Legislative Reading Room

THE PROSPECTOR.

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VICTORY FOR THE BRITISH.

Cronje Surrenders With Four Thousand Men. The Canadians do Their Duty.

Lorenzo Marquez, Feb. 22—The Transvaal government is reported as being seriously alarmed at the defeat of the Boers at Kimberley and the retreat of the famous Cronje. It is asserted that 6,000 Boers have been sent from Ladysmith to Bioemfontein.

Cheveley, 22.—The main body of Boers have fled—evidently to stem the advance of Lord Roberts.

Kimberley, 22.—Lord Methuen arrived on Tuesday. He will act as administrator of Kimberley extending south ward to Orange River, Colonel Kekewich will remain in command of the local forces. The issue of siege food ceases today. There are 74 Boer prisoners here.

London, 24.—Boers seem to be retiring from General Gatacre at Sterkstroom in order to reinforce the Free Staters.

London, 24.— A despatch to the Daily Telegraph from Pietermaritzburg says: "Fighting is proceeding in the vicinity of Pieters (between Colenso and Ladysmith) this morning, General Buller's advance being opposed.

London, 24.—General Buller wires that casualties resulting from the recent fighting were 3 officers killed and 14 wounded. Owing to the continuous fighting it is impossible to give the number of men killed and wounded.

London, 27.—The war office has received the following despatch from Lord Roberts: "Paardeberg, 27.—General Cronje and all his force capitulated unconditionally at daylight and is now a prisoner in my camp. The strength of his force will be communicated. I hope that Her Majesty's government will consider this event satisfactory, occurring as it does on the anniversary of Majuba."

London, 27,—The principal feature of the battle of Paardeberg on the 18th were the fighting and self-sacrifice of the Highland Brigade and the impetuous charge on the Boer trenches by the Cornwalls and Canadians.

It is now announced that Lord Roberts notified the war office that the number of his prisoners approximates 4,000, of which 1,150 are citizens of the Free State and the remainder Transvaalers.

In Lord Roberts official report of Cronje's surrender is the following:

"At 3 a. m. today a most dashing advance was made by the Canadian regiment and some engineers, supported by the First Gordon Highlanders and Second Shropshires, resulting in our gaining a point 700 yards nearer the enemy and within 80 yards of Cronje's trenches where our men entrenched and maintained the position till morning. This apparently clinched matters, for at daylight a letter signed by General Cronje announcing his unconditional surrender was brought to the outposts."

London, 27.—The war office has received the following from Paardeberg: "In the very successful attack by the Royal Canadians this morning, Major Pelletier was wounded, eight men killed and 29 wounded." There were no B. C. men among the number.

General Macdonald is expected to return to duty in a few days.

Twenty-nine Transvaal officers were captured and 18 Free Staters. The guns captured from Transvaal forces were seven 5 centimetre Krupps and nine one pounders and one Maxim. From the Free Staters, one Krupp and one Maxim.

London, 27.—A despatch to the Daily News from Lorenzo Marquez Feb. 23rd says it is reported here that 5,000 Boers have left Ladysmith for the Free State. The Boers are concentrating forces 30 miles outside Bloemfontein and the Free State government is moving to Winburg.

Nothing has been heard from Mafeking since February 12th.

General Buller on Saturday forced the last and strongest position of the Boers who bar his way to Ladysmith.

General White's guns worked on Saturday upon the Boer positions and a signalled message from Ladysmith reported that the Boers were retreating and that larger rations were being issued in view of the fact that relief seemed at hand.

London, 28.—The war office has received a despatch from General Buller announcing that Pieters Hill—the enemy's main position—was magnificently captured yesterday and sixty prisoners taken.

Paardeberg, 27.—General Cronje's surrender was chiefly due to the gallant night attack upon his trenches by the Canadians and the Gordon Highlanders.

London, 28.—The Queen has telegraphen General Buller as follows:

"I have heard with the deepest concern the heavy losses sustained by my brave Irish soldiers and I desire to express my sympathy and admiration of the splendid fighting qualities they have exhibited throughout those trying operations."

Capetown, 26.—There are now six hundred prisoners at Modder River most of whom surrendered Friday and Saturday and before Cronje's capture. They are kept under guard between wire fences.

