

Baking Powder

Wholly Pure

... that lands should be assessed more equitably. Mr. Grant then moved the same resolution re taxation of the property of the Royal Oak meeting. Mr. Munro Miller in a short speech said that the grievance could be remedied by amending the act so that the property holder at the court of assessment an equitable reduction without having the trouble of going to court of appeal. Small holders often neglect to appeal because of the trouble and cost. Mr. Miller also suggested that the assessor publish his assessment so that every one could see that he was not assessed more than his neighbors. If one man would be wise to suggest remedies to alleviate any grievances than pass reflections on any government officer.

Mr. Irving suggested that they petition the government to secure the necessary authority to tax the assessors their own money. The election of South Victoria should form themselves into a municipality.

Mr. J. F. Chandler did not vote for the resolution at the Royal Oak meeting because he would prefer to favor a resolution reflecting on the assessors. Mr. Booth, the assessor, however, could not assess all the lands properly without a personal knowledge. The court of revision did not redress all grievances. Those who kicked got what they wanted, those who didn't got nothing. If one man got his taxation assessed it unqualified the whole assessment. The farmers were placed at a disadvantage in such a court. The assessor knew little about the value of land, the judge of the court knew less. The farmer did not get a fair assessment. Taxation reduced he could appeal to the supreme courts and the final result there knew less about the value of land than did the judge of the court of revision. (Laughter.) He suggested that a commission of farmers should value the land and estimate the assessment. Mr. Stevens again spoke briefly for the resolution. He pointed out that when they went to the present assessor he said that it was not his fault, that he carried out the instructions of the government. Mr. Stevens held that the assessor did not understand his business or he would not have assessed lands in South Victoria as he had done. Mr. Stevens then moved an amendment that Mr. J. F. Chandler moved an amendment, striking out that portion which called for the appointment of another assessor. Mr. George Deans seconded the amendment.

Mr. Stevens protested against one section of the resolution and another section a different resolution. If the resolution was to be passed, it should be unanimous.

Mr. Grant also thought it advisable to divide the resolution into two parts. He said that the lands were not assessed properly and they were anxious to see a man who could assess them properly. Mr. Sears was also of the opinion that the resolution was all right excepting the portion reflecting on the assessor. Mr. Sears held that the money already expended in the district had not been expended judiciously. There were too many losses.

The amendment was then put and carried by a vote of 8 to 5. The original motion as amended was then carried.

After a vote of thanks to the chairman the meeting adjourned.

VICTORIA MARKETS.

Retail Quotations for Farmer's Produce Carefully Corrected.

Ogden's Hungarian flour	36.50
Lake of the Woods	35.50
Rainier	35.50
Swedish	35.50
XXX	35.50
Lion	35.50
Premier (Endless)	35.50
Three Star (Endless)	35.50
Strong Baker's (O.K.)	35.50
Spokane	35.50
Wheat, per ton	\$30.00 to \$32.00
Barley, per ton	\$30.00 to \$32.00
Milliners, per ton	\$22.00 to \$24.00
Ryan, per ton	\$32.00
Ground feed, per ton	\$25.00
Corn, cracked, per ton	\$30.00 to \$32.00
Corn, cracked, per 10 pounds	35.00
Ornamental, per 10 pounds	40.00
Roller oats, (R. or N. W.)	35.00
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Potatoes, per pound	2.50 to 3.00
Cabbage, per head	10c to 12c
Hay, baled, per ton	10.00 to 12.00
Straw, per bale	7.00 to 8.00
Onions, per lb.	3c to 4c
Bananas, per box	50c to 60c
Grapes, per box	50c to 60c
Lemons (California)	25c to 35c
Apples, Eastern, per lb.	10c to 12c
Oranges (California) per box, 40 to 60	10c to 12c
Bacon (Japanese) per box, 40 to 60	10c to 12c
Fish—salmon, per lb.	10c to 12c
Fish—small, per lb.	8c to 10c
Smoked hampers, per lb.	12c to 15c
Eggs, Island, fresh, per doz.	25c to 30c
Butter, creamery, per lb.	20c to 25c
Butter, Delta creamery, per lb.	20c to 25c
Butter, Challowick, per lb.	15c to 20c
Thins, American, per lb.	10c to 12c
Bacon, Canadian, per lb.	10c to 12c
Bacon, American, per lb.	10c to 12c
Bacon, rolled, per lb.	12c to 14c
Bacon, long clear, per pound	12c to 14c
Bacon, Canadian, per lb.	14c to 16c
Shoulders, per lb.	12c to 14c
Lard, per lb.	12c to 14c
Meats—beef, per lb.	7c to 10c
Mutton, per lb.	10c to 12c
Pork, fresh, per lb.	10c to 12c
Pork, sides, per lb.	10c to 12c
Chickens, per pair	\$1.00 to \$1.50

Twice-a-Week.

WEEK IN EUROPE.

Papers Criticize Great Britain's Foreign Policy During Year Just Closed.

MacLaren Gives His Impressions of the United States and Her Public Men.

Mid Weather in England—Sir Henry Irving Not Likely to Act for Some Time.

Jan. 2.—Most newspapers in the events of 1896, criticize the policy of Great Britain in foreign policy evinced by the foreign produced during the year. The storm that marked the year, the Venezuela troubles, the Transvaal dispute, and the isolation of Great Britain in the eastern question. The policy of Great Britain is being criticized, and the government is to take existing facts into account, or expect the repetitions of the loss of present territory.

FUNDS FOR CUBA.

Large Amount of Money Contributed by the Patriots.

Boston, Mass., Jan. 2.—The Journal says the Cuban provisional government has forwarded a statement of the money, munitions of war and provisions furnished for carrying on the war from all parts of the world since July 30, 1895, up to November 30, 1896. The statement has been made that when the struggle began General Gomez agreed to receive \$100,000 to be paid in installments of \$20,000 every three months. It is claimed he has already received \$400,000 from the provisional government and the remainder is now due and for that reason he became careless and inactive. But this is denied by the Cuban delegates at Washington, who say Gomez is a true patriot, putting his life and soul into his work. Following is a recapitulation of the contributions: Cities of the United States, \$1,700,000; states outside of cities, \$275,000; foreign countries, \$1,230,000; total, \$3,205,000. Gonzalo de Quesada writes that a million dollars can be secured in the next sixty days, three months thereafter the war will be ended in Cuba's favor. Commander-in-chief Gomez is in unimpaired circumstances and this may put a damper on the active movements contemplated this winter. But Quesada believes the friends of Cuba will come to the rescue in a liberal manner, as they have done heretofore. Less than \$40,000 has been sent to the army in three months, and the report says the treasury is entirely empty.

PRECIOUS METALS.

Output of the States of Colorado, Idaho and Utah During 1896.

Denver, Jan. 2.—The mineral output of Colorado during the year, based on returns of smelters, refiners and mills, is as follows: Gold, \$1,183,479; Silver, 18,907,067; Lead, 3,957,814; Copper, 822,997.

Total, \$39,500,557.

The output last year was \$38,324,853. The increase this year is principally silver. The gold output is about 100,000 ounces less than last year. The Cripple Creek output was about \$3,000,000. The mines of Arizona, Jan. 2.—The mineral output of Arizona for 1896, the figures being mainly based on reports sent to the governor from different sections, was as follows: Gold, \$6,000,000; silver, 2,100,000 ounces; copper, 102,000,000 pounds; lead, 2,400,000 pounds. The gold production has been mainly from prairie ores, the amount being produced in conjunction with sulphuric copper. Over half of the silver came from the county of Mohave, in the northwestern part of the territory, from small properties. The copper came from the Jerome mine, in Yavapai county; Old Dominion, at Globe; Detroit companies at Clifton; Copper Queen mines at Clifton. The lead product has been wholly in conjunction with the silver, a small amount being from the mines in the south-eastern part of the territory for flux.

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Jacksonville, Dec. 30.—The collector of customs has received instructions from the treasury department to clear the Danless for Newville, Cuba. No application has been made for a clearance by the master of the Danless, which is now somewhere down the coast. W. A. Blabie, the owner of the boat, says it has gone on a wrecking tour, and will not be back for several days. He did not expect to hear from Washington for several days. It is believed the boat is now off on a filibustering trip although there is no positive information of this. Application has been made by the agent of the steamer Commodore for clearance with a cargo of arms and ammunition to Cienfuegos, Cuba, and the application has been wired by the collector to Washington.

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Laurier, was Offered Knighthood but Preferred to Follow Gladstone's Example.

Ross Thompson, Founder of Rossland in Ottawa—Capital Receives a Shock.

Ottawa, Jan. 2. (Special).—There is no longer any doubt but Hon. Mr. Laurier was offered a knighthood, but declined to accept it. He prefers following the example of Gladstone and Bright, to whose political school he belongs.

Ross Thompson, founder of Rossland, B. C., is here.

Early this morning Ottawa trembled from an earthquake. It was about twenty minutes past midnight. The shaking lasted four or five seconds and caused considerable fright, but no damage as far as reported.

Ottawa and Hull are connected by electric railway, the Ottawa Railway company having built a bridge to enable the tracks to be carried to the Transpennine City.

Henry Dostales, messenger of the agricultural department, has been arrested on the charge of riding a till in the office of the cashier of the patents branch.

A summons has been issued against David Ranger, liquor dealer, of Sussex street, charging him with having in his possession a duplicate of the seal used by Walker & Son, distillers, of Walkerville, and also with opening liquor barrels adulterating the liquor and sealing them up again.

DECLINED THE HONOR.

Ratification of the New Treaty of Peace Has Been Postponed.

New York, Dec. 31.—The Herald's correspondent in Bogota sends word that the ratification of a new treaty of peace between Colombia and Venezuela will be postponed until the meeting of the legislature in 1897. This is in accordance with a suggestion incorporated in the annual message of President Caro.

MONTREAL'S GUEST.

Premier Greenway Not Such a Bad Sort of Fellow After All.

"Uncle" Thomas McGreevy Dead—Beaugrand Will Fight Mandements.

Montreal, Jan. 2.—Hon. Thomas Greenway is getting up a desperate fight with the French-Canadians and yesterday forenoon at the leading French social club of the city, Le Club Canadien, the Manitoba premier was crowned "King of the fete." The evening of the Laurier banquet Hon. Mr. Greenway was invited to visit the Canadian Club and there make the acquaintance of his new admirers. He accepted on the spot and yesterday at noon the leader of the Manitoba ministry went to the club in question and there drank a glass of champagne with the men who for years have been calling him "the perpetrator of our race and religion." The premier's health was also proposed and in his reply he said that on his way down to Montreal a friend of his asked him if he was not afraid to come down to Quebec province. He replied "No," and the fraternal feeling that had taken possession of him in Windsor Hall the other evening still continued, and he would carry back to Manitoba a most agreeable souvenir of his meeting with the French-Canadian people. Le Comte du Canada, Hon. Thos. Chapais' paper, calls the Laurier dinner "the traitor's banquet," and remarks: "We are anxious to see the list of cowards who went to drink the health of a man who betrayed his brothers, who signed the death warrant of Catholic schools in Manitoba, who trampled his engagements under foot. We do not hesitate to proclaim that French-Canadian Catholics who went yesterday to applaud Wilfrid Laurier's national and treason and they will share the infamy of his name."

Ex-Mayor Beaugrand said to-day: "This is a political question and to put myself right I shall address a series of letters to the English press. I expect quite likely that La Patrie will be censured by the bishops but I will fight this question of clerical influence to the end. This will be another Gurbord case, the city where La Patrie is sold, and if I find by sworn statement that sales decrease as the result of ecclesiastical censure or if their lordships' action causes me pecuniary loss in any way, I am quite determined to carry the matter to the courts and, if necessary, we will get a decision from the Queen's privy council."

Kingsville, Jan. 2.—The big buildings and contents of the South Essex Presbyterian church were this morning burned to the ground. The loss will reach \$50,000, partly covered by insurance.

Quebec, Jan. 2.—Hon. Thomas McGreevy, the well known contractor and politician, died here this morning. He had been ill for some time, but death was unexpected.

