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NO. 92.

RUSH FOR GRAND TRUNK PACIFIC STOCK

The Issue Over-Subscribed Ten Times--General Manager Morse Makes Important Statement Concerning Plans.

(From Friday's Daily.)

Frank W. Morse, general manager of the Grand Trunk Pacific railway, has received an announcement from London which is of the most interesting character to the Canadian public, and at the same time is most gratifying to the officials of the trans-continental line.

Last evening Mr. Morse was asked by a Times reporter if there were any items of interest in connection with the Grand Trunk Pacific. Mr. Morse replied:

"I have just been advised by Chas. M. Hays, president of the company, that he had received a cable from London, saying the Grand Trunk Pacific prospectus, issued in London, this morning, received up to 1 o'clock--the time of closing--subscriptions for ten times the amount of offerings to the public.

"This means," he added, "that our financial arrangements for the line up to the mountain section are complete, and that we will be able to rush our work as rapidly as our engineering corps, now in the field, can give us our location, or in other words, that our work will not, in any way, be retarded or delayed, for want of funds.

"I am only sorry that the people of



GEO. HILEY, M. P.

As Sketched at His Desk in the Commons by a Montreal Star Artist.

FOR SERVICE TO FRENCH PORTS

CONTRACT WITH THE ALLAN LINE SIGNED

Will Remain in Force for Three Years--Presentation to Hon. R. W. Scott.

Ottawa, Feb. 24.--The Dominion government and the Allan line have signed a contract for three years for a line between Canada and France. For eighteen trips Canada is to pay \$100,000, and for twenty-four, \$133,333. The contract begins with the opening of navigation, and ends with the opening of navigation in 1909. The vessels may call at British ports, but the first call must be in France, and the last before leaving for Canada also in France.

Presentation to Minister.

Today is the 80th anniversary of the birth of Hon. R. W. Scott, secretary of state and leader of the Senate. The Liberal senators took advantage of the occasion and presented Hon. Mr. Scott with a piece of silver, on which was a suitable inscription. The presentation took place in the Speaker's chamber a few minutes before the Senate met.

ACTIVITY ALONG THE SHAKHE RIVER

COLLISION BETWEEN SCOUTING PARTIES

Russian Heavy Guns Shelling Japanese Positions--Rumors That Important Events Are in Progress.

Tokio, Feb. 24.--Manchurian reports to the army department say that the shelling of points in the vicinity of the Shakhe river and collision between scouting parties of both armies continued on February 23rd and 24th.

Commencing at 1 o'clock on February 23rd a Russian battery of heavy guns, posted west of Litajentun, began shelling Lapatni and its vicinity.

RUSSIAN CAPITAL HAS NO LATE NEWS.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 24.--The second day passed without dispatches having been given out from General Kouropatkin, which is interpreted to support the rumors that great events are in progress in Manchuria. The war office, however, maintains that there is no important news, and that there have been no developments since the last dispatches made public, in which the commander-in-chief reported all quiet, with the exception of minor operations toward the eastward.

The Associated Press dispatch from Mukden yesterday made no mention of a battle and retirement of the Russians.

BRIDGE DESTROYED BY RUSSIAN RAIDERS.

Mukden, Feb. 24.--A daring Russian raiding party, under the command of Col. Slessmidt, completely destroyed with explosives the bridge south of Hai Cheng, about ten miles east of Newchwang, on February 23rd, blowing up 70 feet of it.

JAPS FORCED TO ABANDON ADVANCE.

Tsinketchin, Manchuria, Feb. 23.--The Japanese continue to press the Russian advanced divisions on the left flank. On February 21st, with a strength of not less than eight battalions, they attacked the outposts. The Russians made a vigorous counter-attack and occupied the village of Dapidu, forcing the Japanese to temporarily abandon their advance.

DIET INVESTIGATING ALLEGED FRAUDS.

Tokio, Feb. 24.--The Diet has been investigating alleged frauds in connection with contracts signed last May for the construction of barracks to be used as a depot for the seventh division at Hokkaido, the northernmost island of Japan. In an address to the throne, Chief Quartermaster Tomatsu takes the responsibility, although his predecessors awarded them privately and without tenders.

The Russian prisoners in Japan number 44,400, of whom 810 are officers.

RUSSIAN OUTPOSTS FORCED TO WITHDRAW.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 24.--A telegram from Huan Mountain, Manchuria, dated today, says:

"The Russian reconnaissance in force in the Tsinketchin district compelled the Japanese to bring nine battalions and twelve guns into action. The gradual advance of the Japanese in that district continues, causing our outposts to withdraw, fighting to their main positions.

"On February 22nd we had two officers and sixty-two men wounded.

"All is quiet elsewhere at the front with the exception of the usual exchange of shots."

JAPANESE BOATS BOUND FOR VLADIVOSTOCK.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 24.--Gen. Kouropatkin in a dispatch dated February 23rd, sends a report that twenty Japanese torpedo boats and a large warship are on their way to Vladivostock.

RIVAL ARMIES AGAIN ENGAGED.

Tsinketchin, Feb. 23, via Mukden, Feb. 24.--There was fighting along the whole line in this district today. The Japanese continue a persistent advance, driving in the Russian vanguard, and came in touch with Russian fortified positions.

A stubborn combat is expected tomorrow, the Japanese apparently intending to drive the Russians out and capture their redoubts.

The Japanese are circling eastward.

RUSSIANS FORCED FROM THEIR BASE.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 25.--A dispatch from Sachitun, dated February 24, says:

"The Japanese, in superior numbers, forced the Russians at Tsinketchin to abandon their base, at Bressanoff. The

battle has been desperate on both sides. The result is not yet known."

MAKING FLANKING MOVES FROM MOUNTAINS.

Shenking, Manchuria (via Mukden), Feb. 24.--It is reported here that the Japanese are closing in on the Russian east flank. As a result of this movement, it is possible that there will be either a general engagement or at least counter movement by the Russians along some part of the line, especially if, as is thought, the Japanese have returned to their original tactics of making flanking movements from the mountains. The early advent of spring now makes possible operations in and from the mountainous districts.

For the past three weeks the Russians have suffered no material disturbance with the exception of comparatively unimportant damage to the railroad and to a bridge near Tanchchips, as the result of Japanese raids, which, it is alleged, by Chinese hands.

Since the receipt of news of an unidentified force of unknown numbers behind the Russian right wing, the Russians have taken measures for the purpose of minimizing the opportunities for brigands in the belief that Chinese bands are to some extent being organized and directed by the Japanese cavalry.

Reports of activity at Vladivostok in anticipation of an attack on the place by the Japanese are confirmed, but the town continues in its accustomed gaiety. The business continues in a normal state notwithstanding the strong patrol of the Japanese of the straits between the island of Sakhalien and the coast has completely interrupted the movements of shipping. Supplies are reported plentiful, though prices are high. The naval attaches of foreign governments, are leaving Vladivostok by request of the Russian authorities and the number of refugees at Mukden has been greatly reduced because of the transfer of them to the government reservation at Kaungchwa.

NEWCHWANG, FEB. 25-10 A.M., VIA TIEN TSIN.

It is announced that a cavalry detachment of 300 Russians was routed at Liuchia Wopu, 45 miles southwest of Hsinchington, on the evening of February 23rd. The Russians scattered in the direction of Hsinchington.

Newchwang is full of rumors of an impending battle upon the Hsin River. The unusually warm weather will probably lead to active military operations.

REPORTED CROSSING OF THE LIAO RIVER.

Newchwang, Feb. 24, via Tien Tsing, Feb. 25.--About 300 Russians were again reported at a small village north of Niuchiang on the night of February 23rd crossing the Liao river.

This morning forenoon, raiding here were warned not to venture on the north bank of the Liao, owing to the activity of scouting parties on both sides.

Russian agents clothed as Chinese are everywhere.

SIEGE GUNS ENGAGED AT CENTRE OF LINE.

Mukden, Feb. 25.--An action in the centre of the front, 3,200 shells were fired throughout the day.

GERMAN STEAMER HAS BEEN CAPTURED.

Tokio, Feb. 25.--The German steamer Severus, bound for Vladivostok with a cargo of Cardiff coal, was seized yesterday.

RUSSIAN SQUADRON HAS PASSED DOVER.

Dover, Eng., Feb. 25.--The third Russian Pacific Squadron, commanded by Rear-Admiral Nebozoff, passed here this morning, heading westward.

COLLISIONS BETWEEN SCOUTS CONTINUE.

Tokio, Feb. 25.--The Russians shelled Litajentun and Chenchiepoo yesterday. On the same day they burned and abandoned Chin Sunpo, near Waitao mountain.

Collisions between scouts and reconnoitering parties continue.

PORTLAND FAIR.

(Associated Press.)

Portland, Ore., Feb. 24.--An effort is being made by the Canadian Society, representing the Canadian residents of the Pacific Northwest, to induce the Canadian government to exhibit at the Lewis and Clark centennial. Numerous messages have been sent to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the Premier, and other high officials at Ottawa, urging them to use their influence.

DEAD FROM INJURIES.

Niagara Falls, N. Y., Feb. 24.--Frank Frommert, one of the electricians who was burned in the fire at the Niagara Falls Power Company's plant yesterday, died early today. Roy Robinson is still alive, and hope is entertained for his recovery. John Frommert will recover. The damage has been repaired, and all the generators are again in operation.

MAY MORTGAGE PROPERTIES.

Tokio, Feb. 25.--The diet today passed a law authorizing private railways to mortgage their properties abroad.

EARLES BILL SEEMS DOOMED TO DEFEAT

SENATE COMMITTEE HAS MADE REPORT

The Majority Recommends the Indefinite Postponement of the Close Seasons Measure.

(Special to the Times.)

Olympia, Wn., Feb. 24.--To-day a majority of the committee on fisheries of the Senate recommended the indefinite postponement of the Earles bill, closing the sockeye fishing seasons in 1906 and 1907.

A minority report favored the passage of the bill.

The bill will be placed on the general file with both recommendations. It will probably meet defeat.

THE STRIKE IS STILL SPREADING

MORE RAILWAY MEN HAVE LEFT EMPLOYMENT

Policeman Killed by a Student at Warsaw--Ironworks Employees Are Also Idle.

Warsaw, Feb. 24.--The police of this city threaten to strike for higher pay. They constitute an independent force, paid by the city, and at present receive \$8 per month and their uniforms. The police subsist chiefly on money obtained from other sources. They will present formal demands for an increase of pay to the chief of police to-morrow.

The operating departments of the Warsaw divisions of the St. Petersburg railway have struck, but the train service is maintained with the aid of the army railway corps.

The strike of the Vienna and Vistula railways continues.

The military occupy the gas works, the employees of which threaten to strike tonight.

A policeman was shot and killed by a student in a disturbance at the Vienna railroad station today. The police attempted to disperse great crowds, which had gathered there, and arrested a student. A mob tried to rescue him, and a policeman drew his sword, when upon a student killed him, and disappeared in the crowd.

Cossacks and infantry are guarding the telegraph lines of the Warsaw-St. Petersburg railway, fearing that the strikers will cut off communication between the two cities.

The mails from Warsaw to Lodz, a distance of 80 miles, are being delivered in carts.

Troops Guard Railway.

Moscow, Feb. 24.--The employees of the Moscow-Kazan railroad struck today. They had not received the management's reply to their petition. The men have decided not to interfere with military trains. Other trains will not be allowed to leave. Troops are guarding the railway station.

Ironworkers Idle.

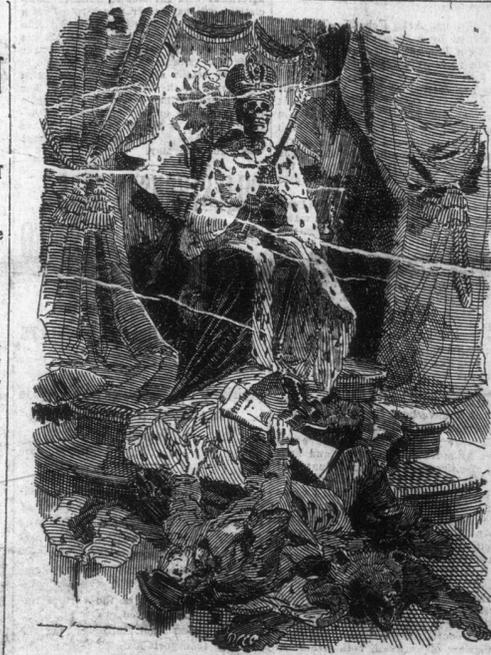
St. Petersburg, Feb. 24.--The strike has broken out afresh at the Putloff Iron Works. All the men walked out today. The minority at first objected to a renewal of the strike, whereupon a conflict occurred between the two factions, which required a strong force of police to quell. Troops have again been requisitioned to patrol the Putloff strike zone.

COURT-MARTIAL ORDERED.