While Lord Roberts was holding Cronje at Paardeberg it is understood that General French was moving towards Bloemfontein.

At all the theatres and music halls the wildest enthusiasm is displayed, everywhere patriotic pictures, songs, and allusions were applauded to the echo.

The morning papers are jubilant but all warn the nation against over-confidence. Ten thousand additional troops will go out and the effective force will be kept near 200,000. At any time news may come of General Buller's success.

A Boer report from Sterkspruit says that General Brabout with British force has occupied Jamestown, Cape Colony.

London 28—Lord Roberts has forwarded additional list of casualties during three days fighting at Paardeberg showing twelve killed and eighty-two wounded and four missing, including seven officers and four Canadian privates wounded.

A despatch from Arundel says British troops have again occupied Rensburg. A Paardeberg despatch says the Canadians were fighting hand-to-hand in the Boer trenches when Cronje surrendered.

Ottawa 28.—The governor-general has received a cable from the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain offering hearty congratulations to Canada on the noble part taken by Canadians in Lord Roberts victory.

Sterkspruit, 28.—The Boers admit that their losses, when the British under General Brabant recaptured Jamestown were 50 killed, 123 wounded and 300 missing.

Paardeberg 28.—It is understood that some 7,000 Boers are concentrating on the British front. The British cavalry are in touch with them to the eastward and began skirmishing this morning.

London, March 1.—When the news of the relief of Ladysmith was received this morning London went wild with joy. Business is at a standstill and traffic on the main streets blocked for hours.

A Capetown special announces that the Boers made a severe and protracted assault on Mafeking on February 24th and 25th. They were repulsed with a loss of 40 killed and wounded, the British loss 2 killed and 3 wounded.

General Buller wires from Nelthorpe that he personally just returned from Ladysmith and that the whole country south of that place is clear of Boers. The garrison at Ladysmith were on half a pound of meat per man per day and will want a little nursing before being fit for service.

The war office has received the following despatch from General Buller:

"General Lyttleton's Headquarters: General Dundonald with the Natal carbineers and a composite regiment entered Ladysmith last night. The country between me and Ladysmith is reported clear of the enemy. I am moving on Nelthorpe."

Lord Roberts cabled as follows: "Rensburg was reoccupied yesterday by General Clements."

A special from Capetown dated Tuesday says the Boers of Barkley East have offered to surrender on condition that the safety of the rebel Dutch is assured. The British however, insist upon unconditional surrender.

The war office officially reports that Ladysmith has been relieved.

London 1.—The day has been practically given up to the celebrating of Ladysmith. The wildest enthusiasm and patriotism is prevailing throughout the whole country and business is almost entirely suspended.

It appears that an action was about to begin with the Boer reinforcements at the moment of General Cronje's surrenker, but Lord Roberts forbade it until all the prisoners should be in safe keeping.

Lord Roberts addressed the Canadians expressing in the strongest terms his pleasure and appreciation of their splendid work and courage and attributed to them the greatest share in the Boer surrender.

Canadian Patriotic Fund Association.

The subscription list opened at the post office a short time has received the following donations:

W. J. Abercrombie	$ 1 00
Wm. Cumming	5 00
J. S. Bell	5 00

John R. Williams was in town for a short time today on business. About half of the machinery for the McGillivray creek mill is at the mouth of the creek. A few light pieces are at the mine.

A few friends of Mr. and Mrs. John Marshall will spend this evening at their residence, Lillooet mills. Dancing will be indulged in.

JOSEPH MARTIN AS PREMIER.

Lieutenant-Governor Has Called on Joseph Martin to Form a Cabinet.

Special to The Prospector.

Victoria 28.—Joseph Martin has been called in by the lieutenant governor to form a cabinet, and expected be in a position tomorrow to give particulars. Dissolution will take place immediately and it is understood he will go to the country.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

(From Our Victoria Correspondent.)

Victoria, B. C., February 23.—Precisely as indicated in these columns a week ago, the Semlin-Cotton administration has met its defeat at the hands of the people's elected representatives on the floor of the legislature, being defeated this afternoon on the motion for second reading of the redistribution bill, which the members of the ministerial party had unanimously agreed would be the best legislation (carried or defeated) upon which they could appeal to the country. Although looked for for days, the collapse of the government when it did come, matured in somewhat unexpected manner to the public, Victoria's third member (Mr. Richard Hall) having the honor of touching the button that exploded the opposition's well arranged mine.

