E DAILY

British Columbian.

VOLUME 7. NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C., FRIDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 27, 1889. NUMBER 152.

WE make our bow to our readers this evening with just what we stand up in, so to speak. The treacherous flames have licked up our homestead, knot-holes and all, and we will be compelled to turn over an absolutely new leaf on the New Year—if we can find the leaf. It does not become us, however, to dwell upon our losses; which have been heavy enough. Other business firms in the destroyed block have also suffered severely, but in the complete destruction of a long established newspaper office much valuable matter in the shape of files, records, lists, etc., is wiped out that no money can replace.

Notwithstanding the heavy reverse that happened this morning, we will be enabled, through the kindness of our cotemporaries, to issue THE COLUMBIAN, in a greatly reduced form, every evening as usual, without missing an issue, we trust, until a complete new plant, including steam engine, presses, and other machinery, arrives. Steps are being taken to provide a new and first-class outfit with as little delay as possible, and in the meantime we trust that our daily, as well as our weekly readers (whom we shall endeavor to supply with some makeshift for THE WEEKLY COLUMBIAN), will vouchsafe us that indulgence which our present rather unfortunate predicament demands. By the time the New Year is a month or six weeks old we hope to be able to present THE COLUMBIAN to our numerous readers, daily and weekly, as a brand new journal throughout, save as to principles, and as soon as possible to have a better jobbing establishment than ever in operation. To our readers one and all we wish a "HAPPY NEW YEAR."

IMMEDIATELY after THE COLUMBIAN'S loss was known, kind offers of assistance were received in all directions. The Truth Printing Co. placed their whole establishment at our disposal, and this issue is the result of their kind offer. Walter Sillitoe offered the Churchman's Gazette; Reid & Currie placed steam power and office room, in their factory, at our disposal; Mr. McLagan, of the Vancouver World, offered type, press and any other assistance required; the News-Advertiser telephoned tendering us the use of any material, and besides all these, numerous other offers of assistance were received. To all the kind friends who volunteered to assist us in our troubles, THE COLUMBIAN is deepful thankful;

NOTES OF THE FIRE.

All the safes on the premises where the fire occurred were found in good condition, among the ruins. The contents were unharmed.

Chief Ackerman gave his orders from the top of the Cunningham block; an advantageous position from which he could see all that was going on.

Sacks of flour which had been in the hottest of the fierce blaze were found almost unharmed, owing to the outside forming a cake when the water touched it.

Johnny Wise ran bare-footed and bare-headed through the snow to give the alarm at the station.

Many think the snow saved Front and that part of Columbia street west of the conflagration.

The mate of the steamer Irving deserves the greatest praise for his prompt and gallant manœuvering of that steamer's hose.

The tank opposite Ellard & Co.'s was found empty when tapped this morning. Public opinion says this is bad.

The want of force in the streams issuing from the different hoses gave food for thought to many citizens. Even at the best, the strongest stream barely attained the height of the top of the Bank of Montreal.

Mr. Geo. Scoullar is a credit to the fire department; his sensible orders and skill in handling the hose elicited admiration.

Lieutenant Mowat loses a valuable Highland costume, which had been left in Messrs. Lyal's store. Miss Drummond also loses a valuable valise and other articles from the same cause. Mr. F. R. Glover loses a portion of a military outfit exceeding a hundred dollars in value.

FIRE CONSUMES

The Columbian, Lyal's, Wolfenden's and Cunningham's Stores.

HEROIC EFFORTS MADE TO SUBDUE THE FLAMES, BUT TO NO AVAIL, AND $70,000 GOES UP IN SMOKE.

The Loss is Only Partially Covered by Insurance, and all those Swept by the Fire will Lose Heavily.