Kingston, Jan. 2.—The big dry goods establishment of Richmond & Co., the largest of its kind in Kingston, was lost by fire last night. The stock was valued at \$60,000. It was entirely destroyed, but it was heavily insured.

The Mail-Express referring to the "unlabeled" further mandements to be launched, and more newspapers to be proscribed, says: "The wiping out of a public journal by an episcopal pen, even where the paper is bad, is intolerable. There ought not to be any more of it; surely the readers of newspapers have some discrimination, and the press is not to be under a censorship not acknowledged or practiced elsewhere. The Mail calls on Mr. Geoffrion, as a member of the government, to carry the case to the courts and find out if the bishops really have the power and right in this matter to do as they have done, and whether in this country the ban, which in its operation wipes out private property, limits discussion and restricts the freedom of the people, may be legally asserted."

Not one in twenty are free from ailments caused by the use of the Liver Pills. The result will be a pleasant surprise. They give positive relief.

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THAT PROGRESSIVE SUBSIDY.

In another column appears a brief digest of the acts relating to the British Columbia Southern Railway Company, which should make the present situation of the company tolerably plain. Yesterday we had something to say as to the assertion that the land grant of 20,000 acres per mile does not apply to the section of the road between Kootenay lake and the coast. In view of the clauses quoted from the acts of 1894 this assertion seems rather absurd, for no person reading those clauses could well come to any other conclusion than that the land grant is there extended so as to apply to that section. It is quite possible that the legislative assembly did not intend this extension of the grant, that the effect of the wording was not apparent to the legislators when the two acts were passed. The middle of the Municipal Act makes this appear all the more possible. If the acts of 1894 do convey more than it was intended to convey, then no time should be lost in amending them when the assembly meets. We have previously called attention to the rather insidious manner in which the privileges and favors conferred on the company were increased from time to time, and this very extraordinary increase of the grant, as to which so many people seem ignorant, is a striking example. The apologists for the legislation in favor of the company put forward the fact that with all the grants it has been found impossible to get money to build the road. If the inner history of the concern were written in detail, it would probably be found that the efforts of the company were far from being confined to the securing of money for road-building purposes. The further apology is offered that the land grant system is one of long standing, both in the province and the Dominion, but it would puzzle any person to point to another instance of a company being allowed such a pleasant succession of increases in subsidy and extensions of time. If the British Columbia Southern company had gone to work and earned the grant by building the railway, we do not suppose there would have been any great objection to its possession of the property. Now, however, the legislature has secured nothing beyond the locking up of so much of the public domain, and at a time when the work for which the grant was given is fast to be a necessity.

A FRIEND'S CRITICISM.

The Vancouver World has so far yielded to the prevailing sentiment as to lose some of its admiration for the Turner Government's methods. Speaking of the approaching session of the legislature it says: "The tedious and protracted manner in which the legislation of British Columbia is conducted during the sessions of the house of assembly has been a by-word in the past. It is to be hoped that expedition and promptness will characterize the deliberations of the forthcoming session. In the interests of the people and economy, there is no reason whatsoever why the whole business should not be got through within a period of one month or five or six weeks at the furthest. What is accomplished elsewhere, where the work is many times greater than that to be transacted here, surely can be accomplished—if only the windbags and obstructionists can be kept in order no matter what side of the Speaker they may be on." The government has this matter in its own hands. If it were to meet the assembly with business properly prepared, and with the sole idea of furthering the public interests, a long session would not be necessary. We may expect such a reformation from the Turner government about the time when the Ethiopian dons a white skin and the leopard exchanges his spots for the tiger's stripes. If the government did really effect such a change as the World suggests there would be some room for hope that it would properly transact the business of the province.

A NEEDED CAUTION.

The Toronto Globe gives its readers some advice in the matter of mining stock investments, and the advice it follows will probably be found of benefit to both the would-be investors and the mining regions. Nobody interested in the development of our mineral resources would like to see purchasers of stocks lose money on them, for the effect would inevitably be the frightening away of needed capital. To avoid this, caution on the part of the buying public is necessary; if they are reckless nobody can keep them on safe ground. The Globe puts the warning in this way: "The moral of it all is that investment in mines should not be made by people who cannot take the chances of losing. There are those who in view of the occasional great returns in mining will adventure their capital with a full knowledge of the risks, but for a man to venture sums which if lost would cancel the savings and economies of years and be productive of grief, if not of despair, would be folly indeed. Even in the case of smaller and less irrevocable investments caution and knowledge should go hand in hand. There will be good investments and bad investments, sound companies and un-

sound companies, as candidates for public favor. A shrewd man should be able to gather considerable information from the prospectuses, possibly more from what is not in them than from what is in them. He should ask himself, Who are the sponsors for the enterprise, what work has already been done on the property, what responsible and informed man has reported on the showings thus disclosed, what is the capital provided for development, are the promoters allowed to sell their shares contemporaneously with the sale of treasury shares; will the development capital be sufficient to provide against all the various ills that mines are heir to; will it be sufficient to set in place the expensive machinery that will be required when the handiwork has disclosed that the lead is worth the expense of a power plant? This is the most important point, and one that there will perhaps be much trouble about in the near future. The difficulties that will arise when the treasury is exhausted before a satisfactory determination as to value has been reached need not be pointed out. A little reflection as to where more money is to come from in the case of fully paid up and non-assessable shares" will convince any one that the last state of that property will be worse than the first."

It was once a favorite amusement of Tory papers to dwell upon the fact that more Liberals than Conservatives were unseated after the general elections of 1891. Perhaps they will now give some consideration to the fact that since the last general election five Conservative members have been unseated and not one Liberal.

A Montreal dispatch represents all the Catholic bishops of Quebec as ready to issue a mandement condemning the Manitoba school settlement and warning Catholic members against supporting it. We shall not believe that the bishops have so little sense until they actually take the course thus predicted. They must know that any such action would be accompanied by serious risk to their church.

Says the Toronto Telegram: "Possibly Sir Adolphe Caron may remember that he was thrown out of the Dominion government when the leaders were going to the country and taken in again when they came back. It looks now as if Sir Adolphe was determined that the men who threw him out of the government would never have the chance to throw anybody else over the battlement. The spectacle of Sir Adolphe dictating a policy which must ruin the leaders who excluded him from the last Conservative government is one of the revenges of history."

EUROPE AND AMERICA.

London Spectator Discusses the Cuban and Other Questions.

London, Jan. 2.—The Spectator, in an article on the position of the United States and Europe as affected by the Cuban question, after remarking that the Washington government has had an unpleasant surprise in the attitude of the European powers, proceeds to explain the reasons for the European antagonism to the United States, and points out that the great financiers of Paris who hold Spanish bonds are alarmed at the possibility that Spain, after fighting to the bitter end, might be compelled to suspend payment, and consequently they are urging the French government to intervene between Washington and Madrid. The Emperor William, it is said, also approves of this, for apart from his dreams of colonial expansion, which could be best gratified in Brazil, he is fond of American diplomacy. The Italian government, according to the Spectator, will support Spain, owing to the Italians in the United States being treated as if they were negroes or Red Indians.

The Spectator then adds that the Austrian Emperor will support Germany in maintaining the independence of Spain, being actuated by weighty family reasons, not wishing to see the Queen Regent, who is an Austrian archduchess, and her son driven out of Madrid by a popular revolt following the loss of Cuba. The Dreihund, therefore, and France, the Spectator says, are ready to counsel President Cleveland to be moderate and "avoid threats which Spain could not tolerate and which might lead to a widespread maritime war."

The Spectator continues: "The United States could conquer any American state, and might, if they exerted their power, defeat a single European power, but cannot defeat all the European powers, even if England, through reasons of kinship remained neutral. The fact is patent to all that the United States will not be allowed to overrun Spain out of her colony without renunciation from continental Europe, which might be followed by one of the combined fleets of the five powers and the landing of armies in Cuba and the French West Indies.

The Spectator is deeply grieved at the attacks on United States Ambassador Bayard which have appeared in the Chronicle and says he did great service here in pointing out the gravity of the situation which the English thought was only a demonstration of spread-eagle-

British Columbia.

VANCOUVER.

The banquet tendered to Mr. Justice McColl, in honor of his elevation to the Bench on Saturday evening, was well attended, there being about twenty-five of the legal fraternity present. Mr. Chas. Wilson, O.C., presided and at his right hand was the guest of the evening, Mr. Justice McColl. Judge E. Bole, Judge Forth and Mr. Aulay Morrison, M.P., were among those present.

A special meeting of the city council was held Saturday morning for the purpose of meeting J. Selevor of Portland, Ore., who represents a syndicate who desire to put up a smelter and refinery in this city. Mr. Selevor sought a bonus of \$150,000, on the condition that the works cost \$450,000, and that 150 men would be employed. He explained that he had the promise of transportation of ore from Rossland to Vancouver at \$6 a ton. Other roads as well as the C. P. R. had made this promise. The subject was discussed for a while, but the aldermen were not prepared to give an answer yet.

NEW DENVER.

The Ledger.

There is some talk of Crown granting and stocking the Arlington in the spring. The Enterprise continues to get four carloads of ore a week to the smelter at Omaha.

Assays from the tailings of the Slocan Star concentrator show as high as 22 ounces in silver to the ton.

McNicholl & Sons report that they have struck a fine ledge on the North Exchange after driving a 60 foot tunnel. The first rawhiding for Slocan City commenced last week. Mulien, the rascal, is now carrying on the original Two Friends on the rawhides. The other claims on Springer will soon follow suit.

It is said that R. C. Campbell Johnson, acting as a Scotch syndicate, has bonded the St. Paul and Snowstrom, extensions of the Arlington. The Rambler is making a name for itself as a shipper. Already five carloads of ore have been shipped from this property, and in a few days a shipment of two more carloads will be made.

The Panama and Ironfaith, two promising claims on Ten Mile creek, and about three miles from the Enterprise wagon road, have been bonded to D. G. Stewart, of Vancouver, for \$15,000. The lead runs across both claims.

ASHROFT.

B. C. Mining Journal.

A portion of the Kurts and Lane grant has been sold by Messrs. Laird and Brown and work in the deep channel will be pushed there this season. It is reported that the price paid was \$6,000; if it can be worked successfully it is worth a hundred times that amount. Considerable improvements will be started at the Ashcroft station. The present quarters have been found to be too crowded for the large amount of business transacted here. The present station rooms will be changed and a baggage room will be added. Receipts at the Ashcroft station are second only to Pacific division, Vancouver alone being ahead of it.

F. T. Hamshaw, who came down from Beattie on Tuesday left the same evening for Chicago, where he is meeting parties interested with him in some mining claims on Summit creek, fifteen miles from Barkerville, the Van Winkle group of claims. These properties have been sold and will be worked extensively and hydraulically next season.

Messrs. Fitzpatrick & Shuler are negotiating a bond on their Highland Valley quartz claims. For the amount of work done good results can be shown in the valley. Next season will see many men prospecting in that section, and through towards Kamloops. Copper ore assaying as high as 38 per cent, has been brought in, but not as yet found in large quantities.

Mr. Mitchell, who is the expert in charge of the work being done on the Bonaparte, 16 miles from Ashcroft, says that the outlook is good for valuable quartz veins in that region. Several small ledges carrying well in silver have been found and where the crosscut tunnel now being driven is in a few hundred feet Mr. Mitchell looks for a valuable strike. He is a visionary theorist, but a calculating and conscientious mining man who is not making the noise about what has been found that many companies would. While there is yet a certainty of sufficient quantities of ore to mine, he is not likely to be able to work. Mr. Mitchell says there is a good enough showing to justify the expenditure of at least a few thousand dollars in prospecting. The company has put up comfortable quarters and work can be done there. A new shaft being about a remarkable change on the Bonaparte.

ROSSLAND.

Rossland Miner.

