THE STAR

Vol. I. PORT ESSINGTON, B. C., JUNE 20, 1908 No. 1

Inaugural

This is not an apology.

We have not consciously done anything we need to apologize for, and do not mean to.

We have started this paper at Port Essington, and why not?

There is room for a paper here. We think there is actual need for it. We have been gratified in canvassing the town for ads., at the cordial reception given our proposition. People are nearly always shy of such a proposition at first; and besides, the history of such ventures in the recent past here has not been such as to encourage over much confidence. We are prepared for a little coolness, and had our mental flannels on, but we did not get it. We were soon perspiring in summer temperature. See the local ads. we have in our first number.

Now we ask you to keep it up. We are very susceptible to chills. Don't give us a cold. We must depend upon local patronage almost entirely. We must cover publishing expenses by ads. and subscriptions. We are doing the work gratis. It depends upon you, then, to improve the paper. This number is double the size of what we proposed when we started out. Can we keep it up? We ought to. Will you?

We are offering in another column an excellent premium for annual subscriptions. It is annual subscriptions that count in securing advertisements. This is not begging. We give you full value for your money.

SUBSCRIBE AT ONCE.

Then we want to keep up the interest in the paper. It must be a community paper, not a one-man or one-party organ. Will you come in with it? We welcome you to a share of the labor. There is absolutely no money in it or we would offer to share that too. But we must have outside help in contributions to our columns.

We are arranging for correspondence from outlying points on the coast. We want our own town to be well represented. We freely confess we are short of both yellow and grey matter, but we'll get the yellow from ads. if you'll furnish the grey in contributions.

CONTRIBUTE SOMETHING.
CRITICIZE, IF YOU FEEL LIKE IT.
FIND FAULT, IF YOU WILL.
HOWL, IF YOU MUST.

Stand by the town paper, and we will stand by the town.

We particularly invite correspondence over signature of any matter which may appeal to you.

And if you want your ad. increased, button-hole us any time on the street. We are always approachable on that line.

SURPRISING FIGURES

Nearly Half the Population of the United States Under Prohibition.

"Eight million six hundred thousand people abolished the saloon last year, including four entire states. The seven prohibition states have a population of over ten millions, while twenty-seven million more live in other prohibition territory, making about forty-five per cent. of the total population of the United States free from the blighting influence of the saloon. Of the thirty-four legislatures in session last year twenty passed laws unfavorable to the liquor traffic, while no legislature has been in session during the present year that has not had one or more temperance bills before it. In recent years no legislation favorable to the liquor traffic has been enacted."

This was the language in which the progress of the temperance movement in the United States was reported to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States at Kansas City on the twenty-eighth of last month.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Supreme Court of the Presbyterian Church Meets in Winnipeg.

The thirty-fourth annual session of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada met in Knox Church, Winnipeg, its opening session being held Wednesday, June 3rd. Between four and five hundred delegates were present from all over Canada. Some foreign missionaries were also present, notably Rev. Mr. Gould, successor to the late Dr. MacKay in Formosa. Western B. C. representatives were Rev. J. M. Millar, of Nanaimo; Rev. J. McMillan, of Ladysmith, and Thornton Fell and Walter Walker, elders. The Rev. Robert Murray, editor of the Halifax Presbyterian, and the Rev. Dr. R. P. MacKay, secretary of Foreign Missions, who has recently returned from his trip around the world, were prominent members.

The retiring moderator, the Rev. Robert Campbell, of Montreal, closed his duties in that capacity by preaching the opening sermon of the session, and was succeeded in the highest honor in the gift of the Presbyterian Church in Canada by Dr. Duval, pastor of the church in which the Assembly met.

Much interest was taken in the discussion of the proposed union with the Methodist and Congregational churches, and the evident desire to enter into the best possible relations with the sister churches was remarkable in such a notably conservative body.

"THE MAPLE LEAF FOREVER."

Some First of July Fireworks.

