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Vol. I. VICTORIA, B. C., SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 1904 No. 15.

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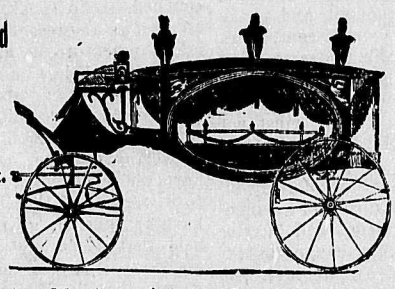

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Dominion and Mexican.

Reciprocal Trade Development May Yet Be Brought About By the Establishment of Direct Steamer Line.

During the past few months there have appeared at random intervals in the local press—and usually in its Ottawa correspondence—brief references to the contemplated establishment of a direct steamship service between this Dominion and the republic of Mexico, it being pointed out that there are many products of Canada for which the land of Diaz would be a willing purchaser; while on the other hand Mexico has many articles to export that would find a welcoming market in this Dominion.

Not having any local knowledge of the maturing project, and not a hint of such having been divulged by correspondence or action in the boards of trade, British Columbians generally had accepted it as a patent fact that the proposed establishment of a Canadian-Mexican line was something more particularly concerning the Atlantic seaboard cities of the country. This would appear to have been an unwarranted assumption by the latest despatches dealing with the matter, which state distinctly that the line of steamships will most probably operate in Pacific waters.

It will be remembered that some eight or ten years ago, the possibilities of developing a reciprocally profitable trade with Mexico presented themselves very favorably to Mr. F. C. Davidge and Mr. James Dunsmuir, of this city, and those gentlemen, after formulating a feasible and business-like scheme, sent Captain Yates to Ottawa to outline the general plan of campaign to the Dominion government and induce the federal authorities if possible to grant such subsidy assistance as would make the initiation of the line financially possible. The ministers were not sufficiently educated to the opportunities for advantageous trade for Canada at that time, and the project for want of state assistance languished and ultimately expired.

Then Mr. E. E. Sheppard, of Toronto, paid a visit to Mexico, and upon his return reported enthusiastically as to the trade possibilities.

A little later Mr. J. H. Greer gave a somewhat similar project much thought and expended considerable energy and money upon a proposition which, had it obtained cordial governmental support, would long ere this have been the means of building up a prosperous international trade between Mexico and Canada. His plan, too, fell by the wayside in consequence of the apathetic reception accorded it at Ottawa, and since then locally there has been "nothing doing."

The Canadian commercial agent in Mexico has nevertheless been persistent and persevering in presenting in his frequent reports the possibilities for trade expansion that would be naturally fostered by the establishment of a direct connecting line from Canada to Mexico, and business men of the republic have heartily endorsed his statements. Sir William Mulock, the Postmaster General, on his recent visit to Mexico, was able to see for himself that these reports were justified by the facts; and about the same time an Eastern Canadian circle of capitalists began, it is said, to move in the same direction that Messrs. Davidge and Dunsmuir had several years before.

The result may be the long-deferred connection, for if the press reports be true, the government is now favorably considering the granting of an annual subsidy of $50,000, the Mexican government to meet this liberal bonus with one of like amount, making $100,000 per annum, with which there should be little difficulty in securing a first class line for the requirements.

Rumor has it that Acapulco and Victoria would be the terminal ports, and this has probability at least to give it color.

It is also reported that the service would at the outset be monthly, with a steamer of fourteen knots' speed capacity and adequate accommodation for both passengers and freight.

The name or composition of the promoting company does not appear to be so much as known in Victoria, neither the board of trade nor any of the leading shipping houses having had any communication with respect to it.

There is a great variety of products which British Columbia could market with advantage in the Mexican country. Lumber, particularly the dressed article and in "knock-down" houses, is in strong demand. So also are mining props, ores of various grades, hams, flour, provisions of various sorts, clothing, etc.; indeed the list is practically unlimited.

For the return cargoes the steamers could carry ores, coffees, tropical fruits and vegetables, sago, drug staples, and many other similar products of the equatorial zone.

It is even suggested by one large importing house on Wharf street that Havana goods might well be carried across Mexico by the railways and shipped to Victoria by the new steamship line almost as quickly, certainly at less cost, and with assurance of the arrival of consignments in better condition than by the present routes across the continent.

The Story of the Week.

Since the sinking of the battleship Petropolavsk events have moved very slowly at the theatre of war, at least so far as the censor has permitted the public to know. Apparently the Japanese are attempting a flanking movement, by landing somewhere west of Port Arthur. They appear to have fully succeeded in bottling up the Russian fleet in the harbor of that fortress. A large number of transports are engaged in moving Japanese troops, and they are absolutely unmolested by the enemy, who has been practically driven from the sea. There is renewed talk of sending out the Baltic fleet, but it is not strong enough to regain command of the sea.

It is now conceded by the Russian authorities that the sinking of the battleship and the disabling of the Robieda were due to mines placed by the Japanese. The tactics adopted by Admiral Togo, in laying the mines and then enticing out the Russian squadron, are beyond all praise. On the Russian side the splendid action of the cruiser Bayan which went to the rescue of a sunken destroyer is one of the brightest episodes in recent naval annals.

The bombardment of Newchwang by the Japanese is reported but not confirmed.

A brief despatch in the daily papers announced that Mr. Harriman's application to be allowed to intervene in the case of the United States vs. The Northern Securities Company had been refused by the Circuit court. The active defendant in the case is J. J. Hill, president of the Great Northern Railway Company. This decision marks one stage in what is perhaps the most important lawsuit ever instituted, so far as the value of the interests involved and the possible effect of the decision upon business are concerned. The fight is really between two great railway combinations, embracing over 35,000 miles of line.

The Hill Group.
Mileage, 19,611.
Capital stock, $380,000,000.
Bonded debt, $642,828,754.

The Harriman Group.
Mileage, 15,791.
Capital stock, $466,169,927.
Bonded debt, $659,524,170.

Each side to the controversy represents over a billion dollars of securities, and it is doubtless correct to say that such immense interests were never before arrayed against each other in a court of justice. In addition to the vast sums represented by the contending interests, the capital stock of the Northern Securities Company is also at stake. This amounts to $400,000,000, and swells the face value of the securities involved to something over $2,500,000,000, a sum so vast as to be absolutely inconceivable. What the actual value is can hardly be determined or defined, because it fluctuates from day to day but it can hardly be much less than par.

The object of the suit is to determine

(Continued on page 4.)

An Era of New Buildings

City Architects Dicuss the Prospects of the Spring.—Improvement in Local Architectural Tastes.

No one who has lived in or even visited Victoria requires to be told that it is a city of beautiful homes. It is, too, a city of beautiful home gardens, for nowhere in the country is the full value of the settings and surroundings of a home—the wide stretches of smooth, green lawn, the roses, and the detail of hedge or trees, more adequately appreciated than in this garden city of the Canadian west. It is apparent to anyone who takes the trouble to compare the residential structures of recent advent, with those of earlier days that public taste in residential architecture is improving; while the most casual inspection of the building operations now in progress from east to west and from north to south of the city's boundaries, must demonstrate most conclusively that the present is to be in very truth a very active year for building. What the architects have to say of the prospect and in consideration of the problem generally, is contained in the appended interviews:

MR. F. M. RATTENBURY.

"I should very much like to give you an interview," said Mr. F. M. Rattenbury, "but I really have nothing to say on the subject. Outside of the C. P. R. hotel we have no big work on hand. There is a general renovation of old houses and some of the business blocks, everything indicating a prosperous state of affairs, but there is little new work of importance. The plans for the foundation of the new hotel are in the hands of the egineers in Montreal awaiting their decision. As soon as the decision is given as to the kind of foundation, work will commence at once, and be pushed through to completion. There is no doubt whatever as to the work being done this year. The company is as anxious to push the work as anybody."

"Have you any suggestions to make as to architecture in general in this city?" Mr. Rattenbury was asked.

"There is one suggestion I should like to make—that is that in the business part of the town we should keep up the quaint English style which we have now, rather than adopt the square block of the second-rate American cities. Take for instance the Bank of Montreal, that style of architecture is unique on this continent. It would be a pity to spoil our city by copying the American style."

MR. HOOPER.

"Of course," said Mr. Thomas Hooper, "the Carnegie library is the largest piece of work we have in hand in Victoria, but that is really last season's work. The prospects for this year are very good, not only for us, but for all the architects of the city, so far as I know. We have on hand already over $100,000 worth of work besides the library building; in fact we are so busy we can hardly attend to all of it. The Roman Catholic Boys' Protectorate, a new home for boys on Esquimalt road, is the largest piece of work. It will be a brick building 120 feet by 56 feet, three stories high. Then there are to be a number of brick building in the business portion of the city, and several existing blocks will be raised a story or two. So far as I can judge four hundred would be a low estimate of the number of new houses to be erected this season throughout the city. These will be of a better class than have ever been built before. This would seem to indicate a state of prosperity and stability. The colonial style is becoming prominent, while the old English style is dying out. There has been a great change in this respect in the past few years. People are being educated along these lines with the result that our cities are becoming more beautiful.

"Undoubtedly this will be a splendid season in the building trade if there are no labor troubles or difficulties with the lumbermen. The former seems to be the most likely difficulty.

"I should like to make a suggestion," said Mr. Hooper, "and that is that the business people should improve the appearance of the streets by painting their premises. This is especially needed on Government street, where many build-

(Continued on page 2.)

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News of The Province.

Floods Greatly Embarrass Railway Traffic and mining Operations.—British Columbia In Brief.

For the first time in the history of the Canadian transcontinental railway its through business has been virtually at a standstill for an entire week, no mails or passengers getting past the mountain barrier within that period owing to the succession of washouts on the prairies and slides and similar interferences on the mountain section. On Tuesday evening the heaviest mail on record found its way to the Coast, being made up of many days' accumulations. Freight still is blocked in the Rockies, and it will be another week at earliest before the line can fairly be reported all clear and traffic flowing smoothly in its normal channels. The C. P. R. was just beginning to indulge in self-congratulation that it at least had escaped the heavy extra expense bills which the severity and heavy snowfall of the recent winter have placed upon the Grand Trunk and other rival roads. The bill for the day and night labor that has enabled the C. P. R. main line to be opened even after the past week's interruptions, will, however, be a heavy one. And various permanent improvements necessitated by the floods and slides will keep the construction departments busy for some time to come. In the Kootenays as well as on the prairies, the past week has been one of floods and fears. At Trail, at Rossland, at Nelson, and in a dozen other conspicuous interior points, considerable damage has been wrought by the rising waters; while on the lower Fraser the inhabitants are studying the weather bulletins and the snow-covered hill-tops with consuerable apprehension. In the mining districts successions of slides have worked much havoc with plant and mining arrangements. On the railway lines in this province four fatalities and in the mines three, will make the flood week of 1904 sadly memorable to many British Columbians.

Latest indications are very favorable for the establishment of the zinc smelter at Fernie. The choice has lain between Frank and the older town of the C. N. P. field.

The newly built steamship Manuka is to go on the Canadian-Australian line in July. She is said to be superior to any craft on the Pacific in point of luxurious furnishing.

Frederick McCutcheon, the eleven-year-old son of ex-Ald. McCutcheon, of Nanaimo, was drowned last Monday through the upsetting of a canoe in Millstone river.

The Silver Cup mine in the Lardeau has been practically wrecked by a slide, in which a miner named Marrable lost his life. The damage to the company's plant will not be less than $75,000. There is a second slide pending, and until this comes down no one will venture near the spot to make repairs.

Confirmation of the safety of the sealing schooner Triumph has been obtained.

The usual spring crop of mishaps to members of the sealers' crews is ready for the harvesting. Three men of the Carlotta G. Cox, lost from their schooner, have been picked up none the worse for wear by the George R. Vosburg.

Vancouver's sensational assize term has come to an end at last. Interest centred largely in the trial of Crowe and Glenn for a fiendish assault upon a young woman of Mount Pleasant. The defence was an alibi, the prisoners calling Salvation Army officers who swore with positiveness that they were in the Army Shelter at the time the awful crime was committed. The identification by the victim was almost as positive on the other hand, but the jury rightly gave the prisoners the benefit of a reasonable doubt, and they were acquitted. Crowe and Glenn themselves say that had a conviction been recorded they would have looked for life imprisonment, and regarded such a sentence as warranted.

Lieut.-Col. F. B. Gregory has been appointed consul for France in succession to Mr. H. M. Grahame at Victoria.

Through his solicitor, Mr. G. F. Cane, James J. Boettger has appealed the conviction recorded against him by Magistrate Alexander, of Vancouver, for supplying sailors to the ship Linlithgowshire.

The Provincial government has dismissed the appeal of the Victoria city council from the mandate of the police commissioners, involving expenditures for a patrol wagon, new uniforms and increased salaries for seventeen patrolmen.

Slides and washouts on the Red Mountain railway, preventing regular shipments to the Northport smelter, have greatly interfered with the output of the mines of the Rossland camp of late.

The sub-letting of dining rooms in licensed hotels of Vancouver is coming in for consideration by the license commissioners. It is held that such sub-letting is contrary to the spirit of the license law, and should be made an end of.

A male choral club has been formed at Chilliwack with Rev. H. J. Robertson as honorary and Mr. D. von Cramer as active president.

James Sanderson, a prominent railwayman and pioneer resident of Trail, is dead at that place.

The C. P. R. shops at Cranbrook are to be greatly enlarged, the machinery equipment increased, and the number of employees added to.

The Greenwood Board of Trade has now a membership of fifty, and has just elected officers as follows: L. H. de Veber, president; T. M. Gully, vice-president; W. G. Gaunce, secretary-treasurer; Messrs. White, McLean, Naden, Logan and Grey, advisory committee.

Plans are out for a new lighting station for the B. C. Electric Railway Co. at New Westminster. The new structure is to be of brick with an asbestos roof, and will occupy a ground space of 60 by 33 feet.

D. R. Laird, manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia at Vancouver, has arrived to enter upon his duties there. The Bank of Nova Scotia is the latest candidate for a share of the banking business of the Terminal City, and has just erected a handsome new building for its home. Vancouver has now ten chartered banks, with several more to follow.

Nishiyama, a Japanese, has been killed by a falling tree at a Capilano logging camp.

L. G. B. Lawson, city clerk of Moncton, N. B., died suddenly last week in Vancouver while visiting there on holiday.

Desire Brothier, for perjury and procuring, has been sentenced to seven years at hard labor in New Westminster penitentiary. The other many indictments against him were abandoned by the Crown. The sentence is an extremely light one if the variety and character of the alleged offences be taken into account.

The wire has gone in for the new telegraph line from Eugene to Windermere.

Kaslo and Greenwood have stopped Sunday liquor selling.

The Vernon-Kelowna telephone scheme seems to be at a standstill, through effective C. P. R. opposition.

