

The Weekly Colonist.

THIRTY-NINTH YEAR.

VICTORIA BRITISH COLUMBIA MONDAY DECEMBER 21 1896.

VOLUME XXXIX. NO. 3

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

His Excellency Has Many Important Papers and Orders-in-Council to Discuss.

Parliament to Meet First Week in March—Ottawa to Enforce Curfew Law.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, Dec. 17.—The Governor-General is bringing back with him from the West many orders-in-council and papers which have been sent out for his approval and which he will discuss with his advisers on his return. It is said many of these orders refer to dismissals of the members of the government to go on next session with a new franchise bill, a civil service bill and a new superannuation bill, in accordance with the promises made. Steps will also be taken to provide the necessary legislation for carrying out the prohibition of opium in the Pacific new line to Ottawa will be completed by the middle of next summer. Construction has just ceased for the winter.

There was no minister in town to-day. The curfew law will take effect in Ottawa on January 1. The American consul reports that the volume of exports from this district during the year was quite up to the average.

CUBAN INDEPENDENCE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—A majority of the members of the Foreign Relations committee express ignorance of the reported intention of Mr. Olney to appear before the committee in regard to the Cuban question, but there is no doubt that he told Senator Sherman, who saw him for a few moments to-day, that he would be glad to appear at the committee's meeting to throw all light possible on the subject. It is the expectation of all the members of the committee that there will be reached at the meeting a resolution declaring for Cuban independence, and it is believed that the resolution expresses no doubt that the resolution will receive the approval of a majority of the committee. The intention of the majority of the members of the committee on foreign relations, who intend to vote for the Cuban resolution, is to vote to report the resolution to-morrow and allow it to remain on the senate calendar until after the holiday recess. The report that has already been prepared is known to be very satisfactory to the members in favor of this action, and it is not believed that there will be any facts presented by Secretary Olney which will materially change existing conditions. Already there is a protest against such action by persons who fear that values will be disturbed and business injured by any declaration of the nature proposed. Different senators have urged members of the foreign relations committee not to be hasty in the matter of acting on the Cuban resolutions, and suggested delay, but so far has not influenced the majority of the members of the committee.

ARMENIAN MASSACRES.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—The full extent of the Armenian massacres is indicated in a report to the state department by U.S. Consul Bergolice, at Erzeroum, wherein he says: "The number of Armenian children under twelve years made orphans by the massacres of 1895 is, according to what shall be done with these orphans is receiving the attention of the Christian world. The American board of commission is giving the matter serious thought. It has formulated a general plan of relief, although the question of creating orphanages, clothing factories and industrial institutions is under consideration. German charitable societies are preparing to establish industrial orphan asylums at Corpha, Ceasaresa and elsewhere and the Kaiserwerth deaconesses of Germany have made provisions for receiving Armenian orphans at Smyrna and thirty have been sent there from here. The British government, or its ambassador at Constantinople has initiated a movement leading towards settling a number of widows and their children on the island of Cyprus.

IMPORTANT RAILWAY EVENT.

HAMILTON, Dec. 16.—What will probably prove to be the last important event in the history of the Toronto, Hamilton & Buffalo railway as an independent enterprise except the actual change which is anticipated on January 1, took place this morning in the running of trains over the spur line for the first time. It was making history for Hamilton, as this city is likely to be greatly benefited by the increased railway facilities which will come by the opening of the spur. The connection between the spur and the Grand Trunk tracks was made yesterday, and the importance of this morning's proceedings was signified by the presence of such men as Sir William Van Horne of the C.P.R., President LeMay of the M.C.R., and Supt. Van Etten of the N.Y.C., and a number of other railway managers. They went over the spur line to the connection with the G.

T.R. track, and they were pleased with what they saw. They would not say when the regular running of trains would begin, but they stated that the details would be all arranged shortly, this trip being made for the purpose of inspecting the road with a view to working out the details. Sir William Van Horne was asked as to the probable time when trains would be running regularly over the spur, but would not give a definite answer. In regard to the rumor about his probable resignation of the presidency of the C. P. R., he said there was no truth in it.

A WIFE'S DREADFUL REVENGE.

WINNIPEG, Dec. 16.—(Special)—Frank Maxwell, a teacher of modern languages, quarrelled with his wife recently, and the latter left him and took a position as housekeeper in a city residence. Last night Maxwell called to see his wife and found her. She threw a dipperful of boiling lye into his face. Maxwell immediately jumped and will probably lose his eyesight. Mrs. Maxwell says he used insulting language to her, hence the lye-throwing. Mr. W. W. Oglvie, the bonanza miller of Montreal, has presented one thousand dollars to the general hospital. The munificent gift was conveyed to Judge Bain, hon. secy-treasurer, in the form of a cheque.

A few days ago Ernest Butler, a young married man, clerk in the office of Oaker, Hammond & Nanton, attempted to commit suicide by drinking carbolic acid. He was removed to the general hospital where it was hoped his life would be saved, but death ensued late on Tuesday night in spite of all that medical skill could do. Much sympathy is felt for the friends of the unfortunate young man. Butler is very highly connected and formerly resided in Toronto, where the body will be taken for interment.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.

WINNIPEG, Dec. 17.—(Special)—Fred Palmer, aged 35, attempted suicide last night in his room while temporarily insane. He will recover.

While Lord Aberdeen was in Winnipeg a sneak thief entered the private car and stole His Lordship's fur cap and other articles. He was arrested to-day by the city police and the cap found in his possession. The prisoner gave the name of P. Grant.

The Winnipeg bank clearings for the week ending to-day, totaled \$1,516,805, a net balance of \$318,219, against \$1,433,703 and \$290,538 net balance for the same week last year.

T. Tessier, proprietor of the Grand Central hotel here, is dead.

Hon. Clifford Sifton left for Ottawa to-day to assume the duties of his office, as minister of the interior.

A TARIFF ON LUMBER.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 16.—Pursuant to the call issued by J. E. Febaugh, publisher of the Timberman, and W. B. Judson, publisher of the Lumberman, 150 delegates, representing twenty-seven States, assembled yesterday. Messrs. Judson and Febaugh made elaborate addresses, explaining the purpose of the convention and the present condition of the timber business. They appealed to the delegates of the Southern States, which were largely represented. Most of the Southern delegates have been free traders, but in responding to the addresses of Messrs. Judson and Febaugh these delegates insisted that if there was to be a protective tariff lumber should not be discriminated against, and said they would do all they could to secure a tariff on lumber.

After some lively and forcible discussion the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

"Whereas, The placing of lumber on the tariff list by act of congress not only promotes ruinous competition on lumber from Canadian mills, but discriminates against lumber as compared with other manufactures; therefore be it

Resolved, That this convention, representing the entire lumber industry of the United States in all lines, respectfully petitions congress to place lumber on the dutiable list; and be it further

Resolved, That each lumber dealer in the United States be urged to furnish to senators of his state and congressmen of his district, full information in regard to the needs of the lumber industry, to the end that they can consistently assist in the passage of this measure; finally,

Resolved, That this convention recognizes the fact that unjust discrimination prevails in some countries in South America and elsewhere against American lumber, and that we are entirely opposed to such unjust discrimination; and we invoke the aid of the United States congress for the purpose of removing the same, either by reciprocity or otherwise.

BYARD IN BRISTOL.

BRISTOL, Dec. 17.—The chamber of commerce of Bristol gave a luncheon to-day in the hall of the Grammar school at which the mayor, high sheriff, the master of the Merchants' Adventurers Technical College and about two hundred British notables were present. The U. S. Ambassador Mr. Thomas F. Bayard, who had been invited to present the prizes to the students, met with an enthusiastic reception. He made an address during which he related the story of the enterprise of the Cabots and of the people of Bristol in opening trade with the New World. Then dwelling upon the mutual ties between the two countries, he said he had no narrower purpose in accepting the embassy than that the peace made in 1814 should never be broken and that the war spoken of in America as the "Last War" would not have a better name and he hoped it would keep it. Mr. Bayard was presented with a handsomely illuminated address, acknowledging the services he has rendered to America and Great Britain.

FITCH BAY, Dec. 17.—E. B. Dolloff's saw and door factory was destroyed by fire with its contents and machinery; loss about \$8,000.

FOR THE FRASER RIVER

Points in the Address Presented to the Minister of Marine.

Development and Protection of the Salmon Industry—Channel Improvements.

WESTMINSTER, Dec. 18.—The address presented to the Hon. the Minister of Marine and Fisheries on the occasion of his recent visit to New Westminster, contained among others the following representations:

"One of the greatest sources of wealth in this district is the salmon fishery. The regulations which govern salmon fishing on the Fraser river have occupied a large share of the board's attention for many years. These regulations have often been most unsatisfactory, but they have lately been considerably modified and much improved. The regulations governing sturgeon fishing have never been satisfactory, and have always been such as to prevent the taking of sturgeon in large quantities. The reliable information used by vessels of superior quality, and ought to be a source of considerable wealth to the country, but the restrictions imposed by the department have prevented the development of this industry.

"The board does not propose to enter into particulars respecting the objectionable features of the fishery regulations. It has already repeatedly recommended the appointment of local fishery commissioners, for the purpose of obtaining reliable information and making intelligent suggestions respecting these matters, and it now re-affirms its belief that such a course ought to be adopted. Experience has shown clearly that there are errors and that a knowledge of these can be gained only by continuous critical observation on the ground. If competent men were appointed to gather information from every available source, and have it sifted by thorough local discussion and investigation, your department would be relieved from the confusion of any conflicting recommendations, and the way would be opened up for a better understanding of the measures required for the development and improvement of the fisheries of this country.

The board desires to call your attention to the importance of having the channel of the North Arm of the Fraser river more efficiently marked out. The reliable information used by vessels of light draught and by tug towing scows and booms. There were at least eleven channels plying there last summer. The channel has been marked hitherto by piles driven into the river, which are in places, they are a serious obstruction to navigation, especially to rafts, and are very destructive to salmon nets during the fishing season. They frequently work up and down the river, so arranged that they are in places, they are a serious obstruction to navigation, especially to rafts, and are very destructive to salmon nets during the fishing season. They frequently work up and down the river, so arranged that they are in places, they are a serious obstruction to navigation, especially to rafts, and are very destructive to salmon nets during the fishing season.

The board is advised by those whose opinion should be regarded in such matters, that this channel should be marked by spar buoys, so arranged that they could pass over them without injury to either. Canoe Pass, another branch of the Fraser, is much used by small vessels, and ought to be marked by proper buoys.

The board recommends that a second light be placed at the entrance of the main channel of the Fraser river. The present lighthouse is about two miles from the ship channel, and it is of very little assistance to vessels attempting to enter the river at night. A second light would be of great service to the fishermen who in large numbers, fish on the head-ends during the night. With only one light, as at present situated, vessels are unable to enter the river at all after nightfall. The board recommends also that some lights be provided for the coast north of Burrard inlet. The lights at present on the north of Point Atkinson, while the traffic of that region is rapidly increasing on account of the fishing, lumbering and mining developments.

"The board would be exceedingly glad if you could find it convenient to visit Fraser river during the summer season, when salmon fishing and canning are in full blast. You would then be better able to realize, by personal observation, the magnitude and importance of the fishing industry."

"It has been announced that the Board of International Commissioners has agreed upon a report to the governments of Canada and the United States. Without presuming to anticipate this report, this Board begs to express the hope that your government will see that the interests of the fishing industry on the Fraser river are fully protected in any agreement that may be arrived at, so that our fishermen may be placed on a footing as favorable, at least, as those who pursue the same industry on the American side, and that mutual regulations may be adopted for the protection of our salmon supply."

The board is glad to learn that additional hatcheries are to be erected in the province. By the aid of these and a more systematic and thorough effort to gain information respecting the primary or natural conditions attending the recuperative power of our salmon fisheries there is reason to look for increased and permanent prosperity for this important industry.

MONTREAL, Dec. 17.—Hon. George E. Foster was in the city yesterday. Being interviewed regarding the outlook in Cornwall and Stormont, he said it was simply splendid. "We will beat them out of their boots," he added. Mr. Foster spoke in Cornwall town to-night.

THROUGHOUT THE LAND

Britain's Earthquake Shock Felt Everywhere—Windsor Castle Rudely Shaken.

Scientists Make No Explanations—Hamburg Strikers Prohibited From Patrolling the Port.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—Yesterday's earthquake shock seems to have been felt in greater or less degree throughout the length and breadth of this island, throwing from his feet the laborer toiling in the highway and penetrating in its effects to the abode of royalty itself. The shock was felt distinctly at Windsor Castle, and some of the royal household were shaken in their beds. Furniture, china and ornaments were rattled in several rooms on the north side of the castle, and one official of the castle says that the tower literally rocked. This sensation was at first supposed to be due to a powder mill explosion. The earthquake was also felt throughout Wales, though no actual damage resulted there. At Ruthin and the districts of the Vale of Glynid it is stated that there were six shocks lasting together fifteen seconds. The driver of a mail train observed thunder and lightning accompanying the shock. The tremors were distinctly noticed on the upper floor of Ruthin Castle.

Telegrams and letters from all parts of the districts affected are published in the morning papers this morning, but they add little to the previous information as to the effects of the earthquake. The interviews with scientists are kept in the subject of which there are many, also throw little further light on the phenomenon. There are no seismic recording instruments at Greenwich or in places where they were available yesterday. Such instruments are kept in the Catholic observatory at Stonyhurst, Lancashire, but no movement was recorded there.

There is good authority for stating that the French embassy at London, which will shortly be relinquished by Baron de Courcel, has been offered to M. Ribot, ex-president of the council and formerly minister of foreign affairs. M. Ribot has not decided yet as to his acceptance.

The Hamburg police have prohibited the strikers from patrolling the port. Men who had been on strike but are now offering to go back to work are being rejected, the employers having decided not to take any of them back until the strike is ended.

The anti-Boycott by Miss Helen Grant of Dundee, against Mr. James A. White, of the firm of J. F. White & Co. of New York, was called in the Edinburgh court sessions to-day and postponed until next session.

FEDERATION OF LABOR.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 17.—When President Gompers called the American Federation of Labor to order for the fourth day's session, the roll call showed a full attendance. The election of officers takes place to-morrow afternoon. Opinion is that all the general officers will be re-elected except Secretary McGrath, who is opposed by Frank Morrison, of Chicago, representative of the International Typographical Union.

After addresses by delegates Bennett, Gardner and others, the amendment of Mr. O'Sullivan to refer the application of the stationary engineers to the executive council with instructions to open local unions and organize a national union, was carried unanimously.

Delegates from Canadian unions were read and referred to appropriate committees. Delegate J. E. O'Sullivan offered a resolution fixing fifty cents per month as the minimum assessment for all male members of the unions referred to. President Gompers said he had invited ex-Governor Charles Foster, chairman of the Ohio commission on the investigation of convict labor, to address the convention. Mr. Foster, who could not be present, sent a letter on the subject, which was read and ordered to be printed in the proceedings.

The special committee on the Armour boycott at Kansas City reported in favor of more vigorously pushing the fight. W. H. Maher, of the Street Railway Union, created a sensation at noon by rising to a question of privilege and stating that grave rumors were being circulated against the general officers, and moving that a committee of five be appointed to investigate these charges. Mr. Maher would not name the charges, and none would mention them, but the rumors were generally conceded to be in connection with the agitation looking for the annual election to-morrow afternoon.

In the course of an address to the members of the Federation, John Malinson, president of the British Trades Congress of Edinburgh, speaking of the Venezuela agitation said: "When President Cleveland sent his message to Congress regarding Venezuela, the workmen of our country were horrified at its tone. Many spoke to me anxious to know if such a terrible thing as a war with the United States were possible. I looked upon such a possibility myself as a most deplorable one and we workmen all wondered if in this advanced age we were to be plunged into such a terrible position. We could not bear the thought that the two great countries that speak the same tongue and have so many interests in common could be brought to war against each other for so light a cause. Such a war will never do, and I am sure the workmen of both countries want a peaceful solution of all questions and the international visits of workmen will do more to promote mutual understandings and friendship than anything else."

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

Royal Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE

NEWS OF THE DOMINION.

(Special to the Colonist.)

TORONTO, Dec. 16.—It is stated here that J. F. Caldwell, of Winnipeg, has received a second offer of a million and a quarter dollars for the Sultana mine at Rat Portage, from an English syndicate through their Toronto agents. Mr. Caldwell has already refused an offer of one million.

MONTREAL, Dec. 16.—The Grand Trunk Railway management are considering a number of improvements in their property here. One is a proposal on the part of the city to run tracks on the viaduct, going away with grade crossings, and another to purchase the entire block of buildings facing the Bonaventure station for the new offices.

MONTREAL, Dec. 17.—Rev. A. M. Phillips, pastor of the Douglas Methodist church and formerly of Euclid avenue Methodist church, Toronto, died at the general hospital here.

MONTREAL, Dec. 17.—E. H. Dunham, manager of the Balmorel hotel here, is lying at death's door at Hot Springs, Ark.

TORONTO, Dec. 17.—Hewitt Bostock, M.P. for Yale and Cariboo, B.C., and J. A. Mara, ex-M.P. for the same constituency are here. They unite in prediction that within two years British Columbia will be the banner province of the Dominion and the greatest mineral-producing territory on earth.

GUELPH, Dec. 17.—Twenty-seven more charges will be laid against ex-City Treasurer Harvey on his return from jail. County Attorney Paterson has been instructed by the attorney-general to proceed with them.

TORONTO, Dec. 17.—The question of the mayoralty is still the subject of gossip here. Mr. Fleming will run for re-election, and Ald. McMurrich has long been in the field but is not acceptable to the Conservative party. Barlow Cumberland and O. A. Holland are the last names suggested.

LATE ALASKAN NEWS.

SEATTLE, Dec. 16.—The Searchlight says: "It is proposed to send a representative to the Sound from Juneau and establish a bureau of information pertaining to Alaska, and for the purpose of soliciting persons coming here en route to the Yukon to purchase their outfits here, and also for the purpose of dissuading persons of small means from coming here. It is obvious that Juneau would be greatly benefited could this plan be secured, as those outfitting here would be required to remain in town several days, thus not only benefiting our merchants, but all other kinds of business likewise. Mr. G. W. F. Johnson, formerly of the Juneau Trading Company, is suggested as the gentleman to send to the Sound for this purpose. Many business men have already expressed a desire to lend support to the proposition, and it is expected that all will contribute.

The Searchlight of Juneau pointed out in its last issue something of interest in the liquor traffic of the territory and urges as a ready high license. It says that there has been upon reliable authority that the importations of liquor through Fort Simpson this season would amount to 21,000 gallons, valued at \$52,000. None of this liquor pays any internal revenue tax, because it is smuggled in, and the loss of the item for this season will be \$21,000. It is said that all classes of Alaska residents are eager for a solution of the question and believe it can most easily be accomplished through high license.

The most successful work in salmon propagation is that done at Etholon island, fifty-five miles south of Wrangell. The fish hatchery there is owned by John C. Galbreath, who besides spending many thousand dollars, has given it his personal supervision for the five years it has been in operation. Over 5,000,000 salmon will be hatched there this season.

CATTLE QUARANTINE.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—Hon. Sidney Fisher, of Ottawa, and Duncan MacEachern, chief inspector of live stock for Canada, are in the city on business connected with the agricultural department. To-day they had a conference with Secretary Morton and Dr. Salmond, the chief of the bureau of animal industry. The object of the visit is to seek to effect modifications on the part of each country of the quarantine regulations governing the admission of cattle into the other. These regulations, they say, were made at a time when no such diseases existed, but now that such diseases have been stamped out they argue that there is no necessity for the continuation of the severe restrictions as to the admission of cattle. The meeting to-day was merely a preliminary one, and further conferences will be held, as the Canadians are anxious that the restrictions imposed by the regulations be removed, so long as no further necessity for them exists. Their visit, Mr. Fisher said, tonight, had nothing whatever to do with questions of reciprocity between the United States and Canada.