Seven Officers and Men to Be Tried in Connection With Firing at Palace.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 24.--The Grand Duke Vladimir, commander of the military district of St. Petersburg, has ordered the trial by court-martial of Capt. Davidoff, of the seventeenth battery of the First Regiment of Horse Artillery of the Guards, and three other officers, and three men of the first battery of the Guards' Artillery Brigade, in connection with the firing in the direction of Emperor Nicholas of a charge of case shot at the ceremony of blessing the Neva, January 19th.

The Grand Duchess Elizabeth has been appointed commander of the Fifth Cien. Grenadiers in succession to the late Grand Duke Sergius.



THE CZAR OF ALL THE RUSSIAS.

—Punch.

KILLED WHILE FIGHTING FLAMES

FIREMAN CRUSHED BY A FALLING ROOF

Body of Aged Woman Found in Woodshed With Wound in Head--Painter's Death.

Coaticooke, Que., Feb. 24.--The Coaticooke opera house was destroyed by fire this morning. In fighting the fire, Fireman John Corless was killed by a falling roof. Fireman John Chesley had his leg broken in two places.

Fatal Fall.

Hamilton, Feb. 24.--Henry Ross, a painter, fell from a scaffold at the West-linghouse Company's premises yesterday and received injuries which caused death shortly afterwards.

Outrage at Stratford.

Stratford, Ont., Feb. 24.--Edith Sarvis, a popular young lady, while on her way to her grandmother's yesterday, had carbolic acid thrown at her by someone unknown. The bulk of the liquid fell on her neck and side of her face. The police are investigating. It is supposed to be a case of mistaken identity.

Recovering.

Toronto, Feb. 24.--E. F. Clarke, M.P.

is now considered out of danger unless unforeseen complications set in. Ex-Mayor O. A. Howland is suffering from pneumonia. Chancellor Boyd, who was also suffering from pneumonia, is recovering.

Found Dead.

Brantford, Feb. 24.--Mrs. Doyle, widow, 84 years of age, was found dead in a woodshed in the rear of her home in Burford township yesterday with her skull crushed. The wound appears to have been inflicted with an axe. Whether the blow was accidentally sustained by the victim herself while endeavoring to wield the axe or delivered by other hands, is not yet known.

Challenge Accepted.

Winnipeg, Feb. 24.--The challenge of the Rat Portage hockey team has been accepted by the Stanley cup trustees.

Snow Disappears.

Winnipeg, Feb. 24.--The weather on the southern Alberta ranges is delightful. All snow has gone.

Slowly Sinking.

Winnipeg, Feb. 24.--Father Richot, of the diocese of St. Boniface, is slowly sinking.

FOUGHT WITH PISTOLS.

Boston, Feb. 24.--A pistol duel last night between two Italians, Sabaro Nappo, 20 years of age, and Gavara Capucci, 48 years of age, resulted in the death of Nappo. The police are searching for Capucci, who escaped. The fight, the police say, was the result of a quarrel over money matters.

FIREMAN'S DEATH.

Milwaukee, Wis., Feb. 24.--One fireman was killed, five were injured, and property valued at \$40,000 was destroyed by fire today in the playing mill of the International Woodwork Company.

DR. PRICE'S Cream Baking Powder

Made from Grapes

45 Cents a pound can

25 Cents a half-pound can

At all grocers

For fifty years Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder has been the standard. It is the greatest aid to perfect household cookery.

With least labor and trouble it makes all hot-breads, biscuit and cake of finest flavor; light, appetizing and wholesome.

...Eight or Nine people There. ...Tanna country ...had better not ...Americans have ...telling golden ...and, people ...their sorrow now ...to an altogether ...wife, who lately ...are among those ...point, "When ...had better not ...been fools, and ...I know that I, it ...says Mr. Brien ...the Tyrrell, she ...think it was, and ...get there. ...I wanted to ...ade an extensive ...ives up against ...thing through, ...could. ...p-not much. I ...enough camp for ...here are \$500 or ...these people take ...a little bit on ...working; 14 on ...4 on Fairbanks. ...these creeks, ...all that I saw ...ere want to get ...ing will get out ...to sell will start ...themselves. All ...was by Dawson ...None. I do not ...had house keepers ...here are more ...ek, if that. ...stamped there ...at is what they ...of outside money ...creeks. They ...f, of course, but ...ulation. ...anybody to think ...ere with the ex ...there at a profit ...there last fall ...ommodities. Both ...ts per pound. He ...disposing of his ...no doubt he lost ...ld say so. Some ...ing miners, pros ...anybody, there is ...pe working, and ...rock propositions. ...e the most active. ...etting out some ...will be known at ...clearly has but a ...water in the win ...number of glaciers; ...little. ...Klonike is ...a Klonike is ...ranch about five ...LATE ...AM SUNDAY ...ss Bay Cemetery ...of Odd Fel ...esters. ...of the late ...were laid to rest ...The funeral took ...the corner of ...ave, at 2 ...attended, meet ...the I. O. O. F. ...other friends ...advantage of ...a last tribute of ...of the departed. ...evidence of the ...Mr. McElman ...of the sad pro ...remains to the ...ee or four full ...no less than 45 ...people on foot. It ...that a large ...fellow and For ...pathizing friends ...and the services ...e most impres ...cted by Rev. J. ...From the resi ...in charge of an ...Independent Or ...Coming down ...go were received ...ers representing ...order, drawn up ...at entrance. The ...floral emblems, ...the lodge rooms ...of the I. O. ...cted by Bro. D. ...estman. At the ...vices members ...to view the re ...meral arrange ...of the Ancient ...ceased havin ...of Court Van ...was up Yates ...along the latter ...road, these to ...mentioned, it ...tended funerals ...lia. The floral ...rons, completely ...filling a carriage ...s again, conduct ...of Foresters at ...chief, Fahay, ...ver, conducted ...ive manner, de ...address. ...a pallbearers: P ...O. F. Henry ...A. O. F. ...DEAD. ...of the Govern ...anda. ...Morley, brother-in ...at Saltram, Devon

Local News

The third monthly drawing for the White Swan gramophone will take place at Watson & Hall's on Tuesday next at 3 p. m.

The new wharf at Esquimalt in connection with the proposed cannery of Messrs. Todd & Munroe has been completed. Good progress is also being made with the buildings on shore.

The British ship Halewood has been placed on the overdue list. She is out 130 days from Vancouver for Callao, and a cable received from London by M. A. Newell, of San Francisco, her rate has been quoted at \$40 per cent.

Victoria Dancing Club held another of its social functions on Wednesday evening last, when a large number were in attendance. The committee of management deserve great praise for the efficient manner in which they looked after the wants and comforts of the merry party.

A fracas in the fruit shop of Constantine Riga on Johnson street was investigated in the police court on Friday. A competitor of Riga's survey ship "Three" was charged with aggravated assault, and pleading guilty was fined \$40 or two months' imprisonment with hard labor.

Friday afternoon the remains of Mrs. Monthau were laid to rest. The funeral took place from the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Crawford, Shakespeare street, impressive services being conducted by Rev. J. McCoy. There was a large attendance and many floral tributes. The following acted as pallbearers: Alex. Yve, P. Morry, W. A. Luney and G. McCandless.

A London paper of the 11th inst. contains the interesting report that the survey service has been turned over to the Board of Trade. If this is true, and it has been rumored for some time in naval circles that the change would take place, the officers and crews of survey ships will be turned over to the main service of the admiralty. The officers of the Egeria on this station, however, have not yet been notified of the change. They are looking forward to completing their commission on this coast, taking up the survey of the coast where they left off last fall.

Another of the series of concerts given by the Craigflower Dramatic Club was held on Friday in the Craigflower schoolhouse to the utmost enjoyment of everybody attending. These concerts have always proven to be very successful under the able management of J. J. Wilson and others. The last concert of this season will be held in the Strawberry Vale hall, after which a dance will be given.

The annual meeting of the Victoria District Association Football Association will be held on Tuesday, the 28th inst., at the Y. M. C. A. rooms, Broad street. On this occasion the presentation of cups and medals won in the local junior, intermediate and senior competitions will take place. Major Bland is to be requested to preside. Reports of the season's work will be received and officers elected for the ensuing year. It is particularly gratifying to meet the representatives of all teams that participated in any of the three leagues attend. A cordial invitation also is extended the general public. The North Ward, Victoria West and Garrison junior, intermediate and senior trophies will be handed the respective trophies.

Victoria lodge, No. 17, K. of P., held its usual weekly meeting on Friday, when considerable important business appertaining to the welfare of the order came forward. A number of candidates were initiated and instructed in the mysteries of the institution, when the new officers requested themselves with credit. Several applications were also received. The lodge has made wonderful progress during the past twelve months, which now makes it the banner lodge of the province. Various committees were appointed to look into several matters, among which was one for the revision of the by-laws. Visitors were present, and contributed some advice as to the good to be accomplished by the institution and the growth that it is making throughout the various domains.

A large number attended the illustrated lecture given by A. B. Clabon at the Y. M. C. A. rooms, Broad street, on Friday. About fifty hundred views were thrown on the canvas, the collection being one of the most varied and interesting ever seen in Victoria. The views included the finest public buildings and monuments of historic interest in the greatest centres of the world. Mr. Clabon had the good fortune to be in London during the coronation of King Edward, and one of his most interesting views is that of the Canadian arch. He concluded his discourse with a description of the Bailley valley. A number of musical selections were given by Mr. and Mrs. Martindale, the Misses Sowercroft and others during the evening.

A meeting of the West Lodge, No. 1, K. of P., was held on Friday, when the retiring Chancellor, Commander, N. H. Hendricks, was presented with a handsome gold locket as a token of esteem from the members. Deputy Grand Chancellor L. Olive also was presented with a gold locket as a reward for bringing in the most new members during 1904, while Past Grand Representative Thomas Gold received a locket for officiating in the second largest number of members. After the transaction of routine business an adjournment was taken to the banquet hall, where the remainder of the evening was spent in pleasant social intercourse.

The charge against Wm. McKay, local representative of the United Garment Workers of America, of stealing five thousand labels from the factory of Turner, Beeton & Co. was dismissed in

the police court Friday afternoon. The court was addressed by F. B. Gregory for the defence, and George Morphy for the prosecution. In giving his decision the magistrate took the ground that there was a color of right in what Mr. McKay had done, and on the evidence he could not find the accused guilty of theft. The ownership of the labels was not decided.

On Thursday evening, March 2nd, the Companions of the Forest will give a social and dance in Sir William Wallace hall, Broad street. Members of the committee are doing all in their power to make it pleasant for all attending.

Somebody entered the residence of Mr. Martindale, Kane street, on Sunday while the occupants were at church, and stole a couple of rings and several dollars. Entrance was gained through a window.

The police commissioners of Nanaimo have decided upon the plan of submitting the names of twenty-one applicants for police officers in that city to a vote of the ratepayers. There are five positions to fill. Both the present police officers—Chapman and several Jacob Neen—are applicants again.

The marriage of Mr. Archibald Reid, of the steamship Moana, and Miss Margaret Hilda, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Butler, of Victoria West, took place at the residence of the bride's father. The groom was supported by Mr. Robert L. Gillies, of the same ship, and the bride was attended by Miss Junonia Haskings, of Victoria. Rev. D. MacRae conducted the marriage service.

Charles Cullen, who has been in Casuar for some time, returned home on Saturday, having journeyed to the coast via Telegraph and Wrangel. At the latter point the steamer Cottage City was met, and passage was taken to Vancouver. Mr. Cullen brought from Telegraph a valuable shipment of furs, including a number of black and silver fox skins. Other passengers arriving on the Cottage City were Capt. Conover and two partners, Messrs. Wilson and Jackson, who had in their possession 35 pounds of coarse gold taken from a newly worked stream known as Clearwater creek.

A meeting of the Alaska Steamship Association was held in Seattle on Saturday, at which the Canadian Pacific was represented by E. J. Coyle, assistant-general passenger agent; B. W. Greer, general freight agent; A. B. Calder, general agent of the passenger department; and H. W. Roberts, general agent of the freight department. The question of rates was discussed, but no agreement was reached, and it is said that the same hitch in the proceedings occurred as marked the two previous meetings of the association. One of the principal stumbling blocks, it is said, in the way of satisfactory terms, is the proposal to issue through bills of lading from Seattle to Dawson City, Fairbanks and other Yukon points.

Nothing definite has yet been done regarding the proposal to erect a sawmill in Esquimalt. There is a scheme on foot to place a mill somewhere on the waterfront of that harbor with a capacity for turning out twenty thousand feet a day, but the promoters say that their plans have not yet matured. A sawmill for Esquimalt is an enterprise that has often been spoken of, it being considered by many to be one of the best sites for a plant of this kind in British Columbia. Its convenience to the sea, and the other advantages it enjoys from a shipping standpoint, however, has long been a subject of discussion, and the use of the harbor by the navy.