Rossland's Board of Trade has unanimously endorsed the memorial of the associated silver-lead mines and smelters, asking that the bounty be made to apply to a limited quantity of lead exported.

A daily mail service between the principal Lardeau points is looked for next month.

The associated boards of trade have endorsed the lead memorial unanimously, and also advise that an expert report on the zinc resources of British Columbia be obtained.

Trail suffered seriously from flood this and last week. A number of buildings were washed away, and all the bridges in the district are reported damaged.

Nelson's Liberal-Conservative Association has bowed its neck to the yoke, and formally expressed its confidence in the McBride government, rescinding its resolution of censure passed at the time of John Houston's turn-down.

The spring assizes open in Nelson, May 17th, with a comparatively light docket.

Residents of the Okanagan again are cheered with statements that construction of the Midway-Vernon railway will begin within thirty days.

F. August Heinze is expected to pay the Rossland camp a visit shortly—the first he has made in many a year.

Hedley, in the Similkameen, is to have a weekly paper known as the "Boomerang."

Frank Pennock, found guilty of lighting a fire at West Fernie and sentenced to a year's imprisonment, has been released on parole. He had served eight months.

Nelson's new license by-law has been given the six months' hoist.

The C. P. R. has paid the first $500 for the admission of a Chinaman into British Columbia. They did not intend to, but the Celestial deserted from one of their steamers from the Orient.

Fernie Italians have formed a brass band and imported a capable leader all the way from "home."

The Columbia is now clear of ice and the Revelstoke lumbermen have started their log drives.

A new custom house has been established at the international boundary, where the Flathead river crosses into Montana. Judson B. Langley is in charge as sub-collector.

Grand Forks is considering the feasibility of a choral society.

H. M. Walker, late of the New Denver Ledge, threatens to establish a newspaper at Enderby.

The coroner's jury has charged Indian Saul and his wife jointly with the murder of James A. Kelly, of Barkerville. The Indians have been formally committed for trial.

Because a stick of dynamite did not go off at once, John Cerlak, a Coleman Slav, gave it a vicious kick. The dynamite kicked back, and Cerlak is still in the hospital.

The members of the Phoenix city council have met and formally accepted their own resignations. Phoenix is now in the unfortunate position of having no aldermanic board to growl at. The trouble of the council arose, as have other councils' woes, over non-control of the police commission.

It is stated that the necessary capital for the Elko smelter has been secured, and that construction will proceed at a very early date.

The Coward & Son Lumber Co. are to instal a planing and lumber manufacturing plant at Fernie, and promise to have it in operation by the month's end.

The Similkameen Star suggests the Hope mountains as a most desirable point for the location of the proposed consumptives' sanitarium.

The big St. Eugene mine, rated the second greatest silver mine of America, is preparing for an immediate resumption, the management being confident that the government will allow the bonus on the portion of their output which is necessarily exported.

Nelson wholesalers are applying to the railway commission for redress from alleged freight rate discrimination against the city by the C. P. R.

Assurances again are given that the building of the Kootenay Central Railway will be taken in hand this season.

The Great Northern proposes to build a cut-off from Bonner's Ferry to Marcus, shortening the haul by 200 miles.

Steve Katuska, the Slav struck with an axe in Fernie about six weeks ago, has died of his injuries. His assailant, tried for assault at the time, escaped with a $15 fine.

The telegraph line along the Columbia is in bad shape owing to washed out poles.

Guibalt, charged with perjury before the Vancouver Assize court, is enjoying his liberty upon his personal recognizance.

George Blake, a Michel mine engineer, met a horrible death this week by being caught in the belting.

Rev. Roland D. Grant, D. D., has established a new west end Baptist church in Vancouver.

Rev. R. G. MacBeth has left Vancouver for a new field of usefulness. His departure is generally regretted for he has been an instrument of much good in the community.

The Vancouver city council has offered a reward of $250 for the identification and conviction of the fiendish assailants of Miss Clark, Mount Pleasant.

The first payment to mineowners of the Kootenay and Boundary under the Lead Bounty Act was made on April 13th, the following being the complete list of lucky claimants to whom checks were handed by Commissioner Buchanan: The Sovereign mine, Highland, Whitewater, Enterprise, Sullivan, Rambler-Cariboo, Black Prince, Wilcox, Silver Cup, Bluebird, Red Fox, Nepawa, Mercury, Idaho, Alamo, Ymir, Payne, North Star, Province, Bosun, Pontiac, and Marion mines.

The report that 100 Japanese laborers had been brought to Morrissey by the Great Northern for construction work is disproved.

The work of opening up the old channel below Wilmer to the Columbia river has been energetically taken in hand, thanks to the representations by Mr. Galliher, M. P., of the necessity of the work.

The C. N. P. Coal Co. is working harmoniously with the local board of trade in that behalf, and the incorporation of Fernie is now likely to be brought about at a very early date.

An English syndicate has made a very favorable offer for the Lenora property, Mount Sicker, with the Crofton smelter and Lloyd's sawmill, from which lumber supplies are drawn.

The Coal Mines Regulation Act of the province, tested in the Full court in the appeal of the Dunsmuir coal companies, has been adjudged ultra vires.

The Tyee Copper Co., of Mount Sicker, has declared a dividend to the shareholders of 5 per cent.

Dr. J. H. Hamilton, resident physician, has been promoted to full control of the Kootenay Lake General hospital at Nelson.

Rev. R. L. Parr has said farewell to his charge at Revelstoke and removed to Vernon.

The residence of Thomas Newman, at Stump Lake, has been destroyed by fire.

Rev. J. C. Stewart has been presented with a purse of $250 on leaving his charge in Kamloops.

Messrs. Beaton and Murray have been appointed sub-recorders at Forts St. John and St. James in the Omineca.

An interesting ceremony in which Archbishop Orth, Rev. Father Van Goetham and Rev. Donekele, of Kuper Island, participated, took place at Cowichan on the 12th inst. It was held in commemoration of the death of Rev. Father Ronduli, who for forty years was in charge of the Indian mission at that place. The mission is now under the Marist Fathers. During the ceremony Archibshop Orth preached to the Indians in English and Rev. Father Donekele spoke in the native dialect. There was a very large gathering.

"Where Winter Lingering." Etc.—"It is about time the city dads are taking a shovel in hand and removing the piles of snow on Columbia avenue."—Rossland World.

AN ERA OF NEW BUILDINGS.

(Continued from page 1.)

ings have not been painted for years. I have in mind several buildings which are very unsightly. One of these is the old post office. No doubt if the attention of the government were drawn to the fact, the place would be made presentable. Tourists visiting the city are likely to notice these things more than we do."

MR. S. MACLURE.

"Most of my work," said Mr. S. Maclure, "if of a domestic character, not from choice, but just from force of circumstance. Perhaps as figures speak louder than words I may give you an idea in that way of the work I am doing." After figuring with his pencil a few seconds Mr. Maclure went on: "In Vancouver I have in hand now $30,000 worth of work, in Victoria $33,000, besides work at Tacoma, Ellensburg and a few other outside points.

"You may have noticed the cut of my house in the Tourist Association leaflet. As an evidence of the good work that association is doing I have received enquiries about that house from points as far East as Buffalo, N. Y. The picture has also been copied in the magazine "Beautiful Homes of America." The work on that house was done very hastily and without any forethought. It has already been built a number of times with slight variations.

"I believe our city is going ahead rapidly. Many people are coming here from the Northwest. When a man has made a competency in that part of the country he naturally looks for a place where he may enjoy his leisure. There is no place where he may do this as well as in Victoria. On the prairies there is little opportunity for enjoyment. It is nothing but work from daylight till dark. The winters are severe, and the mosquitoes prevent any out-of-door pleasures in the summer. People will not believe that here in Beacon Hill Park one can sit on the grass any month of the year without getting a fly-bite or any other annoyance."

"Can you compare the architecture of to-day with that of early days?"

"There were good things in the early days," said he. "Later they fell into the Western carpenter's groove. Public taste is developing, and Victoria is now equal to any city in Canada in that respect. The trend is for dignity and simplicity, ornate frippery being discarded. People are building more expensive and luxurious houses than in the past. They are not content with plastered walls, but go in for decorated interiors as well as exteriors."

MR. MAXWELL MUIR.

"It is always a difficult matter to express in a casual interview one's opinions," said Mr. Maxwell Muir, "because in the first place such expressions may only be in the nature of answers to questions put by the interviewer, and need not, in fact often are not, the opinions of the interviewed; and in the second place the answers given may be rather the result of personal feelings engendered at the moment and consequently highly colored or much stronger than on a more mature consideration would be the case. In the third place the opinions expressed may be impulsive and certainly it seems to me fragmentary in the extreme and often in no wise correct or reliable. Such being the case from my point of view I have always avoided giving expression to my opinions when at any time there has been a chance of publication. Let me see! You desire to know about our city and its prospects, from an architect's point of view. Well you have me rather hard. No doubt whatever Victoria is forging ahead. Of course we are sometimes too sanguine at the beginning of the year; I suppose our climate has a good deal to do with that. You see when our spring time comes, and a more beautiful it would be difficult to find, we are all filled with an unconscious cheery and optimistic feeling. We are inclined to believe everything around us, like nature, is going to grow and develop, bud and flower, that all sorts of thoughts seem to prevail amongst us, and we begin talking about what we are going to do, what is about to be done, and what bright prospects are ahead of us all. I am afraid we actually don't do or have as much done after all as we thought, and so the spring time goes, and summer comes with all its beauty, and again the same thing prevails and alas the years come and go and the oftime projected developments remain in abeyance. Yet we must not imagine nothing is being done. Oh, no! Victoria is surely though slowly improving. Our residences are undoubtedly increasing, and for convenience of arrangement, elegance of external and interior finish generally speaking, cannot be excelled. The styles of architecture, too, are as diverse as the plans, each architect giving scope to his individual ideas of taste in design. It cannot be said, however, that any distinctive architectural style prevails. As a rule our frame dwellings do not lend themselves to the development of any style, although of course we are and must be subject to some uniform style of finish, owing to the universal use of the materials furnished us by our manufacturers. In the matter of dwellings Victoria is certainly improving, and there seems to be quite a stir and movement in this line at present, which will furnish work enough for all our mechanics for months to come. With regard to more substantial structures we cannot say so much. Several are under consideration at present, and we hope to see considerable movement in this direction this year. Victoria needs more of this done than has been in the past. I am afraid, however, that there is very small prospect in this line. It seems to me that desirable building sites cannot be obtained. Many portions of the city are owned by non-residents, or held by loan companies, and it is difficult to get such to move. A sure income from the existing buildings is better than an uncertain one from a larger, modern and more expensive structure. This, to a great degree is the cause of comparatively little improvements along this line. Again any desirable sites which may be obtained, upon which some new buildings might be erected, are held at too high a figure to allow of any one who might be willing to buy and improve, doing so. As long as this condition of affairs exists we shall continue as we are. It would be well for Victoria if some one would take the lead. I feel sure that others would soon follow. Objection is taken to the cost of materials and labor, undoubtedly both are much higher than they were some three years ago, but in my opinion the prices for labor are not too high, and it seems wrong to compare present prices with those that prevailed some time back, for surely then both materials and labor were far too cheap to permit of either a paying or living price being obtained. This comparison forms a serious drawback to any proposed undertakings at present. The architectural appearance of the city could be much improved. Government street surely could sustain much better and higher buildings than at present exist. The present two-story buildings which may have been considered all that was necessary twenty years ago and more, do not, nay are not, suitable for to-day. These dingy ill-lighted, badly ventilated rooms should be swept away and be replaced, as they can be, by more commodious and better arranged offices, which would, it seems to me, be readily rented. The architects generally speaking are fairly busy, although a considerable amount of house building is done by contractors, who make their own rough sketches; this, I submit, is not a legitimate way of doing business. We professional men are suffering from this way of doing business. The contractors who do so, as a rule, cannot compete in a fair field with the others, who do not do so, and we are constantly prevented from our legitimate share in the work prevailing. This method is thought to be a saving by many people, no architect's fees, but as general rule it is productive of poorly arranged, badly designed and cheaply finished buildings; so the owner after all is the worst sufferer. Were it not for this many of our architects would be much busier than they are, a much better distribution of work would result, as well as a better and more artistic class of houses be erected. This is a serious matter with the architects. We are not robbers, cheats or dishonest men, but look to do the very best for our clients, to protect their interests and to obtain for them all that they can possibly expect commensuate with the expenditure and requirements. It is my firm belief that a better condition of affairs would prevail were this practice put a stop to. Quacks and other unqualified men are prevented from practicing in other professions, then why should such be allowed in a profession which is at once honorable, ancient, and important from a scientific and artistic point of view, as well as from public necessity and requirements. Owners do not therefore save by the non-employment of an architect, but are oft times considerable losers thereby. An independent man is a sure safeguard against abuses both by owner and contractor, and insures a better condition of affairs generally. The legitimate practice of the profession of architecture would thus be largely benefitted, the picturesque character of our city enhanced, and a much better appearance given to our city. It is to be deplored that there is such a concentration of business in Victoria. Nowhere, I believe, is such the case as prevails here. If you leave Government street you practically leave the only thoroughfare where business is transacted. Yet there are splendid opportunities for the enterprising merchant on Yates, Fort, Broad and Douglas streets, and why should our business be confined, so to speak, within so limited an area as at present? Still the fact remains potent to us all, that any movement either below or above Government street seems to be impossible, and we are circumscribed accordingly in our efforts for expansion. The display of our stores is worthy of note, however, and I believe not excelled or even approached. Nowhere out of the Old Country, and I have travelled a great deal, can it be said that a more elegant, artistic and pleasing display is made by our merchants than in Victoria, and I often times feel almost ashamed when I contemplate the architecture of the buildings in which these displays are made. I sincerely hope that we shall see a great change for the better in this respect. Our citizens and property owners should have more faith in the future of our city than they seem to have at present."

The Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co. is to build a handsome stone office building at Fernie, the plans for which have been received. The company has also issued an official denial that James J. Hill controls, stating that he has only a three-tenths interest, for which he paid three millions and a half.

About Town and District.

Band of the Fifth Regiment May Tour to St. Louis.—To Study Indian Life—Local News of the Week.