It was after the second reading debate had been continued—the general discussion being so dry as to invite the match which Mr. Hall held ready to apply according to the sytematic plan. His speech in doing so was neither long nor pretentious, though fruitful in important results.

"I move the previous question," he said—and even the galleries understood that this was intended as a motion that would put the struggling government out of its misery. All parts of the assembly took on an expectancy and suppressed excitement, while members hurried in from restaurant or library at the summons of the division bell.

"The previous question has been moved," said Mr. Speaker Forster, "are you ready for the question?"

"Aye," shouted the opposition.

"Aye," said the government ranks quietly, realizing that the end had come at last.

"Shall the motion carry?"

"Aye," again chorused the triumphant opposition.

The "noes" were manifestly less vociferous.

"The 'ayes' have it, I think," said Mr. Speaker, while the members of the opposition raised a cheer in which the galleries joined enthusiastically.

The names were called for and duly recorded as follows:

Aye.—Messrs. Pooley, Dunsmuir, Robertson, Clifford, Helmcken, Irving, A. W. Smith, Eberts, Baker, Booth, Hall, Jos. Martin, McBride, McPhillips, Ellison, Higgins, Turner, Brydon, Prentice.—19.

No.—Henderson. Cotton, Macpherson, Tisdall, Neill, Helgeson, Munro, Hume, J. H. Martin, Semlin, Wells, R. Smith, Deane, Green, Kinchant, Kidd, McKechnie, Kellie.—18.

It remained for the main motion to be disposed of in order that the defeat of the government might be made complete and all eyes were turned toward Joseph Martin's seat, it being well understood that he had forced the measure forward. When the division was called for, Mr. Martin's hand was found high in air with those of the members of the straight opposition.

"How does the honorable third member for Vancouver city vote?" asked Mr. Speaker, to make assurance doubly sure.

"I vote against the bill," said Mr. Martin emphatically.

"The bill is lost," said Mr. Speaker, as the division was recalled and recorded, nineteen to eighteen.

"So is the government," called out someone in Mr. Martin's near neighborhood, and then the enthusiasm broke forth, the speaker's call for order in the galleries being utterly unheeded, and the cheering of members and spectators attested the general feeling of relief and satisfaction.

A few brief moments passed, and then Hon. Mr. Semlin rose, and with very evident agitation, and somewhat pathetic quaver in his voice, said: "In view of what has just occurred, I think it is only right to ask that this house at its rising do stand adjourned until 2 o'clock on Monday next."

The honorable gentleman was proceeding to elaborate his reasons when the opposition leader interposed a suggestion that Tuesday be named instead.

(Continued on second page)

H. M. Strauss, P. Bessout, Wm. and T. A. Brett left Tuesday morning for McGillivray creek.

Miss A. I. Davidson formerly public school teacher in Lillooet is now teaching in the west end school Vancouver.

Lance Knowles came in from his ranch at Pemberton portage last night and will remain in town a few days enjoying metropolitan life.

The annual Clinton dance was as usual a success, the Lillooet contingent enjoying themselves very much and are expected home on this evenings stage.

The machinery for the Lytton dredge is about all in place. The deck house has been completed and it is expected that the dredger will be ready for work about the end of this month.

Captain F. H. Kinder is having his new machinery put in the steamer Minnehaha and will probably be able to continue his trips up the lake tomorrow. With the new machinery working well the trip to the end of the lake will be made in an hour.

Reports from the Gilfoil claims on Seaton lake are very satisfactory. Work has been kept going by the owners, and from the late assays received this property may yet prove one of the richest in the province.

Mr. H. S. Southard returned from Bradford, Penn., last Friday evening after an absence of several months. He will go to the Fountain in a few days to make preparations for working the hydraulic proposition he put in shape last summer.

THE PROSPECTOR.

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RIC. A. FRASER, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 1900.