Rossland, Jan. 2.—A dispatch to the Associated Press last Wednesday stated that the Iron Mask had struck a big ore body in the upraise from the big tunnel from the 200-foot level to the 90-foot shaft sunk near the west end of the claim, and close to the War Eagle. Since then a prospect has been driven on the 200-foot level to the south, and today the vein was cut. The Rossland Miner will state to-morrow that at this point the ore body is over seven feet wide. While no assays have been made there can be no doubt that the ore is very high grade as it carries a high percentage of copper and the ore from the bottom of the shaft 100 feet above was about as high as 22 per cent. The camp. This strike places the Iron Mask among the assured mines, as the ore chute has been proved to be at least 50 feet long on the 90 foot level.

The Jumbo will begin shipping at once. Five carloads were ready, and an average of at least two carloads a week will be maintained. The ore will have to be hauled in wagons two miles and will go thence to the smelter at Barkerville. The Jumbo will be ready to be shipped at present. The Commander will also begin shipping some time this month. Shipments to the smelter from Rossland in 1896 totalled 22,000 tons. In complete returns for 1896 about 40,000 tons of ore were shipped last year. Shipments now and for some time past have averaged considerably more than that, and it is expected to reach a total of 100,000 tons for the year 1897.

BY BOOK POST.

I have received from the publishers a copy of a collection of papers by Dean Farrar called "The Young Man Master of Himself." The essays are on allied topics, on the young man in the home, in business, in the church, young men and marriage and on the influence of a title. A great deal of sensible advice is given and the wholesome lesson inculcated that the world was not created especially for young men. The author says in his introduction: "All good men who have themselves begun to enter into the Valley of the Shadow cannot but look with the deepest interest on those who will be fighting the difficult path of life in that warfare which has its discharge, long after they themselves are sleeping with their fathers." The earnest strain in which the work is written, the sympathetic insight into the trials and problems of those who are young in the world's wisdom, the simple straightforward language in which the counsel is couched will combine to make the affectionate regard which prompted the writing touch the hearts of all readers. No young man could read the book unmoved and assuredly no reader could go from the reading without fresh resolve in his heart, that the world should be a better place from his having lived in it.

"Plays and Their Children" by Mrs. W. Starr Dana, author of "How to Know the Wild Flowers," is a charming book for children. It consists of a series of easy reading lessons on the wonders of plant life, as entertaining as stories. The curious features and various forms of familiar plants and trees including their roots and stems, buds and leaves, fruits, seeds and flowers are all described in simple language. The child is taught to see to think, to observe for himself, and thus become an intelligent student of nature. The acquaintance thus formed with the varied forms of nature early in life will be a source of pleasure in all the after years. The curiosity of young readers is cleverly stimulated by both the writing and the facts put forth concerning the wonderful world which will sooner or later disclose its dearest treasures for all who care to hunt for them. The edition is a pretty one in fawn and green and is carefully and attractively illustrated by the author's sister, Alice M. Smith. An amateur volume of verse reached me some weeks ago and has remained unnoted because of the busy season not because the contents did not considerably entertain me. The introductory states: "These rhymes are not the rosiest of reveries of a rusticating rhapsodist, but the regular rough reminiscences of a real rancher written by himself." The title, "Rural Rhymes," indicates to a considerable degree its contents. The poems are similarly entitled, A Mosquito Song, An Owl Song, A Cow Song, A Bull Song, A Hog Song, etc. I give a few stanzas herewith. The first is from the Mosquito Song, the insect is reflecting on the ways and tricks of men: "At times he like a stump will stand And you will think him dead Then suddenly he wakes, and flails Go thrashing round his head."

OTTAWA LETTER.

Ottawa, Dec. 28.—

In the month of August last information reached the federal government of the operations of certain agents from Brazil who were endeavoring to entice Canadians to emigrate to that country. The information was received from the British consul-general at Rio de Janeiro enclosing a copy of a letter of enquiry he had received from a resident of Montreal, and taking occasion to warn the government of Canada of the entire unsuitability of the climate and general conditions prevailing in Brazil to people from northern climates. Copies of the consul's letter and its enclosure were printed and widely circulated among intending emigrants in French and English, and although it was found that about 700 Brazilians had been influenced by the Brazilian agents to such an extent that they had determined on going, the agent who was writing this letter had the effect of deterring over 300, some of whom actually left the ship after going on board with their families and effects. About 400 unfortunately embarked on this ill-fated expedition and since the foolish expeditions of the newspapers have contained many references to their suffering in that country, the expedition having proved disastrous. The people themselves, through the British consul-general at Rio and the deep channels of the press, have been making appeals to the government to assist them to return to their homes in this country. This is a matter which required delicate handling but after full and careful enquiry the government has decided to bestow the expense of repatriating thirteen adults and nine children, all reported to be in great distress. It is hoped that the experiences of these people will serve as a warning for all time to Canadians not to go to the land of the South Sea to appreciate their own country better.

G. R. Maxwell, M.P., has been here for the past few days on departmental business. He has had interviews with all the ministers and has been endeavoring to arrange certain postal matters and with Mr. Darte he has been trying to get some matters affecting the public works in the West attended to. Mr. Maxwell will also be great friends. The minister of public works invited the member for Vancouver to be his guest while in Montreal attending the Laurier banquet on the 30th inst. Mr. Maxwell accepted the invitation.

SLABTOWN.

THE CITY OF JERUSALEM.

A recent visitor to Jerusalem writes: "Nearly all the places of interest in and about Jerusalem have been collected together, and are now exhibited under one roof, in the church of the Holy Sepulchre. Most travellers go there first, but they should not. One should go first to the Mount of Olives, survey, and try to understand the country. It is a pity to begin with this rubbishy monument. There at your feet is the Garden of Gethsemane, and beyond the gulch of Jehosaphat (for it is not a valley) is the dome of the 'marvellous Mosque of Omar.' Looking along the wall you can see the Golden Gate with the decay of which the Mohammedans say will come the fall of Islam, just as the Sultan's power shall pass away when the last sacred dog dies. Looking down the canyon you see the old King's Garden, the Pool of Sion, the Virgin's Well, and farther down, some poor houses where the lepers live. Still farther, fourteen miles away, and four thousand feet below you, lies the old Dead Sea, beyond which are the hills of Moab. If you have been lucky enough to come up here without a guide or dragoon with a bosom full of ivory-handled revolvers and long knives, you will sit for hours spellbound. The guide tries too hard to give you your money's worth. He will not allow you to muse over these things, which are reasonably real and true, but will tell you the most marvellous stories, which you cannot believe. He will show you the grave of Moses, and I am told that the Scriptures say, 'No man knoweth where his grave is,' yet, if you doubt the guide feels hurt. He will ask you to harken to the 'going in the mulberries,' and if you say you don't hear he is surprised. What strikes the traveller most forcibly on seeing Jerusalem for the first time is the littleness of everything. The Mount of Olives is a little mound; Mount Moriah is a slightly perceptible rise of ground; Mount Zion is a gentle hill; the valley of Jehosaphat is a deep and ugly gully, with scarcely enough the Terebinth Valley in an alley. The visitor in it to see a postage stamp and a book at the insupportable poverty and dreariness. This is the land of the mulberries, and it is interesting because it is desolate, but it is an awful interest. The people—the beggars that bound you—are as poor, as dwarfed and as deformed and as diseased trees that try to live on the naked rocks.

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SLABTOWN.

THE CITY OF JERUSALEM.

A recent visitor to Jerusalem writes: "Nearly all the places of interest in and about Jerusalem have been collected together, and are now exhibited under one roof, in the church of the Holy Sepulchre. Most travellers go there first, but they should not. One should go first to the Mount of Olives, survey, and try to understand the country. It is a pity to begin with this rubbishy monument. There at your feet is the Garden of Gethsemane, and beyond the gulch of Jehosaphat (for it is not a valley) is the dome of the 'marvellous Mosque of Omar.' Looking along the wall you can see the Golden Gate with the decay of which the Mohammedans say will come the fall of Islam, just as the Sultan's power shall pass away when the last sacred dog dies. Looking down the canyon you see the old King's Garden, the Pool of Sion, the Virgin's Well, and farther down, some poor houses where the lepers live. Still farther, fourteen miles away, and four thousand feet below you, lies the old Dead Sea, beyond which are the hills of Moab. If you have been lucky enough to come up here without a guide or dragoon with a bosom full of ivory-handled revolvers and long knives, you will sit for hours spellbound. The guide tries too hard to give you your money's worth. He will not allow you to muse over these things, which are reasonably real and true, but will tell you the most marvellous stories, which you cannot believe. He will show you the grave of Moses, and I am told that the Scriptures say, 'No man knoweth where his grave is,' yet, if you doubt the guide feels hurt. He will ask you to harken to the 'going in the mulberries,' and if you say you don't hear he is surprised. What strikes the traveller most forcibly on seeing Jerusalem for the first time is the littleness of everything. The Mount of Olives is a little mound; Mount Moriah is a slightly perceptible rise of ground; Mount Zion is a gentle hill; the valley of Jehosaphat is a deep and ugly gully, with scarcely enough the Terebinth Valley in an alley. The visitor in it to see a postage stamp and a book at the insupportable poverty and dreariness. This is the land of the mulberries, and it is interesting because it is desolate, but it is an awful interest. The people—the beggars that bound you—are as poor, as dwarfed and as deformed and as diseased trees that try to live on the naked rocks.

had a good deal of feed stored for such emergencies, and they managed to keep the cattle in fodder during the time the snow remained on the ground, but for a time it was just a question whether the snow or the fodder would disappear first. Luckily the Chinook winds arrived in time to avert the threatened disaster to the herds and they are now in good condition again. Mr. Lynch-Staunton, who is a son of Mr. K. H. Lynch-Staunton, of this city, has a herd of 800 cattle, and it may be imagined that the period of unusual snowfall was one of intense anxiety to him and the other large ranchers in the district, and the continuance of the severe weather for a few weeks longer would have practically wiped out the herds. Such a snow fall has not occurred there in the memory of the oldest ranchers and they hope it won't be duplicated in another 20 years.—Hamilton Spectator.

DESTRUCTIVE CYCLONE.

Mooringport, Louisiana, Visited by a Terrible Storm on Saturday.

Memphis, Tenn., Jan. 4.—A cyclone, leaving death and devastation behind, descended upon the little town of Mooringport, La., on Saturday afternoon. The reports from the stricken town are very meagre, owing to the complete destruction of all telegraph and communication wires, but a special received at Texarkana at midnight says that four people were killed outright and three are known to have been fatally injured. Mooringport is a town of 800 or 1000 inhabitants, situated on the Kansas City, Pittsburg & Gulf railroad, 25 miles west of Texarkana. Advice from southwestern Arkansas states that a violent wind and lightning storm prevailed there and in some instances railway travel is interrupted. A report from Benton, Ark., on the Iron Mountain railroad, twenty miles from Little Rock, says that a tornado struck that place late on Saturday and twenty houses were demolished. There was no loss of life mentioned in the dispatch. All communication with Hot Springs has been cut off. At Cameron, a small lumber station, five miles north of Texarkana, on the Cotton Belt road, the storm raged furiously and caused considerable damage. One man is reported killed at that place. Every effort is being made by the telegraph company to establish communication with Lewisville, McNell, Magnolia, Pine Bluff and the larger towns. The relief train reached Mooringport at 7:35 p.m. in a downpour of rain, a relay wire was rigged up and at a late hour the report is that four are dead, three fatally injured, and some twenty others more or less injured. The dead are: Willie and Mand Hall, and the infant son and daughter of Jesse Goodman, who is also injured, with his daughter Alice, his wife, and nephew Claude.

ST. LOUIS, JAN. 4.—

A special to the Post-Dispatch from Little Rock, Ark., says: A destructive storm swept over Benton, twenty-five miles south of Little Rock Saturday afternoon, and from all accounts it extended a considerable distance south. It is impossible to get news from the scene of the storm, as telegraph poles were blown down for a distance of more than half a mile. News from reliable sources at the Iron Mountain depot that many dwellings were swept away. A visit to the Iron Mountain telegraph office corroborated the news of the storm and property loss. The operator says that the wire for a distance of several miles were blown down. The operator says that the only information he has received is that a number of houses have been wrecked. Later news says nobody was hurt at Benton.