An application has gone forward to the Canadian Minister of Militia Sir Frederick W. Borden, on behalf of the line band of the Fifth Regiment, that they be granted special permission to leave the Dominion in uniform, with three months' leave of absence from the province. The application has been forwarded through the usual official channels, approved before its departure by Col. Holmes, the district officer commanding, and it is altogether reasonable to suppose that no objection will be raised at Ottawa and that the desired permission will be accorded. It is perhaps a little premature to go fully into the story of what this application means. Victorians will remember that a year or so ago plans were all but perfected for the sending of the fine band of the regiment—of which every British Columbian should be proud and every Victorian more particularly—over to England to play home the Canadian soldier boys returning from the South African battlefields. To put the matter in plain twentieth century Anglo-Saxon, that trip, which would have proved one of the greatest advertisements British Columbia in general and this city in particular has ever had, was defeated by an ingenious process known as "knocking," the "knockers" being responsible for the essential permission for the band to leave the country being refused after all other preparations had virtually been completed. In their present enterprise the band has begun at the other end, and it is to be hoped will find arrangements consummated in complete success. It is proposed to make a leisurely tour to the world's exposition at St. Louis, playing concert engagements in all the cities en route—through Washington and Oregon, in California, in the towns of Colorado, etc. There can be no question but that these would be popular to a degree, the presence of a foreign military band in its unfamiliar uniform being a great drawing card in any place in the great republic. At St. Louis the band would probably arrange for a series of concerts at the Canadian pavilion, the attractiveness of which Commissioner Hutchinson is always ready to enhance; and would participate in the great prize competition for the classified bands of the world, with good chances of success it may be fairly said. This competition it might be explained is so arranged that the rival bands are classified by their strength, bands of twenty pieces competing only with bands of similar size, other twenty-eight piece bands meeting upon their equal plane ,and yet other large bands according to their size. It is not extra-egotism to say that "our band" will compare most favorably with the vast majority of twenty piece organizations on the continent. If the projected tour is carried out, it will mean much for Victoria from an advertising standpoint. Indeed it is well worthy enthusiastic support if on this ground alone.

It is reported as probable—indeed he himself has partially promised it—that Mr. Neil Munro, the distinguished Scottish journalist, literateur and novelist, will shortly come to this province for an extended visit, with the intention of making a close study of the British Columbia Indian, his manners ,traditions, history and legends. The so-called "digger" Indian of the Coast has heretofore fared but ill in literature. He has been set down as ignorant, dirtier than dirt, and about everything else that is contemptible and inartistic. Few have striven to analyse him for the good metal. He is for example, if one know him thoroughly, imbued with exceptionally fine dramatic instincts. He has too a wealth of poetry in his legendary lore. To get at this Mr. Munro proposes to do as Mr. Roger Pocock has done—live among the Indians, break bread and eat salt with them—or salmon as it will be in this case—and gain their confidence and their regard. The result will undoubtedly be good for literature. Although physically less picturesque than his plainsman brother, the despised Coast Indian has more beautiful and poetic legends than the plainsman—and no one has yet arisen to utilize this new literary material, unless it be Mrs. D. R. Harris, who has left much for others. Mr. Pocock has also shown perception of the value of Indian history and tradition, and Mr. J. F. Bledsoe in his "Giawak," published some ten years ago, produced a poem based on Haida legend that was well worthy to be taught in every British Columbia public school as literature, and as showing the beauty of Indian metaphor.

In these days of the spring running one is moved again to regret that the excellent and practicable plans of Hon. J. H. Turner with respect to the utilization of the government grounds, have not been carried out by his successors in the government of the country. Mr. Turner, it will be remembered, proposed to make of the ample ground space in rear of the new parliament pile, an horticultural garden in which would be found all the native flowers of the province, together with the many imported floral gems that find the Victoria climate so congenial. Such gardens would not involve in their creation or care any extensive demands upon the public treasury, while they would prove an exceptional attraction and an educative influence for good throughout the province.

The meeting, held in the Board of Trade room to hear what Mr Cain and the other promoters of the proposed railway to the north end of the Island had to say, was well attended by business men, and a resolution, declaring in favor of a subsidy of 5,000 acres of land and $10,000 in 3 per cent. inscribed provincial stock, was passed unanimously. There was very little discussion, although if Chairman Todd had not put the question so promptly the chances are that there would have been a round of speakers. It is understood that the government will give an answer to the promoters early next week.

Arrangements are already well under way for the celebration of Empire Day in a manner characteristic and worthy of Victoria. There will be a championship lacrosse match with Vancouver, last season's honor winners; baseball games with the best available rivals of the local nine; a general reception to visitors on the warships of the fleet; of course the typical Victoria regatta, with championship, naval and Indian canoe races; and all to conclude, as per the posters, with "a grand display of pyrotechnics in the evening."

Victoria had numerous distinguished visitors this week, the most prominent being His Grace the Duke of Sutherland, who with Mr. William Whyte of the C. P. R., Lieut.-Governor Sir Daniel McMillan of Manitoba, and Mr. R. Marpole, general superintendent of the C. P. R., with headquarters at Vancouver, spent Tuesday in the city. Then there was Count von Plessen, who is going to the north to kill mammoths, and the Empress brought others, notable among them Count von Hatzfeldt.

A week or two ago a citizen was tripped and hurt by a broken plank on Garbally road sidewalk. He complained to the city authorities. Forthwith someone was despatched to the scene, and the broken plank was replaced and nicely plastered around with mud. Within a hundred feet of the broken plank are many more nearly as bad. These will probably be replaced by good planks, after someone has sued the city for damages.

Mr. George S. Perkins, a valued employee of Messrs. John Barnsley & Co., the Government street sporting goods dealers, had the misfortune a few days since to become the victim of a serious shotgun accident. His gun, loaded for predatory hawks, had been left standing in a corner of the stable, and it is supposed the vibration as he took out the buggy caused the piece to fall, discharging it. The contents of both barrels passed through Mr. Perkins' foot, and it is both feared and supposed that amputation will be necessary.

The short street formerly known as Andrew, which joins Bridge street and Garbally road, is in the future to be known as Bridge street. The house numbers are not yet re-arranged. The bridge uniting this extension with the original Bridge street is only twelve feet wide and has no sidewalk. Such a condition of affairs is dangerous both to pedestrians and to vehicular traffic.

The vessels of the Australian-Canadian steamship line will hereafter call at Auckland, N. Z., this being the result of representations made by the Union Steamship Company, of New Zealand, who are anxious to secure direct connection with the Dominion.

F. Moore, of the Victoria Chemical Works, is about to erect a two-story block on Government street between W. B. Shakespeare's and Brown & Cooper's. The building is to be occupied by the Hinton Electric Company. Hooper & Watkins, the architects, are inviting tenders.

Mr. D. C. Hutchinson, who has been working as fourth engineer on the Empress of China, has just taken his chief's certificate. Mr. Hutchinson served his apprenticeship in the Victoria Machinery Depot, and is well known in town.

His Grace the Duke of Sutherland during his visit to Victoria this week acquiesced in his name being placed on the list of vice-patrons of the proposed lifeboat and life-saving institution.

Mr. J. J. Noury is just finishing up the grounds around his new house on Bridge street. The garden which he is just laying out and fencing covers four lots.

The Supreme court will sit here on the 3rd of May for the hearing of civil causes, and on the following day for criminal business.

The rumor is revived that the early future may see established in Victoria extensive yards for the building of big steel ships.

Contractor Matthews is building a fine two-story eight roomed house on the south side of Garbally road for Mr. Deaville.

The city council has voted confidence in ex-Mayor McCandless in connection with those Chinese liquor licenses.

J. D. McNiven, M. L. A., has purchased a house near the upper end of Pandora avenue, to which he intends to remove next week.

The civic estimates are to be presented to the council next Monday evening.

In Music's Realm.

The musical events of the past week have been of special interest. One of them was not wholly a subject for congratulation, because it was a farewell to Mr. and Mrs. G. J. Burnett, whose departure from the city is much regretted, not only by people in musical circles, but by every one who has had the pleasure of knowing them. The last one was entirely pleasure-giving, for it showed that Victoria has an orchestral organization of which it may well be proud. In addition to these there was a very delightful entertainment given by the Ladies' Aid Society of the Reformed Episcopal Church, in which music played a prominent part.

The farewell concert to Mr. and Mrs. Burnett was very well attended, and an excellent programme was given. The stage in the Institute Hall was beautifully decorated with flowers loaned by the Johnston Floral Company, and the furniture by Messrs. Weiler Bros. Mrs. Lewis Hall had charge of the decorations ,and the result bore eloquent testimony to her good taste. Mr. J. G. Brown gave the first number on the programme, and was followed by Mr. Jesse Longfield in a viola solo. The other numbers were: Song, "Counsel a' Nina," by Miss Queenie McCoy; recitation, "The Moon and the Wind," by Mrs. William Gleason; song, "The Wood Nymph's Call," by Mrs. William Gregson; song, "Good-Bye," by Mrs. Gideon Hicks; song, "Oh, Fair, Oh Sweet and Holy," by Mrs. Burnett; piano solo by Mr. Watkis; song, "The Stirrup Cup," by Mr. Herbert Kent; picolo solo by Mr. G. H. Larrigan; song, "Beloved, It Is Morn," by Mrs. D. E. Campbell; song, "The Bandalero," by Gideon Hicks; duet, "The Fishermen," by Messrs. Goward and Brown; recitation by Mr. William Allan; song, "Love Divine," by Mr. and Mrs. Gideon Hicks; violin selection by Mr. E. C. B. Fawcett.

The concert was in every way successful, and Mrs. Hall and Mr. Watkis contributed to that result by the excellent work as accompanists.

THE ORCHESTRAL CONCERT.

(Hugh Kennedy.)

The conductor and members of the Victoria Amateur Orchestral Society are to be heartily congratulated on the unqualified success of their initial concert in the Institute Hall on Thursday evening, and all true music lovers in Victoria are to be congratulated no less heartily on the promising conditions under which the new organization commenced its career. The truest and severest test of the taste in music of a public must be sought in its appreciation of absolute music, but especially of that highest development of absolute music—that form which the greatest composers have enriched so lavishly with their best—chamber music. Many a city now supporting a great symphony orchestra of professional players traces its real growth in higher musical taste to the day when some enthusiastic amateurs, under the baton of an experienced professional conductor, played their first programme of orchestral works. Let us hope for a repetition of that happy experience in Victoria. Judging from the hearty plaudits of its first audience, the society—a healthy infant—will not wait for the encouragement so necessary to tender years.

The first number, the Cherubini overture, "Lodviska," scarcely gave a fair idea of the society's powers. There were faulty intonations and ragged entrances not confined to the purely amateur divisions of the organization, but in succeeding numbers the ensemble was much more perfect. In Haydn's surprise symphony, with its sparkling, happy music that sometimes breaks into actual laughter—as in the passage where the double basses burlesque the phrase given out by the flutes—the orchestra achieved a distinct success. The Intermezzo for strings alone, by Gillet, showed to advantage the first violins. It is in this section the best strength of the orchestra lies, and it would materially add to the effectiveness of the ensemble if one of these more experienced players would forego the glory of playing "first" to give greater authority to the second violins. I am sure the younger players would give a much better account of themselves were they led as I have suggested.

The Mendelssohn trio (the finale of the D Minor Sonata) provided the climax of the programme in point of merit, and, it is very gratifying to add, called forth the climax of the enthusiams during the evening. In his solo numbers, Chopin's Troisieme Ballade, with the famous Berceuse as an encore, Mr. Watkis had chosen numbers that demand those extreme perfections of nuance so difficult to keep up amid the routine work of teaching, and his work amply demonstrated his sterling ability. It was in the Trio, however, that he appeared to greatest advantage. There, his clean phrasing, his fine sense of rhythm, and the convincing authority that dominated the whole work while preserving a just balance of tone, stamped him as an ensemble player worthy of exceedingly good company. The influence of such an artist, both as a teacher and as a performer, should bear abundant fruit in Victoria.

Dr. Nash, both as leader of the orchestra and in the trio, acquitted himself nobly. His intonation is absolutely satisfying, and his phrasing—particularly in the encore number, a beautiful trio by Widor—was that of an artist. His bowing was worthy of rather closer imitation than some of his colleagues among the first violins achieved.

Mr. Middleton, the assisting 'cellist, was a valuable acquisition. He was not to be balked of his opportunity to show that he still remembers the national anthem, although, in Tacoma, he now hears it to alien words.

The singer of the evening Mrs. F. B. Pemberton, is to be congratualted on a choice of songs that embraced the works of three of the greatest masters of the modern lied—Schumann, Rubenstein and Jensen. Such songs as these, requiring no extraneous aid of scenery or action, are in the best taste on the concert platform. The murmuring accompaniment of the Jensen song, as played by Mr. Watkis, was a delight.

To conclude even a hasty review of the concert without a word on the work of the conductor would be an unhappy oversight. To bring an amateur organization, many of whose members have never before played in an orchestra, to the degree of perfection that will enable them to play in public, with credit, even the easier works of the classical masters is pioneer work that calls for tact, firmness and personal influence, as well as for purely musical ability. As a programme maker, too, Mr. Watkis showed to especial advantage. One might quarrel with the selection of the Mendelssohn "Cornelius" march, with its endless repetitions of a rather bald theme, but it made a spirited conclusion to the entertainment, and its success with the audience was pronounced, the whole programme, in view of the inevitable limitations of amateur performers, was admirably chosen to bring out the best possibilities of the society. The public has reason to look forward with keen pleasure to the next concert of the Victoria Amateur Orchestral Society.

The Vancouver Intermediate Lacrosse League has reorganized and arranged a schedule. The teams represented are the Crescents, Maple Leaves, Wetsminsters, West Ends and Terminals.

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AID TO RAILWAYS.

The Colonist of Tuesday had an article on aid to railways. Everyone, after reading it, must have felt pleased that the paper disavowed any claim to speak for the government of the province in the premises. The article nevertheless calls for comment, because the Colonist supports Mr. McBride's administration and is understood to be edited by a gentleman occupying a prominent place in government circles in the legislature, the editor also of a Vancouver newspaper whose relations to a great railway corporation are understood to be intimate. In this article the public are informed:

That they ignore the lessons of last session as to the financial standing of the province;

That the argument that it is the duty of the government to open up the resources of the province is "old and threadbare;"

That the province cannot afford to embark in a policy "unless it is of such a character that the risk or obligation is really infinitesimal;"

That the "provincial creditor" has received certain assurances which debar the government from assisting enterprises "of a comparatively speculative character."

It is, we repeat, satisfactory to know that the Colonist in the expression of the above opinions does not express the views of the provincial administration, because, if it did, we would have good cause for despair.

First as to the "provincial creditor." The opinion expressed by the Colonist on this matter would be pointless unless it was based upon the assumption that the province is on the ragged edge of bankruptcy. If British Columbia is progressing, if it possesses the resources claimed for it, if its potential progress is what we have all claimed, the existing provincial debt is a matter that need give neither the public nor the provincial creditor" any concern whatever. The "provincial creditor," whomever he may be, gets and will continue to get, his interest regularly, and when the principal falls due it will be paid. The Colonist will admit both these propositions, and as they are absolutely uncontrovertible, the "provincial creditor" has no claim upon us for anything, and the legislature is under no obligation to consider what he may like or not like in regard to future undertakings. Moreover, it is sound economic doctrine that money judiciously expended in the development of a country increases the value of the securities of that country.