Somewhere about half-past six this morning Mr. W. N. Draper, wharfinger at Mathers & Milligan's dock, noticed smoke and flame coming from under the eaves in the rear portion of THE COLUMBIAN establishment, and Messrs. W. & G. Wolfenden's store. This alarming spectacle was simultaneously witnessed by Captain Cavan of the steamer Rainbow and an officer on the steamer Irving. These gentlemen immediately gave the alarm, and in a very short space of time the powerful hose of the Irving was brought to bear on the incipient blaze, which every moment was gathering headway. The hose was hauled up on top of an adjoining roof and the nozzle very skilfully handled by one of the Irving's men. The fire alarm sounded a few moments later and the engines were promptly on the scene, the steamer rushing down lower Mary street at break-neck speed. Probably owing to the excited state which the men were in, the suction pipe was shoved too far down and became choked with sand and gravel, rendering the engine totally worthless for over an hour. The old reliable hand engine was got to work by many willing hands opposite the American hotel, and did capital service. The fire by this time had gained complete control of the buildings, and its fierce roar and crackling could be heard blocks away. When the flames got full possession of the printing room of THE COLUMBIAN office the heat was intense and drove the great crowds who had assembled, back to a respectable distance. The giant tongues of flame roared upwards furiously licking up every combustible scrap within reach; and with the fall of floors, rafters, beams and heavy articles, showers of sparks were sent skyward. When the blaze was at its height a heavy snow storm set in, accompanied by a strong easterly gale that added further fury to the fire and drove it against the brick wall of the Bank of Montreal. Grave fears were entertained that it would penetrate the wall and sweep on down Columbia street, but fortunately those fears were allayed by the wind dying away, and also owing to the brick walls of the bank building. Ogle, Campbell & Co.'s store was emptied of its stock in a few minutes by scores of men who took the goods over the way. From Wolfenden's store a few sacks of flour and barrels of various goods were saved from the lower floor; from Lyal & Co.'s scarcely anything. The inflammable nature of the material in the printing shop, while it made the fire there the hottest, made it of short duration and it soon subsided, leaving Messrs. Wolfenden's store blazing on one side and Mr. Cunningham's tin shop on the other. The rear parts of the buildings on Front st. caught fire and burned alarmingly until put out by a prompt use of the hose. After the fire engine got into working order the exertions of the fire brigade were worthy of heroes; they worked with the greatest energy and displayed a bravery in fighting the destroying element that merits the highest praise. They put themselves in positions that made the crowd shudder to look at, and wherever the chief directed their efforts they worked like Trojans. The axe and the crowbar were freely used in tearing down verandahs and encumbering lumber, and one brave fellow actually got upon the very parapet of the front of the bank and which was burning beneath his feet and with stalwart strokes of his axe cut the heart out of that part of the fire. His cool daring was heartily applauded by the crowd. We have been unable to learn his name, but he is a born fire-fighter. A man named Bradley, while carrying a load of goods out of one of the stores, had his face shockly lacerated by the blowing in of a window; Dr. Hall, who was on the spot, put thirteen stitches in the ghastly wound. Mr. T. J. Trapp had his head very severely cut by a flying sheet of glass, which cut its way through Mr. Trapp's hard felt hat and gashed his scalp in a horrible manner. Several other casualities of a minor nature happened, but fortunately, no very serious accidents. The snow undoubtedly helped the firemen in their efforts, as, when it melted with the heat, it streamed off the roofs into the fiery chasm in sheets.

James Stephenson, night watchman, states that he passed the building a few minutes before the fire was discovered, and there was not the slightest sign of such a thing.

Mr. William Murray, clerk in Dickinson & Co.'s butcher shop, and one of the most prominent members of the Hyack fire company, stated to a COLUMBIAN reporter this morning that he was coming along Columbia street about half-past six, and his attention was attracted to the presence of fire in the rear premises of Jas. Cunningham's tinware store. On looking closely he noted flames rising upward in the back shop, and dense volumes of smoke rolling out into the front store. He has not the slightest hesitation in saying that in this place the fire originated. He immediately gave the alarm.

Chief Pearce states that a short time before the alarm was given, two of the officers on duty passed up Mary street, and did not notice any sign of the fire, although it broke out less than half an hour later.

The true origin of the fire will probably never be ascertained. The composing room of THE COLUMBIAN office was vacated by the printers about 8:30 o'clock last evening, all fires having been extinguished before their departure. Mr. James M. Kennedy took a look into the composing room about 10 o'clock, and all was then secure, the fires were out, and there was no sign or smell of fire. Mr. Kennedy then went up stairs and remained with Mr. George Kennedy until after 11 o'clock, when they went home together. On leaving the office the fire in the stove was out, and had there been any smell of fire in the building it would easily have been noticed as a "copy dummy" connected the composing and editorial rooms, and through which all the odors from below found escape.

The total loss, as nearly as can be estimated, is as follows: W. & G. Wolfenden, $20,000, nearly covered by insurance; D. Lyal & Co., loss, $20,000, insurance, $4,000; Kennedy Bros., loss, $15,000 insurance, $6,000; James Cunningham, loss, $15,000; insured for about half the loss. The buildings occupied by W. & G. Wolfenden were owned by Mr. C. G. Major, Lyal's store by Mr. T. R. Pearson, and Cunningham's store was the property of the Methodist Church.

