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The Kootenay Mail.

Vol. 1.—No. 35. REVELSTOKE, WEST KOOTENAY, B.C., DECEMBER 8, 1894. $2.00 a Year.

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THREE FORKS TO KASLO.

A City that Survives Fire, Flood and Cyclone.—Ainsworth.—Lake and River Fleet.

[SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.]

From Three Forks a rising grade following Seaton creek for five miles, brings us to the site of the former towns of Bear Lake and Watson. A new building—Mr. Wiley's hotel—has risen upon the ashes of the latter place but the towns appear to be dead and buried, as much so as where Pompeii and Herculaneum under the torrent of lava-slag from Vesuvius. The fervent heat of May and June and July of the past summer, super-dried and super-heated the slopes of these mountains, until on a certain day in the latter month, a wind of tornado-force caught the brands from a smouldering fire in the neighborhood of the Forks, and whirled them into each of the valleys that converge there, and fanned them into sheets of flame, which swept the mountains like an explosion, leaving after a few minutes not a vestige of animal or vegetable life between the waters of the creeks and the snow line. Since the fire, the superior attractions of Three Forks and Sandon appear to have withdrawn the population of the consumed villages. A re-survey would be required in order that the lots might be located, and no one appears to have any interest in having the re-survey made.

At Watson, 1,700 feet above Kootenay Lake and 1,850 feet above Slocan Lake is the divide. The waters begin to run into Kaslo River, and following the wagon road along this valley a distance of 20 miles we reach the city. Three miles out, however, we turn off on a bridle path down the bank and, in a snug cottage find a light of the journalistic profession—Mr. R. H. Kemp—whose contributions to the literature of frontier mining camps have been copious and have obtained a wide celebrity for the writer. Taking us into an addition of his dwelling, he invites us to drink the sparkling-fizzing-soda-sulphur-lime-magnesia-lisiria-water, that he has trained to flow out of a plug fixed in a barrel. We certified on the spot to the snap and pungency of the liquid, and later to its tonic and appetizing effects; and here we record our private opinion that if friend Kemp would assist the processes of nature by throwing into his mysterious spring some compound calculated to impart a dash of flavor agreeable to sensitive palates, increased consumption of his waters might ensue, bringing increased longevity to many worthy people, and increased wealth to the worthy proprietor. A little further down the creek we were told another journalist—friend Pratt, of the *Prospector*—was to be found, up to the region of his greatest diameter, in cold water, prospecting placer diggings, not only prospecting but actually packing into town every night the clean-up of his sluice boxes, generally reputed to be a half ounce or so of the precious dust. Friend Pratt is sacrificing himself for the development of the country. A few ounces of gold dust can have no attraction for the owner of the only newspaper in Three Forks.

On the brow of the hill overlooking the city the tasteful mansion of Alderman David P. Kane is pointed out to us, and across the road the more modest dwelling of his brother, the mayor. His worship, on the 5th of June last occupied a fine house in a high and dry part of the city, and went to bed on the evening of the eventful cyclone without a thought of danger. The river flowed in front of his house at a distance of 125 feet—the bank was high, the formation boulders and hard-pan. Before morning the rush of water and the rattle of falling gravel beneath the house alarmed the inmates, and they looked out to see that the river had washed out the whole intervening space and was undermining the house. The cloud-burst which had swept up the valley on the afternoon before, had discharged a volume of water which had gorged the river to phenomenal proportions. An abundance of help was available, the contents of the house were removed, heavy ropes were attached to hold it; but finally the house fell bodily into the river, which carried it away as if it had been a biscuit box. A provoking circumstance was the fact that after the house fell the river came no further at that point, and the foundation of one of its chimneys still stands intact upon the bank. But further down, the river had broken out of all bounds, and for days thereafter continued its ravages.

"Approximately," said one citizen, "the fire on the 25th of February took one-third of the city, the cyclone on the 5th of June took one-third of what was left, and the river after that one-third of the remainder." The loss of the population has not however been in proportion to the destruction of buildings, and as to legitimate business the town stands almost as well as ever. The developed mining camp extends east of Three Forks half way to Kaslo, and many of the miners live in Kaslo and transact their business there. The failure of the local company to build the railway to the mines has been a cruel stroke, but "all is not lost that is in danger," and many of the citizens still believe that the charter of the K. & S. will not lapse on the 1st of September next, but that its requirements will be filled before that time.

A number of large and finely finished buildings have gone up lately, the builders, however, showing their appreciation of the lack of fire protection by curtailing the height of the buildings and covering with tin. We took in the "Comique," a huge structure 100 feet long and three or four stories in height. A few carloads of oats are stored in it, and its use as a concert hall is occasionally allowed. The cyclone slewed one end some fivefeet off the perpendicular, and it is now supported by a double row of long props. It was a top heavy institution in more ways that one. It was more amusement, and of a grosser kind, than the population could digest or pay for.

Kaslo has a beautiful harbor, the favorite resort of the lake shipping. The Spokane, a large stern-wheeler, is moored as a floating warehouse. The Nelson and Ainsworth, well-appointed passenger steamers, ply regularly to Bonner's Ferry and Nelson. The Kaslo, a fine tug with accompanying barges, makes this her home port. The little Idaho, Richard Fry's old boat has here her dock. The State of Idaho, wrecked a year ago on the rocks near Ainsworth was rebuilt and rechristened the "Alberta" here, and is ready again to plow the main. The old Galena refitted, is in use by the Smelting Company. The Surprise, swamped in the cyclone, sank in deep water in Pilot Bay. The Midge, also known as the "Mud Hen," was chained to a tree on the bank at her owner's ranch at the time of high water, and now it is said hangs suspended like Munchausen's horse and sleigh from the church steeple after the thaw. The Flirt, belonging to Mr. Busk at Balfour, a fine launch the property of the Reclamation Company, and two American boats occasionally seen here, make up the Kootenay lake and river fleet of steam vessels. It is significent that so many steamers have found employment during the years of tardy development and hopes deferred that the people have passed through here.

It is an estimate of Mr. Hendryx that the operation of the smelter from the start will involve the movement of 300 tons per day of material, with a certainty that this will be multiplied if the venture proves remunerative. But the transportation and handling of 300 tons per day of freight, will in itself amount to a volume of business greatly in excess of anything hitherto known here, and should ensure handsome compensation to the steamboat men upon their investments. The perfection of water transportation afforded by the lake and its off-shoots is a feature of incalculable advantage in connection with the mining, collection and treatment of minerals tributary to its shores. Ores from a dozen widely separated camps can be brought together, fuel can be gathered along a shore line of 300 miles, and any point is an Union Depot into which practically the trains of the C. & K., the N. P., and the G. N. railways run—this, subject to some interruption through ice in winter on the branches, but never to any interruption on the lake itself.

The first sight of Ainsworth suggests a lack of fresh paint. Since the discovery of the Slocan camp many of the boys have spent their time and money there instead of at home, and with good results. But mineral within easy reach of the shore now commands a premium, and half a dozen of the Ainsworth mines are now at work. A row of pretty cottages surrounded by lawns, watered and warmed by the overflow of the Hot Springs, is a charming feature of the scenery. The old No. 1 is being vigorously worked. The Black Diamond ditto. The Highlander, according to the statements of those who know, has ore enough to stake a hundred men, and the Skyline is waiting for a purchaser who can draw his cheque for $200,000. Across the lake a large force of men are at work on the Blue Bell, the property of the Smelting Company. Ore is run out here into bins from which it will descend by shutes into barges, at about the same cost that earth can be taken out of a railroad cut, and when once in the bins it will not again be handled, except by machinery, until smelted.

By next mail we will perhaps have some notes of what is going on at Pilot Bay and Nelson.

