying visit to Victoria yesterday.

He has decided to ship his ore to the Tye smelter at Ladysmith, and received yesterday the assay results of the first shipment of ore from the new bodies cut a few weeks ago. The first class ore netted over \$20 per ton, after payment of all freight and smelter charges, and Mr. Faulkner is evidently well pleased with the result, which is convincing proof of the value of the recent discoveries.

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FRANCO-CANADIAN TREATY.

London Times' Paris Correspondent Says Hon. W. S. Fielding Will Succeed in Getting Ratification. London, Dec. 31.—The Times' Paris correspondent says there is reason to believe that Hon. W. S. Fielding will succeed in obtaining the ratification of the Franco-Canadian treaty and points out that if Germany also obtains the advantage of a Franco-Canadian middle tariff the value of British preference will almost disappear.

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EARLY CASUALTY

Death Roll Alive

The earthquake list of casualties at Messina alone. A dispatch from Messina says that the present yet to be heard said to be buried. Piteous scenes panics districts. As a result from its crater. The configuration lowered close up.

Rome, Dec. 29.—Province of Calabria Sicily has to-day received from the stories of widespread little, if at all, but it is feared partial list of the Reports are coming towns giving of broken out and adopted the most severe measures. Robbers and looting. The prison at Some of the survivors joined the hooligans. Sacking. Such confusion is being met with in the rooms of his office. Messina was de mander of the right, and there were who are at the present time contemplating the submission of any special business for this occasion would send him notification of such intention at the earliest possible moment.

The marriage took place Monday at Winnipeg Cottage, Cadboro Bay, of Mr. J. Riddle, of Winnipeg, and Miss Olive McEwan, of this city. The ceremony was performed by Rev. T. E. Holting. The bride was attended by Miss Sturgess, while Mr. W. Riddle acted as the groom. A good number were present.

The annual Christmas entertainment in the Chinese Methodist church on Fingard street will take place this evening at 8. This entertainment is commonly known as the "Night School Closing," as the boys in attendance at this night school take a large part in the programme. The public are cordially invited to attend this evening's entertainment.

The veterans of 1866 association, Toronto, Ontario, are about to petition the Dominion parliament in the interests of the men who served during the Fenian raid of 1866 for the allotment of 160 acres of land in the Northwest Territories. The petition is now in the hands of Ed. Scrope Shrapnel, R. C. A., at 1746 Fort street, Victoria. Those interested and desirous of signing can do so by calling any time between 9 a. m. and noon during this week at above address.

Miss Ard will deliver an address to the members of the St. John's branch of the Women's Auxiliary on Wednesday, January 27th, on (1) The results of the Pan-Anglican congress, which she attended; (2) The needs of the Church of England in the northwestern part of Canada; and (3) The work of the Women's Auxiliary. The lectures will be illustrated with lantern slides.

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EARTHQUAKE CATASTROPHE OF APPALLING DESCRIPTION

Whole Towns and Villages in Calabria and Sicily Shaken Into Ruins.

CASUALTIES ARE ALREADY ESTIMATED AT 75,000

Death Roll in Messina May Reach Tens of Thousands--Inhabitants Buried Alive in Shattered City--Tragic Isolation of Reggio--Mount Etna, Belching Forth Volumes of Smoke, Adds Terror to Scene--Aid is Hurried to Devastated Districts.

The earthquake in Calabria (Southern Italy) and Sicily yesterday was responsible for an appalling list of casualties and widespread destruction. A dispatch to the Tribune, of Rome, estimates the number of casualties at 75,000. It is said the dead at Messina alone will total tens of thousands, while numbers are buried alive beneath the ruins of the city. A conflagration followed the earthquake at Messina.

The present catastrophe covers a wider area than the terrible earthquake of 1905. Isolated districts yet to be heard from will swell the death roll. The Prefect of Reggio and the Bishop of Messina are said to lie buried beneath their respective cities.

Piteous scenes were enacted. The inhabitants throughout the earthquake area fled from their homes panic-stricken.

Warships, troops, provisions and aid of every description are being hurried to the devastated districts.

As a result of the seismic disturbance Mount Etna is in eruption and the volume of smoke rolling from its crater has added terror to the scene.

The configuration of the Straits of Messina has been altered by the immense tidal wave which followed close upon the earthquake.

Rome, Dec. 29.—The disaster in the province of Calabria and the island of Sicily has to-day assumed staggering proportions. Each successive report received from the stricken region makes it more apparent that the first stories of widespread destruction were uttered at all exaggerated.

Reggio still remains in its tragic isolation. It is impossible to get word from the stricken city and the silence gives rise to the most fearful apprehensions.

News has come from Messina, eight miles north of Reggio, but no reliable estimate of the dead there has been made.

Such confusion reigned that the robbers met with real success. The looting was under partial control, and comparative order had been partially restored.

Everything possible is being done to succor the wounded, but the relief measures are still utterly inadequate owing to the immediacy of the disaster.

Countless dead bodies are scattered through the wreckage and their decomposition will doubtless bring pestilence to add to the horrors of the situation. The devastation over the entire district was more or less complete. No part of the province of Reggio De Calabria escaped.

The disturbance was most severe along the shores of the Straits of Messina, where the cities of Messina and Reggio are situated. In more than one town the shock caused gas meters to explode and disastrous fires resulted.

Swells the Death List. The configuration of the Straits of Messina has been materially altered. The tidal wave that completed the destructive work of the quake was 32 feet high. Wireless telegraphy has been of the greatest assistance in getting in reports from the devastated regions and in helping the authorities to realize the extent of the disaster and to send help to the places where it was most urgently needed.

A flying squadron of the navy, composed of the three best battleships, had left for a cruise on the Atlantic before the news of the disaster came to hand. Through the medium of wireless telegraphy it was possible to reach these vessels and order them to proceed to Sicily.