Ald. Reid's arguments in the council chamber in reference to more efficient fire protection are now receiving melancholy corroboration.

Ogle, Campbell & Co., whose store is in the bank building, estimate their actual loss at $6,000. This was occasioned by the removal of their goods. Had the goods not been removed the stock would have been utterly destroyed by water.

The only copy of the Vancouver charter in existance, perished in the fire. THE COLUMBIAN had a large contract for printing new copies of the charter, and about half the work was finished, and this, together with the M. S. copy, was destroyed by the flames.

THROUGH an inadvertancy, owing to the difficulty of obtaining anything but the barest scraps of information, Mr. James Lawson senior's, name, was mentioned in connection with the melancholy catastrophe of yesterday morning, instead of that of his 16-year-old son, who was the victim.

THE BRITISH COLUMBIAN.

SATURDAY EVENING, : : : DECEMBER 28, 1889.

CONDENSED DESPATCHES.

The Paris papers say the full extent of the ravages of the influenza has not been reported, and one of them asserts on what is claimed as a trustworthy authority, that there have been 580 deaths there within the last twenty-four hours.

Dom Carlos, of Portugal, has received an autograph letter from the pope congratulating him on his accession to the throne.

The influenza seems to have taken a firm hold on the theatrical profession in New York; not a company playing in the city has escaped its clutches.

Leander R. Briggs, book keeper for Foster & Bailey, jewelers of Providence, R. I., surrendered himself to a constable at New Rochelle early this morning, and said that he was a defaulter. He was tired of being a fugitive from justice and wanted to be sent back.

The government of Brazil has established in its own interest a monopoly of the India rubber trade. This action has aroused emphatic protests from many export houses, chiefly in America and France, doing a business of three hundred million francs annually. M. Spuller, French minister of foreign affairs, has cabled to the French minister in Brazil for details.

Emin Pasha has had a relapse. There is a secondary hemorrhage from the ear. Great anxiety is felt.

The czar is making favorable progress toward recovering from an attack of influenza. He has not at any time been in a critical condition, and no fears have been felt as to the outcome of his illness.

Major Serpa Pinto telegraphs the government that he has committed no act of hostility against the English.

Gov. Fifer, of Illinois, has taken up the petition for the pardon of the anarchist Oscar Neebe, and it is confidently asserted by the attorney with whom the governor consulted that Neebe will be pardoned before July 1st.

Cha Fong, the young school teacher and interpreter of New York city who gathered $50,000 from Chinese merchants, and eloped with a white girl, has been caught.

A great sensation is rife in London among politicians and the Irish party caused by the report that Capt. O'Shea has filed a petition for absolute divorce from his wife, on the ground of Mr. Parnell's improper intimacy with her. No damages are claimed.

Five of the 13 overdue steamers arrived at New York this morning. Among them was the State of Alabama, more than a week overdue from Glasgow.

A Brazilian correspondent, a prominent Republican, of Norch, Ohio, says the Brazilians are very much pleased with the support and sympathy of the U. S. press, which is in marked contrast with many articles in the European press.

A train on the Chesapeake & Ohio road has been wrecked at White Sulphur Springs, Ohio, and it is reported 10 persons have been killed and 20 wounded.

A Lively Runaway.

Mr. Charles McDonough's horse is an animal possessed of a superabundance of spirits—animal spirits—correctly speaking, and his escapades at various inopportune seasons have provided a good deal of healthy, if rather dangerous diversion to all who have witnessed the same. This morning this vivacious equine was at Webster's wharf getting his wagon loaded. To relieve the tedium of the operation he suddenly took it into his head to bolt, and burning with a wild desire to see his name in print again dashed off up Columbia street as if determined to make as first-class a smash up as an animal of his abilities was capable off. On reaching Douglas st. he attempted to turn down toward the wharf, but as a team was coming up from there his native politeness induced him to give place, so he took the sidewalk and tore up past the Beers barrel factory at a Derby gait until he reached H. M. Cunningham's & Co.'s store, where a cast iron pump, a sheet iron stove and an iron rack full of brooms were promptly knocked into smithereens; and then the wagon followed the same course against a stout verandah post. The versatile quadruped then rolled over in the snow and was afterwards taken home. No one was injured and the horse is all right.

THE captain of H. M. S. Acorn was enquiring today of parties in this city as to when full tide would serve to-morrow. He was notified that 12, noon, was the hour. The Acorn may be expected any day.

THE COLUMBIAN was burned out some 25 years ago, when under the control of the present premier, Hon. John Robson.

LOCALS IN BRIEF.