Closer Relations Between Countries.

The exhibition authorities of Atlanta, Ga., send to the Canadian Government an invitation, through Secretary Gresham which he gives in the following terms: "You will inform the secretary of state of the Canadian Government that it is the intention of this government to make an exhibit, and that one of the principal objects of the exposition will be to secure closer commercial relations between this and other countries."

THE MINING BUREAU.

MR. KELLIE'S MOTION ADOPTED BY THE LEGISLATURE.

On the 29th ult. Mr. Kellie, having given previous notice, moved the following resolution: "That this House do resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole and submit to Committee the following resolution: Resolved, that in the opinion of this House it is advisable, in the interest and development of the mineral resources of this Province, that a mining bureau and a school of mines be established.

When the House was in Committee, Mr. Kellie said the mining interests of the Province would be furthered considerably if reliable facts could be brought before outside capital, which was not at present the case, and the expenditure of money in this direction would be well repaid. He quoted the opinion of Mr. Dawson to show that mining experts considered that the resources of British Columbia were in every respect equal to those of countries to the south of us. Similar institutions in the United States and Mexico had the effect of attracting this outside capital, and a similar institution in British Columbia, he argued, would be attended with similar results.

Mr. Bryden secouded the resolution. He considered a mining bureau necessary for the purpose of collecting reliable statistics in reference to the mines of the Province, which could be set before outside capital. A school of mines was also necessary and could be rendered self supporting.

Mr. Kellie, in replying to a question by Mr. Semlin, said the true object of a mining bureau was to furnish correct information to outside capital. Such was the case in California. He quoted the enormous output of the Mexican mines as an auspicious circumstance, while in one year alone, English capital to the sum of $38,000,000 went out to South Africa for investment in the mines of that country simply because the country's mineral wealth had been properly advertised, and if British Columbia could furnish similar official information there was no question but that equally gratifying results would follow.

Mr. Adams and Mr. Rogers both spoke strongly in favor of the resolution.

Mr. Semlin doubted whether the province was in a position to take hold of such a question as a school of mines. He would favor a resolution urging upon the Dominion Government the propriety of establishing a school of mines.

Hon. Col. Baker supported the resolution as a step in the right direction and one that had been long required. Quartz mining here was assuming such large proportions that it had now become advisable to establish some central organization where not only authentic information could be obtained in reference to the mines throughout the province, but they should also consider the question of assisting the prospector. The utility of this central organization might be advanced by associating with it a library, an assay office, a lecture room and a museum of minerals, which would give accurate information to capitalists who might visit the province.

He also urged that small reduction works should be established where the prospector could send down one or two tons of ore and get the market value determined, paying the cost of such process. The House would then be giving most material assistance to the prospectors of the province as well as to the mining industry generally. He pointed out the beneficial results which were derived from institutions of this kind in Ontario, Washington and California. He did not think the house need entertain any fears on the score of expense since the annual expenditure would be trifling compared with the advantages which would accrue from this institution. He had already been approached by the Pharmaceutical Society of Victoria and the medical faculty, who had informed him that if the government could start such an institution as was here set forth they would gladly place all their students under the instruction of that school. In connection with the latter there should be a lecture room, where periodical lectures could be delivered, and to which the outside public might be admitted for a small admission fee, and this itself would constitute an accession of revenue. He calculated that the amount now expended upon the assay office would require but a small increase, say $1,500 in order to meet these requirements. Six thousand five hundred dollars a year would be the gross annual amount required, but the returns from these other resources mentioned would reduce the amount to $3,500. The erection of a building would, however, have to be considered and would probably increase the outlay to $10,000.

Mr. Hume was in favor of a mining bureau, but opposed to a school of mines. From actual experience of mining experts in his own district he had come to the conclusion that they were no good to the country and without practical knowledge.

Mr. Forster, Mr. Smith and Mr. Graham each spoke of the resolution generally favoring it.

In the course of further discussion Hon. Col. Baker said the school of mines would be a paying adjunct to the Mining Bureau and would actually reduce its expenses. He thought that the Mining Act might be amended so that every prospector recording a claim would be required to send several specimens of ore to the record office by which means a number of small museums would be formed throughout the province in addition to the central one.

Mr. Cotton was in favor of anything that would advance the mining interests of the province, but thought that they should obtain some further information before entering upon any great expenditure.

The resolution was reported and adopted.

Gleaned From Local Exchanges.

The Browne National Bank of Spokane has failed.

George W. Hughes, of Three Forks, has sent 100 of his horses into the Lardo to rustle their living. Last winter over 200 animals were used in hauling ore to Kaslo. The N. & S. railway makes the difference.

The stock of the Hall Mines, Limited, sells at $3.75 per share, par value $5.

D. C. McMorris is now captain of the steamer, Nelson on Kootenay lake, Charlie Wright, purser.

The extension of Nelson & Fort Sheppard railway from Five-mile point to Nelson is nearly completed.

David Stussi, an enterprising merchant of Rossland, has his new store almost ready to be occupied.

Rossland, with its 150 people, is much in need of a postoffice.

A sleigh road is being constructed between New Denver and Three Forks.

The celebrated No. 1 mine at Ainsworth has changed hands, and it is expected that work will be prosecuted by the owners, and, and the old time activity at this mine be renewed.

The firm of Wilson & Perdue dealers in meats at Nelson, Kaslo and Three Forks, has been dissolved, and Perdue & Burns succeed in the same line.

Both the Bank of Montreal and British Columbia, at Nelson, advertise a reduction on Savings Bank deposits from 3½ to 3% interest.

The *World* man "on the wing," is now doing Okanagan valley.

An artesian well is being sunk at Vernon to supply the city with water. At 175 feet deep work was stopped with 100 feet of water in the hole. The flow is now to be tested with a powerful pump.

This week is Self-Denial week appointed and observed by the Salvation Army. They will abstain from luxuries, and give the savings to support the army, hoping to raise the sum of $23,000 in Canada.

It is a question, according to Washington papers, whether the state can go on paying six bit taxes and raising two bit wheat.

The freight on ore is $21 per ton from Three Forks to Omaha.

The Citizens Bank of Spokane has gone into voluntary liquidation. The directors say the assets are ample to meet the liabilities.

St. Andrew's Day.

At Winnipeg, the St. Andrew's Society celebrated the day, Nov. 30, by a concert, instead of the usual banquet, and it proved to be a pleasant change, and a great success. Telegraphic greetings were sent and received. This message was sent to some western cities:

"May ye never want a bal' o' meal to make skirl in the pan for the means to fill their wames on a cauld mornin.' King's caff is better than ither men's corn."

Portage la Prairie answered: "May ye 'a hae gewd and gear milk and scones and parritch a' muckle haggis, ilka year and aye the shorter cairritch."

From Russell.—"We greet ye brither Scots. Remember this is the 30th o' November, an' while ye're at yer haggis precin think we have also ane worth seein,' an' listening wi' oor heart's contents tae piper playing the ewe's lament. We houp St. Andrew's spirit is on ye. Guid luch tae yer."

From St. Paul.—"Blessin' on ye a this St. Andrew's nicht, and may the honest sonsie face o'a fat haggis bid ye eat yer sarks rive." To which the following reply was returned: "Oor haggis has lent a toom wame the year an' oor sarks winna rive, but for a' that we ha'e mair than cauld kail o' Aberdeen the nicht. Joy be wi' ye a'."

From Vancouver.—"Gin a blizzard nip yer gizzard try a soup Glenlivet. Here's tae us, wha's like us." And the reply returned was: "Nae blizzard here the year. For a' we ha'e and a' we be praise oor good auld Scotia."

The Kootenay Mail

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R. W. NORTHEY, MANAGER.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1894.