ACCEPTS THE CHALLENGE.

TORONTO, Dec. 17.—(Special)—Gaudaur has offered to accept the challenge from Barry, the English carman, provided he rows at Vancouver, B.C. On this condition he will allow him \$500 expenses and will divide a purse, allowing 60 per cent to the winner and 40 per cent to the loser.

WEYLER'S POSITION.

The Captain-General Likely to Be Recalled—Spain Would Welcome a Settlement.

Fight With Maceo's Forces, Headed by the General Himself.

MADRID, Dec. 18.—If nothing decisive occurs in Cuba by the middle of January Premier Canovas most likely will recall Weyler and appoint in his place either Gen. Marin or Senor de Azcarraga, the minister of war, and then change his policy in Cuba with a view of coming to an understanding with the United States government before the close of Cleveland's term of office.

The queen regent would welcome an honorable solution of the problem compatible with Spain's rights in Cuba in order to avert a conflict or even a misunderstanding with the United States. Therefore, Premier Canovas may be spurred up to changing his policy, especially as he knows the Liberal party is willing to take office for that purpose if the queen bids it to do so.

It is an open secret in political, military and diplomatic circles here that anyhow Gen. Weyler will only be allowed to remain in Cuba if he promptly and signally crushes the rebellion in Havana and Pinar del Rio provinces and puts a stop to the abuses, corruption and extravagant waste in the commissariat and army contracts to which the government has called his attention sharply. He has been warned also that he must satisfy those planters who ask to be permitted to resume work on sugar and tobacco plantations, and to avoid giving grounds by his severity for such claims for damages, as not only America, but England, France and Germany are pressing. Gen. Weyler seems to be aware that he is losing favor in Spain, with the public, with the government, and even more so at court. He is trying to create an impression that the Spanish parties in Cuba are not so disgruntled with his military and political conduct as are the press and people at home.

Premier Canovas feels bound to persevere in his war and repression policy, without making any except official and unofficial overtures to the United States government so long as General Weyler and the Spanish parties in Cuba hold out a hope of early results from the effects of Maceo's death upon the insurgents. But the patience of the rest of the government and the nation is well nigh exhausted.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—The Post to-morrow will say: "The secretary of state has cautioned the members of the committee on foreign relations to go very slowly in regard to the Cuban question. The secretary of state urgently recommends that all action be postponed in congress until the end of the present campaign, when, if the Spaniards are not successful, he believes, as recommended in the President's message, that some form of intervention will be applied by the United States.

Key West, Dec. 18.—Passengers from Cuba last night report that Gen. Frank Weyler, Gen. Weyler from the province of Matanzas that he had an engagement with Antonio Maceo's forces, led by Maceo himself, and upon the receipt of the telegram the festivities in progress in Havana to celebrate the death of Maceo were ordered stopped. The passengers further stated that a newspaper reporter who went to Punta Brava had an interview with the insurgent chief, Baldeomar Acosta, who told him Maceo was at the head of his army and moving towards Oriente. He stated that he had accompanied Maceo to Matanzas, where he left him. Maceo was suffering from slight wounds.

INTERNATIONAL QUARANTINE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—Hon. Sidney Fisher, of Ottawa, and Duncan MacEachern, chief inspector of live stock for Canada, are in the city on business connected with the agricultural department. To-day they had a conference with Secretary Morton and Dr. Salmond, the chief of the bureau of animal industry. The object of the visit is to seek to effect modifications on the part of each country of the quarantine regulations governing the admission of cattle into the other. These regulations, they say, were made at a time when no such diseases existed, but now that such diseases have been stamped out they argue that there is no necessity for the continuation of the severe restrictions as to the admission of cattle. The meeting to-day was merely a preliminary one, and further conferences will be held, as the Canadians are anxious that the restrictions imposed by the regulations be removed, so long as no further necessity for them exists. Their visit, Mr. Fisher said, tonight, had nothing whatever to do with questions of reciprocity between the United States and Canada.

OWEN SOUND, Dec. 17.—The petition against Hon. Mr. Paterson's election was dismissed with costs to-day. The cross-petition was also dismissed.

The Colonist.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1896.

OUR VISITORS.

The Dominion ministers who have lately visited this Province evidently act upon the principle contained in the beatitude, "Blessed are they who expect nothing for they shall not be disappointed." Both Mr. Davies and Mr. Blair spoke highly of the resources and the capabilities of the Province, and they expressed themselves favorably as to the projected railway undertakings, but they were very careful not to make any specific promise. This is a discreet policy. The ministers have not been long in office. They cannot tell, as yet, how the rank and file of the party feel with respect to British Columbia railway undertakings. They have, according to their own admissions, just discovered British Columbia. What they have seen and heard since they came to this far Western Province has impressed them with its importance relatively to the other provinces of the Dominion; but they cannot tell how many of the members of their party on whom they must depend for support have formed an equally high estimate of the capabilities of the Pacific Province. It is quite probable that a large number of the members from Ontario and Quebec have come to the conclusion that the Ministers have been dazzled by the glitter of the gold they have seen and heard so much about, and that they have formed an opinion of the capabilities of this Province altogether disproportionate to its actual importance. It is well known that the Liberal members are, as a class, rather slow, and it is only reasonable to conclude that the Ministers are acting wisely in "going slow." For our own part, we have not the slightest doubt as to what will be the ultimate verdict of the representatives of the whole Dominion. We expect to see before very long among the least enterprising members of the majority in the House of Commons, the most enthusiastic advocates of British Columbia enterprises. But they must be allowed time to come to sound conclusions.

We must say that we are a little disappointed that some member of the Laurier Government has not taken the bull by the horns and become the enthusiastic advocate of British Columbia railway improvement. Caution and prudence are very good things, but there is such a thing as being too cautious and too prudent. Those who are old enough, must have a lively remembrance of the horror with which the Liberals, as a party, regarded Sir John Macdonald's scheme of a railway across the continent. It was vehemently denounced as a crazy scheme that no one but a lunatic would undertake. If Sir John and his fellow workers were as discreet and as prudent as the present Minister of Marine and Fisheries and the Minister of Railways and Canals, the Pacific railway scheme would never have gone beyond the incipient stage. But the veteran Premier acted on the principle "Nothing ventured nothing won," and he performed what hundreds of thousands loudly declared to be sheer impossibilities. The magnificent Canadian Pacific railway is the result of his splendid imprudence—his glorious indiscretion. We are beginning to think that the hopes of British Columbians with respect to railway development will not be realized until our railway schemes are taken hold of by some man possessing Sir John Macdonald's enterprise, courage and foresight. Is that man in sight? We fear not.

OUR UPLANDERS.

There are in this Province at the present time a large number of Uplanders. Does the Government of either the Province or the Dominion treat them badly? Are they regarded with suspicion and distrust by Canadians and other British subjects? Are they made to feel that they are intruders who are not entitled to the full protection of the laws of the land? We have heard no complaints. On the contrary, the American miners in the Kootenay country feel quite at home in British Columbia. In fact, some among them do not hesitate to say that the difference between the mining camps on both sides of the line is largely in favor of British Columbia.

The mining laws of the Province, they say, are good, and the other laws are honestly enforced. There is no mining camp on the American side of the line, we are told, in which law is respected and enforced as it is in Roseland and the other Kootenay towns. Whatever growing there is in Kootenay comes from British subjects, and not from American citizens. We are glad to know that this is the case. John Bull is a chronic growler, and he is never happy unless he has a grievance to complain of. We have yet to hear the first complaint from an American Kootenay miner.

This is a pleasant state of things. We would be very sorry to hear that American settlers on British territory were made to feel uncomfortable by their neighbors of British origin. If any invidious distinction social, or other, were made between American citizens and British subjects it would act as a drawback on enterprise, and would materially retard the development of the

country. From all that we can learn the best feeling exists between the miners of all nationalities in the Kootenay country. There is, in fact, very little to remind them that they are of different nationalities.

THE "TROCHA."

In reading accounts of the struggle in Cuba one frequently meets with the word "trocha." This word to very many is a stumbling-block; they can not find out what it means, and they get no help from even the best dictionaries. The word means a cross-road, or a path across the main road; but in the accounts of the movements of the hothead forces in Cuba it means a line of fortifications across the Island from north to south. The trocha divides the Island into two parts, and it is intended to keep the insurgents of the East from co-operating with those of the West. It for the most part consists of a barbed wire fence three feet six inches high, about forty yards back of which is a trench three feet wide and four deep, with a breast-work of palmetto logs, and fifty yards further back are log huts, in which the Spanish troops are quartered.

"General Weyler," we are told, "contents himself with guarding this line, upon which he has long permitted himself to be besieged, virtually, by the insurgent forces. And it has always been maintained that the insurgents could cross it when they chose, and at various places have actually crossed it."

This appears to be a very weak barrier to keep out an enterprising and courageous enemy.

The number of the insurgents is not known, but it is seen that they are numerous enough to keep at bay an army of some 200,000 men. The armies of Spain have been vainly endeavoring for nearly two years to subdue what has been frequently described as a mere handful of rebels, badly disciplined, ill-equipped, and insufficiently supplied with the munitions of war. Although the country is unhealthy and a large part of the Spanish army is at all times in hospital it seems wonderful how so great a force as that which the Spaniards have in Cuba does not make better headway than it does against the ragged rebel army.

A DISAPPOINTMENT.

It does not look well to see a man's friends, especially if he is a politician, trumpeting any kind of generous deed he may do from one end of the country to the other. Uncharitable people will be apt to consider that it was for the purpose of getting advertised in this way that the generous act was performed. The politician particularly, if he does not want to be judged uncharitably, should not let his left hand know what his right hand does. Ostentatious giving is, on the part of a public man, a mistake. But we have no name for the folly and the stupidity of the friends of a leading party politician who raise the report that he has done a good deed which he did not perform or think of performing. They should know that the truth would leak out sooner or later, and that the reputation of the man for whom they sought to gain credit on a false pretense would suffer by the exposure. The Hon. Mr. Paterson was made a victim of in this way by some unprincipled or inconsiderate friends. The story is told by the Mail and Empire in this way.

It was announced with great flourish of trumpets that the North Grey campaign that if Mr. Paterson were elected he would give his first session's indemnity to the widow of his predecessor, Mr. Clark. Rev. D. A. McLean, of Kemble, now says on Mrs. Clark's authority that the \$1,000 has not come to hand. Possibly Mr. Paterson made no such promise. Some zealous friends may have given it in his name, just as Mr. Hardy promised public works. In political matters Mr. Paterson is well, he is a politician; but if he had promised to give \$1,000 to anybody he would carry out the pledge.

CIVIC IMPROVEMENT.

A movement has been set on foot in San Francisco for effecting city improvements. The citizens have become weary of calling upon the Corporation to mend matters, so they have decided to put their own shoulders to the wheel. This is what the Chronicle of that city says about the movement: "The general awakening on the subject of street improvement which has come to pass speaks well for the labors of the Merchants' Association. When that useful body was formed it had popular apathy to contend with, as well as official unthrift and misfeasance; but it has, by dint of wise persistence, roused civic pride and inspired, among the taxpayers, a healthy spirit of self-help. The street-improvement club is now nearly as pervasive as the political club in a lively campaign. We have such organizations on Polk, Larkin, Fillmore, Sixth, Ninth, Stockton, and several more. Their present policy is mainly one of electric lighting, but in time it may be expected that they will take up other plans of betterment, including street paving, cleaning and sewerage."

One of the great benefits expected of this movement is a better municipal administration of public works. City officials care little for the complaints and admonitions of men, but they fear the power of organizations. Much of the best pavement now in the city has been laid because of the way improvement clubs have gone to work to get it. The Supervisors and the Street Department were unable to withstand their steady and relentless pressure. When the clubs

now in existence or yet to be formed get their lighting problems solved, they can, by joining together, write a radical change in the fast-and-loose policy which the maximum of expense is combined with the minimum of result in street management. It will be a great service to San Francisco to have the keen eye of organizations fixed upon every dollar's worth of street or sewer work that is performed. Then there will be some honest results.

The new movement of the taxpayers is, fortunately, extending to Market street, and there is now hope that this great thoroughfare—the avenue of finest possibilities in the West—will soon become worthy of the Coast metropolis. This prospect, it is almost needless to say, is much enhanced by the influence which the Merchants' Association are bringing to bear, and the vigor with which its executive committee has taken hold of the special case.

QUEER COUNTERFEITS.

It seems that the United States has been flooded with spurious silver dollars. The dollars contain as much pure silver as the genuine government dollars, but they are not intrinsically worth more than half as much. It is a queer kind of a counterfeit that contains as much of the precious metal, and is, as bullion, worth as much as the coin issued from the Government mint. But these new dollars are just such coin. It would be surprising if silver in the United States were not illegally coined into dollars. The temptation to do so is great. By merely coining the silver the coiners double their money. Passing such coin is comparatively easy, for no one but an expert can distinguish them from the coin issued by the Government. As a matter of fact a large number of these spurious dollars have found their way into the Treasury and must be redeemed by the Government with gold as they are now represented by silver certificates. This is one of the evils consequent upon making coins of a metal which has greatly depreciated in value, a legal tender.

THE CORNWALL ELECTION.

The result in Cornwall shows that the tide has set in against the Conservatives. It is, however, altogether inaccurate to represent Cornwall as a Catholic constituency. The population of Stormont and Cornwall was, in 1885, 27,356, of which 16,577 were Protestants and 10,779 Catholics. These are the figures of the Canadian Year-Book of the year 1896. The Government's majority is only about 500, which proves nothing at all as to the way in which the Catholics voted.

LUMBAGO CURED.

Dodd's Kidney Pills Did What Doctors Failed to Do.

CHRONIC RHEUMATISM.

Gives Way to this Marvellous Remedy, as Do All Afflictions Arising From Impure Blood and Disordered Kidneys.

Did you ever after weeding in the garden, or working over a low bench or table, in a stooping posture, try to straighten up, and feel a sharp pain as of a knife thrust through your kidneys?

When it becomes chronic it is one of the most agonizing forms of rheumatism. Sufferers from it have been known to commit suicide. They would gladly pay any price for a cure of their pain.

What is the cause of this? Do you know what will cure it? Do you know the same remedy that has made marvelous cures of many cases of Kidney Diseases of all kinds and descriptions? It is a magic charm upon this excruciating affliction.

"Gentlemen,—I have been troubled for over two years with the stages of Bright's Disease. I have used other medicines, but to no avail. I was so bad that I could not get up stairs, and I was in bed for weeks. I heard of Dodd's Kidney Pills had done, I concluded to try them. I have used ten boxes, and I am completely cured. I can now publish this if you like, and may help others."

Mrs. GEORGE BARKER.

CUBAN INSURGENT PROGRESS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—The following letter dated in October at La Campana, province of Santa Clara, Cuba, was written to a prominent U.S. senator by General Francisco Carrillo, of the Cuban army, who was tried and acquitted in Wilmington, Del., for supposed violation of the neutrality laws. After some personal allusions, the letter says: "The general condition of the revolution cannot be more satisfactory for us. We are more powerful every day, while at every step, and at every moment, the absolute incapacity of Spain to vanquish us is put in evidence. Our forces cover all the island, moving freely from one end to the other conducting offensive tactics good blows on the enemy's forces and towns as much as the special character of this war allows and the manner in which the Spaniards' army carry on the campaign."

Aid and Comfort for Cuba.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—President Ethan Allen, of the Cuban League of the United States, has issued an address to "The people of the United States," asking for such aid and comfort as may be found in the expression of sympathy and legal material support.

THE GREAT VOLCANIC.

Kettle River, North Fork, Boundary Creek and Greenwood Camps.

An Everlasting Shipper—Peculiarity of Ores—Proposed Smelter—Around Midway.

GRAND FORKS, Dec. 13.—Before entering upon details regarding the Kettle River, Boundary Creek and North Fork districts it will be necessary to define the difference between it and what is generally known as the Yale mining division of British Columbia. From the Columbia river west to the Okanagan country, covering a distance of over one hundred miles, is what is known as the Kettle river country. This district covers an area of over three hundred miles square, and is properly known as the Yale mining division, and under that jurisdiction all records and legal transactions are directed, with Midway as the government headquarters. Inclusive of this area are three distinct districts, known as Kettle River, Boundary Creek and the North Fork. It were to include American interests in this zone or mineral belt, extending westward from Roseland to the Okanagan section, there is a portion of the Colville reservation that is inextricably attached to this trade point, and which in fact and reality is naturally a part of the Kettle River district.

From this source of description Grand Forks is beyond a doubt the central point and business centre of the country, and from here we must draw the main practical line. All business connected with commercial, mining and provincial interests naturally centre at Grand Forks, simply because it is the inlet and outlet of the country, and cannot be avoided.

When railway facilities are provided, furnishing the country with an outlet through different channels of trade interests from the Coast, as well as the East and over the boundary line and into the States, Grand Forks will still remain the junction and natural distribution point to all districts in the mining territory covered by what is known as the Yale mining division.

Included in this topographical circle are numerous mining localities known as camps, which for convenience and designation are divided into three distinct groups in their respective divisions. For instance, the North Fork country is divided into what is designated as Pass Creek camp, in which are located the Garnet mountain possessions; Brown's creek, or the "Camp," in which are situated the famous Volcanic and Pathfinder properties; Knight's camp, in which are the interests of the Bonanza company's mines on Bonanza mountain; Clark's camp, in which is located the Seattle property, and the richest mines in the country; Fisherman creek, where the R. Bell property, owned by Salt Lake, Utah, parties is being worked with promising results; Hardy mountain, or local ores, are valuable properties, and Observatory mountain, at the very threshold of Grand Forks, upon which is located the Bonanza, Grey Eagle, Grand Forks, Observatory and the other valuable properties. All the above named properties are being worked and have a most promising showing. In fact, in all directions from Grand Forks can be found mining interests, and the percentage of them are being developed.

Two months ago it was not a common thing, so I am informed—but that resounding blasts from the hillsides surrounding the town could be heard any time during the day, and that the particles could be seen going in all directions to the different mining camps. The approach of winter, however, in its exasperated severity, has done its worst to impede the indomitable energy and ambition of the prospector, and what is being done now, in a mining sense, is of a substantial and systematic nature.

People as a unit have a great deal of faith in the future of the country, and seem to have passed up to business, and as a rule look with pride and anticipation to a bright and prosperous season the coming year in the Kettle river country. Boundary creek, like the North Fork, is one of the main tributaries of the Kettle river. The district is distant twenty miles west of Grand Forks, where the young and prosperous mining town of Greenwood is situated. Between here and Greenwood are the two prosperous camps of Wellington and the located the Winnipeg and Wellington mines, both famous for their large bodies of ore and their values in gold and copper. White's camp, where there is now being extensively developed, is twenty miles west of Greenwood, and is owned by Colonel George Turner, a Vancouver gentleman of means and mining experience. Long lake camp is at the head of Pass creek, but on account of its remoteness and being distant from any of the mining camps, there is no work being done there this winter.

To the west of Boundary creek are the promising camps of Deadwood, Copper, Kimberly and Dillon. In Deadwood is located the famous Mother Lode, Sunset and Morrison claims, now being extensively developed by a syndicate of New York and Buffalo capitalists. In Copper camp is the famous Big Copper property, which has a well defined vein of red oxide of copper and copper glance, the regular production of ore. It is estimated to be from 150 to 200 feet wide and exposed along the vein for a distance of 2,000 feet. The same showing is also made in the mines of Deadwood, Kimberly and Greenwood camps.

Midway is situated nine miles south of Greenwood camps, at the junction of Boundary creek with the Kettle river. All business connected with the government for this entire section is transacted on this side of the range, and in a measure places people on this side of the range at a great disadvantage, especially at this time of the year. An effort is being made, however, to divide up the district and make Grand Forks the official point of the eastern part of the district, a move that seems to be favored by parties on both sides of the range.