On July 1st Canada will celebrate her 41st birthday as a Federated Union. This Dominion, judging from her immediately past history, her vast extent of habitable and arable land, her exhaustless deposits of mineral, her forests, which the forethought, of the provincial houses is doing much to protect, her fisheries exhaustless if wisely regulated, her enegertic, morally healthy and God fearing people, will be more than merely a land of promise, for the thousands who are entering her confines before the close of the present century will be one of the great world powers.

The Federation known now as the Dominion of Canada was first suggested in the year 1809 by R. J. Uniache, a legislator of Nova Scotia, but was not realized until July 1st, 1867. Of the twenty-three fathers of Federation five only are living.

Canada's first census (1665) gave a population of 3,251. At Federation her population was 3,500,000. At the present time it is probably approaching the 7,000,000 mark, as it totalled nearly 6,000,000 in 1903, or about 1.7 to the square mile. United States has a population of 21 per square mile, Great Britain 558.

The seven million residents of Canada are individually easily the wealthiest people in the world today, amounting as it does to $1,240 per head, as against $1,050 in England, and $875 in the United States. There are in Canada very few excessively wealthy individuals. The bulk of the wealth of England and the United States is represented by a few thousand families. In Canada 46 per cent. of her population are engaged in farming and of these 89 per cent. own their holdings. When we learn that Canada's trade has increased 92 per cent. in ten years, figures that can be paralleled by no other country in the world, and that this immense increase arises chiefly from farming industries, we have the gratifying inference that it is a nation of individuals and not a few families only that are enjoying the wealth of the country.

Canada has not yet had to face the trying sociological and economic problems of the other great nations and probably never will so long as our different governments continue to recognize and encourage agricultural pursuits.

Canada contains one-third of the whole British Empire.

Canada is 8,500 miles from east to west and 1,400 from north to south.

Canada's wheat yield for the last ten years averaged 18 bushels per acre, the United States 13.

One hundred pounds of Canadian flour makes more bread than the same weight of any other flour imported into Great Britain. The reason is that Canada's western wheat contains 10 per cent. more abuminoids than the best of European varieties.

Canada is as large as 18 Germanys or twenty Spains. British Columbia is the largest of the provinces and would hold 24 Switzerlands with scenic grandeur unsurpassed in the world.

NOAH'S ARK FOUND AGAIN.

They have found Noah's Ark again. It seems to be a re-discovery of an old tale of the Yukon. That district appears anxious to hold on to its last shred of connection with the Bible. We don't blame it. We all die hard.

FLYING MACHINES THAT FLY.

Near Ghent, England, Harry Farman travelled through the air for nearly a mile, carrying two men on a machine sustained by the purely mechanical principles of the aeroplane. On the same day at Ronge, a Frenchman, Leon de La Grange, in a similar machine, accomplished a flight of over seven miles in fifteen minutes. A little earlier, in America, the Wright Brothers accomplished an even more remarkable flight, but without official observers to check the distance and time.

The fact that gasoline furnishes the motive power of these machines is thought by our local launch owners to account for the disastrous endings to some of these flights. The Wright Brothers say it was an inadvertent touch on the wrong lever which smashed their machine on the ground. The next day after his successful flight, the Frenchman, in attempting to repeat his performance before Queen Margherite of Italy, fell from a height of three hundred feet, and was fortunate to escape with his life

We believe it all at Port Essington. We know the disposition of a gasoline engine, at least the other fellow's engine. It is near kin to the mule.

NOT GUILTY.

The advent of the new era, and the coming of strangers to Port Essington brings its anxieties. One of our most urbane clerks in a leading Essington emporium realized it to the full the other day.

An elderly lady, dresserd severely in gray, and carrying what looked very much like a bundle of tracts, approached the counter.

Our genial friend hastened to serve her.

"What can I do for you, madam?"

She leaned toward him: "Have you —er—any little vises?" she inquired.

He returned to consciousness next morning under a pile of dry goods boxes at the rear of the store, and is now rapidly recovering his wanted nerve.

Fish live in the ocean at a depth of 18,000 feet.—Science Notes.

We believe it. At any rate some of our local cannerymen say they sunk ten dollars per fish getting down after some of them this season. The particular variety was spring salmon. That is going pretty deep.

INDIAN CHIEFS AT OTTAWA.

