

GATACRE TELLS THE STORY

Miscalculation of Distance Lands the British Column in an Impossible Position.

THE NORTHUMBERLANDS MISSING NUMBER 366

High Praise for Artillery—Irish Fusiliers Distinguish Themselves—The Canadians at Belmont—Gen. French's Troops Still Hold Arundel

(Associated Press.)

London, Dec. 12.—The almost complete absence of news from the theatre of war up to this afternoon has increased public anxiety, so deeply stirred by Saturday's disaster.

There is no confirmation of the report of another battle along the Modder river on Monday.

A strange item of news reached here from Boer sources announcing that the Washbank bridge was damaged. This was taken in some quarters as a possible confirmation of the suggestion that the British had made a wide sweep by way of Helpmaakar and were preparing to take the Boers north of Ladysmith in the rear.

French Holds Arundel.

A message to-day from Naauwpoort, dated Monday, 11th, shows that Gen. French had no inclination to withdraw his advanced troops at Arundel, as had been feared might be the result of Gen. Gatacre's defeat. Gen. French reported that his artillery on December 11th forced an advance post of the Boers, south of Coleburg, to evacuate its position and seek refuge beyond Vant Kop.

Experts aver that 15,000 Boers will have to be driven out of the colony before the passage of the Orange River can be commenced.

Advance of Rhodesians.

The Rhodesian force advancing to the relief of Mafeking reached Gaborone Port on December 2nd and found the Boers had evacuated the place. The Rhodesians are repairing the railroad as they advance.

From Mafeking.

The latest news from Mafeking shows that Col. Baden-Powell has been forced to reduce the rations of the garrison and inhabitants. Water is plentiful, however.

An Expert's Opinion.

The military expert of the Morning Post in this morning's issue has this to say of the reverse: "How so large portions of the two regiments chiefly engaged were captured by the enemy is impossible to say. They had lost only an insignificant number of men killed and wounded, and the serious character of the reverse can only be accounted for by the fact that the men were worn out."

Boer Tactics.

New York, Dec. 12.—London has waited eagerly, but in vain, for a further explanation of the cause which led to General Gatacre's defeat, and in their disappointment have turned their attention to speculating on the effect of the reverse. The fact that some of England's best fighters, such as the Northumberland Fusiliers and the Royal Irish were among the defeated, makes the pill doubly hard to swallow. These regiments were considered well nigh invincible in the eyes of the country, and to see them ambushed and captured is a sight the average Britisher never thought of beholding.

A spirit of hope, however, pervaded the masses when it became known that on Saturday reinforcements, consisting of the first three battalions of the Sixth Division, would be dispatched. The military experts see in the outcome of the attack on Gatacre's advance

guard one potent fact—that the Boers have been learning how to fight the British. They have learned that the British open battles with artillery, thus clearing the ground for a front attack, and they have adapted themselves to these same tactics by suspending gun fire and holding back rifle volleys until they can be most destructive.

The first savage criticisms directed against General Gatacre are now very much softened. People are beginning to remember some of the good things said of him. When the army left for South Africa it was printed that Gatacre was the strongest of the three division commanders, a seasoned soldier, who had seen more service than either Methuen or Clery.

Advance Delayed.

New York, Dec. 12.—Summing up the defeat of the British at Stormberg the Herald's London correspondent says that the result is that not only is Gatacre's advance delayed, but also the forward movements of Gen. French from Naauwpoort. Gatacre, before he can take another step to the north, must be heavily reinforced, and there is danger that the Boers will take the offensive and try to go south of the British column to cut its communication. Thus the whole plan of the British campaign may have to be changed.

GATACRE'S DISPATCH.

Boers Wounded Many Met Before They Reached the Ridges.

London, Dec. 12.—The war office has received the following from Gen. Forester-Walker:

"Capetown, Monday, Dec. 11.—Gatacre reports as follows:

"The idea to attack Stormberg seemed to promise certain success, but the distance was under-estimated by myself and the local guides.

"A policeman took us round some miles, consequently we were marching from 9.30 p.m. till 4 a.m., and were landed in an impossible position.

"I do not consider the error intentional.

"The Boers commenced firing from the top of an unscalable hill and wounded a good many of our men while in the open plains.

"The Second Northumberlands tried to turn out the enemy, but failed.

"The Second Irish Fusiliers seized a kopje near by and held on, supported by the mounted infantry and Cape police.

"The guns under Jeffrey's could not have been better handled, but I regret to say that one gun was overturned in a deep nullah and another sank in quicksand. Neither could be extricated in time to be available.

"Seeing the situation, I sent a dispatch rider to Maitimo with news and collected and withdrew our force from ridge to ridge for about nine miles.

"The Boer guns were remarkably well served. They carried accurately 5,000 yards.

"I am holding Bushmanshook and Cypergat, and am sending the Irish Rifles and Northumberlands to Sterkstroom to recuperate.

"The wounded proceed to Queenstown.

"The missing Northumberlands number 366, not 306 as previously reported."

Steyn's Account.

Pretoria, Dec. 10.—President Steyn sent the following details of the fight at Stormberg Junction:

"The British, with six cannons, attacked the Boers under Swanepoel and Olivier, and stormed the Boer's entrenched position on the kopjes.

"After a severe fight they were compelled to surrender."

Reported Fighting on the Modder.

Capetown, Dec. 12.—It is reported that heavy fighting was heard all day yesterday in the direction of Modder River.

THE CANADIANS.

Col. Otter Reports Their Safe Arrival at Belmont.

Ottawa, Dec. 12.—The following cable was handed to Dr. Borden by Gen. Hutton to-day:

"Belmont, Dec. 11.—Canadian regiment here, line of communication. All well."

(Signed) OTTER.

Transport Ashore.

Las Palmas, Canary Islands, Dec. 12.—The British transport Denton Grange, with war munitions on board, en route to Cape Colony, is ashore on the south side of the harbor and making water.

General White to avoid them as far as possible.

The Morning Post again endeavors to arouse the British people to a recognition of the serious nature of the struggle and of the grave position in which matters now stand.

Shelling Mafeking.

A War Office dispatch reports that Mafeking was shelled on Dec. 4th, but that the Boers had shelled the town since Nov. 27th, with increased effect. Rations had been considerably reduced, meat by half a pound and bread by a quarter of a pound, in view of a probable long siege.

Afraid of Bayonets.

The Boers fear the British bayonets. This is illustrated in the full accounts now arriving of previous sorties. It seems that in the evening of the 11th, the Boers, the British did not carry bayonets. While they were storming the hills, the Boers suddenly aroused from their sleep, rushed to the edge and opened an infernal fire upon the British. But just before the British secured a footing on the top of the hill, some one among them shouted, "Fix bayonets and give them cold steel." At this the Boers turned and fled into the darkness.

Some Notes.

Albert S. Hay, son of Secretary Hay, and United States consul by appointment to Pretoria, leaves to-day by the steamer St. Louis for South Africa via England.

A special dispatch from Lorenzo Marquez says a Boer telegram from Mafeking announces that Lady Sarah Wilson, aunt of the Duke of Marlborough, while acting as a correspondent of the London Daily Mail, has been exchanged for a Boer woman who was a prisoner at Mafeking.

Lord Mayor Newton, the alderman of the city of London and other prominent officials of the corporation, together with high military authorities, will attend the memorial service to be held in St. Paul's cathedral for the men who have fallen in the war.

General Gatacre's reverse at Stormberg was joyfully greeted on the streets of Berlin, but the newspapers for the most part are reticent on the subject. The Vossische Zeitung comments in a strain almost friendly, saying: "After the soldierly virtues which the British have shown in this war, it may well be believed that General Gatacre's troops fought as if on the parade ground."

Daniel Tolan, the Lord Mayor of Dublin, presided at a meeting of the corporation yesterday called to protest against the Transvaal war. The clerk declared that there was no quorum, but the Lord Mayor insisted on making a statement in which he declared that the war was "wanton and unprovoked aggression, undertaken by Mr. Chamberlain and capitalists against a handful of farmers." He further declared that America was "opposed to this iniquitous war." In the meantime members present shouted "no quorum" and "order" and the tumult in the galleries drowned all the speeches. Finally the Lord Mayor left the chair with the galleries cheering for President Kruger.

British Casualties.

It is just two months since the Transvaal ultimatum was delivered. Nine engagements have been fought; the British have lost 500 killed, 2,027 wounded, and 1,977 missing or prisoners.

For Wives and Children.

The War Office has issued a notice that after January 1st a deduction will be made from the pay of the soldier serving in South Africa, in the cases of private four pence per day for wives and a penny for each child; in the cases of sergeants eight pence for wives and two pence for each child. These amounts have thus far been paid by the government.

Boers at Coleenso.

Free Camp, Natal, Dec. 11. (Monday) 7 p.m.—The British cavalry reconnoitered to-day abreast of Coleenso and exchanged shots with parties of Boers who fell back across the river.

The kopjes were observed to be thickly occupied by the enemy.

The railway bridge at Coleenso has been completely destroyed. Two stone piers were blown up last night.

The highway bridge is intact.

A Boer Report.

Pretoria, Dec. 11.—In the fighting at Modder River yesterday evening General Cronje captured his position and captured 50 British soldiers.

The Canadians.

Toronto, Dec. 11.—The Globe's war correspondent with the Canadians, Frederick Hamilton, wires from Orange River, under date of Dec. 7th:

"Canadians arrived from De Aar at Orange River to-day, Thursday."

French and Russia Envoys Urge Him to Commence a Campaign Against Britain.

(Associated Press.)

New York, Dec. 12.—A cable from London to the Journal and Advertiser says that dispatches received there from Cairo and Rome indicate that certain European powers are endeavoring to embarrass England in her fight against the Boers.

A Cairo dispatch is quoted as saying: "Emperor Menelik, of Abyssinia, is moving menacingly towards the British possessions on the White Nile. His camp is now near Adisaba.".

"French and Russian envoys are with him endeavoring to rouse him to an energetic campaign against British interests, urging him to assert his rights over the Soudan, which the envoys declare rightfully belong to his domain."

SIR G. KILPATRICK DEAD.

Former Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario Passes Away This Morning.

(Associated Press.)

Toronto, Dec. 12.—Sir George A. Kilpatrick, formerly Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, died at an early hour this morning. He had been ailing for about two years.

Kilpatrick, Dec. 13.—The death of Sir George Kilpatrick at Toronto causes deep sorrow in this city, his old home. He was beloved by all classes of citizens. The funeral takes place at Cataract cemetery, where his remains will lie alongside those of the late Sir John A. Macdonald and Sir Alexander Campbell.

GOOD ROADS.

(Associated Press.)

Toronto, Dec. 12.—Fifty representatives of municipal councils throughout the province met yesterday to discuss the good roads movement.

METHUEN HAS ANOTHER BATTLE

Desperate Fighting Near Modder River Where the British Are Entrenching Themselves.

GENERAL WAUCHOPE KILLED

The Boer Trenches Were Shelled on Sunday and at Day-break on Monday the Troops Advanced to the Attack.

THE BRITISH CASUALTIES WERE HEAVY

Buller is Now Marching Towards Coleenso—Serious News From Capetown—Alleged Disloyalty of Cape Ministers—Governor Milner About to Take Action.

(Associated Press.)

London, Dec. 13.—Gen. Methuen's general assault on the Boer positions on Monday, as reported, shows that the anxiety of the public regarding the reverse occasioned by the ominous silence of the war office was amply justified.

The engagement was evidently of considerable magnitude, and the list of killed and wounded will be proportionate, without the compensation which a victory would have brought, if indeed the affair does not turn out to be a more serious defeat than Gen. Methuen admits.

Storming Boer's Positions.