A number of newspaper writers recently compare the mineral showing

We Have Been Laying for You



SOME CUTS FOR CHRISTMAS BOXES
Bon Bons less than cost, we are clearing out. 300 boxes Japan oranges to arrive, way down in prices. Bring your own straw, we have Ontario sweet apple cider, no bung in the barrel.
These fat, soft plums reduced to 3 lbs. for 25c. Cleaned Cranberries reduced to 3 lbs. for 25c. French Imports, in bottles, \$1.25. Port 50, Sherry 50, Navel Oranges 40. Raisins and Almonds, 75. Wilton Cheese in jars, \$1.75. Dewar's Scotch, the best blend ever left the Land of Cakes. Morgan's Oysters, delicious biscuits.

Dixie H. Ross & Co., Government St.

THE FACT REMAINS

THAT OUR STOCK OF FOOTWEAR

OUR RUBBER GOODS

JIM MAYNARD'S

JUST OPENED. . . . The Meakin Hotel, AT TRAIL, B. C.

The best appointed in the Kootenay Country, with all modern improvements. The Choicest Wines, Liquors and Cigars.

MRS. M. A. MEAKIN, Prop.

Will be received for the purchase of the Heshington Farm, being lot 107, on the official map of Comox, containing about 400 (four hundred) acres, more or less, about 100 (one hundred) and ten acres are under cultivation; well fenced, with buildings, orchard, coal rights are included. The land can be divided across each part. Parties desiring to lease whether for the whole (400) four hundred acres or for one quarter of the land, a sketch or plan of the farm with proposed divisions into four parts can be seen at the office of Messrs. Craspe & Cross, Barristers, Victoria, by whom applications will be received up to 30th December, 1896.

JOHN WILLIAMS, ALEX. McQUHART, Trustees.

OUR Dutton's Calendars

JUVENILE BOOKS

T. N. Hibben & Co.

TENDERS

Will be received for the purchase of the Heshington Farm, being lot 107, on the official map of Comox, containing about 400 (four hundred) acres, more or less, about 100 (one hundred) and ten acres are under cultivation; well fenced, with buildings, orchard, coal rights are included. The land can be divided across each part. Parties desiring to lease whether for the whole (400) four hundred acres or for one quarter of the land, a sketch or plan of the farm with proposed divisions into four parts can be seen at the office of Messrs. Craspe & Cross, Barristers, Victoria, by whom applications will be received up to 30th December, 1896.

NOTICE

Lease of Timber Limits, QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLAND.

SEALED TENDERS will be received by the Honorable the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works up to 4 o'clock on Friday, 23rd January, 1897, from any person, partnership, or corporation, for the lease of the timber limits mentioned lands for the purpose of cutting saws, timber or lumber, subject to the provisions of the "Land Act," and amended acts thereon.

Lots 32, 33, 34 and 35, Queen Charlotte Island, containing in the aggregate 10,314 acres. The competition must be accompanied by a certified bank cheque to cover the cost of survey, \$250.00, the first year's rental, \$1,500.00, and will be at once returned to unsuccessful competitors.

W. S. GORE, Deputy Commissioner of Lands & Works, Victoria, B.C., 23rd November, 1896. n28-1m

NOTICE

Assessment Act.

Notice is hereby given that the Court of Revision and Appeal will sit as follows:— For the Electoral Districts of Victoria City and Cassiar, on Monday the 22nd and Tuesday the 23rd days of December, 1896, at 11 o'clock a.m.

For the Electoral District of North Victoria:— At the Royal Oak on Saturday, the 19th day of December, 1896, at 11 o'clock a.m., and at the 23rd day of December, 1896, at 12 o'clock noon.

For that portion of North Victoria Electoral District known as North Saanich:—On Saturday the 19th day of December, 1896, at the Sidney Hotel, Sidney, at 12 o'clock noon.

For the Electoral District of Esquimalt:—On Friday, the 18th day of December, 1896, at Henry Price's, Parson's Bridge, at 11 o'clock a.m.

For that portion of the Electoral Districts of Comox and the Islands:—At Langley street, Victoria, on Monday the 22nd and Tuesday the 23rd days of December, 1896, at 11 o'clock a.m.

For that portion of the Cowichan-Alberni Electoral District known as Barclay and Clayoquot Land District:—At Langley street, Victoria, on Tuesday, the 22nd day of December, 1896, at 11 o'clock a.m.

Dated at Victoria, this 24th day of November, 1896. S. PERRY MILLS, Judge of the Court of Revision and Appeal, del-3rd&w

PORT ANGLERS, Wash., Dec. 17.—The Forks Junta has a representative in the city, who has succeeded in recruiting the eighty-five young men for the Cuban army. They are prepared to leave for the East on receiving transportation, which has been promised by the junta,

THE PATRIOTIC LEAGUE

A Political Organisation Recently Formed in the City of New York.

The Stars and Stripes Inspire Neither Respect Nor Fear Abroad.

New York, Dec. 18.—The Patriotic League of America, which has just been organized in this city, has issued the following address to the people of the United States:

"The closing years of the nineteenth century are being marked by many hopeful indications of a revival of genuine American feeling. The organization of the Sons of the Revolution, the Sons of Colonial Wars, and similar societies have given most worthy and efficient service in admonishing the dominant tendency of the commercial spirit and revealing the sentiment of patriotism, not only among the people of this republic, but of the entire American continent."

"But the membership of these organizations being restricted to people of particular classes, must of necessity be limited. The exigencies of the present demand the strenuous and unselfish exertions of a society as broad as the continent, and with its doors wide open to all patriotic Americans without respect to race, nationality or religion. A brief reference to recent events and present conditions give emphatic indorsement to this demand."

"Of recent events mention need not be made of the incident of the New Orleans massacre, with the tax on American diplomacy to avoid a conflict with Italy; the outrages committed by England on Nicaragua, in the Corinto affair, which aroused the indignation and called forth the protest of the American people; and the war clouds which less than a year ago rose so threateningly over the Venezuelan question and were cleared away only by the persistent maintenance of the Monroe doctrine."

"The dictators of Europe, and our vast interests in Cuba, demand that this government shall extend to that oppressed and ill-governed island the protection of the eagle and the shield, and command that this inhuman war of butchery, spoliation and destruction shall stop, and Cuba be left free to cultivate the arts of peace and develop her resources, under a government of her own choice and creation."

"Of present conditions the Cuban question is daily assuming more threatening aspects. The cause of her patriotic citizens, struggling through carnage and conflagration in the unalterable determination to break their yoke of bondage or perish to the last man battling heroically to earn for themselves and their posterity the Liberty our example taught them to covet, appeals most powerfully and emphatically to the American sense of justice and fair play, and cannot much longer appeal in vain."

"The attitude of the British government furnishes another of the present conditions which America should contemplate with indifference. She has established six powerful naval stations in threatening proximity to our Eastern coast. She has built others at Vancouver, Quebec, St. John, Kingston, and the Niagara river. These fortifications could not have been designed for defense against any European power. They are a standing menace to this republic, and no agreement for the establishment of a permanent commission of arbitration should ever be ratified except on the condition that all her maritime fortifications south of Halifax and those along the southern border of Canada shall first be dismantled and destroyed."

"Another condition that appeals with irresistible force to American patriotism is the fact that American citizens in foreign lands have been compelled to suffer the humiliation of appealing to British and other alien consuls for protection against threatened violence, as their own legation was either too weak or too cowardly to protect them. During the massacre at Van, our countrymen were compelled to seek the protection of the British consul, who, by the way, hoisted the Union Jack above the American mission, the Stars and Stripes inspiring neither respect nor fear. Only the unceasing exertions of Sir Phillip Currie, the British ambassador at Constantinople, says the Westminster Gazette, have enabled the American missionaries in the Ottoman empire to pursue their labors of mercy unmolested."

"The well known policy of this government to keep at peace with all the world as long as peace can be preserved without loss of honor, will be the policy of the league, but it will insist that means of securing peace is to be found in the most ample provisions for the defense of our coasts both by sea and land, in a liberal policy toward the army and navy, in such an adjustment of tariff as will furnish ample revenue to meet all the expenses of the government and encourage domestic industry by protecting our markets against ruinous competition from abroad. While the policy of the league will be pacific and conservative, its influence will be exerted to complete the Nicaragua canal with American capital, and retain it under American control; to extend the boundaries of the republic to embrace adjacent territory, the Hawaiian islands, and the islands proximate to our coast, whenever the people of those countries shall voluntarily seek incorporation with the Union; to restore our merchant marine to more than its ancient prestige, and to make the flag of the republic respected in every quarter of the globe."

BIMETALLISM.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—The executive committee of the American Bimetallic Union has reached a determination to enter at once and with vigor upon the work of thoroughly educating the people of the country upon the merits of the silver question, extending the organization of clubs to every section of the country. Its work will be conducted through the agency not only of literature, but through the medium of public lectures and meetings. The committee has revised the constitution of the Bimetallic

Union and enlarged its scope. The object of the organization, as stated in the revised edition of the constitution, is as follows:

"To re-establish in the United States the bi-metallic system of money, as it existed from the foundation of our government down to 1873, instead of the present unjust standard of gold alone, and to preserve the regulation and control of all currency in the hands of the general government, in order by these means to stop the continual rise in the value of money and falling in prices of property, with the consequent loss of employment and decline in the earnings to labor, and to relieve the unjust and unnatural advantage to the people of the silver-using countries in competition with our farmers and manufacturers; conditions that must forever attend our present system and necessarily prevent the return of prosperity to our people."

"Any person who agrees with these objects may become a member of the union on payment of \$1. Provision is made for the establishment of local unions throughout the country. Headquarters will remain in Washington, with branches in Chicago and San Francisco."

PANAMA CANAL.

PARIS, Dec. 18.—Action has been commenced by the treasury against M. Balthaut, Charles de Lesseps and Blondin for the unpaid fine inflicted upon M. Balthaut by the assize court, in March, 1888, in connection with the Panama canal failure. The sum which M. de Lesseps is held jointly responsible for amounts to 891,836 francs. It is claimed by M. de Lesseps that Balthaut has already paid 579,000 francs. M. de Lesseps said in his own behalf: "I have explained without reticence my pecuniary position to the treasury, placing at its disposal what I could make up, but I was not in a position to produce the sum of 891,000 francs, which I am very far from possessing."

The treasury rejected the offer made on my behalf, and wants to inflict imprisonment on me for default, that is to say, imprisonment for twelve months. I do not understand this persecution, that I should be imprisoned for the debt of others; a debtor who is simply reputed jointly responsible, who evades not the responsibility, but who, not screening himself behind legal arguments, which are nevertheless very strong, says: 'Take all I have.' In these circumstances, my lawyer pointed out to me that the judgment imposing a fine does not sentence me to pay any fine and does not pronounce on my joint responsibility for the payment of the fine inflicted on M. Balthaut, whose debts are wrongfully claimed from me."

IMPERIAL DEFENCE.

LONDON, Dec. 17.—The Daily Graphic publishes an interview with Sir Charles Tupper, the late Canadian high commissioner, in which he says: "Canada is quite prepared to take her part in the admiralty scheme for Imperial defence, outlined by the Duke of Devonshire. In the event of a war between the United States and Great Britain, Canada would be invaded by land. That is why during the recent difficulties, Canada voted a large sum to equip the militia. There is no fear that a hostile army could be landed in Canada by sea. The naval stations of Halifax and Esquimaux are impregnable. Canada's best defence is in the maintenance of the fast mail passenger vessels, convertible at a moment's notice into armed cruisers. 'However, neither the present nor the next generation will see war between the United States and Great Britain. It is not to the interest of the United States to fight any great power.'"

FINE SHOWINGS OF MINERAL.

ROSSLAND, Dec. 17.—(Special)—The I. X. L. mine adjoining the famous O.K., is now sufficiently developed to show what the recent strikes amounts to. The new vein is four feet wide; the quartz is of a greenish color and free milling and averages \$12. The principal owner John A. Baker, of Tacoma, arrived to-day and states that the mine will be equipped with machinery at once.

The showing in the Jumbo drift continues to be a wonderful sight. The drift is only being run six feet wide at present, but as 12 feet of the chute is shipping ore it will be widened out and continued to the first cross-cut at that width.

The Red Mountain railway delivered about twenty cars of freight to-day on the siding in the town. The first through passenger train from Spokane will be run on Saturday.

FITZSIMMONS AND SHARKEY.

ST. FRANCISCO, Dec. 18.—The fight between Sharkey and Fitzsimmons for the possession of the \$10,000 purse was concluded yesterday, when Judge Sanderson, of the Superior court, dissolved the injunction restraining the Anglo-California bank from cashing the check. The court of the state law forbidding prize fighting, between which "and a glove contest," he maintained there was no difference, and he therefore argued that a case involving the possession of the purse for prize fighting had no standing in this view. The judge concurred in this view and said he would have terminated the proceedings earlier had that point been called to his judicial attention. The order to dissolve the injunction will be granted and the complainant be stricken from the files.

SHIPBUILDING IN BRITAIN.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—Figures just published regarding shipbuilding in the United Kingdom during the present year show that this branch of industry is not losing ground. The total tonnage launched was 1,326,822. Messrs. Harland and Wolff, of Belfast, alone built 81,316 tons, which beats all the records and is five times the amount which all the British dockyards have added to the navy. On the Clyde 420,831 tons were launched, an increase of 50,680 over the year 1895. It is said that not a single shipbuilding yard abroad approaches any of the leading British firms.

THE UNHAPPY ISLAND.

The Murder of Maceo Will Fertilize the Idea of Cuban Liberty.

Emphatic Motion to Be Reported to the Senate on Cuban Independence.

PARIS, Dec. 18.—A manifesto was published to-day from the French committee to free Cuba, addressed to Cubans, and accusing the Spanish government of the murder of Maceo, "whose blood," it says, "will fertilize the idea of Cuban liberty." It assures the insurgents of the sympathy of the grandsons of the French revolutionists, "who proclaimed the rights of man." M. M. Rochefort, Clovis, Hughes and Ernest Roche are among the signers.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—After listening to the senate committee on foreign relations for a long time this morning the committee agreed to report the Cameron resolution, which is clearly understood to be the tendency of the secretary's advice was against precipitate action by the committee but advocates the Cameron resolution. The Cameron resolution follows: "Resolved, by the senate, that the secretary of state be and he is directed to grant to the United States of America in congress assembled, that the independence of the republic in Cuba be and the same is hereby acknowledged by the United States of America. Section 2. The United States do hereby extend friendly relations with the government of Spain to bring to a close the war between Spain and Cuba."

The committee changed the Cameron resolution so as to make it read more emphatic. The title was changed to read: "Joint resolution acknowledging the independence of the Republic of Cuba," instead of "The United States should use friendly offices," the committee made it read: "The United States will do so." Secretary Olney, it is claimed by members of the committee who favored action in Cuba, did not have any new information to present, and they say that the Cameron resolution is a condition of affairs in Cuba as is known by the state department. Secretary Olney argued that no action be taken at present and pointed out that there was no real government to recognize. The agreement to report the Cameron resolution was reached immediately after Mr. Olney left the committee room, at a quarter past twelve o'clock and was arrived at without division or an expressed difference of opinion. The only division was as to the committee report which was reported to the senate. Senator Cameron moved that they report Monday next. Senator Sherman suggested that the report should not be put until after the holidays. When the question was stated to report the Cameron resolution prevailed by a large majority.

The senate passed the immigration bill yesterday with a new section providing that the exclusion shall not apply to persons arriving from Cuba during the continuance of the present disorders.

EARTHQUAKE IN ENGLAND.

LONDON, Dec. 17.—An earthquake, the most violent ever experienced in this country, has shaken every shire from Durham to Surrey and from London to the Welsh coast. The subterranean disturbance was first noticed at five o'clock this morning, and lasted from four to thirty seconds, and at many points two distinct shocks were experienced. The most severe shocks were felt at Cheltenham, Lechlair and Forest of Dean. The earth shaking was accompanied by a loud rushing sound. The buildings were violently shaken, furniture shifted, doors thrown open and pictures and other ornaments upset. At Cheltenham a man was struck and fled from the houses in terror. The earthquake was also felt at Birmingham and various points in Shropshire, and was violent in Worcester and the country surrounding. The rocks were rocked and furniture overturned.

The shocks were followed by a tremor of the earth and accompanied by a rumbling sound. At some points persons on the country roads, who were going to work, were thrown down and a number of people were thrown out of their beds. Hereford cathedral was injured by the severe shock felt at that place. There was a dull rumbling beneath the earth's surface followed by two shocks to the Florida coast. Dr. Zertuche has again been arrested. New York, Dec. 18.—A dispatch to the World from Madrid says: Antonio Maceo's death happened most fortunately for Gen. Weyler. Gen. Canovas and the ministry of war were so indignant when they heard Gen. Maceo had crossed the trocha and entered Havana province by land that they determined to recall Gen. Weyler and send Gen. Marin for Porto Rico.

TRAIN HELD UP.

SEDALIA, Mo., Dec. 18.—While the Missouri, Kansas & Texas flyer was approaching Sedalia at an early hour yesterday morning, three men who had boarded the train up the road commenced to rob the passengers of the chair car, relieving them of watches, jewelry and money. A wild scene followed, some of the awakened passengers making a show of fight and the women screaming with fright. C. A. Hopewell, of Finnegun, Ills., who lost his watch, grabbed the timepiece from one of the robbers and a scuffle ensued. The other passengers came to Hopewell's assistance and the thieves fought their way to the platform and jumped off the train just as it was entering the city. They escaped after securing three gold watches and a small amount of money. Not a shot was fired by the robbers or passengers and the thing was over inside of five minutes.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—Representative Burton, of Ohio, yesterday introduced a joint resolution directing the President to conduct negotiations with Great Britain to secure, if possible, the abrogation of so much of the treaty of 1817 for building the building of warships on the Great Lakes.

IN THE FATHERLAND.

Bill to Reform Military Courts—The Luetzow Trial—William and Hohenlohe.

The Kaiser Has No Sympathy With Hamburg Strikers—The Naval Budget.

BERLIN, Dec. 19.—Intense dissatisfaction has been aroused throughout the country by the refusal of the government to accept amendments to the court's re-organization bill which resulted in its entire rejection. The reichstag's labor for a couple of years is thus destroyed. The bill was the result of demands made by the courts, lawyers and people alike for many years to abolish certain hardships, especially in the shape of inadequate safeguards for defendants on criminal cases and defects in the criminal court and court procedure.

The government insisted upon the introduction of fresh hardships and illiberal court measures in exchange for old ones. One of the most objectionable proposals of the government provided for the imprisonment of opposition paper editors in the event of refusal to disclose the authorship of articles, and the government insisted on the granting of compensation to innocently convicted persons. This attitude of the government is certain to mean the loss of many seats in the bye-elections arising from the deaths and resignations of members of the reichstag, which is likely to reject the scheme for the reform of military courts, unless the bill proves more liberal than expected.

The Emperor was present at Prince Hohenlohe's parliamentary dinner on Thursday. His Majesty was cordial to the Chancellor, and in conversation with party leaders like Levetzow, Manteuffel, Lieber and Rickert, he intimated the hope that the next sacrifices demanded by the Fatherland would be ungrudgingly voted. This remark is understood to have referred to the naval budget and to the new artillery scheme of the Emperor.

The diet will re-assemble on January 8, and the reichstag on January 15. Emperor William will spend Christmas with his family at Potsdam, the elder Princes arriving home to-day from the military academy at Ploen. Six splendid fir trees have been ordered from the Harz mountains for the Imperial family. The distributing of gifts will take place in the Shell Hall of the new palace.