Port Essington Natives at the Seat of Government.

According to press despatches, a deputation of British Columbia Indians, headed by the famous Joe Capilano, and including two of our fellow townsmen, Peter Nelson and Aaron Bolton, also Joseph Bradley and Henry Pierce, of Port Simpson, and Charles Wesley of Kishpiax, arrived at Ottawa on the second of this month. They were kindly received by Hon. F. Oliver and Mr. Pedley the next afternoon. On presenting their grievances they were assured the government would carefully consider all their requests. Their timber rights on their reservation the government would assuredly protect. In regard to extension of limits for fishing and hunting, they were told that the question of provincial or federal control of Indian lands in the province of British Columbia would be decided by the Privy Council.

Our Essington friends may be expected to return shortly, when we will have a full report from their standpoint.

THE D. G. S. STEAMER LILLOOET IN THE NORTH.

Last Monday the steamer Lillooet, for the Dominion hydrographic survey work, left Victoria for Prince Rupert, to commence her first year of service in the waters of the coast. She was built by the B. C. Marine Railway Company at Esquimalt, and is said to be one of the finest vessels of her class in existence. She is 163 feet long, 27 feet beam and 11 feet mean draught. On her recent trials, with propellers which were installed as something of an experiment, she attained a speed of twelve knots. Next year she is to be fitted with especially designed bronze propellers, when it is thought she will do much better.

The officers of the Lillooet are:
Capt. P. H. Musgrave, in command.
Capt. F. H. Griffiths, sailing master.
T. W. Allan, chief engineer.
A. Borrowman, second engineer.
Survey staff under Capt. Musgrave —H. D. Parizeau, first assistant; L. P. Davies, second assistant; Mr. Cowley, third assistant.

The total company and crew numbers forty men.

NEW ABBATOIR FOR P. BURNS & CO.

Mr. H. J. Harris, local representative of P. Burns & Co., who have contracted to supply the meat for the railroad construction camps on the river, is building extensive enlargements to No. 2 wharf. He is extending the piling at the east side to make room for the large stock sheds and abbatoir necessary to meet their requirements, and for a dwelling for the workmen connected with it. The old slaughter house is to be torn down to make room for the more commodious building. The steady thump, thump of the pile driver so much in evidence is an impressive object lesson in "keeping everlastingly at it."

THE INGENICA GOLD FIELDS.

Conditions Difficult—Average Run Eight Cents to Pan.

A. E. Johnson, who claims to have been the first man to visit the Ingenica gold fields, in a recent interview reported conditions there as somewhat discouraging to those who have imagined it to be another Klondyke. Gold there certainly is, for he had samples obtained two feet below the surface. He had two dollars' worth of coarse gold which represented three pans, but usually the pans ran only seven or eight cents each.

Mr. Johnson says he has no doubt that there is gold to be found, and in large quantity, yet the conditions are very difficult. At four feet depth water is invariably encountered, and the shafts are filled. Nobody has ever been down to bedrock. Drainage is difficult in the flat country, and the only solution to the problem seems to be expensive pumping machinery and large workings requiring considerable capital.

It is thought the bench claims may offer more favorable conditions.

THE BLOCKADE AT OTTAWA.

We are just now being treated to one of those scenes in the Ottawa house that seems to give point to the cry for a better system. The Government claims they are being deliberately and maliciously hindered in the transaction of business, and notably in the adoption of estimates of current expenses, by an Opposition which has no other object than to put such difficulties in the way of legislation as will effect the country adversely to government interests in the coming general election. The Opposition calims that there is great need of investigation, and that the Government is responsible for the delay through their imbecility, or worse. An unprejudiced view is that it is a most humiliating exhibition of the pettiness to which either party of the system may descend for selfish ends in the absence of great questions to stir the torpid liver of the electorate. The public funds are being rapidly depleted by the heavy expense entailed by every day's delay; public enterprises are held at a standstill for want of the necessary funds; public servants are being humiliated by delays in salary grants; and, worst of all, the public conscience is being demoralized by this unworthy and irresponsible "jockeying for position" in the coming contest.

