

Delegation representing the people of this city, have addressed to the members of the legislature...

Nicola, B. C., Jan. 28, 1904. Sir—We respectfully beg to submit consideration facts with reference to the Nicola coal fields...

There also is languishing for want of market local industry which is in arrears of connection with the market...

But the agricultural possibilities of the country are beyond question. The Nicola valley and adjacent territory is of superior large and prospering population...

The Nicola valley and adjacent territory is of superior large and prospering population, from whose industry would derive a very considerable amount of revenue...

Port Arthur, Feb. 4.—The Russian fleet returned here at 4 o'clock this afternoon. It was maneuvering in the harbor...

London, Feb. 5.—A dispatch to the Reuter's Telegraph Company from Tokyo says: "The general impression here is that all hope of peace is gone..."

London, Feb. 5.—The news that Russia has already dispatched her reply to Japan has not yet reached the newspapers...

RUSSIAN REPLY DIES NOT MEET DEMANDS

Note Has Been Delivered at Tokio--Japanese Minister Makes Preparations for Leaving St. Petersburg.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 4.—The feeling here is that Russia has offered substantial concessions, but that she cannot meet the demands regarding Manchuria or Korea...

St. Petersburg, Feb. 5.—The Russian reply to Japan was forwarded to the Japanese minister at St. Petersburg...

London, Feb. 5.—Yuan Shi Kai, the commander of the Chinese Imperial army and navy, and the vice-president of the war board, have memorialized the Emperor...

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generally believed, he continues, that the council of the elder statesmen, held February 3rd and 4th, decided upon the final measure...

The voluntary subscriptions to the war fund exceed 3,000,000 yen. The statement is published here that the draft of the peace treaty...

St. Petersburg, Feb. 5.—"The Japanese are flying panic-stricken from Vladivostok," cables the correspondent of the Novoe Vremya...

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WERE SUFFOCATED WHILE ASLEEP

THREE LIVES LOST IN FIRE AT MONTREAL

Man Attacked by a Pack of Wolves—Proposed to Send Dr. Wilkie to India.

Winnipeg, Feb. 5.—Owing to the change in the game laws, sportsmen of Manitoba will in future only be able to take out of the province the heads and skins of two male deer...

St. Petersburg, Feb. 5.—The Japanese minister in Korea has notified his order to the Japanese residents at Seonjing...

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GOVERNMENT OPTION ON E. & N. RAILWAY

The Line and Lands, Excepting Coal Areas, Offered to the Government---A Caucus on Subject.

The reward offered by the government for a railway policy has been withdrawn. A policy has been found. Whether or not it will be accepted remains to be seen...

The one ripe policy is that offered by James Dunsuir. This is understood to be an option on the E. & N. railway line and the lands of the railway belt...

The government has approached its supporters on the subject, and an official statement of its position will give an assurance of what its position will be on the question...

The situation is very embarrassing. Each member wants his own particular project right in the first rank. The result is the government does not know what to do...

The supply-bill has not yet passed its second reading, and the Premier is being practically held up on all sides. J. H. Hetherington's bill forced the E. & N. Railway Settlers' Bill upon him...

Montreal, Feb. 4.—Montrealers are threatened with a water famine owing to the leakage of the principal steam pump at the main pumping station...

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REPORTED SEIZURE OF RUSSIAN STEAMERS Japanese Fleet Are Said to Have Made the Capture While on the Way to Korea

London, Feb. 8.—A special dispatch from Berlin says that a strong fleet of Japanese warships reported on its way to Chemulpo, Korea, has seized several Russian trading steamers. Warships Off Korea. Washington, Feb. 8.—The state department has received a cable from the American legation at Seoul to the effect that it is reported that Japanese warships have arrived off Masan, but that cable communication has been cut off, and it is impossible to confirm the report. Leaving Port Arthur. Port Arthur, Feb. 8.—In response to



invitations from the Japanese government, many Japanese sailed from here to Nagasaki to-day. The Chinese in Manchuria are greatly excited, and numerous theatres of war. Marine Minister Miraballo to-day as a result of the severance of diplomatic relations between Russia and Japan, and ended with expressing the hope that war may be avoided. His Majesty asked the minister to keep Foreign Minister Tani, who is now in Naples, informed of all that transpires in the East. Minister Miraballo has cabled instructions to the commander of the Italian squadron in the Far East to send the Italian third-class cruiser Piemonte from Shanghai to Japan, to keep the third-class cruiser Elba in Korean waters to protect Italian interests, and to have the armored cruiser Vettor Pisani commanaged between them. The third-class cruiser Paglia, now at San Francisco, has been ordered to Japan. Although it is hardly considered that their sailing will be necessary in view of the limit of Italian interests in the Far East, two other ships are ready to start for the East. An exchange of views is taking place between countries whose rulers, like the

MINISTER'S ACTION AGAINST NEWSPAPERS

Lays Information for Arrests on Charge of Criminal Libel and Also Seeks Damages.

(Special to the Times). Montreal, Feb. 8.—Hon. R. Prefontaine, minister of marine and fisheries, having been accused by La Patrie and Star on Saturday of issuing circulars offering appointments to the electors of St. James and Hochelaga in view of the election contests, has this morning sworn information for criminal libel before the magistrate for the arrest of Hugh Graham, proprietor of the Star, and L. J. Tarte, of La Patrie, and has also instituted an action for damages for libel against those two papers, one of \$10,000 against the Star and \$5,000 against La Patrie. These cases are reported to-day.

SEVERE LOSSES.

The Fighting in German Southwest Africa Has Been Heavy—The Death List.

Berlin, Feb. 7.—The Kolonialzeitung has received a telegram from Windhoek, German Southwest Africa, stating that the Omarura Company proceeded to Omarura and stormed that place on February 4th. An extraordinary energetic resistance was offered to the attack, the Germans losing four killed and thirteen wounded, while seven were reported missing. The company is now surrounded by the enemy, but 400 Germans with artillery are going to their aid. The forces which reached Windhoek from Swakopmund February 4th, and who were intended for the relief of Windhoek, was immediately sent back to the relief of the Omarura Company. The Outjo Company also came to battle with the natives at Bikaneno. The situation of the whole north colony is declared to be grave. Two bottles cured me. Sold by Jackson & Co. and Hall & Co.—106.