During the holidays His Majesty will make frequent use of his new athletic park at Sangerhausen. The Emperor is reported to be interested in Mon Bijou, a chateau, where he plays football and cricket with the elder Princes. According to the evening papers His Majesty has little sympathy for the Hamburg strikers, and he is reported to speak to a great of the Chancellor to have expressed delight at the opposition of the employers to the "unjustifiable demands of the strikers." And he is said to have added that the victory of capital will be of advantage to the workmen in the long run.

The Emperor has slightly gained in flesh lately, and looks healthy and more robust. On the other hand the Empress has grown remarkable slender. The supreme Prussian court has confirmed the decision of the President of Posen forbidding the display of any flag or colors, save the Prussian and German.

The government has made a confidential declaration to the budget committee of the reichstag regarding the projected re-arming of the artillery, for which it is stated 177,000,000 marks will be needed for Prussia alone. The whole matter is being handled with the utmost secrecy in order to keep the powder, especially France, in the dark respecting the precise character of the innovations.

Emperor William has dismissed from the service Naval Lieut. Kettelbedt, who recently killed a lawyer named Jens in a duel after seducing the latter's wife. Herr Fuchs, editor of a Socialist newspaper of Munich, has been sentenced to six months in jail for publishing a poem on Prince Bismarck. This is the first time such a conviction has been made since the fall of the Prince from power, and it is significant that the trial occurred in Bavaria and not in Prussia.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—A special cable dispatch from Caracas, Venezuela, to the Herald says: "The government has decided that there will be no extra session of congress. The president has issued a decree to all government officials and presidents of states to take legal measures to collect all arms and ammunition in the country before the opening of congress on February 1. This order does not apply to the munitions held by the army."

U. S. PRISONERS IN CUBA.

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—The World to-day has a dispatch from Havana from its correspondent saying he had secured permission from Captain General Weyler to visit the Competitor prisoners in the Cabanas fortress. Each one of the six men being asked questions replied freely, all agreeing in their opinions. Melton said: "Aside from the fact that confinement is very irksome, and the progress of the legal case against us slow, I do not know that we have any special grievance. We are treated as well and in some respects better than the Spanish prisoners. The officers in charge act towards us like gentlemen. They are kind and I am sure are well disposed towards us. The soldiers on guard are

good natured and not offensive. There are more prisoners to a cell than is agreeable, but we get along peacefully in our common misfortune. The food is not what I like; the cooking is different from what I am accustomed to and I suffer from stomach trouble and dyspepsia. We get the same food as the other prisoners. I prefer the food we used to get, which was the regular army rations of the Spanish service. That was good enough. The present food comes from the prison at Havana and is not so good."

ALIEN LABOR LAW.

BUFFALO, Dec. 18.—Immigration Inspector de Barry received from Washington last night a new ruling by the Secretary of the Treasury on the alien labor law. This ruling is on the question raised by the city two years ago whether Canadian trained nurses who come to this country to work in hospitals would do so in violation of the law. When the question was raised before it was held that they could not be interfered with as they were semi-professional persons. Now the secretary of the treasury, according to the notice received by Mr. Barry last night, has ruled that those nurses can be deported. As soon as Mr. Barry received the notice of the new ruling he started out to get a list of the Canadian nurses in the hospitals. To-day he will visit other hospitals to get the names of Canadian nurses employed in them. Mr. Barry said last night that all these nurses will be deported. Inspector Estalla, of Ogdensburg, is now at Danville, N.Y., where he went to deport five Canadian nurses employed in the sanitarium there.

MURDER AND SUICIDE.

ISWOOD, Dec. 19.—(Special)—About 6 o'clock yesterday morning Joseph Atkinson, general merchant, was awakened by the report of a pistol shot, coming apparently from his father's room. On opening the door of the room a terrible sight met his eyes. Lying in bed were his father and mother, both shot. The mother was dead, the father dying an hour later. It is supposed Atkinson shot his wife while she lay sleeping and then turned the pistol on himself. No reason can be assigned for the act, unless it was less than that Atkinson, who had been ill for some time, had become temporarily insane as the result of his illness, and committed the deed while in that condition. Atkinson has been in business this place for eighteen years and was considered to be in good circumstances financially. He was about 47. Mrs. Atkinson was 45.

THE QUEEN'S COMMEMORATION.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—A preliminary meeting of the supporters of the Queen's commemoration fund for placing the Jubilee institute for nurses upon a national basis, was held as Grosvenor house on Wednesday. The Duke of Westminster, who presided, read a letter from Miss Florence Nightingale approving the plan. It is stated that although subscriptions have not yet been invited, £18,000 is the amount already on hand. The committee appointed includes the Duke of Westminster, the Duke of Fife, the Duke of Norfolk, Earl Cadogan, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Cardinal Vaughan, Baron Rothschild, the Chief Rabbi and the Governor of the Bank of England.

SALVINI'S FUNERAL.

FLORENCE, Dec. 16.—The funeral of Alexander Salvini, the actor, took place to-day. The ceremony was most imposing. The coffin was buried beneath floral offerings, and the local authorities and notabilities as well as delegations from numerous artistic associations were present. Immense crowds of people lined the routes followed by the funeral procession. The father of the deceased actor, Tommaso Salvini, has received many messages of condolence from Italy, America and elsewhere.

MACEO STILL LIVING.

KEY WEST, Dec. 16.—Passengers arriving here to-night from Havana report that Antonio Maceo is alive and well and is in the province of Matanzas. These passengers say that a few festivities which were going on in Havana to celebrate his death have been ordered to be stopped since it has become known he is alive.

OF UNSOUND MIND.

John A. Field, son of the late Cyrus W. Field, was found acting strange in the Forty-second street car stables New York and locked up. To-day in Yorkville police court James M. Connaughton, a lawyer, who appears for him, said Field had been of unsound mind owing to the Field, Linkley & Wechers failure three years ago, and if he was discharged he would be cared for. The magistrate discharged Field and he left the court with the attorney.

A MESSAGE TO MEN.

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

There is nothing to sell and therefore want no money but as I know through my own experience how to sympathize with such sufferers, I am glad to be able to assist any fellow being in care. I will not write to me the prevalence of quackery, for I myself was deceived and imposed upon until I nearly lost faith in mankind, but I rejoice to say that I am now perfectly well and happy once more and am desirous therefore to make this certain means of cure known to you. If you will write to me, I will send you a copy of the plan, and you can rely upon being cured and the proud satisfaction of having been of great service to one in need will be sufficient reward for my trouble. Absolute secrecy assured. Send 5c. silver to cover postage and address, Mr. Geo. G. Strong, North Rockwood, Mich.

WOODSTOCK, Dec. 16.—Martha Bengley, a respectable connected young woman, has been arrested on a charge of setting fire to the house and stable of F. Cox.

CHRISTMAS BOXES

at cost, we are clearing ranges to arrive, way down our own straw, we have no elder, no bung in the...

BEAR

Durable in the Market

AS STREET, POSITIVE CITY HALL.

Calendars

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AT THE CUTLERS' FEAST

The Canadian Agent-General at Sheffield's Great Industrial Anniversary.

Sir Donald A. Smith on the Development of the Colonies.

(From the Canadian Gazette, Nov. 26.)

The annual feast of the Master of the Cutlers' Company of Sheffield is an historic affair. Representatives of English diplomacy, statesmanship, literature, military and naval science crowded the Cutlers' hall on the feast-day last week to do honor to the great industry of Sheffield, and some very notable speeches were delivered.

The toast of "The Colonies" fell to Sir Howard Vincent, one of the members of parliament for the city. In the course of his oration he said: God be thanked that the coming year, 1897, bids fair to be an epoch in English history. It will be not only notable in the annals of British monarchy, but also, I hope, a witness to the efforts of British governments and statesmen to make our Empire proof against shot and shell—not alone by the armor plates of Sheffield, but by the golden chains of mutual commerce. Great to-night the pioneer of England's glories work—the vast Dominion of Canada ever in the van of public duty, presents to your acclamation great Canada's High Commissioner, Sir Donald Smith, who has borne a foremost part in binding with the ties of the British Empire the Atlantic with the boundless tracks of the far Pacific. Over the iron way are coming to our millions, as to our contemporarily afflicted brothers of the far east, the unrivalled British corn of the far west. Over the Empire—west by east and north by south—waves the banner of freedom, the cross of St. George, St. David, St. Andrew, and St. Patrick—our Union Jack. (Cheers.) I give you the toast of your Colonies—the Colonies of the British Empire throughout the name of the Hon. Sir Donald Smith. (Cheers.)

Sir Donald Smith was warmly received on rising to respond. He said: My Master Cutler, your Excellency, my lords, ladies and gentlemen—I think it ought not to omit the name associated with the Colonies, with one of which I have been so intimately connected for many years. I am especially so on this occasion, and in the presence of an assembly such as I see before me—an assembly of statesmen, of merchants, of manufacturers, of the cutlers of Sheffield and their friends. It is not the first time I have heard of Sheffield. Long ago, fifty, sixty and more years ago, I became acquainted with Sheffield, and in what way? By a pocket knife. Thousands had come to know Sheffield in the same way, not only throughout the kingdom, but in every part of the world. And on finding myself in possession of that part of the wares of Sheffield I felt proud, because seeing the name engraved on it "Sheffield," I felt and believed that no better knife could be found anywhere. (Cheers and laughter.) We have heard from the right hon. gentleman who sits on the right of the Master Cutler (Mr. E. J. Saunders), and it has been said about foreign manufacturers. Much has been said about Germany and other countries which send their wares into the United Kingdom and into every colony of the British Empire, and we see there on those articles "made in Germany." But I do believe that the acute, keen-edged intellect and manual education of the cutlers of Sheffield will enable them to show their own against the world wide world now. (Cheers.) The subject of the toast has the honor of responding to an area of great proportions. It means an area, a large area. I will not weary you with figures to any extent, but I think you will bear with me when I say that while the area of the United Kingdom is 121,562 miles, that of the Empire is 10,000,000 square miles, and that of the self-governing Colonies from 7,000,000 to 8,000,000 square miles with a population somewhat under 12,000,000. The imports of the Colonies are equal to about £140,000,000 in the past; the exports to £127,000,000; making a total of £267,000,000. Their trade with foreign countries is £70,000,000, while with Great Britain it is £120,000,000, and Canada has that £23,000,000 in imports and £24,200,000 exports. Now, I think, looking to those figures, and feeling that not least of the important events of the reign of her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria is the great development of the Colonies, we may well look forward within a very few years to much greater development of those Colonies. And I trust that as that development goes on the relations between the Colonies and the Mother Country will become closer and closer, that the commercial relations in every respect—those of all parts of the Empire will be such as all loyal subjects will desire them to be. (Hear, hear.) The Colonies—in a conference—a conference of much importance in Ottawa in 1884—pronounced in favor of a freer trade between the Colonies and the Mother Country. And you have had your representatives attending the meeting of the Association of Chambers of Commerce in June last, know that it was unanimously resolved that the object of closer commercial relations with us deserved and demanded immediate consideration. It has been said that the Colonies should come before the Mother Country and express their desire for this. But it seems to me to be a matter of great importance to the whole Empire that it would certainly not be unbecoming that Great Britain should approach the colonies. (Hear, hear.) We, in Canada, are proud of our subjects in those divisions of her empire—not even in Sheffield, or any part of the United Kingdom. (Cheers.)

THE CITY.

Mr. C. J. Prior, of this city, has made formal application to be called to the Supreme Court bar.

Mr. James Dardle, J.P., of Hope, has been appointed judge of the court of revision and appeal, vice John Murray, deceased.

Dr. Emil Pohl, of New Denver, has been gazetted deputy coroner for the Slooan district, in absence from the district of the coroner, Dr. Brown.

The issue of the Gazette of yesterday notes the appointment of Louis Emmanuel, of London, Eng., as a commissioner for taking affidavits for the British Columbia courts.

Mr. J. Greig has been elected road foreman of Cobble Hill for the ensuing year, he having a majority of three of the votes cast at a public meeting of the interested residents held last Wednesday evening.

A most enjoyable feature of the entertainment at St. Andrew's church on Tuesday evening was the recitation by Miss Newling, of Mr. Clive Phillippes-Wolley's stirring patriotic poem, "The Sea Queen's Waking."

It has been decided by the bereaved husband of Mrs. W. A. Chapman, daughter of the late William Powell, of this city, to bring the body to Victoria for interment beside that of her father. Further notice will be given as to the funeral arrangements.

By virtue of the authority of section 9 of the amended school act of this spring, the board of school trustees of the city of Vancouver has secured incorporation by letters patent under the name of "The Board of Governors of the Vancouver College."

A. G. Hilliger, of Glenford road, Lake Hill estate, brought to town yesterday a parsnip that is "some punks," metaphorically, tipping the scales at nine pounds and sold throughout. The root will be placed on exhibition in the window of Hall & Co.'s drug store, Douglas street.

The members of Seagers Council, No. 85, Y.M.C., entertained their friends last evening at the third of this winter's series of progressive whist parties. The council will on the 6th proximo have an open meeting at the hall in York street, in connection with an official visit to Victoria of no less distinguished a person than Mr. J. P. Kavanaugh of Portland, Grand President of the North-western Grand Council of the order.

Yesterday, in the provincial police court John McPloves was charged with stealing some pieces of iron from the Toronto and British Columbia mills at Sidney the previous day. Constable Ego, informed of the iron having been taken, gave chase in a boat after McPloves, who was rowing to Salt Spring Island, where he lives, arresting him a mile or so from the shore. McPloves pleaded not guilty yesterday and was remanded till Saturday.

A mine of great promise is being opened up and developed at the Big Bend district, known as the "Orphan Boy," which is a free milling quartz proposition. The tunnel is in at present over 100 feet, being nine feet wide and seven feet high, all on an average \$40 in length, and is in the spring and in the spring a mill of 30 tons capacity is to be erected, one of the management having gone down to the mine to see to it. Besides this large quartz reef there are four veins of solid sulphurites of iron carrying \$140 in gold, which can be treated by the cyanide or chlorination process, on which a shaft has been sunk 30 feet. At the present time there are 1,000 tons of ore on the dump, estimated by the management at \$40,000. A. W. More & Co. have been appointed sole agents in Victoria for the sale of a block of \$5,000 treasury shares.

PRINCESS ALEXANDRA lodge, No. 18, Daunters of England, elected the following officers for the year ending last evening: W.P.P., Sis. Dow; W.P., Sis. H. Gladding; W.V.P., Sis. E. Pearce; W. Sec., Sis. Iredale; Treas., Sis. Temple; Chaplain, Sis. Note; 1st Guide, Sis. Carter; 2nd Guide, Sis. Smith; 3rd Guide, Sis. Lawley; 4th Guide, Sis. Nankville; 5th Guide, Sis. Grimason; 6th Guide, Sis. Luney; J.G., Bro. Smith; O.G., Bro. Shaw; Sisters Wolf and Owen; and Bro. Sims were appointed trustees, and Bro. J. Critchley and Bro. F. Gladdey auditors. On Tuesday last Pride of the Island lodge, Sons of England, elected their officers as follows: F. Tubbs, W.P.; J. Hick, W.P.P.; T. Meads, V.P.; J. Lang, J.G.; C. F. O.G.; H. Hancock, I.G.; F. Dykes, 1st G.; S. Newton, 2nd G.; A. Harris, 3rd G.; Allan, 4th G.; Norman, W. T. C. Gravlin, W. S.; A. Lee was one of the trustees appointed.

"ESPERANZA," the somewhat stylishly named home on Rae street, of a numerous colony of Japanese, was the scene yesterday of an apparently deliberate suicide. The victim was the young Japanese sailor Totsuga, who on the 6th of the present month was convicted of drunkenness in the city police court and sentenced to 10 days' imprisonment. He completed his term yesterday morning and went at once to his boarding house, being seen to enter his room in the garret but not coming out again. The door was tried several times during the day and found locked, but in the evening the other Japanese in the house, becoming suspicious of something amiss, broke it open to discover Totsuga's dead body lying by a rope to one of the roof beams, and overturned chair explaining mutely but plainly the method adopted by the suicide. The body was removed to the city morgue by order of the police and a formal inquest will be held to-day.

It was a merry party of young folk who graced the floor of Philharmonic hall last night at the Leap Year ball. The occasion served the double purpose of re-initiating into usefulness against the old ball, which has long been in utter idleness, and of enabling the gentlemen to reciprocate the hospitality extended to them by the ladies at a ball given recently in Spring Ridge hence the name "a return Leap Year party." There is no gainsaying the fact that the young men in charge spared no effort to provide for the entertainment of their fair guests, and as a result the dance lacked nothing to make it pass with credit. The committee in charge consisted of Messrs. J. W. Coburn, A. Johnson, J. Fletcher, C. Becker, W. Campbell, H. Becker, H. Dallas and F. Maynard. The Bunch

orchestra furnished the music and Mr. Henry Clay, the well known caterer, at the wants of the inner man—and woman, providing a tempting supper at midnight.

Messrs. A. R. M. Barrow, G. A. Bigelow and G. W. Richardson, of Nelson, have formed and are the first trustees of the Kootenay Iron Works Co., Ltd., an incorporation with capital stock of \$50,000 contemplating a general iron founding and manufacturing business.

The Christmas holidays for the provincial departments are to extend from Thursday to Saturday, the 24th to 26th instant, inclusive, and on Friday and Saturday, the 27th and 28th proximo, the County court Christmas vacation in Victoria, Nanaimo, New Westminster and Vancouver extends from Thursday next to the 3rd prox., both days inclusive.

CHARLES WILSON, who was committed for trial a fortnight ago from the city police court, for a theft of band instruments belonging to the Salvation Army, asked for a speedy trial yesterday, pleaded guilty and was sentenced by Mr. Justice Walkem to twelve months' imprisonment at hard labor. He had two years and renew his acquaintance with the penitentiary at New Westminster.

Miss Brown, a resident of Victoria Crescent, was the victim on Wednesday evening of a sensational holiday—that is, a sensational holiday in the sense that she was proceeding home at about 5:30 o'clock, along Belleville street when a man walking a little way in front of her, suddenly stopped and presented a revolver, and having relieved her of her purse, she fled in a panic. Miss Brown did not comply with the arbitrary demand, and raised a vocal sensation which the footpad did not appreciate. The stranger disappeared in the darkness not to be seen or heard of since.

Last night at 10:30 an individual giving his name as J. Meier reported to the police that he had been held up on Broad street near the corner of Fort, and that a watch and \$16 in coin had been taken from him. At midnight the same man was arrested for having, fraudulently speaking, held up the Occidental hotel and relieved it of sundry articles of clothing "contrary to the law," etc. Upon being searched the watch which the bold highwayman was supposed to have stolen was found where it had been left—in the owner's pocket. From all appearances the first hold-up was an invention.

EIGHT new mining companies have been incorporated during the week just passed in the official Gazette, the total capitalization being \$6,650,000. Of this number the British Columbia Gold Property Company has its principal place of business in this city, and is formed with the intention of doing general mining business with the entire province as its field of operation and Messrs. A. J. McLellan, L. Goddard and Ald. R. T. Williams are its provisional trustees. The complete list of the new companies follows: Alpha Bell Gold Quartz Mining Company, of Vancouver; \$500,000. Black Rock Gold Mining Company, of Seattle; \$1,000,000. Bowen Island Mining Company, of Tacoma; \$1,000,000. British Columbia Gold Property Company, of Victoria; \$1,000,000. Dandur Gold Mining Company of Rossland; \$1,000,000. Gopher Gold Mining Company, of Rossland; \$1,000,000. Quesnelle Mining Company, of Chicago; \$1,000,000. Spokane-Kaslo Mining & Milling Company, of Spokane; \$900,000.

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS

Hon. Mr. Blair and Party Reach Victoria by the Government Steamer "Quadra."

Will Only Remain One Day in the City Before Leaving For Nanaimo.