The Highlanders, it is believed, must have stormed the Boer position more than once, while the fact that the Guards were ordered to support the Highlanders' rear, looks as though the Boers may even have outflanked their attackers.

One report declares that Gen. Cronje attacked the British.

Near the Enemy.

The only compensation the British have been able to discover in the disheartening story is in Gen. Methuen's story that he maintains his position close to the Boers, thus arousing the hope that he will retrieve the situation.

Trenches Reoccupied.

Apparently the bombardment of Saturday and Sunday did not shake the Boer's grip on their position, and it seems certain that they merely withdrew their guns and riflemen under cover, while Gen. Methuen indulged in the usual artillery preliminaries on Monday, and that when the British guns were obliged to cease firing, owing to the danger of hitting the advancing troops, the Boers speedily reoccupied their trenches and overwhelmed the Highlanders with their terrible rifle fire, probably accompanying this by an attack on the British right flank and rear.

Some alarm is expressed at the situation of Gen. Methuen.

Abusing the Government.

The Westminster Gazette says: "If England ever needs a victory it is now, and it is to Buller that the country looks for this victory."

The other papers abuse the government for its "complacent optimism" and inability to grasp the strength of the enemy.

Situation Grave.

Considerable significance attaches to Gen. Methuen's statement that he is entrenching himself, indicating the fear that the Boers may follow up their advantage, adopt the offensive and attack him. Indeed the gravity of the situation from a British point of view can hardly be over-estimated.

Gen. Methuen's long lines of communication to De Aar are most vulnerable. Should they be cut, Gen. Methuen would find himself in a very tight place if only from lack of supplies.

More Troops Needed.

The Morning Post's military expert in to-day's issue refers thus to Gen. Gat

acre's defeat: "We urged a month ago that a second British army corps should be sent slowly. The fifth and sixth divisions have been put in motion, but the former will arrive too late to render effective help at this crisis."

Gatacre's Troops.

The latest advices from Gen. Gatacre show no anxiety is felt for the safety of his remaining troops, who have been withdrawn to good positions along the railway south of Maitimo. It is said Bushman's hook is impregnable.

The Boers decline to furnish the names of killed or wounded. They say they buried the dead, and are sending the prisoners to Bloemfontein.

Boer Losses.

The Boer loss on Sunday is reported to have been four killed and nine wounded. Probably this is correct, as no genuine attack was delivered by Gen. Gatacre's troops, who were completely surprised while in column.

The British apparently rushed up the nearest hill without orders or knowing where the enemy was, and being exhausted from long marches, they were unable to accomplish anything.

Buller's Advance.

Gen. Buller's advance in the direction of Coleenso seems to have actually commenced.

The military attaches have left Capetown to join Gen. Buller via Durban.

Fever at Ladysmith.

Gen. White reports, under the date of Tuesday, Dec. 12th, that there are 32 cases of enteric fever at Ladysmith.

Cabinet Crisis at Capetown.

There are renewed reports of a cabinet crisis at Capetown, where it is said that Governor Milner is about to act in consequence of disclosures involving the ministry's loyalty.

Sailing of a Transport.

The White Star steamer Majestic sails from Liverpool to-day for South Africa with 2,000 troops on board. The White Star line steamer Cymronic has been chartered for use as a transport.

Military Circles Alarmed.

As the day proceeded and the dribbles of information leaked out, the extreme gravity of Gen. Methuen's position was more fully recognized, and the possibility of his isolation created alarm in military circles.

It is thought in some quarters he would retrace his steps to the Orange River before his lines of communication were seriously severed.

Exchange Depressed.

The stock exchange closed to-day grave and anxious, and there were rumors of further failures. Consols were weak and Kafirs more depressed than at any time during the present year.

Feeling at the Clubs.

There was little excitement noticeable at the war office, but at the clubs and hotels there was considerable gloom

Menelik's Menace

He is Reported to Be Moving Towards British Possessions in Egypt.

French and Russia Envoys Urge Him to Commence a Campaign Against Britain.

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THE SONGHEES RESERVE.

It is rather a pity the morning paper was not as anxious to see the settlement of the Indian reserve question when the Turner government was in office, as it now professes to be. When the Turner ministry for no reason that has ever been given to the public, broke off the negotiations with the Dominion government representative, Mr. McKenna, who was sent out here specially to conduct these negotiations, the Colonist applauded and defended the course of that ministry. To be sure, at that time, the Colonist did little else, but it is decidedly tiresome to see that paper now wheel directly round to the opposite opinion and claim credit for originality and good faith.

For some unknown reason the Turner administration were opposed to the settlement of the Indian reserve question, although the terms offered by the Dominion government were all that any reasonable man could ask. It is entirely due to the unexplained action of the Turner government that the matter was not settled in 1897; the members of the cabinet were afraid to attend the public meeting held in the City Hall after the failure of the negotiations—at least they did not attend, although they were specially invited to do so.

The morning paper never grows weary of telling the people what wonderful things would have happened had Mr. Turner been retained in power; perhaps a few words on the foregoing subject would win for it a little more of the public's confidence in the sincerity of these pleadings for Mr. Turner.

But neither the failure of Mr. Turner to secure the removal of the Indians nor the inconsistencies of the Colonist should be permitted to stand in the way of a settlement of this question. The whole matter is now in the hands of the Selkirk government and the Ottawa government. Mr. Turner is not responsible for the present policy. If Mr. Selkirk is desirous of seeing this nuisance removed, if he is anxious to meet the wishes of the people of this city, and we believe he is, terms can be agreed upon with the Dominion government in half an hour. That is, an arrangement can be made for the removal of the Indians to another reserve and the sale of the present reserve, and that is what the people of Victoria have been asking for all these years. The proposition to acquire a portion of the reserve for a park, or of the whole reserve for the benefit of the city, will of course meet with favor everywhere, but they are minor considerations. The statement of a great public nuisance is of more importance than the possession of a few acres of land.

We hope this matter will soon be decided in a way that will do justice to all round to all parties concerned—the Indians, the Dominion government, the provincial government, the city of Victoria, and the railway company.

The Times believes that there will not be very much opposition to the proposal to make Chief Sheppard, on his retirement, interpreter and prosecutor at the police court at a small salary. The chief is as long as young and he is a good man. He certainly ought to be given a pension to make his retirement especially as it is claimed the proposed salary is necessary and the salary will not be much more than the fees now paid for the services which will appertain to the new office.

THE FIGHTING BOER.

One of the officers now engaged in the campaign in South Africa has written home a very interesting account of the Boers, said the part of it describing their military qualities is one of the best, and most instructive contributions we have yet seen to the great mass of information steadily gathered concerning this peculiar people. This is the portion of the article referred to:

"As to the war itself, it is a most peculiar one. The Boers use neither cavalry nor infantry, and have no regular soldiers. Their forces are all militia, and consist of mounted riflemen and artillery, the latter an addition since the last Boer war. Their forces are exceedingly mobile, and the Boer is like the proverbial flea: When you put your finger on him, he's there. They fight from under cover mostly, and occupy entrenched positions, which are capable of being taken in reverse. For this reason, when one of their positions is taken it is not worth holding. They have no use for military lectures with a blackboard and chalk; and parade-ground drill, and pipeclay are equally out of their line of practice. They have no need to organize regiments, or to enlist men; every man goes to fight, and the township or district forms the regiment. Their ox-wagons form a transport service to hand, and their daily farm life is that of a mounted scout. British settlers call them lazy, but the fact that they do not rush or worry themselves, no doubt gives them good nerves, and a reserve of energy. They are also acclimatized, and can rough it better than European or American troops. It is very odd that in the time of Caesar, their Batavian ancestors, in the swamps or Holland, were regarded, horses and all, as a legion of men, and that Caesar attached a legion of them to the Roman army, and they were his favorite cavalry. The Batavian legion existed down to the time of Vespasian. On the more congenial practice ground of the world, the Boer seems to use his pony with something of the old-time skill of the Batavian; and his pony, like a Western broncho, seems to be acclimated and used to the country that he has to travel.

Must not be confounded with common cathartic or purgative pills. Carter's Little Liver Pills are entirely unlike them in every respect. One trial will prove their superiority.

ISLANDS' MAIL SERVICE.

To the Editor: It was with considerable amusement that I saw a letter in your issue of the 5th inst. on the above service, signed by Mr. Alex. Hamilton, who, by the way, seems to have forgotten to add "of New Westminster." Your correspondent writes a very plausible letter, but when anyone who is at all conversant with matters pertaining to these islands reads it through, he is at once struck by the utter absurdity of the whole affair, as represented by the gentleman from the Royal City. It has now come to light that this disgruntled candidate for provincial honors at the last general elections decided to make an attempt to place himself in the van of this district before the next election should take place, and pose as their champion, thus hoping to gain their good will. But really, sir, he will find that he has sinned his fingers in his attempt, as the majority of the voters of the islands, who are very much opposed to the new mail service, notwithstanding what he (Mr. Hamilton) says to the contrary. A few remarks about this petition, which is so proudly referred to by Mr. Hamilton in his letter to your paper, might not come amiss from one who is a farmer, residing in the district, and perhaps prove more to the point than the perorations of a politician. I enclose below for your benefit and which may prove instructive to you, is really a very strange piece of composition, full of ambiguous vapors and generalities. I consider fully adequate to our needs, and that while on the whole a very small committee, and it would be too absurd for us to expect metropolitan advantages, which is apparently what Mr. Hamilton wishes us to believe he is getting for us. I should like to ask Mr. Hamilton what he, a non-resident, knows about our mail matters, unless he sees through another man's glasses?

And, sir, how are we to know that the future service is to be any better than the present one? We are to take the present train service as rendered by the V. & S. R. R. between Victoria and Sidney, and a criterion I should say that in the future the mail will be very seldom on time, either summer or winter, as the steamer may follow the example set by the railway and take a scowload of cargo in tow. There is another thing I might point out in this petition which says: "We believe that by including all these islands in one service giving us handy access to Victoria (which is really only a couple of hours' time from the mainland) and our little land would be nicely utilized in the growing of small fruits, etc." Now, sir, does it not strike you as being too absurd this small fruit question? Why is not all the time and land that is available in the islands, which is really only a couple of hours' time from the mainland, utilized for such a purpose, when the railway is so convenient? Because, sir, the demand for such fruit is very limited, and the market is fully supplied by the present service. This fact, and the fact that the islands are really only a couple of hours' time from the mainland, is the reason we do not all raise strawberries.

One can take the whole of the petition, clause by clause, and make it utterly inane by changing a few words, and really, sir, if you have no wish to impress on your readers more than possible, a great number of signed petitions on the strength of having daily sent out some millions of petitions, but it is not worth the trouble of signing them, which is one of Mr. Hamilton's main arguments in favor of the new service, will see at a glance that we shall be better off without it. It is a pity that the steamer cannot possibly make connections with all these islands and still hope to make good time. This fact, and that they shall be a great deal better off without it, is the real reason why the signatures of the petition to publicly withdraw their names, which was done at the meeting on May 15th.

ISLANDS' MAIL SERVICE.

To the Editor:—I noticed in one of your late issues a letter from Mr. A. Hamilton (of Westminster) in reference to recent changes in our mail service, by which the convenience of our mails has been handed over to the V. & S. R. Co., in lieu of the C. P. N. Co., which has had the contract for many years past. The ostensible reason for this change was a very vaguely worded petition by the Postmaster-General, drawn up by a few inhabitants of Pender Island, of whom, I understand, Mr. Hamilton (of Westminster) was ringleader. This production was widely circulated and lauded in its terms that anyone might sign it; but amidst the whole farago of generalities, of which it is composed, I gather, after some difficulty, that the only real point in the petition was that the service was to be handed over to the V. & S. R. Co.

