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Alma with the Editor



THE CRIMEAN WAR.

In 1849, the Tsar Nicholas, impressed with a great sense of the military prowess of Russia, thought the time had come for the extinction of the Turkish empire in Europe, and he proposed to the British ambassador at St. Petersburg a plan for the division of Turkey between the Powers. This was rejected, and the Tsar thereupon sought for a pretext to justify the invasion of the Sultan's territory. A dispute having arisen between France and Russia, relative to the rights of the Latin and Greek churches in respect to certain places, the Tsar proclaimed a protectorate over all the adherents of the Greek church in Turkey, and to enforce his claim, sent an army into the Danubian principalities. The Sultan sought to avoid war, but as the Tsar refused to retire, war was declared on October 4, 1853. The first act of the Russians was to destroy the Turkish fleet at Sinope, a port on the Southern shore of the Black Sea. The Turks were able, however, to resist the Tsar's land forces, and in the spring of 1854, Great Britain and France came to the Sultan's assistance, landing a force at Varna, in what is now Bulgaria. There was not much serious fighting, and when Austria sent a force into the Danubian province, both the British and French governments ordered their commanders to invade the Crimea. Lord Raglan, the British commander, and Marshal St. Arnaud, who led the French troops, believed this a mistaken line of policy, but no course was open to them but to obey. Raglan was undoubtedly a fine soldier. He had served under Wellington in the Peninsula and at Waterloo. St. Arnaud was a veritable soldier of fortune, which quality, doubtless, commended him to Napoleon III. In obedience to the orders of their respective governments, the two commanders embarked their troops, and sailing across the Black Sea, landed near the mouth of the Alma, a little river in the Crimea. The landing was unopposed, but the next day the allied forces came into collision with the Russians under Prince Menshikoff. This was on September 20, 1854. The British force numbered 27,000, the French 22,000, and there were about 60,000 Turks on the field. The Russian force numbered about 45,000, but it had the advantage of position. The brunt of the fighting fell upon the British force, and the troops acted with conspicuous gallantry. After a hard-fought day, the Russians retreated. Lord Raglan refused to follow in pursuit, but St. Arnaud insisted on advance, and thus the battle was barren of results. The Russians shut themselves up in Sebastopol, where they were prepared to withstand a long defence. The victory at Alma was magnified out of all proportion to its importance, doubtless because of the fact that it was the first occasion since Waterloo, thirty-nine years before, since a British force had encountered a civilized foe, and the nation was jubilant to learn that the old fighting spirit was yet alive.

The delay in the advance of the allies gave the Russians time to sink ships off the harbor of Sebastopol, so that when, early in October, an attempt was made to destroy the defences by bombardment, the ships could not get near enough to the forts to do any material damage. The allies settled themselves down to take the city by siege, which lasted until September 11, 1855. The story of this siege is not one that reflects credit upon either of the nations concerned. The Russians, although they had the advantage of the assistance of Todleben, an engineer of unusual genius, in preparing their fortifications, made a poor defence, and missed more than one opportunity of routing the allies; the latter displayed almost an entire lack of military skill. So far as actual fighting went, the French made rather a poor showing, chiefly from inactivity; but on the British side there were some feats of splendid valor. The management of the war was abominable. The British war department seems to have run the whole gamut of possible blunders. Supplies were sent to the wrong points, medical stores were delayed in transit, or allowed to lie at points hundreds of miles from where they were needed; provisions were sent forward with the greatest imaginable irregularity. In fact, the whole commissariat broke down. An illustration of the inefficiency of the department, often cited, was the shipment of thousands of boots—all for the left foot. Deaths from wounds were many, and cholera and typhus took a terrible toll in the trenches. The winter of 1854-55 was severe, and the sufferings of the men in the trenches and in the tents were exceedingly severe. Yet through it all, the soldiers maintained their splendid courage, and were able to add to the roll of British victories two names that will never be forgotten. One of those is Balaclava, the other's Inkerman.