The news of the defeat of the Semlin government was received with every expression of satisfaction. A satisfaction that is not confined to Lillooet alone but is voiced by the whole province. It is very doubtful if a British public has ever before witnessed such an exhibition of incompetency or if a government has ever previously succeeded—in such a short time—in making itself so universally detested. Notwithstanding the disposition of some of the coast organs to laud the amiable qualities of the venerable premier, no member of the defunct government receives the same measure of contempt. Those who are best acquainted with Mr. Semlin and probably they are better qualified to judge his character on account of long association and better opportunities, do not give him credit for the possession of such heavenly qualities.

He has not hesitated to use the position—which accident, combined with an tremely forbearing electorate and a prejudiced lieutenant governor—gave him to gratify his petty, personal spite, regardless of the wishes of the public, in fact it was the only prominent feature of his short-lived administration. Had he shown any evidence of ability these shortcomings might be condoned, but for want of any administrative capacity, or even horse sense his position is unique and without parallel.

While in opposition the whole cry was economy. Can anyone in the whole province, including the ex-premier himself conscientiously say that Mr. Semlin was not the recipient of charity when he took five thousand a year from the public exchequer. Will anyone have the temerity to say that any services that Mr. Semlin is capable of rendering is "value received" for the public money. He even persisted in holding on to office when it was apparent, to the least observing, that his motives were purely sordid on holding on to office until he was ignominiously kicked out by his disgusted supporters. He can not point to one solitary act that has benefitted the province. His government will only be remembered with contempt.

A few newspapers are advocating sending him to London as agent-general. Were he offered the position no doubt he would accept, and were it possible for him to sink lower in the public esteem this would justify it. No doubt he would forget the reflections and jeers cast on Mr. Vernon when he ousted him from the position and humbly accept the salary attached to it, knowing full well he was incapable of filling it, as he has not shown ability enough to justify making him sergeant-at-arms. It is sincerely hoped that the incoming government will not give him an opportunity to repeat—in a new field—his unenviable record.

Had Mr. Semlin showed any consideration for the members of the old government, had he shown any disposition to do justice, the present pitiable spectacle he now presents might excite our commiseration, but it is impossible to forget the circumstances under which he assumed office, the base calumnies and vile slanders that he countenaced in connection with men who had occupied high positions in the country to credit to themselves and benefit to the public. Not one charge could he substantiate and Mr. Turner and his associates have the satisfaction of knowing that they retain the respect of the province at large, while their calumators only excite contempt.

Mr. Semlin will now retire to the fate he deserves, and the district of West Yale will have the gain. The district has been neglected, the cry being that the member was in the opposition ranks and could not do anything. He has since held the position of head of the government and the results have been worse. The improvements in Mr. Semlin's district for the past eighteen months was started or the money appropriated by the Turner government and the electors had to crawl to get it. Sentiment is getting knocked out of the electorate and after another election West Yale will, no doubt, have representation in he provincial legislature.

Now that the probability of an early provincial election has passed into the realm of certainty, we once more urge upon all who are not yet registered as voters, to see that their names are placed on the roll. The qualifications required are that an applicant be a male British subject, twenty one years of age, who has resided six months in the province and one month in the riding or electoral district. We trust that all who have not yet done so will give this matter immediate attention, as they may soon have an opportunity to give expression to their feelings regarding affairs political, at the polls.

The Semlin ministry will be a thing of the past in a few days, all but the flagrant errors it committed during its short regime. It has been hanging on by a thread since the beginning of the session, and last Friday afternoon while the second reading of the redistribution bill was on, both the government and the bill were put out of misery, by a vote of nineteen to eighteen. The lieutenant-governor has called on Joseph Martin as premier, and the latter is now selecting his cabinet. It remains to be seen whether or no Mr. Martin will be successful in forming a party.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

(Continued from fourth page)

The premier, realizing that he was no longer leader of the house acquiesced immediately, and the house adjourned almost immediately thereafter, Mr. Turner having expressed the hope that the government would arrange to have pending private legislation and non-contentious public business disposed of previous to the termination of the session.

It was not until the members were out in the lobbies that all tongues were loosened and the crowding incidents of the day were thoroughly discussed in all their various phases. As a rule the members of the-government-that-was, accepted the defeat philosophically as something to which they had been looking forward, and were rather glad to have it come in the way it had. A few were bellicose, however, and Mr. Joseph Martin's erstwhile warm admirers, Ralph Smith and J. M. Kellie, were found holding up that doughty politician with hot upbraidings that threatened for a time to run into something more serious.