The Dominion government steamer Quadra got in from Seattle yesterday afternoon between two and three o'clock, in this city, and the Minister of Railways, Mr. A. G. Blair, Dominion minister of railways and canals; Col. Domville, M.P. for Kings, New Brunswick; and Mr. J. E. W. Currier, Mr. Blair's private secretary. The party reached Seattle at three o'clock on Wednesday afternoon in the government car Ottawa by the Northern Pacific, and their car has been sent over the Seattle & International railway to Huntington in this city, where it will arrive tomorrow morning. The party disembarked from the Quadra at Esquimalt, to give the Minister opportunity to examine the dry-dock, and then came on to the city. During the late afternoon and evening the Minister was very well, receiving callers at the Drydock, though as he was not feeling very well, it must have been some-what of a strain upon him.

His delay in reaching Victoria, the Minister explained, was due to his anxiety to become as well informed as possible in regard to the Kootenay country. He had visited the Kootenay, Kootenay, Rossland, and also the Slooan country, Rossland, and also some of the larger mines; and expressed himself yesterday as perfectly surprised at the wonderful mineral resources of British Columbia. He was in very much the same position, he said, as one of the foreign consuls in Canada, who in reporting to his government on the Kootenay country, stated that if he told all that he knew of the riches of that wonderful district he was afraid he would not be believed.

His object in visiting the Coast, the Minister stated, was for himself to see what British Columbia was, but he had spent so much time in the interior that he could not devote much of his time to the coast. The only public meeting he will attend is at three o'clock to-day, when he will receive an address from the British Columbia Board of Trade. The Liberals wished to have a public meeting on Saturday night, but as time was short he could not wait that long. The party got to Nanaimo on Saturday morning and cross from there to Vancouver, going East over the C.P.R.

TO-DAY SEES THE END

Of the Christmas Closing Exercises in the Public Schools of Victoria.

Pupils of the Boys' Central and Collegiate Institute the Last to Get Their Holidays.

Yesterday was closing day at the Boys' Central school and to-day public exercises in connection with the closing of the Christmas term will come to an end, the pupils of the Collegiate Institute being as usual the last of all to get their holidays. The term just ended has been a busy and profitable one among the boys of the Central, 136 of whom out of a total registered attendance of 384 have thus earned promotion. Their class examination was in progress from 9:30 to 10:45 yesterday morning and afterwards the school assembled in the gymnasium adjoining, where brief addresses were given by Inspector Burns, Trustee George Grant and J. B. Lovell and others, prize and promotion lists were read, and the proceedings terminated with the singing of the National Anthem. This morning the closing exercises of the Collegiate Institute, or High school, take place, the pupils assembling at 9:30 for oral examination, which will continue till 10:15. An adjournment will then be taken to the Pomberie hall, where the results of the recent written examination will be announced, and addresses will be made to the pupils by trustees and other visitors.

Boys' Central School. SECOND DIV.—MR. J. F. SALLAWAY, TEACHER. Promoted to First Division—Frederic Rendell, James Russell, Horace Alexander Mansel, John Barber, Henderson, Walter Herbert Stebbins, Dale Stanley, William Thomas Brooker, George Sinclair Kelly, Cornelius Norman Sout, Herbert Leiser, Percy William Keden, James George Steers, Clinton Robertson Cameron, Francis Robert Moore, Clifford Masters Pineo, William Howard Loat and Nello Brinkworth Smith.

THIRD DIV.—MR. A. W. CURRY, TEACHER. Promoted to Second Division—Edwin Kelly, Allan Cameron Wilson, Hugh Thomas Winsley, William Calderwood, Cecil Janion, Arthur Dods, Robert Joseph McTeigh, Herbert Gladsey, Alexander Robertson Smith, Sidney Joseph Winsor, Ernest Edward Briggs, Robert Albert Anderson, William Walter Barnswell, and Aubert Hugh Keefe.

FOURTH DIV.—MISS E. E. SYLVESTER, TEACHER. Promoted to Third Division—Harvey Sexton, Jeffrey Cunningham, Frank Arthur Wald Walker, Leopold Freeman, William James Maynard, William Arthur Dooley, Fritz Victor Homan, Robert Lloyd Dickinson, John Gordon Grant, Andrew Lewis Neeldans, Arthur Holley, Joseph Wendell Kinloch, Albert Edward Harrison, Hugh MacLennan, Netherby, Walter Edward Francis Nasson, Ross Penn, Herbert Bruce McEwen, Herbert Leighton, William Stewart Owen, John Henry Dooley, Garnet Stanley Merryfield, and Alfred Irving Lemm.

FIFTH DIV.—MISS G. H. FAWCETT, TEACHER. Promoted to Fourth Division—Clifford Rogers, Frederick Jenkins, Harry Jones, David Herbert Clarence Rogers, Charles G. Nute, Ernest Maynard, Leslie Bell, Allen Loat, William Lawson, Percy H. Cleaves, Frank Nan Bruges, Charles Kinloch, John Henderson, Robert O'Neil, John Bullock, Isaac Lomas and Francis Joseph McLean Seelig.

SIXTH DIV.—MISS C. H. WATSON, TEACHER. Promoted to Fifth Division—Barnes, W. Hiscott, Lawrence Macrae, Edmund Shier, Daryl Kent, Arthur Mallory, Bertie August Carme, James Stewart, Robert G. Cole, Michael Conlin, and James Pettigrew. Prize List—Lawrence Macrae, grammar; Bert Matthews, arithmetic; Arthur Maloney, geography; and Daryl Kent, deportment.

SEVENTH DIV.—MISS EDITH JESSE, TEACHER. Promoted to Sixth Division—John Herbert Lough, Norman MacLeod, Carmichael, Kenneth Alexander Rod, Arthur H. Mackenzie, John MacLennan, Everett Alfred Kennedy, Harry James Maynard, William Harrison, William Rogers, William Munroe, Edward George Taylor and Colin MacKenzie Wilson.

EIGHTH DIV.—MISS W. N. WINSBY, TEACHER. Promoted to Seventh Division—Arnie having on board Hon. A. G. Blair, Dominion minister of railways and canals; Col. Domville, M.P. for Kings, New Brunswick; and Mr. J. E. W. Currier, Mr. Blair's private secretary. The party reached Seattle at three o'clock on Wednesday afternoon in the government car Ottawa by the Northern Pacific, and their car has been sent over the Seattle & International railway to Huntington in this city, where it will arrive tomorrow morning. The party disembarked from the Quadra at Esquimalt, to give the Minister opportunity to examine the dry-dock, and then came on to the city. During the late afternoon and evening the Minister was very well, receiving callers at the Drydock, though as he was not feeling very well, it must have been some-what of a strain upon him.

Mr. C. A. Godson has disposed of his well known sloop yacht, the Irene, to a sports-loving resident of Saanich, who will use her in his shooting and fishing expeditions. "LOCHABER No More," was the pibroch played by Mr. P. McDonald, Wallace Society last evening. Mr. Brownlee sang in Doric "Hinn Wain Me"; the Highland fling was danced by Mr. W. Anderson to the tune of "The Knocking Stone of Inverness"; R. Foster sang "My Faithful Fair One"; Mr. Henderson recited "The Yarn of the Nancy Bell"; Mr. I. Munro sang in Gaelic; Mr. Begg gave a reading on St. "Bonnie Charlie"; and Mr. Douglas sang grammar which every one present enjoyed. After the open meeting the following officers were elected: A. Hay, chief; E. B. McKay, chieftain; J. McCann, treasurer; R. J. Jameson, secretary; A. B. Bruce, reporting secretary; and Revs. Winchester and Lang, chaplains; Robertson, Munro, W. Anderson, M. McDonald, P. McDonald and Colin Cameron as the society's pipers; selected as auditors. H. Brown was afterwards completed for the Hogmanay concert to be held on the 31st proximo. Tickets for the event may be obtained from any of the society's officers.

Subscribe For The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

CATCHES OF SEALERS.

The proceedings of the Behring Sea Claims Commission yesterday were somewhat monotonous, the time being taken up in recording the catches of various schooners with a view to showing the takes of successive years.

Captain W. E. Baker, who as master brought the schooner Viva to Victoria from Nova Scotia in 1887 and had sealed the next three years with her, put his Behring sea catch in 1889 as of 160 skins. The last day he hunted in Behring sea that year was August 21; the vessel carried a crew of 23. In 1890 his catch in Behring sea was 2,011 seals completely better.

The object of the British side in giving the evidence as to these catches, Hon. Mr. Peters said, was to show that during these and succeeding years good catches were made, contrary to the contention of the United States that the business was very uncertain.

Hon. Mr. Dickinson objected to go into the catches of 1890 and succeeding years, as there were no claims for probable catches of that year. The objection was therefore allowed to drop. In cross-examination by Mr. Lansing, the witness stated that his vessel was high liner in 1888, 1889 and 1890.

Questioned next as to the Pathfinder case of 1890, witness told how he saw the vessel seized in Neah Bay by the Corwin in March of that year.

Laughlin McLean was examined as to the catches of 1889. He had been master of the Favorite on the Behring Sea cruises of 1887, 1888 and 1889. His catch in the Sea in 1889 was 1,305. These were caught to the southwest of the islands. East of the islands was in his opinion the best sealing grounds but he did not go there that year fearing seizure. Witness being asked what was the catch for Behring sea in 1887 by his vessel, said 1,884; but that did not include the coast catch. The statement published in the Behring sea case by Sir George Baden-Powell, that the vessel was on the coast for that whole year was 1,884 was not made on any information from the witness. The Favorite stopped sealing on August 26 in 1887, partly because of stormy weather and partly because of shortness of water. He was afraid to put in Unalaska for water for fear of seizure.

Capt. William Cox, the next witness, was questioned as to the takes of the William Howard Loat and Nello Brinkworth, of which he was master in 1889 and 1890, and adjournment came before he had concluded his testimony.

THE MERCHANT MARINE

Mr. F. C. Davidge Tells of the Prospects of the New Line to Australasia.

Steamer "Boscowitz" Brings Interesting News of the North—"Puritan" Wreck.

Mr. F. C. Davidge, of F. C. Davidge & Co., who fill a well appointed niche in the steamship world, was in Seattle on Wednesday en route to Portland. Noticing his arrival the Post-Intelligencer has the following: "Davidge & Company are the promoters of a new Australian line of first class steamers, carrying both freight and passengers, and in this connection Mr. Davidge has just returned from a negotiating tour in the West. He is an active competitor for Puget Sound business, particularly that originating at Seattle, for both freight and passengers. The first vessel, the Aswanly, is due in Port Townsend December 17. She is English-built and is entirely new, containing ample passenger accommodations and a tonnage of 5,200 tons dead weight. She will sail for Sydney, Australia, not touching at Honolulu, on this trip. We are now negotiating for the second vessel of the line, which will be as finely equipped as the Aswanly. This latter vessel will sail just as soon as we can load her cargo, which is now awaiting here. All the plans have not yet been matured, but I may say that we shall be extremely friendly with Seattle in our operations, and of course shall aim to develop a good trade. In common with the shipping public, our belief is that Puget Sound business opportunities require additional facilities to reach the Australian colonies and Honolulu, and it shall be our aim to cater to the public."

FROM THE NORTHERN PORTS. Cold, changeable weather, with considerable snow lying on the ground here and there at places en route, made the trip North of the steamer Barbara Boscowitz, completed yesterday, dreary in character. The most northern port of call visited was the one of the late Mrs. Ridley was held on Friday last. The news of the death of the deceased lady was received throughout all British Columbia. Mr. R. H. Hall, of the Hudson Bay Company, whose accident was reported here at the same time as the death of Mrs. Ridley, was recovering from the effects of his fall when the steamer Boscowitz had not many passengers on her way south, but they included one from Seattle who has spent the last few months in the northern wilds of Vancouver Island, in anticipation of discovering something rich in the black sands of the remote sea shores. His luck did not pan out as expected, however, all the finds made, although rich in some cases, being too insignificant in point of quantity to be worked profitably. He, however, carries home with him some interesting souvenirs of his expedition, not the least among them being a few very fine elk heads. The Boscowitz practically clearing up the entire pack route leaves for the North again this evening, Pursuer McKinley, who succeeds second trip.

THE TONNAGE IN RECEIVING PORTLAND OREGONIAN. The receiving substantial additions, with several more vessels in the offing awaiting an opportunity to tow or sail in. Several of the en bar and will proceed to the search of business, which is not offering here at present.

Big ads. are needed to boom bad medicines. Manley's Celery-Nerve Compound has merit alone to commend it.

Dear Sirs: I cannot praise Manley's Celery-Nerve Compound too highly, and I think its tonic and restorative equalities cannot be overestimated. I was feeling poorly for some time through overwork and before I had taken one bottle of your medicine, I felt completely better. Yours truly, K. McComb, 247 Yonge St., Toronto.

Victoria Mineral Claim.

Situate on the right bank of Mineral Creek, about one mile from China creek. Take notice that I, Henry Saunders, acting as Secretary of Consolidated Albert Gold Mining Company, Limited Liability, Free Miner's Certificate No. 69,086, intend, sixty days from the date hereof, to apply to the Mining Recorder for a Certificate of Improvements for the purpose of obtaining a Crown Grant of the above claim. And further take notice that action under section 37, must be commenced before the issuance of such Certificate of Improvements. Dated this 14th day of October, 1891. HENRY SAUNDERS, 0c19-2m-sw

Warspite Mineral Claim.

Situate on the right bank of Mineral Creek, and about one mile from China Creek. Take notice that I, Henry Saunders, acting as Secretary of Consolidated Albert Gold Mining Company, Limited Liability, Free Miner's Certificate No. 69,086, intend, sixty days from the date hereof, to apply to the Mining Recorder for a Certificate of Improvements for the purpose of obtaining a Crown Grant of the above claim. And further take notice that action under section 37, must be commenced before the issuance of such Certificate of Improvements. Dated this 14th day of October, 1891. HENRY SAUNDERS, 0c19-2m-sw

Chicago Mineral Claim.

Situate on the left bank of Mineral Creek, and about one mile from China Creek. Take notice that I, Henry Saunders, acting as Secretary of Consolidated Albert Gold Mining Company, Limited Liability, Free Miner's Certificate No. 69,086, intend, sixty days from the date hereof, to apply to the Mining Recorder for a Certificate of Improvements for the purpose of obtaining a Crown Grant of the above claim. And further take notice that action under section 37, must be commenced before the issuance of such Certificate of Improvements. Dated this 14th day of October, 1891. HENRY SAUNDERS, 0c19-2m-sw

Alberni Mineral Claim.

Situate on the left bank of Mineral Creek, and about one mile from China Creek. Take notice that I, Henry Saunders, acting as Secretary of Consolidated Albert Gold Mining Company, Limited Liability, Free Miner's Certificate No. 69,086, intend, sixty days from the date hereof, to apply to the Mining Recorder for a Certificate of Improvements for the purpose of obtaining a Crown Grant of the above claim. And further take notice that action under section 37, must be commenced before the issuance of such Certificate of Improvements. Dated this 14th day of October, 1891. HENRY SAUNDERS, 0c19-2m-sw

Last Dollar Mineral Claim.

Situated in the Alberni Mining District on Mineral Hill, and adjoining on the south of the Chicago claim. Take notice that I, E. J. Saunders, Free Miner's Certificate 69,078, intend, sixty days from the date hereof, to apply to the Gold Commissioner for a Certificate of Improvements for the purpose of obtaining a Crown Grant of the above claim. And further take notice that adverse claims action commenced before the issuance of such Certificate of Improvements. Dated this 7th day of October, 1891. E. J. SAUNDERS, 0c12-2m-sw

Acc of Spades Mineral Claim.

Situated in the Alberni Mining District on Mineral Hill, and west of the Consolidated Group. Take notice that I, E. J. Saunders, Free Miner's Certificate 69,078, intend, sixty days from the date hereof, to apply to the Gold Commissioner for a Certificate of Improvements for the purpose of obtaining a Crown Grant of the above claim. And further take notice that adverse claims action commenced before the issuance of such Certificate of Improvements. Dated this 7th day of October, 1891. E. J. SAUNDERS, 0c12-2m-sw

Minnie Mineral Claim.

Situated in the Alberni Mining District on Mineral Hill, and adjoining on the west of the Mountain Rose claim. Take notice that I, E. J. Saunders, Free Miner's Certificate 69,078, intend, sixty days from the date hereof, to apply to the Gold Commissioner for a Certificate of Improvements for the purpose of obtaining a Crown Grant of the above claim. And further take notice that adverse claims action commenced before the issuance of such Certificate of Improvements. Dated this 7th day of October, 1891. E. J. SAUNDERS, 0c12-2m-sw

NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that 60 ninety days after date we intend to apply to the Gold Commissioner of Lands and Works for permission to lease or purchase for a term of not more or less, of the following described land adjoining Lot 1, Range 2 (Coast) Rivers Inlet, viz: Commencing at the southeast corner of Lot 1, Wainnuck Quarry, following the line of the shore line of said lot to the point of commencement and containing 160 acres, more or less. Dated 26th September, 1891. WAINNUCK PACKING CO., R. Chambers, Manager, 0c22-2w-2m

NOTICE.

I hereby give notice that after sixty days I intend to apply to the Honorable Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for leave to purchase a piece of land about one mile east of China Hat Reserve. Commencing at a post marked A, thence east 40 chains; thence south 40 chains; thence west 40 chains; thence north 40 chains to place of commencement. Dated 20th October, 1891. S. WILLIAMS, 0c25-2m-sw

NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that 60 days after date I will apply to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for permission to purchase the following described land, situate at the south-west corner of Lot 7, Range 2, boundary to the southeast corner of said lot; thence south 80 chains; more or less to shore line; thence north and west along shore line to point of commencement and containing 160 acres, more or less. H. BELLIRIVING, Vancouver, B.C., Oct. 23, 1891. 0c21-1w-1m

PAINT YOUR BUGGY FOR \$1.00

J. W. MELLOR Paints, Oils, Wall Paper, Plaster VICTORIA. Glass, Fort-St. above Douglas

B.C. STEAM DYE WORKS.

Ladies and gents' garments and household furnishings cleaned, dyed or pressed equal to new. 141 Yates Street, Victoria. 8c10-1y-1w

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COLLEGIATE SCHOOL. Bishop Perrin and the Minister of Education Deliver Interesting Addresses.

A Resident Committee Formed to Conduct Local Examinations for Cambridge.

The closing entertainment given by the Collegiate School at Institute hall proved both successful and enjoyable. Between 200 and 300 people were present, including His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, the Lord Bishop of Columbia and Miss Perrin, Sir Henry Crease and family, Mrs. Croft, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon, Dr. and Mrs. Hanington, Mrs. Sillitoe, Miss Pooley, Mr. and Mrs. Gillespie, Mr. and Mrs. Aspland, Rev. W. D. Barber, Ven. Archdeacon Scriven, Capt. Chivy Phillips-Wolley, the Misses Foster and Cornwall, Mr. Lobb and family, the Misses Drake, Mr. and Mrs. Helmecken, and many others directly or indirectly interested in the progress of the school.

The next portion of the programme was a speech by the Bishop, who was introduced as patron and visitor of the school. In his remarks he dwelt upon the fact that Victoria was to be congratulated upon having a Church of England boys' school which provided religious instruction. He deplored the idea that it was possible to give a really good education without religious instruction, and referred to the fact that in proportion as nations separated themselves from religion so they began to decline in prosperity.

IN THE DISTRICT SCHOOLS. Closing Exercises of Special Interest at Esquimaux, Oak Bay, Totmie and Goldstream.

Great interest was evidenced by the many friends and parents of the children of the Esquimaux school in the closing exercises of the term, which were held yesterday afternoon. Neither time nor trouble had been spared by teacher and pupils in decorating the room, which presented quite a neat and tasty appearance.