Balaclava is a port near the southern end of the Crimea. Here the British ships made their rendezvous, and on October 25, 1854, a Russian force of 12,000 men left Sebastopol and captured some redoubts commanding the port, which a small detachment of Turks had been ordered to defend. They then advanced to attack the port itself, but General Scarlett, by a magnificent charge of the Heavy Cavalry, frustrated their attempt. It was during this battle that the famous Charge of the Light Brigade occurred. Why this was ordered, or whether it was ever ordered, will never be known, for the aide who delivered the instructions to Lord Cardigan fell during the charge. That Lord Raglan did not direct it is known, but no satisfactory explanation has ever been given of the reason why 670 men charged an army in position. There was a battery of artillery in front and on each side of them, but

they cut their way through and routed the Russian cavalry beyond. Not being supported, they were obliged to retrace their steps and only 168 men reached the safety of the British lines.

The battle of Inkerman was fought ten days later, that is, on November 5. The Russians made a night attack on the allies. There is no doubt that they expected to sweep them from their positions, and they were numerically strong enough to do so. Once more the burden of the fight fell upon the British, who bore nobly, although later the French came to their assistance, and the Russians were repulsed. Inkerman is always spoken of as "the soldiers' battle."

A battle took place at Tchernaya, where the Russians were also repulsed. This fight is chiefly remarkable for the fact that the Sardinian contingent participated in it, whereby the troops of Victor Emmanuel acquired a prestige which contributed no little to the subsequent unification of Italy.

Sebastopol was not actually taken by the allies, although the French did capture the Malakoff tower. On September 8, the British force sent against the Redan also took that work, but, being absolutely unsupported, were compelled to retire. By what species of monumental stupidity General Simpson, who succeeded to the command after the lamented death of Lord Raglan, sent so inadequate a force to assault the Redan cannot be explained. In one of the private letters sent from the front, it was stated that he sent one battalion of recruits to the assault as a punishment for insubordination. The capture of the Malakoff and the realization by the Russians that the English had only to attack the Redan in force to take it, and then have the city at their mercy, which they set on fire, so that when the allies entered they found only heaps of ruins.

There was no further fighting, but the British army was put in a splendid state of efficiency, so much so, that when France hesitated about exacting certain conditions from Russia, as the price of peace, Lord Palmerston declared his intention to carry on the war alone. This proved unnecessary, and a treaty of peace was signed at Paris in 1856. By its terms the Russians were temporarily crushed, and in consideration of the help of the Powers Turkey promised various reforms. But the only permanent result was the unification of Italy.

THE OCCULT

H. K. Chesterton, one of the keenest critics of the day, although his method of dealing with questions appears at first sight to be the reverse of philosophical, commenting upon W. T. Stead's claim to have received a communication from the spirit of Gladstone, says: "Apart from the intentions or the impressions, what, so far as we can follow them, are the occurrences? Well, I will take the liberty of dogmatizing about the situation as it stands. There is no doubt whatever, for any fair and free human mind which has studied the experiment, that it is possible to obtain messages and explanations which come, I do not say from a spiritual source, but certainly from an unknown source." In these words Mr. Chesterton expresses the views held by a great many people, whose knowledge of what is now called spiritism is derived from casual observation, or from reading of the experience of others. There is not the least doubt that the scientific investigation of psychic phenomena has led to very unexpected results. The late Professor Lombroso acknowledged that he had become satisfied of the reality of the phenomena investigated by him, and he very reluctantly accepted a spirit as the only means of accounting for them. Among other distinguished persons, who admit the reality of the phenomena, although it is perhaps too much to say that they believe in the work of spirits, we find such names as Marconi, Flammarion, Lodge, Wallace and Crookes, to mention only some of those with which the public are most familiar. The presence of Sir William Crookes in such a company is calculated to arrest attention, for of all the scientific investigators of the day, he is perhaps the most careful. In any other department of investigation the opinion of Sir William would be regarded as of great value, and the result of his experiments would be accepted without question.

In approaching the subject of spiritism, Sir William adopted the scientific method, and took precautions to eliminate all possibility of fraud and collusion. He had the experiments carried out in his own house, and in the brightest glare of electric lights. He experimented with several mediums, the best known of them being D. D. Herne. One of the principal tests was with an accordion. For this purpose he constructed a cage with hoops and wrapped around it fifty yards of copper wire. In this he placed an accordion, and placed the whole under his dining-room table. The cage was purposely made just high enough to fit under the table, and a hand could not be inserted above it and beneath the table. He placed the cage and the accordion in position himself. Thereupon, to quote his words, "very soon the wire was seen by those on each side to be waving about in a somewhat curious manner; then sounds came from it and finally several notes were played in succession. While this was going on, my assistant went under the table and reported that the accordion was expanding and contracting. Presently the accordion was seen by those on the other side to move about, oscillating, going round and round the cage and playing at the same time."