Next as to the necessity of the prospective obligation being "infinitesimal." It is not easy to understand just what is meant by this. The only "infinitesimal" obligation that we can imagine is one resulting from a bald resolution by the legislature declaring its belief that railway construction is a good thing. If the province is to give financial aid to a railway the obligation must be actual; but it need not necessarily be burdensome even in an infinitesimal degree. Let us look into this a little.

The people of Vancouver Island contribute in round numbers five dollars per head to the provincial revenue. Now let it be supposed for the sake of illustration that by giving aid to railways to the extent of $10,000 per mile of 3 per cent. inscribed stock the immediate construction of 1,000 miles of railway can be secured. This would involve a charge upon the revenue of $400,000 per annum, including 1 per cent. for sinking fund. An addition of 80,000 to the population would mean the receipt by the government of this amount, assuming that they contributed at the same ratio as the people of Vancouver Island. That is, if the construction of railways led to the increase of population at the rate of 80 people to the mile of railway, the additional population would pay the interest and sinking fund. Now 80 people to the mile of railway would be equivalent to a population of 6,000 people between here and Wellington, or 1,200 between Hillside avenue and Sidney, and no argument is necessary to show that such a population would follow immediately upon the construction of any line of railway worthy of receiving provincial aid, and would be greatly increased afterwards. This is not intended as a declaration in favor of such a subsidy as is suggested, but only as a measure whereby an estimate may be formed of the unlikelihood of reasonable railway aid becoming a burdensome charge upon the revenue of the province.

Third, as to the argument as to the duty of the government to develop the province being "old and threadbare." Well, so are the ten commandments.

Fourth, as to the lesson taught by the last session. That lesson, as it appears to many people, is that the prime duty of the government is to devise means whereby the province may be opened up, settlers may be brought into it, industries established, and the revenue be augmented.

THE TERMINAL RAILWAY.

The time is drawing near when the first payment under the terms of the bonus to the Victoria Terminal Railway Company is payable, and it is proper to review the results that have flowed from the action of the ratepayers in promising assistance to that enterprise.

The first effect was the bringing of freight cars into Victoria via the E. & N. Railway, by the C. P. R. Up to teh time when the Terminal by-law was submitted, the C. P. R. cars came down as far as the pottery works but no nearer the city, and the only way in which merchants could get goods into the city from eastern points was by transshipment by steamer either from Vancouver or Seattle. Shipments from Victoria to Mainland points also had to be made by steamer. Ever since the submission of the by-law it has been possible for Victoria merchants and manufacturers to receive and ship goods in unbroken carload lots from or to any place on the Continent, and since the entry of the Terminal Company into business they have had a choice of routes.

The next effect was the abolition of wharfage charges. This was a very substantial gain to Victoria shippers.

The next effect was that Victoria received terminal rates. This costs the railways, especially the C. P. R., something very considerable. It is understood that the cost to the C. P. R. of bringing a loaded car from Vancouver to Victoria and returning it empty is about $50, and that if it returns loaded the cost is $90. These figures may not be absolutely correct, but they are probably not far astray. Presumably it costs the Great Northern something like the same. Victoria gets the accommodation without its shippers having to pay for it, because, owing to the fact that the cars of two great transcontinental systems can deliver goods in unbroken bulk into the city, we have competition in service. COMPETITION IN RATES IS NOT TO BE EXPECTED? BUT COMPETITION IN SERVICE IS THE ADVANTAGE WHICH EVERY CITY HAVING TWO OR MORE LINES OF RAILWAY SEEKING ITS TRADE IS SURE TO ENJOY.

The next effect was that the Victoria & Sidney line was extended into the heart of the city, which was a very great convenience to persons using the line.

The great effect was that the attitude of the C. P. R. towards Victoria underwent an immediate transformation. While Victoria remained without any railway connection with the Mainland, the C. P. R. did not see the necessity of treating this city as a terminal point. There was no reason from that company's point of view why it should do so. It must be remembered that railway companies are business organizations, and are not likely to pay $50 or more per car on merchandise, when they do not have to. The moment Victoria became a competitive point between transcontinental lines the C. P. R. at once very wisely determined to give as good a service as any other road could give, even if it cost something to do it. It also determined to build up business to Victoria, and for that reason it

Bought out the C. P. N. Co.,
Built the Princess Victoria,
Reduced the fare to Vancouver,
Built the Princess Beatrice,
Undertook the Seattle run,
Determined to build a new dock,
Decided to erect a great tourist hotel.

These things were the direct outcome of the favorable vote on the by-law, which gave Victoria the immense advantages which result from being a competing point between two great transcontinental systems.

And the end is not yet.

The great lesson which these things teach the people of Victoria is that they must have competition in railway service. The moment a community gets into the hands of any one transportation company its progress is almost sure to be arrested. This was the case with Tacoma, which was boomed by the Northern Pacific, until it bade fair to overshadow every other city on the coast, but the towns that had more than one railway soon outstripped it. Vancouver has been a one-railway town, but it chafes under the restriction, and the prospect that it will be the terminus of a second line has given an impetus to all lines of business. Victoria has two railways. It stands a chance for a third, but it will be wise to hold on to the two it now has. We have the C. P. R. and it is doing very much for us. We have the Great Northern, and if we hold on to it, we may expect it to do a great deal for us.

Let us keep Victoria a competing point.

In addition we have to consider that on the completion of the New Westminster bridge there will be no obstacle in the way of the Delta farmers sending their produce by rail direct to Vancouver, that it would be taken away from Victoria dealers if it were not for the ferry connection which puts the city on an equal footing with that city in this respect. The possible agricultural development of the Delta country is enormous. There is no richer tract of soil anywhere on the Continent. Moreover, the ferry gives our wholesalers direct access to this very valuable territory. A point to be considered is this, that with the ferry we stand in just as good a competing position as Vancouver will after the bridge over the Fraser is completed.

We should not lose this advantage.

It is said by friends of the government that the ministers are hampered in deciding upon a railway policy because it is impossible for them to please every section of the province from which their supporters come, and consequently they may find themselves in a minority on a test question, even if they are able to carry a railway measure with the help of opposition support. This ought not to be. Mr. McBride is the leader of the Conservative party in the local House, and he is entitled to the support of his party on questions of policy even if they do not meet the views of members in some detail affecting a special locality. The great advantage, which we were told was to flow from the introduction of federal party lines was that the government could count upon the support of its party, and that the old game of "hold-up" would be at an end. But some member may say: "If I support a railway policy that does not provide for my constituency, I need never offer for re-election." Well, what of it? There is not a man in British Columbia whose presence in the legislature is of sufficient importance to justify the retarding of the progress of the country twenty-four hours in order to save his seat at the next election.

The Christian Scientists of Rossland have fixed $5 a week as a regular charge for praying for the sick. If there is anything calculated to convince the world of the fallacy of Christian Science faith it is here presented. Prayer is the earnest intercourse between man and his Maker, to employ which the spiritual man must lay aside his grosser self with all its littleless. To fix a price for prayer is to make of a sacred privilege a sacreligious mockery.

A disposition is exhibited in certain quarters to make war on the free school system. It is well that the cloven foot has been shown. The next time the ratepayers have an opportunity to show these reactionaries how small a part they really play in the control of affairs, when once the public are aroused, the more or less noble 400 will find themselves so completely snowed under that they will not think it worth while to try to crawl out into daylight again.

The prolonged absence from his official duties of one of the aldermen for North Ward, who is also chairman of the finance committee and a member of the police commission, is exciting considerable comment. If for personal reasons the alderman does not find it convenient to discharge his duties, the proper thing for him to do is to resign. He made an excellent alderman during his previous term, and the public would be very glad to see him actively in his place again.

"Happy is a country whose annals are not glorious," said some philosopher, and we suppose it may be said with equal truth that a ministry is happy when its opponents confine themselves to such pointless business as prophecies of the resignation of divers of its members. The minor prophets are busy just now with the future of the Laurier ministry in this respect.

Russia occupies Chinese territory and refuses to vacate. Japan declares war for the purpose, among other things, of compelling her to vacate. To carry out this campaign, it will be necessary for Japan to land troops on Chinese soil, and Russia screams out that this will be a violation of the law of neutrality. It may safely be said that if Russia will get out of Chinese territory, Japan will do the same.

Alexieff is the man, who above all others is responsible for the precipitation of hostilities in the Orient. He now wants to resign. The Czar would be a happy man if he could get rid of his responsibility in the same easy way.

Rather an unpleasant incident occurred in parliament a few days ago. Mr. Borden read from a confidential memorandum presented by Mr. Blair to the government in December, 1902, on the railway question. There is nothing specially new in it, and the extraordinary thing is that Mr. Borden should have made use of a document upon which the word "confidential" was distinctly written. No harm was done, but it is a bad thing to have confidential papers read in public, especially when the possession of them by the party reading them implies dishonesty on the part of some departmental officer.

Ralph Smith, M.P., wants the Grand Trunk Pacific to import laborers from the United Kingdom to work on the railway. The idea is a good one, because such people will become settlers in the country.

WE CARRY
A Large and Complete Stock of

Lawn Tennis, Golf and Base Ball Supplies

And have just received and opened up our first shipment for 1904. Call and inspect our goods; you will find them the best that money can buy, and

OUR PRICES ARE RIGHT.

Wright & Ditson's Championship Balls for 1904, per doz., $4.50.

We are sole agents for The Famous A. H. Findlay Golf Clubs.

Victor League Base Balls.

M. W. WAITT & CO., Ld.

44 Gov't St., Victoria.

STORY OF THE WEEK.

(Continued from page 1.)

how the stocks, held by the Northern Securities Company, shall be distributed. This company was declared illegal by the Supreme court of the United States, and the question at issue is what shall be done with the stocks which this company was organized to hold, and it includes those of the Northern Pacific, the Great Northern, the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, the Union Pacific, and the Southern Pacific.

The New York Herald likens the suit to the presence of a lighted match near a train of powder, and fears that the result may be disastrous to the money market. Wall street is very uneasy.

Toronto had a $12,000,000 fire on Tuesday night. It was in the business part of the city.

Col. William Strader died recently at Louisville, Kentucky. His dying wish was that his body should be cremated and the ashes scattered on the Ohio river, "And if this is done and the Angel Gabriel can collect my remains for the judgment, I will take off my hat to him," he added. His wish was carried out, and as the ashes were scattered his friends said, as directed by his will: "Here goes nothing." Then, as also directed by the will, they repaired to a saloon and drank each other's health. All this with much ceremony at midnight amid the tolling of bells.

Mr. Borden's amendment to the Grand Trunk Pacific resolutions was voted on last Wednesday and the House divided 61 for and 112 against. Further progress of the measure will not be opposed in all probability, except by some of the Senators. There will be discussions over details as a matter of course.

The general council of the Bar of England has passed a resolution declaring its satisfaction at the conclusion of treaties of arbitration, and expressing the hope that the feeling in Canada and the United States in favor of an arbitration treaty between the latter country and the United Kingdom will be given practical effect.

The discovery in Rome of an altar erected to the memory of Manlius Curtius, who sprang on horseback into the chasm, which opened in the Roman Forum, and which the soothsayers said would not close until the most precious thing in the state had been cast into it, revives a deeply interesting story from the domain of the mythical. The most precious thing, said the hero of antiquity, is love of country.

The United States House of Representatives has passed a bill admitting Oklahoma and the Indian Territory as a state under the name of Oklahoma, and Arizona and New Mexico also as a state under the name of Arizona.

The deficit in the United Kingdom for the financial year just closed was $27,073,000, and a deficit of $19,000,000 for the current year at the present rate of taxation was anticipated. To meet this it is proposed to increase the income tax by a penny on the pound and impose an additional duty of two pence a pound on tea. Changes are proposed in the tobacco duties, which will add $2,730,000 to the revenue. These additional sources of revenue will swell the receipts to $718,050,000, which will give a surplus of $8,650,000.

Col. Domville has introduced into the Senate a bill making the British shilling a legal tender. He says this is necessary because of the arrival of so many immigrants. There does not appear to be any good reason why a British shilling should not be accepted as equal to 25 cents.

MONEY TO LOAN—On real estate. Apply to Charles H. Lugrin, MacGregor Block, city.

Established 1858.

A. W. Bridgman,

Real Estate, Financial and Insurance Agent.

Agent Commercial Union Assurance Co. Ltd., of London, England.
London Assurance Corporation.

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A new and elegant application for Chapped Hands and all Skin Irritations.
Let us have an opportunity of showing you this preparation.

JOHN COCHRANE,
Chemist, N. W. Cor. Yates and Douglas Streets.

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Good Building Lots fronting on North and South Pandora Street, in Blocks 24, 25, 26 and 27. Prices for prompt sale $350 to $450. Terms, 10 per cent. cash; balance, deferred payments. Apply to owner,

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35 Yates Ttreet.

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Contractors and Builders
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European Plan, Rooms from 75 cents up.

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Fish, Oysters, Poultry, Game, Fruit, Etc.
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The Week in Society.

His Grace of Sutherland Hospitably Entertained.—Hockey Girls' Cinderella Party.

The following ladies and gentlemen had the honor of being invited to dine at Government House on Wednesday evening to meet His Grace the Duke of Sutherland: His Honor Sir Daniel McMillan, K.C.M.G.; the Hon. Edgar and Mrs. Dewdney, Mrs. W. J. and Miss Macdonald, Mr. D. Macdonald, the Hon. Mr. Justice and Miss Tyrwhitt-Drake, the Hon. Mr. Justice and Mrs. Irving, the Hon. Richard and Mrs. McBride, Captain the Hon. R. G. Tatlow, Mrs. and Miss Tatlow, the Hon. R. E. Green, Lady Bromley, Mr. and Mrs. James Dunsmuir, Miss Dunsmuir, Mrs. Goodrich, Captain Fraser, R.N.; Lieut. Col. English, His Worship the Mayor and Mrs. Barnard, Dr. I. W. and Mrs. Powell, Miss Powell, Commander and Mrs. Parry, Major and Mrs. Bland, Major and Mrs. Audain, Miss Keefer, Miss Davie, Miss McKinnon, Mr. Wm. Whyte, Mr. R. Marpole, Mr. H. J. Cambie, Mr. Roland Stuart, Mr. J. J. McEnnery, Mr. A. Simpson, Captain B. H. Tyrwhitt-Drake, and Mr. R. B. Powell, private secretary. Lady de Lotbiniere being debarred through indisposition from assisting His Honor in the entertainment of their guests, Miss Boswell very charmingly discharged the duties of hostess.