The pupils of the Oak Bay school, of which Miss Josephine D. Colquhoun was teacher, also celebrated the coming of Christmas yesterday with closing exercises, which was a conspicuous feature. The room was very prettily decorated, and addresses were made by several of the visitors including Rev. Dr. Wilson of the Church of Our Lord, Rev. E. E. and Rev. H. C. Foster of the resident Presbyterian minister. The pro-

motions announced for the term just ended were as follows: From Senior Second to Junior Third—Ethel Frith, Winnie Tuck, Stephen Hemwood, Fred Hammond, and Sadie Astle. From Junior Second to Senior Second—Willie Wensley, Eva Muir, Mamie Stock, Maggie Kerr, Phoebe Glover and Edith Clayton.

The closing examination of Tolmie school took place on Friday last, when in the afternoon a pleasing programme was rendered by the pupils to a large gathering of parents and friends. The promotion list was as below: MISS M. GODSON, TEACHER.

From Junior to Junior Fifth Reader—Ada Mary Driver and Louis Marto. From Senior Fourth to Junior Fifth Reader—James Owens, William Wrathall, Annie Johnson, Mabel Ferguson, Mabel Liddell and Bernice Peter.

From Junior Third to Senior Third—Albert Hancock and John Gillespie. From Senior Third to Junior Fourth—Margaret Driver, Jennie G. Littlewood, Norman A. Owens, Mary Turner and Robert Ferguson.

From Junior Fourth to Senior Fourth—William Gillespie, and Herbert Ferguson. From Senior Fourth to Junior Fifth—William Gillespie, and Herbert Ferguson.

From Junior Third to Senior Third—Albert Hancock and John Gillespie. From Senior Third to Junior Fourth—Margaret Driver, Jennie G. Littlewood, Norman A. Owens, Mary Turner and Robert Ferguson.

From Junior Fourth to Senior Fourth—William Gillespie, and Herbert Ferguson. From Senior Fourth to Junior Fifth—William Gillespie, and Herbert Ferguson.

From Junior Third to Senior Third—Albert Hancock and John Gillespie. From Senior Third to Junior Fourth—Margaret Driver, Jennie G. Littlewood, Norman A. Owens, Mary Turner and Robert Ferguson.

From Junior Fourth to Senior Fourth—William Gillespie, and Herbert Ferguson. From Senior Fourth to Junior Fifth—William Gillespie, and Herbert Ferguson.

From Junior Third to Senior Third—Albert Hancock and John Gillespie. From Senior Third to Junior Fourth—Margaret Driver, Jennie G. Littlewood, Norman A. Owens, Mary Turner and Robert Ferguson.

From Junior Fourth to Senior Fourth—William Gillespie, and Herbert Ferguson. From Senior Fourth to Junior Fifth—William Gillespie, and Herbert Ferguson.

THE CITY.

As anticipated, a verdict of suicide by hanging was returned by the whom Coroner Crompton empaneled yesterday, in the case of the Japanese Totaguchi.

Last evening's Y.M.C.A. popular concert was well attended and equally well enjoyed, the programme furnished, of which announcements have already been made, being varied and of such merit as to suit everyone who heard it.

The officers of the Teachers' Institute for the new term are Mr. S. B. Netherby, president; Miss Agnes Deane Cameron, vice-president; Mr. D. Dallas, secretary-treasurer; and the foregoing, with Messrs. A. E. McNeill, and A. F. Doran, Miss A. E. Barron and Miss A. F. Gardiner.

Dr. G. L. Milne entertained the following gentlemen at dinner last evening at his residence Pinehurst, viz: Hon. A. G. Blair, Lt.-Col. Domville, M.P., Senator McInnes, F. L. Beique, William Hempleman, Geo. Riley, A. H. Scaife, H. A. Munro, B. H. Hall, A. Martin, A. L. Belyea, Dr. Watt and C. E. Renouf.

Arthur Langley, the young man who has recently been missing, himself a special "moral reform" detective, was yesterday convicted of vagrancy and sentenced to three months' imprisonment at hard labor. He did not, as he was promised, produce a half a dozen clerymen to testify to his good character.

John McFlows, who was charged with stealing several pieces of iron from the sawmill at Sidney, a few days ago, pleaded guilty in the provincial police court, in view of the fact that he had admitted having taken the iron, he had done so at the request of another man, and did not know that he was stealing.

John McFlows, who was charged with stealing several pieces of iron from the sawmill at Sidney, a few days ago, pleaded guilty in the provincial police court, in view of the fact that he had admitted having taken the iron, he had done so at the request of another man, and did not know that he was stealing.

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SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

Navy and Victorias Meet at Last in Their Long Delayed Rugby Match.

The first match of the season between the Victoria Rugby football club and the Navy was played yesterday at Caledonia park and resulted in a win for Victoria of six points to nil. Owing to the recent heavy rain the ground was too soft to admit of good combination and passing, and the game in consequence was one in which the forwards had to bear the brunt of the contest.

The ball was kicked off by Victoria and straightway taken into the Navy twenty-five, where Victoria made several ineffectual attempts to score. At last, however, the Navy forwards carried the ball into Victoria's twenty-five, and for a short time it looked dangerous for the home team, particularly when the Navy were awarded a free kick, but the Victoria forwards rose to the occasion, however, and again the ball was carried to the Navy end of the field. Here the ball, Gamble and Scholefield several times secured and but for the prompt tackling of the Navy back contingent would have crossed the latter's touch line. Half time being called, neither side having scored. After the usual rest play was resumed, the Navy for the longer portion of the second half being near the Navy's twenty-five line.

The first touch down for Victoria was scored by Langley and the place kick taken by Peterson, who failed, however, to convert. The Navy afterwards tried hard to score, and succeeded once in getting within Victoria's territory, but the ball was promptly returned to the centre field, where Wilson secured it and by a splendid run added another try to the score of the city team. No goal was scored, and shortly after "no side" was called, the play being then at the Navy's end of the field. Dr. Marriott, of H.M.S. Wild Swan, acted as referee. The Navy will have their chance for revenge at the return match to be played next Saturday at the Canteen grounds, where Westminister is sending down a team to play the Victorias on New Year's Day.

Another win for the regiment. The Regiment added another victory to their list yesterday, when they defeated the Y.M.C.A. football team by two goals and two tries (sixteen points) to their goals (ten points). The game throughout was fast and exciting.

Association Football. Y.M.C.A. v. B.M.A. In the words of the Barracks men it was a case of bombarding the Y.M.C.A.'s field during the greater portion of the game played on their grounds yesterday afternoon. Spasmodically a hard attack would be made on the Barracks defence, but it was repulsed generally with overwhelming strength, the goalkeeper, Shaw, being almost impregnable in his territory. In the absence of Gadsby, Irvine played back for the Barracks. The game throughout was full of animation, although the ground was far from being in good condition. For the Barracks half kicked five goals, Hanbury two, Canon one, and Barraclough one, making a total of nine to their opponents' one.

Chess. The winter handicap tournament of the Victoria Chess Club has an added interest this year owing to the presence of Mr. Molinex St. John, a member of the Montreal Chess Club, the strength of this obtained whereby Mr. Chapman of the East and the West may be compared. Mr. St. John was in the third class, receiving pawn and two moves for the best players of Montreal; the other two were Mr. Chapman, conceding a rook, and Major Williams conceding the Eastern player a knight. The games between the two last named were most skillfully contested. The odd game of the afternoon, conceding inferior in force, managed to concentrate a vastly superior array of heavy pieces upon the vital points of his opponent, and effective checkmate before his adversary's superior force was developed. In the second game Mr. St. John played some strong chess, and with a piece to the good looked like winning; his opponent detected a flaw in a sacrificing combination, however, and forced a draw. Mr. Chapman is winning all his games, conceding odds varying from pawn and move to queen. The following is a full score to date:

Table with 2 columns: Name, Won, Lost. W. C. Chapman 4 0, W. J. Perry 2 1, B. J. Perry 2 1, Capt. Mitchell 4 3, Major Williams 2 2 1/2, Capt. Clarke 2 2 1/2, E. A. Wolf 3 1, A. Gombson 1 3 1/2, M. St. John 2 2 1/2, P. T. Johnston 3 5, R. H. Johnston 2 1, F. Fullager 2 1.

Whist. The return match. Teams of fourteen players a side of the James Bay Athletic and Conservative clubs will engage in their return match of whist at the Athletic club rooms tomorrow evening. Players are requested to be on hand at the appointed time, as the play will commence promptly. The James Bay team is: H. D. Helmecken, A. J. Dallain, A. C. Anderson, C. L. Wark, J. H. Austin, C. E. Bailey, W. J. Scott, J. K. Macrae, E. W. Clarke, F. A. Gowen, J. M. Miller, F. C. Holden, W. D. Aden and A. H. Finlason. Members of the James Bay club are also requested to notice that the usual weekly whist tournament will this week take place on Wednesday evening, instead of on Thursday.

A tournament arranged. A mixed foursome tournament has been arranged by the Victoria Golf Club to be played on their links at Oak Bay on Saturday next, the day after Christmas, by the members on duty, is, however, open to gentlemen members to invite any lady player, who is not a member, to take part in the event. Members and their partners desiring to enter will kindly send in their joint names to the secretary not later than the 23rd inst., the entrance fee is fifty cent for the gentlemen only.

The "Winnifred" seizure. At yesterday's session of the Behring Sea Claims Commission, Captain Bissett, who was mate of the Teresa in 1889 on the Behring sea cruise, was examined as to the capture of the vessel, and as to the seizure of the Pathfinder, for the purpose of showing that seal was very plentiful at the time the Pathfinder was made a prisoner. Then Captain Hansen gave evidence as to his experience in shooting seal, saying his own loss was about two per cent. of the seals as a whole. The last witness was the British steamer, which had tried Indians in 1889, but did not find them satisfactory as for one thing they were too religious to lower their boats on Sunday, and some other days would come back to the vessel before noon and could not be persuaded to go out again that day.

EXTRAORDINARY TIDE.

The Highest Water Known of In Years Is Looked For This Week.

The Port Townsend correspondent of the Post-Intelligencer is authority for the statement that the tide of Wednesday and Thursday next will be the highest recorded in many years, and considerable apprehension is manifested in certain circles regarding damages to property. At Port Townsend the rise will be eleven feet and seven inches above the mean low water mark; at Seattle it will be four feet higher; Tacoma, five feet; and Olympia, nine feet ten inches higher. These calculations are based on ordinary tides, but the extraordinary tides on the shortest days in the year will probably increase these estimates a few inches. Should a gale from the west or southwest prevail off the coast of Tacoma, the high water level of water would be forced up the strait, increasing the height of the tide two or three feet, in which event it would be all the more possible to forecast the result. At this season southerly gales are expected, particularly about December 23 and 24. On the second day of the storm a large volume of time are large quantities of drift wood, which the high tides have carried off the beach, and much careful navigation is necessary in handling vessels, especially those with large floating logs or trees. The highest tide in 1897 will be on January 1, and will be one foot eleven inches, or nearly two feet less than the high tides of this month.

Fur seals plentiful. Fur seals are reported off San Francisco heads in greater numbers than ever before, the schooner Epinger taking over 20 skins the first two days after leaving port, with the boats out when she was reported on the second day. The schooner says the Oregonian, "must be particularly distressing to the seal experts who, by a scientific course of reasoning, have practically exterminated the seal, and the vast herds, in undiminished numbers, swim up the coast of California, Oregon and Washington."

Marine notes. The sealing schooner Annie E. Paint cleared on her annual cruise yesterday. She will begin her season's operations off the coast of California, and will afterwards cross to the Japan coast. The salmon ship Cairnmore cleared for Liverpool yesterday.

Alberni consolidated. Seventy-five to a Hundred Dollars Per Ton - Work to Resume After Christmas. Five hundred pounds of crushed rock, the result of forty minutes' work of the stamp mill of the Consolidated-Alberni yielded \$18 in gold, besides which the suborets would bring up the value to \$100 per ton. Every day the Consolidated-Alberni has been producing gold. There is no truth in the various reports circulating in Nanaimo as to the mine changing hands. Work will resume directly after the Christmas holidays and be energetically pushed.

A meeting of property owners of South Victoria district was held at the Royal Oak last evening to consider the advisability of petitioning the government for the reduction of the rate of assessment on real property in the district. The meeting was attended by a number of the residents of the immediate vicinity, and Hon. D. M. Eberts and Mr. H. D. Helmecken, Q.C., M.P.P., were also present. At the court of revision, held earlier in the day, Mr. S. Perry Mills, judge of the court, reduced a number of the assessments, and the subject was discussed at the meeting, the general opinion being that at the present time it would be desirable to have the values of property for assessment purposes in the district lowered. This found a number in a resolution asking the government to have this idea carried into effect.

The last chapter in the sad life story of William T. Harris, a well connected young Englishman who was well known in this city for some years past, was completed yesterday, when Coroner Crompton and a jury of which Mr. C. J. Wilkes was foreman held an inquest upon his body and returned a verdict of death from pneumonia. Although his prospects and advantages were all of the best, Harris while yet a boy acquired a fondness for drink that quickly worked its ruin. He made various spasmodic efforts to break the habit, but was upon him, but unsuccessfully, and on Tuesday last was brought before the police magistrate for drunkenness. He was even then on the verge of delirium tremens, and being quite unable to be restrained and sent to the hospital for necessary treatment. There he died on Wednesday morning, a cold contracted during his spree resulting in pneumonia and death. Harris had been but a few weeks longer Harris would have entered into possession of a fortune inherited from a relative dying not long ago in the old land.

Larger and more fashionable than that of any of the season, the band concert in the Drill hall last evening, was somewhat of a surprise, for the Government public attention. The music provided was up to its usual high class standard, and two interesting specialties of the programme furnished unlooked-for, but very much appreciated entertainment. One of these was the long deferred potato race, which was well contested, and was taken by Gunners D. Schwenger and Chadsey, the former in the first place winning an enterprise meat chopper, presented by Messrs. G. Prior & Co., and the latter, two dollars worth of groceries, given by Messrs. Fell & Co. The prizes were distributed by Lieut.-Governor Dewdney and Col. Peters, D.A.G., the former, as he entered the hall during the customary six bars of "God Save the Queen." The Balaclava Melee, the other special number of the programme, created a great deal of amusement among the spectators assembled, and the event was decided in Gunners Rosecomb and Schofield's favor. Sgt. Winsby, of No. 2, is to be presented with a long-service medal (English Voluntary) at the next battalion parade, and Lt.-Col. Prior will also be presented the general efficiency cups won during his command.

Football in England. "It is astonishing to note the enormous growth in the interest taken in football," says a recent issue of the Coalville (Eng.) Times. "At the English league matches played on Saturday, despite the miserable state of the weather, the attendances were as follows: Aston Villa v. West Bromwich Albion, 20,000; Bolton Wanderers v. Bury, 16,000; Preston North End v. Blackburn Rovers, 10,000; Burnley v. Everton, 10,000; Liverpool v. Notts Forest, 8,000; Sheffield Wednesday v. Sunderland, 8,000; Derby County v. Sheffield United, 4,000; Wolverhampton Wanderers v. Stoke, 4,000. Thus eight matches yield an average attendance of over 10,000."

Belleville, Dec. 16. - W. A. Chapman, whose wife was killed on the rail-road at Medicine Hat on Saturday night, left yesterday for that place, whence he will accompany the body to Victoria, B. C., where it will be interred.

CASTORIA For Infants and Children. The family standard of Castoria is in every household. Rev. Dr. Campbell arrived home last night from Minneapolis, whither he had been summoned by the sickness and death of his daughter.

DIARY TIDE.

Water Known of In Looked for This Week.

Plentiful Off the Cairns.

nd correspondent of the tide of Wednesday and the highest recorded and considerable approved in certain circles to property. At Port will be eleven feet and the mean low water will be four feet higher; and Olympia, nine feet. These calculations are tides, but the extra-ordinary days in the increase these estimates. Should a gale southwest prevail off the coast a large embankment be forced up the side of the tide two or three feet higher than the event it would be forecast the rest. At rly gales are expected. December 23 and 24. On the Strait at the present instance of the tide two or three feet higher than the event it would be forecast the rest. At rly gales are expected.

PLentiful. San Francisco. Numbers than ever before, her taking over 30 skins in leaving port, with when she was reported "This state of affairs," "must be particularly seal experts who, by reasoning, have practiced the seal. Every year the missed numbers, such California, Oregon and NE NOTES. Pioneer Annie E. Paint mial cruise yesterday. Snio's operations off na, and it afterwards Cairnsmore cleared for ONSDATED. Hundred Dollars Per Ton After Christmas.

pounds of crushed rock, minutes' work of the Consolidated-Alberni besides the value of bringing up the water. ryone is well satisfied. In the various reports aimo as to the mine Work will resume di-Christmas holidays and ushed.

roperty owners of South held at the Royal to consider the advis- ing the government for the rate of assessment in the district. The ded by a number of immediate vicinity, erts and Mr. H. D. M.P.P., were also pre- of revision, held ear- s. Perry Mills, judge red quite a number, and the subject was meeting, the general at the present time le to have the values ment purposes in the This found expression ing the government to into effect.

r in the sad life story, a well connected who has been a resi- for some years past, was day, when Coroner ry of which Mr. C. J. n held an inquest returned a verdict of monia. Although his antages were all of the yet a boy acquitted a that quickly worked the various spasmodic a clutch of the vicio- ncessarily, and the brought before the or drunkenness. He the verge of delirium g convicted was re- nt to the hospital estment. There he eding his morning, and death. Had he weeks longer Harris a to possession of a from a lateral dying d old land.

ore fashionable than season, the band con- last evening, was prise, for the Govern- windows appeared to attention. The music of its usual high class interesting specialties furnished unlooked- appreciated before. ent these was the long ace, which was well taken by Gunners D. Chadsey, the former sented by Messrs. E. the latter, two dol- rizes, given by Mes- r Dewdney and Col. former, as be en- the evening, hav- with the customary "e other special num- e, created a great e among the 600 bled, and the in Gunners Rose- old's favor. Serg. is to be presented medal (English Vol- t battalion parade, ill at the same time efficiency con- won it.

NEWS OF THE PROVINCE

More Robberies at Vancouver-West- minster Wants Mr. Davies to See "Salmon Run."

Prompt Work of Firemen-Young Men Develop Their Muscle-Mining News.

(Special to the Colonist.)

VANCOUVER, Dec. 18.—Thanks to the prompt response of the whole fire brigade to the alarm turned in from the B. C. Co-operation yesterday afternoon, four streams of water being played on the dry kiln within a very short time after the discovery of the fire, the destroying element was subdued before much damage was done. Had the flames extended to the mill itself, the damage would have been infinitely greater. What damage was done cannot yet be estimated, but it will be covered by the \$3,000 insurance carried on the dry kiln. Much credit is due the fire brigade for their prompt action, and they in return express their thanks to Mrs. Broderick, of Splice's mill, for her generous refreshment provided them during and after their labors.

Two masked men held up Captain Morrison, of the False Creek coal yards, yesterday afternoon about 5 o'clock. Mr. Morrison had been collecting an account down Yale town and was proceeding along Hamilton street, when he was held up and lost the \$6.50 he had just collected. The footpads will probably be disappointed when they learn Mr. Morrison had a much larger sum of money upon his person, which they overlooked. The two men can be identified by their victim, and it is hoped they will soon serve to be run to earth.

A gymnasium school and athletic club was opened yesterday on Cordova street, a boxing and athletic entertainment being given as an opening ceremony. Mrs. S. R. Robinson, of Dunsmuir street, died yesterday morning. The deceased lady has been a resident of the city for the past two years, having removed here from New Westminster. The newly appointed accountant of the city branch of the Bank of British Columbia, Mr. H. G. Playfair, arrived here yesterday from San Francisco, where he was previously stationed. Ald. Shaw, chairman of the board of works, has made arrangements to present employment for all men at present out of work in his ward, and for the benefit of the men employed, it has been decided to pay all wages due in this department on Christmas eve.