This took place in the full glare of the electric light with several persons looking on. Sir William then connected the wires encircling the cage with a strongly charged electric wire,

so that if any one had attempted to reach the accordion the shock would have been exceedingly severe. This only had the effect of increasing the marked character of the movements of the instrument, and Sir William says: "I and two of the others present saw the accordion distinctly floating about inside the cage with no visible support. This was repeated a second time after a short interval."

Another interesting test was made with a balanced board. The medium placed his hands a few inches above one end of the board, but did not touch it. The board was thereupon depressed, and to counterbalance the force exerted by the medium a weight of 140 pounds was necessary. Another was made with a long rod, which without any human or artificial assistance, was making certain movements. Sir William said: "Will the intelligence directing this rod change the character of its movements and give me a telegraphic message in the Morse code?" Forthwith the rod tapped out such a message on his hand. He says that on three occasions a beautifully formed hand appeared through an opening in his dining table and on one occasion gave him a flower. This was in light as brilliant as electric lamps could make it, and it was seen by others besides himself. He also says that he saw materialized form of the spirit known as Katie King in his own house and under conditions, which rendered deception impossible.

One hardly knows what to say in the face of statements like these from such a high authority. The suggestion that the incidents are to be explained by sleight-of-hand seems pointless, for the ingenuity requisite to deceive such observers as those named above could be used by its possessor to vastly greater advantage. At the same time there is no necessity for persons, who art not making investigations, to be in any haste about reaching conclusions on the subject. There is undoubtedly a very simple and perfectly natural explanation of all these things; but it seems to lie outside of the scope of our ordinary observations. The proper attitude for the great majority of people to take towards spiritism is one of suspended judgment, and in regard to professional mediums one of profound distrust. In the course of an article pointing out the necessity for further inquiry, the Nation, a prominent British review, says: "But until that investigation is completed it would be folly to assume that the hysterical medium really is in relation with the disembodied or partially embodied spirits of the dead. The real difficulty begins when we have to face the vulgar manifestations of seances conducted without human agency; heavy wardrobes advance along the floor like monstrous and primeval animals; hands touch and strike or caress the assistants; notes are played on mandolines or trumpets suspended from the roof. Most of the more startling 'manifestations' have been repeated in daylight, and the lifting of the table has been frequently photographed."

THE BEGINNING OF HISTORY

In the previous article it was said that everything bearing upon the life of mankind on this globe was in a broad sense of the word history; but scholars, as a rule, apply the term only to written records. All other such evidences of human life they class as archaeology. To attempt a definition, which will show the distinction between the two branches of investigation, archaeology may be said to deal with the general condition of the race as a whole, whereas history deals with the doings of parts of the race. Yet one blends into the other in such a manner that it is difficult to separate them. For example, when we find in certain parts of Europe flints that must have come from the chalk cliffs of England, we are safe in assuming that there was intercourse of some kind between the peoples of the various countries at an early day. History, that is written history, using the word writing to mean any artificial device employed for keeping a record, begins as far as any one is now able to say, about 10,000 years ago, and possibly earlier. From that time to the present there is a more or less continuous account of the doings of the people who have inhabited southwest Asia and the Nile valley. Chinese history claims to be very much more ancient than this, some of the earlier writers asserting that it goes back more than two million years before the time of Confucius, but so far as is known there are no records with a greater antiquity than 5,000 years. When we attempt to decipher the hieroglyphics of the Mayas, a race which inhabited Central America about the time of the Spanish invasion, we are hopelessly in the dark, and the same is true of the inscriptions on Toltec and Peruvian monuments. We have no basis of comparison to enable students to determine what these inscriptions may mean, and therefore for the present they cannot be taken into account in speaking of the antiquity of historical records.