THE debate on the resolution moved by Mr. Kellie for the establishment of a Mining Bureau and School of Mines appears in another column. The discussion was largely participated in, especially by the members representing mining districts, and the Minister of Mines, Col. Baker, gave his cordial support to the proposition. When the measure is taken up by the Government for the purpose of carrying it out, Revelstoke should not be overlooked, as the most central point in the richest mining district of the province, and the most desirable place for its location. Theoretical education is good as far as it goes, but there is nothing that can equal the practical knowledge to be acquired by direct contact with the mines and minerals of this district, and this, supplementing the instruction of the school, would be unexcelled in giving a thorough knowledge of mining.

THE word "bribery" used last week in referring to the great monopolies that control the commerce of China, may be thought a harsh word in its common signification, which implies crime of an heinous kind. If it is said that the despotic rulers of China make "concessions" to foreign commercial companies, for which they receive, not "bribe" money, but that which is their right to get for the benefit of their country, it should then be shown that these rulers do not personally profit by these "concessions." We find something to the point, in the statement of Mr. Donald Frasier, president of the National Bank of China at Hong Kong, who arrived on the Northern Pacific steamer Victoria last Saturday. He says of Li Hung Chang, who is considered to be a great statesman: "He is worth $50,000,000. That is his accepted worth among the financiers of China. He is no more patriotic than the rest of the Chinese oligarchy. He made his money 'sweating' those under him. He led his emperor to believe he had a fine army, when, in fact, he had no army at all to speak of. Like the other Chinamen, he is unpatriotic. They all look out for self and have no patriotic motives whatever." It is now reported that Li Hung Chang will have to be recalled to power to save the country—and thus doubtless save the gigantic monopolies he has built up. Is there any hope in this for Canada?

STEAMERS FOR BIG BEND.

MINING in Big Bend has received more attention the past summer than for many years before. The sale of the Columbia River Hydraulic property, just concluded, to a company of American capitalists, is but the beginning of a movement which will probably not end until the most valuable properties of the district pass into the possession of men of capital who have experience in mining on a large scale.

One of the things, and the paramount one, as we believe, which has held the country back, has been the excessive cost of transporting machinery and supplies into it from Revelstoke. Beginning with 10 cents per pound, or $200 a ton, it fell last summer to about 8 cents, or $160 per ton. This rate prohibits the bringing in of the heavy machinery required for mining on an extensive scale, and robs the individual miner of any profit beyond the most ordinary wages, except in a few cases of rich ground.

The means for cheapening freights up the Columbia are by employing steamers or shipping by railway. The latter method is too far in the future to be considered now, and therefore steamers of light draft and sufficient power to stem the strong current of the river must be depended on. In the early times of Big Bend mining American steamers were run from Little Dalles to Downie Creek or LaPorte, which is 45 miles north of Revelstoke; and the same conditions as regards navigating the river are existing today as at that former time. Should any improvement of the river be necessary to make navigation feasible, we believe the Dominion Government will make an appropriation for that purpose. But at some stages of water steamers of sufficiently powerful machinery would have no trouble in reaching Death Rapids, where there is found an impassable barrier, which would require a large amount of money to remove, and more probably than the Government would be willing to expend. It is hoped that an appropriation will be made for an examination of the river, with a view to the improvement of navigation for traffic by steamer, at the next session of Parliament. We commend the consideration of this question to Mr. Mara, our representative at Ottawa.

To Miners and Prospectors.

It is our desire to have the MAIL known far and wide as a reliable A 1 mining paper. To this end we ask the help of all prospectors and mining men who have the interest of the North Riding of West Kootenay at heart. It is in your power to give us very material help by sending in scraps of mining news which would otherwise remain unpublished. Every item, no matter how trivial it may appear to you, will be acceptable. If you have no pen, write with a pencil; if no paper, just tick it down on a piece of birch bark. If you are out of stamps send it all the same, we'll attend to that. Never mind grammatical compositions, flowing language, or elegant handwriting, just send us the facts; we'll do the rest. We ask only one thing: Do not exaggerate.

CHIEF INSPECTOR'S VISIT.

THE Chief Post Office Inspector is reported to be on his way to the west. There is doubtless a settlement to be made with the employees at Victoria, who recently quit work in order to bring their complaints more sharply to the notice of the P. O. Department. They have been promised a hearing of their request for an increase of wages commensurate with the increased cost of living in the west as compared with the east.

It is likely that a big bundle of complaints will be found in Inspector Fletcher's office, a large proportion of them originating in West Kootenay. If they are coupled with and emphasized by all the obnoxious flings and contemptuous epithets that have been thrown at him in some West Kootenay papers, they will indeed be a rare and most wonderful conglomeration. In our belief, the reckless denunciation of Inspector Fletcher has gone much too far. Mistakes have probably been made in the selection of postmasters at outlying places, who perform their duties improperly. If so, complaints should be made and specific acts of wrong-doing pointed out, as a basis for action against the culprit. Instead the Inspector is referred to as the arch-offender in all cases, and no qualifying circumstances are accepted as mitigating his offences. We believe the Inspector is doing as well as he can in a new, scattered and unsettled community.

The MAIL does not reach its subscribers in some cases with sufficient regularity. Not one of its subscribers at Three Forks has received his paper for several weeks, but we are not denouncing the Inspector for it. Some one of the postmasters or route agents, however, is not performing his duty. Oftentimes the newly appointed postmaster in an unfledged town, opens out the mail sack on a table or counter, for want of proper conveniences, and the people, eagerly waiting for their once-a-week mail, help themselves to their own mail matter, and sometimes to that of others, addressed to places beyond, without the knowledge perhaps of the local postmaster. These irregularities will soon be corrected—the punishment of one person who appropriates the mail of another, will settle the matter.

It appears also that route agents may be in fault. There is a different one on each day's train, and while one throws a package to reach its destination from the north, the next one perhaps for some unexplained reason gets it onto a roundabout route from the south. This is particularly the case in South Kootenay, where mails arrive from the north by the C. P. R. and steamers, and from the south over two lines of railway.

But none of these considerations appear to influence the editorial scribes of West Kootenay. Having taken a "miff" at Inspector Fletcher, and it being "the fashion" to berate him, all appear willing to unite in a chorus of dispraise. We think this indiscriminate denunciation of Inspector Fletcher should stop, and that something good be looked for in his administration of postal affairs, which seems to give satisfaction to his superiors at Ottawa, who are people that ought to know something about such matters.

WHY PAY TAXES UNLESS YOU VOTE?

Dear Sir: Can you or any of your readers kindly inform me why it is that I, in conjunction with others between the ages of 18 and 21, have the "pleasure" of contributing $3 a year, in the shape of a poll tax, towards the support of the government without receiving any of the benefits to be derived from the possession of a vote at election times? I consider that as we pay the same as other people who receive votes, we are equally entitled to one.

The chief objection is, that not being 21, we are not considered of age in the eyes of the law. Then why I ask, should we have to pay at all? Is it, as some one suggested to me the other day, because we are capable of earning men's wages? If so, then this in itself is evidently sufficient reason why we should be treated as they are. It should be remembered, also, that miner's certificates are granted to anyone over 18, showing that in this respect at least we are considered equal.

This question itself does not interest me very deeply, but others in which the same principle is involved do, and for the sake of the principle I should like to see everyone of 18 recognized as of full age or else be exempt from paying the tax.

I should like to hear what others have to say upon this subject. Yours respectfully, HOWARD WEST.

Revelstoke, B.C., December 4th, 1894.

A Kingston, Ont., despatch says that a quantity of lumber for the Montreal Transportation Co. has been purchased in British Columbia and is to be shipped by boat around Cape Horn and up the Atlantic to the St. Lawrence and thence to Montreal, in order to evade the excessive freight tariff. The trip takes four months.