VICTORIA MARKETS.

Retail Quotations for Farmers' Produce Carefully Corroded.

By the appended list of prices current in the city markets it will be seen that the prices of meat have slightly advanced. This advance began at the beginning of the New Year and will last throughout the ensuing month. Flours still are quoted at the same price as heretofore. Oatmeal, Hungarian flour, \$4.50; Lake of the Woods, \$4.30; Rainer, \$4.50; Snowflake, \$5.75; XXX, \$5.50; Lion, \$5.50; Premier (Enderby), \$5.50; Three Star (Enderby), \$5.50; Strong Baker's (O.K.), \$5.50; Selem, \$5.75; Wheat, per ton, \$30.00 to \$32.00; Barley, per ton, \$22.00 to \$25.00; Middlings, per ton, \$22.00 to \$25.00; Bran, per ton, \$20.00; Ground feed, per ton, \$25.00 to \$27.00; Corn, whole, \$30.00 to \$32.00; Corn, cracked, \$22.00 to \$25.00; Cornmeal, per 10 pounds, \$4.00; Oatmeal, per 10 pounds, \$4.00; Rolled oats, (O. or N. W.), \$4.00; Rolled oats, (B. & K.) Tib. sacks, \$3.00; Potatoes, per pound, \$1.25 to \$1.50; Cabbage, per head, \$1.00 to \$1.25; Cauliflower, per head, \$1.00 to \$1.25; Hay, baled, per ton, \$15; Straw, per bale, \$7.50; Onions, per lb., \$4; Bananas, \$2.50 to \$3.00; Lemons (California), \$2.50 to \$3.00; Apples, Eastern, per lb., \$1.50 to \$2.00; Oranges (California), per box, 40 to 60c; Oranges (Japanese), per box, 40 to 60c; Fruit—salmon, per lb., \$1.00 to \$1.25; Halibut, \$1.00 to \$1.25; Fish—small, \$1.00 to \$1.25; Smoked blotters, per lb., \$1.25; Eggs, Island, fresh, per doz., \$4.00; Eggs, Manitoba, per doz., \$3.50; Butter, creamery, per lb., \$35; Butter, Delta creamery, per lb., \$35; Butter, fresh, \$30c; Cheese, Chihuahua, \$15 to 20c; Ham, American, per lb., \$10c to 15c; Ham, Canadian, per lb., \$10c to 15c; Bacon, rolled, per lb., \$10c to 15c; Bacon, long clear, per pound, \$12.50; Bacon, Canadian, per lb., \$10c to 15c; Shoulders, per lb., \$10c to 15c; Lard, \$12.50 to 15c; Sides, per lb., \$10c to 15c; Meats—beef, per lb., \$10c to 15c; Veal, \$10c to 15c; Mutton, per lb., \$10c to 15c; Mutton (whole), \$10c to 15c; Pork, fresh, per lb., \$10c to 15c; Pork, sides, per lb., \$10c to 15c; Chickens, per pair, \$1.00 to \$1.50.

TO RELIEVE THE CZAR.

A Supreme Court to Help Him Tame the Affairs of Russia.

Berlin, Jan. 2.—A special dispatch from St. Petersburg to the Cologne Gazette says it is the intention of the court of relieving him of much of the financial management of the empire. The court will settle all the matters of the czar, except those of the most importance, which will, as before, referred to the czar himself. The Grand Duke Constantine, formerly member of the czar, was appointed president of the court.

THE BOG SLIDE.

Uncanny Noises Were Heard in Peasants Previous to the Slide.

London, Jan. 2.—The slide at Lakes of Killarney, which is the station of the week, has been enhanced story that about a week previous uncanny noises were heard in the vicinity which the peasants of the bog which developed on him, appears aroused a feeling of and numbers of the peasants or their priests, who endeavored to sure them. Subsequently the call however, caused the universal consolation among the peasantry, who seemingly convinced that there is a supernatural connection between two affairs. A great mass of bog ering seven hundred acres behind the lake, has begun to slide and are in dread of still more terrible ones.

WINNIPEG WRINGS.

Election of W. F. McCreaty, as Member for the West.

Winnipeg, Jan. 2.—A telegram has been received from the Bishop of St. Boniface, from Ottawa, suspending Rev. Father Cloutier as Chaplain of Stony Mountain penitentiary. Cloutier is present in the East. Mr. Laurier has been entered.

Necessity of Placing Ministry on the Free List.

By a Witness.

Would Result in All Ores of Iron and Some from States Being Smelted Here.

Evidence of the Advisability of Changing the Duty on Iron Ore and Pork.

Winnipeg, Jan. 4.—(Special)—A report from the tariff commission was received from the railway committee to-day.

Fleeting, Laurier and Davies went. Messrs. Cartwright and son were absent. Hon. E. H. said that indirectly the lumber would be affected by a change in tariff. Pork had to be got from States because Canada could produce a sufficient quantity. He is in favor of pork being put on the free list, as it was put there in 1887. He did favor the Robert Reford, of Montreal, as the re-imposition of duty on the States were about to put a lumber and the Canadian government should meet this with a duty. He thought Canadian ports for that of the States and the fact that the States were probably being grown very profitably in the country. Seybold, of St. Paul, son, asked that granites be classed as other brass goods. B. Bell, of the Mining Association, that a more liberal interpretation on all machinery used in mining the start to finished article. Booth favored the removal of duty on pork and that corn be made also wanted free coal. He said all the necessities of life as possible and believed in what was called "Canada" being produced what was not put on the free list. George Mitchell, revised placing mining machinery and tools on the free list. Mr. statement was for a revenue tariff, contended that practically all quantities of low grade mines were not only unworked but were workable under the present tariff thing but an absolute reduction cost of production to the miners develop the enormous mining of the country. The Kootenay of said, contain a large proportion of which finds a ready market in States. He said that by lifting duties entire from all articles entering into the operation of mining the erection and operation of the would not only result in all Kootenay being smelted in Kootenay would also result in the ores of Northwestern States being smelted Kootenay, as well. The commission adjourned.

PLAQUE IN BOMBAY.

No Abatement in the Ravages of Bubonic Plague.

London, Jan. 2.—Advice from Bombay show that the bubonic plague, is supposed to have been imported that city from Hongkong, where it had great violence a year ago rapidly extending among the natives who thus far have been the sufferers. Thousands of the population of the city. Business utterly paralyzed, owing to the of the plague. The volunteer is assisting the overworked health officers in combatting the disease.

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Best Clothing is the Best

are the only manufacturers of clothing who guarantee their work and their guarantee is as good as gold.

Shorey's Guarantee Ticket.

Attention.

Now that the good will to man period is over we are ready to settle any unfinished business.

THAT'S THE "speaking of Helen" who arranged a tea cosy and ladies all are invited to call and have a cup of tea.

Co. Government St.

knowledge, and it is hoped that the officials, English and French, in the neighborhood of the rivers alluded to may be able to arrange a lookout.

J. M. BARRIE AS A CHAIRMAN

Mr. J. M. Barrie, the well known Scottish author, was invited about a year ago by the Aberdeen corporation to deliver a public lecture in that city.

PERSONAL

Mrs. A. M. Zinn, Spokane, is expected to arrive at the Diarrid. B. R. Seabrook returned from Mainland last evening.

British Columbia.

ROSSLAND. A big strike is reported to-night in the City of Spokane mine. This belongs to Horner-Payne's syndicate.

Quarters on the lands of the Nelson & Fort Sheppard railway and the adjoining property.

A strike of some importance is reported in the tunnel of the Novelty. The ore is of the same character as is found in the Giant which adjoins.

OBAMAUS.

Chamaus, Dec. 28.—Christmas passed off very quietly, there being very little drinking and no disorder of any kind.

The ship Lyderhorn is now loading here; she will probably take the largest cargo of lumber ever shipped from British Columbia.

R. H. Altar and wife spent yesterday in Duncan's visiting friends.

H. Howell, of Victoria, is now in charge of the store of the mill company; he will remove his family here in a few days.

Rev. Mr. Welsh is expected to arrive here in a few days, after which Baptist services will be held every Sunday in the town hall.

Miss Peckham, of Seattle, is spending the holidays with Mrs. E. J. Palmer.

The miner contains a manifesto of the squatters committee to the citizens of Rossland asking for funds to resist encroachments on the lands.

The shaft of the War Eagle is down 320 feet, and the best ore yet taken out is from this depth.

Machinery is now on the St. Paul and before the end of the week a steam drill will be working night and day.

At 3 o'clock on Sunday last the International hall was packed, the occasion being a meeting of the squatters on the Corbin townsite.

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B. R. Seabrook returned from Mainland last evening.

Mr. Fred Richardson, of Vancouver, is visiting friends in this city.

The New Westminster Rugby football team are registered at the Diarrid.

W. E. Drake, Vancouver, and J. H. Hodge, Winnipeg, are at the Diarrid.

A. Lindsay, auditor for R. Dunsmuir & Sons, will leave for California, where he will spend several weeks for the benefit of his health.

—We have remaining in our stock first class range of articles suitable for New Year's gifts. Weiler Bros.

months ago to the Trail smelter ran a little over \$90. The Danube Mining Company has taken over the Parker group, situated a mile north-west from Quartz creek.

ENGLISHMAN'S RIVER. Englishman's River, Dec. 28.—On Christmas Eve the Parkville school house presented a bright and animated appearance.

VERNON. The directors of the Morning Glory mine have decided to shut down work for the present, pending the securing of a

ledge is three feet wide and well defined. The ledge on the Elkhorn has been exposed for 80 feet, and as yet no hang-wall has been reached.

NEW WESTMINSTER. The warden of the B. C. penitentiary has received official notification of the appointment of Rev. Thomas Scouler as Protestant chaplain of the penitentiary.

VERNON. The directors of the Morning Glory mine have decided to shut down work for the present, pending the securing of a



DEAD HORSE!

VICTORIA MARKETS.

Table listing various market goods and their prices, including flour, wheat, corn, and other commodities.

PASSENGERS.

Per str. Islander from Vancouver.—B. R. Seabrook, W. S. Gordon, Thomas Shaw, John Partridge, D. Cartmel, A. McPhadden, F. Cawley, W. J. Barber, G. M. Leishman, A. McDermott, W. E. Drake, F. V. Austin, R. G. Penn, W. J. Briggs, H. C. March, G. B. Courbion, J. V. Cotten, C. D. Peale, E. V. Martin, R. J. Parkam, Chas. Woodward, J. H. Bushnell, J. Taylor, H. Springer, R. O. Connor, T. J. Mahony, T. S. Hardy, H. R. Jorand, G. A. Bont, P. Saunders, F. Evans, A. Tyson, T. M. Tyson, J. Casement, D. H. Smallwood, T. Hendley, M. O'Brien.

CONSIGNEES.

Per steamer Islander from Vancouver.—Lenz & Leiser, Consolidated Railway Company, John Fiercy & Co., B. C. Furniture Company, Clark & Pearson, W. J. Hanna, M. W. Waitt & Co., Weiler Bros., D. Spencer, Erskine, Wall & Co., Simon Leiser, S. A. Stoddard, Wilson Bros., Langley & Co., Ames Holden & Co., R. Day, Sidney Shore, Beatty & Co., Victoria & Sidney Railway, R. P. Rithet & Co., Johns Bros., J. & A. Clearhine, W. Bonnas, C. M. Cookson, R. E. Cooper, T. C. Haynor, Albion Iron Works, A. B. Erskine, G. H. Magrath, Hudson Bay Co., Martin & Co.

KOOTENAY HAS MADE THE MOST STARTLING CURES OF RHEUMATISM EVER RECORDED. WRITE FOR PAMPHLET CONTAINING SWORN STATEMENTS.

S. S. RYCKMAN MEDICINE CO. HAMILTON.

CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS. CURE SICK HEADACHE. Ache they would be almost priceless if they were not so common. These little pills are very valuable in so many ways that they will not be willing to do without them.

NANAIMO.

Arthur S. Appleby and William Jones were brought before Judge Harrison on the charges of housebreaking and theft.