* * *

St. Barnabas church on Caledonia avenue was on Tuesday evening at seven gay with the excitement of a wedding, the bride being Miss Mabel Davies, youngest daughter of Mr. George Davies of Garbally road—who was gowned becomingly for the occasion in ivory white silk with chiffon over taffeta—and the groom, Mr. Delbert E. Whittaker, fourth son of Mr. William Whittaker. The church had been appropriately and artistically decorated for the festival occasion by the girl friends of the bride, a feature of the floral decorations being a bell of roses, lilies and carnations beneath which the ceremony was performed by Rev. E. G. Miller, rector of St. Barnabas. The bride, who was given away by her father, carried a shower bouquet of white carnations; her only ornaments were an antique locket and chain, the present from the groom. Miss Minnie Davies, sister of the bride, was her attendant, her costume being of pale green over pale pink taffeta, with picture hat to match; while her bouquet was suitably of pink carnations. She wore also on her wrist a groom's gift in the form of a beautiful gold bracelet. The little flower maidens, Misses Frances Johnson and Flora Russell, were also recipients of souvenir gifts appropriately selected, from the happy groom, these taking the form of pearl necklaces which went very prettily with the pale pink etamine dresses and the baskets of dewy primroses. Mr. Herbert Winsby supported his friend the groom, while Mr. Jesse Longfield presided at the organ. After the church ceremony, which many friends had the pleasure of witnessing, the wedding party returned to the residence of the bride's parents, where a reception was held from 8.30 to 10.30, at which hour supper was served and the toasts of bride, of groom, and of their mutual happiness and prosperity were duly honored. Mr. and Mrs. Whittaker left for Vancouver by the Charmer the same evening, the bride's going-away dress being of dark green cloth with gold braid trimming and hat to match. Upon their return from the honeymoon journeying Mr. and Mrs. Whittaker expect to make their home on Whittaker street. Of the multitudinous presents received by Mrs. Whittaker as souvenirs of her wedding day the following is but an incomplete list: Handsome china dinner set, Mr. and Mrs. Whittaker; parlor carpet and clock, Mr. and Mrs. G. Davies; check, Mr. and Mrs. C. Schnoter; eider down quilt, Mrs. L. S. Johnson; check, Mr. G. Buttery; handsome reed rocker, Mr. Alex. Patterson; parlor cloth, Mr. W. Appleton; check, Mr. and Mrs. Moore; silver napkin rings, Mr. and Mrs. J. Irvine; rocker, Mr. and Mrs. Russell; mounted deer head, Mr. S. Whittaker; oak and silver biscuit jar, Mr. and Mrs. W. Moore; handsome Battenburg cushion, Mrs. A. Whittaker, jr.; handsome china fruit set, Mr. and Mrs. A. Schnoter; cut glass salt and pepper cruets, Mr. F. Schnoter; silver salt and pepper set, Mr. R. Schnoter; water set, Mr. M. Schnoter; cut glass mustard jar, Miss Cameron; cut glass knife rests, Mrs. Cameron; cut glass vinegar cruet, Mr. and Mrs. Vallairs; cut glass marmalade dish, Mr. C. Wilders; handsome china fruit dish, Mr. and Mrs. H. Wilders; oak and silver biscuit jar, Mr. and Mrs. J. Bland; oak and silver butter dish, Messrs. W. and J. Bland; point ace tea cosy, Miss Ida Braden; carving set, Mr. and Mrs. Carmichael; handsome parlor table, Mr. E. Geiger; silver toast rack, Mrs. and Miss Underhill; silver pudding dish, Mr. and Mrs. R. Davies; silver sugar shell and butter knife, Mr. and Mrs. Palmer; cut glass knife rests, Mr. and Mrs. Forbes; afternoon sugar and cream set, Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher; hand-painted plaque, Mrs. Bridges; handsome silk drape, Dr. Roy B. Dyer; handsome satin cushion, Mrs. and Miss Roe; Battenburg centrepiece, Miss Skinner; silver teaspoons, Miss E. Johnson and Mr. D. Tait; silver cruet, Miss Nellie Johnson and Mr. Geo. Bailey; silver toast rack, Mr., Mrs. and Jesse Longfield; handsome fruit dish, Mr. and Mrs. L. Camsusa; handsome flower stand, Mr. and Mrs. Daly; silver butter knife, Miss Sissie Johnson; silver sugar shell, Mr. R. Johnson; afternoon tea set, Mr. Walter Winsby; cheese dish, Mr. and Mrs. Pretty; china sugar bowl, Mr. W. Winsby; set of dinner knives, Mr. and Mrs. Winsby; dessert knives, Mr. and Mrs. Robinson; check, Mr. Geo. Cliffe; silver cake dish, Mr. and Mrs. Shakespeare; silver sugar shell, Mr. and Mrs. Luney; silver pickle jar, Mrs. and Miss Camsusa; set of table napkins, Mr. and Mrs. J. Morris; sofa pillow, Miss M. O'Keefe; reed ottoman, Mr. H. P. Winsby; salad dishes and rose jar, Mr. and Mrs. Robt. John; oak tray, Mr. M. Dean; toilet set, Miss M. Davies; sofa cushion, Miss Frances Johnson; cushion, Miss Flora Russell; fruit set, Mr. and Mrs. F. Smith; silver bonbon tongs, Miss A. Mellon; silver salt and pepper set, Mrs. and Miss Bailey.

* * *

Thursday evening was made particularly enjoyable for those who attended the Cinderella dancing party given by the Victoria Ladies' Hockey Club at the Victoria Hall on Blanchard street. The decorations were in excellent taste and decidedly brightening and effective, the ballroom being very prettily adorned with bunting, flags, Oriental lanterns and a wealth of flowers, while as may be supposed the club colors—red and white—were not unaccentuated in the decorative scheme. The supper room, too, was tastefully bedecked, lilies, ivy, bunting and japanica, with crepe papers being used with good effect. Among the merry company were noticed: Mrs. Freeman, Miss Leeming, Miss D. Leeming, Miss Leiser, the Misses Sehl, Miss Nason, Miss Bains, Miss Wilson, Miss King, Miss Fell, Miss Nicholles, Miss E. Nicholles, Miss Atkinson, Miss Laing, Miss Roberts, Miss Bowron, Miss Heaney, Miss Bucket, Miss Newcombe, Mrs. Simpson, Miss Brown, Miss K. King, Miss Futcher, Miss J. Brown, Mrs. McIntosh, the Misses Lucas, the Misses Fraser, Miss Johnson, Messrs. W. Moresby, D. Leeming, W. Winsby, R. H. Wilson, F. White, L. Yorke, E. Brown, T. J. Wilson, J. H. Lawson, jr., J. Lawson, H. Austin, P. Austin, C. Patton, J. Keefer, H. Leiser, G. Grestoch, R. Worlock, A. Moss, B. Goddard, W. Yorke, A. McLean, A. Raymer, K. Scholefield, G. Powers, C. Harris, J. Cambie, E. McConnan, J. C. McIntosh, A. Fraser, W. Fraser, C. McKilligan, L. Foote, G. Grant, A. G. King, T. Fawcett, H. G. Dalby, C. Berkeley and H. F. Cornwall. The chaperons of the evening were Mesdames Lubbe, Simpson, Wilson and Johnson.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley McBraire Smith while enjoying the honeymoon days of their new relationship in the cities of the Sound, have excellent excuse for self-felicitation in the complete success of their little plan by which they stole a march upon their expectant friends. The wedding, it will be remembered, was generally announced for Wednesday evening of this present week. Upon that announcement the friends of the prospective bride and bridegroom built their plans. Alas, they all were fated to overthrow. It was on Tuesday evening that the wedding party, limited to the immediate circle of the contracting parties, invaded the Church of the Holy Saviour, and Rev. W. D. Barber officiated at the ceremony that made the twain as one. The bride, Miss Elizabeth Beatrice Peddle, wore for the church ceremony her travelling costume of grey cloth, and carried bridal roses. She and her husband, who is the eldest son of Mr. J. McB. Smith, Deputy Minister of Finance for British Columbia, are immensely popular in a large social circle. They left for the Sound by the Whatcom the evening of the wedding, and upon their return will take up their residence in Victoria.

* * *

It is now ten years since the first "Primrose Ball" under the auspices of the Companions of the Forest was given in this city, and each successive anniversary of the occasion seems marked with festivities more joyous than before. Last Tuesday evening it was the "tenth annual" of these assemblies that drew a happy company to the A. O. U. W. hall. Preparations had been made on an elaborate scale, the committee sparing neither themselves nor money to assure the perfection of all the incidental arrangements. The decorations were on a modest but very effective plan; the supper served at midnight was a very satisfactory one; the floor was excellent and the music ditto. Although the attendance this year was scarcely up to that of previous years, the quality of the ball was not discounted. Mrs. K. Davis' orchestra provided the music, while the ladies' committee having the ball arrangements in hand was composed of Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Halpenny, Mrs. Hawk, Mrs. Randolph, Mrs. Lambert, and Mrs. Nelson. Mr. Nelson and Mr. Randolph were the floor managers of the evening.

* * *

Marking the close of the sixth annual golf tournament of the Pacific Northwest Association, a dinner was given to the visitors at the Union club on Saturday evening last, Mr. F. B. Pemberton, as president of the hospitable Victoria Golf Club, acting as chairman, and the tables being very effectively decorated with spring flowers mingling their fragrance and their color with the exotic gems of the hothouse and feathery ferns. Among the company were Messrs. G. L. Munn, E. A. Strout, J. B. Lukes, J. B. Wing, F. C. Newton, H. D. Sewell, R. D. Merrill, and E. J. Garratt (Seattle), R. L. Macleay and E. Ayer, (Portland), and F. T. McCullough (Spokane), Hon. A. E. Smith, United States Consul, and Messrs. C. B. Stahlschmidt, Major A. W. Jones, Captain Davidson, W. E. Oliver, A. P. Luxton, C. J. Prior, W. H. Langley, C. W. Rhodes, D. R. Irvine, W. A. Ward, A. T. Goward, B. F. Cronyn, P. S. Lampman, H. R. Burroughes, D. M. Rogers, F. C. Gamble, C. H. Cookson, His Worship Mayor Barnard, J. W. Ambery, J. P. Babcock, R. Cassidy, B. H. Tyrwhitt-Drake, and A. S. Robertson. After the customary loyal and internationally fraternally toasts of such occasions, the visitors and the sport were similarly honored, short and witty speeches being the rule of the evening, with just sufficient variety in song and story. Mr. McCullough of Spokane in the course of a few apropos remarks stated that the new golf house which is being erected in his home city at a very considerable expenditure, is now almost completed and will be ready for occupancy by the end of the present summer; while the new 9-hole course of the Spokane Golf Club will be opened for play coincidently with the housewarming at the new club home. Mr. Stahlschmidt, as president of the Pacific Northwest Association, in returning thanks on behalf of the executive and visitors to the hospitable Victoria Golf Club, stated that it had been arranged that the next meeting of the P. N. G. A. shall be held at Seattle during May of next year, which will signally celebrate the establishment of golf as a popular pastime of Seattle, this being the first occasion on which the championship meeting has gone to the Queen City of the Sound, it having in previous years been held only at Victoria, the home of the parent golf club of the coast, at Tacoma and at Portland.

* * *

Upon the Rev. W. D. Barber last Tuesday evening devolved the pleasant duty of officiating at the marriage of Mr. William Barrington Howe Haynes, of Osoyoos, this province, and Miss Mary Evelyn Hardie, daughter of the late Mr. Henry Hardie, of Manchester, Eng., and Mrs. Hardie, of Esquimalt Road. Attendance at the ceremony was limited to the immediate friends and family of the contracting parties, to whom, however, are extended the most sincere congratulations of a large circle of friends throughout the city and province. The bride's gown was of cream crepe de chine with ecru insertion; the bridal wreath was of the traditional and romance-fragrant orange blossoms, while the bridal bouquet was of cream roses and carnations, with asparagus ferns. Pearls and diamonds were the bride's ornaments. Miss Cecil Hardie, who made a very winsome bridesmaid, wore cream nun's veiling trimmed with white satin, her shower bouquet being of pale pink carnations and asparagus ferns. A gold bangle set with turquoise and opals was the groom's gift to her. The wedding dinner and reception were at the residence of the bride's mother, which had been charmingly decorated with spring flowers, the color scheme being in cream merging into deep chrome, and daffodils, jonquils, Easter lilies and roses being employed with splendid effect against a background of palms, potted plants, ferns and mosses. The reception in the evening concluded with a dance at which, in addition to the members of the family, there were some forty guests, among them being Mr. and Miss Saunders, Miss Gibson, Mr. Gibson, Mr. H. Lawson, Mr. Goward, Mr. and Mrs. Moresby, Miss Bowron, Mr. and Mrs. Brooks, Miss Burrowes, Mr. P. H. Austin, Mr. Fuller, Miss Cao (Vancouver) and many others. Mr. and Mrs. Haynes left by the Charmer Wednesday for their future home at Hedley, the bride's travelling gown being of navy blue cloth with smart red straw toque. The wedding gifts comprised many articles of taste and value, attesting the high regard in which the bride is held by many friends.

* * *

The fortnightly dance of the Royal Engineers' Quadrille Club was much enjoyed by upwards of fifty couples at the Fives Court, Work Point Barracks, Thursday evening. The Sehl-Bantly orchestra furnished the music.

* * *

Miss Lydia Davis has returned to her home in New Westminster after a pleasant visit of a fortnight with Mr. and Mrs. J. B. McCallum of Pandora avenue.

* * *

Rev. H. J. Wood was called upon on Wednesday to solemnize the marriage of Mr. Peter McLane and Miss Winnifred Proper, both of Utsalady, Wash.

* * *

At Semple's hall, Victoria West, last Friday evening, a merry little company of young people gathered to take leave, at a dance in her honor, of Miss Woods, who is leaving on a visit to England. The floor was in admirable condition for the dancing, which was much enjoyed; and acceptable music was supplied by Mme. Monk and Miss Crook. Among those present were Miss Woods, Miss Elvy Holchrist, Mrs. and Miss Kirk, Miss Droob, Miss Alice Simpson, Mr. and Mrs. Winter, the Misses Peterson, Miss White, Mr. Ganner, Mr. McConnell, Mr. Jesse Sylvester, Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Semple, Mr. McKenzie, Mr. J. Robertson, Mr. Rowson, Mr. Simpson and Mr. William Fairall.

* * *

Lady Bromley and Mr. Bromley left for their home in England on Thursday evening, being accompanied by Major and Mrs. Audain, who are returning to India.

* * *

Miss McKinnon of Vancouver is a guest of Lady de Lotbiniere at Government House.

* * *

Mrs. Lamont, of Boston, is enjoying a pleasant visit with Mr. and Mrs. E. Howard Russell, Boyd street.

* * *

Mrs. Nicholles, Simcoe street, gave an informal tea on Monday afternoon.

* * *

THE VOICE—Kennedy—Assistant for four years in the studio of Haslam, late of New York, now of Paris, France, gives lessons in Tone Production, Style and Repertoire. Consultation at 12 Caledonia avenue.

CALIFORNIA

Canned Fruits

3lb.-size, best quality, Invincible Brand, Peaches, Pears, Apricots, Greengages, Plums, Cherries; 2 tins 35c.