1. That the mail contract be given to the V. & S. R. Co.
2. With a view to our enjoying a daily mail.

This question of a daily mail has been used as a trump card by Mr. Hamilton and Co. throughout the whole campaign. Now, sir, to my intense surprise, I find that your correspondent from Westminster has completely changed his ground on this point—the crux of the whole matter—and now expresses himself as perfectly satisfied with a decent semi-weekly service, which it seems to me we are going to get, and which is precisely what we have been having from the C. P. N. Co. for years. Mr. Hamilton, in a letter to one of your Mainland contemporaries, alludes with bitterness to the fact that most of the opponents of the new mail service are simply signing it, while they are actually in the pocket of the contractor. Your correspondent intimates to you that whereas under the C. P. N. Co.'s contract we had regular and direct communication between the islands, and the Mainland, no provision whatever has been made for such service in the new contract; and probably it is to this that Mr. Hamilton refers when he admits that the new service is not ideal. Now, sir, will this readily see, sir, that even admitting that the service be carried out as well and faithfully as the old one has been, we are still losers to the extent of the Mainland connection, which to many of our settlers is of more importance than the connection with Victoria.

other islands. Needless to say their pretensions were ridiculed. I wonder what Mr. Hamilton refers to in the last paragraph of his letter when he mentions ulterior motives and "threats" exposure to certain individuals; why does he not say at once what he means instead of hinting in a most mysterious manner, and thus trying to lead you to believe that he has some shady work in connection with this matter? The reason is plain as he knows that he has no ground to go on, but hopes to achieve by blustering innuendoes what he cannot do by honest arguments.

When Mr. Hamilton was in his stone yard at Westminster I was chairman of the meeting reported by "Islander," and I most emphatically declare that his pretensions to be some shady work in connection with this matter are correct as a non-professional could make it. You will notice, sir, that in these remarks of mine, no mention is being made of Salt Spring Island. The reason is simple: I am not the secretary of the service as served by the City of Nanaimo, whereas we have had the C.P.N. Co.'s steamers, and, unlike Mr. Hamilton, I consider the settlement there quite capable of being maintained with interest without any interference from me. Thanking you, sir, in anticipation for your kindness.

H. L. ROBERTSON.
Moresby Island, 9th Dec., 1899.

The following is the petition referred to of Salt Spring Island, as published in the "Islander" of the 15th inst. on the above service, signed by Mr. Alex. Hamilton, who, by the way, seems to have forgotten to add "of New Westminster." Your correspondent writes a very plausible letter, but when anyone who is at all conversant with matters pertaining to these islands reads it through, he is at once struck by the utter absurdity of the whole affair, as represented by the gentleman from the Royal City. It has now come to light that this disgruntled candidate for provincial honors at the last general elections decided to make an attempt to place himself in the van of this district before the next election should take place, and pose as their champion, thus hoping to gain their good will. But really, sir, he will find that he has sinned his fingers in his attempt, as the majority of the voters of the islands, who are very much opposed to the new mail service, notwithstanding what he (Mr. Hamilton) says to the contrary.

A few remarks about this petition, which is so proudly referred to by Mr. Hamilton in his letter to your paper, might not come amiss from one who is a farmer, residing in the district, and perhaps prove more to the point than the perorations of a politician. I enclose below for your benefit and which may prove instructive to you, is really a very strange piece of composition, full of ambiguous vapors and generalities. I consider fully adequate to our needs, and that while on the whole a very small committee, and it would be too absurd for us to expect metropolitan advantages, which is apparently what Mr. Hamilton wishes us to believe he is getting for us. I should like to ask Mr. Hamilton what he, a non-resident, knows about our mail matters, unless he sees through another man's glasses?

And, sir, how are we to know that the future service is to be any better than the present one? We are to take the present train service as rendered by the V. & S. R. R. between Victoria and Sidney, and a criterion I should say that in the future the mail will be very seldom on time, either summer or winter, as the steamer may follow the example set by the railway and take a scowload of cargo in tow. There is another thing I might point out in this petition which says: "We believe that by including all these islands in one service giving us handy access to Victoria (which is really only a couple of hours' time from the mainland) and our little land would be nicely utilized in the growing of small fruits, etc." Now, sir, does it not strike you as being too absurd this small fruit question? Why is not all the time and land that is available in the islands, which is really only a couple of hours' time from the mainland, utilized for such a purpose, when the railway is so convenient? Because, sir, the demand for such fruit is very limited, and the market is fully supplied by the present service. This fact, and the fact that the islands are really only a couple of hours' time from the mainland, is the reason we do not all raise strawberries.

ISLANDS' MAIL SERVICE.

To the Editor:—I noticed in one of your late issues a letter from Mr. A. Hamilton (of Westminster) in reference to recent changes in our mail service, by which the convenience of our mails has been handed over to the V. & S. R. Co., in lieu of the C. P. N. Co., which has had the contract for many years past. The ostensible reason for this change was a very vaguely worded petition by the Postmaster-General, drawn up by a few inhabitants of Pender Island, of whom, I understand, Mr. Hamilton (of Westminster) was ringleader. This production was widely circulated and lauded in its terms that anyone might sign it; but amidst the whole farago of generalities, of which it is composed, I gather, after some difficulty, that the only real point in the petition was that the service was to be handed over to the V. & S. R. Co.

1. That the mail contract be given to the V. & S. R. Co.
2. With a view to our enjoying a daily mail.

This question of a daily mail has been used as a trump card by Mr. Hamilton and Co. throughout the whole campaign. Now, sir, to my intense surprise, I find that your correspondent from Westminster has completely changed his ground on this point—the crux of the whole matter—and now expresses himself as perfectly satisfied with a decent semi-weekly service, which it seems to me we are going to get, and which is precisely what we have been having from the C. P. N. Co. for years. Mr. Hamilton, in a letter to one of your Mainland contemporaries, alludes with bitterness to the fact that most of the opponents of the new mail service are simply signing it, while they are actually in the pocket of the contractor. Your correspondent intimates to you that whereas under the C. P. N. Co.'s contract we had regular and direct communication between the islands, and the Mainland, no provision whatever has been made for such service in the new contract; and probably it is to this that Mr. Hamilton refers when he admits that the new service is not ideal. Now, sir, will this readily see, sir, that even admitting that the service be carried out as well and faithfully as the old one has been, we are still losers to the extent of the Mainland connection, which to many of our settlers is of more importance than the connection with Victoria.

the daily mail, and thrown the Mainland connection to the winds in order to give some sort of color to the change which has been made largely by his efforts, seeks which do so by throwing mud at the C. P. N. Co. He tries to make your readers believe that this company has afforded a poor and unsatisfactory service and has barely carried out its contract, and in a vein of prophecy (which is easier than proof) wishes us to believe that the V. & S. Co. will do far better. As a matter of fact, the C. P. N. Co. has given us during the past ten years as good a service as our comparatively insignificant traffic justifies, and on very few occasions when there has been delay or failure in delivering the mail, snow, fog or heavy weather has been the cause, and from these I presume the new boat will have no exemption, unless, indeed, Mr. Hamilton will attend to this matter also.

To farmers in general, it is a matter of small moment who carries the mail, but the fact remains that the only regular service of shipment is by the mail steamer, and that to farmers is of vital importance. By the C. P. N. Co.'s boats our stock is taken straight to Victoria or Westminster in comfortable pens—walks on board at our wharves and walks off again at Victoria in the afternoon, and in the morning the service it would have to be landed at Sidney, then transhipped on to the train, to pull up finally at Hillside avenue, a most undesirable terminus—far from the busy haunts of the city.

Another reason given by Mr. Hamilton and his friends for the change is the alleged exorbitant freight rate charged by the C. P. N. Co. Considering, sir, that their rate is \$2 per ton, even for small quantities, and that they are willing to carry small parcels, such as bread, and meat, to all their customers free of all charge, I fail to see any cause for grumbling, except against the most confirmed prejudice. Supposing, however, this charge be considered high, what earthly security has Mr. Hamilton, or have I, that the V. & S. Co. will be any cheaper, knowing as we do that their rate from Victoria to Sidney is \$1.00 per ton?

It is not indeed and to think of the number who suffer from kidney and liver troubles, and who are unable to find relief from the most expensive and unwholesome medicines, that I have written this article. It is the hope that it will be read by those who are afflicted with these troubles, and who are unable to find relief from the most expensive and unwholesome medicines, that I have written this article. It is the hope that it will be read by those who are afflicted with these troubles, and who are unable to find relief from the most expensive and unwholesome medicines, that I have written this article.

(Special to the Times.)
Nanaimo, B. C. Dec. 13.—The following additional particulars regarding the explosion which occurred at Union mine Monday evening reached this city yesterday evening: The fireman had gone his rounds an hour before the accident, and there was no sign of gas in that part of the mine where the explosion occurred.

SAD INDEED.

It is indeed and to think of the number who suffer from kidney and liver troubles, and who are unable to find relief from the most expensive and unwholesome medicines, that I have written this article.

A JAPANESE DISASTER.

San Francisco, Dec. 15.—The Bulletin says: The disaster that overtook the island of Ceram on the 2nd of last month caused immense loss of life. Five thousand people were destroyed on that island along with the upheaval that shook the Japanese coast, and agitated the islands.

THE CARBONADO DISASTER.

Carbonado, Wash., Dec. 13.—Funeral services over 23 victims of the mine accident were held yesterday.

Test the Urine

It tells the state of the Kidneys—To make the Kidneys healthy use Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills.

The up-to-date physician ascertains the health of the kidneys by an examination of the urine. It is not necessary, however, to be an expert in order to tell if the kidneys are deranged. You can conduct an examination yourself. Allow the urine to stand for twenty-four hours in a glass bottle or vessel. At the end of that time it contains a sediment resembling brickdust you may be certain that the kidneys are sluggish and inactive, and that they are leaving dirty poisons in the system, which will in time produce terribly fatal complications.

Sensible Table Knives.

Birks' catalogue is not only a compendium of current art in jewellery, it contains much of interest to the practical housewife. For instance it tells of hand forged Sheffield steel blade Table Knives and Carvers with Xylonite handles. The common-sense of these knives is that they are made to cut, an appreciable distinction between them and the average "silver" article which is often anything but a practical cutting utensil. The Xylonite handle is better than ivory because neither hot water nor the Canadian climate will cause it to crack, yet it so accurately resembles mellowed ivory that none but an expert can say it is not ivory.

These knives are good enough to be put into sterling silver company. They cost from \$4.00 to \$9.00 per dozen, according to shape, the quality being the same in all.

Birks' catalogue illustrates and fully describes these v. It is mailed free on request.

If you need assistance in selecting holiday gifts you find it valuable.

HENRY BIRKS & SONS,
Jewellers to His Excellency the Governor-General.
BIRKS' BUILDING, MONTREAL.

The Union American Explosions

Further Particulars Regarding the Fatal Accident in Mine No. 4.

Two of the Injured Men Are Still in a Precarious Condition.

(Special to the Times.)
Nanaimo, B. C. Dec. 13.—The following additional particulars regarding the explosion which occurred at Union mine Monday evening reached this city yesterday evening:

The fireman had gone his rounds an hour before the accident, and there was no sign of gas in that part of the mine where the explosion occurred. About 10 o'clock on Monday evening, when the men working on the afternoon shift in the diagonal section of Union mine No. 4 were laying aside their tools preparatory to going out, the roof of the slope, about 30 feet from where the men were, settled down some 18 inches, letting in a large quantity of gas which the current of air carried towards the face where the men were working with naked lights.

The explosion party which entered the mine immediately after the accident found Zucchi at the face where he was working. He had apparently been knocked down by the force of the explosion and suffocated by the afterblast. His face was burned to a crisp. Jones had apparently travelled a hundred yards after the explosion occurred, and was finally suffocated by the afterblast. The body was not at all disfigured.