MADE WILL BEFORE SHOOTING HIMSELF MAN LEFT NOTE THAT HE WANTED TO DIE

Nine People Overcome by Gas and Three Are Not Expected to Recover. Stratroy, Ont., Feb. 8.—Robert Graham, forty years of age, a resident of this town, committed suicide by shooting himself yesterday afternoon. He had been drinking heavily lately, and before shooting himself made a will and told his wife he was sorry for what he had done; that he was miserable and wanted to die. He leaves a widow and two small children. May Close Factories. Windsor, Ont., Feb. 8.—The Grand Trunk & Western railways have decided not to handle any more coal during the snow blockade in this section of Ontario, a fact which caused a great uneasiness to manufacturers of Windsor and Walkerville, who fear they will have to close down for lack of coal. Householders of Windsor are getting uneasy over the outlook for coal for domestic purposes. Record Shipment. Winnipeg, Feb. 8.—Eighteen cars of raw silk passed through the city for Weehauken, N. J., on Saturday, being the most valuable shipment across the continent by the C. P. R. Severely Burned. W. Morrison, of Ignace, was badly burned while filling a lighted torch with oil, the fluid catching fire, and exploding. He is suffering in Rat Portage hospital. Fire in Newspaper Office. A serious fire in the Tribune newspaper building last night about 11 o'clock did some \$30,000 damage. It started from the furnace, and when found great difficulty was experienced in getting it under control. The Tribune, the Star, and the Tribune were the heaviest sufferers, their stocks and plant being damaged fifty per cent, losing about \$10,000 apiece. The newspaper plant was damaged to the extent of \$10,000. Among other sufferers were Dr. J. R. Davidson, C. H. Hubbard & Co., dental depot, \$3,000 loss; F. O. Morrison, printers, \$1,000; and J. G. Morrison, agents, \$1,000. Large quantities of water were poured in. The Free Press office, situated next door, escaped, but smoke poured into the rooms. The fire was under control by 2 o'clock. The Tribune was unable to issue from its building to-day, but is being helped out by the other papers. House Destroyed. The house occupied by Mrs. McClair, Tache street, St. Boniface, was destroyed by fire this morning. The loss is \$1,500. Smothered. Frankson of J. E. Anderson was drawn into a bin of wheat in the Dominion elevator at Indian Head this morning, and his body was found in the bin, and his hat was caught. Church Damaged. The Methodist church at Killarney has been damaged by fire to the extent of \$1,000. Three May Die. Montreal, Feb. 7.—Nine persons were nearly suffocated last night by the escape of gas from a street main into a sewer and from thence to a tenement house at 48 Dufferin street, occupied by three families. The victims, it is expected, will die. Neighbors broke into the place this morning, and discovered them all in bed insensible. Favor Plan. Toronto, Feb. 8.—The Ames Co. have issued a statement which states that since January 28th seventy-six cents, representing the balance of the plan have been received, making the total consents received \$345,595, or seventy-five per cent of their indebtedness, outside \$63,257 owed the Atlas Loan Co. They have consequently decided not to assign, but will hold the matter open a short time longer to get more consents. C. P. R. Dividend. Montreal, Feb. 8.—At a meeting of the board of the Canadian Pacific Railway to-day a dividend of two per cent on preference stock and three per cent on common stock was declared for the half year ended December last. After the payment of working expenses, fixed charges and dividend there is a surplus for the half year of \$2,751,783. BOUNDARY MINES. Last Week's Output Amounted to Over Eighteen Thousand Tons. Phoenix, B. C., Feb. 6.—Ore shipments from the Boundary mines for the last week slightly exceed those of the previous seven days, the total being over 18,000 tons. The mines sent out the following amounts of ore: Granby mines, 12,540 tons; Mother Lode, to Greenwood smelter, 4,000 tons; Phoenix, to Granby smelter, 420 tons; Senator, to Granby smelter, 1,320 tons; Oro Denoro, to Granby smelter, 693 tons; Athelstan, to Jackpot, to Granby and Greenwood smelters, 124 tons. Total for the week, 18,318 tons; total for the year to date, 84,521 tons. This week the Granby smelted treated 15,487 tons, making a total of 28,548 tons reduced this year at those reduction works.

King of Italy, have received letters from the King of Korea announcing his intention to abstain from any act which might be interpreted as a breach of neutrality. Although not unexpected, the news from the Far East deeply affected the hope, whose mind immediately turned to the faithful and the missionaries exposed to the horrors of war. The Pontiff said: "I still have hope in the peaceful disposition of the czar. Let us pray that God may guide him." Russian Press Comments. St. Petersburg, Feb. 8.—The rupture of diplomatic relations between Russia and Japan was discussed calmly in the papers here to-day, the news being unanimously placed on Japan for severing relations the very day the Russian reply was to reach Tokyo. The Videmotti still sees a "dim ray of hope of a peaceful settlement," and says the last word "has not yet been spoken." The Novor Vremay, repeating its yesterday's charges that Japan's desire was to bring about war no matter what was the tenor of the Russian reply, adds: "Even Japan's extraordinary manner of rupturing relations has evoked no Chauvinism in Russia, but merely an outburst of keenest patriotism." Cable Messages. New York, Feb. 8.—The Japanese government has decided that cable messages in code may be sent to Japan without restriction and an announcement to that effect was made to-day by the Commercial Cable Company. Attitude of France. Paris, Feb. 8.—The attitude of France in the presence of this grave Russo-Japanese emergency is a subject of the deepest concern among officials. France will undoubtedly maintain strict neutrality and will endeavor in every way to keep free from all possible entanglements which might draw her into hostilities. anese emergency is a subject of the deepest concern among officials. France will undoubtedly maintain strict neutrality and will endeavor in every way to keep free from all possible entanglements which might draw her into hostilities.

THE EMPEROR OF JAPAN. THE CZAR.

MRS. FLORENCE MAYBRICK.

Her Life at Truro, Cornwall, Where She Will Remain Until Sentences Expires.

London, Feb. 6.—Mrs. Maybrick is serving out the last few months of her sentence in the quiet country home of the Sisters of the Epiphany at Truro, Cornwall, under an assumed name and with her identity completely hidden. She is guarded from communication with the outside world as jealously as if she were still in Aylesbury prison. The Sisters with whom she is associated, and servants, have no idea that she really is Mrs. Maybrick. She occupies a pleasant, simply furnished room in the home and rises at six o'clock each morning. Though a tree agent she is obliged to conform to the strict discipline of the convent. She takes her meals in silence and is not allowed to converse except upon religious topics during the day, and at tea time, when for an interval the earthy things. Mrs. Maybrick works in bed as she is unable to get up. She is allowed her and only such books as are given her by the Sisters. During a part of the day Mrs. Maybrick works in silence in the sewing room with the Sisters, who make all their own clothing. Last Sunday she attended services in the Truro cathedral and has been allowed to walk about the town accompanied by one of the Sisters. Mrs. Maybrick is supposed to be recovering from an attack of influenza and passes as merely one of the many visitors to the Sisterhood, who pay for their accommodations. She will remain in charge of the Sisters until she is released, next July, though prior to that time, when the weather improves, she will be removed to the Convalescent Home under the same management, which is located in one of the wildest spots on the Cornish coast. Many members of the English aristocracy are inmates of the home. The Mother Superior of the Sisterhood is the Hon. Miss Dalrymple, while several other Sisters under only their Christian names conceal well known patronymies. SHOT THE CONDUCTOR. Fatally Wounded When He Resisted Attack by Two Robbers. Chicago, Feb. 6.—Two unidentified robbers shot and fatally wounded George Brooker, a conductor on the Western avenue electric line, early to-day when he resisted their attempts to rob him. The attempted robbery occurred at the terminus of the line. The robbers escaped.