A Swiss hotel prospectus says: "Weissbach is the favorite place of resort for those who are fond of solitude. Persons in search of solitude are, in fact, constantly flocking here from the four quarters of the globe."

BETTER SERVICE FOR QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS.

The steamer Amur now calls at points on Queen Charlotte Islands twice each trip, touching the Islands before calling at Port Essington on her northward trip, and again after leaving the Skeena homeward bound. This is a great advantage to business interests on the islands for both mail and transportation.

The islands are keeping pace well with the rapid advance of this northern country. Important mineral discoveries are constantly being made, and ranching and farming land is being rapidly taken up. Hotel accommodation is now provided at both Jedway and Skidegate, and a third hotel is being erected at the site of the proposed Queen Charlotte City at the mouth of the Humah River. Another saw-mill has also recently been erected some four miles above Skidegate at Gangwai Island.

Mr. R. H. Cole of Port Simpson, has recently visited the islands. He was much pleased with what he saw and purchased a ranch in Sand Spit, near Skidegate, where he purposes taking his family in a few weeks.

POLICE COURT JOTTINGS.

On June 2nd Capt. "Jack" Larsen was placed under the protection of the "Habitual Drunkard's Act." "Jack" is a capable ship master. May his dry spell not end with June 2nd, 1909.

Wm. Lynn, June 4th, was fined $10 for drunkenness.

June 10th Geo. McArthur was fined $10 and costs and also placed under the "Habitual Drunkard's Act."

June 11th John A. Johnson, charged with drunkenness, resenting arrest and assaulting an officer while in the discharge of his duty, was fined $50 plus $12 costs.

Why do not our policemen wear some distinctive dress?

His Conclusion.

The Friend (to erratic driven who has lost his way)—We had better go straight on, I think; we must have been up that road before.

The Erratic Driver—What makes you think that?

The Friend—Those men up there; they look as if they're burying something—Illustrated Mail.

A Point Overlooked.

"What is the advantage of knowing Esperanto?"

"Why, whn you meet another fellow who knows it you can talk to each other."

"That's so. But it seems almost as true of any other language, doesn't it?"

This was a point that the enthusiast had overlooked — Philadelphia Ledger.

The Star

is published fortnightly at

PORT ESSINGTON, B.C.,

in the Commercial, Social, Literary and Moral interests of the

SKEENA RIVER DISTRICT,

By B. C. FREEMAN and Friends.

Subscription Price, $1.75 a year.
Strictly in advance.

Advertising Rates.

Prospecting, timber and land notices, $5.00 per month.
Legal notices, 10 cents per line.
Reading notices, 25 cents per line.
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THE STAR,
Box 15 - Port Essington, B.C.

Printed by Thos. R. Cusack, Victoria.

THE STAR.

"What's in a name?"

Yet we will venture something there are some names you would rather not be called, and the alternative is to select a name for yourself. We have chosen "The Star."

Why not? The "Sun" has evidently set. Some say it sat on a number of us. And what next but

"Sunset, and evening star?"

Then the name has plain advantages. The "Sun" by its very name cut out some pretty serious work for itself. If it shows at all it must shine. It must be pre-eminent. It undertakes to enlighten the world. And it ought to have been permanent. Alas, that "ought to have been!"

But a star does not take itself so seriously. It is only one of many. And it does not have to shine: it may just twinkle. It may even be of second, or third, or fourth magnitude.

Do not misunderstand this. It is not self-depreciation. It is just that rare quality, modesty. We will not give you much of it at first until you gradually become used to it. We are not consciously incapable, but just naturally modest. That is all.

OUR PREMIUM.

It is at least, not customary for an unpretentious local paper to offer a premium at its first issue. It is even more unusual for any publication to offer such exceptional value for the money the STAR now proposes for a premium.

The subscription price for the STAR is $1.75 per annum. We will not say much about that. If you did the work which is entailed, you would think it was worth $1.75 a year. If you are interested in the town and district you will think it is worth it. Even if you do not like the paper, you will want to read it to know what it is saying, or not saying, about you or others.

BUT

For 25 cents more, that is, for $2.00 per annum—the amount you paid for the "Sun" for about seven months, less than half the rate you would pay for the Empire—we offer you the STAR for one year.