The customs collections for this port in 1896 were \$50,564, as compared with \$60,185 in 1895.

There is now in this mining district, according to statistics obtained from Gold Commissioner Bray, a total of 422 mineral claims of which 22 were located before the 1st of January, 1896; 100 were transferred to this district on the changing of the district boundary in reference to Texada Island, and just 300 were recorded during 1896.

A large number of these are on Texada Island. James Jamieson, a Gabriola Island settler, came over to Nanaimo on a sail boat on Tuesday last and left on his return voyage about two o'clock the same afternoon.

NELSON. Nelson Tribune. J. T. Sullivan, superintendent of the Elise mine on Wild Horse creek, reports the shaft down 20 feet, showing four feet of solid ore between two good walls.

KAMLOOPS. The Inland Sentinel. There will be a contest this year for

gramme by the school children, assisted by musical friends, Mr. Gaetchen being chairman; Dialogue, Haze and John First, May and Elsie Plummer; recitation, Preston McMillan; song and chorus, "Lardy Scholar," dialogue, "I Wish," by Florence Davis, Winnie Davis, Sadie Davis, Charlie Curtis, Jessie First, Ian Davis; chorus, "Christmas now returns again," recitation, G. Hurran; recitation, H. Plummer; dialogue, E. Plummer and W. Davis; recitation, May Orump; chorus, "The Bells," recitation, "Thomas First and John First." Now apples oranges and nuts were handed round, when presently sleigh bells were heard jingling, and Old Father Christmas made his appearance to every one's delight.

Present scholar in the school received a book from Miss Fraser, and every child every had a bag of candies and fruit, while Santa Claus presented each bachelor with a doll. After the tree was quite empty Mr. T. D. Coe proposed a vote of thanks to Miss Fraser, who had taken so much trouble in getting up the entertainment, and to Santa Claus and the friends who had so willingly given their aid. Three cheers were heartily given. The evening then finished up with dancing, which was kept up merrily until 9:30 a.m.

BOUNDARY CREEK. Boundary Creek Times. Mons. Gire, representing the French syndicate operating in Central camp, proposes to treat his ores by an electrical process. He asserts that ore can be treated so inexpensively by this process that he will be entirely independent of railroads.

On Wednesday Mr. J. C. Haas, P. M., acting for the British Canadian Gold Fields Company, purchased from the lessees, Messrs. C. S. Galloway and G. A. Randall, the Ethiopians in Long Lake camp. The price asked for the claim was \$3000 cash.

Mrs. Garland has bonded her one-eighth interest in the Jewel claim, Long Lake camp, to Mr. P. B. Smith, acting as agent for the British Columbia Prospecting Syndicate. By this bond the syndicate obtain full control of the Jewel claim, and they have lately obtained control of the adjoining property, Denoro Grande. The consideration of this transfer is \$6000; \$500 down, 20 per cent in six months and the balance in ten months.

GRAND FORKS. Grand Forks Miner. A Seattle syndicate is negotiating for

competent manager and superintendent. A large quantity of ore is now on the dump, and Mr. W. H. Ireland, who has set up his test smelter, will be in a position to run it through in the course of a few days.

A meeting of the Presbytery of Kamloops was held in the city yesterday, and a number of Presbyterian clergymen from Donald, Kamloops, Armstrong and other points along the line were in attendance. The principal business of the Presbytery was the ordination of Mr. Campbell, who will take charge for the coming year.

At the Vernon four mill on Saturday James McCall, the engineer of the mill, was loading a truck which stood beside a high stack of flour in such a way that the pile tumbled down, completely covering him. About two tons of flour fell, but fortunately Mr. McCall was knocked down by the shock and fell close beside the truck, which caught a good deal of the weight of the fall, and thus he was saved.

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BRIEF LOCALS

Cleanings of City and Provincial New a Co. is now in progress.

The British Columbia Medical Council examinations will be held in Victoria on January 12th.

The Christmas entertainment of St. Barnabas Sunday school, was held on Thursday evening in Fernwood Hall.

The next regular meeting of Behnson Temple No. 3, Rathbone Sisters will be held in the new Pythian Hall, Broad street.

A special meeting of the Liberal Conservative Association will be held on Monday evening at 8 o'clock in the Conservative Club.

Several drunks were arrested yesterday, and as is customary on holidays, released after they had become sufficiently sober to appear.

The annual Morris Tube competition of No. 1 company of the Fifth Regiment will be begun next Tuesday evening at the drill hall.

Police Officer Alex. Smith was reported as resting easier today than he has been in some time, and is of the opinion that he may recover.

It was reported to the police yesterday evening that a Chinese girl named Moon, aged ten years, had been seen in Her wharfbaths has not yet been ascertained.

John McDonald, of Colwood, came to the city today with a large panther which he shot near the city, but being shot the panther had killed a good-sized deer.

The funeral of the late William Blyth of Wilkinson road, Strawberry Vale, took place today at 2 p.m. from Hanna's undertaking establishment, Douglas street. The Rev. Mr. Laverock officiated at the cemetery.

The usual Christmas entertainment of St. Paul's Presbyterian Sunday school was held on Thursday evening in Semple's hall, Victoria West. Besides a well laden Christmas tree a good programme was provided.

A Chinaman who happened to be entangled up in the procession of boys with tin horns marched along Government street soon after the beginning of the new year, and was pushed through a window of Beatty's store.

A special meeting for the purpose of arranging for the reception of Daniel President J. F. Kavanagh, who is expected to visit this city, will be held on Wednesday evening, January 6, at 8 p.m. in the A. O. U. W. hall, beginning at 8 p.m. Major McGillivray, supreme secretary of the order, will read an address on fraternal associations, referring especially to Forestry.

Hearing that New Year's eve was being celebrated by a quiet game of chuck-a-luck in a doghouse on the men in On Hing's store to No. 11 Store street, the police decided to make a call. As a result of their call those participating in the game have received summonses to appear before Police Magistrate Macrae.

A reception was held yesterday afternoon by the W. C. T. U. in Temperance hall. The hall was very prettily decorated by the ladies, who received a large number of visitors. In the evening an at home was held, when a programme of vocal music was given. Rev. J. P. Hicks occupied the chair during the evening.

For the purpose of obtaining the right to try a newly invented machine for saving gold from black beach sand, Mr. Will Lyons and a number of his friends from Port Townsend are in the city. Mr. Lyons says he is convinced that his machine will recover the finest gold. He will experiment with it on the southwest coast of the Island.

William Herman appeared before Police Magistrate Macrae in the police court this morning, charged with aggravated assault on Archie McGregor on New Year's morning. The row took place on Government street early yesterday morning, and as a result Archie McGregor is lying in bed with several stitches in his head. As he was too ill to appear this morning the case was remanded until Monday morning.

The funeral of the late John W. Griffith took place this morning from the residence of William Donnan, 3400a avenue. Services were conducted at the residence by Rev. Dr. Campbell, assisted by Rev. Solomon Cleaver, M.A., and the cemetery by Dr. Campbell. A number of friends attended and offerings betoken the esteem in which the deceased was held. The pallbearers were: Ad. Partridge, Richard Hall, W. H. Ellis, Louis de la Cruz, Daney, E. Campbell, Thomas J. Burnes, F. G. Richards and T. G. Raynor.

The winning number in Jamieson's contest, which was concluded on New Year's Eve, was 1088. The winners are: Geo. Jaques, Fort street, who wins the first prize of \$50 cash with an estimate of 1,087; W. Tracey, of H.M. S. Impetuous, second, with 1,089, wins \$20 worth of goods; Mrs. Walter Barton, third, with 1,068, wins \$15 worth of goods; and Miss F. Scott, of 514 Government street, and Mrs. J. Allan, of Victoria West, divide the fourth and fifth prizes, aggregating \$15 worth of goods with estimates of 1,078 and 1,100 respectively.

Ad. Cameron has given notice that at next regular meeting of the city council he will move the two resolutions appended: "That the returning officer for the ensuing municipal elections be requested to arrange the polling booths so that the voter shall be separated from the general public from the time he receives his ballot paper until the same is deposited in the ballot box. That the city engineer and assessor be requested to furnish the council with an estimate of the cost of a map of the city drawn to a scale of 200 feet to the inch, with the assessed value marked in red on each lot—land and improvements separate.

Detective Perrin, of the city police force, yesterday received a dispatch from Tacoma instructing him to arrest a Miss Black, who had kidnapped a twelve-year-old boy, the son of Dr. Morof, of Tacoma. Miss Black, who is about 50 years of age, was housekeeper for the doctor. She fled from Tacoma on Thursday with the doctor's son and also his jewelry. It was supposed that

she took passage on the Kingston, but a careful search of the steamer upon her arrival revealed no woman answering her description. The doctor is a prominent physician of Tacoma, and has offered a handsome reward for the arrest of the woman.

A want has often been felt by all interested in reform movements for some common bond of union, in which single taxers on the land question, bi-metallicists on the currency question, prohibitionists on the liquor question and trades unionists on the labor question, might all unite their forces. To this end it has been proposed to inaugurate in this city a Social Science Society for the open discussion of social and religious questions. The preliminary meeting is arranged to take place in the Pillar-hall tomorrow (Sunday) evening at 7:30 p.m., and a goodly gathering of reformers may be expected.

The year 1896 was rung out, whistled out, shot out and fire-crackered out, and 1897 was welcomed in at the same time and in a similar way. An anxiety steamer in the harbor, and every engine establishment that is furnished a whistle, poured forth their melodious notes as the town clock tolled the hour of twelve. "Welcome 1897" was held in a number of churches. At the regular prayer meeting hour Thursday evening, Rev. Dr. Reid delivered a very instructive address on the subject of the Reformation. The street car service was continued until 2 o'clock yesterday morning, to accommodate those who attended the midnight service.

A residence of the bride's mother, 159 Johnson street, last evening, Rev. W. Leslie Clay officiated at a very quiet wedding, Miss Elizabeth third daughter of the late William C. Bryant, being united in marriage to John P. Grop, of Louisville, Ky. Only the relatives and most intimate friends of the family were present. Mr. W. Kurtz acted as best man, the bride's sister, Violet, was bridesmaid. The bride wore a lavender colored dress trimmed with plush and pearls; the bridesmaid a cream cashmere, trimmed with white silk. The presents were very handsome and useful. Mr. and Mrs. Grop will take up their residence at 22 Farquhar street.

During the week just past the following new companies have been incorporated with a total capital of \$11,500,000: British Gold Mining Co., of Vancouver, \$1,000,000; Bald Mountain M. & D. Co., Golden, \$2,500,000; Black Hills M. Co., Roseland, \$1,000,000; Copper Mountain Mines, Vancouver, \$500,000; Lucky George, M. Co., Sandon, \$1,000,000; Observation Mountain M. Co., Grand Forks, \$1,000,000; Roseland, \$1,000,000; Red Mountain M. Co., May G. M. Co., Roseland, \$1,000,000; Trail Creek Hidden Treasure, G. M. Co., Roseland, \$1,000,000; Vancouver Gold Fields, Vancouver, \$500,000; Washington Mining Co., Spokane, \$1,000,000.

The children of the Protestant Orphan's Home had their Christmas entertainment on Thursday evening. When Bishop Crige made his introductory remarks the children were seated on the platform in the large dining room. Two Christmas trees were in evidence, richly laden with gifts, which were distributed by Lieut. Col. Gregory as representative of that general old gentleman Santa Claus. Among the visitors present were Right Rev. Bishop Crige, Rev. Dr. Campbell, Rev. W. C. L. Harris, Rev. Dr. Reid, President Hayward, Dr. Milne, James Hutcheson and several ladies. The entertainment was managed by the lady president of the ladies' committee, who presided in the most graceful and pleasing manner in which the entertainment was conducted.