It is reported from Catania that the Bishop of Messina is buried under the ruins of his residence. Signor Fulci, a member of the chamber of deputies from Messina, together with the members of his family, is also reported dead. The Fulci family was one of the most prominent in Catania.

The dome of the cathedral at Catania collapsed, and other churches as well as the city hall threatened to fall at any moment.

At Riposto, the tidal wave was terrible. At first the sea receded for a great distance from the shore. Then it swept forward with tremendous violence. The waves advanced in a huge wave and swept before it every house and building for a thousand feet from the shore line. The waters rushed through the streets of Riposto to a depth of from 15 to 20 feet.

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dreds of persons who had fled from their houses and were drowned or injured. A train load of doctors, nurses and hospital equipment has been sent out from here for Messina, and the steamer Marguerita, loaded to the guards with people who had relapsed in the doomed city, and others who will join in the work of relief, has been ordered to the country around Messina has been devastated, and that several villages have disappeared. Reggio is described by telegraphic reports as nothing but a vast sepulchre.

The captain of the steamer Washington, which was in the straits of Messina at the time of the earthquake, says his vessel shuddered as if she had run aground. A thick fog prevailed at the time. The Washington was surrounded with boats appearing for aid. The people were taken on board. The sea was littered with wreckage in every direction. The Russian warships that were at Syracuse have left for Messina to aid in the work of rescue.

Dead in Calabrian Towns. Rome, Dec. 29.—Reports have just been received from two other towns in Calabria—Cassano and Cosenza. Cassano is said to have suffered 1,000 deaths while the wounded number 500. At Cosenza 500 dead people already have been taken from the ruins. Large numbers were taken on board. Cosenza is the centre of a commune with a population of 21,000.

Towns Practically Destroyed. Monteleone, Calabria, Dec. 29.—The towns of Palmi and Bagnara have been practically destroyed. The dead at Palmi number 1,000 and it is impossible to estimate the injured. Large numbers were killed also at Bagnara and the list of wounded there also will be heavy. Details are lacking. Palmi has 10,000 inhabitants and Bagnara 7,500.

Religious Communities Wiped Out. London, Dec. 29.—A dispatch from Rome says the Pope has been notified that the entire religious communities

world over to assist the survivors of the catastrophe. The Pope heads the subscription list with 1,000,000 lire (\$200,000). It is understood that the King, Victor Emmanuel, gives 2,000,000 lire for the relief of the victims.

America's Sympathy. Washington, D.C., Dec. 29.—President Roosevelt, through the state department, has sent to King Victor Emmanuel of Italy a dispatch expressing his horror and that of the American people over the earthquake disaster and tendering sincere sympathy. The President also notes that the American National Red Cross has issued an appeal for contributions to aid the sufferers.

The state department and the Italian consuls were without any delay during the morning from its diplomatic or consular offices in Italy. At Messina the state department has both a consul and a deputy consul, the former being Arthur Schenck, of Connecticut, and the latter Jos. H. Pierce, an Italian. Ambassador Mayer Des Planches is hastening to Washington from New York, having left the city for a brief rest during the holidays.

Appeal in New York. New York, Dec. 29.—Count Mastigli, the Italian consul-general here, has issued the following statement: "Subscriptions for the relief of the victims of the earthquake in Sicily and Calabria are officially open at the consulate general of Italy, 225 Lafayette street, New York, at the Italian chamber of commerce, 203 Broadway, and at the office of the delegate of the Italian Red Cross, 69 Wall street.

Relief From Boston. Boston, Mass., Dec. 29.—A public appeal for the relief of the Italian earthquake victims has been issued by Governor Guild to-day.

Taft Sends Message. Washington, D. C., Dec. 29.—The American National Red Cross to-day sent a telegram over the signature of its president, Wm. H. Taft, to the Italian Red Cross at Rome in the following language: "The American Red Cross desires to tender to the Italian Red Cross its profound sympathy because of the terrible earthquake in Sicily and Calabria. An appeal has been issued to the American Red Cross

for contributions for the benefit of the sufferers."

Situation Desperate. Rome, Dec. 29.—The three provinces of Cosenza, Catanzaro and Reggio de Calabria, comprising the department of Calabria, which forms the southwestern extremity of Italy, or "the toe of the boot" were devastated yesterday by an earthquake, the far-reaching effects of which were felt almost throughout the country.

The town of Messina, in Sicily, was partly destroyed and Catania was inundated. In Messina hundreds of houses have fallen, and many persons have been killed. Owing, however, to the fact that telegraphic and telephonic communications were almost completely destroyed, it is impossible to obtain an approximate idea of the vast damage done.

The uncertainty of the situation has filled all Italy with the deepest distress, for they still have fear that the day may come when that part of the country which seems to have been most blest by nature will be destroyed by the blind forces of that same nature which newly nineteen centuries ago Overwhelmed Pompeii and Herculaneum.

All reports show that the present catastrophe embraces a larger area than the earthquake in 1905. The tidal wave which followed the earthquake shocks on the eastern coast of Sicily sunk vessels and inundated the lower part of Catania. It is known that a number of people were killed in that place. The rushing waters carried everything before them and caused an indescribable confusion.

For a period the town of Messina and the whole province of Reggio were completely isolated through interruptions to the telephone and telegraph, and landlides that obstructed the railways. Absolutely nothing was heard from Reggio throughout yesterday, while the first news from Messina came in the form of a dispatch which a torpedo boat, flying at full speed along the coast of the peninsula,

carried from point to point, always finding the wires down, until it reached Nicotera, where the telegraph wires were found to be intact. From this point the dispatch was sent. It briefly stated that the situation was desperate, and added that Capt. Pasino, commander of the local station of torpedo boats, was buried under the debris, after having, with other officials, performed heroic work in trying to save others.