The Orange Grand Lodge at a recent meeting held at Vernon elected officers for the ensuing term as follows: W. G. M., Theo. Duke, Vancouver; G. M. J. Wallace, Victoria; J. D. G. M., D. McLaren, Kamloops; G. Chap., Rev. M. Smith, Vancouver; G. Secretary, E. Bush, Mission; G. Treasurer, J. Walmsley, Vancouver; G. Secy., G. Dunlop, New Westminster; G. Dir., C. N. Wood, New Westminster; D. G. Revs. A. S. Osterhout, A. E. Roberts (Enderby), T. G. Christmas, A. J. Barce, W. C. Calder (Revelstoke), G. A. Owen, Wm. Bell, B. McIntyre, D. G. L. of B. A. Capt. Geo. McPherson, Vancouver; auditors, J. R. Craig (Abbotsford), R. D. McMillan (Nanaimo).

The sad news of the sudden death of Mrs. R. H. Dee, of Toronto, on the 16th inst., was received Saturday by her son, Wm. Dee, of this city. Mrs. Dee was enjoying her usual good health when unexpectedly stricken with paralysis. She was progressing favorably towards recovery when a second stroke came on with fatal results. Deceased was 78 years of age and a native of Markstrath, Lincolnshire, England. She was the widow of Wm. Dee, a prominent Toronto barrister. Two years ago she visited Victoria, spending several of the summer months with Mr. and Mrs. Dee of Alfred street. She leaves to mourn her loss two daughters—Miss Dee, of Toronto, and Mrs. Finlayson, of Garden Lake, Ont., and five sons, C. H. Dee, an officer in the mounted police force stationed in Labrador; Wm. Dee, of Victoria; Richard Dee, of Toronto, and T. Dee, of Los Angeles. The funeral took place last Monday.

REGIMENTAL ORDERS. Adjourned Annual Meeting of Officers' Mess on Thursday, March 2nd.

Lt-Col. Hall, commanding the Fifth Regiment, has issued the following orders: The following men, having been attested, will be taken on the strength from the date hereafter mentioned, will be relieved from company duty and posted to the band: Gr. Thos. L. Beavan, Feb. 20th; Gr. Wm. J. Baily, Feb. 20th.

The adjourned annual meeting of the officers' mess will be held on Thursday, March 2nd, in the mess rooms, drill hall, at 8.30 p. m. Dress, walking out dress. By order. (Sgd.) D. B. MCCONNAN, Capt., Adjutant.

OPINIONS AS TO BUILDING THE LINE

MEMBERS OF HOUSE BECOME INTERESTED

W. R. Ross and C. W. D. Clifford Both Approve of Negotiating With Grand Trunk Pacific.

The interview given the Times by Frank Morse, vice-president and general manager of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company, relative to building the British Columbia section of the road has prompted members of the legislature to take a more active interest in the subject. They now realize what Mr. Morse's proposition is, and are considering the effects which will follow a refusal or acceptance of the proposition. Mr. Morse has invited the ice, and the government will likely have to consider the question of whether negotiations will be opened with Mr. Morse relative to terms upon which the company's arrangements will be carried out in British Columbia. This would include not only the question of building the main line through this province, but likewise the subject of connection with the southern part of the province, including Vancouver Island.

The House is naturally divided to a considerable degree upon the subject. W. R. Ross, of Fernie, who was in Seattle a few days ago, was interviewed by the Post-Intelligencer, and is reported as saying: "I notice by this morning's Post-Intelligencer that Mr. Morse, the company's general manager, was sorry that the people of British Columbia had not signified a desire to co-operate with his company in an arrangement to secure early construction. I suppose operations of this nature would, in the ordinary course of events, emanate either from the government or from the company. In a matter of such magnitude and importance as that under consideration, I hope no false idea of the proper rules of etiquette to be pursued under the existing circumstances will keep the high contracting parties away from each other. The government of the day in British Columbia has proved itself to be essentially a business government, and I feel quite sure that they will not allow the present session to close without at least taking the matter into serious consideration."

The matter presents itself to us in this way: Under the present contract between the company and the Dominion government the company has agreed to complete the line to the Pacific coast by 1911, a period of about six years from the present. The primary object of this construction is to afford transportation facilities to the wheat fields of Manitoba and the Northwest, the current of which is seaward towards the Atlantic, and it is feared that the construction of this section would be rushed for the purpose of carrying out the object I have outlined. The construction of the Pacific section has for its object the development of Ontario, trade, which is practically in its infancy, and is now being comfortably attended to by existing lines.

While it is quite true, as I have stated, that the present contract calls for completion of the line by 1911, yet circumstances might arise, not now in contemplation, which would necessitate the further extension of the time, limited, perhaps for a further period of five years or more. The existing contract is a modification of the one previously entered into, and I see no reason why the same course could not be again followed. If the circumstances justified it, I may say, however, that it is to be devoutly hoped that such will not occur.

Mr. Morse states his case in a most businesslike way, and I think the government would be justified in considering his published statements as opening up the negotiations and act accordingly. The interview mentions that the amount to be expended for construction purposes in British Columbia alone would be about \$15,000,000. The total amount of money which would be expended as a result of this construction could be safely estimated at from \$20,000,000 to \$40,000,000, making an aggregate expenditure in the province of from \$35,000,000 to \$55,000,000. The largest part of this would be "new" money. It would be brought in from the outside and spent in British Columbia.

As I understand the matter, if a satisfactory deal can be arranged, the company is prepared to commence operations within ninety days from the signing of contracts at some point on the Pacific coast and build eastward, continuing without cessation until the work is finally completed. In return for this Mr. Morse thinks his road should receive a bonus of land adjoining the road and some other concessions of a minor nature. This land is of small value at the present time and must continue so until the transportation facilities through that section are completed or, in other words, until the Grand Trunk Pacific is completed. Moreover, I have heard on what I consider good authority that the company would enter into contracts to sell the land at the prevailing government price so as to expedite the settlement of the country.

Mr. Morse points out that under ordinary circumstances it will be more advantageous to his company to build from the East instead of from the West. It is hardly necessary to point out that in such an event the great bulk of the money expended for construction purposes would go to Winnipeg and other Eastern centres.

The country at the present time is crying out for transportation facilities to assist the development of its extraordinary natural resources, and in my opinion the only point to consider is not whether we shall negotiate along the lines suggested or not, but how soon we can come to a satisfactory working arrangement. The prevailing sentiment of the province favors railway development, and I arrive at this conclusion from the result of the recent Dominion elections,

in which the Grand Trunk Pacific construction was the paramount issue. The government's policy on this question was emphatically endorsed, and a solid seven was sent to the Grand Trunk Pacific supporting the issue. I therefore believe the people of the province would endorse a business arrangement which would secure immediate construction of this road with its concomitant benefits. Regardless of this question, however, I believe our province is about to enjoy an era of very prosperous times, and the immediate construction of this road would hasten that happy condition and set in making it more permanent.

Twenty-eight members of the steamship Wyefield, which was seized by the Japanese off Vladivostok on the 28th of last month, arrived here on the steamer Iyo Maru on Friday afternoon, en route to San Francisco. Captain Watson, Chief Officer Webb, Second Officer Reid, and the first and second engineers remained in Japan to settle up some business but will arrive on the next passenger ship crossing the Pacific.

The story of the seizure of the Wyefield and of another Victoria ship, the M. S. Dollar, is an interesting one. The crew, which arrived here Friday on the Iyo Maru, say they never expected to reach Vladivostok with the cargo of hay, barley and other fodder which the Wyefield had aboard from San Francisco. The vessel had been engaged by a Russian agent at a figure that insured the owners against any possible loss in event of the steamer falling into the hands of the Japs. The Russian agent thought there was a prospect of the cargo being safely delivered and it was not for the officers to object when they were being well paid for taking chances.

The steamer's instructions were to report at an island about thirty miles from Vladivostok where they could communicate with the Russian authorities, and, if necessary, receive the services of an ice-breaker for the clearing of a passage into the harbor. After reaching the Asiatic side, the steamer attempted the voyage through the La Perouse strait, but was obliged to abandon this waterway on account of the ice, which was about a foot thick. The vessel struggled with it for a couple of days, sustaining considerable damage and then had to return to the Tsuanga strait, leaving her chances of evading the Japanese very slim indeed. Five Japanese warships patrol this strait, and it was only a question of whether the dark misty weather would stand by the contraband ship's aid. She was leaning heavily to starboard when she encountered the Japanese warships. The vessel was signalled and her destination was asked. The reply being given she was stopped, a prize crew was placed aboard and the ship was taken to Hakodate.

In the Japanese port the steamer was given a trial, was condemned and was sent to Yokosuka. There she will remain until the end of the war when, according to the terms of the peace treaty, she will be released, but she will have a much more with this her condition might have proved serious.

On the evening of the 28th, at about 5 o'clock, the oil gunboat Musashi, Capt. Yoshima, bore in sight. The Wyefield was signalled and her destination was asked. The reply being given she was stopped, a prize crew was placed aboard and the ship was taken to Hakodate.

The seizure of the M. S. Dollar was a little more exciting. She took the same passage as the Wyefield and, profiting by the same mistake, was overtaken and escaped into the North Pacific. She was afterwards located and taken to Yokosuka. Another ship, a German steamer, had been successful in delivering her cargo, but she was overtaken and her return and would have been held if any cargo had been found aboard. She had gone through the Tsushima strait to the south of Japan, a water that had been guarded so closely as the other straits mentioned.

Japanese officers informed the crew of the Wyefield that they had a list of every vessel crossing the Pacific heading for Vladivostok. This list they had shown to a number of the crew and it mentioned among other vessels those of the Tacoma and Arab. These ships, the Wyefield men consider, have not the least chance of reaching Vladivostok.

NO IMPROVEMENT. Disputing Reports From Poland and Caucasus—Railway Traffic Interrupted. St. Petersburg, Feb. 26.—The reports to-day, both from Poland and Caucasus, are very disquieting. Owing to lack of direct telegraphic communication with many places in Caucasus, verification of the countless rumors about is impossible, but it is positively known that almost a total stoppage exists in the territory between the Caspian and Black seas. Private vengeance has glutted the streets of Baku, Batoum and other dead Azerbaijan and Muscovites. The reports, however, of from eastern Poland are not so gloomy. Added to this is the dangerous agrarian movement among the peasants of some of the northern provinces.

Here in St. Petersburg the workmen are in a constant state of agitation. The employed Indians had his ribs crushed in an accident, the circumstances of which had not been learned. Among the passengers to arrive on the

CIRCUMSTANCES OF WYEFIELD'S ARREST

CREW ARRIVED HERE ON THE IYO MARU

Ship Was Damaged in Attempt to Reach Vladivostok—Movements of Lumber Fleet.

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FOR PROVINCIAL MUSEUM. A huge sea lion twenty feet long arrived here on Saturday on the steamer Tees from Alert Bay. It was killed by Huson brothers, of Alert Bay, who have sent it south, consigned to the curator of the provincial museum, where it will be placed on exhibition. The Tees brought south an insane Chinaman from Bella Coala, in charge of Constable Carlson. The Indian who was recently shot in the north is reported to be recovering from his wounds. Another Indian had his ribs crushed in an accident, the circumstances of which had not been learned. Among the passengers to arrive on the

Just received from the Old Country a fine assortment of Potted Meats and Fish and

- Potted Chicken and Ham
Potted Turkey and Tongue
Potted Beef
Potted Ham
Potted Game
Bloater Paste
Anchovy Paste
Salmon and Shrimp

3 Tins For 25c
The Saunders Grocery Co., Ltd.
Phone 208. Johnson Street.

CANNED VEGETABLES

- Quaker Brand Tomatoes, 2 for 25c
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Quaker Brand, Early June Peas, 2 for 25c

DIXIE H. ROSS & CO.

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Contractors' Supplies

General Hardware

THE HIGMAN THE HARDWARE CO., LTD.
32 and 34 Yates Street, Victoria, B. C.
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Hay Hay Hay

We have a limited quantity of very good quality that we can deliver in any quantity to any part of the city at \$12.00 per ton. Phone your orders to 157.

The Brackman-Ker Milling Co., Ltd.

Teas was Mr. Nordchow, who has come south to represent the agriculturalists of Bella Coala at a meeting of the Farmers' Union shortly to be held.

THE IYO MARU'S ARRIVAL. In charge of the steamship Iyo Maru when she arrived here from China and Japan on Friday afternoon was a navy officer who had not been seen in this port since the war between Russia and Japan broke out. Capt. Thompson joined the steamer at Yokohama, having for some months previously been engaged in the management of a ship in the transport service, in which business there are still a great many vessels operated.

The Iyo Maru had on arrival 1,307 tons of freight, of which 68 tons were loaded here. Her passengers included F. Signimura, who is going to Brazil to act as Japanese consul. He is accompanied by his wife and family.

DECISION OF COMMISSION. Officials of the Foreign Office, London, Decline to Express Any Opinion.