It is very doubtful indeed if the defeated government will be granted the dissolution for which they have builded, and yet less to be anticipated that Hon. Mr. Cotton would be acceptable to his honor as leader of a new party. Hon. Mr. Semlin reported the defeat of his government to the lieutenant-governor tonight, and it is understood was given until Monday night to consider and report upon his position and the likelihood of a reconstruction being secured which will permit of business being carried on. There is a very general belieif that hi honor will call upon some one other than the recognized leaders of the old parties—quite possibly Mr. James Dunsmuir, the "silent member" who nevertheless has shown himself strong in organization and executive ability—who may possibly secure a sufficient following, out of the membership of the present house, to continue the business of the country on on a sound basis, and without a costly appeal to the country before the natural expiry of the full legislative term. Mr. Joseph Martin and Mr. George R. Maxwell have also been mentioned frequently as likely to receive the call from the government hou e, but it is not probable that either will be so recognized.

As for the redistribution bill, it may be said that it was defeated not so much because the opposition failed to recognize the valuable features in it, but because they disputed the right or expediency of so weak and uncertain a government to put so important legislation through. At the same time Mr. Prentice was compelled to look upon it as a direct challenge to him to go into opposition, inasmuch as the cancellation of his own district was proposed. Whether dissolution will or will not be granted is as yet a very open question, but in the meanwhile some wag has seen fit to decorate the bullentin board in the lobby with a notice which reads as follows:

"DIED.—Semlin-Cotton, in this city on the 23rd inst. at 4 p. m., the Semlin-Cotton government, aged one year, six months and ten days. The funeral will take place on Tuesday at 2 o'clock. Friends and acquaintances are requested to accept this intimation."

The retiring government had held the reins of authority just one year, six months, and ten days, having come into existence on the 13th day of August, 1898.

An interesting side issue of the eventful week has been found in the exchange of compliments between Mr. Eberts (South Victoria) and Mr. Neill (Alberni), the latter having initiated the duel of personalities in which the lie direct was frequently exchanged, by intimating that Mr. Eberts had been directly concerned in crooked election practices at Euculet in 1898.

Denying this charge in toto, Mr. Eberts said that it was on a par with the language and conduct generally of the cynic from Alberni, who missed no opportunity of showing his nasty teeth. He recalled one example very fresh in mind, how, meeting Mr. Neill in the lobby or members' room on Wednesday when the news of the loss of those ninety Canadians on the battlefield came to hand, he had spoken of the matter to the member for Alberni, whose only comment was that he hoped that would "take some of the heady patriotism out of these Canadians". There was a storm of indignant hisses from the galleries at this, attesting the feelings of the people toward anyone who would so cruelly insult the Canadian soldiery and within the very precincts of a Canadian parliament. Nor was the expression of popular indignation checked by the committee chairman, Mr. McPherson. Although Mr, Neill subsequently denied having made use of the language quoted in the connection described, it appears to be the general opinion of the house—government members as well as opposition—that he did so, and that he was more than entitled to "all that he got".

There is now a total sum of $34,500 sought to be collected in the courts from Hon Dr. McKechnie, for having illegally occupied a seat and voted in the house since disqualifying himself by accepting money for travelling expenses.

Mr. C. Wentworth Sarel has been making a particularly poor showing in his defence of the libel case brought against him by the attorney general's department, in connection with the gross insults offered in the Kamloops Standard to his honor the lieutenant governor. It is even probable that perjury proceedings will follow, Sarel having gone so far as to swear that he did not know whether he had written the "copy" produced in court; that he did not know whether the handwriting was his or not; and that he could not remember who was or had been editor of the Standard.

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THE PROSPECTOR'S PHILOSOPHY.

"Has existence been a failure in yeour specific case?"
"Chuck" ask'd me with a shadder on his good old honest face,
And at first I had to answer, it seemed to me it had,
Though my history from childhood was not so very bad—
But say!

When I cum to think about it, it sorter seems to me,
There wus two sides to the question, if there wuzn't two or three;
True, I hadn't any money, nor property, nur sich,
I wuzn't very hansum, nur popular, nur rich,
Nur nuthin'.