AND

THE HOME JOURNAL, a splendid home magazine of the size and style of the well known Ladies' Home Journal. A glance at the specimen June number will more than satisfy you. It has big pages, 10½ by 15½ inches, neatly printed on fine book paper, and profusely illustrated. This number specializes in marriage customs and wedding topics. On the front there is a fine cut nine inches long of a Jerusalem bride, photographed from life and printed in tint. A page of wedding suggestions has cuts from photographs of interior decorations for church and home weddings, giving point to a very explicit article of suggestions. An article on Marriage Customs in the Orient on the opposite page has two artistic and interesting illustrations of oriental customs. A page for the Home Literary Club, and a short story page opposite furnish variety of interest. Engineer McGrath's Dream, a continued story, seems like a prophecy of the line across the river. On the opposite page is a story with an illustration that in a striking particular might seem to have local color. Then there is Mendelssohn's Wedding March, and more marriage customs. Two pages of fashions is an indispensible feature, with a page of Household Hints and another of Culinary Conceits. The July number is to be especially for the west. In short, it is a first class, high class, clean, clever magazine, which we offer as a premium for only 25 cents for twelve numbers.

For $2.00 you support your local paper and receive a magazine well worth the whole sum.

ONE WORD MORE.

Because of the past history of newspaper ventures at Port Essington it may be well to say a word about the prospects of continuing throughout the year. We mean to do so, but should we fail to be able through financial or other stress, we solemnly promise to refund the proportion of the subscription price unexpired.

We earnestly solicit, and expect, the sympathetic and hearty support of the constituency.

WHITNEY SUSTAINED.

Ontario has gone more strongly Conservative than ever.

The Toronto Star, a Liberal paper, is quoted as saying:

"Such a following as Ontario has given to Whitney should strengthen his determination to conduct his government in accordance with the highest interest of the province. His personal responsibility is still further increased by yesterday's expression of confidence. His party contains its baser elements which must be kept under control. Selfishness and greed beleaguered every government. Let us hope he will justify his own description of himself, by being bold enough to be honest and honest enough to be bold.

THE PARTY SYSTEM.

Dr. Goldwin Smith has again been dreaming of the Golden Age in politics when the party system will be abolished. He is old enough to "dream dreams," and wise enough to make those dreams extremely interesting; but whether they are practicable under present conditions is another question. We can all see the evils of the system, but doubt if they constitute such a menace as some would have us think. At any rate, we can see nothing better yet. Nations, like individuals, under the stimulus of a great crisis, may rise above the pettiness of everyday life to meet it. his is the test of the nation's vitality, coming, perhaps, only once in a lifetime, and may Providence help the nation who cannot so rise to such an occasion, for she cannot help herself. A recent example of such failure was Russia, where the incubus of a corrupt aristocracy kept her from rising to meet the crisis of the conflict with Japan.

But our pride in Canada is her essential vitality. Let any great crisis arise, great with either calamities or favorable import, and party divisions will vanish like smoke into air, and the nation will stand as a unit to meet it. If it be not so, then "a long farewell to all our greatness."

The position of this paper as independent does not mean antagonism to the party system, but that we choose to retain our independence from any party halter, and maintain our liberty to treat questions on their merit as they may arise independent of party dictatorship.

BOARD OF TRADE FOR PORT ESSINGTON.

That Port Essington is to have a Board of Trade is now an assured fact. After many public meetings and much discussion, the citizens finally decided that a board of trade would be of much benefit to the city, as well as to the Skeena District, for which it is to be established. Thirty local citizens, merchants and tradesmen have signed a petition for a charter which has been sent in through the secretary, Mr. S. A. Morley.

The object of this organization is to advertise and promote the Skeena River interests, to affiliate with other Boards of Trade, and to have some reliable source of information to answer the many inquiries which are being made in regard to this country, also to take up matters of local interest, such as drainage, lighting, sidewalks, and to secure appropriations from the government for fire protection, or any other object which may be deemed advisable or necessary.