The injured men are H. Fairburn, H. Thompson, J. Guthrie, Sr., J. Guthrie, Jr., Fred Lawson and Ah Koy. Two Japs were also injured by the accident, but not seriously. The six men who were burned were taken to the hospital, where they are being cared for.

Fairburn and the Chinaman have not yet recovered from the shock, and it is feared that they may die. Both are badly burned about the head and hands. T. B. Jones was married and leaves a widow and a 7 year old son. Bernardo Zucchi leaves a widow and several children in Italy.

The funerals of the deceased miners will take place to-day, and the mines will remain closed down until after the 15th inst.

A coroner's jury was empaneled yesterday morning and viewed the place where the accident occurred. A verdict will not be rendered until Mine Inspector Morgan reaches Union. Mr. Morgan left here for the scene of the accident on the City of Nanaimo this morning.

General Manager Little, of the Union Colliery Company, reached here on a boat left for Union on the boat this morning.

SALMON FRY FOR NEW ZEALAND

(Special to the Times.)
Ottawa, Dec. 13.—One million five hundred thousand salmon fry will be shipped by the Warrimoo for New Zealand on the 15th inst.

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Right Here...

Are the new fruits that you are looking for. Low prices—cutting rapid changes, and careful buying makes sure that the goods are the best.

Finest Re-cleaned Currants, 3 lbs. for 25c
Finest Seeded Raisins, 10c lb.
Finest Valencia Raisins, 10c lb.
Finest Chopped Peel, 20c lb.
Finest Metz Fruits, Figs and Nuts.

Morgan's Eastern Oysters
Dixie H. Ross & Co.

Otis Reports That the Filipinos Are Disappearing Before Advancing Troops.

Aguinaldo Abdons His Soldiers and is Now Hiding in Benguet.

(Associated Press.)
Washington, Dec. 13.—General Otis reports from Manila that the insurgents are at the end of their resources from a military point of view, and are withdrawing before the rapid advance of the American troops at all points and says: "General Young reports his extreme northern forces have captured rifles and property with all the insurgents' transportation, and released all the Spanish prisoners in that section, to the number of about 2,000. Our casualties were two wounded."

"March reports from Cayan on the 7th instant that he has destroyed Aguinaldo's body guard, killed General Gregorio Pinoy, expelled the commander of General Corcepcion and staff, killed and wounded 52 insurgents, released five hundred and seventy-five Spanish prisoners, including one hundred and seventy-five fears, and considerable property. His loss was two killed and nine wounded."

"My information is that Aguinaldo has disguised his individual identity, abandoned his troops, and is hiding in the province of Benguet."

General Otis' second dispatch is as follows: "Manila, Dec. 13.—Admiral Watson informs me that the province of Cagayan surrendered unconditionally to Captain McGill, of the Newark, on the 11th inst., all arms being surrendered. This surrender doubtless includes the province of Isabela."

"General Bates at Zamboanga reports affairs there satisfactory. Nearly all rifles have been surrendered. "Mr. Arthur at Baguio reports that he holds as prisoners of war Mabana, the ablest insurgents, and the founder of the late government."

BABIES HAVE CROUP.

No disease comes so suddenly and treacherously upon its victim as Croup. Happy is the mother who has at hand Dr. Chase's Syrup of Turpentine when the dear one awakes in the night coughing and struggling for breath. This famous remedy is the standby in the homes of this continent as a prompt and certain cure for croup, bronchitis, coughs, colds, asthma, and throat irritation. 25 cents a bottle. Family size 60 cents.

SUPPLIES FOR DOUKHOBORS.

(Associated Press.)
Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 13.—A committee of Philadelphia Friends have begun the shipment of 35,000 pounds of supplies for the Doukhobors, or Russian quakers, in Canada. The consignment includes cornmeal, clothing, cotton, seed oil, washed wool for clothing, barley, molted milk and tea. Spinning wheels will be sent later.

FIRE INSURANCE RATES.
(Associated Press.)
Quebec, Dec. 13.—The Canadian Underwriters' Association has refused to reduce the fire insurance rates in this city, owing to the alleged inefficiency of the fire brigade.

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Eastern Oysters

Ross & Co.

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Old Abion's Lusty Sons

The Local Lodges of S. O. E. Celebrate Their Society's Silver Anniversary.

The Glories of the Little Isle Celebrated in Song and Story.

The depressing news from South Africa had no appreciable effect in dampening the ardor of the hundred odd Englishmen who held revel at the Dawson last night, incidentally demolishing roast beef and plum pudding meanwhile.

The occasion was the annual dinner of the Sons of England Benevolent Society, and it differed from previous gatherings of the same organization inasmuch as it was the silver anniversary of the birth of an order which is now world wide. The affair was remarkable as well for the ultra hospitality which was displayed on all sides. Every mention of the British arms now on service in South Africa provoked a storm of cheering, and Col. Gregory's statement that he had a long list of names ready to follow their comrades in a second contingent for the front, was signalled by a scene of great enthusiasm.

Another number in the past grand programme, which proved immensely popular, was the recitation by Capt. Philip Wooley of an original poem, which is being brought out in copyright form by his London publishers. "The Blooming of the Rose," as the new poem is entitled, is equal to anything produced by the gallant captain.

The chair was occupied by Lieut. Col. Prior, M. P., who had on his right Bro. Bull, district deputy, and on his left U. S. Consul Hon. Abram Smith. There were also at the main table His Worship Mayor Redfern, Capt. Wooley, H. D. Helmecken, M. P.; Rev. F. Payne, Rev. E. G. Miller, Col. Gregory and Aid. Hayward. Mr. Arthur Longfield, organist of St. Barnabas church, presided at the piano.

The room was beautifully decorated with flags, a picture of Her Majesty signing the war above the chairman's seat, with the ensigns of Britain and the United States entwined over it. The table decorations were almost entirely white, and the chairs were upholstered in the same fabric. The table service was of a most stylish and satisfactory character.

In opening the proceedings the chairman read letter of regret at inability to be present from Rear-Admiral Beant, the chief guest, Sir C. J. Fox, P. M., D. O. C., and Col. Grant, R. E.

The toast of "The Queen" was then royally drunk with musical honors, following which came that of the President of the United States, proposed by Mr. Jones.

U. S. Consul Abram Smith, in replying to the toast, said that Wm. McKinley had risen from the humble post of an attorney to a rank equal to that of his country. The speaker watched the career of the President with interest and pride. He had risen because he had been true to himself. McKinley owed his rapid rise partially to the fact that he had followed a good and honest profession, and had stepped aside at nominations previous to that at which he was named for President.

"We have expanded since then," said Mr. Smith, "and I notice we all expand after coming to 'British Columbia.' (Laughter) 'And I don't wonder,' he added, 'after such dinners as we have had to-night.' His predecessor had to get a second dress suit, although he was here only three years.

Continuing, Mr. Smith said he had felt big when Lee surrendered, but he had never felt bigger than at the present time. The nation which he represented had spread from Atlantic to Pacific, and down to the islands of the Pacific.

He was glad to see the two flags entwined. Both nations made for liberty and freedom. Both nations were Anglo-Saxon. The weak point in each nation was where a race other than the Anglo-Saxon predominated. "The weak point in your Dominion," he said, "is in Quebec, and the weakest point in our Republic is down at New Orleans, where the French and the creoles are."

Then Mr. Smith went on to add that America was a big continent, but parts of it were too hot and parts of it too cold. The best parts of it were along the Great Lakes and along the Rio Grande—and between those lines.

"God bless the Anglo-Saxon," he continued, "and God bless the Sons of England. They are dominating the world, and they are the saviors of noble races."

He drew attention to the fact that the President's message did not formerly attract any attention outside the limits of the United States, but now in Europe wanted to know what Uncle Sam thought about things, and what he was going to do.

Referring to the Boer war, he said reverses such as that sustained by Gen. Gatacre were rare claps in the wheels of progress. "There is no sympathy for the Boers among the masses in the United States," he said; "there are a few fellows who do, but they don't represent the people any more than the people in Victoria who sympathize with the Boers, represent the people."

Hon. Mr. Prior then, amidst loud cheers, announced that Capt. Phillips Wooley, who, he said, had some things equal to those of Rudyard Kipling, had consented to recite an original poem, "The Blooming of the Rose."

The reading of the selection was frequently interrupted with applause, the cheers being renewed again and again at its conclusion.

"The Dominion and Local Parliaments" was proposed by Arthur Lee, who defined politics as the disposition of the man in power to stay there, and of the man out of power to get there. (Laughter).

The toast was responded to by the chairman, who said that though politics had its ups and its outs features, yet in 12 years' membership of the Flowe he had come to the conviction that over ninety per cent. of the members of parliament were honestly striving to serve their

country's interests. The speaker also referred to the great changes which had taken place in the law of the land during the reign of the present sovereign. These changes in regard to both criminals and lunatics were due to the public spirit of members of parliament. He urged all young men to identify themselves with one of the great parties. There was no such thing as an independent. It was better to be decidedly wrong than undecidedly right.

H. D. Helmecken, while regretting the absence of Premier Selwyn and Mr. J. A. Turner, admitted that coming events might cast their shadows before us, and he might be there himself. (Laughter and applause). Personally he had had been in politics ever since he came to the country. (Laughter).

The Chairman—You came when you were small, didn't you? (Laughter). His Worship Mayor Redfern, who was called upon for a song, said that all his songs were old, but they were all English. His worship recited "The Village Blacksmith" in fine voice.

Mr. J. G. Taylor, in a neat speech, proposed "The Army, Navy and Volunteers." Years ago Tommy Atkins had been "lollied" upon the facility with which he and Mary could polish off a lot of mutton. But he shone in other situations also, and the position in which Tommy was found to be the one in which people loved to see him, and where he liked to be himself. (Lead applause). The present war gave a opportunity not always afforded of permitting the co-operation of the army and navy, and colonial troops who were standing shoulder to shoulder in the "blooming of the rose." In the Canadian contingent there was a member of the S. O. E. of Victoria. There had been reverses, but the successes would be only the greater.

Referring to the toast, which was drunk with great enthusiasm, and which was followed by the singing of the "Red, White and Blue," Col. Prior referred in complimentary way to Capt. Egan, M. P. of the Leander, who was to have responded to the toast. That officer, however, on his body the marks of terrible wounds which he had received in his various services.

He referred to the general response to the call for volunteers from Canada, and to the fact that in proportion to her population, Victoria had offered the largest number of men.

Before calling on Colonel Gregory, the chairman mentioned what was not generally known before, that both himself and Colonel Gregory had volunteered for service with the Canadian contingent, the announcement being received with cheers.

Colonel Gregory, in responding, expressed his gratitude at finding for one that "Harry" was not in the chair. At no dinner which he attended, he added, did he see so many members of the local corps.

Continuing, he said that for all those present knew some of the Canadian boys were lying out still in death on the open field. This brought home to the people the horrors of war.

In the face of this fact he had in his office a long list of men who were anxious to go to the front if a second contingent were selected. He thought this an opportune time for the dispatch of such a regiment when the temporary reverses sustained by General Gatacre might lead disaffected Boers to flock to the enemy's standard. They must be given to understand that they had to reckon not only with Britain, but with all her colonies.

It should be a matter of great congratulation that the call to arms had been responded to by men who had never seen the Mother Country. He would like to see an organization, not of Englishmen, Irishmen or Scotchmen, but sons of Greater Britain. (Applause). He was proud of being a Canadian. He was proud of every line of British history, but he was prouder of being a Canadian—a son of Greater Britain—even if he was a native born Englishman.

Rev. E. Miller recited in a spirited manner "The Charge of the Light Brigade," giving as a prologue a description of the anniversary dinner of the survivors held in London in October.