The Y. M. C. A. rooms were crowded with visitors yesterday afternoon when the annual New Year's reception was held. The rooms were prettily decorated, and in the reading room, which for the time being had been cleared of the tables, refreshment tables were spread. The ladies of the Y. M. C. A. were in charge of this department. The visitors were entertained in the main hall by a gymnasium given by the members of the Y. A. C. and Y. M. C. A. The exhibition was varied with vocal solos by Messrs. Clement Rowlands, Frank Bishop and H. Ireland. In the evening a concert was given to a very large audience in the main hall. Solos were given by Messrs. C. L. Harris and F. Harris, and Messrs. Rowlands, Laird and Giffen. Mrs. B. L. Drury made a very good accompanist.

A large audience attended the Hogmanay concert given by the Sir William Wallace Society in their hall on New Year's eve. Mrs. McGraw's two Scotch songs, "The Flowers of the Forest" and "Auld Robin Gray," were well received. Mrs. Rowlands' number was also vociferously applauded. Miss May Wolf sang "Comin' Thro' the Rye." A quartet composed of Messrs. Rowlands and Keith and Misses Rowlands and McGraw sang "Annie Laurie" in good style. Mr. Keith's "Mary of Arzyle" was also well received. Wm. Anderson sang a Highland King and Messrs. Munro, Anderson, Jamieson and Russell the "Beel of Tulloch." The pipe music during the evening was supplied by the Society's piper, Mr. Peter McDonald. The concert was concluded by the singing of "Auld Lang Syne," in which the audience joined.

A Portland dispatch of December 31 says: A two-months' chase after a kidnapped daughter, in which the father, T. C. Mercer, of Ogden, Utah, spent \$10,000, and Sheriff Herber Wright, of Weber county, Utah, travelled 25,000 miles through the United States and Canada in pursuit of Mercer's divorced wife, who had stolen his daughter Maggie, ended last Tuesday night at Victoria, B. C., where Mr. Mercer regained possession of his daughter, and by Sheriff Wright, immediately left for Portland, arriving today. Mercer is reported to be one of Ogden's wealthiest citizens and is well known all over Utah. In 1894 Mrs. Mercer brought suit for divorce, but Mercer filed a cross-complaint and was himself granted a divorce and awarded the custody of the child.

On October 28 Mrs. Mercer met the child coming from school and took her away. Mr. Mercer immediately started on the trail, and after a two-months' chase he was rewarded by finding his daughter in Victoria.

The Ministerial Association of this city have made the following arrangements for the week of prayer, which starts to-morrow. A morning prayer

meeting from 9 to 10 o'clock each day on Monday, Saturday inclusive, in the Y.M.C.A. rooms, Broad street, Rev. P. C. L. Harris will read the singing during the week, while Rev. A. B. Winchell, of the association, in selecting the morning hour were anxious to meet the convenience of many business men who would like an opportunity of attending the meetings. Subjects for the week suggested by the Evangelical Alliance for the first two days: Sunday, Jan. 3. Sermons—"The Lord is good unto them that wait for him; to the soul that seeketh him." Lam. iii, 25. Monday, Jan. 4. Thanksgiving and humiliation—Praise and thanksgiving, humiliation and confession of sin. Prayer for the more entire consecration of heart and life; for a more steadfast "looking unto Jesus" as the author of our faith. 1 Cor. v, 19-20; Col. i, 10-11; 2 Peter, iii, 11-14.

The regular meeting of the Friendly Help Association will be held to-morrow evening at 11 a.m. at No. 40, Market Hall.

D. H. C. C. Noah Shakespeare will this evening install the officers of Victoria Camp No. 52, Woodmen of the World.

A general meeting of the directors of the Royal Jubilee Hospital will be held next Thursday evening at the office of Messrs. Yate and Salt for looking into before-selling for Acapulco. Lieut. Commander Garforth of H. M. S. Pheasant, received notice of his promotion to the position of commander.

Miss Black, who kidnapped the 12-year-old son of Dr. Myer of Tacoma, and for whom the city police were on the lookout, was arrested in Tacoma on Saturday morning.

The members of Columbia lodge, No. 2, I. O. O. F., concluded their last regular meeting with a sumptuous supper. An entertaining programme was also carried out.

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BEHRING SEA CLAIMS.

The Sitting of the Commissioners Continued This Morning.

At the continuation of the sitting of the Behring Sea Claims Commission this morning the case of the Thornton was resumed. Capt. J. D. Warren, recalled, told of the sale of the schooner Thornton for \$188,000. She was sold for \$1 subject to mortgage. This sale took place in connection with the sale of the other schooners after witness' assignment. It was a creditors' sale. The schooner was sold to the British Columbia Fishery Commission, formerly manager of the Albin Iron Works, valued at \$250,000, and those of the Grace and Dolphin at \$300,000.

The deposition of Andrew Lang was then read; he told of the seizure and the treatment of the crew at the trial at Sitka.

Sir Charles H. Tupper submitted copies of letters from the commanding officer of the United States revenue cutter Rush relating to the seizure of the Sayward, Dolphin, Grace and Anna Beck at \$250,000, and those of the Grace and Dolphin at \$300,000.

An adjournment was then taken until 2:30 o'clock this afternoon.

A MOUNTAIN OF GOLD.

Will Be Uncovered by Captain Wood of Spokane.

Among the passengers going north on the Boscowitz to-night will be Captain J. A. Wood, E. R. Smallwood and E. V. Capson of Spokane. They are mining men of the province next spring, and to Queen Charlotte Islands to open out an extensive free milling proposition. Captain Wood spent considerable time on the coast of the province, and he said that Layn Hill, at the entrance to Skidegate Inlet, is covered with calcareous tufa, carrying free gold. Layn Hill is about 500 feet high and from the head of Bute Inlet, and is supposed to be of the calcareous formation. Captain Wood has tested this rock and has found gold in paying quantities. If it can be quarried at a profit, it will be one of the richest sources of gold in the province. Layn Hill is situated within a stone's throw of ocean navigation, the rock is so soft that it can be quarried and crushed with the greatest ease. It is estimated that there are 200,000 tons of this rock in the area. There were similar formations on other parts of the islands, but he never saw them. He will, however, remain on the islands some time and will do considerable prospecting work.

Although Captain Wood is turning his attention to Queen Charlotte Islands, he has by no means lost faith in the Kootenay country, where he has been engaged in mining for some time. He says that he has been in the Kootenay country for several weeks ago he was the manager of the Two Friends mine and is interested in other properties. He believes that there will be a great rush of moneyed men to the Kootenay country, and that Trail, Sloam, Salmon River, Boun-dary Creek and other districts will receive their fair share of attention.

THE WEEK OF PRAYER.

Opening Meeting of the Week Held Today at the Y.M.C.A. Rooms.

At the Y.M.C.A. rooms this morning week of prayer was opened, Rev. A. B. Winchester being in charge of this first meeting. The subjects for the remaining days of the week are as follows: Monday—Prayer for the Holy Spirit. Tuesday—Prayer for the Holy Spirit. Wednesday—Prayer for the Holy Spirit. Thursday—Prayer for the Holy Spirit. Friday—Prayer for the Holy Spirit. Saturday—Prayer for the Holy Spirit. Sunday—Prayer for the Holy Spirit.

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Was Purchased by Welch, Rithet & Co., and Registered at Victoria.

Sierra Blanca Chartered to Load Rice in China-Lumber Charters.

Messrs. Welch, Rithet & Co., of San Francisco have purchased the four-masted clipper ship Fort George. She has been registered at the port of Victoria through R. P. Rithet & Co. The Fort George will be used in the sugar trade and will probably ply between San Francisco and Honolulu. She is an iron ship of 1750 tons register and was built by Workman, Clark & Co., of Belfast. Until purchased by Welch, Rithet & Co. the Fort George was registered from the port of Glasgow.

To-night the C.P.R. steamer Empress of India will call at the outer wharf of her way to Yokohama. Among her passengers will be Mr. J. M. Barrie, author of "The Admirable Crichton" and Mr. Grant, a member of Sir James Grant, of Ottawa. He has been heavily interested in many of our enterprises on this continent, and is going to China to engage in the construction of some of the numerous railways which the Chinese are about to build. Mr. Grant is backed up by English capital. The Empress of India will carry away a full cargo of general merchandise and several Chinese in the steerage.

Yesterday the Northern Pacific steamer Empress of the Orient sailed for Seattle. She carries a full cargo of freight and a number of passengers. Sixty-nine Chinese arrived from the Sound via the Kingston last evening and took passage on the Empress.

Since yesterday the Rosalie has been running on a new schedule. She leaves Seattle at 9:30 o'clock in the evening and reaches Victoria about 10 in the morning. She leaves Victoria for Seattle at 7:30 in the morning.

The ship Sierra Blanca, now unloaded at the wharf, will proceed on Saturday next to China in ballast to load rice either at Rio Janeiro or Great Britain. This is about the first instance known of a vessel leaving here in ballast for China.

The sealing schooner Sadie Turner, Capt. A. S. Crane, has cleared for sailing cruise. She carries a crew of seventeen white men.

The ship City of Florence received orders yesterday to proceed to Tacoma to load lumber for Australia. She is expected to leave to-night.

The ship Indore is having ports out for the Albion Iron Works. She when finished proceed to the Sound to load lumber for the United Kingdom.

The ship Kate Thomas has been ordered to load lumber on the Sound. It is expected that she will go to Australia.

J. M. BARRIE AS A CHAIRMAN

Mr. J. M. Barrie, the well-known Scottish author, was invited about a year ago by the Aberdeen corporation to give a public lecture in that city. His lecture was characteristic of his kind. He wrote, "I think you will be heartily for this pleasant reminder of me that induced the committee to send me this invitation, but on a platform I wished to get beyond my never dull, and I am sure, never duller. This recalls a very old story that is not generally known concerning the author of 'A Window in Thrums.' It seems that on one occasion he was induced to take the chair at Burns supper at Ayr, he sat dumb as a stone at the head of the table, in any one of those things which express a chairman to not even simulate his gaiety, and the earliest chair all appeared in the National Observer an article on 'Mr. Barrie in the Chair.' Most people who read it expanded in merriment, and so on. It eventually leaked out that the writer was Mr. Barrie himself."

Captain H. H. P. Deasy, of the twentieth Queen's Lancers, left England some time ago for a journey to the Tropics. He intends on the way to do some soldered-up tin, containing parchment notices in English, French into the tributaries of the Nile, and into the other large rivers of the Nile valley, in the hope of finding down stream, possibly in Bahr-el-Ghazal, Salween, and Mekong, and thus help solve the vexed problem of the Nile and connections of these rivers. The expedition will be conservatively guided and the tin in which they will be closed will have a brass label soldered on the outside, bearing the name "Please open this" in English, French, and Captain Deasy's name. The parchment inside bears the text that will be forwarded without delay to the Royal Geographical Society, London, with an accurate statement possible as to where it was placed. Captain Deasy is to be pleased with his knowledge, and it is hoped that the English, English and French, in the neighborhood of the rivers and lakes may be able to arrange a looking at the tin may be secured, and the parchment delivered to the proper authorities.

A. W. Smith, M.P.P., and wife arrived in the city last night. They are registered at the Victoria Hotel. Mr. Smith will remain for the sitting of the legislature. He reports considerable mining activity in the vicinity of Lillooet.

Hungarian Flour for \$1.35 at Bros.

Recollections of Captain Wilkie.

By A. CONAN DOYLE.

Who can he be? I thought, as I watched the second-class carriage of the London and Dover railway. I had been full of the fact that my expected holiday had come at last, and that for a few days at least the gay life of Paris were about to supersede the dull routine of London before I observed that I was not alone in the compartment. These days we have all pretty well agreed that "three is a company and two is not," and I was not alone in the compartment. At the time I was not so much interested in my traveling companions. It was rather an agreeable surprise to me to find that there was some one of my own age in the carriage. I therefore pulled my eyes down over my eyes, took a good look at the man beneath it, at his vis-a-vis, and repeated to myself: "Who is that?"

"It is a habit of mine," said I. "I am a medical man, and observation is everything in my profession. I had noticed you were looking at me without looking," he answered. "I thought you were a detective, at first, but I couldn't recall your face at the time I knew the force." "Was you a detective, then?" said I. "No," he answered, with a laugh. "I was the other thing—the detective, you know. Old scores are wiped out now, and the law cannot touch me, so I don't mind confessing to a gentleman, like yourself, what a scoundrel I have been in my time."