I never made a splutter in the Legislatur halls,
Whur Honorable Bill So-and-So, gits up and kicks and balls,
Whur 25-cent statesman with bizness in his eye,
Sells his honor fur a nibble uv administration pie,
O, no!

I never run fur office, I couldn't if I'd try,
The people wants a feller with a twinkle in his eye,
Who talks and smiles and wriggles, in his scientific play,
Then turns around and robs 'm in the good old fashioned way,
Yes, indeed.

Cum to think, there's another defalcation in my case,
I can't look into the winder and behold a baby face,
And another one jist behind it, full uv happiness and love,
Jist as though it wuz an engel, cummin' to 'm frum above,
Well, well!

Guess I won't discuss that subjec', sorter ten's to make me blue,
Sets the boys to askin' questions, "What the devil 's ailing you?"
Nothin' to 'em, yit I reckon, they all have their loads to tote,
And you'll find they're all a sailin' in the same old boat.
You bet.

But I've hit upon a system that never fails to fit,
When I can't git jist what I want I'll take what I can git,
And I'm not disposed to worry, while there's monarchs in their might
Who'd gladly give their riches fur half my appetite.

—Frank Aley, Arizona.

Methods of Militarism.

Two men were examined at Woolwich, England, and showed that they could jump their horses in splendid style, and do anything, in fact, that could be expected of the most accomplished horseman, including the handling of very vicious brutes. But alas for their patriotic ardor, they would not sit in the saddle with their feet sticking out and bump up and down at the trot in the old-fashioned military way. They were accordingly rejected because their horsemanship was of too high an order to suit the taste of the uniformed inspector who looked them over through his single eyeglass. These men have been for many years in the employment of one of the biggest horse trading firms in England, as professional breakers and trainers of saddle horses, some of which are imported fresh from the prairies of South America, and never knew bridle or saddle until they came into the hands of those men who could not qualify for positions in the ranks of a body of irregular cavalry scouts.—Woodstock Express.

C. P. R. Immigration Literature.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Company has just issued two excellent immigration pamphlets for 1900—"Western Canada" and "British Columbia"—which contain a great deal of useful and accurate information about the country west of Lake Superior, and are of special interest to those who contemplate settling either in the Canadian Northwest or British Columbia. Large editions of these pamphlets are distributed gratuitously in Great Britain and the United States, as well as throughout the Dominion, and are eagerly read by those who are seeking a new home and desire to know something of the best country in the world in which to find one.

The Cowboy in War.

After the vast labor and expense devoted in Europe to the perfecting of military science and the training of armies, it seems strange that the sheep farmers of the South African Republic and the cowboys and bushmen of the plains of North America and Australia and South Africa should be given the palm as the most effective troops in modern warfare. Military authorities who in the beginning of this war looked on the cowboy with contempt now look on him to solve problems by which they are otherwise baffled.—Montreal Witness.

It is understood that the Manitoba legislature will be called for the despatch of business some day during the week beginning March 12th.

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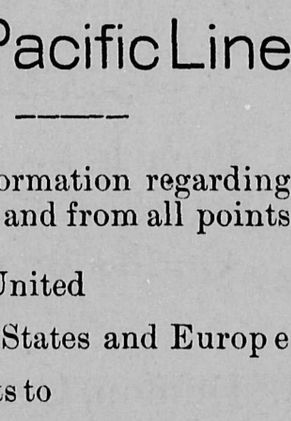

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WM. HAMILTON, PROP'

LOCAL ITEMS.

Ash Wednesday the 28th, was the beginning of lent.

Alex McDonald the barber returned Friday evening from a week's visit at the coast.

Mrs. Arthur F. Noel has been unwell for the past week but is now able to be around again.

John Miller and family of Churn creek are spending a few days in town visiting friends and relatives.

The Indian church at the Fountain is about completed and will have the finishing touches this week.

The weather at the present time is just like spring and the prophets are now looking wise for further predictions.

J. B. McPhail, who has acted as special mail carrier to Bridge river, left last Saturday for the Big Horn ranch.

Indian Paul's daughter died at the Portage last Sunday after three weeks illness. She was about seven years old.