SHIPMENTS FOR THE SEASON.

GREAT ORE MOVEMENT AT REVELSTOKE—MINES, QUANTITIES AND DESTINATION.

We give below a complete statement of the movement of ores, by river and railway at Revelstoke for the season of 1894 to date. Other shipments will be made and will continue as long as navigation on the river can be kept open. The movement began by a shipment of 344 sacks of ore from Kaslo on May 17th as will be seen by reference to the table:

Date	Shipped from	Quantity	Destination
May 17,	Kaslo	39,500 lbs.	Omaha
July 10,	Trail Creek	97,200	Tacoma
July 16,	"	50,900	"
Aug. 10,	"	36,000	"
" 21,	"	32,000	Everett
" 24,	"	26,000	"
Sept. 4,	"	36,000	Tacoma
" 15,	Alpha	118,800	Omaha
" 17,	"	183,750	"
" 20,	"	309,750	"
" 23,	"	181,780	"
" 24,	"	183,900	"
" 27,	"	1-3,690	"
Oct. 2,	"	90,000	"
" 9,	"	150,000	"
" 11,	"	27,800	"
" 15,	"	73,380	"
" 26,	Hall Mines	63,350	"
" 28,	Mountain Chief	121,830	"
" 29,	Rev'stk smelter	21,700 bullion	Pilot Bay
Nov. 6,	Slocan Star	200,000	Omaha
" 7,	"	301,400	"
" 8,	"	66,000	"
" 10,	"	267,000	"
" 12,	"	102,000	"
" 13,	"	66,000	"
" 15,	"	266,000	"
" 16,	"	68,000	"
" 17,	"	227,000	"
" 23,	Alpha	90,000	"
Nov. 27,	Fisher Maiden	76,500	Smelter Mont.
Dec. 3,	"	20,000	"

DONALD NOTES.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

It is now so long since any Donald notes appeared in the Revelstoke paper that I am afraid the MAIL must have almost forgotten that such a place as Donald exists.

Some of your readers who a year or two ago may have visited our little town would be quite surprised to see the changes which have taken place since that time. Several pretty little houses have sprung up on the north side of the railway track, notably amongst others are those of Messrs. R. W. Patmore, D. W. Jamieson and J. Copeland.

On the old Selkirk House site a fine building is nearing completion which has been erected by the Oddfellows, the upper part of which is to serve as a lodge room, the lower as a hall for social gatherings, dramatic entertainments, etc. Nearly opposite this structure across the track a fine toboggan slide has been built. The entire cost of this structure has been defrayed by public subscription, and I understand that a small membership fee will be charged to pay running expenses. The whole scheme has been ably pioneered by Mr. S. H. Bolton to whose efforts great credit is due.

Added to this winter's amusement, the Donald Quadrille Club which was so successfully run last year, has again been started with a larger membership than ever, and many pleasant evenings are looked forward to through its agency.

Rumors are afloat that some amateur theatricals will shortly be produced, and these together with snowshoeing and the other amusements already enumerated, should make the winter, which has now set in in such real earnest, pass pleasantly away.

On the strength of all this who shall credit the assertion one has heard so often of late that Donald is dead. As an erstwhile resident of Donald, I can safely say that socially—yes and financially too—Donald can still hold its own with any of our little mountain towns.

By the Cyanide Process.

The prospects are that the recent meeting of the Quesnelle Quartz Mining Co. will lead to the working of the mine on a large scale. There were about 250,000 shares represented at the meeting, and the proposal, which was favorably received, is to give a syndicate a little more than a half interest in the Hixon creek mine on condition that $100,000 are spent in the property. The intention is to work the ore by the cyanide process, tests having demonstrated that 95 per cent of the gold can be saved by that method. It is expected that arrangements will be concluded the coming winter and that the new company will be organized and ready to begin operations next summer.—*World.*

Sir Charles has Come to Talk Things Over With the Sealers and Canners.

In an interview at Winnipeg on Tuesday, Sir Charles H. Tupper said: "My object in going to the Coast now is to discuss with the sealers the question of damages. We have been trying to carry on the discussion at long range, but I have come to the conclusion that short range discussion will prove more effective and more satisfactory. The canners are exercised over the fishing regulations and I want to personally hear all their arguments."

The Victoria Conservative Association have arranged for a banquet and a public meeting.

Baron Swansea's Death.

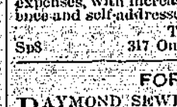
Sir Henry Hussey Vivian, first Baron Swansea, died at London November 29th, aged 73 years. Baron Swansea visited British Columbia last summer, with the intention, it was hoped, of becoming interested in the mines of the province. He was at the head of the immense smelting works at Swansea, Wales.

Kootenay Lodge No. 15 A.F.&A.M.

The regular meetings are held in the Masonic Temple, Bourne's Hall, on the third Monday, in each month at 8 p. m. Visiting brethren cordially welcomed.

C. H. TEMPLE, SECRETARY.

REVELSTOKE LODGE, I. O. O. F.



Regular meetings are held in Oddfellows' Hall every Thursday night at eight o'clock. Visiting brothers cordially welcomed.

W. J. LEE, N.G. J. I. WOODROW, SEC.

REVELSTOKE PRINTING AND PUBLISHING CO., Ltd.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders will be held on Wednesday, January 2nd, 1895, at 7 o'clock p.m., in the Fire Hall, Revelstoke, to elect Directors for the ensuing year; to receive balance sheet, and to transact such other business as may be necessary.

The presence of all Shareholders is particularly requested.

A. H. HOLDICH, Secretary.

Revelstoke, Dec. 5th, 1894.

APPLICATION FOR LIQUOR LICENSE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I intend within thirty days to apply to the stipendiary magistrate of West Kootenay district, at Nelson, for a license to sell liquor at retail at my hotel at Wigwam, in said district.

JOSEPH WALKER.

Revelstoke, B. C., December 5th, 1894.

NOTICE.

NOTICE is hereby given that any person interfering with or removing property of any kind belonging to the Kootenay Smelting & Trading Syndicate, Limited, at Revelstoke, will be prosecuted according to law.

T. LIVINGSTONE HAIG, Agent.

HELP WANTED!

WANTED—ACTIVE, HONEST GENTLEMAN OR LADY, to travel, representing established, reliable house. Salary $65 monthly and traveling expenses, with increase if suited. Enclose reference and self-addressed stamped envelope.

THE DOMINION, 317 Omaha Building, Chicago.

Sp8

FOR SALE.

RAYMOND SEWING MACHINE, in good working order. Price $20.—Apply MAIL office, Revelstoke.

NIGHT SCHOOL.

A number of young men having spoken to the undersigned in reference to a Night School, I beg leave to say that it is my intention and purpose to open one, and instruction will be given at my residence on Thursday evenings in Classics, Mathematics, Logic, English, etc.

C. A. PROCUNIER, PH. B.

All placer claims in this District legally held may be laid over from the 15th October, 1894, to the 1st June, 1895.

N. FITZSTUBBS, *Gold Commissioner.*

Dated at Nelson, B.C., 4th October, 1894.

SALE OF WORK AND CONVERSAZIONE

will be held in the Presbyterian Church ON WEDNESDAY EVENING, DEC. 12th.

The principal feature of the evening will be a Cake Contest by young ladies.

REFRESHMENTS

will be sold by ladies at moderate rates.

During the evening a short programme will be presented.

Sale commences at 7 o'clock.

NO ADMISSION FEE.