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is the place where you can get the best value for your money in

First-Class Furniture, Carpets, Linoleum, Oilcloth, Window Blinds, Crockery, Glassware, Cutlery, Etc.

Extension Din. Tables from $5.50 up, Sideboards from $14 up, Iron Bedsteads any size from $3.50 up. Good Linoleum from 50 c. up

INLAID LINOLEUM $1 a yard.

Call and be convinced that you will be saving money by placing your orders with us.

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IN ALL STYLES AT EASTERN PRICES, TRY

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WANTED—A boy's bicycle; must be in first-class order. Address Cash, Box 94, P. O., city.

Some Random Reflections.

Wise and Otherwise Upon The Story of The Week's News.—"A Little Nonsense Now And Then," Etc.

Perhaps Port Arthur will not fall this fall.

* * *

All married women are good listeners—if their husbands talk in their sleep.

* * *

Life is a steady drill for soldiers, newspapermen and safe robbers.

* * *

Togo is now a duly credited member of the Bottlers' Union.

* * *

Japan has the largest guns, which gives it Providence as an ally.

* * *

The people of Port Arthur are said to disapprove of long engagements.

* * *

Statistics show but one thing for a certainty—that the man who gets them up is patient and industrious.

* * *

Perhaps those Chinese robber bands one hears so much about are merely rubber bands.

* * *

It is now in order for Senator Burton to authoritatively state that he is positively "out of politics."

* * *

Pneumonia microbes never smile more sweetly than when they watch a man take off his winter flannels.

* * *

A surer sign of spring than the robin—the juveniles are canvassing for funds for the baseball clubs.

* * *

As the Poet Houston so beautifully puts it, "if at first you don't succeed, advertise."

* * *

It is the Judge who charges the jury, but the lawyer charges the client a blame sight more.

* * *

As soon as the new hurry-up wagon is ready for service there will be none of us too poor to go driving.

* * *

It is not yet proven, but it is suspected, that the fire at Rideau Hall was caused by one of Mr. Gourlay's speeches.

* * *

Toronto paper says "a Conservative victory is in the air." But it doesn't specify the brand of air.

* * *

One reason public feeling is with the Japanese is because it is easier to remember their names.

* * *

Latest advices from Thibet indicate that the Lion and the Lama will lie down together, with the Lama an inside passenger.

* * *

A newspaper writer never so fully realizes what a successful fool he might be until he sees the proof of what the printer thinks he wrote.

* * *

The oldest inhabitant cannot recall a time when the swimming was better than last week all along the main line of the C. P. R.

* * *

Quite naturally as the British near the Thibetan capital, they discover that the native soldiers show signs of Lhassatude.

* * *

Half the boys and girls in town are selling sweet peas for Eastern seed houses. They should find in Russia an eager customer.

* * *

Things however they are might always be worse. Think of what we would have had to suffer if Port Arthur had been called Alexandrovitchykopfostovskydragovitsky.

* * *

As holders of the copyrights we protest that D. Mark-Carley's name should not be maltreated into D'Mark Carley, not yet de Mark Carley or E. Z. Mark.

* * *

Will someone please step forward and state that the Baltimore fire was caused by a spark from a cigarette! Perhaps it wasn't, but it should have been to furnish good campaign ammunition.

* * *

The Kootenaian reports the burning of Maggie Brown's humble domicile, and says "it was a hot fire." Will some one who has made the acquaintance of any icy fire please step forward and testify.

* * *

Wait until we have a war over here and we'll get even with the Russians by having engagements every day at Methkahtla, Illecillewaet, Kithlahtlah, and a few other easily spelled places.

* * *

Japan isn't open to criticism for promoting officers previously killed in battle. That's better than the advancement of some of the dead ones in the British army.

* * *

Langley, the airship man, declares that he could fly to Canada if he had $50,000 for experiments. Many an American cashier has flown hitherward with less.

That reporter on the Rossland World who wrote it "Judge Archie Martin" hasn't yet been given the ninety-nine years for lese majeste that's coming to him.

* * *

"Little boys tell lies as if they were caught pulling the cat's tail," sapiently remarks the New York Press philosopher, "little girls as if they were sprinkling sunbeams on the flowers."

* * *

Now that everyone knows how old Ann is, will someone please take a pencil and some paper and figure out what relation each of President Joseph Smith's wives is to the children of the other four?

* * *

Associated Press despatches tell the public that the Petropolavsk went down exactly one minute and forty seconds after the explosion. It is a pity they did not go a little further and inform the world of the name of the enterprising individual who in the excitement of such an unexpected moment held the stop-watch.

* * *

Stumps of the trees that Lewis & Clark cut down a hundred years ago to make canoes, have been discovered by souvenir manufacturers who will proceed to turn them to account. No one need fear that the available supply of wood will be exhausted before all are served.

* * *

One is inclined to lament, on studying the vituperative pages of the Nelson Economist and the Tribune, that the respective editors are not south of the Mason and Dixon line. Then there would be some hope of their shooting each other for their country's good.

* * *

Wonder how many people run away with the impression that William Randolph Hearst is going to be milked of his millions through his presidential aspirations? He may spend a few millions but it will not be with his eyes shut as to the value of the advertising for his syndicate of newspapers.

* * *

Officers and passengers by the Oriental steamers should apply for copyright on that phrase, "you really know more about the war over here than we do in Japan."

* * *

There is no malice borne by the recently divorced husband of Mme. Nordica. After the decree was granted he wrote to ask her for a pass for two—and he got it. Probably he wanted to worry the Madame as to whom he was going to take with him.

* * *

Curious isn't it how enthusiastic the local dailies are in showing the people how they erred in not voting for the school by-law, after these same papers had displayed such lukewarmness or lukewarmth, or whatever it is, in pointing out before the voting the straight and narrow path for the voters to follow.

* * *

Opponents of "the Unspeakable Hearst" are urging that because he has never made a speech he cannot get the presidential nomination. That's the one thing to count in his favor. Besides, he realizes that money talks louder than a megaphone, and he has been content to let his shekels attend to the oratory.

* * *

No wonder the worm will turn, when after catching all the fish, it hears its honors blandly given away to the "white moth" or the "march brown" or the "silver doctor" that remained safe and snug in the fly book and never so much as got their feet wet.

* * *

Roosevelt will touch the button and the World's Fair hotelmen will do the rest—of the visitors.

Slide, Kelly, Slide! should be adopted as the national anthem of the Slocan if the experiences of the past few days continue.

* * *

Nothing pleases an editor so much as to write a pat paragraph and have it come from the printer so that its nearest relatives would not recognize it. Just fancy the pleasant feelings of the World editor toward the composing room when this editorialette appeared: "The war bulletin boards are of second interest now to the blackboard in the post office, which laconically announces, 'No more to-day.'" "Progress" will give one week's subscription to any little boy or any little girl explaining what it was that was on the bulletin.

* * *

Will someone rise and explain the exact benefit to Christianity or the community in continuing the ringing of church bells from an early hour until the evening of the Lord's Day? Church-going people are well aware of the hours of the various services. Others have long since learned to look for the announcements in the newspapers. The possession of watches or clocks is general. The only function of the church bell to-day seems to be the perpetuation of an institution of other days for which, with modern facilities of announcement, there is no longer any possible use. There can be no denial of the fact that to a very large number, compelled to labor late on Saturday night, the din of the morning church bell is assertive cruelty. Why will not the churches recognize that times do change, and adapt themselves to the conditions of the twentieth century?

The Stage and Stagefolk.

Way for the Merry Monarchs of Mammoth Minstrelsy—Mary Mannering's Play—How It All Came About.

It was not the writer's good fortune to witness the presentation of "The Merchant of Venice" made by Mr. Chas. B. Hanford and his company on Tuesday evening, but the assurance is given by those who had that pleasure that the reading given this Shakespearean classic was an admirable one throughout. There is as to Shylock as well as to Hamlet, room for an infinite diversity of opinion, and herein the master playwright shows his skill: the Merchant of Venice stands for an heroic type of stern, uncompromising justice—or of inhuman avarice, cruelty and cupidity as one elects to view him. And therefore he must always specially attract the actor of brains who seeks to analyze the subtleties of Shakespeare and to play immortal roles with understanding. Miss Drofnah, of course, is the this year's Portia, and gives to the part the same convincing earnestness and feminine intensity that are the valuable features of her other Shakespearean characterizations. She is an intelligent artiste who seldom overdoes her work, toward which there is ever a tendency on the part of Shakespearean women. As Bassanio, Antonio and Lancelot Gobbo respectively, Messrs. Frederick Forrester, Frank Peters and Caryl Gillin are this year rated doing commendable acting, while the setting, costuming and other accessories of the Hanford production are accurate and well pleasing to the eye.

* * *

Several years ago Leo Ditrichstein, the well known playwright, was traveling in Europe with his wife, and after a walking tour of several days, during which he had had no opportunity to be in touch with his razors or the contents of his trunks shipped ahead to a little watering place across the German frontier, he boarded a train in a condition by no means well groomed. The result was his arrest and detention by the German police as a suspicious character, presumably an anarchist, and an enforced separation from Mrs. Ditrichstein until he could communicate with friends in Vienna, who vouched for his character and respectability. Through these friends the joke on the American playwright leaked out, but for a long time it was a sore subject for the victim. If rumor is correct, however, Mr. Ditrichstein has turned the incident to good use and has made of it an interesting incident in the new comedy, "Harriet's Honeymoon," which he has written for Mary Mannering and in which this clever actress has scored a success. "Harriet's Honeymoon" is scheduled for presentation in this city at the Victoria theatre on the 29th.

* * *

Ralph Stuart's playing version of the Marchmont Russian novel, "By Right of Sword," which had its introduction in Seattle a season or so ago, has more than made good in New York and is now on tour and doing well.

* * *

It will be safe to visit Nelson now. The amateur dramatic society has decided to abandon its proposed performance of "The Private Secretary."

* * *

In a despatch from London included in the service of the new Canadian Associated Press, Sir Henry Irving is credited in an interview with stating that on his recent Canadian tour all the newspapers gave brilliant accounts of the presentations and all mistook an understudy for himself. This doesn't place Sir Henry in any very enviable light. The people paid big prices to see Sir Henry Irving. If he succeeded in foisting an understudy upon them, acting in his name, he deliberately took the money paid for seats under a false pretence. It certainly was a deception that no good actor should brag about. Incidentally, the Montreal Herald is taking quiet satisfaction out of the fact that it had stated at the time of the Irving performance that his acting had certainly improved.

* * *

"A Girl From Dixie," the musical comedy which Klaw & Erlanger present here on the evenings of the 9th and 10th of May, is a big production with a consistent story in it as well as good music, fine swing, and the modern sumptuousness of investiture (good word that—Wallace Munro should have patented it) inseparable from the K. & E. offerings to the public. The New Orleans Picayune says: "A Girl From Dixie" suggests a panoramic review of strife, a waving of two cherished flags, and the crossing of steel held by arms, sleeved in blue and gray—all of that is pictured in the imagination by reading of the title. But "A Girl From Dixie" has forgotten the arms, the triumphs and defeats, and trips out upon the stage with heart beating mischievously. Sentimentally she hides her well-rounded shoulders under a tattred gray coat, and dances with gray-coated beaux, but further than that the girl does not play the beloved color for effect. The conception, the treatment and the execution of the idea is exceedingly clever, and Harry B. Smith, the author of the book, is deserving of credit.

* * *

Rossland has passed a new theatre by-law under the terms of which no public entertainment whatsoever for which admission is charged, can be opened to the public unless a municipal official has first pronounced the building safe and provided with sufficient exits in the event of fire. A license must also be obtained for every entertainment unless it be given by amateurs for school, church, literary or charitable purposes.

* * *

Paderewski is credited with having made a great impression upon the Russian Czar when he played before His Majesty recently, and the Czar is quoted as saying that he was especially pleased to find such talent in Russia. "I beg Your Majesty's pardon—I am a Pole," was the pianist's retort. Later on the same day, Paderewski, who had arranged for a series of recitals in St. Petersburg, received a police order directing him to leave the country within twenty-four hours and never again return.

* * *

Under a special arrangement with Mr. Arthur C. Aiston, who controls the playing rights, Clara Mathes and her company are putting on the Bret Harte play "Tennessee's Partner" in the Kootenays. This is the mountain idyll in which Jane Corcoran so distinguished herself a few seasons ago. Petite Jane, by the way, has abandoned the domestic hearth for a time, and is again before the footlights.

* * *

Merriment and minstrelsy will hold the boards at the Victoria theatre on Tuesday evening next, the attraction being Al G. Field's big company, which holds a prominent place in the burnt cork community. The Field minstrels are said to distribute their talent well, putting on a very good musical first part but being, if anything, stronger in the specialty features making up the secondary half of their entertainment.

* * *

Edna Wallace Hopper is now in vaudeville, doing a breezy sketch by Cosmo Gordon Stewart, "The March of Time."

* * *

Lewis Morrison intends to vanish from stageland for a year, when he will bring out a new play. He thinks he is done with "Faust," but one never can tell.

* * *

Wagenhals & Kemper talk of starring Frederick Warde and Kathryn Kidder jointly next season.

GREASEPAINT.

ABOUT TOWN.

The mystery of nature and of electricity is perhaps no nearer solution today than when Franklin indulged in his immortal kite-flying, albeit the utilization of the mystery is now a prosaic matter of every day life. Quite recently a new discovery has been made, concerning which almost every practical telegrapher has his individual theory and explanation. In years gone by, as everyone concerned with telegraphy is aware, the winter season has been one of many interruptions to transcontinental telegraphing through the inexplicable phenomena of the aurora borealis. When the splendor of the northern sky was at its height, telegraphing on an east and west wire has been fraught with difficulty. Since the Canadian Pacific's new copper wire westward from Montreal has been in general use, someone in an experimenting mood took it into his head to take all "battery" off the wire when the much-cussed-at northern lights were causing constant trouble. To his amazement he found that by "grounding" the wire at either end, it was not only practicable but most convenient, to work the wire with only nature's electricity. And now it is often done when the aurora disturbs the general conditions. And there are as many explanations as there are telegraphers to question concerning it.

The church wardens of St. John's have recently introduced what is a novelty for Victoria in the composition of their choir, the boy voices having been dispensed with and a surpliced choir of girls taking their place. The young ladies in the gown and mortar cap make the choir decidedly picturesque, while the music, as it has always been at "the iron church," leaves little to be desired. The choir is under the control of Mr. Ross Monro as choir leader and Mr. Watkiss, organist.

"Primrose Day" was not observed as much in Victoria this year as has been customary. This is natural. Beaconsfield is little else than a memory to people nowadays, and he did not represent any idea in so peculiar a sense that his name is identified with it.