London, Feb. 25.—The foreign office received the findings of the North Sea commission with apparent equanimity but declined to give out any official expression of opinion thereon. An official said to the Associated Press: "The finding of the commission is final, we therefore must be satisfied and it would be in bad taste for us to express dissatisfaction."

The Associated Press understands, unofficially, however, that the foreign office is well pleased with the findings. The findings were received in London with every sign of gratification, which was all the more marked on account of the premature reports that the findings had been of an anti-British character. The whole report is regarded here as discrediting the Russian case, even the phrase that the firing was not unduly prolonged, which seems to afford a certain justification for opening the firing, is at the same time taken as implying that the Russians continued to fire after they had discovered their mistake.

The definite finding of the admirals that no torpedo boats were at the scene of the accident gives considerable satisfaction to represent the agriculturalists of Bella Coala at a meeting of the Farmers' Union shortly to be held. The closing session of the commission presented a brilliant scene. The spacious salon of the foreign office was crowded with prominent officials, members of the diplomatic corps, including the Russian, British and American ambassadors, members of the Japanese legation, officers of the army and navy, judges of the highest French court and the wives and other relatives of members of the commission. The Moscow police are now fully satisfied that there existed a plot of considerable proportions against the Grand Duke Sergius, but they are completely baffled in tracing it. There have been many arrests and interrogations of persons believed to know something of the plot, but they have been fruitless, and only against the assassin is there any tangible evidence. A band of Chechens Indians from Soiling, Western Oklahoma, marched down upon Teloga on Friday, and threatened the massacre of all the inhabitants of the town. They finally were induced to return to their reservation by Wilkison, the Indian wife of Amos Chapman, an old Indian scout. Berlin, although a busy manufacturing city, ranks as one of the cleanest and best kept in Europe. BORN. SUTER—At New Westminster, on Feb. 22nd, the wife of James R. Suter, of a son. SHEPPARD—At Vancouver, on Feb. 22nd, the wife of R. A. Sheppard, of a son. HOAR—At Golden, on Feb. 19th, the wife of O. D. Hoar, of a daughter. MARRIED. ARKLE-GRAY—At New Westminster, on Feb. 22nd, by Rev. J. S. Henderson, Chris. Arkle and Miss May Gray. DIED. MELDRAM—In the city, on the 24th inst., John H. Meldram, a native of North Shields, Northumberland, England, aged 71 years. BOYCE—At Vancouver, on Feb. 26th, Wm. Alex. Boyce, aged 42 years. ARCHIBALD—At New Westminster, on Feb. 24th, William Archibald, aged 18 years. MORRELL—At Roseland, on Feb. 21st, Thomas Morrell, aged 18 years.

FISHERY REGULATIONS.

It is reported from Olympia, the capital of the state of Washington, that there is a possibility of the legislature refusing to assent to the passage of the measure designed to protect the salmon industry of this portion of the Pacific coast.

However, the manner in which our neighbors choose to conduct their public business is no concern of ours. In the one concrete instance under consideration we are interested in results. There is a very decided opinion in British Columbia that stringent regulations, rigidly enforced, are necessary in the interests of all peculiarly interested in the salmon packing industry.

The enforcement of the close seasons for 1906 and 1907 proposed by the Ottawa government is contingent upon the Washington Legislature adopting similar regulations. If our neighbors fail to live up to their part of the contract, we suppose the thirty-six hour close season will apply in British Columbia as heretofore.

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for perhaps another four years. But the creation of new provinces and the addition of thousands of miles of coastline and thousands of square miles of territory to our domain is entirely new and interesting. It is perhaps not generally known that during the past summer an expedition was sent north by the Canadian government, which, to prevent any possible future misunderstanding, formally took possession of practically all the regions beyond the borders of the present inhabited section of our country.

It was anticipated that this act would be productive of remonstrances. But not a word of protest was raised. Our claims were heartily admitted. American whalers operating in northern waters did not question our prerogative to issue regulations and collect licenses.

Our friends of the Socialist party should go to the ant and the bee, consider their ways and imbibe wisdom. The manners and the customs of the social insects have led too busy a life to study in their own peculiar and interesting habitat and environment; but, according to the testimony of authorities, they are the most interesting creatures, the most advanced in their theories and the most practical in their applications of the lessons taught by the great teacher Nature.

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now entirely devoted to egg production. She laid eggs at the rate of 80,000 a day. She was physically incapable of movement, and, with the male with which she mated, was imprisoned for life in a clay cell by the workers, who fed her continually and carried off the eggs as fast as they were produced.

It is surprising how quickly men and things get out of date in this swift-moving age unless they are carefully looked after, primed up and renewed. The foregoing is especially true of all kinds of appliances connected with the business of collecting or gathering or generating and utilizing electricity. It is claimed, and no doubt correctly claimed, in using the length of time it has been in use, that the plant at present in operation in Victoria for lighting the streets is in urgent need of renewal.

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Dr. Osler, the celebrated Canadian who was lately "acquainted" from Johns Hopkins University by Oxford, struck us and possibly many others in a tender spot when he stated that men lost their usefulness and should be chloroformed when they reached the age of sixty. We have been applying spirits of consolation to our soul while contemplating silvered locks by reading accounts of the usefulness of men who had acquired knowledge from the experience of a great number of years.

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men from other countries entering the neighboring state in search of game. Whatever the law may have been, it is proposed in future to collect a license fee of \$1 from resident sportsmen, \$2 from non-residents and \$10 from aliens for the privilege of hunting in the state.

The Vancouver News-Advertiser, in a moment of candor, says "the high duties maintained for the protection of the manufacturers of Eastern Canada, that are the chief burdens of which the people of British Columbia complain."

A SPLENDID STATEMENT. A Gratifying Report issued by the Sovereign Life Assurance Co.

In another column we publish the second annual statement of the Sovereign Life Assurance Company, which appears to us to be very satisfactory in all respects. It certainly is among the most satisfactory statements published at the end of its second year's operation by any of our companies during recent years.

Among other admirable acts, the Sovereign Life performs that most important duty in a life insurance company, to wit, the payment of death claims, by reporting none due and unpaid.

Russian Peasants Believe Czar Will Order Re-Allocation of Lands. St. Petersburg, Feb. 25.—The beginning of a dangerous movement has been observed among the peasants of some of the southern provinces where revolutionary agitators are circulating reports that the Emperor will on March 4th issue a decree providing for a general division of land.

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SEEDS THAT GROW. Thousands of Canadian farmers have made money the last few years. This is a big country; there's ample scope and plenty of room, with chances all in the favor of those who use STEELE, BRIGGS' SEEDS. Absolutely nothing better to use for big crops and good returns. Everything about them strictly high grade. It's the quality of the seeds we send out that has made us the Largest Seed House in Canada.

MINING NEWS OF THE PROVINCE THE C. P. R. WILL EXPLORE ISLAND

The circular from the secretary's office gives notice that the annual general meeting of the Institute will take place in Montreal, March 1st, 2nd and 3rd. The headquarters will be at the Windsor hotel. The opening business session will be held on Wednesday morning, March 1st, when the annual reports will be presented, scrutineers appointed for the ballot, and other business transacted.

- 1. President's address—Eugene Coote, Toronto.
2. Carboniferous of New Brunswick—H. M. Ami, Ottawa.
3. A New Mining District in the North of the Province of Quebec—J. Obaldie, Quebec.
4. The Advantages of Combining Topographical and Geological Surveying in New Regions—Robert Bell, Ottawa.
5. Electric Furnace Construction—E. T. Snyder, Oak Park, Illinois.
6. Cheap Production of Pigments Direct From Sulphide Ore—O. B. Jackson, Toronto.
7. The New Plant at Copper Cliff, Ontario—A. P. Turner, Copper Cliff, Ontario.
8. Grondal's Process of Briquetting—E. Heenan, Ottawa.
9. Varieties of Serpentine in the Annapolis District of Quebec—John A. Drewes, St. Henri de Montreal, Quebec.
10. A Correction in the Classification of Our Gold-rock Formation—F. Hallé, Pointe-Archie, Ontario.
11. The Formic Ores of the Pacific Coast in British Columbia and the Yukon—William M. Brewer, Victoria, British Columbia.
12. Uniform Mining Statistics in Canada—Eugene Coote, Toronto.
13. The Geology of the Goldfield District, Nevada—E. P. Jennings, Salt Lake City, Utah.
14. Colliery Surveys and Mapping—W. D. L. Hardie, Lethbridge, Alberta.
15. On the Occurrence of Hematite North of Little Current, Georgian Bay—S. Dillon Mills, Toronto.
16. The Possibilities of Steel Manufacture in British Columbia—William Blakenmore, Nelson, British Columbia.
17. Mining Laws—J. M. Clark, Toronto.
18. The Artesian and Other Deep Wells on the Island of Montreal—F. D. Adams, Montreal.
19. Manufacture and Use of Wrought Pipe—Frank N. Speller, Pittsburgh, Pa.
20. Notes on Some Hoisting Machinery—F. Orkel, Montreal.
21. Concrete—E. W. Leonard, St. Catharines, Ontario.
22. Mining Possibilities of Arctic Canada—A. P. Low, Ottawa.
23. Notes on the Life History of Coal Seams—J. C. Gwillim, Kingston, Ontario.
24. Value of Undeveloped Mining Claims—G. R. Mickle, Toronto.
25. Mining Statistics—F. Hobart, New York, N. Y.
26. Canadian Metallurgical Products for the Far East—F. Hobart, New York, N. Y.
27. Need of a Provincial Museum in Ontario—W. A. Parks, Toronto.
28. Bankhead Coal Mines—O. M. Hendricks, Fernie, British Columbia.
29. Iron Pyrite in Eastern Ontario—B. L. Fralack, Belleville, Ontario.
30. Crude Oil Fuel—J. N. S. Williams, Puneno, Maui, Hawaii.
31. Canadian Mine Mines—E. T. Corkill, Bristol, New Hampshire.
32. A Canadian Dredgik-Flocher Water Gas Plant—E. A. Sjolstedt, Sault Ste. Marie.

Mr. Wendle feels sure he is on the lead where there is plenty of the same kind. Much surprise is felt by the owners and others, as old Grouse creek men had frequently remarked that it was only throwing time and money away working that location. By many it is thought the United company has dropped on the old famous Heron lead, which was fabulous rich, and judging from the direction it takes will carry into the Waverly claim, which after over twenty years' prospecting has turned out to be a good dividend payer.

Last week there were an even dozen shippers among the Boundary mines, and the total output runs considerably over 100,000 tons for the year. The tonnage of ore shipped from district mines and treated at the three smelters last week was as follows: Granby mines to Granby smelter, 10,020 tons. Mother Lode to B. C. Copper Co.'s smelter, 3,040 tons. Brooklyns to Montreal and Boston smelter, 2,474 tons. Rawhide to Montreal and Boston smelter, 1,980 tons. Sunset to Montreal and Boston smelter, 99 tons. Mountain Rose to Montreal and Boston and B. C. Copper Co.'s smelters, 1,922 tons. Emma to Nelson and B. C. Copper Co.'s smelters, 231 tons. Oro Denoro to Granby smelter, 99 tons. Senator to Granby smelter, 198 tons. Skylark to Granby smelter, 24 tons. Last Chance to Montreal and Boston smelter, 65 tons. E. U. P. to Trail smelter, 20 tons. Total output for year ending February 18th, 18,341 tons; total for year to date, 109,809 tons. Boundary smelters treated as follows: Granby, 10,560 tons; B. C. Copper Co.'s smelter, 3,190 tons; Montreal and Boston smelter, 4,872 tons; total treatment for week, 18,262 tons; total for year, 109,988 tons.

DR. OSLER SURPRISED. New York, Feb. 25.—A Baltimore dispatch to the Tribune says: "Dr. Wm. Osler returned from New York today (Friday) and appeared surprised over the discussion caused by his statement that a man's creative usefulness began to decline when he was 40. 'I mean just what I said, but it's disgraceful the fuss newspapermen are making about it,' said the doctor. 'I know there are exceptions, but they only serve to illustrate the rule. I have spent some time writing an essay, which will prove what I say. I have not yet finished the essay, and I have been years in accumulating the facts it contains. As to the chloroforming men at 60, it was only a pious fancy, and the doctor laughed heartily. 'I was quoting from Anthony Trollope's story, The Fixed Period, which is hinged on the chloroforming of old men of 60.'"

FATAL END TO QUARREL. Montreal, Feb. 24.—A Moose Jaw dispatch says a Big Muddy River rancher named Low had a dispute over a horse deal with another rancher named Malcolm. Malcolm visited Low's ranch a few days after the dispute and deliberately shot Low dead in his tracks, the ball passing through his heart. Sheriff Davis, of Culbertson, Mont., has Malcolm under arrest. The ships of the world are insured for a total of \$290,000,000. THE PALL OF RHEUMATIC PAINS.—When a sufferer finds permanent relief in such a meritorious medicine as South American Rheumatic Cure, how glad he is to tell it. C. W. Mayhew, of Thessalon, Ont., couldn't walk or feed himself for months—four years ago three bottles of this great remedy cured him—not a grain since! That encouragement for rheumatic sufferers.