But behind the earliest date assignable to the first Egyptian or Babylonian records, there stretches an immense period throughout all which man seems to have been in existence and slowly making his way upwards to civilization. This is the archaeological period, and geologists estimate that it may have been anywhere from 100,000 to 300,000 years long. It is divided into three subordinate periods, the Palaeolithic, the Palaeolithic and the Neolithic. The Palaeolithic is the most ancient. It is in part inferred rather than proved. The only evidence of such a period is the rude flints and tree branches which seem to show that they were employed by creatures of intelligence for their own purposes. The Eolithic flints are

what are called "massive," which does not mean that they are large, but only that they do not exhibit any or at least very slight traces of workmanship. The best known instances of these are found in Kent, and they are discovered in gravel once forming a river bank, but now lying at an elevation of 600 feet above the neighboring stream. In the Palaeolithic period men had advanced far enough to know how to chip flints into desired shapes, and they also had regular habitations in caves. As far as the limited amount of information available demonstrates, man in the Eolithic age had no fixed habitation; but in the next period he had learned to seek refuge in a cave and knew how to make fire. In the Neolithic period he had learned how to polish flint, make pottery and had acquired some sense of ornamentation. The commerce in flints referred to above took place in the Palaeolithic period, and it continued during the Neolithic. In the latter period the construction of dwellings began, and it was then that the lake dwellings, found in some parts of the world, were first erected. The people of the Neolithic period understood something of navigation. We cannot say if those of the preceding age did, for we do not know whether navigation was then necessary to pass from the countries where the flints were produced to others in which they were found.

It is interesting to note that almost all these stages in the progress of mankind are to be found in the world today. There are even now races which use for implements stones corresponding to the massive flints of the Eolithic Period; there are peoples who yet employ the chipped flints of the Palaeolithic period and others again who practice the arts of the Neolithic Period. It is also to be observed that these periods seem to have been uniform all over the world at the same time. That is to say, men do not appear to have begun their existence in one locality and spread abroad taking with them the ruder forms of primitive civilization, but everywhere at the same time humanity was much in the same condition. The wide differences between races in different places. In any cases progress seems to have been arrested. The most conspicuous illustration of this is to be found in China, where a wonderful advance was made before something called a halt. In the case of some of the uncivilized races, the impetus to progress appears to have ceased at a very early stage. But in every case there has been some progress, and the history of Japan and the recent history of China show it to be possible for a race to overcome the adverse conditions and resume its advance at a more rapid rate than ever. The Indians of the white tint at the time of the coming of the arrested people were apparently in a state of arrested development. But we also know that there may be racial retrogression. The stone portraits of the ancient Egyptian kings show a marked resemblance to the fetahen of today, that the latter might almost sit for the portraits of the former. Apparently the people who form the mass of the population of the Nile valley are the direct descendants of the wonderful race, which built the Pyramids, the marvelous temples of Thebes, and the exquisite edifice of Pylae, and who carved upon stone enduring records of their deeds. Here is not only arrested development, but retrogression as well, and the same thing holds true of other peoples.

But the point to be brought out in this article is that after a very long period of existence on this planet, mankind about ten thousand years ago emerged from his former condition in some parts of the world and began to make records of his doings. He was no longer content to live from day to day. He had grown ambitious of distinction. He had devised laws for his protection. He was no longer satisfied. He had learned the necessity for government. He had learned to do all these things long before the time of which we speak, but we can only deal with things that are known. Therefore, speaking in a general way, human history may be said to begin about one hundred centuries ago in the valley of the Euphrates and Tigris and that of the Nile.

A Century of Fiction

(N. de Bertrand Luigrin)

A CENTURY OF FICTION

George Eliot

This great writer may be said to have fairly represented the age in which she worked, the third quarter of the nineteenth century. This period of time has been styled an age of tolerance, religious, scientific and philosophical. The Church of Rome, for instance, had come under the softening influence of Cardinals Newman and Manning, and was brought nearer to the Anglican body. Darwin, Mill, Spencer and Huxley represented Agnosticism, which cult was granted social recognition. The philosophy of Auguste Comte was given expression through his English exponents—a philosophy of Humanitarianism, which lost nothing, but rather gained in breadth, through the genius of its interpreters. George Eliot was a social philosopher, and an exponent of the school of Idealism rather than that of Realism. Her long years of training could have produced no other result. She did not begin her career as a novelist until she was thirty-seven; up to that time her work had been along the lines of criticism, translation and essay-writing. She was very ambitious al-

ways in the work she undertook, one of her first translations being David Strauss' "Life of Jesus," which occupied her for three years. Her next attempt in this direction was Ludwig Feuerbach's "Essence of Christianity." Spinoza's "Ethics" she began to translate but never finished it. She was always an indefatigable and conscientious worker and her own hardest taskmaster, though her father supervised her earliest writings. The influence of her father, who was the prototype of Adam Bede, was a potent factor in the development of her character. He was an essentially upright, fair-minded and practical man, his daughter was devoted to him and never wholly recovered from the effects of his death.