NOTICE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application will be made to the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, at its next Session, for an Act to incorporate a company for the purpose of constructing, equipping, maintaining and operating a line of railway from some point on the North-East Arm of the Upper Arrow Lake to some point on Trout Lake, in the District of West Kootenay, with power to construct, equip, maintain and operate branch lines; to build and operate steam or other vessels to run on the Arrow Lakes and Columbia River and on Trout Lake; and also to construct and operate telegraph and telephone lines in connection with the said railway and steam or other vessels, and to build wharves and docks, together with the usual powers to acquire lands, privileges, bonuses or aids from the Dominion or Provincial Governments, and to make traffic and other arrangements with railway, steamboat and other companies, and for all other usual and necessary powers, rights and privileges.

Dated at Vancouver, this 30th day of October, 1894.

DAVIS, MARSHALL, MACNEILL & ABBOTT, *Solicitors for Applicants.*

PATENTS

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The Revelstoke Bakery

IS NOW PREPARED TO SUPPLY

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S CAKES

AT A LOWER FIGURE THAN EVER.

MINCEMEAT, JELLIES AND PASTRIES.

PLACE YOUR ORDERS EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS GOODS

LEWIS BROS., THE STATION.

A. H. HOLDICH,

OF SWANSEA AND WIGAN,

Analytical Chemist and Assayer,

Accurate assays made of all kinds of minerals, water, milk, etc.

T. L. HAIG,

NOTARY PUBLIC - - REVELSTOKE, B.C.

Mining and Real Estate Broker and General Commission Agent.

FIRE, LIFE AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE.

Representative of the Kootenay Smelting & Trading Syndicate.

—:o:—

AGENT FOR TROUT LAKE CITY, EVANSPORT, KASLO & NAKUSP

W. COWAN,

WHOLESALE DEALER IN

WINES, LIQUORS AND CIGARS.

REVELSTOKE, B.C.

BELOW ZERO!

Is where we have placed the price on our new stock of Xmas Novelties, comprising

TOYS in great variety,

Dressing Cases	Albums	Card Receivers
Photo Frames	Work Boxes	Shaving Sets
Elegant Fans	Cigar Cases	Magic Lanterns
Silk Handkerchiefs	Fancy Suspenders	Ties, etc., etc., etc.

DOLLS of every description.

—:o:—:o:—

Call and see our Stock before purchasing elsewhere.

—:o:—:o:—

C. B. HUME & Co.

REVELSTOKE STATION.

John D. Sibbald,

SUCCESSOR TO

THE WESTERN MILLING CO'Y. (LT'D.)

REVELSTOKE BRANCH.

DEALER IN

FLOUR, FEED, FRUIT, VEGETABLES AND GROCERIES OF ALL KINDS.

Agent for—Waterous Engine Company. - - - - Speight Wagon Company

LOCAL ITEMS.

Unique Christmas toys for children at Coursier's.

Have you tried the new lager from the Kootenay Brewery?

A splendid stock of Xmas confectionery. Come and try it at C. B. Hume & Co's.

H. N. Coursier is clearing out mantles, millinery and dress goods at a sacrifice for cash.

Mr. E. C. Carpenter took the steamer for a trip to Three Forks on Monday evening.

Frank McCarty left on Monday evening's boat, for a business trip among his customers in the towns and camps below.

Jack Letender left Monday morning for Gold Stream on snow shoes, expecting to overtake the Bain party before night.

Mrs. John Valentine returned on Sunday from Donald where she joined her young daughter Lotus, en route from New York.

Mr. John Forin of the law firm of Forin & Morrison, New Westminster, spent Wednesday in town on business for his firm.

Messrs. Bain and McRae, who started for Big Bend with a boat last week were delayed and did not get beyond the canyon till Monday.

Mr. T. Allen, Nelson, secretary of the C. & K. N. Co., and Mrs. Allen, arrived from below on Sunday, and took the train for Vancouver.

Wm. Perdue came up, on Sunday's boat, and took a carload of beef cattle to supply the butcher shops of his firm in the down river towns.

A. R. Tuft, of the firm of Tuft & Sons, Vancouver, returning with his bride from the east, has stopped off at Revelstoke for a short stay.

F. LoCasto has sold out his barber shop, and the outfit of the bathing department to A. McNeil, and intends to start a shop in Three Forks.

Mr. R. W. Northey, of the MAIL and Mrs. Northey, left on Tuesday evening for Victoria. Mrs. Northey will remain some time at the Jubilee Hospital.

A. L. Beaton, one of the owners of the Gold Hill mine, French creek, and H. Madsen, placer mining on the same creek, left on Tuesday morning for the mines.

Mr. E. J. Millard, Vancouver, auditor of the Dominion Express Co., made one of his periodical visits to Revelstoke this week, reviewing the work of the local office.

D. McGillivray went down the river Thursday to Nakusp and Three Forks. It is the understanding the C. P. R. will take over the Nakusp & Slocan railway on the 15th of December.

S. Redgrave, sheriff of Kootenay district, arrived from Donald Thursday evening and returned on Friday morning, attending to an item of official business meantime.

Solomon Holden after realizing the cash on the Columbia River Hydraulic mine, started Wednesday morning for Ontario where he will spend the winter. He has other mining property on Gold Stream, and will return in the spring.

An advertisement in this issue gives notice of the opening of a night school by Rev. Mr. Procunier. This will indeed fill a "long felt want." We hope to record its complete success, as indeed it will deserve.

An effort was made last winter to keep two sleigh tracks open between the upper and lower towns. This avoided the risk to teams of turning out in the deep snow in unexpected places and is a good thing if carried out.

O. D. Hoar, manager of the Cariboo & Kootenay Mining Co., operating in the Trout Lake mining district, returned last Sunday from a trip to the mine. While there, he acted as paymaster to the men employed by his company.

Mr. W. Mackie has taken his famous bull Billy, down to Laforme's stables for the winter. The animal has done some heavy work this fall hauling hay out from Montana slough, and fire wood from the mountain side. He looks somewhat the worse for wear.

The different committees of the Methodist Sunday School are actively preparing for their Christmas entertainment. Some new and interesting features will be introduced, taking the place perhaps of the immemorial Christmas tree. It is likely to be held on Christmas Eve.

The patrons of the drama will have a rare treat on December 20th, when the Revelstoke Amateur Dramatic society will produce a new comedy and a new farce. The cast has been completed and the company are now hard at work rehearsing. There will also be a musical programme by the best local talent.

There is considerable competition between the contestants for the cakes, which are to be awarded to the young ladies getting the largest number of votes at the sale of work in the Presbyterian church next Wednesday evening. A select programme is being prepared and a pleasant time is assured to all who attend.

The snow is about two feet deep in town, and locomotion by pedestrians is much impeded where the side walks are not kept clear. Many of the residents are showing their public spirit by an active use of the shovel, and we hope their example will be imitated by all, especially along Front street and in the business quarters.

The Hall Mines, Silver King, made a shipment of argentiferous copper ore, to Omaha, which passed through Revelstoke October 26th. The returns from shipments to Omaha have been very satisfactory. The company has now 80 tons ore at the government wharf at Nelson, and another shipment will be made to Omaha.

The C. P. R. Co., are on the war path again with leases. Several of their employees have been asked to sign a lease for the coming year. One remarkable thing was that only two of them were asked to sign last year, both of whom were supposed to be about leaving town. Is there anything mysterious about the townsite question in that end of the town?

An old tunnel has been discovered in the Grady group in the Slocan, concealed by a slide. A clue to its excavators has been found in the stream that flows several thousand feet below. Here an old pan marked "Sacramento, 1869," has been found and also two ancient picks. These latter had been stuck into a tree which in its subsequent growth has almost enveloped them with its bark.

Big cut in mantles and millinery and dress goods at Coursier's.

Wm. Vickers, of the Government office, started yesterday for Trout lake on snowshoes.