"We are none of us perfect," said I. "No; but I was real out-and-out. A 'take, you know, to start with, and afterwards a cracksmen.' It is easy to talk of these things now, for I've changed my spirit. It's as if I was talking of some other man, you see."

"Exactly so," said I. Being a medical man I had none of that shrinking from crime and criminals which many men possess. I could make all allowances for congenial influences and the force of circumstances. No company, therefore, could have been more acceptable to me than that of the old malefactor, and as I sat putting at my chair, I was delighted to observe that my air of interest was gradually loosening his tongue.

"Yes; I'm converted now," he continued, "and of course I am a happier man for that. And yet," he added, wistfully, "there are times when I long for the old trade again, and fancy myself strolling out on a cloudy night with my jimmy in my pocket. I left a notice behind me in my profession, sir. I was one of the old school, you know. It was very seldom that we bungled a job. We used to begin at the foot of the ladder, the rope ladder, I may say so, in my younger days, and then work our way up, step by step, so that we were what you might call good men all through."

"I see," said I. "I was always reckoned a hard-working, conscientious man, and had talent, too; the very cleverest of them allowed that. I began as a blacksmith, and then did a little carpentering and carpentering, and yet he was at his ease in a middle-class life. Eyes well set together and the prominent nose would be a good sign of a good marksman. Cheeks flabby, softness of expression redeemed by a sharp-cut jaw and a well-set lower lip, and a powerful type. Now for the hands—rather disappointed. They might be a self-made man by the time he was thirty, but there is no callous in his hands, and no thickness in the joints. Has he engaged in any real physical work?"

"I should think so. No tanning on the hands; on the contrary, they were white, with blue projecting veins and delicate fingers. Couldn't be an artist, that's clear, and he had the hand of a man engaged in delicate, manual work. No red ad spots upon his hands, no ink stains, no nitrate of silver upon the hands (this helps to negate the supposition that he was a photographer). Clothes not worn in any regular part. Coat made of tweed, and gold; but the left one, as far as I can see, has as much of the fluff left on it as a new one. There are a few of these things, but the little pocket in the waistcoat is wanting, nor has he any of those handy valises, suggestive of these brief headings of my ideas as to a conclusion. As yet I had obtained quite a number of results; but in my case a chemical analysis was in order to pour out of this solution the possibilities and examine the result. I found myself reduced to a very small number of occupations. He was a fisherman, and a somewhat delicate about the necktie. I was wavering between pawnbroker and horse-trader; but there was too much character about his face for the former, and he lacked that extraordinary equine atmosphere which hangs about the latter even in his moments of relaxation; so I formed a provision of betting man of methemoglobinemia, the latter clause being inserted in deference to his hat and hair. I do not think that I reasoned it out in my own mind. It is only now, when I have been down with pen and paper, that I can see the successful steps. As it was, I formed my conclusion within sixty seconds of the time when I drew my hat off, and my eyes and entered the men's compartment with which my narrative is connected. I feel quite satisfied even then, and I was not a clergyman, in spite of the fact that he was a betting man, and I determined to try one. There was a man sitting by my companion, and I saw an opportunity too good to be missed. I looked at your face, sir, certainly," said he most graciously, "and I was looking at you."

quiet tone, "for they would never back a single hour at such short odds with a field of thirty."

"There was something in this speech of his which tickled me immensely. I suppose it was the odd way in which he blended religious intolerance with worldly wisdom. I laid the Times aside with the conviction that I should be able to spend the next two hours to better purpose than in his pursuit."

"You speak as if you understood the matter, at any rate," I remarked. "I have read these things in the old days before I changed my profession. But that is all over now." "Changed your profession?" said I, interrogatively. "Yes, I changed my name, too." "Indeed?" said I. "Yes; you see, a man wants a fresh start, when his eyes become opened, so he has a new deal all round, so to speak. Then he gets a fair chance."

"There was a short pause here, as I seemed to be on delicate ground in touching on my companion's antecedents, and he did not volunteer any information. I broke the silence by offering him a cheroot."

"No, thanks, said he. 'I have given up tobacco. It was the hardest wrench of all. It does me good to smell the whiff of your weed. Tell me,' he added, suddenly looking hard at me with his shrewd gray eyes, 'why did you take stock of me so curiously before you spoke to me?' 'It is a habit of mine,' said I. 'I am a medical man, and observation is everything in my profession. I had noticed you were looking at me without looking,' he answered. 'I thought you were a detective, at first, but I couldn't recall your face at the time I knew the force.' 'Was you a detective, then?' said I. 'No,' he answered, with a laugh. 'I was the other thing—the detective, you know. Old scores are wiped out now, and the law cannot touch me, so I don't mind confessing to a gentleman, like yourself, what a scoundrel I have been in my time.'"

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there was nothing in his job. I hurried off with my prize, and got it stowed away in safety, intending to have it melted down next day. Now, it happened that this watch possessed a special value in the owner's eye because it was a sort of ancestral possession—presented by his father on coming of age, or something of that sort. I remember there was a long inscription on the back. He was determined not to lose it if he could help it, and accordingly he put an advertisement in an evening paper offering thirty pounds reward for its return, and promising that no question should be asked. I gave the address of his house, 81 Caroline square, at the end of the advertisement. The thing sounded good enough, so I set off for Caroline square, which I passed in a parcel at the end of the street. I was there when I got there, and the gentleman was at dinner; but he came out quick enough when he heard that a young man wanted to see him. I suppose he guessed who the young man would prove



"MANAGED TO PICK HIS POCKET FOR THE SECOND TIME."

to be. He was a genial-looking old fellow, and he led me away with him into his study.

"Well, my lad," said he, "what is it?" "I've come about that watch of yours," said I. "I think I can lay my hands on it." "No," I answered, "I don't want to know whatever about you lost it. I have been sent by another party to see you about it. Even if you have me arrested, you will not get anything." "Well," he said, "I don't want to be hard on you. Hand it over, and here is my cheque for the amount."

"Cheques won't do," said I. "I must have the watch in my hand." "It will take an hour or so to collect in gold," said he. "That will just suit," I answered, for I have not got the watch with me. I'll go back and fetch it, while you raise the money."

"I started off, and got the watch where I had left it. When I came back the old gentleman was sitting behind his study table, with the little heap of gold in front of him.

"Here is your money," he said, and pushed it over. "Here is your watch," said I. "It was a very nice watch, and I'm glad to get it back; and after examining it carefully, and assuring himself that it was none the worse, he put it into the watch pocket of his coat with a grunt of satisfaction."

"I wouldn't tell you in any case," said he, "but especially would I tell you if you have a witness hid behind that curtain." You see, I had all my wits about me, and it didn't escape me that the curtain was drawn tighter than it had been before.

the branch you have been talking of," remarked, "than there is in burglary." "Ah!" he said, warming to his subject once again, "it is the higher game which is best worth attempting. Talk about sports, it is tame in comparison. Think of the great country house with its men servants and its dogs and its streams, and you with only your jimmy and your center bit, and your mother with which is the triumph of intellect over brute force, sir, as represented by bolts and bars."

"People generally look upon it as quite the reverse," I remarked. "I gave the address of his house, 81 Caroline square, at the end of the advertisement. The thing sounded good enough, so I set off for Caroline square, which I passed in a parcel at the end of the street. I was there when I got there, and the gentleman was at dinner; but he came out quick enough when he heard that a young man wanted to see him. I suppose he guessed who the young man would prove

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escape. We had to give it up as a bad job, so we set down again, and made up our minds to the worst. Suddenly an idea flashed into my mind, and I groped my way over the roof until I felt wood under my feet. I bent down and found that the colonel had actually forgotten to secure the padlock! You will often notice, as you go through life, that it is the shrewdest and most cunning man who falls into the most absurd mistakes; and this was an example of it. You may guess that we did not lose much time, for we expected to hear the constables every moment. We dropped through into the lumber-room, slipped downstairs, and opened the library shutters, and were out and away before the astonished groom could make out what had happened. There wasn't time enough to take any little souvenir with us, worse luck. I should have liked to have seen the colonel's face when he came back with the constables and found that the birds were flown."

"Did you ever come across the colonel again?" I asked. "Yes; we skinned him of every bit of plate he had, down to the salt spoons, a few years later. It was partly out of revenge, you see, that we did it. It was a very well-managed and daring thing, one of the best I ever saw, and all done in open daylight, too."

"How in the world did you do it?" I asked. "Well, there were three of us in it—Jim was one; and we set about it in this way: We wanted to begin by getting the colonel out of the way, so I wrote him a note purporting to be from the Scotch Brotherhood, who lived about ten miles away, and was not always on the best of terms with the master of Morley hall. I dressed myself up as a groom and delivered the note myself, and then I slipped that the squire thought he was able to lay his hands on the soundrels who had escaped from the colonel a couple of years before, and that if the colonel would ride out they would have little difficulty in securing them. I was sure that this would have the desired effect; so, after handing it in, and remarking that I was the squire's groom, I walked off again, as if on the way back to my master."

"After getting out of sight of the house, I crouched down behind a hedge; and, as I expected, in less than a quarter of an hour the colonel came swinging past me on his chestnut mare. Now, there is another accomplishment I possess which I have not mentioned to you yet, and that is, I can copy any handwriting that I see. It is a very easy matter to pick up if you only give your mind to it. I happened to have come across one of Col. Morley's letters some days before, and I can write so that even now I defy an expert to detect a difference between the hands. This was a great assistance to me now, for I took a leaf out of my pocketbook and wrote something to this effect:

"As Squire Brothewick has seen some suspicious characters about the house, a search may be attempted again. I have sent down to the bank and ordered them to send up their bank to convey the whole of the balance to a place of safety. It will save us a good deal of anxiety to know that it is in absolute security. Have it packed up and ready, and give the bearer a glass of beer."

"Having composed this precious epistle, I addressed it to the butler, and carried it back to the Hall, saying that their master had overruled me on the way and asked me to deliver it. I was taken in and made much of downstairs; while a great pack-case was dragged into the hall, and the plate stowed away, among cotton-wool and stuffing. It was nearly ready when I heard the sound of wheels upon the gravel, and sauntered round just in time to see a business-like closed car drive up to the door. One of my pals was sitting very demurely on the box, while Jim, with an official-looking bat, sprang out and bustled into the hall."

"Now, then," I heard him say, 'look sharp! What's for the bank? Come on!'" "Wait a minute, sir," said the butler. "Can't wait. There's a party all over the country, and they are clamoring for us everywhere. Must drive on to Lord Blackbury's place, unless you are ready." "Don't go, sir," pleaded the butler. "There's only this one rope to tie. There's it ready now. You'll look after it, won't you?"

"That will do," I said, never having any more trouble with it now," said Jim, helping to push the great case into the car. "I think I had better go with you and see it stowed away in the bank," said the butler. "All right," said Jim, nothing abashed. "You can't come in the car, though, for Lord Blackbury's box will take up all the spare room. Let's see, it's twelve o'clock now. Well, you be off, while Jim, with an official-looking bat, sprang out and bustled into the hall. "Now, then," I heard him say, 'look sharp! What's for the bank? Come on!'" "Wait a minute, sir," said the butler. "Can't wait. There's a party all over the country, and they are clamoring for us everywhere. Must drive on to Lord Blackbury's place, unless you are ready." "Don't go, sir," pleaded the butler. "There's only this one rope to tie. There's it ready now. You'll look after it, won't you?"

the window. It was so contorted and agitated that I hardly recognized the features which I had been gazing upon during the last couple of hours. "Here, take it," he said—"the car!" "I nearly waded my way into the carriage and disappeared. It was my old master's purse, with my return ticket, and the whole of my traveling expenses. His newly awakened conscience had driven him to instant restitution."

[THE END.]

FORTUNES IN THE WASTE.