The Italian government has proceeded energetically to concentrate at the points of greatest need troops and engineers, and provisions were immediately prepared, all available railway lines and warships being used for their transportation.

A steamer reached Catania, loaded with soldiers who were stationed by terror that they seemed unable to realize what had happened, simply saying that it looked as though the end of the world had come. Five steamers left Catania for Messina to assist in removing the injured from that place, who are reported to number thousands.

At Catania the Panic-Stricken People, fearing new shocks, absolutely refused to re-enter their houses, and are camping on the squares which are free from water. The tidal wave sank five hundred boats there, and did great damage to several large vessels and steamers, including the Austrian steamer Buda.

Not only did Catania suffer from the effects of a tidal wave, but a similar body of water inundated the handsome streets of Messina, which flank the harbor, covering them with a thick layer of mud which rendered difficult the succoring of the wounded, many of whom could be seen lying under the wreckage. It is reported that the villages of Faro and Giarretto, adjoining Messina, have disappeared.

The effects of the earthquake were aggravated by fire from an explosion of gas. The flames, which swept along several of the streets, added terror upon terror. In Calabria the region around Monteleone was most severely struck. The village of Stefano, the inhabitants of which number 2,800, was practically destroyed. Only five persons were killed, but many were injured.

Monsignor Miroballo, the Bishop of Mileto, who distinguished himself in the earthquake of 1905, did valiant work yesterday. He rushed into places where the ruin was the greatest, and brought aid and encouragement to the thousands of people abandoned their homes, although a terrific rainstorm prevailed, and filled the air with lamentations and prayers. In some places, such as Briso, Santa Severina and Piscopo, the people had the courage to enter their churches almost while they were falling, and carry out the saints. They bore these in procession through the open country, invoking the Mercy of God.

In the mountainous regions, the population has taken refuge in caves, where peasants and priests, soldiers and persons of gentle birth, are living in common. Their bed is on the ground, and fires burn to keep off wild animals.

Extraordinary scenes are reported at Catania following a violent earth shock at 5:30 a. m. yesterday, the sea having risen in a tremendous wave which wrecked many houses. A secondary tidal wave caused further great damage and wrecks.

Awakened by the shock, the inhabitants fled panic-stricken from their homes into the streets and squares. Processions were organized and all the churches were filled with weeping crowds, imploring divine mercy. Cardinal Nava, archbishop of Catania, exhorted the people to be calm. He promised that the body of St. Agatha should be carried around in procession. St. Agatha is regarded as the special deliverer from all scourges.

While the number of deaths at that place is not believed to be large, there were several Tragic Occurrences. Among the children swept away by the tidal wave was a boy 15 months old, who was torn from the arms of his mother. The mother, too, was overwhelmed by the force of the water and lost consciousness. Her body was caught by a railing and remained there until she was rescued.

Midnight reports state that Reggio, the capital of the province of Reggio di Calabria, eight miles from Messina, on the opposite side of the straits, has met the same fate as Messina, but the reports have not been confirmed owing to the lack of telegraphic facilities.

A very severe shock was felt at Catanzaro, a city of Sicily, and although much damage was done, no one was killed. The shock created great alarm, and notwithstanding the down-pour of rain the whole population remained in the streets throughout the day and marched in religious processions.

The Pope Greatly Distressed at hearing of the catastrophe which had afflicted the loyal population in the south, he could hardly credit the truth of the dispatches declaring the devastation and fatalities as ten times greater than in 1905. After kneeling fervently in prayer, His Holiness arose and said as he said three years ago that he felt his place was amongst his suffering children. It was his firm intention to order that instructions be given for the beginning of the journey, but his physicians and those in attendance upon him insisted that it would be impossible for him to undertake such a fatiguing expedition in the present condition of his health.

A flying squadron composed of the battleships Victoria Emmanuel, Regina Elena and Napoli, has been ordered to Messina. They will arrive Tuesday morning, together with steamers carrying supplies and troops. Signor Bertolini, the minister of public works, left here to-night for the south. Altogether 3,000 troops have been sent southward from this city in the past 24 hours, while from other military posts about 15,000 men are now on their way to Calabria and Sicily.

Removing Wreckage. Catania, Sicily, Dec. 29.—Hundreds of workmen were set to the task of removing wreckage and repairing the damage done by the earthquake. The distance is nearly sixty miles, but late last night, communication by rail be-

between the two towns was established. The first small train over the line brought a number of injured, but the story that they told of the disaster was very much confused.

Churches Razed. Palermo, Dec. 29.—Reports from all the towns and villages around Messina state that serious damage has been done by the earthquake, and that the number of victims is large. The greatest damage was done to buildings and churches at Florida, Terra Nova, Marlanopoli and Faro. At Mineo, there were a number of shocks.

At Augusta, which once before was destroyed by an earthquake, the tidal wave yesterday wrecked the government salt works. The prisoners employed there mutilated, but the mutiny was eventually suppressed.

The Santa Maria college at All, a little place between Messina and Catania, was overturned. Several girls students were buried in the ruins. The steamer Piedmont, according to word received here, has arrived at Milazzo with 300 women and children and 80 men who were injured at Messina. After transferring the wounded, the Piedmont started for the stricken city. There is no doubt that a large portion of Messina has been destroyed.

INCREASED RATES RAISE STORM OF PROTEST California is to Demonstrate Against New Transcontinental Tariff.

San Francisco, Cal., Dec. 29.—One hundred mass meetings will be held throughout the state to protest against the proposed increase in transcontinental freight rates, which are scheduled to go into effect on January 1st. Every important city in the state will have a meeting and the speakers will voice the protest of the shippers of California to what is termed the imposition of a \$10,000,000 annual tax on California consumers, that being the estimated difference between the rates now in force and that which the companies seek to collect after the first of the year.