Go to F. McCarty for Christmas turkeys, geese and ducks. Stock arriving daily from the east.

Look at C. B. Hume & Co's. new advertisement—"Prices below Zero—quality better than ever."

The Snowshoe and Toboggan Club will meet at the Fire Hall at 8 p.m. on Monday next, December 10th.

Frank Ross, of the C. P. R. detective service, and searcher for lost freight, was in town the first of the week.

P. Levesque started for Downie creek, Tuesday, to take up a ranch. Arthur Pelky went along as helper.

Mrs. Redgrave, of Donald, wife of Sheriff Redgrave, and her daughter are spending the winter in San Francisco.

The firemen will give an At Home in Bourne's Hall on Friday, December 21st, inst. Tickets $2. Further particulars next week.

Joseph Genelle's new sawmill at Tappen Siding closed down last week for the winter. The men have moved into the logging camps on Canoe creek.

Government Agent Graham accidently lost his watch last night. Having become released from the chain it dropped out of his pocket, and disappeared in the snow.

Some sticks of fir, 10x14 and 100 feet long, are standing on the track at the station bound east. They cover three cars in length, and are fine samples of the timber of British Columbia.

Steamer navigation has not yet been interrupted by the snow and ice slush lately running quite freely in the river. An ice-jam has formed at Isaac creek above the Wigwam, and no trouble is likely to occur between there and the mouth of the river.

John O. Walsh, of Rogers Pass, returned last week from New York, after the expiration of his two months' vacation, and enjoying a most agreeable time. He is not on duty yet, as his engine is in the shop for repairs, but is visiting his B. C. friends.

Joe Bourgeois, who had been working on the Consolation mine on French Creek, Big Bend, up to the end of September, and put in October and November trapping on Downie Creek, came down by boat on Tuesday with a fine pack of skins. He had 16 beaver, 43 martin and 4 mink, all in prime condition.

Wm. B. Macnamara, agent for R. H. Gray & Co., and editor of the Clanwilliam Hustler, issued by the travellers who were caught in Eagle Pass by the flood last June, spent yesterday in Revelstoke, and left this morning for Winnipeg, where he intends spending the holidays.

A. McNeil, the old reliable barber of Revelstoke, has bought out Frank LoCasto's building and bathing fixtures, and took possession yesterday, vacating the old stand he has occupied so long. He will build larger in the spring, but meantime his facilities and skill in hair-cutting and shaving and especially bathing are all that the best shops can furnish.

Mantles and millinery reduced to almost half price at Coursier's.

While Joseph Dolan was crossing the river last Saturday on the top of the bridge and high trestle work his feet slipped from the ice covered timbers, and he fell between them to the ground below a distance of about 35 feet. The snow broke the fall somewhat and no bones were broken, but he will be laid up for a month till his bruises are healed.

Look over Coursier's Christmas goods during the next week.

The annual banquet of the Golden Gun Club was a racy and entertaining event as described by Sheriff Redgrave. The distinction between ghosts and "spirits" was nicely drawn. Altogether it was a quite unique affair, and the description equally so, as indeed would be any hilariously social gathering of gentlemen, which should be honored by Mr. Redgrave as guest and chronicler.

Court of Revision.

The Court of Revision and Appeal for Revelstoke division of which notice had been given by J. D. Graham, assessor, was held on the 5th inst., and was presided over by N. Fitzstubbs, as judge.

The appeal of P. R. Peterson against over-assessment was not allowed, and the assessment stands.

The appeal of the Lardeau Townsite Co. was favorably considered, and the assessment reduced.

The appeal of the Trout Lake City Townsite Co. was also heard, and the amount reduced.

Some slight modifications of the assessment roll as originally made out have been made, but no appeals other than those mentioned above, were brought before the court for hearing.

In addition to his duties as judge of the Court of Revision and Appeal, Mr. Fitzstubbs attended to several other matters connected with his office of gold commissioner for West Kootenay. He went south again on Thursday evening's boat.

Beautiful Pictures.

Each successive year has produced a more beautiful conception of art in the various Christmas publications. In this year's many attractions none surpass and very few compare with the Winnipeg Saturday Night's Christmas Number. Three beautiful pictures—which, to describe in detail, would take much space—accompany the magazine while the reading matter and the work of illustration are the best that brains can produce or money can buy. Another point to be borne in mind is that the work has been done by our own people and for that reason is entitled to more credit. In our next issue will be given a more extended notice. Saturday Night's Christmas will be mailed by the Saturday Night Co., 182 and 184 McDermott avenue, Winnipeg, to any address on receipt of 50 cents.

THE BIG BEND MINING DEAL.

Columbia River Hydraulic Claim Sold to the American Development Co.

Through the instrumentality of Wm. Kirkup and E. S. Wilson the Columbia River Hydraulic claim, was sold and the deal closed by a transfer of leases and payment of the money, on the 1st of December, at the expiration of the option.

The property covered by this transaction comprised the Discovery claim of Solomon Holden and Charles Norleins of about 65 acres including the right to 2000 inches of water, and 160 acres adjoining and further down the creek, held by Wm. Kirkup. The purchaser was Mr. George J. Atkins of Chicago, Ill., representing the American Development Company. These parties were first seen about three months ago at Kaslo, and negotiations commenced. Messrs. Atkins and Milligan and an expert accompanied Messrs. Kirkup and Wilson to Revelstoke, and made a visit to the property, which is almost seventy miles north on the Columbia, giving it a thorough examination. They took an option from Mr. Kirkup—who had taken the titles from the other parties in interest in order to facilitate transfers—running to the 1st of December, when the deal was concluded by the execution and delivery of deeds, and payment of the amount of the bond, which was $7,500, of which $4,500 was in cash.

This was one of the most business-like transactions in mining property that has occured in West Kootenay for some time, and in fact the only one covering so much mining ground, involving so large an amount of money, and promising so much for the development of gold mining in Big Bend, that has ever taken place within our knowledge.

The Development Company will order at once from Fraser & Chalmers, Chicago, the hydraulic machinery required. They propose putting in about two miles of 36-inch steel pipe and a 6-inch monitor. A sawmill will be very necessary, and they will provide the machinery and put it in operation among the first work done. The piping, monitor, and sawmill outfit will be sent to Revelstoke, in readiness for shipment to Smith Creek, as soon in the spring as the river can be safely navigated. Already negotiations are going on with one or two river boatmen, to deliver 30 tons or more of machinery and supplies at the mine early in the spring.

The investment necessary to carry out the plans of the Development Company will be about $20,000, in addition to the purchase money. These parties are not willing to make freight contracts for Big Bend running through next summer, as they are hoping that a steamer will be put on to do the up-river trade. In fact, they are willing to help with capital the construction of a suitable steamer, or the re-modelling of one of the present river fleet.

Altogether, those who are the holders of mining claims and leases, as well as ranches and townsites in Big Bend, can feel encouraged that next year will be the best one for all people interested that they have yet experienced. The transaction above described is also not the only one that is likely to be made. Buyers for other properties in Big Bend will doubtless be found, as a result of this successful sale.

TROUT LAKE NEWS.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

The pack train made its last trip for this season on Monday last.

The merchants have now their winter stock in. So far, trade has been good.

Last Tuesday Mr. Atkinson took out a nugget which weighed over two ounces and is valued at $37.

Dan Seroy and John Stauber were lucky in killing three fine cariboo.

There are at present fifteen different companies at work placer mining on the Lardeau and all are doing nicely.

The Cariboo & Kootenay P. & M. Co. expect to start sluicing on Monday, their dam being completed.

Charley Matheson took out $57 on Friday in coarse gold.

Molson and Tom Edwards have just started to work in the canyon and have a very promising piece of ground.