This is a matter which should be of personal interest to every citizen of Port Essington, as well as of the Skeena River District. The town is

to be congratulated on this step it has taken in the right direction.

A SERIOUS COMPLAINT.

Numerous complaints are being heard around town from the workmen employed in the several construction camps near here over the method of paying wages. The men are given time cheques which are not negotiable and it is necessary for them to present them personally at the office of the contractors at Prince Rupert for payment. This works a great hardship on the men as in some cases the amounts of the cheques would not defray the cost of the trip to Prince Rupert.

This is not only an injustice to the men employed, but it is an inexcusable effort to divert trade from its legitimate channels at Port Essington to distant Prince Rupert for the advantage of those who have these men in their power.

There is a remedy for this and the quicker it is applied the better.

ANOTHER "BREAK."

This time it was the mammoth "Mauretania." She first broke some superfluous propellers, and, freed from these incumbrances, she broke her own world record, averaging from noon of May 30th to noon of the next day 25.5 knots per hour. That is an average of 30 miles per hour in mid-Atlantic, and the end is not yet.

Incidentally, she also broke some old engineering axioms regarding effective application of power. Emperical rules must break under the new conditions of high speed and undreamed-of power.

AROUND TOWN.

What's the matter with the tennis club? Some time ago there was talk of an entertainment to raise money to fit up the grounds. Some suggest repairing and leasing the old grounds. There is abundance of good material for such an entertainment going to waste for want of some one to take the lead. Something should be done.

* * *

The run of spring salmon was rather better last week, but the catch is much smaller than last year's.

Sockeye season was duly opened on the 15th by a large increase of the fishing fleet. Some of the canneries are still short of fishermen. Inverness expects to start next week.

* * *

Messrs. Harstone, Tupper and Logan gave a dance in the Queen's dining hall before going up the river. Cameron's orchestra provided the music.

* * *

Messrs. S. Eby and C. Edwards were hosts at a social evening, Friday 12th, at the Caledonia Hotel. Dancing was the feature of the evening.

* * *

One of the characteristic features of Essington social life is a bachelors' bridge club that meets once a week. A correspondent suggests that some interesting items might frequently be found there.

* * *

Steamboat service on the river is again practically tied up owing to the very high water at the canyon. Twice the Port Simpson has attempted to reach the canyon and failed, being unable to get through Little Canyon, some distance below the main gorge.

* * *

Six bake shops are now displaying wares on Dufferin street. None can deny that Essingtonians are well bre(a)d.

But there is no excuse for the bakeshops and fruit stands being open on Sunday. Public feeling at Port Essington is not hysterically sensitive, but there is a decided public sentiment against this. We do not refer to legitimate restaurant business.

* * *

The fleet of gasoline launches and tugs making Essington headquarters is large and constantly increasing. One of the fastest is the "Meteor," belonging to Dr. Kergin, M.L.A.

The tugs and passenger launches are kept constantly busy plying between Essington and the construction camps along the river.

Commodore Wiggins O'Neill, owner and manager of the "Heart" line, makes regular trips in his launch, "Strongheart," to and from Essington and the camps. We are glad to see his enterprise meeting such success.

* * *

There is much need of addition to the Post Office staff. The quantity of matter passing through the office has greatly increased with the awakening in the north, and the volume of work involved in distributing the up-river as well as local mail is too much for one man to handle.

* * *

Mr. O. A. Ragstad is the man who keeps us on time. He has put in a new show window in his jewellery shop which is a decided improvement. A line of handsome cut glassware which he has recently put in stock is a new departure and well worth inspection.

* * *

Rev. W. H. Pierce is staying at the Methodist Mission, awaiting the reopening of navigation up the river to permit him to return to his home at Kishpiax. He preached in the Methodist church last Sunday evening.

* * *

Mr. Gideon Hicks of Hicks & Lovick Piano Co., Victoria, expects to visit the northern coast early in July. The musical treat he gave us two years ago is still fresh in our memories. This time Mrs. Hicks, who is a professional elocutionist, as well as a fine soloist, will accompany him. He is also bringing with him a splendid Pianola piano. So we consider ourselves fortunate in having been able to arrange with him for another concert here in the course of his trip. We know he will be given an enthusiastic welcome, and we believe the town will enjoy the greatest musical treat which has ever been given here. Due notice will be given of definite dates shortly.