Professor Hill-Tout, of Buckland college, has been appointed representative of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, in this province, and also elected a member of the committee to whom an ethnological survey of Canada is to be entrusted. Mr. Hill-Tout has contributed many interesting and valuable papers to the meetings of the association, and the appointment now conferred upon him is looked upon as a well deserved honor. In the billiard tournament at the Hotel Vancouver to-night, one of the most interesting games of the series will be played. At 7 o'clock, 200 being pitted against J. D. Scott, the winner of the last tournament, who is to make 280. As the tournament approaches the final stages much interest is being evinced in the games, the billiard room being crowded with spectators every evening play is going on.

George Neelands, of the Athabasca Mine Co., has paid a visit to the company's mine in Nelson district. He reports that the new 130 feet tunnel is in over 30 feet and has ore all the way. The ledge varies from 18 to 24 inches in width. While at the property Mr. Neelands made two careful samples of the ledge for the purpose of determining its value. The first of these gave an assay value of \$94.66 in gold, the second \$172.30. The assay carried considerable silver, the value of which was not computed. The Athabasca company are pleased with the report, as well as the very large number of holders of stock in Westminster.

VANCOUVER, Dec. 19.—The Christmas concert this evening under the Y.M.C.A. was very well attended.

Robert Hamilton, of the William Hamilton Manufacturing Co., has gone East for a six week's visit to his home in Peterboro.

F. Olmstead, son of H. Olmstead, grocer, was stopped in the centre of the city at 5:30 yesterday afternoon, he tells the police, by three masked men. One held a revolver to his head while the other two searched through him. The highwaymen secured \$125. Mr. Olmstead says he was robbed so quickly that he could not identify his assailants. The same day a vag was arrested with a loaded revolver in his possession. He was very likely a crack, but as usual, no evidence could be secured against him. There is evidently a gang of the worst kind of criminals living somewhere in Vancouver, and the police and detectives are powerless to exterminate them. They are holding up men, women and girls in daylight. The situation is getting desperate, and the authorities are being advised very freely to run in all suspicious characters that cannot give a satisfactory account of themselves.

C. L. Behneser, of the Kurtz Cigar Company, may run for alderman in Ward 4.

Hon. A. G. Blair and Col. Denville, M.P., will arrive in Vancouver on Monday. The Liberal Association met this afternoon and made arrangements for the reception of the visitors.

A meeting of the electors of Ward 4 to choose aldermanic candidates for the forthcoming elections was not numerously attended last night and the meeting was postponed to the coming season.

The management of the Alexander orphanage are to give a Christmas fête for the children on Christmas night.

candidates for municipal honors six questions bearing chiefly upon the labor question.

WESTMINSTER.

NEW WESTMINSTER, Dec. 18.—The final performance of the comic opera, the "Little Duke," in Herring's opera house last night, passed off very successfully. The chorus and the principals received due recognition, encores being the order of the evening. This production of the operatic society is regarded as being the best effort yet put forth.

The steamer Princess Louise got aground at Ladner's on her inward trip and the steamer Transfer had to be sent down to unload passengers and mail. The Princess Louise floated off at high tide undamaged and came up river, returning to Victoria later in the day.

Considerable freight is being received from Chilliwack every trip of the Transfer. The market to-day will be well supplied and good business is expected in view of the approach of Christmas.

In the address to the Board of Trade to Hon. Mr. Davies' cordial invitation was extended to him to visit the Fraser during the fishing season, when he would be better able by personal observation to appreciate the magnitude of the salmon catching industry. Confirmation was being last night in St. Barnabas church, when several candidates presented themselves, all of them ladies.

The High school closes to-day for the holidays. The final exercises taking place between 10 and 12 o'clock this morning.

WESTMINSTER, Dec. 19.—Six candidates were confirmed by His Lordship the Bishop of New Westminster yesterday at St. Barnabas church. The candidates were prepared by the Rev. H. H. Gowan.

In the case of the Indian shot through the lungs at Chilliwack and killed, the coroner's jury have returned a verdict of wilful murder against some party or parties unknown. According to witnesses, the Indian went to the door of his hut, a gunshot was heard and the deceased fell back into the house and said, "I'm shot; I'm going to die." On looking from the house no one could be seen.

NANAIMO.

NANAIMO, Dec. 19.—Hon. Mr. Blair and party arrived here at 4 o'clock this afternoon. They were met by several prominent citizens and drove to the Hotel Wilson, where a formal reception was held. About twenty prominent Liberals attended with the Minister at the hotel, and later the Liberal Association presented him with an address. He leaves by boat for Vancouver in the morning.

The Iynesiders met to-day to make final arrangements for their annual gathering.

A. Traudell, of this city, yesterday recorded the Brian Boru mineral claim in the Cameron district, near Cameron lake.

NANAIMO, Dec. 18.—Mr. and Mrs. Charles Snowden returned from their honeymoon trip by the Joan on Wednesday evening. On arriving at the house of Mr. Isaac Snowden, father of the groom, they were pleasantly surprised to find about forty guests present to welcome them at an extensive wedding dejeuner, provided by Mr. and Mrs. Snowden. Following the dinner, the evening, until early in the morning, was spent in the usual jolly way, numerous congratulations being showered upon the happy couple.

MIDWAY.

(From the Midway Advance.) Mr. John Douglas and associates have men at work on the Oro and the work is proving of a very satisfactory character. The Skylark deal has gone through, and preparations are being made to renew work on the property on a much more extensive scale than anything yet attempted.

A deal was consummated between Mr. James McConnell and Messrs. W. Thomas and R. Wood on the coal claim at Rock creek a few days ago, whereby the latter parties become the sole participants in the lease which has been running on the property for years.

On the Gold Dollar in Atwood camp Mr. R. Wood has a force of men at work by sinking and drifting are following the somewhat erratic course of the vein upon the property. The quartz on the Gold Dollar is of a true free milling character and assays extremely well.

Representatives of the British Columbia Prospecting Syndicate are calling for tenders for the building of cabins on the Denoro Grande in Long Lake camp, and also for the cutting of about four miles of sleigh road into the same camp.

UNION.

(From the Union Weekly News.) Mr. McQuillan of Courtenay shot two panthers last week. The county court and court of assessment and appeal will be held at the new court house, Comox, January 6.

A warship is expected to arrive at Comox bay in a few days.

ROSSLAND.

(From the Rosslander.) Work on the Gopher will be vigorously pressed. A new ore chute on the Le Roi, near the Red Mountain railway, is in course of construction.

A compressor plant will be erected on the R. E. Lee, the foundation for which is being prepared. The Cliff compressor was closed down for a few days last week in consequence of a breakage in the pipes, attributed to the frost.

A. W. Wright, after successfully floating the Heater Bell Co. in Toronto, has returned to Rossland. The Cromwell Mining and Development Company has been organized, with a capital stock of \$1,200,000, with \$500,000 in the treasury. The company has been organized to acquire and develop the mines in the Rossland district and on the North Fork of the Salmon river. So successful has been the sale of All stock in the East that the directors have raised the price from 10 cents to 12 1/2 cents. The results of recent development at the mine fully justify the advance. That South-Hewitt Company have but 4,000 shares left for sale locally. Some fine samples of ore were brought up yesterday from the Waneta & Trail Creek Co.'s property, near Waneta. A cross-cut tunnel is being run to cut the

vein, and on Saturday this had cut five feet of mineralized rock, almost solid ore, running high in copper, with the green stain which it is almost covered. It is the intention of the company to sink on this.

Attention is again directed to the neighborhood of Rockford, many of the old mineral claims have been relocated and others staked out. Among the recent discoveries are two distinct ledges, each about twelve feet in width and showing galena freely. Rockford is on the road between Kamloops and Spence's Bridge, about thirty miles to the south of the former place. The shaft on Eureka No. 1, one of the claims of the Old Flag Gold Mining Company, operating at Waneta, is down 35 feet, and the ore is maintaining its character with depth, apparently running as high in copper as the surface, while considerable quartz is coming in. No assays have been made recently, nor will be until the 50 foot level is reached, when the vein will be crocsett. J. A. Campbell has the contract. H. B. Smith, G. E., has surveyed the Eureka No. 1, and application has been made for a crown grant.

A letter has been received by J. D. Sibbald, president of the Revelstoke Both of trade, from Gen. Supt. Abbott, stating that he has visited the Eureka No. 1, and would bring the matter of better freight handling facilities and warehouseing at Revelstoke before the annual meeting at Montreal, and try to get an appropriation for that purpose.

Work was resumed on Monday on the Golden Drip by the company which lately acquired the property. Day and night shifts will be working. Already about \$7,000 worth of work has been done since the start of the year. Drifts and uprisings, exposing three ore bodies, from which average assays went from \$16 to \$176 in gold, which shows the mine to be a very promising one.

The company has been stocked for \$600,000 in \$1 shares by J. D. Sibbald and an assessable. The first block of 25,000 shares of treasury stock is on the market, offered by A. Torrelle & Co., Stussli building, at 12 1/2 cents. The Sunset, just above the Columbia and Western rail, just opposite Rossland, will be an early shipper. The Canadian Gold Fields Syndicate, limited, is exploring the Sunset, two shifts being worked in the shaft, which is now down over 40 feet. Continually in three to five feet of ore. The daily samples taken from the last 35 feet in the Sunset shaft have assayed from \$12 to better than \$50 in gold per ton. The Sunset is shortly to be equipped with first-class machinery, and while development will be pushed by hand and ore shipments will soon begin.

BOUNDARY CREEK.

(From the Times.) Messrs. Sanson & Holbrook have received returns from approximately four tons of ore shipped to the Puget Sound Reduction Company at Everett, Wash., from the D. A., one of the Boundary Creek M. & C. Co.'s properties, as follows: Silver, 7.47 oz.; gold, 4.99 oz.; lead, 1.02 oz.; value of ore, \$4142. Freight and smelter charges, \$449.68. Judging from assays made this week the G.A.R., owned by the same company, is also a shipping proposition, the ore from the bottom of the shaft opposite Rossland, will be an early shipper. The Canadian Gold Fields Syndicate, limited, is exploring the Sunset, two shifts being worked in the shaft, which is now down over 40 feet. Continually in three to five feet of ore. The daily samples taken from the last 35 feet in the Sunset shaft have assayed from \$12 to better than \$50 in gold per ton. The Sunset is shortly to be equipped with first-class machinery, and while development will be pushed by hand and ore shipments will soon begin.

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Mr. Bartholomew, local manager for the Combination Mining and Milling Co., is returning from Spokane. He states that the company intend to thoroughly develop the property in the Providence camp this winter, carrying the present 35-foot shaft down for 250 feet, cross-cutting and drifting at respective 100 and 150 feet, and on the force of men are to be employed to drive a tunnel from the south end of the claim, with the object of tapping the larger quartz (supposed to exist) and connecting with the main workings, gaining a depth of 400 feet.

A group of four claims in Deadwood camp, the Gem, Iron Top, Lizzie and Buckhorn, has been bonded by Mr. J. Dunn to a Mr. Elliott, representing a New York syndicate.

Sinking was started on the Oro, in Central camp, yesterday, supplies being taken up sufficient for the winter. The ledge is four feet wide upon which the shaft has been sunk for 12 feet. The ore is very high grade copper-gold. Assays as high as \$50 and \$60 in gold per ton have been made from the Gold Drop, at a depth of 50 feet. The copper value was from 3 to 6 per cent.

The vicinity of Christina lake gives promise of becoming a rich mineral producing region. Seven men are working on the Christina, and three shifts are employed on the Edison group.

Mr. Galloway has bought a quarter interest in the Tip Top and a quarter interest in the Sylvester K., Greenwood camp.

A mining company has been organized in Spokane to operate in Boundary creek, and has acquired the B. C. Central claim, in Deadwood camp. The tunnel is now in 110 feet on the Mother Lode and assays are steadily improving. The tunnel is to be driven to be found in British Columbia.

The shaft on the Nightingale is down 17 feet in solid ore. The double compartment shaft is down 45 feet on the R. Bull. Two men on the Mr. Dietz is pulling 15 men on his newly acquired property at Fairview. A deal is being consummated for the transfer of a large tract of coal land at Rock creek.

WELL INFORMED.

NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—The Herald says: A gentleman recently returned from Europe, who is interested in naval affairs, is authority for the statement that the English admiralty has full information of all defective armor plates on our war vessels, as far as known, and that every structural defect in any way of the vessel that can be discovered are carefully noted and fled away for intake use. When the news of the recent sinking of the Texas reached England a naval officer in high authority, in conversation with the gentleman referred to, pointed out some of her defects in both armor and structure, which has since been made public.

Aged a Hundred and Three. NORWICH, Conn., Dec. 16.—Mrs. Catharine Peary, the oldest woman in New London county and probably the oldest in Connecticut, died yesterday, aged 103 years and 9 months.

CUBAN RECOGNITION.

Not Much Excitement in London Caused by Senate Committee's Report—No Difficulties Anticipated.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—In spite of the flaming placards announcing it, the action of the foreign relations committee of the United States senate in agreeing to report Senator Cameron's report providing for the recognition of the republic of Cuba, has not caused any excitement in London. Most of the politicians are out of town, and the bankers and brokers were unmoved. There was a fall on the stock exchange in American and Spanish securities sympathy with the downward movement reported from Wall street, but it was shortly followed by a recovery.

The manager of the Bank of Spain in England, said he did not expect any great fluctuations as a result of the "regrettable action of the senate committee." He added that the rate of exchange so far had not changed, and remains firm, steadiest largely by the recent success of the Spanish loans.

Continuing, he said: "Of course, there has been excitement in Madrid, but some action of the senate has been considered inevitable ever yesterday's action was largely discounted. It will no doubt increase the feelings which Spain will manifest during the next few days. But I do not look for any marked change in the financial situation.

Mr. Howard Potter, of Brown, Shipley & Co., does not consider any change in the financial situation to be imminent, and other bankers and brokers who were interviewed on the subject express the same opinion.

Being members of the Spanish colony and a gentleman holding a high official position said: "The Spanish colony in London is too few in number to be of much importance. But our leading merchants in the cork and wine trades are greatly grieved at the attitude taken by the American business houses in regard to Cuba, and they still more regret that Americans believe the story that Antonio Maceo was assassinated. He was a brave man, as was shown by his facing the enemy, when a chance shot happily aimed by a soldier killed him."

In official Spanish circles in London it is not believed that any difficulty will ensue. The Spanish government, it is held, is acting with every prudence and with the highest degree of statesmanship. The effect of the senate committee's action in Spain will not be known for a few days, owing to the interruption in the lines on account of severe weather and government censorship of telegrams. Although the censorship is not rigorous at present, still a jealous eye is kept on dispatches emanating from Madrid and elsewhere.

The Evening News, referring to the Cuban situation, says: "There is little doubt as to what will be the answer when as strong a nation as America recognizes the rebels, which is decidedly unfriendly and cannot be disguised by the offer of good offices. Spain is not likely to be able to take nourishment, and it will no doubt see in this action a determination to force a quarrel. We have hope in the firm attitude of President Cleveland and the sober American feeling and that any action of America will not be taken in a way as to incur reproach, but it has stirred instead of healed the strife."

The Sun says: "If America recognizes Cuba the fate of Spain's colonial empire and the present monarchy will be decided next year, as it is hard to see how Spain can avoid responding to the recognition by declaring war." After dwelling on the fact that she has only recently to blame by adopting "pizzaro methods" in Cuba, the Sun says: "A few show that America will henceforth be seriously counted on in the settlement of international questions, whenever the interests or sentiments of its people are affected."

The St. James Gazette urges Spain to remain calm and throw the odium of aggression on the other side, adding: "If she keeps quiet the United States will be in an awkward dilemma, having either to allow the recognition to remain inoperative demonstration or take an offensive action, and Americans will think twice before assuming the responsibility of such hopeless anarchy as the so-called Cuban republic."

THE OKANAGAN COUNTRY.

(From the Vernon News.) An association composed of business men and miners of Greenwood and the surrounding towns has been formed, which will assume the functions of a board of trade for that district.

A movement is on foot to start a co-operative pork packing establishment in town. Information is now being collected as to the best manner of procedure, and we have reason to hope that the scheme will soon assume a tangible shape. We will have more to say on this subject in a later issue.

While Messrs. R. Wilson and W. Tingley were returning last week from a point down the west side of Okanagan lake to their homes at Six Mile creek, their boat capsized, throwing both men into the lake. Mr. Wilson succeeded in swimming ashore, while Mr. Tingley clung to the overturned boat till it drifted to land. Both men were miles apart getting on shore, and were frozen solid, their clothes being frozen solid in that time.

What might have been a fatal accident happened last Wednesday at the Ruby gold mine situated near the Mountain Glory mine. It appears one of the men placed three sticks of dynamite on some hot stones, to take the frost out of them. He had not got twenty feet away when the dynamite exploded, scattering rock in every direction, but fortunately doing no further harm.

There was placed on our desk this week a certificate of a recent assay obtained from rock taken from the Bon Dieb mine situated about three miles north-east of this city. The rock assay is described as "iron oxide with a little quartz," and the result is as follows: Gold, 13.16 oz., value \$276 per ton; silver, 4 oz., value \$2.72 per ton; total value per ton, \$278.72. This is a very encouraging assay, and the promoters of the Bon Dieb Co. have every reason to feel very well satisfied with the prospects of their property.

The Camp Hewitt Mining and Development Company have made a start on the properties, and about eight men are now at work getting their winter camp ready. Mr. Gus. Hewitt is acting as foreman, and work will be com-

menced on the Lake View and Gladstone claims, two gangs working day and night. These claims both carry gold, silver and copper, and good results are confidently anticipated by the promoters. The company has also acquired ten other claims at Camp Hewitt, and as other claim-holders intend to do some development work this winter, the camp will likely be pretty lively for the next few months. Camp Hewitt is situated on Okanagan lake, about forty miles below the Landing.

CAUSED GREAT SENSATION.

MADRID, Dec. 19.—The decision of the United States senate committee on foreign relations to report Senator Cameron's resolution for the recognition of the republic of Cuba caused a great sensation here. The papers enlarge upon the significance of the joint, compared with the concurrent resolution, and reproach the senate government, and especially the Spanish minister at Washington for having been over-confident. The ministers here decline to talk on the subject and it is expected a cabinet meeting will be held to-day to discuss the situation.

Said a prominent politician: "The talk of the papers of Madrid and New York cannot be accepted as representing the government's feeling. For instance, the statement that the Canovas has been sounding the European powers regarding the support they might send to Spain in case of war with the United States is absolutely untrue. Naturally Spain has the sympathy of several of the powers, as the question of United States interference in Cuba may to-morrow become a question of similar interference in Martinique, San Thomas and Jamaica. But Senor Canovas has not taken a step to seek support for Spain, and he has never believed that the matter would become a question of war, and he and the Duke of Tetuan (minister of foreign affairs), have been acting with unceasing prudence, avoiding every possible thing that might lead to serious complications. Senor Canovas has unbounded confidence in U. S. Minister Taylor, and he has belief in the official professions of the friendship of the United States. Mr. Taylor and the Duke of Tetuan are warm friends. Fortunately the order does not assemble before April, so the situation is short of possible embarrassments to the government from the fervidness of Spanish patriotism. The situation is not alarming, and I do not believe that the American people will go further than wild talk."