J. B. Hoar left for Halcyon Hot Springs, having got very badly crippled up with rheumatism.

The boys on the Black Prince mine were obliged to close down on account of no coal for blacksmith purposes.

Weather so far has been very warm and not over 18 inches of snow so far.

Awarded
Highest Honors—World's Fair
DR. PRICE'S CREAM BAKING POWDER
MOST PERFECT MADE.
A pure Grape Cream of Tartar Powder. Free from Ammonia, Alum or any other adulterant.
40 YEARS THE STANDARD.

THE PLACE TO BUY
Miners' Supplies,
Groceries,
Provisions,
HARDWARE, STOVES
AND
GENERAL MERCHANDISE
IS AT
H. N. COURSIER'S.

Bourne Bros.,
DEALERS IN
General Merchandise
Revelstoke,
New Denver
and Nakusp.

JUST RECEIVED, ONE CARLOAD
OGILVIE'S HUNGARIAN FLOUR.

GILKER & WELLS,
POST-OFFICE STORE.
Gents' Furnishings,
Stationery,
Patent Medicines
And TOILET ARTICLES of every description.
FURS BOUGHT & SOLD.
Specialty : : SHIRTS and SHOES.

If you want to reach the People in the North Riding of West Kootenay
YOU SHOULD
Advertise in "The Kootenay Mail."

IF YOU WANT
Job Printing
You can get it done at the "Mail" Office
EQUAL IN STYLE AND AS LOW IN PRICE AS IN ANY OFFICE IN THE PROVINCE.

REVELSTOKE, WEST KOOTENAY, B.C.

WONDERS OF THE HAND.

ONE OF THE MOST PERFECT PIECES OF MECHANISM.

Prof. Henry Drummond Gives the Scientific Uses and Value of the Human Hand and the Various Movements Necessary to Its Perfect Action.

One of the most perfect pieces of mechanism in the human body is the hand. How long it has taken to develop may be dimly seen by a glance at the long array of less accurate instruments of prehension which shade away with ever-decreasing delicacy and perfectness as we descend the scale of animal life. At the bottom of that scale is the amoeba. It is a speck of protoplasmic jelly, headless, footless and armless.

When it wishes to seize microscopic particles of food on which it lives, a portion of its body lengthens out, and, moving towards the object, flows over it, engulfs it, and melts back again into the body. This is its hand. At any place, at any moment, it creates a hand. Each hand is extemporized as it is needed; when not needed it is not. Pass a little higher up the scale and observe the sea anemone. The hand is no longer extemporized as occasion requires, but lengthened portions of the body are set apart and kept permanently in shape for the purpose of seizing food.

Watch, in the next place, the hand of an African monkey. Note the great increase in usefulness due to the muscular arm on which the hand is now extended, and the extraordinary capacity for varied motion afforded by the threefold system of joining at shoulder, elbow and wrist. The hand itself is almost the human hand; there are palm and nail and articulated fingers. But observe how one circumstance hinders the possessor from taking full advantage of these great improvements—this hand has no thumb, or, if it has, it is but a rudiment. To estimate the importance of this apparently insignificant organ, try for a moment without using the thumb to hold a book or write a letter, or do any single piece of manual work. A thumb is not merely an additional finger, but a finger so arranged as to be opposable to the other fingers, and thus possesses a practical efficacy greater than all the fingers put together. It is this which gives the organ of power to seize, to hold, to manipulate, to do higher work; this simple mechanical device, in short, endows the hand of intelligence with all its capacity and skill. Now there are animals, like the colobi, which have no thumb at all; there are others, like the marmoset, which possess the thumb, but in which it is not opposable; and there are others, the chimpanzee, for instance, in which the hand is in all essentials identical with man's. In the human form the thumb is a little longer, and the whole member more delicate and shapely, but even for the use of her higher product Nature has not been able to make anything much more perfect than the hand of this anthropoid ape.

Is the hand then finished? Can Nature take out no new patent in this direction? Is the fact that no novelty is introduced in the case of man a proof that the ultimate hand has appeared? By no means. And yet it is probable for other reasons that the ultimate hand has appeared; that there will never be a more perfectly hand animal than man. And why? Because the causes which up to the point have furthered the evolution of the hand have begun to cease to act. In the perfecting of the bodily organs, as of all other devices, necessity is the mother of invention.

As the hand was given more and more to do, it became more and more adapted to its work. Up to a point it responded directly to each new duty laid upon it. But only up to a point. There came a time when the necessities became too numerous and too varied for adaptation to keep pace with them. And the fatal day came, the fatal day for the hand, when he who bore it made a new discovery of tools. Henceforth what the hand used to do, and was slowly becoming adapted to do better, was to be done by external appliances. So that if anything new arose to be done, to be better done, it was not a better hand that was now made, but a better tool. Tools are external hands. Levers are the extensions of the bones of the arm. Hammers are callous substitutes for the fist. Knives do the work of nails. The vice and pincers replace the fingers. The day that cave man first split the marrow bone of a bear, thrusting a stick into it and striking it home with a stone—that day the doom of the hand was sealed.

But has not man to make his tools, and will not that induce the development of the hand to an as yet unknown perfection? No. Because tools are not made with the hand. They are made with the brain. For a time, certainly, man had to make his tools, and for a time this work recompensed him physically, and the arm became elastic and the fingers dexterous and strong. But soon he made tools to make these tools. In place of shaping tongs with the hand, he invented the turning lathe; to save his fingers he requisitioned the loom; instead of working his muscles he gave out the contract to electricity and steam. Man, therefore, from this time forward will cease to develop materially those organs of his body. If he develops them outside his body, filling the world everywhere with artificial hands, supplying the workshops with fingers more intricate and deft than organic evolution could make in a million, and losing energies upon them infinitely more gigantic than his muscles could ever generate in a whole lifetime, it is enough.

Evolution after all is a slow process. Its great labor is to work up to a point where invention shall be possible, and where, by the powers of the human mind, and by the mechanical utilization of the energies of the universe, the results of ages of development may be anticipated. Further changes, therefore, within the body itself are made unnecessary. Evolution has taken a new departure. For the arrest of the hand is not the cessation of evolution, but its immense acceleration, and the reduction of its energies into higher channels.—Prof. Henry Drummond, in The Ascent of Man.

ALLIGATORS AT HOME.

THE ANCIENT SAURIAN IN HIS NATIVE HAUNTS.

How They Live and How They Fight—An Encounter With One of Them—Some of Their Peculiarities—An Ugly, Vicious Brute.

A great deal that has been written for the press the past four years about alligators appears to have come from the pen of winter tourists who spend a brief season in Florida when alligators are enjoying their long nap at the bottom of the lakes or covered with mud in the swamps.

It is safe to say that they have never met the ancient saurian in his native haunts.

If an alligator meets you on land he is at your mercy. If you meet him on the water the conditions are reversed. On land he is an awkward fellow. His flippers are not made for walking, and he gets along through perseverance and endurance. In moving on land he lifts his body up, but drags his tail on the ground, making a trail as though with a stick.

In April and May the males make a great noise, bellowing like a bull. In the latter part of May they make their nest, selecting a quiet place on the banks of a lake or river. It will be two or three feet long, built of sticks, grass and sand. The female lays from twenty-six to thirty two eggs. They are as big around as a hen's egg and nearly twice as long. Boys hunt the eggs and sell them to the curio stores, where they are either hatched or blown out.

The negroes have an idea that an alligator prefers a black man to a white one, and they say that a 'gator will swim all around white men if there is a negro in the crowd. The negroes look upon the 'gator as a natural enemy.