George Eliot (Marian Evans) was born in Warwickshire, on November 22, 1819. She was enabled through her father's position to mingle in many different classes of society, from the humble to the proud. He was a land agent, and among other properties had the handling of several of the large estates of the nobility. Marian as a child made friends with wide discrimination, but with no regard to the social status of her associates. Tenderest sympathy and an instinctive understanding of her kind was fostered from the beginning in her, traits of character which always distinguished her and enabled her in later years to give to the world the splendid character studies of Adam Bede, Daniel Deronda, Felix Holt, Silas Warner, Gwendoline, Romola, Dorothea and a host of others that must stand among the best types of literature. The possession of these qualities also broadened, strengthened and sweetened her own nature so that as time went on her influence for good over those with whom she came in contact was practically unbounded.

It was not until after the death of her father that she began to form associates among the most famous literary people of the time. She was thirty years old when she became sub-editor of the Westminster Review, and entered the home of Doctor John Chapman. While here she formed one of a brilliant coterie, which included Herbert Spencer, John Oxonford, James and Harriet Martineau, Emerson, and George Henry Lewes.

Five years later after painful and mature deliberation, she took the step for which so many have censured her. George Lewes had been separated from his wife for some time, but there had been no divorce, and according to the laws of Church and State he was still bound to her. But he loved Miss Evans, and her love for him was so supreme, that she was ready to renounce her name, her position, her friends, for his sake. She went to his home and became his wife, and as long as he lived was tenderly devoted to him and a faithful mother to his children. The two left England at first and lived for some time in Berlin, but upon their return home they were afforded a glad welcome by their friends, and the old amicable condition of things was re-established. Every Sunday afternoon a salon was held at the Priory, London, the home of the Lewes, where were to be met Darwin, Browning, Tennyson, Wagner, Huxley, Du Maurier, and numerous other artists. Lewes was probably the most brilliant conversationalist of his time; but his wife was the stronger attraction. In person she was not beautiful; her features were too large and heavy, but her smile was charming; her voice low and sweet; her enunciation clear and refined; and her ready and abundant sympathy, her kindly humour, her large understanding, won a deeper and more lasting affection than could have been inspired by mere beauty of feature or form. Yet, though outwardly the great novelist appeared happy, and her life all that she could wish, her letters tell a different story. We know that until the day of her death she deplored the necessity of taking the step which meant a sin against the society, which she so firmly believed should be upheld. She never regretted her relations with the man she loved, but she felt that she had established a dangerous precedent. Lewes died in 1878 and in 1880 George Eliot married Mr. Cross, just for what reason it would be hard to say. She died in the same year.

She has produced about a dozen novels among which it would be difficult to name one as superior to the rest. They are all the productions of genius, works that must rank among the classics of English literature. The rank and file of readers nowadays find them a little ponderous, a little slow, a little too thought-compelling, but the judgment of such readers cannot be accepted as any sort of standard. Her stories will live long after very modern novelists have been forgotten.

"Daniel Deronda," one of the most famous of her novels, was written four years before her death. There are two great characters in the book, Daniel Deronda the Jew, and Gwendoline Harleth, the woman who loves him.

Perhaps Adam Bede is the universal favourite among her novels. It is a story, however, of which it is very difficult to give a synopsis. The principal scene is laid in the Poyser farm in the Midlands, and the delightful surroundings are delightfully described. We see the wide white houses with their deep cool verandahs, the broad clean kitchen, their monstrous open fireplaces, shingled great ovens, the shaded, fragrant dairies, the great barns, the green woods, the sparkling brook. Hester Sorrel, an ambitious, beautiful, and silly girl, is the heroine, but her frailties are so human, that we instinctively give her our sympathy. Adam Bede, a sterling, intelligent, courageous young man, is in love with her. Dinah Morris, the woman preacher, Bartle Massey, the schoolmaster, Mr. Irwine, the parson, and Mrs. Poyser, are all admirable character studies.