"The memory of those who have fallen" was proposed, the whole audience rising and drinking the toast in silence.

"Sons of England" was the toast offered by U. S. Consul Smith, who said that they were giving a good account of themselves in the way in which they rallied to the flag, showing themselves worthy sons of the little isle, which had indeed been the mother of nations and the beacon star of the world. Mr. Smith endorsed the chairman's remarks regarding independents or mugwumps. "Stand by your colors in victory or defeat," he said. He concluded his address by an eloquent peroration, following which the hymn "Rule Britannia," sung with the greatest enthusiasm.

The toast was acknowledged by District Deputy Bull, who said that the society was born 25 years ago with six members. It now numbered 13,500 members in Canada and 1,705 had been initiated during the past year.

Last year the subordinate had received \$84,831, out of which \$22,889 was paid in sick benefits, \$15,071 for medical attendance and \$19,732 for management. In the insurance department there were

2,615 beneficiaries, \$24,000 having been paid out in 1898 for death claims.

Dr. Ernest Hall, who was also called upon, said it was unique for the toast of S.O.E. to be proposed by the U. S. consul, and responded to by a representative of John Bull. The doctor referred to a visit he made to London ten years ago, when entering a church there he saw Dr. Cayler, of Brooklyn, in the pulpit and the flags of Britain and the United States entwined above him.

An adaptation of one of Kipling's verses, describing of Fuzzy Wuzzy, to the chairman followed, provoking much laughter.

Speaking of British history, the speaker said it extended from the coming of the Saxons to the landing of the Canadian contingent.

St. Paul had appealed as a Roman citizen to Rome, but Britons could appeal to London and some to the Privy Council.

Cecil Rhodes's convictions were touched upon, a type of which was found in his statement that it was his little part in Imperial policy to run a railroad from the Cape to Cairo, and to paint as much of the map of Africa as he could.

He thought the prerogatives of the medical profession had been entrusted upon. Formerly they had had the exclusive right to kill people, but now it was debated with the laity.

Here a pun was thrown in. Why will the Canadian contingent not have to come in out of the wet? Because it is a heavier regiment, headed by an Officer.

In closing, the doctor said that S. O. E. had 15,000 men who had passed the strictest medical examination who were available for service. In closing he quoted Kipling:

"Lord God our hearts be with us yet, Head we forget, feet we forget."

Bro. A. Redfern sang "Soldiers of the Queen," the audience joining in the chorus.

The Mayor and Corporation, was proposed by W. H. Smith. In reply the mayor said that he and Aid. Hayward were too good friends to fight. They intended to stand by the side of the Boers, whichever way they went, but they would at least know that their mayor was an Englishman.

Turning to the toast, Mr. Redfern said the council touched the people more deeply than the members of the provincial or federal parliament. He said that if the people would give their proper support the council would so improve the city that it would not be known for the same.

Aid. Hayward pleaded that he could not make such a good speech as his worship, he said the latter had been so long in office. (Laughter). He had this satisfaction, however, that in the hour of trial the first would be last and the last first. He hoped that the council would watch the council closely. (A Voice—They need it).

Mr. Hayward referred jocularly to the fact that last Sunday evening he was found in a church in Victoria West. He was there by accident, but he was enclosed by a promise that if elected he would devote himself to advancing the interests of Victoria.

Bro. Lucas sang "Two Sweethearts," being enthusiastically applauded and encored.

"Sister Societies," proposed by Dr. Gibbs, was responded to by Rev. Fred. Payne, in the absence of Rev. W. D. Barber, both reverend and gentlemen banishing from the same village. Rev. Mr. Miller also sang "Hearts of Oak."

The toast of "Our Visitors," submitted by Bro. S. Brakes, was acknowledged by H. D. Helmecken, M. P., and President H. L. Lewis, F. Wood, William Bro. Lucas again contributing a couplet, while the Ladies, whose health was proposed by Capt. Wooley, found an eloquent champion in Dr. Gibbs.

Cheers for Bro. Smith, the warden, and for the Queen, the chairman, Gen. Buller and the host, and the singing of the National Anthem, brought the dinner to a close.

The committee to whom the success of the dinner is due consisted of Bro. J. Nankiville, C. Holmes, J. G. Taylor, W. Jones, F. Dykes, W. H. Smith and Rev. Fred. Payne.

The present were: Lieut. Col. Prior, Hon. Abram Smith, Mayor Redfern, Revs. F. Payne and E. G. Miller, H. D. Helmecken, Capt. Wooley, Dr. Hall, Dr. Gibbs, Col. Gregory, Aid. Hayward, James Critchley, T. H. Banks, R. Porter, R. W. Shaw, W. Norman, A. Gent, G. B. Parry, William Roberts, W. Wood, C. Gilman, F. Tubbs, F. Dykes, G. Ramsey, B. Axhorne, E. A. Haynes, W. Jones, H. Magee, E. Fairall, W. Wain, D. T. Beaver, E. D. Johnson, A. Kendall, T. E. Meads, H. Hancock, G. R. Orton, A. E. Emery, Albert Onions, J. G. Taylor, James Nankiville, Jesse A. Longfield, Arthur Lee, J. E. Painter, A. H. Lott, H. Lewis, F. Wood, William Prout, W. P. Allen, John Pope, Theo. Whitwell, William Symon, Richard Gilbert, J. P. Lewtas, J. J. Card, John Nite, S. Gunter, W. Gunter, Robert D'Inchusa, H. H. Gault, H. Gault, Grime, B. F. Shephard, C. M. Cooper, F. Mellor, H. T. Gravin, W. E. Beane, S. Laurie, M. Blatchford, P. Lavin, W. Balman, V. Dempsey, J. R. Grice, Walt. W. H. Lettice, W. Lindley, William Hooper, J. Woodcock, J. Phillips, A. E. Greenwood, Amos Thomas, J. R. Williams, R. H. Johnston, E. M. Haynes, George Paine and Major Mackenzie.

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REV. I. NAYLOR'S DEFENCE.

The Evangelist Denies Any Impropriety in His Domestic Relationship and Will Prosecute His Defamers.

The meetings which have been in progress here since Saturday night in connection with the Salvation Army came to an abrupt termination last night through disquieting rumors which reached here during yesterday regarding Rev. Isaac Naylor, the evangelist in charge.

These charges, briefly stated, are that he left a wife in England, and coming to this country, obtained a divorce in North Dakota on grounds not countenanced by the church; that within ten days thereafter he married in California, the charming woman, who in this city and elsewhere in the Northwest was known as his wife, and who enjoyed a popularity hardly less than that of her learned and eloquent husband.

These rumors, so Mr. Naylor informed, the Times this afternoon, were circulated in New Whatcom while he was there, and were investigated exhaustively by Rev. Dr. Rogers, pastor of the Tabernacle Congregational church, who satisfied himself that there was nothing in them, and will so inform any one who writes to him for information.

A conference was held last night between Staff Sergeant Galt, Adjutant Todd and Mr. Naylor at which it was decided to discontinue the services. The latter now intends to follow up the originators of the charges and pass a severe sentence upon them. He has already written to the Governor of North Dakota, and has also written to the Governor of California, asking them to take steps to secure those who advertised in the Joyful News, issued at the time of the evangelist's arrival. Only 2,000 of what was to have been a 5,000 edition have been issued, and she lately returned three-fifths of the contract price in each case.

Mr. Naylor intends to go at once to Seattle, where the charges seem to have emanated.

DEEDS ARE FRUITS.

Words are but leaves. It is not what that tells that Hood's Sarsaparilla does the good, but what it does. The results proved to be the great, unassailable remedy for dyspepsia, rheumatism, scrofula, salt rheum, catarrh, indigestion, etc., due to impure or impoverished blood.

HOOD'S PILLS are non-irritating, mild, effective.

THE CANADIAN CONTINGENT.

Letters to Friends Received From Members of the Second Regiment in Victoria To-day.

Several letters were received in the city to-day from members of the Canadian contingent, having been posted at Cape Verde, and came by way of London here. One of these was from Lt. Cornwall, who says the men were in the best of spirits, although insubordination among some of the French-Canadian members had led to sharp punishment.

He also complained of the crowding of the commodes of the ship under the command of Chief Cheppert received a letter from Pte. William Whiteley, his stepson, who is with the Vancouver detachment. He says they had a good trip, with plenty to eat and smoke, the British Columbia men, including together the brothers, all were well in good spirits, and as he expresses it, "ready to fight the devil if necessary."

IT IS A MISTAKE.

To suppose that the kidneys alone are responsible for all the weak, lame, aching backs, rheumatisms, as well as pain under the left shoulder blade frequently comes from the liver or complications of the liver and kidneys which can only be cured by using the great double treatment—Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills. One pill a dose, 25 cents a box.

NOTES FROM ALBERNI.

(Special to the Times.)

Alberni, Dec. 11.—Mr. Brewer came in on Saturday and went down the canal to Anderson Lake to start some men on his properties.

Mr. Bédoué is expected in at any time and will look at several properties on Mineral Hill. He recently made a big strike on the Mainland, selling out for \$75,000.

Work on the Three W's is to be started again in January. Mr. Harris, the manager, is at Rossland.

Mr. Nell has advertised a political meeting for Saturday, the 16th inst.

Mr. Asquith's effects were sold on Saturday. Mr. Asquith has left here.

The Bishop of Columbia has appointed Mr. H. Gault to be lay reader of the English church till a new minister arrives. Mr. Jukes, of Wellington, will conduct the service on the 30th December.

A sale of the late Mr. Faber's C.E. effects is to be held at Sproat Lake on Wednesday.

The nigger minstrel entertainment is to be given on Wednesday, December 20th and French's "Our Boys" is to be produced the Wednesday after Christmas.

ARMSTRONG'S WHISKIES.

The colors in Brainerd & Armstrong wash embroidery silk are "standard." That is Violet is true tone; Geranium Lake is exactly that shade and all the other 374 are true to name or number.

When you need an exact shade you can depend upon getting it just a surely as you get notes in music by striking the proper keys.

Thus you can get true tints of nature in your embroidery work.

Put up in a patent holder which prevents knots or tangles.

Send a one cent stamp or three holders for "Blue Book," which tells exactly how to embroider fifty different leaves and flowers.

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School Board In Session

Applications Invited to Fill a Vacancy on Teaching Staff.

Some Hints For the Guidance of the New Board.

The application of a number of the principals of the city schools for permission to allow the children to make the usual collection of gifts for the poor at Christmas was voted last night by the school board, all the male members taking the view that it was inadvisable to allow the parents to be held responsible for their children's failure to contribute to the gift list.

The first business before the meeting was a communication from Principal McNeill of the North Ward school, calling attention to the inadvisability of Mr. Campbell's recent suggestion that the defect be remedied during the Christmas holidays.

The estimated cost of this, Mrs. G. Grant stated, was \$50, and the communication was referred to the building and grounds committee with power to act.

The same matter was taken up with respect by Principal Gillis of the North Ward school, in regard to Mr. Stephenson's room in that building.

A communication from Miss E. J. King, teacher in the North Ward school, was received, tendering her resignation. The same was taken up with respect by the board and the secretary authorized to draw up a suitable resolution, expressing the board's esteem for the lady.

A request was tabled from the mistress of the Kingston street school for necessary and asking the board to make some arrangement for the washing of dirty towels.

In the discussion which followed some of the trustees expressed astonishment that the teachers should be expected to act as wash-women. It was finally resolved to the building and grounds committee with power to act.

Chief Dessy wrote urging the board to provide fire escapes at the North Ward school, and informing them that they were liable to prosecution if they failed to provide the same at once.