PARTIES TO BE SENT OUT IN NEAR FUTURE

Will Investigate the Resources of Country Preliminary to Their Development. As already stated in the Times, the C. P. R. Company intend taking over the E. & N. on the first of April. In an interview given in Vancouver B. M. Marpole, superintendent of the Western division of the big road, said that as soon as the season was sufficiently advanced they would send out exploration parties on Vancouver Island.

Nothing has yet been definitely decided, but we are considering an alternate morning service to Victoria via Nanaimo. This will give intermediate points on the island railway much more speedy connection with Vancouver, as it will make it possible to reach them from Vancouver on the same day instead of staying over-night at Nanaimo or Victoria as at present. "A conference of transportation officials was held when I was in Winnipeg relative to next summer's transcontinental train service. It has been practically decided to duplicate that of last year which was found to be generally acceptable to our patrons. The Imperial Limited will be put on in June, but the exact dates of beginning the service have not yet been settled. "We are looking forward to considerable tourist travel this summer consequent on the Lewis & Clark exhibition at Portland and the Dominion exhibition at New Westminster; the latter is sure to attract many people from the East, as well as the former. Manager Keary and his directors and assistants will have a very busy time of it in getting everything ready for the opening; their experience and success in the past in respect of the provincial exhibitions will be of great advantage to them. "The hotel foundations at the capital will be completed in about three weeks, and immediately thereafter we hope to let the contract for the fine building. "We already decided not to renew the old section of the Hotel Vancouver, as always intended will be done, until we have finished the hotel in Victoria, so as not to discommodate our patrons; that is to say, we want to take care of the overflow of guests by diverting them to Victoria, when we are rebuilding part of the Hotel Vancouver."

HON. W. S. FIELDING. New York, Feb. 24.—Hon. W. S. Fielding, the Canadian minister of finance, arrived here from Europe to-day on the White Star steamer Baltic. He is expected to remain in this city until the 28th. When seen by a reporter, Hon. Mr. Fielding declined to make any statement regarding the legal proceedings which have been instituted against him in connection with the general election in the Dominion last November. "MY KIDNEYS ARE ALL WRONG! How shall I insure best results in the shortest time?" It stands to reason that a liquid specific of the unquestionable merit of South American Kidney Cure will go more directly and quickly to the seat of the trouble than the "pill form" treatment, and when it strikes the spot there's healing in an instant.—78.

With the end Duke Sergius de Laureate? I think not! "I think not!" publications, will There is no Bury the With an Go and To the Warning With bl Where t Where a In the f Dig his Twice d Lead on As sit c So many And let Bear on The last Who is With no To dwell Terrible Of those Three h Of Casr, Thereaft To let ty Sibelsa That he Hark! to And bid His stor This Pr Ivant! Whose a Is never This is Was dra Of yello That Ru This is The un Of yellow Begging And smel As did t The fro At night To now So down The last And the Than his The stre And the Tingling And smel His horr A horril And the When th

See



THE DEN

A CAUSERIE by An Unaffiliated Philosopher

With the end of last week came another shock from Russia, and the Grand Duke Sergius was (literally) gathered to his fathers.

Bury the Grand Duke With an Empire's execration— Go and bury the Grand Duke To the noise and the honor of assassination;

Where shall we lay this thing that was our fear? Within the walls of Moscow—lay him here, In the frozen Kremlin yard.

Lead out the peasant; false but proud, As fits the Hero who had cowed, So many years, this cursing crowd.

Who is he that cometh in his funeral car With nodding plumes of purple, the mourning of a Tear, To dwell with me in the Kremlin, where the Empire-makers are?

Of those that sit about thy throne; Three hundred years ago you made the name Of Czar, and passed it down to those who came Thereafter. Hark! the bugles blow

Who is he that cometh in his funeral car With nodding plumes of purple, the mourning of a Tear, To dwell with me in the Kremlin, where the Empire-makers are?

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What a pain I would feel, if he met my appeal, With "They call it the Hotel C. F." What a shock to my heart, if he drew me apart And whispered "The Hotel C. F."

Tom Moore gave the following, which requires music to do it justice: Oh! call it by some lovelier name, For "Mad Flats" sounds too cold; "Hotel James' Bay" would frighten fame,

Imagine something grander far Than Mud or Shack or Bay, Whose fame would please the world afar, Yet local, quite, as they;

Imagine something grander far Than Mud or Shack or Bay, Whose fame would please the world afar, Yet local, quite, as they;

Imagine something grander far Than Mud or Shack or Bay, Whose fame would please the world afar, Yet local, quite, as they;

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE

LAND TRADING WAS UNDER DISCUSSION

John Oliver Thinks the Government Was Not Sharp Enough in Its Business.

Victoria, Feb. 23rd. Prayers were read by Rev. G. K. Adams.

L. W. Shatford presented a petition from the Provincial Mining Association of British Columbia re railway into Similkameen and Nicola districts.

W. R. Ross, for the committee on private bills and standing orders, presented a series of reports which were adopted.

The committee recommended that in the case of the petition of the Pacific, Northern and Okanagan Railway Company, the standing orders be suspended, and that the notice given be deemed sufficient, and that double fees be not exacted.

With respect to the petition of the Brunette Sawmill Company, Limited Liability, the standing orders with respect to publication in a newspaper of the district were not fully complied with, but that there has been continuous publication since the 10th day of January last, and inasmuch as no interests, other than the private interests of the company, are concerned, the committee besides reporting, as they have done, a recommendation that the standing orders be suspended, further reported that upon the special circumstances of this double fee be not exacted.

With reference to the petition, "An Act to incorporate the General Trusts Company," the standing orders be suspended, and the notices given be deemed sufficient.

Noxious Weeds Bill. Price Ellison, on behalf of the committee on agriculture, reported: "That whereas certain sections of the Noxious Weeds Bill are, in the opinion of this committee, of a very drastic nature,"

"and whereas the Central Farmers' Institute is to meet here on the 28th of this month;

"Therefore, this committee respectfully suggests to the Honorable the Minister of Agriculture that the bill be held in abeyance, and submitted to the Central Institute when it meets."

The select committee having in hand the County Court Bill presented the bill as amended to the House.

The following private bills were introduced and read a first time: By Thos. Gifford—A bill intituled "An Act to incorporate the Stave River Valley Railway Company."

By J. F. Garden—"An Act to incorporate the General Trusts Company," was introduced and read a first time. This was also referred to the private bills committee.

John Oliver moved the following resolution: "That an order of the House be granted for a return of copies of all correspondence, documents, agreements, conveyances, crown grants, or other papers in connection with the exchange of crown lands in the municipality of Coquitlam."

In support of the resolution Mr. Oliver said that he understood that the government had last summer exchanged 1,000 acres of land for lands near the mouth of Coquitlam river. He understood that the lands acquired by the government were supposed to have belonged to one who was represented as a resident of Spokane. He understood that these lands were really owned by other parties. The lands acquired by the government, it was contended, would, as a block, require the expenditure of \$150 or \$200 an acre to put it in shape for cultivation. He did not know just why the government required such a large block of land for the purposes of the lunatic asylum. It looked as though the government expected to incrustate a large part of the population in the lunatic asylum.

The lands given by the government were between Vancouver and Westminster, close to the line of railway. They had an increasing value owing to their situation. The lands were, in view of this, worth 10 to 1 as compared with the lands in exchange for them. This was a dangerous precedent to establish, that the government had the right to dispose of the public lands. If the govern-

ment could dispose of 1,000 acres, it could dispose of much larger tracts. Hon. R. Green congratulated the member for Delta upon getting back to his old form. He had thought that he had found a mare's nest. The province had made a good bargain in this transaction. The doctor at the asylum for years had been asking for lands. There were no lands available for the purpose. He read the letter of Dr. Manchester, asking for the selection of lands for farming purposes. Dr. Manchester said that he had gone out with Mr. Rand and others to the land which was acquired later. The block of land was well adapted for the purposes intended. It was conveniently situated, and the land well adapted for the purpose. He therefore recommended its purchase. Mr. Skinner and Mr. Major both reported on the land, and the province had nothing to hide in the matter. A good bargain was made. The value of the land was not what it was sold for at a tax sale a few years before, and forced sale for taxes was never a fair valuation. The government was not doing the municipality out of taxes. Instead a fair return was to be made. The land was worth more to the government, even if taxes were paid to the municipality.

Stuart Henderson said he failed to find any charges laid by Mr. Oliver. The member for Delta only called for a production of papers. It became the government to make sneaking references to unearthing a mare's nest in calling for papers. The government owed its power through the efforts almost alone of Mr. Oliver to investigate the Columbia & Western scandal. (Loud opposition applause.)

He could find no authority by which the government was given power to make an exchange of public land. The deal was carried out in a hole-and-corner manner, and not in the open manner in which it should have done.

Premier McBride said the impression was sought to be conveyed that there was something wrong in the government's action. If it was thought there had been anything wrong done an investigation should be called for. There was need of more accommodation for the inmates of the asylum. Modern treatment was required. He understood that in modern institutions considerable land was provided, and the patients were given employment. This was beneficial to the patients, and was economical for the institution. The garden at New Westminster was practically useless. Additional land had been made. The transaction had been carried out in good faith. The government in taking over the land gave the municipality to understand that it would lose nothing by this.

Mr. Oliver called attention to the fact that Dr. Manchester's letter stated that Mr. Rand, a real estate broker, had proposed to make the transfer of land. When a man with the reputation of Mr. Rand as a real estate dealer, a man who, although young, has made a fortune by his ability in this business, the government should take every precaution in ascertaining the value of the land proposed to be given. Of course Dr. Manchester, with his knowledge of chemistry, was well qualified to judge of the value of the land.

He pointed out that the land exchanged for this land was situated on a railway. It was right on the line of water power, and was well adapted for manufacturing purposes, being in close proximity to the city of Vancouver. There was a very wide divergence of opinion as to the value of these lands. The lands acquired might even have a greater value for agricultural purposes than those given in exchange for them. He wished to be fair. But he contended that the market value of the lands given in exchange was five times that of the land now acquired. Nothing had been said in defence of the legal right to exchange the lands.

In concluding, he said he thought it ill-became the members of the government to refer sneeringly to such matters as a mare's nest, having in view the fact that they owed power to his efforts to conserve the lands of this province. The resolution carried.

Songhees Indians. J. D. McNiven moved the following resolution: "That an order of the House be granted for a return of copies of all correspondence, reports of agents, and all other documents, from January 1st, 1900, to the present time, relating to the acquisition of a new reservation for the Songhees Indians and their removal from the present reserve."

The resolution was carried.

Questions and Answers. Chas. Munro asked the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works the following questions: 1. Is any person permanently employed as caretaker of the Chilliwack dyke?

2. If so, who, and at what salary? Hon. Mr. Green replied as follows: "1. Yes. 2. A. A. Cruickshank; \$65 per month."

T. W. Paterson asked the Provincial Secretary the following questions: 1. Was Julius Brethour license commissioner for North Victoria license district for the year ending December 31st, 1904?

2. Was he reappointed for the year 1905? Hon. Mr. Green replied as follows: "1. Yes. 2. Yes."

In moving the second reading of the bill to secure to their dependants the wages of deceased workmen, Mr. MacDonald pointed out that the purpose was to enable widows of miners and others an opportunity to secure the wages due without having to wait until letters of administration were taken out. The bill was allowed to stand over until to-morrow.

First Reading. The bill to amend the Land Registry Act was discharged and a new one introduced and read a first time.

Licensing Travellers. In committee the bill for licensing commercial travellers was amended by Hon. R. G. Fyfe so as to make it clear that residents of the province should be exempt from the fees imposed. The committee rose and reported progress.

Victoria, February 24th. Prayers were read by Rev. G. K. B. Adams.

The petition of the Provincial Mining Association urging the opening up of the Nicola and Similkameen was received.

New Bills. Thos. Gifford introduced a bill to incorporate the Sunas Development Company.

Better Terms. Premier McBride moved the following resolution: "Whereas the government of British Columbia has presented to this legislative assembly a memorandum, submitted by them to the Dominion authorities at Ottawa, setting forth the grounds upon which the claims of this province for increased and special recognition on the part of the government of the Dominion of Canada are based;

"And whereas, in the opinion of this House, the said memorandum represents the conditions actually existing in British Columbia, and the claims therein made deserve the earnest support of its members;

"Be it therefore resolved, that this House fully endorses the claims made by the government on behalf of the province, and that His Honor be respectfully requested to forward a copy of this resolution to His Excellency the Governor-General, and to strongly urge that the proposals made in the said memorandum be carried into effect."