Mr. Paul Santini is this week repairing his hall and those who enjoy terpsichorean art will now be able to glide over the floor with grace and ease.

A well is being sunk on Dr. Sanson's lot in the west end of town in the hope of striking water. It is the intention to put in a wind mill to pump the water to the surface.

The hill on the wagon road leading down to Cayoosh Creek is being repaired and the bed of the road is being cribbed up to stand any heavy loads that may pass over it.

Messrs. Fraser & Bell of the Excelsior house are building an adobe house in the rear of the main building for their acetylene-gas plant, which will be in operation shortly.

W. F. Gibson left last Friday for the coast after a couple of weeks visiting around town. He will return to Atlin in a few weeks to work the claims he and his partners secured last summer.

Last Friday evening The Prospector received a special despatch announcing the defeat of the government and the redistribution bill. Needless to say the news was received with great joy around town. On Tuesday evening a despatch from A. W. Smith, M. P. P., announced the dismissal of the Semlin ministry.

Last Saturday afternoon, what might have been a serious fire was nipped in the bud at the Pioneer hotel. The gas pipe between the partitions cracked and the blaze from the gas jet, a short distance away ignited the escaping gas, which, had it not been discovered in time, would no doubt have resulted in a serious conflagration.

Wm. Halymore, well-known in this section, returned to town Monday evening after an absence of about a year and will remain in Lillooet for some time. Mr. Halymore has visited numerous mining camps since his departure but is perfectly satisfied to cast in his lot with Lillooet and will endeavor this coming spring to "get in and drill" and assist in opening up and developing the mines in this section. His brother, Lew Lovegrove, is expected to arrive soon from England and the many friends and acquaintances of both will welcome them back and wish them all kinds of success.

John Arthur returned from the coast on Monday evening.

The Seaton Lake sawmill is again in operation and is turning out lumber wholesale.

D. Hamilton left on Saturday morning for Bridge river to mine on the South Fork and prepare for the coming season's work.

Chinese Poll Tax Increased.

The welcome intelligence has been received from authoritative sources at Ottawa that the dominion government will, at an early date, introduce legislation providing for the increase of poll tax on Chinese, also for the enactment of a law similar to that known as the Natal act.

The War in Africa.

The war news received during the past week or so has been very satisfactory, Lord Roberts with fine generalship having succeeded in making the Boers withdraw with great loss. The surrender of General Cronje with 4,000 men, on the anniversary of Majuba Hill, was a grand piece of work and was received with joy throughout the empire. The Canadian contingent which is with Roberts, have shown themselves to be brave, gallant soldiers and are complimented by him. The reverses received will tend to discourage the Boers especially the Free Staters, and they no doubt will gradually dwindle back to their homes. During the next few weeks the news will convey to the world at large the information that the Boers have surrendered and that the British flag is flying over the Transvaal and the Free State and that British supremacy will reign to the satisfaction of the enlightened and God-fearing people.

B. C. Ministries.

The several ministries in British Columbia have held office as follows, in their respective order:

McCreight ministry—December 1871 to Dec. 23, 1872.

DeCosmos-Walkem ministry—Dec. 23, 1872 to Jan. 27, 1876.

Elliott ministry—Feb. 1, 1876 to June 25, 1878.

Walkem ministry—June 26, 1878 to June 12, 1882.

Beaven ministry—June 13, 1882 to Jan. 30, 1883.

Smithe ministry—Jan. 29, 1883 to March 19, 1887.

Davie (A. E. B.) ministry—April 19, 1887 to Aug. 1889.

Robson ministry—Aug. 3, 1889 to June, 1892.

Davie (T.) ministry—July 2, 1892 to March, 1895.

Turner ministry—March 4, 1895 to Aug. 8, 1898.

Semlin ministry—Aug. 13, 1898 to Feb. 23, 1900.

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More Houses. Building Hardware and paper.
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More Heat. See our new line of Air Tight Heaters.
More Bread. All sizes of cooking stoves and ranges.
More Water. Hot water boilers an Bath tubs.
More Wood. Crosscut saws, axes, files and grind stones.
More Style. The Sherwin-Williams paint.
More Ice. All sizes of hockey and spring skates.

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