NORTH COAST BRAND

CEYLON TEA

Is blended from the best stock we can buy.

50 cents per pound.

MOCHA AND JAVA COFFEE

A combination of Arabian Mocha and Old Government Java that will please the most particular taste.

45 cents per pound.

The North Coast Commercial Company

PORT ESSINGTON.

KEEP A-GOIN'.

If you strike a thorn or rose,
Keep a-goin'!
If it hails or if it snows,
Keep a-goin'!
'Taint no use to sit and whine
When the fish ain't on your line;
Bait your hook and keep on tryin'—
Keep a-goin'!
When the weather kills your crop,
Keep a-goin'!
When you tumble from the top,
Keep a-goin'!
S'pose you're out o' every dime?
Gettin' broke ain't any crime;
Tell the world you're feelin' prime!
Keep a-goin'!
When it looks like all is up,
Keep a-goin'!
Drain the sweetness from the cup,
See the wild birds on the wing!
Hear the bells that sweetly ring!
When you feel like singin'—sing!
Keep a-goin'!

—Atlanta Constitution.

Methodist Church, Port Essington.

REV. B. C. FREEMAN, Pastor.

Sunday Services.—11 a. m.—English and Tsimshean.

7 p. m.—Evangelistic Service.

2 p. m —Sunday School, English Classes.

Week Day Services.—7:30 p. m.—Tuesdays and Fridays.

Strangers Heartily Welcomed.

St. John's Church

Anglican

Services 11 a.m. and 7 p. m. Sunday School 2 p. m.

Strangers Cordially Welcomed.

DON'T MISS IT

The Hicks Concert

IN THE METHODIST CHURCH

Mr. and Mrs. Hicks are soloists of unusual merit. Mrs. Hicks is a professional elocutionist also. Special pianola accompaniment.

THE BEST YET

Secure tickets early from Star Office, as space is limited.

ELECTRIFYING ITALY.

The therapeutical value of electricity has long been recognized in the treatment of individuals. It is now being realized as an equally stimulating national tonic in Italy. "Italy," says the Wall Street Journal, "which less than twenty-five years ago found herself in the throes of industrial bankruptcy, is coming to the front in a way that promises well for the future." The want of coal has, in the past, been a crippling restriction to both manufacture and transportation. She is now overcoming this difficulty by turning her water powers into electrical energy. One thousand miles of of new railway is under contemplation, connecting by double track half a dozen of the leading cities of the peninsula. The government is directing this in such a way as to insure the development of natural resources, and the bringing of backward districts of good industrial possibilities into connection with adequate markets. This is made possible by modern hydro-electric power, and made practicable by the government controlling and directing the railroad corporations for the benefit of the nation. In short, the dog is wagging the tail, instead of, as in some countries nearer home, the tail wagging the dog.

ECONOMY OR PUBLIC CONVENIENCE .

Sir Thos. Shaughnessy has spoken again, and that settles it.

Perhaps.

In discussing the proposed "All Red Route" in a recent press interview he explains why it would be a mistake to inaugurate a faster service on the Atlantic than 21 knots, and on the Pacific 18 knots, at the present juncture. He says the initial and operating expense of 24 to 25-knot boats is too great.

We have had that problem worked out on this coast. The initial and operating expense of the old Barbara Boscowitz, in the good old days of Chinese Stewart and three-inch tallow dips, had much to commend it to Captain Williams, but increasing traffic brought competition which settled the matter on other lines in a very short time. Notwithstanding the progress of socialistic principles, there is much good in some lines in the competitive system, before which such magnates as even Sir Thomas must bow at the behest of the public. Even under the present order, "the cheapest" is not always compatable with public demand. It is also interesting to note that under the old economical conditions of Chinese factotum, tallow candles, one-course-salt-junk meals, and six knots per hour, with frequent all-night anchorages, transportation rates were nearly the same as we pay now for electric light, plush carpet, clean-sheet, hotel-menu, 12-knots - per - hour accommodation. There is a moral in this somewhere, and the weight of it is not altogether against the competitive system. Nothing is so bad but some good may come out of it.