In support of it Premier McBride said that the desire was to introduce nothing of a partisan nature. It had been thought that the building of the Canadian Pacific railway would do all that was needed to open up this province and bring about all that was necessary to make it a most prosperous one. But the construction of the Canadian Pacific railway brought new responsibilities. He recounted the trips made by various delegations to Ottawa to secure better terms up to the time when Hon. Mr. Wilson and Hon. Mr. Green went East. These delegations, while they had been given every opportunity to have their cases heard, had not received anything by way of redress. In the last federal elections he (Premier McBride) had endeavored to make it known that this was the greatest question before the people. The Grand Trunk Pacific scheme overshadowed this.

At the time of the union with the Dominion of the crown colony of British Columbia there had been a great deal of discussion as to whether it was or was not for the advantage of British Columbia. Sir Henry Crease had endeavored to show that there would be great advantages to the province. Mr. Robson backed him up in this, and Sir Joseph Trutch also supported this view. The latter held that in the depressed condition of affairs in the colony it was opportune to join the Dominion.

There was another side of the question put forward in the colonial parliament by Hon. Dr. Helmecken, who had travelled throughout the province. He held that the time was inopportune to enter confederation. He preferred to wait until more prosperous times followed, when better terms could be secured. Hon. Mr. Drake seconded the views of Mr. Helmecken.

There were influences at work in the colonial office in London which tended to further the cause of confederation. It was regarded as advisable by the colonial authorities that British Columbia should join the Dominion. Sir Anthony Musgrave as Governor was sent to prepare the way for this union.

It was quite evident that British Columbia did not go into confederation at the most favorable time, and British Columbia was largely at the mercy of the Dominion and the Imperial government. The terms agreed upon were, therefore, not the most favorable to this province. This country was looked upon as a sea of mountains. It was difficult to get good farms then. After the great effort it was agreed that the Canadian Pacific railway should be built. Every settler which had followed this

Byron, characteristically egotistical, raps as follows— You want your hotel named? A common want; 'Tis very hard to find a decent new one, Distinctive, local. 'Tis enough to daunt Your minor poets, and to spur a true one To enterprise. I do not wish to vaunt My powers, but still, you know, I wrote Don Juan, A work of which I'm still a little proud, 'Tis all have read it (not, perhaps, aloud).

And Juan's is the best name you could choose Of poetry and fame, excepting Haldis'; And that—Victorians could scarcely use, Not having much to do with Grecian ladies, So far as I know. There is little news Of you, or scandal, reaches us in Hades (Where I'm supposed to dwell), so few come down To live here after shuffling off your town.

No matter! You have asked me for a name, And Juan, I have answered. Not the Don, But he who had to wait for lady fame Three hundred years before you studded on Your costliest chairs the style of him who came Half mad, all hero, knowing, sailing on, Up through your own unknown Styx in his felucca. Give honor, you, to old Juan de Fuca.

Tennyson, in Spenserian stanzas, is prophetic: "Courage," he said, and steered toward the shore His gallant bark, "The Princess," "Soon the land Will greet your footsteps; mal de mer no more With sharp distress will mock you when you stand Within the famed Hotel." On either hand Crowded the mid-eyed passengers to see The granite causeway and the Hotel grand, Facing the sunset in the western sea; And one cried out: "Behold, our Island Hakeel!"

The Island Hekeel was all of stone, Soft tinted as a misty autumn morn. In unlooked majesty it stood alone, A pearly Venus from the ocean born, Whose naked beauty nothing could adorn. Save the long ripple of caressing foam. Fair was the sight to travellers foreign, And all at once they sang: "Our Island home! Forever more is here, we will no longer roam."

MILITIA CALLED OUT. Hundreds of White Men Searching for Young Woman's Negro Assailant.

Chicago, Feb. 24.—A dispatch to the Tribune from Jackson, Miss., says: "While hundreds of white men are systematically searching the homes of every negro in the city, hunting for a colored man who attacked a young white woman, with the avowed intention of burning him to death, Governor Vardaman is working hard to prevent a lynching in the capital city of the state."

When the news of the crime reached him the Governor sent friends all over the town telling them to plead with every man they met to allow the law to take its course. Then charging up and down the main street, he expostulated with every group of men on the corners. The Governor seeing his efforts were likely to prove unavailing, finally went with the rapidly increasing mob to the court house, where, according to rumors, the young woman's assailant was under guard. The reports were unfounded, but the mob refused to believe the sheriff and began making threatening demonstrations. Governor Vardaman, after instructing the sheriff and his deputies to defend the prisoner to the last if he should be brought to them, mounted the steps and addressed the crowd. He declared the law provided for and proper punishment, assured the citizens of Jackson that there would be no delay in carrying into effect and pleaded with them to allow the law to take its course. The Governor offered to pay \$500 for the arrest of the negro provided he was delivered alive to the authorities.

"The local militia company has been ordered out and under the Governor's personal direction will be used to protect the prisoner if he is captured." Miss Mamie Marsh, who was attacked by the negro, was beaten into insensibility and may die from her injuries."

Suspect Arrested. Jackson, Miss., Feb. 24.—The excitement aroused over the assault on Miss Mamie Marsh by a negro continues, its effect being heightened by the burning of a negro church early to-day. The flames are believed to have been of incendiary origin. A negro with blood on his clothes and scratches on his face has been arrested, and the police believe they have the right man. The negro has been put in the city jail, which is surrounded by militia called out by Governor Vardaman. It is thought the negro

Always Had Weak Lungs BEFORE USING Dr. Slocum's Great Tonic and Disease Destroyer PSYCHINE

(PRONOUNCED SI-KEEN) The Greatest of Tonics and Disease Destroyers.

PSYCHINE BUILT ME RIGHT UP. Linden, N. S., June 7th, 1904. "I cannot speak too highly for your excellent—I may say invaluable—remedy for weakness of throat, lungs or declining conditions. My brother, mother and sister died of consumption, and I suppose I inherited a tendency in this direction, but, thank God, through the use of Psychine I to-day enjoy good health. I suffered for some two years from a distressing, obstinate cough and weak lungs. I used Psychine and Oxomulsion, and they built me right up. My lungs are now strong and I enjoy splendid health."

"Yours truly, WILLIAM M. COVEY."

Psychine is the greatest protection against all disorders of Throat, Chest, Lungs and Stomach. If you are quick to catch cold, have pain on taking a long breath, or subject to catarrh or weakness of any kind, you need Psychine. The work of Psychine tells wherever the lungs or the system need building up. A few dollars spent in Psychine will bring health to your home.

PSYCHINE is pronounced SI-KEEN. Psychine, Oxomulsion are sold by all druggists at \$1.00 per bottle. For further advice or information write or call Dr. Slocum, Limited, 179 King Street West, Toronto, Canada. \$1.00 PER BOTTLE.

STOCK-TAKING B. WILLIAMS & CO. See Our Half-Price Bargains

BALL IN AID OF WORTHY PROJECT

A BRILLIANT SUCCESS IN EVERY ESSENTIAL

A Large Attendance and Very Pretty Scene Was Presented—Danced Until Early Hour.

The Assembly hall presented a brilliant scene Friday evening. The occasion was a ball under the auspices of the recently organized Anti-Tuberculosis Society in aid of the fund for the establishment of a sanatorium.

The decorations, although principally those used at the Native Sons' ball some weeks ago (that organization having generously agreed to allow them to stand), were altered in some respects.

Promptly at 7.30 o'clock the first dance took place, the floor, at this time being crowded with dancers.

Among those present were: Lieut.-Col. English, Capt. Williams, Com. Lieut. Perry, and Mrs. Perry.

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You know the action of fruit.

Apples, on the kidneys—oranges, for stomach and appetite—prunes and figs for the bowels.

FRUIT-ATIVES, Limited, OTTAWA.

W. D. York, Mr. and Mrs. T. Watson, Mrs. and Miss E. Butler, Mr. B. Clark, Mr. J. O'Keefe, Mr. Eric Hardie, Mr. Fred White, Mr. J. John, Mr. Kilpatrick, Misses L. and P. Garvin, Mr. Finch, the Misses Spence, Mrs. J. A. Cameron, Capt. and Mrs. Currie, Miss M. Fell, Mr. Henry Dalby, Mr. W. Sparrow and family, Mr. Charles McKilligan, Mr. and Misses McKilling, Mr. Basil Prior, Mrs. and Miss Bone, Mr. J. Sweeney, Miss Edith Lindsay, Mr. J. Mann and Mr. W. Mulcahy.

MASQUEBALE DANCE

Will Be Given by the Ladies of the Macbees on Friday Next.

Invitations have been issued for the masquerade assembly dance to be given by the Victoria Hive, No. 1, Ladies of the Macbees, next Friday, March 3rd.

On Friday a joint deputation from the city council and school board interviewed the minister of education, Hon. F. J. Fulton, regarding the new education measure recently introduced by him.

The deputation also urged the minister to continue the High school grant to all schools that were allotted to universities.

DECLARES POLICE CORRUPT.

District Attorney Jerome, of New York, lays blame on liquor law.

New York, Feb. 24.—District Attorney Jerome, speaking before the People's Institute Club said: "There are some honest men in the liquor trade, but the majority are corrupt."

HEART DISEASE RELIEVED IN 30 MINUTES.—Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart gives perfect relief in all cases of Organic or Sympathetic Heart Disease in 30 minutes, and speedily effects a cure. It is a peerless remedy for Palpitation, Shortness of Breath, Smothering Spells, Pain in Left Side, and all symptoms of a Diseased Heart. One dose convinces.

PROPOSED CHANGES IN MUNICIPAL ACT

ADDITIONAL POWERS SOUGHT BY COUNCIL

But Amendments Must Be Reconsidered Before Being Submitted to the Legislature.

(From Saturday's Daily.) It will be generally conceded that the view expressed by Ald. Stewart, that he as one of the legislative committee of the city council should be permitted to know what amendments the committee propose to recommend to the provincial legislature, is a reasonable one.

In former years it has been the custom for the city council to consider these proposed amendments clause by clause upon their presentation in the shape of a report from the committee on legislation, but one at least of the committee did not see them.

Another amendment gives the city power to prohibit the commencement of building operations or repairs, before the deposit of elevation, floor and ground plans of the works proposed, and to refuse to grant such permit where the proposed building or work does not accord with the building or other municipal by-laws or regulations for the time being in force.

Among the other amendments recommended are the following: To compel owners, lessors or tenants of hotels and public buildings exceeding two stories to erect and maintain on the outside permanent stairways of iron connecting each landing or floor with the ground, and to keep same suitable fire escape and device for checking fires on the inside of such buildings.

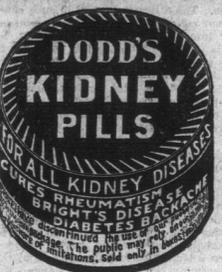
To impose an annual tax of \$2 for each vehicle. This does not mean bicycles, hand-carts, wheelbarrows, perambulators or children's toy vehicles. It is provided, however, that the council may exempt tradesmen using vehicles in the conduct of their business, who already pay a business license tax.

WANT INVESTIGATION

Associated Boards of Trade, Fish Resolutions Affecting Coal Lands of Kootenay.

At the meeting of the Associated Boards of Trade of the interior held at Nelson on the 23rd inst., the Hon. Mr. C. P. R. having encroached upon block 4,533 and of fraud having been perpetrated upon the Dominion government in the selection of 50,000 acres of reserved coal lands, the following resolutions were passed.

Ladies' Favorite. Is the only reliable regulator on which woman can depend in the hour and time of need.



ment or damaged goods or merchandise for sale either by auction, or by tender, or by any other unusual or irregular mode of sale, including fire insurance, salvage, selling off, or bankrupt stock; or (c.) Any person not holding a license consigning to himself, or to any person on his behalf, including fire insurance, or for any other person, or who otherwise brings within the city goods exceeding in value \$250 for sale.

LOGGERS' REQUESTS. Deputation From the Association Will Wait Upon Government asking Amendments to Act.

At a meeting of the B.C. Loggers' Association held in Vancouver, Wm. Shannon and E. P. Bremner were appointed a delegation to wait upon the government and represent the views of the association as to amendments to the Land Act affecting the industry.

The interior loggers suggested the following amendment to the act: (a) It shall be lawful for the Lieutenant-Governor in council to grant to the holder of any special timber license, or his assigns, a lease of the timber lands described in such license, either separately or in conjunction with other timber lands so held, for a period of 21 years, subject to the payment by the holder of such license of the sum of \$15 per acre per year.

To grant such lease to the holder of such license, either separately or in conjunction with other timber lands so held, for a period of 21 years, subject to the payment by the holder of such license of the sum of \$15 per acre per year.

REVENUE FOR LAST SIX MONTHS

Nearly \$9,000 Short of the Expenditure.

Revenue for Last Six Months Fell Nearly \$9,000 Short of the Expenditure.