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RHEUMATISM ZAM-BUK ENDS ITS AGONY

The aching and the agony of rheumatism is relieved as soon as Zam-Buk's soothing ingredients reach the seat of the trouble. Just rub Zam-Buk well in over the muscles affected and get ease!

Mr. P. C. Wells, of 332 Ogden street, Fort William, says: "I had rheumatism in both knees and in my left arm, and shoulder. The pain got so bad that I could no longer work and was under the doctor on three different occasions for several weeks."

"I seemed to get little, if any, better, no matter what I tried, and this was my state when Zam-Buk was recommended to me. I laid in a supply, and to my great joy it began to cure me. I rubbed it well in, every night, and when a few boxes had been used I was free from the pain and stiffness of rheumatism."

Zam-Buk is just as good for sciatica, neuralgia, etc. When used as a balm it need not be rubbed in, but just applied. It heals cold sores, cuts, ulcers, abscesses, eczema, and all skin injuries and diseases. Fifty cents, all Drugists and Grocers or Zam-Buk Co., Toronto, for price.

Increase for Trainmen. LANSING, Mich., Dec. 7.—The Michigan Central railroad has increased trainmen's wages 5 1/2 per cent and operators 14 per cent.

Halley's Comet. QUINCY, Mass., Dec. 7.—Halley's comet was visible December 4 in a three-inch telescope at the observatory at Smith college, Northampton, Mass., according to a telegram received at Harvard college observatory last night.

Railway at Auction. NORFOLK, Va., Dec. 7.—The Norfolk and Southern railway property was today bid in by the organization committee for \$8,500,000. The property was knocked down to Rathbone Gardner of New York in the name of the committee.

Chinaman Ends Life. VANCOUVER, Dec. 7.—After several attempts to take his own life, Ki Chung, an aged Chinaman for whom around Chinamen of this city had subscribed about \$300 to take him to China, finally succeeded in committing suicide about 2 o'clock this morning by throwing himself out of a window in the place where he had been living in False Creek alley, near Shanghai alley. When the police arrived they found scores of Oriental men dancing around Chung, who lay in a pool of blood. He was not dead, and informed the officers that he had gashed his throat and head several times and finally jumped out of the window. He said he did not want to return to China. He was removed to St. Paul's hospital under the care of Dr. McDiarmid, but expired soon afterward.

COMMISSIONERS WILL REPORT

Final Recommendations of the Civil Service and Forestry Boards Expected

The readjustment of the salaries and status of the many members of the provincial civil service proceeds satisfactorily upon progress reports that are now presented at frequent intervals by the Commissioners, which reports are at once taken up by the government, and it is expected that the whole of the formidable work of regrading will have been completed by the expiry of the present month.

It is significant of the thoroughness and fairness with which the commissioners have performed their task, that although the right of appeal to the Executive from any report is extended to all members of the service, in not one case as yet has this right been exercised. It is probable that a final and formal report will be made by the Commission for presentation to parliament at an approaching meeting.

Several interim reports have also been received and considered from the Forestry Commission, which not long ago held sittings for the reception of evidence at various population centres throughout the province. The members of this commission are at present in the East, and it is understood that they have arranged to meet in Ottawa during the present month for the purpose of framing their final report, which also will go before the House when it meets in January. Mr. Goodwin is, of course, just now with his parliamentary duties at the Federal capital, where also Mr. A. C. Flumerfelt is on business. Mr. and Mrs. Fulton are on their way to England, for a long thought of holiday, and incidentally Mr. Fulton, as chairman of the commission, proposes to visit Washington, for the purpose of consulting with the officials of the Forestry Department of the United States, and collection of data as to conservation and other problems with regard to which the commission will make practical recommendations.

NEW BEDFORD, Mass., Dec. 7.—Rained from her bed in the mud of Buzard's Bay through forty feet of water today, the U. S. cruiser Tankeo remained on the surface for a few minutes, then suddenly sank again to the bottom. Two men who were at work inside the hull survived, the swimming to a place of safety. The Tankeo went ashore on the Hen and Chickens reef about a year and a half ago, after being floated once before she sank in Buzard's Bay.