PREPARING FOR IMMIGRANTS.

Government Said to Be Seriously Contemplating Taking Up Option on E. & N.

Ottawa, Feb. 8.—Over three thousand people heard Sir Wilfrid Laurier speak in Montreal on Saturday. The Premier said that if the Grand Trunk Pacific did not build the transcontinental, then someone else would. As to the tariff, when revision was required the government would do so on the same lines as in 1896, as every one knew that the Liberal tariff was much better than the Conservative one. NURSE'S GOOD WORDS.—"I am a professional nurse," writes Mrs. Eisner, Halifax, N. S. "I was a great sufferer from rheumatism—almost constant association with hot physicians I had every chance of a cure if it were in their power—but they failed. South American Rheumatic Cure was recommended to-day my six years of pain seem as a dream. Two bottles cured me. Sold by Jackson & Co. and Hall & Co.—106.

THE FIRE FIENDS' WORK AT BALTIMORE Blocks in Business Section Wiped Out by the Devastating Flames—Property Destroyed Valued at \$200,000,000.

Baltimore, Md., Feb. 8.—While no lives were lost in the terrific conflagration which started on Sunday forenoon, the money loss will probably reach \$200,000,000. Acres of the most valuable property in the wholesale drygoods, produce, lumber, shipping, railroad and financial districts have been destroyed. Notwithstanding the heroic efforts on the part of the local fire department, reinforced by almost numberless firemen from Washington, Philadelphia, Wilmington, Newark, New York, Elizabeth and New York city, the fire early this morning is raging as furiously as it was an hour after it originated in the cellar of John E. Hurst & Co., at Liberty and German streets. The origin of the fire is said to have been from spontaneous combustion, but the evidence in this effect has thus far not been secured. The area of the fire district extends from Liberty street on the west, to Jones Falls on the east, a distance of about three-quarters of a mile, and from Fayette to Pratt streets, north and south, a distance of four city blocks. Included in this territory were a number of financial establishments of national repute, including the buildings of Alexander Brown & Sons, the Continental Trust Co., the Union Trust Co., the Atlantic Trust Co., the offices of the B. & O., the Pennsylvania railway, the Maryland Southern & Chesapeake Railway Co., several steamship companies and a number of leading haters, haberdashers, etc. The main offices of the Western Union and Postal Telegraph Companies were destroyed long before midnight, and the buildings which they occupied were practically destroyed. Several tons of dynamite were used during the day and night to blow up buildings in an effort to check the spread of the flames, but even this was unavailing, and the strong wind which blew the flying embers higher and thither soon ignited other buildings. The offices of the Associated Press, were destroyed by midnight. Several of the publishers arranged immediately to have their editions printed on the presses of Washington papers. These editions, containing full and accurate accounts of the fire, arrived here early this morning, and were delivered to their regular customers. The fire has now attacked the wharves, docks and piers of the harbor, and seems to be spreading to the southeast section of the city. More Aid. New York, Feb. 8.—Nine engine companies and one hook and ladder truck company with their fire fighting apparatus left Jersey City on the special train to go to Baltimore's aid at 4 o'clock this morning, and it was expected they would reach the scene of the fire about 8 o'clock. In Lumber District. Baltimore, Feb. 8.—9:30 a. m.—The fire continues to spread eastward and southward, but is not burning as fiercely as at daylight, and there is hope that it will spend itself within a few hours. The lumber district near O'Donnell's wharf has been practically consumed, and there is material left for the flames to feed on in that direction. The Monumental theatre on Baltimore street is threatened, and will probably fall a victim to the conflagration. All electric power has been destroyed, and no street cars are running. Practically Under Control. Philadelphia, Pa., Feb. 8.—Police Captain McCook, who went to Baltimore in charge of a detail of policemen, telegraphs to Director of Public Safety Smith, that the fire was practically under control at 9 a. m. Captain McCook says it was a repetition of the Atlantic fire battle. When the firemen from this city reached Baltimore, he says they found the Baltimore firemen fighting the flames from the side and rear. District Chief Waters, in charge of the

Philadelphia firemen, ordered his men to fight the fire from the front. Captain McCook says he will bring in Philadelphia police home to-morrow morning. Discuss Relief Measures. Baltimore, Feb. 8.—It is anticipated that there may be much suffering and destitution following upon the heels of the destructive visitation and Mayor McLean and other city officials are already discussing the most ready means of relieving the most needy means of relief. It is estimated that 20,000 persons will be thrown out of employment. Brigien Biggs, commanding the State National Guard, issued strict instructions to guard against any possible looting of the partially destroyed abandoned houses. So far there has been no instances of looting reported. Governor Warfield has called an extra session of the legislature to meet this evening to empower him to declare the city under martial law and suspend all business for ten days. To-day has been declared a legal holiday. He stated to-day that every safe deposit box and vault in the various institutions was absolutely safe, that the records were preserved and that it was next to impossible for serious damage to happen to documents contained therein. The blackened remains of a fireman were found in the gutted Equitable building this morning, where he had rushed in an effort to get a line of hose to the roof. The lumber yards along West Falls avenue, across Jones Falls, and the water's edge are in ruins. There is absolutely no hope for any of the section. At 8 o'clock this morning there was a terrific crash in the neighborhood of Pratt street, where a large number of bolts of iron and sheets of metal were thrown through the air. It was the power house of the United Railway Company and electric light company. In fifteen minutes the gigantic structure and the expensive machinery was a total wreck. All night men were working guarding the gas main across Jones Falls, which supplied the business section of the city with gas from the Conton reservoir. The expediency of using dynamite was decided upon after a consultation with the city police and fire officials. Several loads of dynamite were at once ordered from the magazines in Arundel county and its use was begun under the immediate direction of City Engineer Fendall. A citizens' meeting was called by Mayor McLean to assemble at the city hall at noon to consider measures of relief. The fire rages among the lumber yards packing houses and warehouses east of Jones Falls and south of Baltimore street, and it is thought that the fire will be confined to this district, as the falls at this point are several hundred feet wide. There is danger, however, of flaming brands being blown across the stream, in which case the whole southeastern section of the city probably will be swept to the city limit, if a wind blows strongly from the west. A detachment of 35 men from Henry were at once sent to the city and they were thrown around the post office building and the sub-treasury and custom house adjoining the Federal court building. The mill was called out at 6:30. At that time it was impossible for the police to hold the crowds in check and guard the ruins. Fires Still Raging. Baltimore, Md., Feb. 8.—The News in its early edition to-day will say: "A mass of buildings, more than a mile long and some three blocks wide, were destroyed in Baltimore's great fire, which started yesterday morning. Fires are still burning. This district is only two miles square. Scores of shops, houses and a terror over the city and they were thrown around the post office building and the sub-treasury and custom house adjoining the Federal court building. The mill was called out at 6:30. At that time it was impossible for the police to hold the crowds in check and guard the ruins. Fires Still Raging. Baltimore, Md., Feb. 8.—The News in its early edition to-day will say: "A mass of buildings, more than a mile long and some three blocks wide, were destroyed in Baltimore's great fire, which started yesterday morning. Fires are still burning. This district is only two miles square. Scores of shops, houses and a terror over the city and they were thrown around the post office building and the sub-treasury and custom house adjoining the Federal court building. The mill was called out at 6:30. At that time it was impossible for the police to hold the crowds in check and guard the ruins. Fires Still Raging. 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THE "HIGHEST COURT" AND THE JUDGES.