Revenue for Last Six Months Fell Nearly \$9,000 Short of the Expenditure.

and, if necessary, provide such remedy as may seem just and equitable.

Resolutions were passed at the meeting asking for the appointment of resident fruit inspectors in Kootenay and efficient inspection of imported fruit; that steps be taken to prevent forest fires; that game be better protected and that the provincials be represented at the Portland exposition.

READY TO CAUCUS ON RAILWAY POLICY

SCHEME OF HOLLAND BROTHERS FAVORED

This Will Postpone the Consideration of a Coast-Kootenay Line For the Present.

The government has in contemplation the question of a railway policy. The Premier realizes that the method of abandoned, especially when, through the efforts of J. G. Brown, George Phillips, Gideon Hicks and others, an organization had been effected which had put matters on a proper business basis, having a guaranteed fund of over \$500 subscribed.

It has all along been believed that the two schemes between which a choice was guaranteed would be the McLean, Bros., with the Coast-Kootenay charter, and the Great Northern with the V. V. & B. charter.

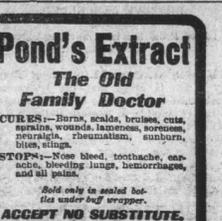
John Henry, to whom has been committed the task of making arrangements with the government since the failure of J. D. Farrell to come to a satisfactory understanding, has been in the city repeatedly within the past week pressing for a settlement.

STILL GOING BEHIND.

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Pond's Extract The Old Family Doctor

CURES:—Borns, scalds, bruises, cuts, sprains, wounds, lameness, soreness, rheumatism, rheumatic, sunburn, bites, stings.

Two Grand Concerts to Be Given Here in November.

Many people in Victoria were greatly disappointed when it became known that the Mackenzie festival for 1905 had been abandoned, especially when, through the efforts of J. G. Brown, George Phillips, Gideon Hicks and others, an organization had been effected which had put matters on a proper business basis, having a guaranteed fund of over \$500 subscribed.

At the rehearsal last Wednesday a matter was laid before the chorus for discussion, which has caused no little excitement among musical people in the city since Mr. Spencer-Jones, who is the representative of Watkins Mills, the great English basso, and his splendid quartette, who are now touring the world, visited the city a week ago with the object of arranging for two performances here next November, with the result that Mr. Hicks agreed to submit his proposition to the "Messiah" chorus last Wednesday.

THEY KNOW IT.

Thousands of people throughout the country know that the ordinary remedies for piles—ointments, suppositories and applications—will not cure.

Report on the Operations—Development Continues to Be Satisfactory.

Rossland, Feb. 25.—On Saturday the Le Roi Company dated the London office.

ROSSLAND CAMP.

Increase in Shipments of Ore—Rumors of a New Merger.

Rossland, B. C. Feb. 25.—The shipments for the week reached a total of 7,515 tons, an increase over the previous week of 1,200 tons.

There is considerable talk in the camp of a new merger. It is said the California and White Bear properties will be merged into one company, and there is a possibility that the Jumbo and Cariboo will be included in the deal.

Many Japs Killed by Hand Grenades or Mines—Russians Driven Back.

Teinkhetchen, Feb. 25.—The Japanese attack on Beresoff Hill developed into an encounter of the most sanguine nature. The Japanese pressing forward a bayonet charge were received with phosphyren hand grenades and were blown up by bursting mines, and the Japanese machine guns which took position to support the advance were silenced for a time and began back.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 26.—A. M.—Belated reports of the attack on the Russian left at Teinkhetchen do not satisfy the curiosity of the public as to what is going on in Manchuria.

Supplies of Fuel and Fuel Are Running Short in Nova Scotia.

Montreal, Feb. 25.—A fight between about 40 Russian and Italian laborers at the Angus shops of the C. P. R. this morning resulted in probable fatal injuries to two men.

Accidental Death.

Alexandria, Feb. 25.—Alcide Laurin, 22 years old, son of Alexander Laurin, a veterinary surgeon of this place, while playing hockey at Maxville, was struck on the head with a hockey stick by a young man named Loney, and almost instantly killed.

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COUPON. Caragin, Liqueur, 1500 Ave., Chicago.

COUPON. Caragin, Liqueur, 1500 Ave., Chicago.

COURT OF LUMBIA.

State of JANET late of Victoria, deceased.

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SANITARIUM NEAR CITY NOT DESIRED

THE COUNCIL OBJECTS TO THE PROPOSAL

Consider Full Paid Fire Department, Also Estimate to Rebuild Rock Bay Bridge.

A very important meeting of the city council was held Thursday. At Monday's meeting all the work then brought up was not disposed of, and the Songhees Indian reserve question and other business was left over to be considered Thursday. After the adjourned meeting, the council went into committee and considered some of the estimates. In connection with these several very important matters had first to be dealt with, namely, an improved electric light station, to which reference is made elsewhere in this issue. A full-paid fire department and a proposal to rebuild the swing of the Rock Bay bridge.

On behalf of the Municipal Association of Spring Ridge, a deputation consisting of Messrs. E. Bragg and Shirk were present. Mr. Bragg in explaining the object of the association said that it was desired to get a more equitable distribution of civic moneys for Spring Ridge. The members of the association wanted to see the sewer work completed there, a trunk road through the district to the hospital was an improvement sought, and the sand pits required attention. The district was thickly populated, and something should be done towards effecting a general improvement.

Mr. Shirk in endorsing Mr. Bragg's remarks thought that the sand pits should be filled up, so that they would not be a nuisance. He mentioned a number of streets requiring attention, including Pandora street, which he thought might be extended through to the hospital. With regard to the sewerage of the district, the work could be done as cheaply now as at another time.

His Worship said he was glad to see such associations were being formed throughout the city, as it helped the council to more equitably distribute money for street improvements.

The deputation then withdrew, and the regular proceedings were taken up. A communication was received from the Lieutenant-Governor stating that the naval authorities had received an offer for the use of the naval hospital for a sanitarium, but it was first desired to be known if the city had any objection to the place being converted into an institution of this kind.

The Mayor and a number of aldermen took objection to the proposal. His Worship was not so much afraid of controversy as to the possibilities of consumption leading in this direction in force, who would not always be carrying their looking after themselves. A sanitarium was not a desirable thing alongside the capital of the province, and there were plenty of other locations throughout the country. The council was not in favor of this, and a reply will be forwarded to the Lieutenant-Governor stating the objections taken.

The Songhees Indian reserve question, which was left over from the regular meeting on Monday night, was then considered.

Ald. Hall contended that the city had no legal right to the reserve, but it had a moral one. He would like to see something done that would provide for the city getting the first option on the land. He moved that the petition before the council from a committee of citizens be received and a copy of it sent to the provincial government with the council's endorsement and with the request that the corporation's rights be recognized.

This was approved. Ald. Stewart moved that the city members endorse the bill. This also was carried. Ald. Hall alone objecting.

The council then went into committee. City Engineer Topp submitted an estimate on the construction of a septic tank for the Jubilee hospital, and enclosed a plan of the work to be done. The electric light committee's report was next adopted, and the council proceeded to discuss other matters affecting the estimates.

A proposal was then made for a full-paid fire department, the merits and demerits of which has been discussed periodically in this city for many years. The proposition is to do away with volunteer service, and to substitute it with a permanent force, which would be seven men less in numbers, but which advocates of the scheme say would be much more effective. The extra expense involved would be \$3,000, against which there could be placed a reduction in insurance. What this would amount to could not be stated last night, and so the business was left over for another meeting to be held on Wednesday evening next. Judging from the discussion which took place the council seem about equally divided on the reform, serious consideration having been given the facts that the board of fire underwriters endorse the proposal, and that Vancouver and other cities have adopted it with good results.

With regard to the Rock Bay bridge no decision was arrived at. The city engineer reported that it will take between six and seven thousand dollars to repair all but the swing of the bridge. No estimate, however, was given for the repair of the bridge, and after discussing the matter for a while the council adjourned.

PILE TERRORS SWEPT AWAY.—Dr. Agnew's Ointment stands at the head as a reliever, healer, and sure cure for piles in all forms. One application will give comfort in a few minutes, and three to six days application according to directions will cure chronic cases. It relieves all itching and burning skin diseases in a day. 25 cents.

RESERVE CANCELLED.

Is Lifted From Lands Comprising Columbia & Western Grant.

In the British Columbia Gazette of Thursday notice is given that the reservation established in pursuance of the provisions of the "Columbia & Western Railway Subsidy Act, 1896," notices of which were published in the British Columbia Gazette and dated 24th May, 1896, and 5th June, 1896, respectively, are hereby cancelled. Crown lands situated within the area embraced by the said reservation will be open to sale, settlement, lease and other disposition, under the provisions of the "Land Act," three months after the date of the first publication of this notice in the British Columbia Gazette; provided, however, that in all cases where lands are so sold, preempted, leased or otherwise alienated by the government and are subsequently found, upon the survey of the Columbia & Western Railway Company's blocks, to lie wholly or in part within such blocks, then the persons so acquiring such lands shall acquire their title thereto from the railway company, who have agreed to deal with such purchasers, pre-emptors, lessees, etc., in the same terms and conditions as the government would under the provisions of the "Land Act," except in respect to timber lands on the company's blocks, which shall be subject to the regulations issued by the company relative to the cutting of timber on the Columbia & Western railway land grant.

The following companies have been incorporated: Canada Zinc Company, Ltd., capital \$200,000; Comstock Waterworks Co., Ltd., capital \$10,000; Gold Trench-Proof Pile Company, Ltd., capital \$30,000; Johnston Fisheries Co., Ltd., capital \$20,000.

Herbert Cancellor, of Atlin, B. C., has been appointed to be a justice of the peace.

PLAN TO ENLARGE ELECTRIC PLANT

A BY-LAW PROPOSED FOR NEW CITY LOAN

Eleven Thousand Dollars Required to Introduce an Improved System of Lighting.

If the action of the city council, approved in committee Thursday, is endorsed at the regular meeting on Monday evening next, ratepayers will be called upon to vote on a by-law for the raising of \$11,000 for the enlargement of the electric light plant. The report of the committee recommending the desired improvements put the requirements of the station as follows: One dynamo, 230 lights' capacity, approximated cost, \$2,840; one exciter, \$145; one switch board, \$305; belt, pulley, etc., \$500; three transformers of 50 lights' capacity each, \$1,500; 150 long incandescent lamps, \$4,500; remaining circuits, \$810; total, \$11,000.

City Electrician Hutchinson was present at the meeting Thursday to explain to the council the various details of the proposed service. It was shown that with the installation of the new lights, one trimmer at a salary of \$720 a year could be dispensed with. This could be done because the up-to-date lamps burn 80 hours, while the old ones burn but 15 hours. Mr. Hutchinson stated what he had in mind, if the council approved of the new system, was the dividing of the city into seven districts. The new dynamo would supply two, replacing an obsolete one now in service, and under the new arrangement there would be a margin of power left for about 125 new lights. The carbons in the new lamps have to be renewed every five days, while those in the lamps now used have to be replaced every day. Furthermore, it was shown that a vastly superior light the former give. No air can get at them, and the shadow effect so objectionable in the present service would be obviated.

A number of the aldermen desired to know what permanency the new service might have. This the city electrician could not answer definitely. The new equipment recommended was standardized, and improvements made on it no one could forestall. The life of the dynamo would be fifty years or more. There was very little about it to wear out, but there was one thing which he thought should be stated, and that was under the new system no extra provision was made for additional engine power, which would remain as at present, subject to an accident at any time, which might cause a temporary interruption in the lighting service. But additional power of this kind would involve much more expense on the city. The transformers, however, will be such that they can be used in event of electric power being obtained from Goldstream or elsewhere.

Attention was also drawn to the fact that a \$15,000 loan would expire this year, and it would be perfectly in order for the council to replace it with a ten-year loan of the amount mentioned, if the people favored the by-law proposed. It was also pointed out that in 1915, at the expiration of this ten years, no other city loan matured.

AFRICAN EPICURES consider the tongue of a young straffe a great delicacy. The meat of the animal is said to taste somewhat like veal.

FARM WORK MADE EASY.

The farmers of Canada are indebted to the Family Herald and Weekly Star for the issue of the week ending February 22 of that great paper is largely devoted to the important question of labor saving methods on the farm. It is wonderfully instructive, better than all the agricultural meetings and exhibits of farm machinery ever held in this country. The Family Herald and Weekly Star should be received in a few minutes, and three to six days application according to directions will cure chronic cases. It relieves all itching and burning skin diseases in a day. 25 cents.

WHO WILL CONDUCT THE PROSECUTION?

THE PERJURY CASE IN POLICE COURT FRIDAY

Geo. Powell Refuses to Allow Attorney-General to Interview His Witnesses—An Impasse.