SOLVE LABOR PROBLEM ON PANAMA CANAL WORK U. S. Closes Agencies in Europe—Maximum Force Now Employed.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 29.—With the early arrival in Washington from Paris of Leroy Parks, of the isthmian canal commission, there will be signalled an epoch in the construction of the canal. Officers of the commission are now certain that they have solved the labor problem that once was vexing, and have instructed Mr. Parks, his labor agent in Europe, to close his office in Paris and return to the United States.

The withdrawal of the labor agent is not designed to stop immigration from Europe to the canal zone, but is in harmony with the closing of labor agencies in various parts of the world. Instead of three agencies in the United States, the number has been reduced to one, with Henry W. Smith in charge in New York, and instead of two in the West Indies, henceforth there will be only one, and that in the Bermudas.

The one in the Bermudas and the one located in New York will be the only agencies maintained by the government.

It is explained at the office of the commission that the maximum force now has been employed throughout the work in to be confined to actual canal building. Municipal work, erecting houses, installing water and sewer systems and road-making are said to have reached the stage where most of the expenditure for them will be for maintenance. Men previously employed in these lines of work are being transferred to other departments, and thus the demand for new men has been materially reduced. It is found helpful to keep one or two agencies open in order to supply laborers for emergencies and to guard against any contingency.

U. S. FLEET IN RED SEA. Warships Due at Suez Two Days Ahead of Schedule Time.

Perin, Arabia, Dec. 29.—The American scout cruiser Yankton arrived here this morning from Colombo. She reports that the U. S. battleship fleet under Rear-Admiral Sperry will pass here and enter the Red sea at Suez on January 3rd, two days ahead of their schedule.

All on board the Yankton are well. The cruiser is taking on coal. The fleet experienced perfect weather on its run from Colombo.

MURDERS HIS WIFE. Toronto, Ont., Dec. 29.—J. Foy, of Morse street, shot and killed his wife yesterday afternoon and then tried to commit suicide by jumping into Ashbridge Bay. He was pulled out and arrested.

TO AID VESSELS IN DISTRESS. United States Revenue Cutter Manning Will Be Stationed at Entrance of Straits.

A letter has been received from W. H. Cushing, senior captain in the United States revenue cutter service, stating that the Manning has been stationed at the entrance to the Straits of Fucus, with headquarters at Nash Bay, for the purpose of aiding distressed vessels. He asks that information any vessels in distress be sent to him immediately at whatever point she may be. Capt. Cushing can be reached at Fort Townsend by wire or by telephone, independent of Sunset, and in the evening by Sunset 1822.



MAP SHOWING SCENE OF DEVASTATION

of Messina and Reggio, including bishops, priests, monks, and nuns, have been hurried out by the earthquake and fire.

Terrible Tidal Wave. Rome, Dec. 29.—The government is sending troops with the utmost dispatch by land and sea to the scene of the disaster. No authentic news has yet been received from Reggio.

The Tribune publishes an interview with a refugee who made his way into Monteleone, in Calabria. This man says many hundreds of living persons are still beneath the ruins in Calabrian towns, but it is impossible to relieve them.

At Riposto, the tidal wave was terrible. At first the sea receded for a great distance from the shore. Then it swept forward with tremendous violence. The waves advanced in a huge wave and swept before it every house and building for a thousand feet from the shore line. The waters rushed through the streets of Riposto to a depth of from 15 to 20 feet.

Queen Helena Shakes Dancer. Rome, Dec. 29.—Queen Helena has refused to allow her husband, the King, to go alone to the scene of the disaster. She said she would not give up her privilege of sharing her husband's danger and consequently both of them left Rome this afternoon together for the south. The royal couple arrived earlier in the day from Naples.

The Queen explained to a member of her entourage that she considered it her duty to do all in her power to comfort and help her afflicted subjects. Their Majesties left the railroad station here at half past one. Just before the train pulled out they embraced their four children who are in no sense aware of the gravity of the catastrophe. A number of ministers, senators and deputies, together with the mayor of Rome were at the station to bid farewell to the King and Queen.

Pope Heads Subscription List. Rome, Dec. 29.—It was announced this afternoon that the Pope will inaugurate the establishment of an international committee of Catholics the

WINS IN THIRTY-NINTH

Up Game Struggle

Appointing

hibition.

Al., Dec. 31.—Al. Kaut-

Francisco, won from Jim

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& A. M.

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the year, 1909:

ic, C. Crawford; I. P.

nd Russell; S. W.

W. James; Charles

r. John Mount Lang-

G. M. Robert B. Mc-

George Kirkendall;

Salley Deaville; J. D.

island; inner guard-

sr. steward, Thomas

eward, Ernest David

of ceremonies, Lewis

organist, Halcrow

ster, Frederick Stock-

by meeting of the

akes place on Friday

ry 8. The secretary

obliged if all mem-

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possible moment.

took place Monday at

Cadboro Bay, of Mr. J.

Oliver, and Miss Olive,

of this city. The cere-

by Rev. T. E. Hol-

W. Fiddle. Attendance

good number were pre-

Christmas entertain-

Methodist church it

will take place this

its entertainment is

as the "Night School

boys in attendance at

take a large part in

The

GUNBOAT CREW IS BEATEN BACK

ADHERENTS OF CASTRO GAIN TEMPORARY SUCCESS

Seventy Casualties in Engagement at Macuro, on Venezuelan Coast.

Port of Spain, Trinidad, Dec. 29.—There has been fighting at Macuro, on the Venezuelan coast, between adherents of former President Castro and the crew of a gunboat working in the interest of the new president, Juan Vicente Gomez. About twenty men were killed and some fifty wounded. The Gomez party was obliged to withdraw temporarily, but later it returned to resume the engagement.