Now we know why the McBride-Bowser-Hawthornthwaite government in its legislation and its utterances displays such contempt for the Bench and would circumscribe its powers as much as possible. It has by some means ascertained that the Legislature is the "highest court in the province." This discovery, naturally, has added not a little to the already exalted opinion Bowser and Wilson entertain of themselves. As the Legislature is the highest court, the real Attorney-General (Bowser) and his deputy (Wilson), being the directors-general of the course of legislation, except that introduced by the dictator (Hawthornthwaite), which must not be touched on the peril of death to the government) are of course senior to the judges of the courts. It is evident that the ordinary man does not comprehend this fact and is not as thoroughly impressed as he ought to be with the dignity of the positions of those two highly honorable gentlemen. Hence, we believe, the proposals to limit the powers of the judges of the courts and keep them permanently within boundaries laid down by Bowser and Wilson. After a few more demonstrations of the powers of the "highest court in the land," the people will perhaps begin to appreciate the importance of Bowser and his deputy, and may be ready to grant them precedence over the bishops, judges and other dignitaries at state functions.

The libel upon the judiciary contained in the Settlers' Rights Bill we do not attribute to either Bowser or his deputy. We give them credit for a desire to resent that slur if they dared. It was brought in by one who takes precedence over them in the "highest court of the land," whose articles of political belief take account of neither nor country. If the will of this mighty one were thwarted in the slightest degree, he might vent his majestic indignation upon the first Conservative administration of British Columbia, he might kick McBride, Bowser and Wilson from the bench of the "highest court in the land," and what would happen then? The author of the Settlers' Rights Bill brook no opposition. He will hear of no amendment that will protect the general taxpayer, already loaded to the brim of ruin under the Assessment Act, from the consequences of endless and costly litigation. He is in the house for the purpose of combining with the Conservative party to make the people smart. After a period of suffering they will surely be eager to seek relief under the political banner of Socialism. The heavier the burden now the speedier the repentance. The old Tories chastised British Columbia with whips; the new Tories under the stimulus of Socialism are laying on with scorpions.

THE FREE PASS BILL.

We do not think the Legislature is going far enough in its proposition to compel transportation companies to carry members free wherever they may choose to go. We hope members with strict fidelity to their rights and privileges will arise in their places and ask why cabs should not be ordered to meet trains and steamboats for the purpose of conveying the choice of the people and the anointed of the Lord to the places where they abide and to the halls in which "laws" are "accustomed to be made." It should be ordered also that all citizens shall be compelled to take off their garments and place them in the paths of the anointed ones lest perchance they should dash their feet against stones or soil their sandals in the dirt of Victoria's none too cleanly streets. We are informed that some of the huckster-keepers of Victoria actually present bills to the representatives of the people for board and lodging during the course of the session. And they seem to expect a settlement. They do not appreciate the honor done to their houses in the patronage of such honorable guests. It is time the status of our Legislators were clearly defined. We do not seem to realize that those who sit in majesty in the Highest Court of the Land should be in fact endowed with the freedom of the province and all it contains. We are apparently in danger of forgetting that this exalted tribunal possesses the power to bind men to loose, to confiscate and to dispossess; and that it is exercising its functions to the limit this session. There are several bills before the highest court in the land now in which the principles of the leading wing of the government party are accurately exemplified. Oh! no. There is not the slightest danger of the "highest court of the land" being nominated or de-headed in the "greatest aggregation of dead-heads in the land."

IT IS WAR.

A dispatch to the Times announces that Russia has already two hundred thousand troops stationed in Manchuria ready to cross into Korea. The soldiers have been brought upon the scene where tragic events in which all the world is keenly interested will shortly be enacted. They reached their station apparently without the knowledge of the Japanese or any other nation. This indicates more clearly than all the diplomatic misadventures of the advisers of the Czar the real intentions of Russia. She has been applying the time gained by diplomacy to the perfection of her plans for the conflict she evidently believes to be inevitable. It is now apparent that hostilities may break out any day, and that Korea will bear the brunt of the terrible effects of the operations. It has been apparent for some time that Russia is determined that there shall be none left to dispute her path to the Pacific and that her borders on the northeast of the deeps shall extend far below the regions to which rival powers would confine her. Her ambitions in Europe have long been thwarted. In Asia she is determined to assert herself. The despised heathen shall not be permitted to block her path. The outcome no man will venture to predict. The moral support of the great Christian nations of the world, notwithstanding Russia's plea of superiority in religious belief, will be given to the Japanese. Whether events may lead to more substantial assistance than merely

moral support must be left to time for determination. The war will be an interesting one, not alone on account of its possible consequences and complications. Since the last set-to between great powers vast advances have been made in the application of science to the construction of engines of war. On sea and on land modern artillery and modern machinery of destruction will be tested. Man's devilish ingenuity will be put to the proof, and however freely we may indulge in ranting expressions of horror at possible consequences, there is no doubt that the world is fascinated in looking on at the thought of war. A good deal has been written about the devotion, the marvelous adaptability and the military genius and fiery spirit of the Japanese. The accredited qualities are about to be put to the proof for the first time against a warlike opponent. Defeat for Russia would leave her in a position but slightly different from that which she occupies at present. The subjugation of Japan will hardly be permitted, but if she be overcome it will mean that a brush has been drawn through the picture of the glorious future every intelligent patriotic Japanese has hung up in his mental storeroom.

MUNICIPALITIES AND THE GOVERNMENT.