Trustee Belyea moved that the chief be informed that the board is not responsible for the absence of fire escapes in the building, as they are neither the owners nor the lessees and consequently not liable.

A communication from E. W. Arthy, secretary-superintendent of the Protestant board school commissioners for Montreal, asking the board's cooperation in having an Empire Day set apart for schools throughout Canada, was referred to the school management committee.

Considerable discussion followed the reading of a letter from Jas. A. Grant, complaining that his child, although of the required age, had been refused admission to the Hillside avenue school. Mr. Belyea read his reply, in which he informed Mr. Grant that no pupil was admitted to Hillside unless they had attended some other school previously, and that a re-adjustment would be made in the matter in January.

The matter was finally referred to the school management committee to give Mr. Grant the desired information.

The school management committee recommended that applications be called for a teacher holding a first-class certificate to fill Miss King's place, and also that the pupil teachers be paid \$25 in addition to the sum already paid.

In moving its adoption Dr. Hall said it was not generally understood that the pupil teachers had taught about 60 days and were justly entitled to the sum mentioned.

The report was adopted, the advertisements to run until the 26th, it being suggested that they be inserted in one local paper and one Vancouver paper, the latter to be not less than \$50.

Some discussion was also had on the advertisement to place the holiday season, Dr. Hall thought that the two local papers circulated in Vancouver, although Mr. Belyea thought Town Topics might be better. In discussing which of the local papers should be favored with the lucrative advertisement, the chairman asked if the board had any preference in the matter.

Through the South of B.C.

The First of a Series of Articles Descriptive of the C.P.R. Excursion.

The Mining Centres of Kootenay and of Boundary Visited.

A New Region Opened Up to Trade-Its Great Possibilities.

The party of Victoria, Vancouver and New Westminster business men who accepted the invitation of the management of the C. P. R. to join in an excursion on the Boundary country, left Victoria yesterday morning, returning yesterday, the Victoria contingent coming over from the Mainland by the Chalmers and arriving here, tired but well pleased with their trip.

At the time of the trip the Victoria contingent consisted of the ordinary party for Vancouver, so the trip occupied exactly ten days, ten days spent in almost continuous travelling and sight-seeing.

Whatever may have been the principal object of the excursion—the strengthening and increase of business relations, or to convince the business men of the Coast that the extension of the C. P. R. has completely lifted the necessity of granting a charter to any other company for a railway in the Boundary country—it is freely admitted by all who took part that the Coast merchants have derived much useful information, that formerly existing business relations have been cemented and the possibilities of an inland trade with the vast interior of the Southern British Columbia immensely increased.

So much was seen on the trip, so many important facts gleaned, that to give even a resume of all would occupy more space than can be devoted to it in the course of the series of articles to be published in the Times. The purpose of the excursion was written by the representative of the Times who accompanied the excursion, into a short series of articles, a plan which has the additional recommendation that it will serve to keep before the readers of this paper a matter of very great importance longer than would be the case if a report of unwieldy length were published in one issue, and the trip themselves forgotten.

The ground covered. Leaving the Pacific Coast terminus of the Canadian Pacific on Tuesday, the 5th, the party was accommodated in the Pullman cars, and as the route of the railway company, know so well how to entertain their guests, in their temporary home all the way to Arrowhead, which was reached early on Wednesday morning.

Leaving Arrowhead immediately thereafter, the party embarked in the Kootenay, one of the magnificent new boats of the lake fleet, of which Capt J. W. Truop is the commander, the excursionists found that everything possible had been done to provide for their comfort. The staff of the boat was personally responsible for the lake and river portion of the trip, and the members of the party attended to the provision of entertainment for themselves by attending an impromptu smoking concert at which songs, recitations and speeches were given, and much enthusiasm displayed.

Robson was reached in the evening, calls being made en route at Halcrow, Hot Springs, Nakusp and other points. At Robson, sleeping quarters were provided for the accommodation of the visitors that night, and meals were served on board the boats, Minto and Rossland.

In the morning the Coast party was joined by a big delegation of Nelson and the coast party, and the excursionists were provided for the accommodation of the Western extension to the country which they had come especially to see.

The excursionists constant surprising comments, the swiftness of the trip, the construction to be done away with when the tunnel, now under way, through the Bulldog mountain, is completed, being pronounced one of the most wonderful engineering feats of the continent.

Cascade City was seen but for a few minutes, and the visitors were then afforded the opportunity of seeing in the late hours of the afternoon the magnificent state of pastoral land which lies between there and the coast, the party being taken thence right through to the terminus, the city of Greenwood.

At the last mentioned place several old "Victorians" were on hand to provide for the comfort of their visiting friends, and among these should be especially mentioned Duncan Ross and R. E. Gosnell, ex-provincials. Mr. Ross, both now engaged in the newspaper business, and both enthusiastic in their belief that Greenwood is destined to become the metropolis of the great Boundary country.

In the evening, after the members of the party had been given time to visit the much needed barber and to refresh themselves after their long journey, a banquet was served at which attendance was so great that not nearly all could be accommodated.

It was a great success, however, and from the first dish to the last feast there was nothing of which anyone could complain, unless it were the rapid consumption of the enjoyable excursion may be said to have ended, the Victoria people settling down once more to quietness on board the Gulf ferry, and reaching "Home Sweet Home" in time for dinner.

This brief review of the territory covered would be incomplete without a mention being made of Mr. Allan Cameron and the management of the C. P. R., under whose instructions he acted in arranging and carrying out the excursion. From beginning to end, the management of the excursion was a model of efficiency and the thousand little trials and tribulations such a trip entails. Mr. Cameron retained his imperturbable good humor and unfailing patience. The provision for so long a party necessarily required tact and good management, and it is to Mr.

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Empress Delayed

Because of a Missing Celestial The Lunar is held Night

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Two Chinese Local Arrive to Look into Local Chinese Relations.

A SUCCESSFUL SERIES.

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The regular meeting of Farmers' Institutes will come to a close on the 18th inst., the last one taking place at Kelowna. As a rule the meetings have been well attended, especially those addressed by Prof. Miller and Brodie, of Oregon and Washington.

Mr. J. R. Anderson and Prof. Brodie and Miller conclude an interesting tour.

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These gentlemen have now returned home, Mr. Miller taking the Seattle train on Sunday at Mission and Mr. Brodie coming on to Victoria with Mr. J. R. Anderson, the superintendent, for the purpose of giving his assistance in the arrangement of the grasses in the department of agriculture intended for the Paris Exposition.

Mr. Miller Freeman, editor of Ranch and Range, was left at Chilliwack. He proceeds to Kamloops, Salmon Arm, Armstrong, Vernon and Kelowna for the purpose of attending the institute meetings and other purposes.

Very successful meetings were held at Agassiz and Chilliwack, which were largely attended by all the leading people of the districts and many others, all of whom evinced a lively interest in the proceedings and were highly pleased with the lecturers who had so kindly left their own work to give a helping-hand to the farmers of the province.

Monday was another busy day. The Lo Roi and Cedar Star-mines attracted most of the visitors, and the work done the busy night presented, the wonderful engineering work inspected, and the general activity impressed all with the importance of the Rossland camp.

In the afternoon a banquet, modestly but handsomely given, was served in the Hotel Altan, where the host of the evening was duly honored, and the assistant engineer of the Columbia and Western, Mr. John G. Sullivan, the assistant superintendent, Mr. J. A. Grant, the local agent at Rossland, and the popular "Archie" MacKenzie, presented with handsome and valuable souvenirs of the trip by the members of the party.

Much enthusiasm prevailed throughout, and the excursionists were made thoroughly at home, being finally escorted to their rooms through the snow by a large crowd, headed once more by the band.

Robson was reached before midnight, and the party divided into sleeping sections aboard the steamers Minto and Rossland, where they spent the night, and on Monday the beautiful trip on the lake to Arrowhead was thoroughly enjoyed. At Halcrow Hot Springs, the proprietor, Mr. W. C. Husband, generously threw the establishment open, not only for inspection, but for use, and the party enjoyed the magnificent hot plunging bath.

Reaching Arrowhead early in the evening, the comfortable Pullman cars were again boarded, and from that point the members of the party made themselves at home on the "Canadian" and "Victoria" until they reached the Terminal City at noon yesterday.

En route a presentation was made to Mr. Allan Cameron, the assistant general freight agent of the Pacific division, and Mr. S. H. Sykes, sleeping and dining car agent at the former being taken completely aback by receiving such a valuable gold watch, suitably inscribed, and Mr. Sykes being made even happier than his wont by the presentation to him of a handsome travelling companion and a pair of gold and jeweled cuff links.

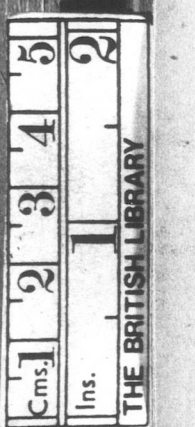
Mr. Earl, M.P., made the presentations, which were accompanied by suitable addresses, and the felicitous remarks of Victoria's junior member were punctuated throughout by the enthusiastic applause of the members of the party. The latter had been treated with such unflinching courtesy by Messrs. Cameron and Sykes, the major domos of the party, that they came heartily to the representatives of the press accompanying the excursion, who were complimented upon the attention they had shown to the party during the trip, and the compliment was briefly acknowledged by Mr. McLagan, of the Vancouver World.

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DR. A. W. S. S. 25c.
CATARRH CURE
This medicine cures the acute and chronic inflammation of the bladder and permanently cures the disease. It is the only medicine that cures Catarrh of the Bladder. Price 25c. Sold by all druggists.

BURNED TO DEATH.
(Associated Press.)
Yarmouth, N.S., Dec. 14.—Mrs. Thos. Carr was burned to death this morning by a fire in her home which occurred alone when the fire occurred.

Hale Old Age.
Sad to see people advanced in years suffering from Backache, Lame Back, Urinary Troubles and Kidney Weakness. A hale old age, free from pains and aches, can only be attained by keeping the kidneys right and the blood pure.

DOAN'S KIDNEY PILLS
befriend the aged by freeing

Empress Delayed

Because of a Missing Celestial the liner is held eight hours.

Two Chinese Officials Arrive to Look into Local Chinese Relations.

R. M. S. Empress of India arrived at the quarantine station about 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon...

The passenger list was lighter than usual. There were 25 saloon passengers...

BURNED TO DEATH.

(Associated Press.) A woman, N. S. P. 14—Mrs. Thomas was burned to death this morning...

Old Age.

Sad to see people advanced in years suffering from backache, lame back, urinary troubles and kidney weakness...

Doan's Kidney Pills... All 50 cents a box, 3 for \$1.25.

Provincial Gazette

Incorporation Asked for the Esquimaux United Service Masonic Association.

A Number of Appointments on Main and List of Incorporated Companies.

There are few items of public interest in the official Gazette...

Court of Revision will be held at New Westminster city on January 12th at 10.30 a.m.

The Bangweletti Concession Company of London, Eng. capital \$4000...

The street railway company have under consideration the further improvement of the Esquimaux line...

The provincial government have awarded the contract for the new bridge over the Courtenay river...

In connection with the suggested candidature of the appraiser of customs for the position of city alderman...

A quiet wedding took place on Saturday evening at the residence of Mr. Willard...

The White Pass & Yukon Route office has been advised that the following rates have been established...

The officers of the Fifth Regiment C. A. are asking the more hearty co-operation of the citizens in maintaining the regimental band...

The public are also reminded of the great assistance they can render in popularizing the regular Saturday night concerts...

Indians have arrived at Juneau with news of the wreck on the east shores of Admiralty Island...

Word was received yesterday from two independent sources that Mr. James McGregor...

At the tax sale held on Monday last by Auctioneer Jones for the disposal of lands at Port Angeles...