The Miranda left La Guayra for Macuro with a number of officials on board who were to take the places of officials on board who had been serving under Castro. The Miranda arrived off Macuro yesterday morning. It was at once discovered that General Torres had gotten together about 500 men and that he was prepared to resist a landing.

The Miranda cleared and went into action. She made use of her batteries and the men on board tried to effect a landing. In this they were not successful. The men under Torres succeeded in keeping them off.

The fighting lasted about four hours. When the captain of the Miranda saw the situation was impossible he withdrew and came to Port of Spain, arriving late yesterday afternoon. A dispatch was at once sent to President Gomez, via Curacao, informing him of the matter. The Miranda then took to sea.

As soon as this news became known in Port of Spain a large contingent of the Venezuelan colony volunteered to help the government, and the office of the Venezuelan consul was besieged by men anxious to return to Macuro and fight. A number of the volunteers were accepted and went aboard the gunboat, which at once started for Macuro, where the engagement will be continued.

LIBERAL VICTORIES IN QUEBEC ELECTIONS

(Special to the Times).
Montreal, Que., Dec. 29.—The provincial by-elections resulted in a clean sweep for the Liberals. M. J. Walsh was elected in Saint Anne division by 136; Mr. Levesque, in Laval, by 164; Mr. Mercier, in Chateauguay, by 96; and Mr. Leclaire, in Quebec Centre, by 154.

DOUBLE SHOOTING

Hawkesbury, Ont., Dec. 29.—The town was thrown into excitement by a double shooting in which J. M. Asally, a wealthy Syrian merchant, was fatally wounded, and a woman, also a Syrian, was badly wounded and will probably die. The shooting was done by Salem Asally, a brother of the wounded man, who in the excitement escaped.

MONAGNERIAN DEAD

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 29.—Patrick Forristal is dead, aged 94. He was one of the oldest citizens of Halifax and was an alderman in 1860 at the time the Prince of Wales, now King Edward, visited Halifax.

NEGOTIATIONS IN NEAR EASTERN QUESTION

Turkey to Treat with Austria and Bulgaria Looking to Settlement.

Constantinople, Dec. 29.—Count Palaeologu, the Austrian ambassador to Turkey, yesterday had interviews with the Grand Vizier and Tewfik Pasha, the minister of foreign affairs. They found them both totally opposed to the acceptance of Austria's suggestion for a settlement of the Bosnia and Herzegovina question. The count was informed, however, that the Ottoman ambassador at Vienna had been instructed to open negotiations with Baron Von Aehrenthal, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, and the opinion was expressed that with the good will of both sides a satisfactory agreement eventually would be reached. It is understood that the Porte will shortly invite Bulgaria to send delegates to resume negotiations for a settlement of the Turco-Bulgarian questions.

PEASANTS KILLED

Vienna, Dec. 29.—Some excitement was aroused in this city yesterday by exaggerated reports of an alleged fight between Austrian and Serbian troops near Zillinga, a village of Bosnia. The war office, however, has received a dispatch on the occurrence which shows that it was of little importance. On December 28rd some Serbian peasants fired on an Austrian patrol and wounded a corporal. The patrol returned the fire and two of the peasants were killed.

SULTAN'S PARLIAMENT

Abdul Hamid Will Build at His Own Expense New Legislative House.
Constantinople, Dec. 29.—At yesterday's sitting of the new Turkish parliament the president announced that the Sultan had decided to build, at his own expense, a new parliament house with adequate accommodation for the two branches of the legislature.

FISHERIES COMMISSION

Stanford University, Cal., Dec. 29.—By order of the state department and the British foreign office, the date for the report for the international fisheries commission has been postponed from January 1st to June 30th. This postponement is rendered necessary by the resignation of S. T. Bastedo, the Canadian member of the commission, who has been made a deputy minister. Prof. Edward T. Prince, of the University of Toronto, his successor, has asked for more time to acquaint himself with the work before making his report. Dr. David Starr Jordan is the American member of the commission.

TARIFF QUESTION LOOMS LARGELY

U. S. MAY HAVE PATENT PROTECTION CLAUSE IN BILL

Protest Against Free Entry of Canadian Coal Into States.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 29.—The House ways and means committee, which will frame a revised tariff bill, has received numerous suggestions and requests for changes from "ad valorem" duties to specific rates and vice versa have been most numerous. A suggestion has been made that a way out of the tariff difficulty could be found by copying the law recently enacted in Great Britain, which makes it necessary for all patented articles for consumption there to be manufactured in that country. The committee may look into the merits of the idea.

Claiming that a reduction in the duty on laces from the present rate of sixty per cent "ad valorem" to 20 per cent would greatly increase the revenue to the government, a New York firm suggested a novel method by which this reduction could be made so that the holder of stocks here would not sustain heavy losses. They propose that the duty be reduced five per cent semi-annually.

A petition signed by nearly 200 manufacturers of women's and children's garments in which laces and embroideries are used, asking for a reduction in the duties on those articles, has been filed with the committee.

There promises to be a lively discussion between the members of the subcommittee that is working on the new bill when coal and hides schedules are reached. A West Virginia coal company has entered a strong protest against the free entry of coal, unless a similar concession is obtained from Canada, claiming that it should have five times as much American coal sold in Canada as there was Canadian coal sold in the United States during 1907.

Several manufacturers have testified that they could stand a slight reduction in the tariff on their products.

PUSHING WHEELBARROW

9,000 MILES, FOR A WAGER

San Francisco, Cal., Dec. 29.—J. A. Krohn, of Portland, Maine, arrived in this city to-day on a walk of 9,000 miles which he is to make on a wager in 400 days. According to the conditions of the bet, Krohn, who is better known as "Colonial Jack," must push a wheelbarrow en route and cover the distance in the time named. He has already walked 4,660 miles, an average of 26 miles a day. To complete the walk on schedule time he must walk a fraction over 22 miles a day, and in spite of 11 days lost on account of illness he is far ahead of the requirements.