The Colonist is making an able plea for the municipalization of the rural districts of the province. There is no doubt that in the direction pointed out by our contemporary lies the financial and political salvation of British Columbia. If organized communities were collecting and expending their own revenues, and managing their own affairs, by reason of the directness of the responsibility of the officials better results would be obtained. More important still, political considerations ought to be entirely eliminated, some of the chief springs of corruption would be dried up, and the representation of the districts in the Legislature would be of a more independent and superior character. The road boss would no longer be a political factor; such a scandal as that which has brought Lillibridge an evil notoriety would no longer be possible. The interest of the people in the affairs of the governmental unit would become more direct, the associations would be more intimate, a local spirit would be fostered all of which would lead to economy and efficiency of administration.

The cities, too, are deeply interested in the matter of the extension of the municipal system. Our friends in the country districts have been moved to the consideration of the question by the recent increase in taxation. They think they can do better for themselves if they have money it is now proposed to take from them. But in the cities we have no such gateway of escape from the hands of the oppressor. The personal property tax and the income tax, the tax on perspective and on prospective; they are all in force, and we evade them at our peril. The man who is daring in disposition and whose consciences desire to make a false return to the assessor, and the one of upright walk and conversation must make up the deficiency. There is no opportunity of making up levies in a private or traveling expenses.

But what would become of such statesmen as Hon. R. F. Green? We are afraid our contemporary in carrying on such a propaganda has not considered his masters in the House. The strength of the parochial politician lies in his power to bend the political energies of the read boss to his service. The underling is a most important instrument in the hands of the powerful heeler who sits in the ministry. He extends the circle of influence into all corners of the constituency. He is a great asset to the politician, and his suitable obedience, will remain standing until his old enmity is seated. If they do not, we shall see what other measures are necessary to impress them with the duties of their station. We are glad that the Legislature and to Bowser, through whom the Legislature speaks.

SYSTEMS OF ASSESSMENT.

The Toronto News, which on general principles is opposed to the Ontario and all other Grit government, has been informed that some of the huckster-keepers of Victoria actually present bills to the representatives of the people for board and lodging during the course of the session. And they seem to expect a settlement. They do not appreciate the honor done to their houses in the patronage of such honorable guests. It is time the status of our Legislators were clearly defined. We do not seem to realize that those who sit in majesty in the Highest Court of the Land should be in fact endowed with the freedom of the province and all it contains. We are apparently in danger of forgetting that this exalted tribunal possesses the power to bind men to loose, to confiscate and to dispossess; and that it is exercising its functions to the limit this session. There are several bills before the highest court in the land now in which the principles of the leading wing of the government party are accurately exemplified. Oh! no. There is not the slightest danger of the "highest court of the land" being nominated or de-headed in the "greatest aggregation of dead-heads in the land."

linguished gentleman who is at the head of a scientific department in Johns Hopkins University has achieved distinction, but it is scarcely possible that his account as swollen proportionately with his fame. The luck, from a sort of point of view, generally crosses the path of the scientist. The construction of the sette notes that the record in medical fees has been broken in the western United States, and it is a Canadian doctor, now resident in Chicago, who is the possessor of the record. He was called in consultation to a member of a millionaire family at Milwaukee and received no less a sum than \$10,000. But science could not prolong the life of the celebrated German American brewer. The previous record in the West was also held by a Canadian, who, about a year ago, was summoned to Chicago to a surgical case on the coast, and was paid \$5,000. As a Canadian paper says: "In these days, when the dissatisfaction over the Alaska award has hardly subsided, it is a small consolation to the victors that the plums do fall our way occasionally."

AN ISLAND RAILWAY.

To the Editor:—Last Monday a number of Victoria's most prominent business people were invited to the office of the provincial government to consider a proposition for the building of a railway to "Alberni and the north end of the island." The names of the promoters were carefully kept secret. In last night's Times' report of proceedings of the legislature, under the heading of "Island Railway," appears a company which incorporates under the name of the "Cowichan, Alberni & Port Rupert Railway Company." After setting a route to Alberni it proposes to reach Port Rupert by a line of railway to the latter place, situated on a small island of 700 acres extent and separated by 3 miles of water from Vancouver Island. It would be interesting to know the names of the promoters and for what object. Again, Port Rupert being situated on an open bay, prevailing there are strong easterly gales, exceeding in force the force of the waves, it would be impossible for ships to lay alongside during winter weather. I believe the people of Victoria understand one of the objects of a railway to the north end of the island to be for the purpose of making it possible to connect with any railway to be constructed on the coast of this province, and for that purpose a convenient and safe route is necessary. It is not a railway terminus to be required, if, however, the information of the promoters of the above named company in regard to the balance of their proposed route to the north end of the island is to be made, the government to look into it would have saved the latter's valuable time by the earlier identification of the parties to the proposed line.

ISLANDER.

The North Renfrew election case of Ontario bears more than a mere fanciful resemblance to our majority mis-deeds. The late member was not a disreputable member, inasmuch as he died before he could be sworn in. Legally he could not have a successor. There is therefore no one to succeed to the seat. The man who is supposed to have succeeded him, as Mr. Barnard, the candidate who received the majority of the votes in our constituency, was technically elected, but the minority candidate became mayor. But his election was not legally consummated. He had a certain time in which to assert his title, but within that time the Legislature intervened and declared Mr. Barnard the lawful head of the corporation. We tremble to think of the confusion that would ensue should Mr. Redfern, feeling that the Legislature has not considered him, and that he is entitled to the seat, determine to assert his rights. Who will undertake to define his position under the law?

GAME PROTECTION.

To the Editor:—I read with much pleasure the "Who Signed the Petition" letter in last night's Times. It seems unnecessary to me why the government should refuse to countenance the bill drafted by the Game Association, as there is no doubt that the petitioners have the best interests of sportsmen by so doing. Not only are the other colonies spending money upon game, but our neighbors to the south have a law which makes it a crime to protect their game. In no less than sixteen states the sale of game is prohibited altogether. I should be very sorry to see this become law here, but it is something to protect our game it is only a matter of a few years when there will be none left to sell. The fishing on the Cowichan and other rivers of Victoria has fallen off so much in the last few years that very few people now think it worth while putting their rods together from one end of the year to the other. 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### EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT FINANCES

#### IMPORTANT REMARK MADE BY MINISTER

Said Shortage of Money Was Not Material if Objects of Association Were Attained.

"If the object of the association has been gained and British Columbia stock improved, the loss is not of any material consequence. The best thing to do is to straighten out accounts and to start with a clean sheet." Hon. R. G. Tatlow made this statement Thursday afternoon at a meeting of the executive of the B. C. Dairyman and Live Stock Association when referring to the deficit of about \$2,000 which has been incurred since the inception of the organization, principally through losses on the importation of pure bred stock from the East. He said further that while the province was at the present hard up financially, money would be found for cases of necessity. One of the first duties of the government was towards the agriculture interests of the province.