A special meeting of the local Trades and Labor Council will be held on Friday night...

Assure yourself you have accomplished no small feat if only you have learned patience.—Goethe.

Local News.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

One of Rev. J. W. Elliott's fox terriers, Wanderer, has won first in the novice and first in the special in the open classes at the Oakland kennel show.

Peter Jackson, the pugilist, has left the Jubilee Hospital, and hopes in the course of a few weeks to be sufficiently recovered to proceed South for the benefit of his health.

John Robertson, of the Store street, has been awarded the contract for the 18th wing of the bridge to be erected shortly over the Courtenay river...

Among those who are applying for the position of chief of police is ex-Constable Gilchrist, who left the force about two and a half years ago.

The street railway company have under consideration the further improvement of the Esquimaux line by the placing on it of large cars such as are used on the Vancouver-New Westminster run.

The provincial government have awarded the contract for the new bridge over the Courtenay river to D. F. Adams...

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Still Talk of War

Relations Between Japan and Russia Are Still Strained.

Sealing Schooner Feared to Have Been Lost Off Copper Islands.

According to advices received from the far east by the Empress of India the Russo-Japanese relations are still strained.

The Russian minister to Japan, Baron Rosen, has been transferred to Serbia. His policy, that of securing cordiality among the Russians and Japanese...

The Nippon seems to think that although the two powers are not on the threshold of strife, a hard struggle is inevitable sooner or later...

It is not often that a prisoner urges the court to increase the penalty inflicted upon him...

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Along the Waterfront.

It has been long since things have been so busy at the ship chandlers' stores...

The Hakodate correspondent of the Japan Advertiser writes under date of November 24th that it was feared the Japanese foreign manned sealing schooner...

A Chinese robber was executed by Germans at Tsingtao on November 24th. In the forenoon the available troops formed the three sides of a square on the drill ground...

The cavalry barracks on the Curragh of Kildare is lonely since the British Dragoons packed up their belongings and took shipping to the Cape.

The Royal Irish Lancers, who have natty blue-breasted uniforms and black oilskin square-topped skull caps, were originally organized...

The Comaught Rangers. The Eighty-Eighth, or Comaught Rangers, hailing from the Irish province of the Shannon...

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DoDDING A VELD FIRE.

How the Boers Blacken Their Native Heaths.

About the middle of the Transvaal winter, which includes the months of June and July, the veldt is regularly and systematically burned up...

These fires are, of course, often the result of accident, but they are also started by the farmers for purely precautionary purposes...

Horses especially dislike veldt fires, and when they hear the crackling of the short, parched, dry grass behind them...

The rush of burned-out little wild animals before an onrushing fire is something extraordinary.

When Mr. Justice Drake took his seat on the bench at the opening of the proceedings in the matter of the election petition of Stoddart vs. Denton...

Arthur Sharp, an explorer, has arrived in England with interesting information regarding the region between Lakes Tanganyika and Albert Edward...

Better stop that cough now with a few doses of Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup...

Let it run on and end perhaps in Bronchitis, Pneumonia or Consumption...

It's a wonderful lung healing remedy that cures the worst kinds of coughs and colds when others fail.

Price 25 and 50c. All dealers.

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The Rival Candidates

The Mayor and Alderman Hayward Measured Swords Last Night.

Victoria West, the Bone of Contention—Mr. Sifton to Be Interviewed.

There was a foretaste of coming battle at the meeting of the city council last night, when the two candidates for majority honors crossed swords over a question relating to a section of the city that has become notorious for the knotty problems which it has submitted for solution.

All the members were present, the mayor being in the chair. F. Elworthy, secretary of the Board of Trade, forwarded a number of copies of the British Columbia Board of Trade annual report, adding that he would be glad to forward additional copies if desired.

The same writer asked for an appropriation of \$100 for the use of the Klondike advertising committee. He mentioned that special illustrated articles, drawing attention to the Coast cities, were being published in Chicago, Minneapolis and other points.

The council felt unable at such a late stage of the year to make any appropriation and will so advise Mr. Elworthy.

R. Seabrook, manager of the Albion Iron Works, wrote objecting to a request by the city engineer that the company improve the sidewalk on Stone street, which is in an unsafe condition.

The writer disclaimed responsibility, stating that it had previously been replaced by the city carpenter. Further, his company did not require the area under the sidewalk, but they would fit it in with curbs from their works if so desired.

He further claimed that the retaining wall was originally put in, not for the sidewalk but to guard the property against the grading of the street.

The communication was referred to the city engineer and solicitor for report.

John Earsmith and Geo. Gardner complained that no improvements had been made on North Parnassus street for the last ten years either as regards sidewalks, drains, etc., and asked for the same. Referred to the city engineer.

A request for permission to lay a permanent sidewalk on Government street, opposite their building, was made by Geo. Mesher & Co.

Ald. Macgregor said this work must come in rotation, and he did not think that there were funds on hand for the purpose.

The mayor was of the opinion that there was granite curbing enough on hand to meet the council's share of the expense.

Ald. Humphrey pointed out that this was a new building, and that the city would have to lay a sidewalk of some kind, under any circumstances.

Ald. Stewart said there was over 1,000 feet of curbing, far in excess of what the council had money to lay, and the expense of the city's portion of the expense.

Ald. Cameron said this was a case where the council should encourage the owners of new buildings. There was no cash outlay involved.

Ald. Kinsman took the same view, although he thought it was getting late in the year to lay permanent sidewalk anywhere, owing to the possibility of frost any night.

The mayor thought business men would object to the sidewalks being put up during the holiday season.

The request was granted subject to the provisions of the by-law.

A request was tabled from the Sorby harbor committee, asking for an appropriation of \$450 for a boring plant, and \$300 for services and plans submitted by Mr. Sorby.

Ald. Brydon supported the request, saying that it was a step in the right direction.

Ald. Beckwith seconded the motion. Ald. Humphrey objected that the report should be signed by members of the committee. He had heard several members of it say that they were opposed to the expenditure as money thrown away.

The Mayor—None of them said so in the committee, Ald. Humphrey.

Ald. Humphrey replied that several of them had said so to him. Continuing, he said he had no objection to paying Mr. Sorby if it was not apparent that it was intended to throw away money on the scheme. Any one who said that borings could be taken for a few hundred dollars either knew nothing about it, or was crazy.

Ald. Brydon reminded Ald. Humphrey that the motion had been carried unanimously in committee.

AM. Kinsman said that he was opposed to paying Mr. Sorby a cent. He had given his services unsolicited, and he (the alderman) did not feel like paying him anything.

AM. Hayward said that the amount was a modest one, and the committee believed that with \$450 they would be able to make the borings desired.

Continuing, Mr. Hayward said he had gone into the scheme prejudiced against it as a crazy one, and it was confidently predicted that the financial part of it would break down at the very beginning. Contrary to their expectation, development of the scheme had proved anything but crazy, and that Mr. Sorby was quite within the mark in his figures. To condemn the scheme for no reason, as Humphrey had done was unfair. The grant to Mr. Sorby was not to be taken as a precedent. He had rendered great service to the city, and the committee felt that a small gratuity such as was suggested was not at all out of the way.

Ald. Williams said that the question asked at Ottawa last year, namely, "What has Victoria done for herself?" still remained unanswered, and if the city wished to convince the government of their earnestness they must not quit-

ble over a matter of this kind. He had confidence in the committee, and was prepared to accept their suggestion. The mayor reminded the council that \$2,500 had been put in the estimates at the beginning of the year for the investigation of the scheme. The committee had acted economically, and even if this grant was made they would have spent only \$1,500 of this amount, leaving \$1,000 still unappropriated. The request was unanimously granted.

The city electrician reported that the supply of carbons at the power house would be exhausted by February, owing to the increased use of the plant. He asked that 10,000 pairs of carbon be ordered to be delivered before the end of January. This was referred to the purchasing agent for action.

The city engineer reported as follows: Gentlemen—I have the honor to submit the following report for your consideration:

Re crossing on Pandora street, on the east side of Douglas street: The crossing in question is at present in a dangerous condition. I would therefore recommend the damaged concrete between, and at each side of, our track be removed, and wooden blocks on concrete foundation be substituted. Estimate cost \$24, not including blocks, which are on hand.

Communication from G. C. Mesher, re extension of Stanley avenue, surface drain along the south side of Cadogan Bay road, opposite lot 4, a distance of 140 feet, in a southerly direction. After due examination of the above locality, I find in order to get sufficient grade to drain the proposed property it will be necessary either to fill in the lots or to raise the surface. I would respectfully recommend this extension be constructed at an early date. Estimate cost, including rock, but exclusive of pipe, which is on hand, \$145.

Re petition from J. E. Wilson and others, asking to have the sewer on Douglas street extended: Although this is in accordance with the system, it would be an expensive extension. I would therefore recommend (providing the petitioners are satisfied) extending sewer further up the lane, at the rear of the school grounds, the estimated cost of which can be obtained when sewer funds are available.

Communication from Mr. W. Hodges, re drain on Oscar street: Upon examination, it is found the proper outlet for the above drain would be in a westerly direction, but as Oscar street is not opened through the drain would empty into farm lands. In order to drain easterly it would be necessary to construct at least 650 feet of box and continue same down Moses street.

I may say I would recommend the latter proposal be adopted when funds are available. Estimate cost \$150.

Re drainage on Lydia street: The present open ditch has no outlet whatever, and after consideration, would recommend a cut be opened northerly along Lydia street and Howard street, thereby giving relief to the property owners thereon. Estimate cost \$85.

Re drain excavated by R. C. Electric Ry. Co. on Pandora avenue: I may say said company are at the present time having the same in proper condition.

Re communication from E. Holmes asking for a sidewalk on Putnam street, between Chambers street, and Penwood road: As this portion of street is not graded, and as all the fences are more or less encroaching on the street, I cannot recommend that a sidewalk be laid at the present time.

The city engineer reports and recommends the following sidewalks be renewed: Johnson street, north side, from Cameron street westerly, 246 feet by 6 feet. Estimate cost \$52.

Churchway, south side, from Humboldt street easterly, distance 300 feet by 6 feet. Estimate cost \$65.

I have the honor to be, gentlemen, Your obedient servant, C. H. TOPP, City Engineer.

It was suggested that the report be laid on the table to be considered with several previous ones at a special meeting. His worship said that Mr. Shakespear had told him that the Port Angeles delegation would be present on Thursday night. It was thought best to leave that night free and have the streets committee meet on Friday night. The report was laid on the table.

The committee on the Home for the Aged and Infirm reported the present building crowded and recommended the acquiring of an adjacent cottage for the accommodation of the remainder. The report was adopted.

A special committee appointed to inquire into the complaint of Mr. Baker that he was required to pay \$100 whole sale license submitted their report.

The committee held that although Mr. Baker did a small wholesale business, the amount mentioned was a great deal, and as there was no way of remitting it, they suggested that the wholesale license be done away with and the question of trade licenses gone into. The report was adopted.

The finance committee reported as follows: Gentlemen—Your finance committee having considered the undementioned subject, beg to report and recommend as follows: That the application of I. B. Gray for assistance towards a monument in the city of Toronto be not entertained. We would recommend, however, that the sum of fifty dollars be appropriated for repairing the fences at the old cemetery on Quadra street.

With regard to the application of the secretary of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for a sum of \$100, based on the fact that the same imposed had been received by the city, and to which by statute the society is entitled to one-half, have to state that during the last five years the sum of \$101.25 had been received from this source. We therefore recommend that the sum of fifty dollars be appropriated for this purpose.

We also recommend for payment the account from the Mining Record of \$100 for covering the city in their Christmas number.

We also recommend that the sum of \$475 be placed at the disposal of the water commissioner for placing a water main on Leighton and Broughton streets.