Last night might have been called the formal opening of the coasting season. Mary st. was alive with coasters, and one gentleman turned out with a real toboggan, which, as it shot like a lightning flash down hill, vividly recalled memories of "The Mountain" at Montreal. The speed developed by some of the coasting sleds was simply terrific.

Mr. E. M. Boville, the newly appointed crown lands agent, for Kamloops district, returned from Ottawa on Thursday, and left for Victoria this morning. Mr. Boville has already set about preparing to enter upon his new duties at the inland capital, and will leave for that place immediately after his return from Victoria. Mr. Boville was the recipient of many hearty congratulations yesterday on his appointment, which is very popular on all sides.

Mr. Pelly, a law student in the office of Corbould McColl & Jenns, while assisting yesterday morning in removing articles from Wolfenden's store during the fire had his back injured by a piece of glass. His clothing was cut through and an ugly scar remains to mark the place.

The steamer Dunsmuir arrived from Nanaimo ths afternoon with coal.

Game of every description, while not exactly scarce, is by no means plentiful. The cold weather will no doubt soon improve this state of things.

Messrs. W. & G. Wolfenden are prepared to receive orders for groceries at their new store in the Hamley block. tc

Mr. Peter Grant, we are glad to learn, will be able to appear on the streets again in a few days. He is improving rapidly and is gaining daily in strength and spirits.

Cold weather and good sleighing prevails at Chilliwack and other up-river ports.

The str. Michigan arrived from Portland, Or. this afternoon with about 35 tons of freight, chiefly fruit, caned goods and mill produce, for consignees in this city. She cleared with a small consignment of freight this evening.

The North Baptish church, of Seattle, has extended a hearty unanimous call to the Rev. Thos. Baldwin, pastor of the Olivet Baptist church, of this city.

The rear part of the Steamboat Exchange, badly scorched by the fire, has been already thoroughly repaired.

Chief of Police Pearce says that the report published about him ordering the hose to be disconnected across Front street to allow the train to pass is not correct. He ordered the train to stop and it did so.

Lieut.-Col. Prior was given a grand reception at Victoria last night on his return from Ottawa. Philharmonic hall, where the reception was held, was crowded with people, and the ovation to the popular member was one of the greatest ever given to a Victorian.

It is expected that the property swept by yesterday morning's fire will be covered with a handsome three story block before next fall.

Uncle Sam's New Warship.

WASHINGTON, December 27th.—Secretary Tracy this afternoon accepted the cruiser Baltimore for the United States. The vessel will be put to sea on Monday from Philadelphia, and will proceed to New York and there formally be turned over to the Government by Contractors Cramp & Sons of Philadelphia. The acceptance of the Baltimore prior to the receipt at the office of the official report of the trial board was somewhat of a surprise. Secretary Tracy, however, had assurances that the vessel had proved a success and he had decided not to postpone the acceptance. The horse-power developed on the trial trip exceeded the contract requirements in this regard by about five hundred, thus giving the contractors a premium of $50,000. Of this amount $20,000 will be deducted by the Government for expenses of unsuccessful trial trips. The contractors will, also, be obliged to pay a penalty of about $9500 for their failure to complete her within contract time. Her acceptance brings the numbers of steel ships in the new navy up to eight.

Brazil Not Out of the Wood Yet.

NEW YORK, December 27th.—The Brazilian Consul General Salvadore Mendonica telegraphs C. R. Flint & Co. from Washington that he has received cables from Brazil, preparing him for bad news, he continues, however, to have confidence in the strength of the Government.

Passed Away.

LEAD CITY, South Dakota, December 27th.—Major William R. Snider, Editor of the Lead City Tribune, and the best-known newspaper man in South Dakota, died suddenly yesterday morning of apoplexy. He was born in Columbia County, Ohio, and leaves a widow and three children in that state.

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Thompson old Photograph Gallery, Columbia Street, NEW WESTMINSTER.

CITY DEBENTURES.

Tenders will be received up to 6 p. m. on Monday, January 27th, 1890 for debentures of the city of New Westminster, B. C., amounting to $200,000. Debentures are for $1,000 each, payable in fifty years, in this city, and bear 5 per cent. per annum interest, payable on the 1st day of January and July—the interest payable 1st July, 1890, being for five months only, viz., from date of delivery of debentures. Debentures will be ready for delivery February 1st, 1890. Tenders to state number of debentures that will be taken and amount of premium that will be paid and to be endorsed: "Tender for Debentures," and addressed to the undersigned. The highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

D. ROBSON, city clerk.
New Westminster, B. C., December 17th, 1889.