The meeting was called to order shortly after 2:30 o'clock, A. C. Wells, president, occupying the chair. In outlining the business to be dealt with, the chairman said that the most important matter to be considered was the settling up of old accounts. There was a deficit from previous years which the association desired to wipe out and it was this question that would be first discussed. He called upon J. R. Anderson, deputy minister of agriculture, to give the details of the difficulty.

Mr. Anderson explained the matter fully, handing in the report of the auditor. After some general discussion and an examination of the accounts it was found that the deficiency amounted to about \$1,255. This amount, however, was brought very close to \$2,000 later on when other items were added. At this juncture Hon. R. G. Tatlow was introduced, and the accounts were again gone over, the position of the association being fully explained in a brief address by Secretary Paisley.

Mr. Wells said that last year the association had not been so successful, and it had been thought necessary on this account to alter the original methods of transacting business. All auction sales of pure bred stock had been abolished and after this change the selling would only be done by special order. This, it was thought, would avert any further losses in this direction. Hon. Mr. Tatlow was then called upon. He was glad to hear with members of the Dairyman's Association, and expressed a desire to obtain a better insight into its work. Up to the present he had not had much to say, and he apologized for having been unable to spend more time with the association while in session.

Referring to the deficit, he understood that the position of the association financially was that it was behind to the extent of about \$2,000. If the object looked for had been gained and British Columbia stock improved, the loss would not be considered of material consequence. The best thing was to straighten out old accounts, and start with a clean sheet. The government and association must work together in this matter. While the province was in a hard-up condition, financially, money would be found for cases of necessity.

Continuing, he said that the government would be glad to co-operate with the association. The latest returns showed that a quarter of a million pounds more of butter had been made in British Columbia this year than last. This was, he thought, the result of co-operation. One of the first duties of the government was towards the agriculture interests of the province. (Applauded.)

After Hon. Mr. Tatlow had retired, Mr. Trapp moved that the auditor be paid the usual fee of \$25. This carried. It was then moved and carried that the expenses of delegates amounting to about \$50 be paid.

On motion it was decided that at the next annual meeting the secretary should submit a report showing the number of pure bred cattle imported, to whom sold and other details. Secretary Paisley promised to comply with this resolution, and volunteered to hand in a similar report on cattle imported last year if required. This, however, was not asked for.

Mr. Trapp moved that the sum of \$50 be appropriated for prizes for competition at the annual fall show in Victoria. Secretary Paisley thought the conditions governing the competitions for these prizes should be specified.

The chairman supported the previous speaker's suggestion. He pointed out that the conditions of competition had been altered at the last fair in this city. Dairy and other stock had been brought into competition, which was most unfair to the former. A judge could not be expected to do each justice when two altogether different breeds were pitted against each other.

Mr. Trapp then withdrew his previous motion, and moved that a grant of \$50 be set aside for the Victoria show to be divided as follows: \$5 for best box of butter not over 25 pounds, \$5 for best box of butter not over 100 pounds, \$10 for best dairy bull, \$10 for best dairy cow, \$10 for best beef bull, and \$10 for best beef cow.

This carried unanimously. It was moved that a similar appropriation be made for the New Westminster show to be divided in the same way. This also passed.

Mr. Shannon announced that a stock show was to be held at New Westminster in March. He thought such an exhibition would be an even greater education to the average farmer than the regular fall shows. He therefore moved that \$50 be allowed for the disposal of the executive for prizes.

Mr. Urquhart thought that a "dairy-men's" association was going out of its way if prizes were granted for competition among best stock.

Mr. Trapp reminded him that it was a "Dairyman and Live Stock Association." After some discussion, Mr. Shannon agreed to withdraw his motion owing to the financial position of the association. He recommended, however, that when things were more settled something be done in this direction.

It was moved that the Deputy Minister of Agriculture be requested to use his influence with the Dominion government to secure a ready grant.

Mr. Anderson did not know whether

the association had any claim to such a grant. He explained that a certain appropriation was placed in the hands of Prof. Robertson, and it was his place to distribute it as he thought proper. Mr. Urquhart pointed out that when the association was first organized a grant of \$650 annually had been provided. The motion was put and carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks to the chairman, A. C. Wells, brought the proceedings to a close.

### A COLD WINTER.

Number of Trains Have Been Snowed Bound in Ontario—Branch Line Blocked.

Writing from London, Ontario, a correspondent says: "Our winter is certainly a record breaker. This is the tenth week of good sleighing, and it has been so ever since it started. The lowest our thermometer has registered was 23 below zero. We rather enjoy it now when it is below, and say (without sarcasm) 'it's a fine day.' The snowfall has been so heavy that we will soon have to have tunnels into our houses. It is piled several feet high on either side of the roads. The skating rinks are complaining that it is so cold the people will not go to the rinks. The mail is irregular because only the main line of the C. P. R. and G. T. R. are open to traffic. A few days ago there were three passenger trains, two freights and nine engines stalled between here and Glanville (about six miles out) and the St. Mary's branch has been blocked nearly two weeks."

This gives a good idea of the exceptional severity of the winter in the East.

### INQUIRY AT SEATTLE CLOSED.

Capt. Roberts Says He Consulted With Capt. Lawrence About Lowering Boats.

Capt. George Roberts again gave evidence before the Clallam investigation in Seattle on Wednesday afternoon, his testimony closing the inquiry which has been conducted by the local inspectors. Capt. Roberts said: "De Launay said nothing, absolutely, about the deadlight or of me getting the vessel's head to the water. But I then requested the mate to go below and see what was the matter. "Eighteen or twenty minutes later, shortly after 2:45 p.m., for I looked at the clock at that time, De Launay came up in person. He told me that the deadlight had broken and requested me to go below and look at it. There was no discussion as to getting the ship to the water. "I went down and when I looked in the water was about three and one-half feet deep over the engine room. I asked De Launay if he had plugged the deadlight, and he said he had done all that he could. "When I returned above I tried to get the vessel around to the wind, but could not do it. Capt. Lawrence then told me that the engines had stopped, with 125 pounds of steam on. After learning that the fire was out and the engines stopped we began to lower the boats, getting them ready about 3:30 o'clock. "When I went below and found that amount of water I did not think the vessel would last over three-quarters of an hour. The water seemed to be coming in rapidly. I based my action on lowering the boats on the conclusion that the ship could not last a minute. I thought the boats would live. I did not have to urge the people to get in. They were anxious, and in fact, at this time I was not on the lower deck. I was on the upper deck looking after the lowering of the boats. "Capt. Lawrence, who commanded the first boat, agreed with me. He was a man of experience in marine matters, and he consulted with me at this time. Capt. Lawrence was perfectly willing to take command. He took my boat, No. 1."

Capt. Roberts related that there were two other male passengers managing the first boat, with Harry Sears in charge, and two other sailors and some male passengers in the second boat. There were no women in the third boat, which had two firemen and an oiler of the crew. Capt. Roberts stated that he saw a customs officer jump into the third boat.