The clauses were taken up serially, all the clauses being adopted until the recommendation for extending the water-

system to Mr. Ball at a cost of \$475 was reached. This the members refused to do, until they knew what revenue would be derived from it. The clause was therefore laid over until the next meeting of the council and the report adopted as amended. The finance committee recommended an appropriation of \$600.62 out of the current revenue for the month. The report was adopted.

The mayor's motion regarding the setting apart of part of the Indian reserve as a public park was submitted by Ald. Brydon and Beckwith as follows: "Whereas there is no public park or recreation ground in the northern and western parts of the city; it is desirable that a portion of land should be acquired for that purpose;

"And whereas a portion of the Indian reserve north of the Point Ellice bridge is admirably suited for the purpose of a park;

"Be it therefore resolved that the Dominion and Provincial governments be requested, when the Indian reserve question is settled, to set aside and convey to the city of Victoria in trust for a public park that portion of the Indian reserve north of Point Ellice bridge, and on the western side of the harbor, whose area is defined in the accompanying plan, and containing about 35 or 36 acres;

"And that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Honorable the Minister of the Interior of the Dominion of Canada, and to the British Columbia senators and members of the provincial parliament, also to the honorable the President and the honorable the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works of the province of British Columbia, and to the Victoria members of the legislative assembly."

Ald. Hayward said that he understood from the conference the council had with Victoria West, the delegates from the west had urgently requested to get title to the property for \$100 a year, which could be obtained at once. The resolution submitted was illusive, as it deferred any steps until the reserve question was settled. He was in favor of acquiring the whole of the reserve, but in the meantime, he thought this portion of the land should immediately be used for the people's benefit. The title might be obtained at the rental named. He therefore suggested, the following amendment to the motion:

There be it resolved that a special committee be appointed with power to arrange with Indians in possession of certain suitable lands in the Indian reserve north of Point Ellice bridge, for a lease of the said premises at a fair rental subject, of course, to the approval of the Indian Department; and be it further resolved that the Dominion and Provincial governments be requested by the city by deed and conveyance to the city of Victoria, the whole of the unsold portion of the Songhees Indian reserve on such terms as may be deemed fair and equitable, having regard to the losses and injuries sustained during many years by the city by reason of the proximity of these Indians and the cost and charges that have hitherto been connected therewith.

Ald. Macgregor seconded the amendment as meeting the wishes of the people of Victoria West. What they wanted was a park right away.

Personally, the mayor said he had no objection to the amendment, but thought that it asked too much. He thought it very unlikely that the city would obtain the whole reserve. He also pointed out that the passage of the motion would not prevent the council from leasing a portion of it for a park.

AM. Williams, in connection with the content, excepting perhaps in Mexico, had suffered as Victoria had from the presence of the reserve in its centre. He felt like asking for all the reserve. The city should ask for the whole reserve and for compensation also for its being sold on city so long.

Ald. Humphrey, in amendment, that a committee be appointed to urge the settlement of the Indian reserve question, with power to rent the land from the Indian department. A good opportunity would be presented when Mr. Sifton was in the city in a few days.

Ald. Beckwith urged earnest effort on the part of the council to get the matter of the reserve settled. The council ought to tell the government that they wanted the question settled at once. Leasing part of the ground might defer the matter, but which is at present, serious effort was necessary to induce the government to settle the matter.

Ald. Kinsman was anxious that the views of Victoria West be met. All they asked for was a rental of the ground, and if that was asked for it might be given.

In view of the approaching visit of Hon. Mr. Sifton, Ald. Cameron thought the main question should be laid over. He didn't think that the city should be obliged to buy the land.

Ald. Brydon also opposed the suggestion of buying the land. The amendment implied that the city had in the reserve they would have to pay for, a view he thought few members would endorse.

Any value the reserve had, said Ald. Stewart, was due to the proximity of Victoria, and the city was therefore entitled to it. He suggested "pegging away" at the government until they got it.

Ald. Hayward failed to understand the position of the aldermen. Some would cripple their case by asking for a lease, others admitting they had no right to it, and tell him that the land belonged to the city; he would laugh at them, but because it was well known that the land belonged to the crown.

Ald. Beckwith thought that if Victoria West could have another reserve, to the Indians could have the old reserve would become the city's property as an exchange.

Ald. Humphrey's amendment was not seconded. Ald. Hayward's amendment was adopted.

His worship asked to his motion a committee to confer with Mr. Brown and the provincial government on the subject and to arrange for a lease of the property mentioned.

Ald. Hayward thought it folly to take the step mentioned. They had thrown out a motion looking to the acquiring of the whole reserve. This they had done out in favor of asking for a portion of it.

Ald. Brydon said they had voted down

a proposal to buy all the reserve and had adopted one asking for a portion of it free. The amended motion then carried. Ald. Cameron asked if the legislative committee had made any progress. He had been unable to learn of a single meeting it had yet held, and it looked as though the legislature would meet again before the council had decided upon what they wanted.

Ald. Williams said the committee would meet next week. Ald. Humphrey, Stewart and Brydon were appointed a committee to wait upon the authorities in regard to the Indian reserve.

Ald. Beckwith's motion asking that leave be granted to introduce a by-law to enable the city to subscribe capital stock to the amount of \$500,000 in the Chilliwack road passed and the by-law was read a first time.

The council then adjourned after deciding to meet on Friday night, as a committee of public works.

B. C. Board of Trade

The Twentieth Annual Report of That Body Issued This Week.

A Comprehensive Resume of the Development of the Entire Province.

The twentieth annual report of the British Columbia Board of Trade which has just been issued is a comprehensive review of the work of the board and indeed of the development of the province from July 1st, 1880, to June 30th, 1889.

In dealing with the mining industry the report alludes to its gratifying development in eight years from \$4,000,000, the output of gold mines in 1880 to \$3,524,420 in 1889, although a slight falling off has been noticeable during the past year owing to the decrease in the price of silver and the increase of duty on lead entering the United States.

Coming to coal, the report notes with pleasure that the output (31,135,505 tons) for the year is the largest on record. The principal shipments were to California, where Vancouver Island coal represents about one-third of the state imports. The number of hands employed in local mines in 1889 was 2,834. Coal from the Crow's Nest colliery has been tested on H. M. warships, and although the reports are not yet public, they are believed to be very favorable. The Crow's Nest article is taken as readily as the Vancouver Island coal, and costs little more than half the price at Nelson being \$5.75 per ton, against \$10 for that from the Coast. The company's grants were issued conditional upon the sale of coal at the mine not exceeding \$2 per ton, thus giving a guarantee of cheap fuel for all time.

Passing to the timber question, the board recommends the strict enforcement of the law for the prevention of forest fires, to prevent the great waste caused through carelessness. Enquiries for wood pulp, of which British Columbia can furnish abundantly, has been received from Japan.

The exceedingly low pack of salmon on the Fraser river in 1889 forms the text for the board's urging the establishment of "additional salmon" hatcheries, not only on the Fraser, but on the Skeena and Stikine. The government is so far intimidated that their intention of erecting one new hatchery on the Fraser and another on the Skeena. The appointment of a fish specialist is also recommended to act in an advisory capacity to the government, regarding the conserving of the supply of salmon, and adjusting disputes between canners and fishermen.

The low sailing catch of 1888, namely, 23,828 tons, is attributed to restrictions imposed on the industry by the Behring sea arbitration.

The extensive agricultural lands of the province received considerable attention, and the report also contains a resume of the railway building activity of the past year.

The success which has attended the subsidizing of the steamships to Japan and Australia leads the board to urge a similar step in regard to boats plying to Mexico and Central and South American ports, where there is a splendid outlet for Canadian products, but which is at present poorly supplied owing to defective transportation facilities.

It is also pointed out that although shipping is about 150 miles further from the western boundary of British Columbia than Victoria and Vancouver, it enjoys more favorable freight rates than the cities named.

The provincial contributions to the Federal exchequer continue to increase, the customs and inland revenue collections alone amounting to \$2,897,067.10 during the past twelve months:

Table with 3 columns: Location, Duty, Total. Includes Vancouver, New Westminster, Rossland, Nelson, Kaslo, Nanaimo, and Vancouver (all outports in B.C. except Vancouver Island).

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Advertisement for Castoria featuring the text 'What is Castoria?' and 'Castoria is for Infants and Children.'

Castoria is for Infants and Children. Castoria is a harmless substitute for Castor Oil, Paregoric, Drops and Soothing Syrups. It contains neither Opium, Morphine nor other Narcotic substance. It is Pleasant. Its guarantee is thirty years' use by Millions of Mothers. Castoria destroys Worms and allays Feverishness. Castoria cures Diarrhoea and Wind Colic. Castoria relieves Teething Troubles, cures Constipation and Flatulency. Castoria assimilates the Food, regulates the Stomach and Bowels of Infants and Children, giving healthy and natural sleep. Castoria is the Children's Panacea—The Mother's Friend.

Castoria is an excellent medicine for children. Mothers have repeatedly told me of its good effect upon their children. Dr. G. C. Osmond, Lowell, Mass. Castoria is so well adapted to children that I recommend it as superior to any prescription known to me. H. A. ARCHER, M. D. Brooklyn, N. Y.

Advertisement for THE FAC-SIMILE SIGNATURE OF CHAS. H. HUTCHINS, APPEARS ON EVERY WRAPPER.

Notice is hereby given that an application will be made to the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia at its next session, for an Act to incorporate a company with power to construct, equip, operate, and maintain a railway (standard or narrow gauge) for the carrying of passengers and freight from some point on the Vancouver Island, in the District of Nanaimo, Vancouver Island, thence in a northerly direction by the most convenient and feasible route to a point on the Nanaimo lakes; thence by the most direct and best route to a point at the head of Alberni Canal, with power to build a branch line to the head waters of the Chesowan river; by the most feasible route, and to build and operate tramways in connection therewith, with power to construct, equip, and maintain such lines and all necessary bridges, roads, ways and ferries; and to build, own and maintain wharves and docks in connection with the said railway and branches; and with power to build, own, equip and maintain steam and other vessels and boats, and operate the same on all navigable waters within the Province; and with power to build, equip, operate and maintain telegraph and telephone lines in connection with the said railway and branches; and to generate electricity for the supply of light, heat and power for all and every other purpose mentioned in Sections 81, 82 and 83 of the "Water Powers Act, 1897," and to do all and everything necessary or incidental to the carrying out of all or any of the objects referred to in the foregoing; and to exercise all power to appropriate lands for the purposes of the Company, and to acquire lands, bonuses, privileges or other aids from any government, municipal corporation or other persons or bodies; and to levy and collect tolls from all boats, barges, and other vessels passing over, or near the route of the said railway, wharves, docks, and other structures; and to make traffic or other arrangements with railway, steamship, or other companies, and with all other necessary or incidental rights, powers or privileges in that behalf conferred by law.

Dated at the City of Victoria this twenty-third day of November, A. D. 1899. JOHN W. WELLS & DUFF, Solicitors for the Applicants.

Notice is hereby given that application will be made to the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia at its next session for an Act to incorporate a company for the purpose of acquiring and operating a railway and property of the Victoria & Sidney Railway Company, and to extend the said railway to some convenient point on or near the harbor of Victoria in the business part of the city of Victoria, and to construct, maintain and operate a railway ferry from Sidney, or some point near thereto, to all points on the coast of British Columbia, between the mouth of the Fraser river and the international boundary line; and to build, equip, operate and maintain such lines with such power to make traffic or other arrangements with railway, steamship, or other companies, and with all other necessary or incidental rights, powers or privileges in that behalf conferred by law.

Dated at the City of Victoria, this 4th day of December, A. D. 1899. JOHN W. WELLS & DUFF, Agents for the Applicants.

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