Talking about the saving of the copper held in solution in the water taken from the copper mines, John D. Henry, an old Missouri miner, says: "For a long time the water at the copper mines around Butte was allowed to run off, the owners of the mines not seeming to understand the importance of treating the water for the copper in solution. A few years ago when the water from the Anaconda mine was leased to an old Leadville miner, who took out \$120,000 in three years at a trifling expense, it was borne in on the company that the loss from that source had amounted to a very handsome sum, and since then every gallon of water that comes from the mine has been saved and the copper extracted."

"Some years ago I visited the copper districts of East Tennessee in the interests of some parties who were talking of engaging in the business, and while there saw a copper mine in which water was a very important factor in the saving of values. The mine was very wet and the ore was extremely susceptible to the action of water. The operators discovered this fact very soon by having to replace their iron pipes at very short intervals. They then put in wooden pipes and treated the water with scrap iron in settling tanks. As soon as the water had been exhausted of its metallic value it was pumped to a point some distance away from the shaft and permitted to percolate slowly through the crevices of the vein, and by the time it reached the pump again it was so heavily charged with copper that it was treated over again. The owners told me that the copper received in this way represented the profits of their operations.—Denver Republican.

ENGLAND'S LIST OF SEAMEN.

Fanciful intelligencers in naval matters have lately been striving to take entire possession of the public ear. Not only this, but the country has been surfeited with a number of nonsensical stuff about the numbers of all rank available for sea service. So-called experts have fallen into a palpable mistake when they put it at 94,750, which is the total number of sea service even on paper, the remaining 7832 being made up of 5300 boys under training and 1121 pensioners. Of the 462 naval cadets and engineer students, while to complete the list 1049 other officers and men are employed in different establishments and services.

How are these 35,818 officers and men ready to go anywhere at an hour's notice made up? Petty officers and seamen number 56,420, but only 27,580 belong to the seamen class. Engine room officers and stokers absorb 19,023 of the difference; artificers, 3806; miscellaneous ratings, 5117; while the balance is made up of Kreemen and Seelies, and natives of the Royal Indian Marine, mustering 725 in all.

But here is a big disparity in numbers existing between the 56,420 men in the petty officers and seamen class and the 35,818 available for sea service. Marines account for 15,000 of this difference—4200 in the coastguard. What an absurdity to talk of all these guardians of our coast being available for sea! To cap all, we have 4495 boys afloat, in addition to the 5300 previously noticed under training and ineffective. That is to say, our boys number available for sea 61,915 of our entire available force of petty officers and seamen class, or more than one-tenth of the total numbers (93,750) borne. These facts and figures should be studied by those who pretend to keep reasonable and authoritative public statements concerning our naval personnel.—London Exchange.

OLD NEPTUNE'S ROPE.

The largest marine plant, and probably one of the highest plants known on this globe, is a gigantic seaweed, the necrocytis, the stem of which has been found to grow as much as 300 feet long. It was first discovered not far from the Alaskan coast, but has since been found floating in various parts of the Pacific ocean, along the American and Asiatic shores. This seaweed grows in a very curious manner. Large quantities of it are found at a little distance from shore, and at depths not exceeding 300 feet. On leamy bottom large tufts of strong, white, cord-like leaves grow upward. At its top there is a pear-shaped balloon, which grows with the stem, and when it reaches the surface of the water it often measures six feet and more in length, with a diameter of four feet six inches. This balloon has, of course, an upward tendency, and keeps the stem growing until it floats on the surface of the water. From the top of this balloon a large tuft of strong, white, cord-like leaves grows out, which originally are not more than two feet long, and which grow and split until from fifty to sixty-five feet in diameter covers the water. This gigantic weed grows in such quantities that near the shore large meadow-like islands are formed, which impede navigation. The natives of the Aleutian islands make manifold use of the plant. From their strong dried stems they make ropes 250 feet and more long, while the balloons of this weed furnish them with large vessels after they are dried, the smaller ones being used for their boats in the water out. The long leaves, after being dried, are cut into narrow strips and used to swicker-work the making of baskets and similar furniture.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Must not be confounded with common... (text continues vertically)

LEFT UNDECIDED

Victoria Chess Team Accepts a Draw in Last Night's Game With Frisco.

Strong Game Played by Both Teams - Frisco Adopts New Plan of Attack.

Fifth Regiment Rugby Team Scores Another Victory - Shoot at Sidney.

The chess champions of Victoria and San Francisco have had another royal battle, but the right to supremacy still remains undecided. Last year each side won a game and last night a draw was declared.

The drawing, San Francisco won the move and opened the game with P4. Victoria decided to accept the open game and followed suit. The Frisco players proceeded with a Ruy Lopez opening and but up a very strong game.

At the end of the 25th move San Francisco wired as follows: "Mr. Piper, captain of the Victoria team. The players here propose a draw? What do you say?"

Mr. Piper was of the opinion that the game might continue for hours, but as it was then only one o'clock he declined a draw, adding that a Britisher never liked to surrender.

Both teams played a strong game. San Francisco players adopted a form of the Ruy Lopez, about which their opponents had but very little information.

The wireless work admirably and there was no slightest hitch from the opening to the closing of the game.

Each side had to make ten moves in an hour. The longest time taken over a move by Victoria was in the 18th, 19th and 20th moves Frisco was hard pressed for time.

Among the interested spectators were several of the members of the Behring Sea Commission. They watched the game from a side table and the moves they made showed that they were no novices.

- Below are the moves: SAN FRANCISCO. VICTORIA. 1-P to K4. P to K4. 2-Kt to K B3. Kt to Q B3. 3-B to Kt5. Kt to B3. 4-Castles. Kt takes Pawn. 5-P to Q4. B to K5. 6-P to Q3. Kt to Q3. 7-B to K2. P to K5. 8-P takes Kt. P takes Kt. 9-P takes P check. B takes P. 10-B takes P. B takes P. 11-B to B4. B to K3. 12-Kt to Q B3. P to Q B3. 13-R to K square. R to K square. 14-B to Kt5. Kt to B4. 15-Q to B3. B takes B. 16-Q to B2. B takes B. 17-Q takes B. Q to B square. 18-Q takes Q. Q's R takes Q. 19-Q's R to Q's square. Kt to Kt5. 20-B to Kt5. B's R to Q's square. 21-B to K3. W's R to Q's square. 22-K to B square. R takes R check. 23-Kt takes R. R to Q's square. 24-B to Q5. R takes R. 25-P takes B. P to K B3. 26-P to K B3. K to B3. 27-P to Q's R3. B to B4. 28-B to K2. K to K2. 29-B takes B. Kt takes B. 30-K to K2. K to K3. 31-K to K3.

Awarded Highest Honors - World's Fair. DR. BAKER'S Cream Baking Powder. Most Perfect Made. A pure Grape Cream of Tartar Powder. Free from Ammonia, Alum or any other adulterant. 40 YEARS THE STANDARD.

and the offer from San Francisco was accepted.

THE GUN.

Several of the members of the city gun clubs went out to Sidney yesterday and enjoyed a good day's shooting. The most important event was the match for 100 birds between F. S. MacIure and C. W. Minor.

A MESSAGE TO MEN.

Proving That True Honesty and True Philanthropy Still Exist. If any man who is weak, nervous and debilitated, or who is suffering from any of the various troubles resulting from youthful folly, excesses or overwork, will take heart and write to me, I will send him confidentially and free of charge the plan pursued by which I have been completely restored to perfect health and manhood, after years of suffering from Nervous Debility, Loss of Vigor and Organic Weakness.

THE CLAIMS COMMISSION.

A Very Uninteresting Sitting Held This Morning. The sitting of the Behring Sea Claims Commission was continued this morning. The session was quite uninteresting.

Mr. Peters objected, arguing that it was not suitable evidence on the subject. The commissioners decided that it be allowed to go in subject to Mr. Peters' objection.

Mr. Dickinson also submitted a statement to show that the schooner Thornton and several other schooners were fitted out and sent to Behring Sea by J. J. Boscowitz under the management of Captain J. D. Warren, who was to act as commander of the expedition.

Banker Suicides. Chicago, Dec. 28. -Suffering from depression, caused by financial reverses, Otto Wassmansdorff, a well-known banker of this city, fired a bullet into his brain on Sunday and died almost instantly.

Mr. Wassmansdorff was a member of the private banking firm of Wassmansdorff & Heinenmann, which failed a week ago as a result of the failure of the National Bank of Illinois.

At the time of the failure the assets of Mr. Wassmansdorff's bank were given as \$550,000 and the liabilities at \$415,000.

Several of the members of the city gun clubs went out to Sidney yesterday and enjoyed a good day's shooting.

B. C. RAILWAY POLICY.

SECOND LETTER.

To the Editor: In my former letter I gave some reasons why it appears timely to discuss the construction of a railway through Central British Columbia.

The next census will be taken in 1901 and upon it will depend: The representation of the province in the federal parliament for the decade next hereafter ensuing; and The amount of federal contribution to the revenue of the province for the same period.

There can be no manner of doubt that before very long government aid will be extended to a railway through the coast region north of the Canadian Pacific.

Those who believe in weather-lore have been busy with predictions of a coming severe winter. The hawthorn berries and the hips of the wild roses have been unusually plentiful.

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is a subject for great regret that two years and more ago the provincial government was not able to see its way clear to adopt such a line of policy as would have led to the inception of this great undertaking.

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Highest of all in Leavening Power. Latest U.S. Gov't Report



It will thus be seen, concludes Mr. Mawley, that while there may be some reasonable foundation for the belief with regard to the birds, it must be purely an accidental occurrence when the forecast of the berries comes true.

A TARTAR BATTLE. Marco Polo, a Venetian traveller of the 13th century, gives this account of a great Tartar battle that was fought in Asia.

Those who believe in weather-lore have been busy with predictions of a coming severe winter. The hawthorn berries and the hips of the wild roses have been unusually plentiful.

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Twice-a-Week. FROM THE CAPITAL. VOL. 14.

Ex-Aid. Bingham Elected Mayor of Ottawa, Receiving a Good Majority.

Two Delegations of Farmers, With Different Ideas, Before the Commission.

Ottawa, Jan. 4. (Special)—Sam Bingham was elected mayor of Ottawa by 50 votes over Crannell and 700 over Blair.

Hon. A. G. Blair, minister of railways, has returned from his trip to the Pacific coast. It is understood that his report will be in favor of building a road through the Crow's Nest Pass to the Rockies, but how it is to be done is another question upon which Mr. Blair will say nothing.

At the tariff commission to-day E. B. Eddy, of Hull, and H. S. Gane of Newmarket, Ont., were examined in regard to woodware. Messrs. Cartwright, Nelling, Paterson and Fisher were present.

Mr. Eddy said that the duty of 20 per cent was not enough. It was reduced from 25 per cent by the late government. This almost ruined the business.

Mr. Wright of the Hull Cement Works, wanted the duty of 40 cents on Portland cement to remain and Mr. Gerroll, of the Free Library, Brockville, wanted all books free.

Recent Elections Not Likely to Modify Its Plans. Paris, Jan. 5.—Official returns of the election held yesterday to replace one-third of the members of the senate whose terms are expiring, shows that 90 Republicans, 13 Radicals, 3 Socialist-Radicals and 12 Reactionists have been elected.

He Left No Will So His Wife Inherits His Fortune. St. Louis, Jan. 5.—Joseph B. McCullagh, late editor of the Globe-Democrat, left no will. His estate will be divided among his seven sons and heirs.

TROOPS WITHDRAWN. Newly Elected Sheriff to Take Charge of the Affairs in Leadville. Leadville, Col., Jan. 4.—In accordance with his expressed determination to remove the state militia from here, soon as a sheriff was elected in whom he had confidence, Gov. McIntyre today ordered home four companies, comprising 150 men, members of the first and second regiments, G. N. G. These companies are from Denver, Boulder, Pueblo and Colorado Springs.

CASTORIA For Infants and Children. The little child who is so susceptible to colds and coughs, needs Castoria.

J. PIERCY & CO. WHOLESALE DRY GOODS. BLANKETS, FLANNELS, UNDERWEAR, UMBRELLAS and WINTER CLOTHING.

At the time of the failure the assets of Mr. Wassmansdorff's bank were given as \$550,000 and the liabilities at \$415,000.

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