Cross-questioned by the inspectors, Capt. Roberts answered: "I had no idea that there was any water in the ship until I went down with De Launay. But the vessel was going slow."

"Yes, the ship answered her helm perfectly. I did not have to resort to using the auxiliary steering gear. "What I did not at any time know there was anything wrong with the deadlight. It was never reported to me."

Asked if he had heard the testimony of Capt. Robert Hall, the witness stated that he had and that Capt. Hall was mistaken in saying that I requested the ship to go to Victoria. I did not make any request to go to Victoria. I told him to tow me to the nearest place he could possibly get to."

"Did you tell him the ship was leaking?" Capt. Roberts asked. "Yes, sir," answered Roberts.

Making further reply to questions on this point, Capt. Roberts said: "I thought he would try and tow me around back of Lopez Island. And the tug and steamship company did not call it back because of the loss of time it would have entailed, and I thought the ship would float until I could get to Twanaud."

"As soon as I knew she was sinking I signaled the Holyoke to come back. About that time the Sen Lion came up and seeing our signals, responded. We had no time to set out port boats down."

De Launay Asks Questions. "Chief De Launay asked Capt. Roberts how he knew of the condition of the pumps, and the witness replied: "You told me the pumps choked up."

Capt. Roberts then answered De Launay on the question of the Clallam's rudder, that the "vessel steered as she ever did."

Having asked Capt. Roberts various questions respecting the rudder, the time he was notified of the condition of things in the engineer's department, and having received unsatisfactory replies, De Launay, addressing the witness, said: "It is very evident, Capt. Roberts, that these gentlemen will hold me responsible for the accident."

"I object to any conclusions you have," Capt. Wilmer interposed. But De Launay persisted: "I am positive, Capt. Roberts," he said, "that no man will ever convince you that I was responsible."

Capt. Roberts declared that in giving his testimony he had told nothing but the truth, to which De Launay rejoined: "If you have any conscience, I have. I was taught from my infancy to tell the truth."

Inspector Turner, addressing De Launay, said: "If you have told the truth, right straight through as you saw it,"

### CONTRACT FOR BRIDGE RESUMED FRIDAY

#### MR. HOOPER IS STILL GIVING EVIDENCE

Tells of His Ineffectual Attempts to Get Original Tracings From the Department.

(From Friday's Daily.) During the inquiry by a committee of the legislature into the Government contract for the bridge, Mr. G. McPhillips, K. C., announced that he appeared for Mr. Dalton, the Vancouver architect, who served on the board of arbitration, but would not permit his client to be cross-examined in the manner in which the examination of Mr. Hooper had been conducted. If Mr. Dalton was questioned in this way he would decline to answer.

When the proceedings opened H. D. Helmecke produced all the documents in the possession of the contractor. These were put in his exhibits. The examination of these. Hooper was then resumed.

In reply to L. P. Duff, K.C., he said he didn't know that the architect had anything to do with the award to the contractor. The arbitrators were guided by the contract, but not by the architect's estimate. They took all matters into consideration, and they disregarded no clauses but clause 20, which was which was waived by the submission. They allowed the contractor additional work not ordered by the architect in writing.

There was one chimney not shown on the plans. He never saw the plans now produced until yesterday, because he couldn't get them when they were wanted. He didn't know anything about these plans.

Mr. Hooper: "Why don't you be fair and give me the documents on which we made our findings? Will you let me compare them?"

Mr. Duff: "Yes, certainly."

Mr. Hooper: "Why didn't you let me do it yesterday? How can I testify on drawings I have not seen?"

The chimney was not shown on the elevation as built. He objected to three sets of plans being now produced not shown. He insisted that the only set that should be used were those on which the board. It was on these that the evidence was taken.

Mr. Duff: "Well, if you hadn't excluded Mr. McLean you wouldn't have got the evidence as you did."

Mr. Hooper: "I object to that. If you and Mr. McLean had been attending to the business of the country you wouldn't have the information you've got. No man can get a square deal with the officials of the department trying to bury the inquiry."

Mr. Hooper: "Are you through, now?"

Mr. Hooper: "Yes, on that subject. These are facts."

Continuing, he accused Mr. McLean of moving heaven and earth to break the investigation conducted by the arbitrators. He consulted Mr. Gamble during the arbitration—unfortunately, without a witness. He wouldn't do it again. He asked him about documents.

Mr. Duff asked if the witness knew that when he did that he violated the award.

Mr. Hooper said he was instructed that Gamble would give him all the documents available. He approached Mr. Gamble and his requests for information were refused.

There were portions of the building changed from one story to two. Asked to designate the portions on the plans the witness again strenuously objected. He demanded that he be allowed to cross-examine the witnesses. Gamble gave the board. Why should the department mislead the arbitrators?

The chairman said the committee were going to give Mr. Hooper every opportunity to compare the tracings with those given to the board. Why should the witness give evidence on those he asked for?

Mr. Duff held that the plans that should be used were those submitted by the contractor. These were the only authenticated documents.

Continuing, Mr. Hooper designated on the plans the change relating to the second story. He demanded that the alterations in the bay window which were made at the request of Lady Joly, but he did object to the architect giving him the original work and not notifying the contractor.

The extra work should have been authorized by the department, but no written orders from this source had been given. Nobody appears to have controlled. The contractor, he supposed, was in the hands of the architect as regards additional work. But he considered the contractor and architect equally guilty.

Mr. Hooper then asked the witness if he was culpable for doing work without a written order. He blamed the architect, the contractor and the department.

Efforts had been made to get from him the invoice for goods supplied by Mr. Anderson, but the witness declined to say by whom they were made. He refused to exonerate Mr. Rattenbury, although he had no disposition to reflect on the architect beyond what was stated in the report. He and Mr. Rattenbury had been on the friendliest terms. He had simply done his duty in making these findings, and he refused to be bullied.

To C. Munro: The original tracings would have facilitated the board's work as the blue prints were inadequate. The originals were in existence but were not shown to witness and his colleagues until the very last day, when it was too late.

To W. W. B. McInnis: Those tracings would have been the best for the board had based their valuation for the award. They had gone to the building and seen the actual work done.

### TO THE CROSS-EXAMINATION UNDERGONE BY MR. HOOPER.

Mr. Duff resuming his cross-examination, wanted to know whom Mr. Hooper meant, when he said "the architect" had exhausted every resource to get documents (meaning the Anderson invoice). He asked if his client's side were involved.

The witness replied affirmatively. His grounds were that Mr. Drake asked him for it; Mr. Rattenbury wrote him for permission to look over his documents, and Mr. Anderson had asked him if he had it.

Mr. Rattenbury had no authority from the department to exceed \$770 for claimants' expenses. He was certifying Mr. Drake to get \$1,500 for it. This was the only written order Mr. Rattenbury had received from the department, and he had departed from that by \$800.