YESTERDAY morning Captain J. S. Bennett, formerly of Digby, Nova Scotia, succumbed to the ravages which for more than a year a cancer in the throat and tongue has been making upon his constitution. Indeed, the wonder is that he survived so long, although he received the most loving and untiring attentions of his devoted wife. The agonies which he suffered, borne with Christian fortitude, and the inability to take nourishment had worn him down until he had become little more than a skeleton. His was indeed a patient waiting for the end which came to him in a sleep. The Captain was a native of Nova Scotia and was for many years in command of big vessels in the East and West Indian and South American trade. He was a man of varied and extensive information and was regarded as a skilled navigator. He had only made a few voyages from the Pacific coast, but for several years was engaged at this port in the fitting out of sealers and other craft. The deceased was in his sixty-second year and leaves a widow and several children, towards whom he was the sincerest and truest of friends, and for several years was engaged at this port in the fitting out of sealers and other craft. The deceased was in his sixty-second year and leaves a widow and several children, towards whom he was the sincerest and truest of friends, and for several years was engaged at this port in the fitting out of sealers and other craft. The deceased was in his sixty-second year and leaves a widow and several children, towards whom he was the sincerest and truest of friends, and for several years was engaged at this port in the fitting out of sealers and other craft.

Another Dismissal. OTTAWA, Dec. 18.—Mr. J. B. Labege, assistant postmaster at Quebec, has been dismissed by Hon. Mr. Mulock, postmaster-general, as the result of an investigation. He was held responsible for pushing through the post Tory campaign literature at the last election and holding back "L'Electeur" and other Liberal publications. Mr. J. B. Committee of the post office inspector's office, has been appointed in his place.

MONTREAL, Dec. 19.—At the tariff commission here, D. Robertson, flour merchant, protested against the present protective tariff on breadstuffs of 75 cents a bushel on wheat and 75 cents a barrel on flour. The tariff of which he complained protected only three milling firms.

Robert Meighen, president of the Lake of the Woods Milling Company, in a forcible address, combated Mr. Robertson's ideas. He denied that the flour millers were importers, and were enriching themselves at the expense of the farmer and consumer. Mr. Meighen said that the Canadian miller was paying the Northwest farmers an substantial advance over the price paid in the United States, while the consumer got his flour as cheap if not cheaper than the American consumer. The effect of taking off the duties would be that United States flours would put Canada at once upon an export basis and would ruin Canadian industry. There were thirty-five million dollars of capital invested in the Canadian industry, and he was convinced it would not be worth ten cents on the dollar if the duties were taken off. Mr. Meighen spoke forcibly and to the point.

COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS. MONTREAL, Dec. 19.—(Special)—A cable to the Star says that Sir Charles and Lady Tupper have signified their intention of sailing from Liverpool on January 7 on their return to Canada. The annual meeting of the Dominion Commercial Travellers Association was held this evening. The annual report shows that the income for the year was \$84,886, of which \$4,622 was paid for working expenses, and \$21,746 for benefits, leaving a surplus for the year of \$8,497 or a total surplus of \$149,595.

CORNWALL ELECTION. CORNWALL, Dec. 19.—(Special)—The bye-election here to-day resulted in the election of Snetinger, Liberal, by a good majority. The constituency returned Bergin, Conservative, at last election, when there was also a Patron candidate in the field. To-day the Patron vote went largely with the Liberals, electing Snetinger. Latest figures give him about 480 majority, with two places to hear from.

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MONTREAL, Dec. 18.—Regarding the recent investigation at the Montreal post office, it has been an open secret that a number of Orders-in-Council dealing with dismissals are tied up with His Excellency. They were sent West when the Governor-General was in British Columbia, and an understanding will be arrived at when Lord Aberdeen meets the Premier. It is stated that the dismissals are of small officers, but the matter is raising much interest at the Capital.

CONNEAUT, Dec. 16.—An Italian smuggler of jewelry named Dominio Quaranto has been arrested here. He had just lighted from a train from Cleveland, and was about to take boat for Point Dover, Ont., when captured by the police. Quaranto is one of a trio of smugglers who arrived at New York on the steamer Oliver from Naples in November. They had sold their jewelry and Quaranto was about to return to Naples for another supply. His two accomplices have been arrested.

FRANK COLLEY and Harry W. Welsh, two of the three candidates writing the recent preliminary examination in this city for the civil service of Canada, have passed successfully. The names of the fortunate candidates for qualification will not be known for two or three weeks yet.

MINING COMPANIES.

British Columbia Far and Away Ahead of the Rest of the Dominion.

Civil Service Hours Lengthened—Seizures of Imported Prison Made Articles.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, Dec. 19.—A careful compilation of the capital accredited to all the chartered gold mining companies in Canada gives a total of over \$290,000,000. British Columbia heads the list in the number and wealth of its gold mining companies, while Ontario with its scarcely less extensive deposits of free milling ore in the Rainy River district, comes second. By provinces the figures stand: British Columbia, \$256,312,075; Ontario, \$32,094,900; New Brunswick, \$1,030,000; Manitoba, \$50,000.

The report is again in circulation that the civil service hours are about to be lengthened. It is also said that the ministers contemplate issuing an order prohibiting civil servants from being candidates for municipal offices.

At the Customs department it is learned that there has been many seizures of prison made articles from the United States during the past three months.

The Governor-General and Lady Aberdeen returned to Ottawa last night for the season, after a three months' stay in British Columbia. The exports for November are well up to the average. A number of Guelph and Toronto men are seeking incorporation as the Ontario and Kootenay Mining Co.

TARIFF ON BREADSTUFFS. MONTREAL, Dec. 19.—At the tariff commission here, D. Robertson, flour merchant, protested against the present protective tariff on breadstuffs of 75 cents a bushel on wheat and 75 cents a barrel on flour. The tariff of which he complained protected only three milling firms.

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The Colonist.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1896.

Published Every Monday and Thursday by The Colonist Printing & Publishing Company, Limited Liability.

W. H. ELLIS, Manager. A. G. SANDISON, Secretary.

TERMS: THE DAILY COLONIST. Published Every Day except Monday.

Per year, postage free to any part of Canada, \$10.00.

Per year, postage free to any part of the Dominion or the United States, \$12.00.

Per week, if delivered, 30 cents.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST. Per year, postage free to any part of the Dominion or the United States, \$12.00.

Per week, if delivered, 30 cents.

Subscriptions in all cases are payable strictly in advance.

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More than one month and not more than one fortnight, 40 cents.

Not more than one week, 30 cents.

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THE UNITED STATES SENATE.

Six of the Republican Senators have refused to enter the caucus of their party. They are, of course, silver Senators, and it is said that a seventh, who was absent, will join them. The defection of the six Senators will reduce the number of Republican Senators who can be depended upon to carry out the policy of their party from forty-three to thirty-seven. This will give the command of the Senate to the party opposed to the Administration.

In the first place it will make the passage of the Dingley bill an impossibility even if the Advisory Committee of the Caucus should advocate it. Without the support of at least eight sound money Democrats they would have no chance of success. And it would be expecting too much of Democratic disinterestedness to hope that so considerable a number of Democratic senators would unite to pull the Republican party out of the hole in which it is stuck.

It is pretty clear that the United States will have to try to get along under the Wilson tariff for some time to come. It is expected that when the new Legislatures of the States, on which the duty of selecting senators will devolve, have made their choice the personnel of the Senate will be considerably altered, and also its political complexion. Immediately after the election it was predicted that Mr. McKinley would, when the new Congress met, be able to command a majority of the Senate as well as of the House of Representatives. The same thing was said of Mr. Cleveland when he was elected in 1892, but the result was very different from what was predicted. The Senate was a thorn in President Cleveland's side from the beginning to the end of his term, and it may be that President McKinley will find that body equally wrong-headed and impracticable. What with Popocratic cranks and silver fanatics the Senate of the United States has become a broken reed for any administration to depend upon.

"IS THIS FAIR?"

No one that we know of contends that the Manitoba minority alone should have been consulted in the settlement of the much- vexed school question of that province. Neither have we ever heard it maintained that every demand made by the minority should be conceded by the majority, or those who constitutionally represent them. But there is, we submit, a very wide difference between giving the minority everything they ask for and not permitting them to have any part, direct or indirect, in the negotiations that led to the settlement. In private matters, when it is proposed to settle a dispute between two persons amicably, each of the disputants is required to choose a representative. In that case it is only fair to stipulate that both the parties shall abide by the decision arrived at. It would be an outrage on justice and fair play for one of the parties to negotiate with a third party and to settle the dispute without allowing the other principal to say a single word in his own behalf.

This, as we see it, is what was done in the proceedings that resulted in the "settlement" of the Manitoba school dispute. The parties to that dispute were the Protestant majority of Manitoba and the Roman Catholic minority. The majority, as represented by the Government of Manitoba and an outside party, the Dominion Government, entered into negotiations to settle the dispute, but the minority was not represented in the negotiations. They had no advocate at the meetings of the negotiators. There was no one present authorized to speak for them

or to represent their side of the case. We have not heard that they were invited to send a representative, and had refused to have anything to do with the matter. They did not allow their case to go by default, for the very simple reason that they had never been vouchsafed the opportunity to accept or refuse.

Can the decision arrived at under such circumstances be called "a settlement"? The consent of all the parties concerned is the very essence of a settlement. Even when the proceedings are judicial and authoritative both the parties concerned have a right to be present and to say what they have to say in their own behalf. What would be thought of the fairness of a judgment in a case in which only one of the parties was permitted to be heard.

We say nothing now as to the nature of the terms of settlement in this Manitoba case. If the minority had agreed to them or had acquiesced in them there would be nothing for an outsider to say. But when the minority were not represented in the negotiations and when they are forced to accept the decision whether they like it or not, is there anything wrong in the disinterested bystander asking: Is this fair?

NOT IMPARTIAL.

It is to be presumed that the Government in undertaking an inquiry into the operation of the present tariff does so with the intention of acquiring information by which it may be guided in reforming or changing the existing fiscal system. It is not to be supposed that the Government has all the knowledge that it needs on the subject, and that it has already arrived at the conclusions on which it proposes to act. If this is the position that it occupies the inquiry is a mere sham. If the Commissioners are only looking for evidence to confirm them in the opinions which they already hold, the expense of prosecuting the inquiry and the time spent by Commissioners and witnesses in attending the sessions are completely wasted.

Some of those who have attended the sittings of the Commission are under the impression that the Commissioners do not occupy the position of either inquirers or judges. One of them, Hon. Mr. Fielding, shows by his demeanor and his remarks that his mind is fully made up, that he has prejudged the case. He does not listen to the witnesses with the air of an impartial judge. His position is rather that of an advocate retained on the side of free trade. The Toronto Mail and Empire of the 11th inst. thus speaks of the attitude assumed and the spirit evinced by Commissioner Fielding:

Instead of listening with the open mind of a judge or arbitrator, he lets himself assume too much the attitude of a prosecuting attorney or an interested party. Consciously or unconsciously he exhibits a strong prepossession against protective duties, and betrays an animus against the industries of the country. Apparently he cannot rid his mind of the assumptions that underlie the stock arguments that the Liberal press and politicians have made so rampant in the people of Canada. The staid, but threadbare, assertions that protection is an infamous policy, that the manufacturers are grinding monopolists, conspirators, robbers and scoundrels, were undoubtedly regarded by him as venerated truths when the Liberals were in opposition. But he should understand that it is the soundness of these fundamental principles of Liberalism that is now in question. That being so, and he being one of the persons appointed to examine into their credibility, it would give an appearance of greater sincerity to the inquiry were he to comport himself less as if they were part and parcel of his very habit of mind. It should be possible for him to ask a question or to interject a remark without showing that his judgment was entirely overruled by his prejudice, and that practically he considered the investigation useless. Even if the Government intend to make it useless, and though the Tariff Commission be a mere mockery, it would surely be more discreet for Mr. Fielding to take some pains to feign fairness. But the public take it for granted that the commission is acting in good faith. It is the tribunal to which Mr. Laurier, entirely nonplussed by the question, has referred that question for decision. On the matter of policy, the Liberals, after believing in nearly everything, have assumed an agnostic attitude. They do not know what is right—free trade, tariff for revenue only, reciprocity, preferential trade, incidental protection, or the National Policy. They are in search of some economic moorings to satisfy the cravings, if not of their conscience, at least of their partisanship. If they are to be a party, above all a ruling party, they must have a policy, and the best policy is the one the country is most favorable to. What is that? That is for the commission to ascertain. It can find out only from the evidence placed before it, with which it must not mix any of the notions—likely to be false—that may stick to some of its members by virtue of their original errors.

It may be said that the Mail and Empire is not an unprejudiced observer. Admitting this to some extent to be the case, Mr. Fielding should know that there are in Ontario and the other provinces many such observers, men who are quick to discern any bias on the part of the Commissioners. If Mr. Fielding is as able and as discreet a public man as his friends give him the credit of being he would be particularly careful to give no protectionist journalist or politician ground for concluding that he is one-sided, that he assumes an attitude of antagonism towards protectionist witnesses. He should not give the protectionists who attend the sittings of the Commission—and it is evident that the great majority of those who do attend them

are protectionists—an excuse for saying that the tariff inquiry is a sham and that it is folly for protectionists to expect anything like justice from the Commission or the Government which it represents. He should assume the virtue of impartiality though he has it not.

"ANNEXATION."

We have seen how influential inhabitants of Honolulu felt about annexing the Hawaiian Islands to the United States. We have also seen that all proposals for annexation have been hitherto coldly received by the Government of the United States, and by men whose opinion has weight with that Government. But public opinion appears to have been lately undergoing a change in the United States with respect to the annexation of Hawaii. Proposals for union are not nearly so emphatically rejected as they were some time ago. The United States has become coy and almost half accepts proposals which she would not listen to a few months ago. This may be inferred from the tone of an article in the New York Commercial Advertiser, of which the following are the concluding paragraphs:

Lying as it does directly in the path between San Francisco and the Orient, a fitting school for commerce and forwarding, both for the purposes of peace and war, the key to the North Pacific, Hawaii possesses an importance altogether disproportionate to its population and natural wealth. Our trade with Asia is yet in its infancy, largely because of the lamentable lack of enterprise on the part of the people of San Francisco; but it is certain ultimately to develop into vast proportions. The Nicaragua Canal may not be constructed for a generation, but there is little doubt of its eventual completion. When the great ditch is finally dug, and when we shall have finally gained our just share of commerce with the swarming millions of China, Japan and other Eastern countries, the surpassing value of Hawaii will manifest itself. Its control as a coaling station must be in the future alike indispensable to our navy and our rehabilitated merchant marine. We do not desire to control it for the purpose of assailing the rights of European nations, but for the purpose of making it what nature apparently intended it to be—an outpost of civilization in the immense ocean which will some time rival, if it does not eclipse, the Atlantic in the amount of commerce which it bears.

It is entirely practicable to assert our rights over Hawaii, without hastily annexing it and without giving offense to other powers. A dignified, courteous declaration of our position by the McKinley Administration, supported by the passage of a joint Congressional resolution reaffirming our historic policy, will assure the independence of the Hawaiian Government and leave the problem of final annexation to be decided when it begins to press urgently for a solution. Republican leaders will make no mistake if they adopt this course. It is just, reasonable and statesmanlike.

It is hard to understand what the Advertiser means by "our just share of commerce with the swarming millions of China," etc. If the Americans do not possess their "just share" of that commerce the fault is their own. If they have been beaten in the race they have no one to blame but themselves. Having a half-way house to China may give the Americans advantages as regards trade with China which other nations do not possess, and then, again, such a possession may lead to complications and embarrassments which might be found to be very troublesome.

MUNICIPAL ACT OF 1896.

A communication in another column by "An Interested Voter" calls attention to an article in the Times of Monday last, under the title of "Mastery Inactivity," and asks for information regarding the validity of the statements it contained. The correspondent makes some pertinent remarks, and, as will be seen, has hit the mark in suggesting that there is a good deal more smoke than fire. The truth is that the Kamloops Sentinel, which furnished the material for the Times, has discovered a large-sized "mare's nest."

A concerted attempt is being made by a section of the Opposition press to attach blame to the administration in respect of certain alleged defects in the municipal legislation passed at the last session. As a matter of fact, the Municipal Acts of 1896 were not Government measures, and were not carried on party lines, being introduced by a private member and referred for consideration and revision to a select committee chosen on account of its skill and experience in municipal matters. A perusal of these statutes will convince anyone at all versed in municipal affairs that they were carefully framed, with due regard to the public interests, and that the committee and the Legislature took every precaution to preserve the corporate rights of existing municipalities. The only interest which the Government have in maintaining these acts is to secure the best possible form of municipal government, and should it appear that amendments may with advantage be made, there can be no doubt that the Government, with the aid of the members of the Legislature, irrespective of party adherence, will give the matter careful attention and adopt without delay, any measures insuring desirable results.

To fully understand the question it would almost be necessary to review the history of municipal legislation in this Province; but for present purposes it will probably be sufficient to state that it was deemed advisable by the Legislature, owing to the transition state of municipal development in a new Prov-

ince, which requires continual amendments to the act, as unforeseen exigencies arise, to deal with certain matters in separate acts, instead of as an entire statute consolidation. For this purpose, as stated, a special committee of the House or commission was appointed, of which Mr. Kitchen was made chairman. For the work of the Legislature in this respect, whether faulty or otherwise, the Government, as already intimated, was not specially responsible.

As a matter of fact, however, there are no grounds of complaint as alleged, the gravamen of which is thus stated in the Times: "One section of the new Act makes special provision for the constitution of the civic government of Victoria and Nanaimo, and another section takes care of city municipalities hereafter incorporated; but no provision is made for the cities of Kamloops, Kaslo and Vernon, which have been incorporated for some time."

The hysteria exhibited by the Kamloops Sentinel, and to some extent shared in by the Times, arose out of a misunderstanding, or an inability to properly read the Act. Sections 1, 3 and 14 of the Municipal Clauses were considered without reference to sections 6 and 7. There is no foundation for the fear of disfranchisement of Kamloops, Kaslo and Vernon, which were incorporated under the Act of 1892.

By sections 6 and 7 of the Municipal Clauses Act, the maintenance of existing corporations and the continuance of their corporate rights, powers and liabilities as vested in them by their letters patent are more carefully provided for. These letters patent, in every instance, define the constitution of the Municipal Council and fix membership, power being given by section 15 of the Municipal Clauses Act to increase the number by a unanimous resolution of the Council. The Municipal Elections Act applies as well to existing as to municipalities hereafter to be incorporated, and not the slightest doubt or difficulty can exist in electing the Councils of 1897 in the municipalities to which reference has been made.

Complaint is also made in regard to the disqualification of non-residents who were formerly permitted to vote in respect of real estate holdings. There would seem to be no doubt that this is a somewhat radical change, and in certain municipalities will lead, at the ensuing elections, to some degree of inconvenience. On the other hand, it may be depended upon to reveal a somewhat surprising state of affairs in regard to the number of non-resident electors, and the complete control by them of municipal affairs in certain municipalities. As one of the most important factors in the success of any system of municipal government is the interest in their welfare of the home community, and the care which will be given to matters intimately connected therewith, as distinguished from the manner of dealing with outside or purely speculative investments, it will be seen that the question of non-resident electors is one calling for the most careful consideration, and needing adequate safeguards against rash speculation, and trafficking on the strength of the credit which has been gained for our municipal institutions by the financial methods of the older corporations.

Undoubtedly the immediate effect of the non-resident clause in such municipalities as North Vancouver, where there is only one actual resident, was not foreseen or it might have been specially provided against or modified, although the anomaly and the liability to abuse in the case of a municipality without resident voters are quite apparent. The one, if any, should attach to those whose residence in the district affected should have made them acquainted with the special conditions existing there. Should the matter be discussed in the Legislature, as it undoubtedly will be, it will be the means of opening the eyes of the members to a state of affairs that really should never have been permitted to exist.

Immigration to Canada.

OTTAWA, Dec. 17.—The Department of the Interior has prepared an official statement of immigration arriving in Canada for the past season. There were in all 21,241 compared with 21,338 for the year previous. The number of those who settled in the Dominion or announced their intention of remaining was 14,127, and last year 16,019.

Those en route to the United States numbered 7,124, and last year 5,319. The number of those who announced their destination to be Manitoba and the Territories or British Columbia, were 5,120 against 4,603 last season.

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