TO MOVE GRAIN VIA PACIFIC

Hon. W. H. Cushing Wants Alberta and B. C. Governments to Co-Operate

With the object of interviewing Premier McBride on the question of the two governments co-operating in helping towards the movement of the Alberta crops via the Pacific coast, the Hon. W. H. Cushing, Minister of Public Works of Alberta, arrived in the city last night. Today he sees the Premier and has some definite plan in which both governments can assist will probably be developed.

Cushing states that there is a strong desire through his province to have wheat moved this way. The matter has been taken up strongly by the Pacific Elevator Company, but while a little of the crop is coming, the majority of the farmers are holding the grain up to the present the Canadian Pacific railway has not shown any great inclination to take this trade westwards. In the crusade to bring about this freight movement westwards, Alberta has had to reckon with the powerful grain interests at Winnipeg, Port Arthur and Montreal, all of which are anxious to see this trade find an outlet by the Atlantic ports.

Seeks Aid of British Columbia. The plan which the Alberta government has adopted, and in which it seeks the operation of British Columbia. Mr. Cushing would not state. It is understood, however, that it deals with the provision of terminals for elevators and other shipping facilities. Mr. Cushing is very optimistic over the prospects for this trade, but considers that the help of both governments is necessary in order to foster the initiative which the elevator companies have already shown.

Asked about the policy of guaranteeing the bonds of railroads upon which Alberta has entered to a large extent, Mr. Cushing stated that this system was the best way of insuring the bonds, if done in a judicious manner. His government had guaranteed the bonds of the Canadian Northern and the Grand Trunk Pacific to a considerable extent, and it never anticipated being called upon to pay a cent. The building of railroads upon this means was in order to open up the province. Such railroads had not been built for large centres and in doing so very often paralleled existing lines. This was the case in Alberta.

Active Building. Since the railway policy of Alberta was endorsed by the electorate last spring, the G. T. P. and C. N. R. had been actively engaged on constructing the former road had built some 50 miles from a point on the main line towards Calgary, while the Canadian Northern had constructed 100 miles. The latter railway was building at the rate of a mile a day, was opening up new territory, and generally carrying out development work.

Both of these branch lines the G. T. P. and the C. N. R. will run south to the international boundary, and give other outlets to traffic. By the system of guaranteeing bonds Mr. Cushing considered that there was no possibility of the government's being embarrassed in any way. Alberta had only commenced assisting railways. His government realized the immense momentum which such assistance gave to development, and he anticipated that considerable further aid would be given.

Mr. Cushing was in British Columbia last spring. Since that time he says there has been considerable development and throughout those portions of the province he has visited he notices every evidence of prosperity.

INSTRUCTIVE WORK OF DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE

Compendium of Island's Resources is Issued—Inquiries From Would-Be Settlers.

Every day indications are forthcoming of the activity and enterprise of the Vancouver Island Development League. The latest pamphlet of the organization, comprised in 32 pages, is an admirable compendium of the island's resources. All are touched upon in a brief, yet interesting fashion, and the statistical results are put forth in a most attractive manner. The book is an epitome of instruction for the prospective settler, and shows the various steamship lines which diverge from Victoria. In the pamphlet also is a map showing the present lines and the proposed railway development on the island. The production is otherwise illustrated, and is one of the most attractive advertisements which the island has ever had.

Yesterday the local offices of the league received no fewer than 55 letters from different parts of the world, all of them from would be settlers, who are anxious to find out everything possible about the resources of the district. Yesterday also Mr. Michelson, a Scandinavian farmer from the Kootenai district called at the offices and stated that he was the advance guard of five others who were anxious to come here, and settle down. Mr. Michelson leaves for the west coast on the next trip of the steamer Tees in order to locate homesteads for himself and his friends. He states that a large number of people in the Kootenais are looking for a new home, as they are unable to find homes in a more equable climate.

Waters-Pierce Property Sold. AUSTIN, Texas, Dec. 7.—At public auction late today the Texas property of the Waters-Pierce Oil company was sold on account of the anti-trust suits and other proceedings instituted some time ago.

John Drew Injured. NEW YORK, Dec. 7.—John Drew, the actor, was thrown from his horse while riding with his daughter in Central Park today and seriously injured. The horse trampled on the actor as he lay on the ground. The physicians announce that Mr. Drew received a severe fracture of the left shoulder, and it is feared that he has been injured internally. Mr. Drew was resting easy, was held at a hospital tonight. His injuries are serious, but in all probability he will be out in a week or two.