The witness then read the architect's letter of cost to the department, and said that in the item regarding the changing quarters it was misleading. It was not provided for in the contract. The agent for the government, should put the department up against the cost of extra expenditure. Preparations, however, had been so complete that there was no crowding, the accommodation being more than sufficient. Everybody was made to feel thoroughly at home, the reception committee always extending a cordial welcome as visitors entered the hall. On this account and as a result of the careful attention that had been given to every detail, everyone spent a pleasant time. The witness expressed regret when "Italian Nights," the concluding waltz of the programme, was reached.

Decorations, which had been left in the hands of T. G. Mason and a capable committee, were most creditable. The entrance to the hall was more tastefully arranged than on any previous occasion. A short, winding hallway had been constructed, leading to the ballroom. This led to an apartment furnished as a sitting-out corner. Spectators found this an excellent vantage point, as the space was well lighted and plainly seen under a low archway.

The scene on the main floor from 9 o'clock until about midnight was one of unusual brilliancy. From the balcony at the lower end of the hall, where the orchestra was stationed, the music accompanying the popular waltzes, two-steps, and polkas, continued entrancingly. Gaily fitted up sitting-out places were to be found in each corner of the hall, and, needless to say, were largely patronized.

The scene continued without interruption till about midnight when those present began to find their way to the refreshment room. Here also was found ample provision for everyone. The room had been tastefully adorned with evergreens, flowers and festoons of fir. John Smith was caterer, and deserves every praise for the excellent service provided.

The programme was finished in the early hours. Every credit is due the respective committees for the thorough character of the preparation and the capable manner the affair was carried through to the end.

Following are the committee: Reception: G. H. Bernard, Jos. E. Wilson and W. H. Langley. Dinner: J. H. Fisher, T. A. Ker, J. P. Hibberd, Phil Austin, Thos. Watson. Supper: W. A. Lawson, J. E. Wilson and C. F. Gardner.

### ACT WAS ENDORSED BY TRADES COUNCIL

Bill Introduced by J. D. McNiven Reported on Favorably by the Local Labor Organization.

The Trades and Labor Council has unanimously endorsed the act respecting the incorporation of labor organizations introduced in the legislature by J. D. McNiven, M. P. P. The council in committee considered the bill at the regular meeting of the evening, and reported favorably. A few changes were proposed and Mr. McNiven will be consulted regarding them. The committee were instructed to give Mr. McNiven every assistance in having the bill made law.

A communication was received from the executive of the Trades and Labor Council of Canada in connection with the national defence fund now being organized to fight local battles for labor throughout the Dominion. This was laid over until the next meeting.

Secretary Morrison, of the American Federation of Labor, inquired by letter the names of all unions in this city not represented at the Trades and Labor Council. The secretary was instructed to furnish the information.

The Phoenix, British Columbia, Trades and Labor Council reported adversely on the proposal to organize a provincial labor council, but asked that the Victoria council use its influence in having an eight-hour law passed by the legislature.

The organization committee reported that the Shirt Waic and Laundry Workers' Union were making rapid progress, seven new members being initiated at the last meeting, which made the Crystal Laundry a union shop.

The executive committee reported that the prospects of a settlement of the difficulty between the garment workers and their employers were very bright. Credentials were received from the following: Iron Molders, Neil Atkinson; Cigar-makers, Manuel Meiss; Machinists, August Herberger; Musicians, C. A. McGregor.

Messrs. Bolden and Wilby were re-appointed to represent the council on the legislative board, and Messrs. Bolden, McEachern and Sherk representatives on the executive of the Mining Association.

The Barbers' Union informed the council that they intended to continue in affiliation with the council.

The secretary reported that the annual report of the American Federation of Labor was ready for distribution.

W. E. Ditchburn and J. Elliott were appointed to the organization committee. A vote of thanks was tendered to J. D. McNiven, M. P. P., for being present at the meeting.

### MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO.

Ottawa, Feb. 5.—Sir, Wilfrid Laurier has invited Charles S. Hyman, M. P., to act as the contractor without portfolio. Mr. Hyman was sworn in at one o'clock to-day.

### REGIMENTAL ORDER

Lieut.-Col. J. A. Hall, commanding Fifth Regiment, has issued the following order: The following men, having been attested, will be placed on the strength of the regiment and will assume the regimental number opposite his name: No. 34, Gr. Leslie R. Mason, Jan. 26th.

Mr. Hooper then asked the witness if he was culpable for doing work without a written order. He blamed the architect, the contractor and the department.

Efforts had been made to get from him the invoice for goods supplied by Mr. Anderson, but the witness declined to say by whom they were made. He refused to exonerate Mr. Rattenbury, although he had no disposition to reflect on the architect beyond what was stated in the report. He and Mr. Rattenbury had been on the friendliest terms. He had simply done his duty in making these findings, and he refused to be bullied.

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### SUCCESSFUL BALL OF NATIVE SONS

#### PLEASING FRIDAY HELD FRIDAY EVENING

A Large Attendance and Other Requisites of Success in Evidence—Creditable Affair.

Assembly hall was the scene last night of the fourth annual ball of Post No. 1, Native Sons of Victoria. It goes without saying that the affair was an unqualified success. There was a large attendance. Preparations, however, had been so complete that there was no crowding, the accommodation being more than sufficient. Everybody was made to feel thoroughly at home, the reception committee always extending a cordial welcome as visitors entered the hall. On this account and as a result of the careful attention that had been given to every detail, everyone spent a pleasant time. The witness expressed regret when "Italian Nights," the concluding waltz of the programme, was reached.

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### OUR Seiditz Powders

Relieve You of That Tired Feeling. TAKE ONE BEFORE BREAKFAST.

Two blocks burned. Fire at Buckingham, where Thirty Dwellings and Stores Were Destroyed.

Ottawa, Feb. 5.—Two of the biggest blocks in Buckingham are to-day a smouldering mass of ruins. The loss is estimated at about \$120,000. There are in all some 30 buildings, consisting of private dwellings and business establishments destroyed.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA. In the Matter of Margaret Isabella Gill, Deceased, Intestate, and in the Matter of the Official Administrator of her Estate.

Notice is hereby given that under an order made by the Honorable the Chief Justice, dated 25th day of January, 1904, the undersigned was appointed administrator of the estate of the above deceased. All parties having claims against the said estate are requested to send particulars of same to me, on or before the 25th day of February, 1904, and all parties indebted thereto are required to pay such indebtedness to me forthwith.

W. M. MONTEITH, Official Administrator. Victoria, B. C., January 29th, 1904.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA. In the Matter of E. Harry Joy, Deceased, Intestate, and in the Matter of the Official Administrator of his Estate.

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CHEMIST,  
W. M. MONTEITH,  
Official Administrator.  
Victoria, B. C., January 29th, 1904.

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