Lance-Sergeant McFadden, R. M. A., ranks as crack shot of the British navy with the 6-inch gun, his score in the last competition being 102.448 points. The good marksman is of H. M. S Flora, which has a reputation for being usually on the target.

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The Dominion Hotel is the latest and most beautiful of all Western Hotels.

It is centrally located on Yates street handy to the business centre, just block from the theatre, and convenient to all the leading churches.

Strangers arriving in the city, late or early, by boat or train, are met at the wharf or depot by our courteous and well trained porters (thus being saved a lot of worry) and conveyed to the hotel in the finest buses that money can provide, absolutely free of charge.

The bedrooms are modern, large and well lighted, and possesses an air of solid comfort seldom found in city hotels.

They are furnished in oak, electric lighted, belled, and the carpets and easy chairs are of the best.

The reception corridor and parlor form a pleasing rendezvous for lady guests, while the office or reading room is the one place in the city where you will find an acquaintance if he is in Victoria.

The rates are lower than most first class hotels, but they are responsible for the Dominion Hotel having no dull seasons.

American Plan $1.50 to $2.50 per day. European Plan (room only) 50c. to $1.50 per day. Just think of it! a room with bath attached and meals for $2.50 per day.

We ask the stranger to see the Dominion Hotel before arranging elsewhere.

Stephen Jones, Prop.

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Contractor and Builder.

Estimates furnished for all classes of work.

Temporary office, Carnegie Library Bl'g, Yates St., Victoria.

A Tempest In a Teapot.

Board of Trade Abrogates Its Legitimate Functions to Investigate a Matter of Private Difference.

The Victoria Board of Trade has a large and feverish scandal upon its hands, the parties chiefly concerned in which are Secretary Elworthy and Mr. A. J. Morley. Incidentally Mr. D. R. Ker, head of the well-known Brackman & Ker Milling Co.; Mr. T. L. Grahame, the resident agent of the Associated Press; and Mr. W. B. Blaikeslee, a cereal food manufactory promoter, play minor and inconspicuous parts.

Mr. Blaikleslee came to the city recently, seeking inducements to locate. He saw Mr. Elworthy in that gentleman's official capacity, and Mr. Elworthy took Mr. Blaikleslee to see President Todd and Vice-President Pitts. What these gentlemen said to Mr. Blaikesless is not stated, but he shook the dust of Victoria from his feet very soon thereafter. Then Mr. Wheeler, a newspaper man, saw Mr. Morley and that gentleman said things to Mr. Wheeler. Mr. Wheeler told Mr. Grahame, and Mr. Grahame distributed to the world in an Associated Press despatch a distinctly interesting story of how the Board of Trade secretary—inspired by Mr. Ker—had turned down the soaring projects of the prospective business rivals of the B. & K. Milling Company.

When Mr. Elworthy saw this published story he was wroth. So was Mr. Rhodes, of Brackman & Ker. They jointly and severally started upon a still hunt for justice and satisfaction. Mr. Blaikleslees, threatened with prosecution for slander, promptly repudiated all knowledge of or connection with the matter in any shape or form. Mr. Morley did not go so far. He attended a special meeting of the council of the board in that behalf convened, and declined to apologize for anything he had said, while at the same time withdrawing any statement to the effect that the secretary had acted upon the suggestion of Messrs. Brackman & Ker. The council promptly exonerated Mr. Elworthy, and there the matter was supposed to be ended.

The council reported that it had found the published allegations untrue; but when the full board met in quarterly session Mr. Morley charged that the secretary had publicly alleged that he was the author of the despatch, and there followed a not altogether non-acrimonious debate.

There was a motion by Mr. Morley, seconded by Mr. George Carter, that the secretary be required to substantiate that he (Mr. Morley) was the author of the yarn.

Mr. S. J. Pitts offered an amendment, seconded by Mr. D. W. Higgins, that a committee be named to go into the entire matter.

A few, led by the common-sense legislator from the Islands, Mr. T. W. Paterson, held that the board had other business than the investigation of such private differences; but the amendment carried by 31 to 23, and a committee composed of two nominees of Mr. Morley, and two of Mr. Elworthy, with an appointee of the chairman, was ordered to sit in final judgment.

Mr. H. B. Thomson, of Turner, Beeton & Co., Ltd., and Mr. George Carter, were named by Mr. Morley as his representatives; the Secretary choose Lt.-Col. E. G. Prior and Mr. James Thomson as his seconds, and Mr. J. A. Mara was nominated by the Chairman to complete the court.

These gentlemen held sittings on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and heard evidence, a stenographer lending the true court color to the occasion. While it is not yet officially known just what the finding will be, it may be fairly surmised that the august tribunal will rule in favor of the Secretary, and that Mr. Morley's position in the board will thereby become embarrassing.

The air meanwhile is heavy with suggestions of slander or damage actions—against Mr. Morley, Mr. Elworthy and the news agency; as well as of threatened withdrawals from the board by Mr. Morley and his supporting friends, who appear to include a majority of the so-called Chamber of Commerce wing, who do not regard the management of the board's affairs as just what it ought to be.

It is sincerely to be hoped that these gentlemen will not for a moment seriously consider such a step, which in itself would be absurd and unworthy of any part of a representative business and deliberative [illegible]

[illegible]ORKER THIS.

"Hear[illegible]ew one the other day," said a m[illegible]nd in my modest opinion, it's one of the best of its kind that ever went the rounds. Here it is: What is three-sevenths of a chicken, two-thirds of a cat, and one-half of a goat?

"Of course you give it up.

"Well, the answer is Chicago, 'Chi' is three-sevenths of chicken; 'ca' is two-thirds of cat, and 'go' is one-half of goat. Pretty good, isn't it?"—Philadelphia Press.

COUNTERFEIT COINS.

United States Half Dollars so Perfectly Imitated That Detection is Almost Impossible.

Early in the week the Royal Bank in this city received from the United States treasury officers in Seattle some twenty or more very pretty half dollars with the word "bad" stamped across them. The Royal notified the other banks, and each of the latter overhauled its specie and in each case some of the spurious coins were discovered. The impression created by an item in a daily paper that the Royal was the only bank victimized is not correct. All the banks were caught for small sums, but the Royal was the first to discover it.

The counterfeits are well executed. To the casual observer there is no difference between the spurious and the genuine article. They sound alike when "rung." They weigh so nearly the same that they cannot be distinguished by weight. They look, on even careful examination, to be exactly alike. On close scruting it will be found that the devices on the spurious pieces are not as sharply outlined as those on the genuine coins. Apparently the counterfeits have been molded, while the genuine coins are stamped out with a die. The most noticeable difference is in the head of Liberty, which in the genuine shows a very distinct curved line back of the wreath. the line in the counterfeit being less clear. The lettering in the coronet on the head is somewhat indistinct in the counterfeit, and the words "In God we trust" are also not as sharply brought out. This is true indeed of nearly every part of the device. In a new coin the edges of the stars, etc., are sharply cut: in the counterfeit they are dull.

But so excellent is the work in every way that every new piece purporting to be a United States half dollar should be regarded with suspicion.

LADYSMITH.

On Friday afternoon last fire broke out in the upper story of J. Carpenter's boarding house, and in a few moments had spread to Mr. J. Ceele's cottage and to the double house of Mr. M. Matheson's. All were burned to the ground. Owing to a valve being put into the mains the pressure was reduced, and it was twenty minutes before water could be had. Had some alarm been given, either the ringing of bells or blowing of whistles, much valuable time could have been saved in getting the water pressure increased, but as nothing was done, it was some time before the man in charge knew there was a fire. As stated last week, the fire brigade is a thing of the past, but steps have been taken to reorganize it at once. Messrs. Coburn and Nicholson directed operations, and soon had the fire under control. The loss was about $4,000, partly covered by insurance.

On Monday evening the Church of England gave a musical and dramatic entertainment in the opera house. The house was crowded, and everything went without a hitch. The following took part: Mesdames Wallis, Leighton, Pelkey, Boyle and Wallace; Misses Sutton and Priestly; Messrs. H. Marshall, Hearn, Bowen, Smith, Gould, Auchinvole, Bourne, Allen and Whitcombe.

Mr. Cornwall, of the Vancouver branch of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, arrived on Saturday last, and at once took charge of the local branch. Mr. Stewart, the retiring manager, expects to have his office open by May 1st.

COWICHAN.

The thirty-first council of the municipality of North Cowichan held its fourth regular meeting on Saturday last. Mr. W. C. Brown opposed the proposed deviation in May road. Messrs. Crease & Crease forwarded the Alderlea Sidewalks By-law; H. S. Law, postmaster, Crofton, wrote complaining of the mud in Ivan avenue, and the road foreman submitted his monthly report. The finance committee passed bills amounting to $318.80; the Sidewalk By-law, and one prohibiting animals running at large in the townsite were read a third time; the Wide Tyre By-law was read a first and second time. The road inspector was instructed to make an estimate of the cost of a sidewalk along Station, Craig and Ingram streets; a resolution was passed increasing the dog license to a dollar; instructions were given to have all specifications for road work got out at the earliest possible date; the clerk was directed to have notice boards erected in each ward; J. Menzies was awarded the contract for Menzies bridge, J. Weismiller for Wharncliffe road, J. Menzies for Castley road and J. Lamont for Gibbins road. As Councill H. E. Evans is about to visit England, and will be absent for more than three months, it was necessary, according to the act, that he should tender his resignation. This was accepted with regret by the reeve and his fellow councillors, who united in hearty good wishes that he might thoroughly enjoy his holiday. Mr. Norcross was appointed returning officer for the election to fill the vacancy. The council adjourned until the 21st day of June, when the Revision Court will be held.

The local Masons and their visiting friends had a good time on Saturday night. The weather is good and seeding operations in full swing. Lambs are looking well in spite of the backward spring.

Fraternal Societies.

I.O.F.—At the regular semi-weekly meeting of Court Cariboo on Tuesday evening an interesting report was given by R. C. Wilson of visits made by him to Courts Vancouver and Burrard. An interesting debate followed on the respective merits of the Japanese and Russians. Speeches were made on this subject by Messrs. King, Yarrow and a number of others.

K. of P.—At the regular convention of Far West Lodge No. 1 the rank of Page was conferred on two condidates, and several applications for membership were received. One brother was struck off the sick list and two reported sick. e rank of Esquire was conferred on several Pages last night, and the rank of Knight will be conferred next week.

A. O. F.—Victoria Court paid an official visit to Court Vancouver at their regular meeting last Monday night. A talk given by Rev. C. R. Basket was most interesting. After the meeting closed refreshments were served and an impromptu programme rendered by members of both courts. Sides were chosen for competition, Bro. Kettle leading Court Victoria and Bro. Fahey Court Vancouver. The hilarious contest was brought to a close by a prognostic recitation by Bro. Gunns.

Eagles.—Last night a new Aerie was established at Ladysmith. The officers and a numoer of members of the local Aerie went up to help in the institution. A large number were also present from Vancouver and Nanaimo.

Woodmen of the World.—Two new applications for membership were considered at the last meeting of Victoria Camp. The officers of Columbia Circle were installed by Sov. Lindsay, after which the same Sovereign read a report of his visit to the head court at Hamilton. He reported the death rate of the order for the past year to be very low, and the order in a flourishing condition. At the close he said: "How can I adequately describe the magnificent country of which we form a part, snow-covered as it was when I saw it. Yet I can understand how it will, in the near future, be the granary of the Empire. We can ask for no fairer heritage nor hope for a brighter future than is possible with our beloved Canada. I tell you Sovereigns that no Canadian can take such a trip as I have just taken without feeling that he is a citizen of no mean country, aye, one of the best on God's footstool, but I was glad to get home because British Columbia is the best part of it all."

I. O. O. F.—Columbia Lodge met Wednesday evening and hurried through the routine business in order to entertain their friends who were invited for 9 o'clock. At that hour dancing commenced, those not caring for the graceful exercise taking a hand at cards. Refreshments were served at 10.30. The hall was nicely filled without being crowded, so that everyone had an opportunity to make the most of the evening.

Monday evening there was a large gathering in the Douglas street hall to welcome Grand Master E. C. Arthur, of Nelson, Noble Grand Matheson occupying the chair. After being accorded the honors of the order the Grand Master made a speech, in which he said that he was just completing a tour of the lodges in his jurisdiction. Columbia Lodge then put on the third degree in their usual excellent style. After the lodge adjourned the tables were spread and a splendid repast was partaken of, with Jas. Wilby in the chair.

To-morrow the members of this order will march to the Centennial Methodist church, where they will be addressed by Bro. J. P. Westman.

Knights of Pythias.—Victoria Lodge No. 17 held its weekly convention on Thursday night last, when a Page was advanced to the rank of Esquire, and one application was received and refered. Like our beautiful city, our lodge is going ahead. Although some of our members have passed the half century in age, yet we have not a mossback amongst us, and each one vies with the other to do the best for his lodge and the order. Bro. A. Coopman has just returned from an extended visit to California, where he went for the benefit of his health, and incidently to give the brothers in that state a few pointers on the possibilities and beauties of Victioria. Amongst the week's visitors was Bro. H. B. Gelder, of San Francisco, who held the attention of the lodge for some time with a most elequent address.

Cloverdale A. A.—Thursday evening this club gave an interesting concert in their rooms, Carey road. The young men of the club entertained during the first half with a musical sketch, which was highly appreciated by the audience. It being their first attempt at anything of the kind they did better even than their most sanguine friends expected. The second part was given by the following friends of the association: Miss Kneeshaw, Misses Scowcroft, Mr. A. Petch, Mr. A. Wheeler, Mr. H. Firth, Mr. D. W. Higgins. Owing to the unavoidable absence of Hon. R. McBride the chair was occupied by Hon. Robt. Green, who gave an interesting address on the work of the club, showing what it had accomplished in the past and what might be reasonably expected from it in the future. The audience was very large and most appreciative.

B. C. Stationary Engineers' Association.—The local association is sending a delegate to Vancouver to attend a meeting on Thursday next, when the question of forming a Provincial Association will be decided. The majority of the local engineers do not view with much favor the draft of articles of association which has been received from Vancouver. Unless some radical changes are made the probability is that the local association will remain independent.

Victoria West Epworth League.—The following officers were elected for the coming year at their meeting Wednesday night: President, J. Bodwen; first vice-president, Mr. Hardy (Christian Endeavor); second vice-president, Rev. S. S. Osterhout (literary); third vice-president, T. G. Hitt (missionary); fourth vice-president, Miss Pamphlet (social); secretary, Miss C. Robinson; treasurer, Miss F. Okell.