The "Sphinx" wheelbarrow, which the pedestrian trundles on his long walk, is covered with the postmarks of 435 post offices. It also has a speed meter attached to register the number of miles covered. The wager on the outcome of the walk is \$1,000 against 2,000 copies of the book which Krohn will write on the completion of his walk.

MAINE MAN ARRIVES IN 'FRISCO ON HIS LONG JAUNT

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WILSON COMPANY GET RIGHT TO SPUR LINE

Referendum Vote on Sunday Closing—Routine at Council.

Among other things accomplished by the city council Monday was the taking of another step towards the creation of a large wholesale business district in the area between Government street and the waterfront, north of Cormorant street.

Wilson Bros. and the B. Wilson Co. applied jointly for permission to construct a spur line of track from the E. & N. terminals on Chatham street into their warehouses on the following terms: The work to be done under the direction and subject to the approval of the city engineer, to be done with expedition so as to cause as little inconvenience as possible to the public, and to protect the public while the work is in progress, any damage done to the streets to be made good; the company to keep the street and sidewalks between the tracks and for 18 inches on each side in good order; to warn the public while the tracks were in use; to keep the rails flush with the street level; to be responsible to the city and public for every damage done by the operation of the spur line, and to accept the privilege with all its risks, and the city to have the right to revoke the privilege at any time on reasonable notice.

It was moved by Ald. McKewon, seconded by Ald. Pauline, that the request be granted subject to the conditions mentioned, which have received the approval of the city solicitor.

Ald. Gleason brought up a former refusal of a spur line in another case.

Ald. McKewon said citizens should be anxious to do everything possible

FUTURE CENTRE OF WHOLESALE

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SNOW STORM IN BRITAIN

London, Dec. 29.—The British Isles are experiencing a severe snow storm.

FIRST LOCOMOTIVE AT PRINCE RUPERT.

In Scotland the train service is tied up and many factories have closed down. Several English country roads are blocked with snow drifts.

INDIAN DISAPPEARS NEAR NAHOOSE BAY

Nanaimo, Dec. 29.—A Nanaimo Indian named Wm. Quatsam, has been lost in the woods near Nahoose Bay since Tuesday last. On Tuesday Quatsam, in company with two other Indians, left Nahoose on a deer hunting expedition. During the day the man separated, and toward evening two of the number returned to camp. Quatsam, however, did not put in an appearance. On Thursday his friends became alarmed at his non-appearance and instituted a search, but to no avail. A third search party returned home Saturday evening with no news of the lost man. The missing Indian is about fifty years of age, and even should he be only lost in the woods, and not killed by accidentally discharging his rifle, or by falling over a bluff, as some of his friends fear might have happened, the severe work that he has done throughout the district the past few days would undoubtedly go hard with him.

The Chinese joss house, a new building in course of erection in the town, was demolished by a heavy gale on Friday afternoon. The prospective joss house now lies a sorry wreck, to the infinite dismay. Two weeks ago, when the Chinese had the building up to the height of two stories, it collapsed for some unknown reason, but the citizens of the Sunshine Kingdom hastened to counteract the work of the "devil" and by Christmas Eve had accomplished the raising of the third story. Their efforts were doomed to failure in Friday's blow, which brought the uncompleted structure down with a crash.

TWO MEN HELD UP

Nelson, Dec. 28.—A trio of masked hold-up men paid a visit to the little town of Brideswell, Wash., just south of the boundary, a few evenings ago, and succeeded in securing a small haul from two men whom they sought out. The men held up were J. V. Ingraham, Great Northern agent at Brideswell, and the storekeeper. From the former they secured only a small amount of money, but from the latter they took \$50. Chief Provincial Police Devine and other members of the British Columbia force have been working on the case since then, searching the country on this side of the line for the desperadoes.

The Great Northern railway, through B. C. Morgan, superintendent at Spokane, has \$250 reward for the arrest and conviction of each of the men engaged in this hold-

REFERENDUM ON PUBLICITY VOTE

COUNCIL WILL TAKE VIEWS OF ELECTORATE

Question of Granting \$7,500 to Tourist Association Will Be Submitted.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)
At the forthcoming municipal elections the ratepayers will have an opportunity to show their appreciation of the work done in making their city better known, by the Tourist Association, by voting "yes" to the following question put under the referendum by-law:

"Shall the council grant a sum not exceeding \$7,500 to the Victoria Development and Tourist Association for the year 1909 out of the general revenue of the city?"

The submission of this question was moved by Ald. Henderson and seconded by Ald. McKewon.

Ald. Henderson pointed out that the amount was to be in the council's discretion and it would not be bound to vote the full sum. The question only covered one year but it could be taken that the expression of the people's view would be sufficient guidance for three or four years.

Ald. Norman thought there should be an alternative amount put in, as a negative vote on the \$2,500 would leave next year's council no better off.

The Mayor suggested \$5,000 and for three years.

Ald. Cameron spoke in favor of the proposition to make the grant \$7,500. Being a debatable question it was for the people to say if the city should make a grant.

Ald. Mable said he had no doubt in his mind what the very emphatic result would be a vote in the negative.

Ald. Gleason moved an amendment to make the grant one of \$5,000 for three years, but could get no seconder. He took the view that business men who had profited by the advertising of the city should contribute towards the Association's work.

Ald. Meston saw no reason for cutting down the figure. If the people would give \$5,000 they would give \$7,500.

Ald. Hall did not think it sensible to fix the amount at \$5,000 without knowing whether the Tourist Association could do its work efficiently on that sum. Referring to the suggestion that the proposition would be defeated Ald. Hall declared it was most extraordinary and unfair if the people not benefiting directly by the publicity campaign were to vote against it and override what was for the benefit of the entire city. He thought the matter should be submitted as a money by-law and voted on by those who could vote on such matters. It would look in very bad taste if Victoria was to refuse to spend anything, while at the same time urging the federal and provincial governments to spend money at Seattle for its benefit, in part.