BARS ON THE RIVER.

From the standpoint of a purely business proposition, the Hudson Bay Co. is to be congratulated on their withdrawal of all the bars from their river boats. We all know the dangers of Skeena navigation, and we had some terrible examples last year of the hazards run by the river boats under even the best conditions. We think it has appealed to the business sense of the Company, and ought to appeal to the travelling public, who risk their lives where the company risks only dollars and cents.

SMALL FIRE LOSSES.

The question is often asked: "How do you succeed in keeping down the fire losses?" We answer, in many ways. In the first place, we endeavour to prevent fires in every possible way. Inspections, investigations, constant vigilance, careful attention to our duties, and to the manner in which others carry theirs out. It is not necessary to sit around the fire hall—or some other place—and wait for the fire alarm to sound. We are not paid for doing that, even if we have the inclination. Then we take notice of trifles. A small match can kindle a large fire. The little ash-heap in the corner might contain a spark. The hydrant might be frozen, and no water to use at the start of a fire. A cistern that is not attended to might leak. There are a thousand and one ways to prevent fires. But one will say: "You are fortunate." True. Regulate things as we may, and fires are likely to occur; but fires are preventible, every one of them. There can be no effect without a cause, and a fire must have some reason to start. We have attended fires and alarms—thousands of them—and we have found carelessness, on the part of someone, responsible for a large majority. Then we have the avaricious man—ready to burn for insurance. How prevent him? Let the would-be incendiary understand that you will probe to the bottom the reasons of all suspicious fires. Yet, you will say, in spite of inspections and investigations, still fires occur. True again. Then have your fire department in shape to meet them. Here again even trifles cut a figure. Every little thing in a fire department requires constant attention. When forty lengths of hose burst, at a recent New York fire, no one appeared to know that every one of the forty lengths had defects. A broken snap on one of the sets of harness, might mean the upsetting of the apparatus, and no response to an alarm. We believed, and will always believe, that no fire department should take chances on anything. We know not when the fire alarm will come to us, and must be always ready. In rushing to a fire, and entering blazing buildings, the firemen must accept a certain risk; but it is not necessary to "let things go when we can put them in shape." We have succeeded for the past sixteen years, through doing our whole duty, and expecting others to do the same. Do we ever consider, no matter how small our cities and towns, that it is advantageous to "duplicate" everything in use, wherever possible? In our city we have the Bell Alarm and a Whistle Alarm also; the Gamewell fire alarm system and the telephone; the combined Hose Waggon and Truck and the combined Chemical Engine and Hose Waggon. We have two sources of water supply and more hydrants than any city of the size in Canada. There is no use in waiting until a place is in smoking ruins before placing in front of the ratepayers their needs. It is better to provide protection, and retain what we have, than to see the city swept from end to end and every dollar irretrievably lost. Any person would consider a merchant fit for the lunatic asylum, if he dumped his goods into the sewer. Then why look upon a fire loss as anything but a "waste" of property? Fires we may have. It is possible that the best regulated city "may" burn, some day; but we can assure our readers that "constant vigilance is the price of safety," and the fire departments of our cities and towns are the places where 'vigilance" is required more than in any other place. When people imagine that any man is capable of manging a fire department, or that any body of men understand the manner of preventing, suppressing and extinguishing fire, they make the mistakes of their lives.

Adopted Humor.

Miss Gusch—He's so awfully witty; he makes so many original remarks. Don't you think so?

Mr. Knox—No.

Miss Gusch—You don't? Why?

Mr. Knox—Probably it's because I subscribe to the same comic paper that he reads.—Philadelphia Press.

Peculiar to Itself.

"I suppose there is a certain fascination that keeps you in the racing game?"

"Yes," admitted the bookmaker, "there is. I've tried hardware, clothing, groceries, and shoes, but I've never struck another line where people simply struggle to hand you their coin."

It is found that "nobody is to blame" for burning up 170 school children at Collingwood. It was merely a case of the usual fire-trap, sanctioned by usage.

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