When the perjury case was called in the police court this morning George Powell, representing the private prosecutor, Mr. Macdonald, and the attorney-general's department, were both on hand, while Thornton Fell was present for the defence. Apparently all parties were willing to have the case adjourned until Wednesday next, and everything went smoothly until Mr. Macdonald, in stating his reasons for his inability to proceed, said he had not been able to confer with the witnesses. Mr. Powell claimed in with the consenting remark that Mr. Macdonald would be in no difficult position next Wednesday, as he would not allow the witnesses to be seen by him, and that in no event would he allow a private trial to take place in the attorney-general's office with a view of first deciding whether or not the prosecution should proceed.

Mr. Macdonald replied that he didn't think it could be seriously argued that the attorney-general could not take charge of all criminal proceedings, and he scouted the idea that Mr. Powell was in any way unwilling to have the witnesses interviewed.

Mr. Powell thereupon stated that he certainly was serious, and would give his reasons for being so. First, the attorney-general had treated his witnesses and himself with marked discourtesy in not conferring with them as to the bona fides of these complaints, but, on the information of some one other than themselves, he had proceeded to the conclusion that the charges were unsubstantial and instituted for the purpose of vengeance, without regard to their legitimacy. Furthermore, he had forthwith appointed a police court through his acting deputy, and attempted to eject counsel who had been retained by the prosecutors. Secondly, that he had notified the speaker to come to his office to give evidence, and at the same time had announced, through the columns of the Times, that the private prosecution had been ousted, his purpose being to first satisfy himself that there was a foundation for a case before he proceeded.

Mr. Powell stated this assumption of inquisitorial powers was objectionable. He visited Mr. Macdonald and said if this were the real reason he would respectfully decline to allow his witnesses to see him, but if the attorney-general merely wished to be personally satisfied and would allow the matter to remain in the hands of the people, he would do so. He and his colleagues would be only too willing to co-operate. The attorney-general declined this, and adhered to his position that he was taking the case over himself, and that any counsel for the prosecutors would not be conceded any status.

Mr. Powell then stated that if the charges were bona fide, the accused would be committed for trial in spite of the attorney-general's efforts to burk them. What were the courts of this country for if not for the purpose of investigating crime? If the charges were unsubstantial they would be dismissed in the usual course, but he most emphatically disputed the attorney-general's right to interfere, for the express purpose of trying them himself. If this were allowed they might as well give away all courts of preliminary inquiry and let the attorney-general personally decide who should or should not be tried for an offence. Until the attorney-general satisfied him as to his real reasons for attempting to intervene he (the speaker) would not yield.

Finally the matter was adjourned until Wednesday next.

Mr. Powell asserts that the attorney-general's real intention is not to proceed with these charges, as will press his stand to the courts of last resort, if necessary, his claim being that the whole subject of the King's case is to institute and maintain proceedings up to the point of commitment, when the King then takes cognizance of it and institutes his action, calling his attorney-general to his aid. Another version of the case comes from Paris, from a private source, according to which the commission found that the King was not justified, and fixed the responsibility on Admiral Rojestvensky.

SAYS CROWN HAS RIGHT.

Hon. Charles Wilson Claims He Can Intervene in Perjury Case.

The attention of Hon. Charles Wilson, attorney-general, was yesterday afternoon directed to the arguments of George Powell regarding the former's right to intervene in the prosecution of the two Chinamen recently arrested on the charge of perjury. Hon. Mr. Wilson maintains that as a private prosecutor he has the right to intervene at any stage in a criminal prosecution if he considers such intervention to be in the interests of justice. To say that the attorney-general is forced to await the outcome of proceedings in the court is a little removed from nonsense. It has been the practice of the attorney-general of this province so long as Hon. Mr. Wilson has held that office to have no private prosecutions in criminal cases here, and he is fully recovered, and he says that Dodd's Kidney Pills cured him.

"Yes," says Mr. Richard, "I had Kidney Trouble over forty years, with the result that I was a worn out man at seventy-two. Then I started taking Dodd's Kidney Pills, and the result is that the pain is gone from my back, and I am able to work again."

Dodd's Kidney Pills make the old young, and they make the kidneys sound, and sound kidneys strain out of the blood the seeds of the diseases, to which the old are subject, such as Backache, Rheumatism, Urinary and Bladder Troubles, etc.

case. The attorney-general in such cases is not called upon to assign any reasons for intervention; it is enough that he finds it incumbent upon him to so act in the interests of justice. In one feature of the present case Mr. Powell would appear to be protesting against something that was never contemplated, since it had at no time been suggested by the attorney-general that he desired to assume the functions of the lower court. He had decided that the crown should assume the conduct of the case in the police court, and would insist upon counsel assigned to take charge of the prosecution being placed in possession of the evidence. But there was no thought of taking the preliminary inquiry out of the police court. And having decided upon intervention and the removal of the prosecution from private hands, the attorney-general would upon this firmly, although with dignity.

MOVING TO-DAY.

Fittings of Offices on Wharf Street and on Hudson Bay Wharf Being Transferred.

Officers in the new C. P. R. building over the bank are today being occupied. The old offices on Wharf street and on the Hudson's Bay wharf are in a state of confusion in so far as their furnishings go. The moving operations have begun, and early next week will see the new premises taken over. The basement may eventually be used for a vault. On the floor facing the James Bay wall are two big waiting rooms, one for ladies on the Belleville street side, and the other for gentlemen on the opposite side of the building. Between the two with big open windows into either will be the ticket office. On the western section of this floor is the freight office and the office of the freight agent, while in the middle of the floor, leading up to which from Belleville street is a broad stairway, is a good-sized landing with lavatory in the rear. Capt. Troup's private office will be in the northeast corner of the second floor. On the same side will come the typewriter's, F. W. Vincent's, and an office not yet designated. Of the rooms on the opposite side facing Belleville street one is to be used by the assessor, and the other will be a building under an abundance of light is provided.

YOUNG GIRL MISSING.

Leaves Note Announcing Her Intention to Drown Herself.

The whereabouts of Laura Whittle, a girl fifteen years of age, who has been in the employ of Mrs. De Foe, of 113 Main street, for some time, are being investigated by the police. Yesterday morning she left the house of her employer during Mrs. De Foe's absence in town, and up till the hour of going to press, she had not been located.

The note found on her, written in pencil on a piece of wrapping paper was found by Mrs. De Foe when she returned home: "Mrs. De Foe—Wishing you long and Goodye happy lives. Do not take the trouble to look for me, as I am going to the Police as I am gone for ever. I shall be drowned by the time you come home."

The police were notified, and Sergeant Redgrave and Constable J. Woods conducted a search along the beach from the bathing docks to Clover Point, having been told that a girl answering the description of the one who is missing had been seen going toward Beacon Hill park. It is said she had written a similar letter last year, but was located in the Work estate.

"The young girl Laura Whittle who left her employer's home in James Bay the other day expressing in a note her intention of drowning herself, did not carry out her threat. She has been located, and is in the care of the Children's Aid Society, the secretary of which, C. J. South, is expected from Vancouver shortly."

THE SIMPSON TUNNEL.

Two Boring Parties Meet—The Permanent Way May Be Completed Next Month.

Gondo, Switzerland, Feb. 24.—The piercing of the Simpson tunnel through the Alps was completed at 12 o'clock this morning. The work was commenced in 1896. The meeting of the two boring parties (Swiss and Italian) was signalled throughout Switzerland by ringing of church bells and salutes by cannon.

Many unexpected obstacles were encountered, the most serious being hot springs, which threatened to wreck the whole enterprise, and a temperature which at one time rose to 131 degrees Fahrenheit, making a continuation of the work impossible until the engineer could means of cooling the atmosphere. Now that the borers have met, it will enable the water accumulated in the north gallery to be drawn. The work of preparing the tunnel for a permanent way will be pushed as rapidly as possible, and it is hoped to inaugurate the tunnel about March 20th.

The length of the Simpson tunnel from Briga, in Switzerland, to Iselle, on the Italian side of the mountains is about 12 miles. The Swiss and Italian governments have jointly financed the undertaking at the cost of \$15,000,000. The piercing of the Simpson is regarded as one of the greatest engineering achievements of the age.

WOMAN MURDERED.

Body Found in Ruins of Her House, Which Was Destroyed by Fire.

Montclair, N. J., Feb. 24.—The police are making every effort to find the woman who was employed by Mrs. Hanna B. Ross and who has been missing since Mrs. Ross was found dead in the ruins of her burned house yesterday. As proof that Mrs. Ross was murdered and robbed, and that the house was fired to conceal the crime, the chief of police points out that a folded portfolio was found covering the woman's face, and with a ribbon in the impression of her face in the cloth. Jewellery and silverware known to have been in the house are missing.

DUFFEY'S VICTORY.

Melbourne, Victoria, Feb. 25.—Arthur P. Duffey, the American runner, to-day scored his first win in Australia, capturing the hundred yards invitation handicap, from scratch. Time 1:30. In the hundred yards open handicap, Duffey lost the preliminary heat.

ANOTHER PIONEER CROSSES THE LINE

JNO. H. MELDRAM DIED EARLY FRIDAY MORNING

Came Here About Forty Years Ago—Prominently Connected With Fraternal Organizations.

Another pioneer passed away early this morning in the person of John Horsley Meldram, who has been associated with the life of Victoria for forty years. He had been ailing for some months, and only a short time ago underwent a serious operation. From that time he failed to rally, and the news of his death, although keenly regretted by a host of friends and acquaintances, was not unexpected. During his long residence here Mr. Meldram's activities lodge circles, and his estimable character, won widespread popularity. His demise will be deeply mourned by the whole community.

Mr. Meldram came to Victoria in 1865, leaving London as a passenger on the good ship Countess of Fife early in that year. It was a tiresome passage, lasting 165 days, and exceptionally rough weather was experienced in round Cape Horn. Mrs. Meldram accompanied her husband. During the trip James W. Meldram, their eldest child, was born. Arriving at Victoria Mr. Meldram had a hard time earning a living for his family. With a total capital of \$5 and very little work in sight, the outlook was anything but promising. His hardships were increased by the high cost of living, butter costing \$1 per pound, and eggs the same amount per dozen. Finally, however, Mr. Meldram got settled at his trade, that of a ship-builder, which he followed for 20 years.

At this time there was a considerable demand for the British pig man required for the transportation of the miners and their goods from the coast to Cariboo and elsewhere. Mr. Meldram constructed a number of "seese ships," building one at the mouth of the Queen's river and another at Sooke. From this pursuit he accumulated considerable wealth, and retired about 20 years ago. Since that time, however, he has been identified with a number of enterprises, all of which have proved most successful.

In 1870 Mr. Meldram joined Columbia Lodge, No. 2, I. O. O. F. This branch of the order had only been organized when he submitted his application, and was initiated a member. He has occupied every position in the lodge, from the lowest to the highest, and for the past number of years has acted as one of the trustees. At the time of his death Mr. Meldram was the oldest member of the society. He also belongs to the Ancient Order of Foresters, being a past chief ranger of that order. His association with these fraternal societies brought him into constant intercourse with a great many citizens, and the loss of his cheery presence will be deeply deplored by his members.

Mr. Meldram was born at North Shields, Northumberland. He was brought up in that county, serving his apprenticeship as shipwright there. It was shortly after his marriage that Mr. Meldram decided to emigrate, and chose British Columbia as his future home. He was about 73 years of age, and leaves, besides a widow, one daughter—Mrs. J. W. Walker—and three sons—James W. John and George G.—to mourn his loss. He also has eight grandchildren.

THE PERJURY CASE IN POLICE COURT FRIDAY

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DECISION OF COMMISSION

Is Not a Pronounced Victory For Either Side.

Paris, Feb. 23.—The international commission appointed to inquire into the North Sea incident practically concluded its work to-night by finally agreeing to the report, which will be published Saturday. Concerning the general nature of the report, the following statement was made in a most authoritative quarter to the Associated Press: "When the text of the decision becomes known it will be far more acceptable to the British press and public than they have been led to believe. The semi-official summaries appearing, while more or less accurate, tend to strongly show a pronounced victory for either side. It is of such a character as to preserve Russia's self-respect, and at the same time give the British public much ground for satisfaction. If anything, the decision is rather more favorable to Great Britain than to Russia."

On the other hand, the Havas agency to-night confirms its semi-official statement of last night. It says: "The conclusions, as a whole, are quite favorable to Russia, recognizing that Admiral Rojestvensky could legitimately consider himself in danger and act as he did. However, the report contains reservations calculated to satisfy British susceptibilities, the most important being that the commission estimates that the Russian fire lasted too long, and also that Rojestvensky should have speedily notified the British maritime authorities of the deplorable incident. Upon the question of the presence of torpedo boats, the commission frees all navies from the imputation. The Russian rejected a motion of Admiral Beaumont (Great Britain), blaming the Russian crews. The conclusions are said to be in the form of questions where the Russian fire lasted too long, and also that Rojestvensky should have speedily notified the British maritime authorities of the deplorable incident. 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