UMBRELLAS advertisement featuring an illustration of a woman with an umbrella and a list of various styles and prices. Text includes: 'Make suitable Xmas Gifts for Ladies, Gents or Children. Make your selection early while the stock is complete.'

HENRY YOUNG & CO.

1123 Government Street, Victoria, B.C.

ALLEN & CO. FIT-REFORM advertisement for overcoats. Text includes: 'WE MAKE IT SO EASY FOR YOU TO FIND JUST THE RIGHT OVERCOAT. Hundreds of styles are here, ready for you choosing. The largest the most comprehensive and most attractive showing that we have ever made.'

FIFTH REGIMENT LEADS DOMINION

Takes Governor-General's Efficiency Shield and Second and Third Also

The Fifth Regiment C. G. A., has won the Governor-General's shield for general efficiency and also second and third places in competition with all other artillery regiments in the Dominion, according to the results of the annual competition among the coast defence companies of Canada which were received yesterday.

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DAMAGE TO RAILWAY IS NOT VERY SERIOUS

E. & N. Should Be in Complete Repair By Friday, Says Vice-President Marpole.

On his regular inspection of the E. & N. Railway company's affairs, of which road he is the vice-president, R. Marpole, was in the city yesterday. While Mr. Marpole did not make a tour of the line, as is his custom, he fully acquainted himself with its condition and last night declared that the recent floods had not wrought as great damage here as on the mainland.

"I came over to see what was left of the road," he explained judicially, "but discovered that the reports that it was totally out of condition and likely to remain so were not exactly correct." That the work on the bridge just this side of Ladysmith, which was destroyed would be carried to completion as fast as was possible, Mr. Marpole assured his interviewer. The railroad company was as much alive and as anxious to have the connection established from Victoria through to Nanaimo, without any necessity for a transfer, as were any of the merchants in either of the cities. The repairs would be finished now within a few days. Quite probably the trains, both freight and passenger, would resume their regular schedule by Friday, if not sooner.

As for the E. & N. railway extension to the west coast, Mr. Marpole had little to add to what has already been published. The contractors were employing as many men as were available and the grading would be finished within a few days. Quite probably the trains, both freight and passenger, would resume their regular schedule by Friday, if not sooner.

CLAIMS ARE BONDED

Properties on Banks Island Owned by Victorians.

Three promising copper-gold claims admirably placed with regard to future shipping facilities on the east side of Banks Island, in Prince Channel, and midway between Queen Charlotte, and the mainland of British Columbia, have been bonded for four months to Toronto capitalists, represented in the transaction by W. H. Ellis of this city, for a sum of \$25,000. The claims are owned by William Lorimer, R. Lorimer, William Lorimer, Jr., of this city, and M. Forrest of Cowichan, who are to receive their first payment under the terms of the option on the 20th of the present month.

It is the intention of the Toronto capitalists to send in an expert as soon as weather permits, and if his report justifies expectations, development will begin early in the spring. The claims show an exposed ten-foot vein, the quartz running \$43 per ton, in gold, silver and copper values. Samples of the rock show an average of 14 per cent copper, with two ounces silver, the remaining value being in gold. It is a shaft-sinking proposition, and the ore can be delivered to water-carriers for transport to smelter, almost at the mouth of the mine to the coast.

PITTSBURG, Pa., Dec. 7.—The staple plant of the Colonial Steel company at Monaca, Pa., near here, has been closed by a demand of a ten per cent increase in wages, brought to an end by the men returning to the work at the old rate of wages.

WINES AND LIQUORS advertisement for Barclay's London Stout and COPAS & YOUNG. Text includes: 'Do not be misled by thinking there are better goods. Try Barclay's and get a taste of the real thing, the Stout without a superior anywhere in the world. We now have hundreds of pleased customers who have found that in Barclay's they have an article easily digested and extremely beneficial to the whole system, especially so with invalids, who cannot digest the heavy, gassy stout.'

PRESIDENT TO CONGRESS advertisement for Mr. Taft's First Annual Message. Text includes: 'Mr. Taft's First Annual Message Covers Large Number of Subjects. SETTLEMENT OF CANADIAN QUESTIONS. Drastic Reduction in Expenditures Suggested So as to Meet Revenue Needs.'