Ald. Henderson objected to borrowing money for advertising purposes, and expressed his confidence that the people would approve of the grant. The Tourist Association was doing good work and should be kept up.

Mayor Hall quoted a transportation man's estimate that half a million people will pass through the city next summer.

"The assessment of Victoria increased one million dollars this year and we spent four hundred dollars on advertising," said Ald. Pauline. "If the ratepayers turn down a grant of a paltry \$7,500 for advertising purposes in the most important year we have yet had I will have a very poor opinion of their business judgment. But I do not believe they will turn it down."

The form of question as originally suggested was agreed to unanimously on January 14th.

ACCIDENTALLY KILLED

Resident of Salt Spring Island Met Death by Falling Tree.
Matthew Anderson, a rancher living at one of the small islands lying between Sidney and Salt Spring Island, was killed on Christmas morning by a falling tree, which was blown down by the gale. He was crossing from his residence to the barn on the property when the limb fell on him. Death was almost instantaneous, the unfortunate man having been struck on the head.

The body was discovered some time later by his wife, who, upon his failure to return home, went to look for her husband. It was some hours before medical aid could be obtained. An inquest was held on Saturday at Salt Spring Island when a verdict of accidental death was returned. The deceased was about forty years of age and was well known in the district.

WILL BUILD AERIAL TRAM LINE

Phoenix, Dec. 28.—If the present plans for shipping facilities at the B. C. Copper Company's Wollington camp properties are carried out, a comparatively short spur will require to be built by the Great Northern railway from its main line. An aerial tram line will probably be constructed to carry the ore across the canyon from the mines to the spur line. To build a spur to the properties would involve a very large outlay.

HILL ROAD SECURES LAND

Vancouver, Dec. 28.—Council for the Hill railways announced to-day that the recent purchase of land made on the east end of False Creek were made with a view of establishing permanent terminals in Vancouver. Approximately a million dollars worth of property has changed hands during the last ten days in connection with the deal.

ENGINE JUMPS TRACK

Grand Forks, Dec. 28.—The engine of a C. P. R. freight train jumped the track at the bridge near Fife, B. C., on Saturday afternoon. Both the engineer and fireman jumped, the latter being severely bruised. The engine now lies at the bottom of the embankment, the rest of the train remaining on the track.

NINE OUT FOR MAYORALTY

Official Number of Entries in Cornwall, Ont.—Nominations in Ontario.

Guelp. Ont., Dec. 29.—Nominations for Mayor were: John Newstead (present occupant of the mayoralty chair), Aldermen Thorpe, Penfold, Simpson and Nelson, and George Hastings.

Hamilton, Ont., Dec. 29.—Aldermen W. G. Bailey and G. I. MacLaren were nominated yesterday for the mayoralty.

London, Ont., Dec. 29.—Mayor Stevely and Fred. Darch were nominated for the mayoralty here yesterday.

Corwall, Ont., Dec. 29.—Nine candidates were nominated here for the mayoralty. They are: F. J. Harding, W. Pollock, P. E. Campbell, N. J. Fyall, W. J. Deruchie, Dr. Munro, Danny, Dr. W. C. McGuire and A. C. Fetterly.

HARMONY AT INDIAN CONGRESS

LORD MORLEY'S REFORM PLANS ARE APPROVED

Co-operation With Britain Leading to Colonial Self-Government.

Madras, Dec. 29.—The Indian national congress was opened in this city yesterday with 2,000 delegates in attendance. Emphatic approval of the reform plans for India, advanced by Lord Morley, the Indian chief secretary, was expressed.

The session yesterday was entirely harmonious, and the meeting this year promises to clear the air and put a damper upon the activities of agitators who recently have caused much anxiety.

At the last meeting of the congress, just a year ago, opposition to the election of Dr. Ghose as president resulted in a free fight, and was the cause of congress being indefinitely postponed. Referring to the Morley reforms, Dr. Ghose declared yesterday that they had broken up the sinister clouds which had hung over India for the last twelve months, and he said they would give India something like a constitutional government instead of the unpopular autocratic regime.

Continuing, Dr. Ghose criticized all repressive legislation. He said British sovereignty could not be spoken by a "few flasks of bicric acid or a few pounds of powder," and he hoped that the genuine co-operation of the Indians with the British government would lead to the obtaining of colonial self-government.

WORKING OF PAROLE SYSTEM

Winnipeg, Man., Dec. 29.—Dominion parole officer Archibald arrived in Winnipeg yesterday to put into effect the juvenile delinquent act. Manitoba province is to apply for a royal proclamation under the act. He says in nine years 20,000 convicts were released under the parole system, of whom 13,000 secured full liberty, 5,000 returning to a criminal life. He thinks British Columbia will be the next province to adopt the act.

AVALANCHE OF EARTH OVERHELMS VILLAGERS

Thirty Killed and Many Injured on Mountain Side in Italian Commune.

Venice, Dec. 29.—A disastrous landslide occurred at midnight yesterday in the commune of Agordine, 25 miles from Belluno. A great mass of rock and earth of an estimated volume of 100,000 cubic metres chashed down the side of Mount Pale, about 2,300 feet high, and divided into two parts, one falling on the village of Pra and sweeping away more than 100 human houses. The terrific roar of the earth as it began to slide gave the villagers warning, and some were able to escape. More than thirty persons were, however, killed, and a great number injured.

DISASTROUS CAVE-IN AT FRENCH; TEN DIE

Gas From Broken Main Pours in Upon Entombed Laborers.

Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 29.—Two bodies have been recovered and eight more are known to have been buried in the cave-in of the trench at the blast furnace plant at Emley last night. Several other laborers and two foremen were injured. Most of the dead are foreigners.

The men were excavating for a new gas flue. When the wall of earth fell it broke down the brick work at the end of the big four-foot gas main, and immediately immense quantities of gas were poured in upon the entombed men.

TO WINTER IN VICTORIA

Lethbridge, Alta., Dec. 29.—Ald. Wm. Oliver, Mrs. Oliver and Miss Oliver will leave next week for Victoria, where Mr. Oliver has rented a furnished residence.

HUGE LUMBER DEAL

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 29.—The properties of the Alfred Dickie Lumber Co. in Nova Scotia, have been sold to an English syndicate headed by Sir Thos. Townbridge. The price is \$1,165,000. The deal was put through by the Royal Bank of Canada.

LAW IS CLEAR AS TO OLD MEN

THEY CANNOT VOTE AT NEXT CIVIC ELECTION

Magistrate Jay, in Discussing Appeal, Advises Changes in Act.

"It is with the greatest reluctance that I come to the conclusion that the applicants have not made out a case," said Justice Magistrate Jay on Tuesday in giving judgment on the application of Joseph Peirson and one hundred and four other householders, over fifty, who desired to have their names placed on the municipal voters' lists.

The magistrate read the definition of a voter and of a householder as set out in the Municipal Elections act, a household being one who, unless exempt from payment of road tax as a militia-man, has "paid directly to the municipality all rates, taxes or assessments which are not chargeable on land, which rates, taxes or assessments so paid shall amount to not less than two dollars, due to the municipality for the current year, other than water rates, or taxes, or licence fees for dogs." His Worship continued:

"After careful consideration of the statutory definition of householder, I have reluctantly come to the conclusion that the applicants have not made out their case within it, and I cannot entertain their application to be placed upon the list. I must say it is with some regret that I have come to this conclusion, because many of these gentlemen have been known to me for years and thirty-five or forty years some of them have lived in the city and exercised the privilege of voting.

"It is certainly a very great hardship that should now be deprived of that privilege. However, I am bound by the act and could not come to any other conclusion as the law now stands. But I think that the matter should be brought to the attention of the Legislature at the next session so that what is an evident oversight should be remedied."

Solicitor Mann stated that the Union of B. C. Municipalities had the matter in hand.

WIFE TO ANSWER FOR "RED GABLES" MURDER

Two Women Arrested on the Charge of Killing J. C. Erb.

Media, Pa., Dec. 29.—Mrs. M. Florence Erb and her sister, Mrs. Katherine Beisel, were placed on trial in the Delaware county court here to-day charged with the murder of Mrs. Erb's husband, Capt. J. C. Erb, at his country home, "Red Gables," near Village Green, on the night of October 6th.

Capt. Erb, who was secretary to I. W. Durham, the Republican leader of Philadelphia, and also a well-known National guardsman, was shot during a quarrel in which Mrs. Erb and Mrs. Beisel participated. Mrs. Beisel is charged with having fired the shot that killed the captain, but both she and Mrs. Erb have been jointly and separately indicted on a charge of murder.

SAVED FROM POTTER'S FIELD

Body of Unfriendly Englishman Is Claimed by Masons of Toronto.

Toronto, Ont., Dec. 29.—Henry Ford, an Englishman, died suddenly on Christmas Day. His body being unclaimed, was handed over to a School of Anatomy. Later on, the officials charged with his effects found he possessed forty-two dollars, that he was a Free Mason and game of a good family in Sussex, England. The Masons of Toronto were informed and saved the body from burial in the Potter's Field, as well as from mutilation by the surgeon's knife.

QUEENSTOWN HEIGHTS

Coat Worn by Sir Isaac Brock to Be Sent to Canada.

Toronto, Ont., Dec. 29.—The coat worn by Sir Isaac Brock at the Battle of Queenstown Heights will be sent to Canada and deposited in the Dominion Museum. It comes from Miss Henrietta Tupper, of Guernsey, Channel Islands, his grandniece. Brock has not a single living male descendant.

BISHOP MICHAUD'S FUNERAL

Burlington, Vt., Dec. 29.—Prelates of the Roman Catholic church from New England, New York and Canada, participated to-day in the funeral service of the late Bishop John S. Michaud, of the Burlington diocese. The mass was celebrated in St. Mary's cathedral with the Right Rev. Thos. D. Beaven, Bishop of the Springfield, Mass. diocese, officiating. Rev. A. J. Barron, of Bennington, preached the sermon.

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W. C. STEWART OPENS MUSICAL PROGRAM

Candidate for Mayor Has Aspirations

W. C. Stewart, for alderman in a campaign in a people's hall Tuesday was small owing to counter attraction of entertainments in the art is nothing if a cordially he introduced a musical program.

Mr. Stewart, candidate for alderman in a campaign in a people's hall Tuesday was small owing to counter attraction of entertainments in the art is nothing if a cordially he introduced a musical program. Lawrence gave piano and the music throughout the night. The clear last night of 49 he has set Mayor of Victoria has only three says he is going is not elected will be a candidate year, he adds, the fair warning. His assurances summarized in the matic sentences of address last night "I want to work like the deuce, buck. I'm not a he I have never smote. But eat; I any of you and I Mr. Stewart's speech made up of remin plied and short a ful life. Through treated the strong Victoria for the Stewart is a men Unfortunately were present. The meeting was the meeting of the school Next Tuesday he would North Ward promised "an en gramme."

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Steedman's aim.

To make children Happy & Healthy.

STEEDMAN'S SOOTHING POWDERS

contain no poison.

They prevent fits and convulsions, and relieve feverish heat.

STEEDMAN'S THE DOUBLE E E YOUR GUARANTEE.

Black Water

Chewin Tobacco