The Full court of British Columbia has, during the present week, disposed of an action at law of very peculiar interest to the public as well as the profession. It was that in which the assignee of L. H. Rasor sought to recover certain properties which had by will of Rasor's deceased wife been bequeathed to the Roman Catholic church. The case was that in 1901 the then prospective Mrs. Rasor (then Mrs. Vigelius) agreed to transfer her property to Rasor if he married her. This he did, but she dying, it was found that the property had by the terms of the will been left to the church. Rasor subsequently assigned his claim upon the estate for a consideration of $500, and the purchaser then entered suit on the ante-marriage promise. The case was decided against him by Mr. Justice Drake, and from this the plaintiff appealed, the Full court now deciding that the marriage contract between Mrs. Vigelius (afterwards Rasor) and Mr. Rasor was binding in law and must be kept.

The Fairfield estate has been withdrawn from the market pending decision of the street railway company's intentions with respect to the Ross Bay cemetery extension.

Victorians are negotiating for a companion steamer to the well known Australian vessel Eurembla, which they purpose putting on the Skagway run from this city.

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English Watch Repairing
By A. PETCH,
Watch and Clock Maker and Jeweller,
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Opposite Porter's Butcher Shop

A. Harris
Yacht, Launch, Boat and Canoe Builder. Repairs etc.
55 Work St., - Rock Bay.

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Fraternal Order of Eagles.
Victoria Aerie No. 12 F. O. E. meets every Wednesday evening in Eagle Hall, Adelphi Block, at 8:30 p. m. Sojourning brothers made welcome. Joseph Wachter, W. President; Frank LeRoy, W. Secretary.

Court Northern Light, No. 5935. A. O. F.
Meets 2nd and 4th Wednesday in each month in K. of P. Hall, Douglas St. Visiting members cordially invited to all meetings.
J. P. Hancock, Chief Ranger; W. F. Fullerton, Secretary.

Knights of Pythias.
Far West Lodge No. 1 meets at their Hall, cor. Douglas and Pandora Streets, every Friday at 8 p.m. Sojourning brothers are always welcome
J.H. Penketh, C.C.; Harry Weber, K. of R.& S. Box 544.

Juvenile Ancient Order of Foresters
Court No. 1 meets first Tuesday in each month at K. of P. Hall. Adult Foresters are always welcome. S. L. Redgrave, President; J. H. Mausell, Secretary.

Court Vancouver, No. 5755, A. O. F.,
Meets 1st and 3rd Mondays K. of P. Hall, cor. Pandora and Douglas Sts. Visiting Brothers are cordially invited.
Sidney Wilson, Secretary.

Concerning Sport and Sportsmen.

Lacrosse Championship Arrangements—To Decide Dead Year's Honors.—Fishing Indifferent. Indifferently Satisfactory.

The suggestion that the scope of the British Columbia Amateur Lacrosse Association would this year be extended, and that this sporting organization would abandon the provincial for an international character, taking Seattle into the championship league, seems to have been in the nature of a false alarm. The annual meeting of the Association has just been held at Vancouver, and as in the days of yore, the championship race will be between the three Coast cities—Victoria, Vancouver and New Westminster. Even Nanaimo has been dropped from consideration, which is infinitely preferable to including the Coal City in the schedule and then dropping out matches, as defaulted, when the playing dates come round. If any activity had been shown in that direction, it would have been possible to have got the Kootenay clubs into the championship running this season, and interest in the national game would thereby have been greatly stimulated, but seemingly no one took the trouble to work the matter out, and thus a thoroughly provincial character is still missing from the pennant competition.

The feature of the season's reorganization meeting was the authoritative disposal of the 1903 championship quarrel between Vancouver and New Westminster—a petty, unsportsmanlike squabbe that has disgusted all true admirers of the game. President Ryall's ruling, awarding the championship to New Westminster, was naturally not sustained; and with characteristic childishness he forthwith resigned his office and retired from the conference. Nor was Vancouver sustained in its contentions. The association waived the consideration of petty technicalities to one side, and ordered by 5 to 3, the disputed match of August 29th (being a drawn game) played over on the 14th proximo, on grounds to be decided upon meantime. Should Vancouver on this occasion win, it seals the championship of 1903 in favor of the Terminal town's lacrossists. If the fates be against them then, they still have another chance, for the honors of the dead year will have to be played off in this city before the 7th of June in that event.

Regarding the playing of exhibition matches with American teams, it was decided that if professionals should be found upon opposing teams, protests are to be lodged against such players with the referee, nor can the play proceed until their services are dispensed with.

Mr. Aulay Morrison, M. P., is honorary president of the association for the ensuing year, the active officers being as hereunder: President, A. E. Suckling, Vancouver; Vice-Presidents, J. Mellis, Victoria, and R. Jardine, New Westminster; Secretary-Treasurer, A Gray, New Westminster; Official Referees, Burns and Quigley, Vancouver; Cheyne and Lynch, New Westminster; and Snider and Tite, Victoria.

The season's schedule has been drawn as follows:

May 14—Drawn game, Vancouver vs. Westminster.
May 24—Vancouver at Victoria.
June 4—Deciding championship 1903 game.
June 11—Vancouver at Westminster.
June 18—Victoria at Westminster.
June 25—Westminster at Vancouver.
July 1—Victoria at Vancouver.
July 9—Westminster at Victoria.
July 16—Vancouver at Victoria.
July 30—Victoria at Vancouver.
August 6—Vancouver at Westminster.
August 20—Westminster at Vancouver.
September 3—Victoria at Westminster.
September 10—Vancouver at Victoria.

* * *

As predicted in last week's issue, the finals in the sixth annual tournament of the Pacific Northwest Golf Association were reached on Saturday, when weather and wind conditions held favorable for the fullest enjoyment of the sport by the participants and spectators, of whom there were many out. Expectations were not however realized insofar as the decision of the championships was concerned, for even on their own links the local golfers were unable to demonstrate superiority over their American guests and foemen of the occasion. Mr. R. L. Macleay, of Seattle, proved the victor, defeating Mr. Ayer, of Portland. Mrs. Burton won the ladies' open championship, defeating Mrs. Langley; and Mrs. Carsten, the ladies' open handicap, vanquishing Mrs. Lampman. Mrs. and Miss Langley took the ladies' foursomes, with Mrs. Combe and Mrs. Burton second. In the gentlemen's open handicap Messrs. Garratt and Burton tied for first place. Mr. Newton made the best drive, Mr. Ayer second, in the gentlemen's contest; and Miss Langely the best drive for ladies, 155 yards, a very good performance for a comparative novice. Capt. Davidson and Miss Langley won the mixed foursomes in 86, which is a record for the Oak Bay links, with Mr. Newton and Miss Garratt an excellent second. Miss King won for best putting. The tournament of 1905 has been unanimously awarded to Seattle.

The Cowichan river has been exceptionally high for the past week and in consequence the catches there were meagre, although in several cases one or two good fish were secured. This river will not get to a normal depth for at least two weeks, and nothing very big in the ways of bags may be expected until the first week in May. As a matter of fact it will only be for a couple of weeks during that month that the ordinary fisherman can hope for very good luck, as the fish will undoubtedly hasten up the river owing to the fact that the logging operations of last year have destroyed many of their favorite feeding and resting grounds. Another factor to render the fishing poor is the netting by Indians of trout of all sizes. This is a very serious matter and one that the Dominion inspectors should thoroughly probed. If it is to continue for any length of time, trout fishing in the Cowichan river will very soon be a thing of the happy past.

In Shawnigan lake sport seems to be improving, several very fair bags having been secured last week. Mr. W. H. Cullin got a beauty weighing 2½ pounds, yet even this was eclipsed by another gentleman who caught a fish in excellent condition which tipped the scale at three pounds and a half. This latter fish was caught on a troll, and both were secured in the West Arm. In Sooke lake the bags are by no means so large as to recompense the ardent sportsmen for the trouble they take in travelling to their favorite lake, but with the continuance of warm weather it is almost absolutely certain that the fishing in Sooke lake will continue to improve. No fish of any great size have so far been secured in this water, but the average has been good and it seems improbable that in so large a lake there should fail to be good-sized fish. The editor of this journal will take it as a favor if any sportsman who secures a fish in Sooke lake weighing a pound or over will bring him information of the fact, as it is a moot question whether fish ever attain this size in Sooke lake.

As to the other resorts in this locality there is nothing particular to report, but so soon as the season opens in Cowichan lake, which will hardly be before the end of May, large catches may be expected.

* * *

The burning question as to whether the Ripplinger dog from Seattle or Mr. C. W. Minor's Lola Montez is the better animal, judged from the fancier's standpoint, still remains a bone of contention, for Mr. Minor has not seen fit to accept the challenge offered him, and exhibit at the Sound and Oregon shows. It is doubted if doing so would have ended the matter finally and acceptably to all concerned. The trouble really appears to be that Mr. Minor did not accept his victory—or rather his dog's—with becoming modesty. He was inclined to gloat a bit over the discomfiture of Mr. Ripplinger, and hence the latter's too ready challenge. It is even said that Mr. Ripplinger himself accepted the verdict of the judges here as a sportsman should, until Mr. Minor proceeded to rub it in. The Ripplinger dog, it will be remember, was not brought to the Coast for bench show honor winning. It was imported to be bred with the Minor dogs, and Mr. Ripplinger taking a fancy to it, also took the animal, in exchange for $500 of good legal tender. It is a good animal undoubtedly—but there are others. And by the way—how is it that there was never a dog show yet, or a poultry show, or a country fair, when someone did not arise in wrath and declare that the judges didn't know their business?

* * *

The Indians of the lower Vancouver Island reservations, unlike their Eastern brethren who are entitled to honor and all reservation privileges in perpetuity for having created the noble game of lacrosse, take more kindly to baseball than to any other athletic sport in which the white man excels. They are no lobsters at it either, in the box or the field. Last Sunday at Saanichton a game was played with the local white men's nine that was so fast and scientific that the bleachers rang with plaudits. Saanichton finally won by 13 to 8, but it was a game exemplifying all the uncertainties of baseball. Holness was umpire for the main event, while the batteries were W. Gordon and F. Dawson, for Saanichton; James Dick and Daniel Dick, for the braves. After the match proper a scratch nine largely composed of Saanichton players, but with Holness pitching, tried conclusions for three innings with the dark-hued players, who held them about even. And they had little difficulty in finding Holness for safe hits.

* * *

At an important meeting of the Victoria Yacht Club held this week it was decided to divide the yachts flying the club flag into two distinct classes—the cruisers and the racers: Gwenol, Dorothy, Pathfinder, Dragon, Imp, and one of two others, including Captain Clarke's boat, being placed in the cruiser category. Other yachts joining the club will be duly classified as they appear. Club races are arranged for May 21st, June 4th and 18th, July 16th and 30th, and August 13th and 27th; the course as laid down will be changed on alternate days—for example in a first race the boats competing will turn the buoys on the port side, and in the second contest they will turn to starboard. One design races will be held on May 14th and 28th, June 11th and 25th, July 9th and 23rd, and August 6th and 20th. The club regatta is fixed for July 2nd, when it is expected that yachts from all other seaboard points in the province, the Sound and California, will be here to participate.

* * *

Secretary-Treasurer McConnell submitted an exceedingly favorable report of the receipts and expenditures in connection with the recent show at a meeting of the Victoria Kennel Club this week. It showed a balance on hand of over $100. Resignations were received from Secretary McConnell and Vice-President J. J. Bostock. Mr. McConnell was asked whether he could not see his way clear to reconsider his decision. The latter, however, contended that it would be impossible for him to spare the time to efficiently look after the duties pertaining to that office. The resignation was therefore accepted, and W. F. Dunn appointed to that place temporarily. Regarding the resignation of Mr. Bostock, on account of his action in withdrawing his dogs from the recent show before the time limit had expired, it was decided to disallow the competition of Mr. Bostock's canines in any coast shows until the 1st of January, 1905. It was moved that any dogs owned by Miss V. Wilson be also disqualified until January of next year, unless some satisfactory explanation of the reason for taking away her dog is given.

* * *

This from the Colonist seems to illustrate that sport as well as journalism has its left-handed amenities:

A game has been proposed to be played between the Vancouver and Victoria ladies' clubs, and some of the Vancouver papers have referred to the manner in which the home ladies play as childish, etc. Unfortunately for this contention, the teams here play under the recognized rules for ladies, and have no intention of appearing in bloomers and being knocked about in a horse play game. There is no doubt that the local team will willingly play Vancouver under the proper rules, but no one can blame them for refusing to play under the ordinary men's rules.

* * *

Fishing in the streams of the neighboring Mainland is better than it has been for years thus early in the season. The Capilano, always a late stream, is of course not worthy of attention, for what fish are there are almost sure to fall victims to the nets stretched a short way above the mouth. Nor are the Lynn and Seymour of much account as yet. Some great catches are being made, however, on the Stave and at the Coquitlam; while in the Serpentine a 12-pound rainbow has been taken. This, the best fish caught this season in that locality, bade farewell to his schoolmates last Sunday, at the invitation of Mr. Cunningham, of Vancouver.

* * *

A lacrosse club was organized by the local Y. M. C. A. on Tuesday evening last, much interest being taken in the game by the Y's, and it being expected that a strong team will be put in the field, although whether as competitors for junior or intermedite honors has not yet been determined. The officers elect are: Honorary president, John Nelson; president, H. Hinkson Siddall; vice-president, H. Northcott; secretary, Cyril Bate; treasurer, E. E. Bragg; captain, T. Rosscamp; vice-captain, J. Welte; supplies committee, Fisher, Watkins and Bragg; executive, Siddall, Northcott, Rosscamp, Welte and Gawley.

* * *

The Nanaimo and Ladysmith football teams are to play their final game for the championship of the North End series for the British Columbia cup at the Caledonia grounds here this afternoon. They will bring large contingents of admirers with them, it is expected, and enable Victoria lovers of the socker game to witness an interesting exhibition.

* * *

The Victoria Lacrosse Club is endeavoring to arrange terms with Mr. C. F. Todd for a lease of the Caledonia grounds, in which event they will proceed to enlarge the grandstand and otherwise improve the park from the spectators' standpoint. The club hopes to have a strong twelve in the field this year, and counts upon deserving the old-time support of lovers of the national game at home.

* * *

Here are a few of the baseball bookings for the season that Manager Willie thus early in the running is able to announce: 30th April Lopez; 7th May, Everett; 14th May, Mount Angel College; 20th and 21st May, Bellingham; games will also be made for the 23rd, 24th, 27th and 28th proximo. All these will be home matches.

* * *

The golf tournament men's foursomes tie between Major A. W. Jones and Mr. W. F. Burton, Mr. C. B. Stahlschmidt and Capt. Davidson, and Mr. Harvey Combe and Mr. C. J. Prior, each of these couples having turned in a score of 87 nett, was played off on Wednesday afternoon, resulting in Major Jones and Mr. Burton taking first place, and Messrs. Combe and Prior second. The winners were playing in excellent form and were never seen to better advantage on the links. The scores were as hereunder:

Jones and Burton, 91-9—81 nett.
Combe and Prior, 89-3—86 nett.
Stahlschmidt and Davidson, 97-5—92 nett.

* * *

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