Two years ago, during orange packing, not wishing to spare one of the men from work to go to town every day for the mail, I made a small cypress boat, not more than ten feet long. It was so light and easy going that I could cover the distance of one mile in nine minutes. After I had the boat finished, I painted it red. "A strong, bright red," as the Dutchman said.

Just as I was starting to town one day, Dr. Whitfield, of Grand Rapids, S. D., who was seeking health by hunting 'gators, told me that a whopping big alligator had recently made a bed in the weeds on Shaw's grove near an old wharf. "He's a whopper," said the doctor, "and you watch out and report."

When I approached the place, I went about forty feet from the shore. I soon saw the monster, an ugly looking fellow. He was about four feet above the water, partly hidden in the weeds. I noticed a slight motion as I passed, so I concluded to return, in hopes of seeing him slide into the water, as they usually do, and thus secure his dimensions. But I was greatly surprised to see the monster rise and plunge into the water like a man taking a header. It was an unusual performance. I had heard of such a thing, but in my ten years' residence on the lake, this was the first plunge I ever really saw. This, together with his immense size, warned me that I had encountered a dangerous enemy.

He struck the water about twenty-five feet from the boat and as he passed under it I felt and heard his rough scale like hide rub on the keel of the boat. Instantly I thought that my time had come, all the blood in my body rushed to my heart and it beat against my ribs as though it would come out. If he had capsized the boat I would have never lived to write these notes. He came up about twenty five feet on the other side and turned toward the boat. He churned the water with his tail until the lake looked like buttermilk. I knew he was mad and that he was determined to get at me. He came toward the boat with his jaws open at such speed that if he had struck it it would have gone to pieces. Death, a horrible death, was staring me in the face and nearly at hand. There were some people on the opposite shore watching the battle, but they had no boats, and if they had, could not reach me in time to be of any service.

I realized that I must keep cool if I would win the fight. I suddenly became as strong as a lion; my jaws set and my teeth ground on each other. As he came near the boat, I pulled on my off oar with all my might. This swung the boat around so we passed each other side by side. He was going at such speed that he went fifteen or twenty feet before he turned and then he had to make a large circle, lashing the water into a foam. I tried to get away from him but he was between the boat and the shore and it would be folly to push toward the middle of the lake. He was disappointed, mad, furious, and came for the canoe with renewed vigor.

I must either kill or be killed.

I again pulled on my off oar and what made the situation more desperate, the other oar slipped from its lock and slid into the lake. There was no time to be lost in trying to recover it, for in another instant the battle would be lost or won, man or 'gator. Quick as lightning I raised the remaining oar and brought it down with all my power, aiming for his eyes. I fell short of the mark, but struck him on the end of the nose. He spurted blood and hesitated. That was fatal to him, for the next instant, I struck him across the eyes. He stopped and commenced sinking and another blow sent him out of sight.

The spot was watched for some days and at last he was found sunning himself in his old bed, where he was shot. He measured fourteen feet and was thought to be 80 years old. The old alligator hunters said he attacked the boat because it was red, so for future safety I painted "Red Rover" white.

TOOTH FILLING.

A Great Economical Improvement About to Be Made.

One of the most important improvements in modern dental practice is on the point of being accomplished. It will consist in the substitution of porcelain for gold in the filling of teeth, especially in places where repairs are likely to show. For this purpose a piece of thin platinum foil is introduced into the cavity and so manipulated as to take the exact form of the hole, as if it were intended as lining. Then it is carefully withdrawn so as not to disturb its shape. Thus is obtained a mould, from which a porcelain cast may be made to fill the cavity exactly. This is secured in place by cement. The trouble is that no cement as yet invented is proof against the dissolving power of the fluids in the mouth.

By the use of an electric light in connection with the little mirror introduced into the mouth, the teeth and alveolar processes are brilliantly illuminated and rendered translucent. Thus anything wrong about the teeth may be quickly discovered. Perhaps a dead tooth may be hidden in the jaw, never having been erupted, and may have been the obscure cause of trouble for years. The light reveals it at once.—Providence Journal.

Self Thoughts.

Obedience to God's command is your highest duty. There is nothing that makes life so glorious as "Thy will be done" wrought into daily life.—Anthony Comstock.

The solemn and blessed truth is that God calls every man to be a minister, assigning each his own parish in the great diocese of Christ's one church.—Dr. Boardman.

The life you live now is all the more worth living because it opens into a life that will never end, and the last letter of the word "time" is the first letter of the word "eternity."—T. De Witt Talmage.

Do you tell me that there are many good men who are not Christians? That's true. But they manifestly borrow from the religion which they refuse to embrace the very morality of which they boast.—Carlos Martyn.

Don't be wheelbarrow Christians, that go only when pushed. Don't be Christians like the Arctic rivers—frozen at the mouth.—J. T. Beckley, D. D.

Carpet Made with 50,000,000 Stitches.

Those who have recently raised the question of the import of prison-made goods from abroad will, perhaps, read with surprise that the queen will shortly be the possessor of one of the most remarkable articles ever made in a prison. The superintendent of Agra jail some months back received an order to weave a carpet of special design for her Majesty. This is now complete. On it twenty-eight of the defest convicts of the establishment have been engaged, and the texture measures seventy-seven feet by forty feet, and is estimated to contain no fewer than 50,000,000 stitches. The pattern, known as the Poona, is rarely met with. It has a dark ground, upon which the device and border are executed in delicate shades of vegetable dyed, blues, yellows, browns and greens. The carpet, which is of great value, will be used in her Majesty's Indian room at Osborne. The Agra jail convicts are also making a carpet for the German emperor.—Manchester Examiner.

The Soul and the Beard.

In Russia it was the common belief up to the time of Peter the Great that beardless men were also soulless and that a man who purposely submitted to having his beard marred could never enter heaven. The great Peter above referred to ordered his heathens to "shave up" so as to appear more civilized, and when they refused to comply with his edicts fined the wealthy and middle classes 100 rubles for each beard that was permitted to grow, and each peasant and laborer a copeck for the same privilege. Finally the priests were appealed to and they informed their parishioners that unless they submitted to having their beards shaved they need not expect that St. Nicholas, the gatekeeper of heaven, would be able to distinguish them from the bearded Turks. That had the desired effect.—St. Louis Republic.

Missing Links.

Two centuries have increased England's wealth forty fold.

There are about 1,500 theatres in Europe. Italy possesses the most.

A sister of the late Mr. Spurgeon recently preached in London.

A certain forest plant in Japan grows to be a tree six feet high in three weeks.

Female bootblacks are reported to be multiplying in Paris and other French cities.

Jerusalem has 185 places where liquor is sold, the license fees going to Constantinople.

Idealists.

Idealists are persons who profess to deny the existence of material things, and claim that ideas, beliefs and fancies are all that there are in this world. For example, we are never ill. If we only fancy, or believe that we are. If we had full faith that we were well, we would be so. There is something in the ideas, for every one knows that the mind has much to do with the condition of the body. It is entirely possible to cure some diseases by persistently believing that they do not exist and acting accordingly. But all maladies will not yield to such treatment.

An Interesting Experiment.

The Mirror and Farmer says: We have an experiment in progress in which five spayed heifers are being fed against five open heifers and both lots against five steers, the entire fifteen head being all of the same age, raised on the same farm, sired by the same bull, and all from the same kind of cows. The object of the experiment is to determine not only the cost of producing beef under these conditions, but the quality of the beef as well.

A Beautiful Swiss Custom.

A Swiss mother believes that her child will have bad dreams unless it is crooned to sleep. And so, bending low over the drowsy little one's couch, she sings soothing songs of green pastures and still waters until the little one has breathed itself peacefully into the land of Nod.

WOMEN AND WORK.

Prof. Ferrero's Interesting Reason Why the Fair Sex Should Not Labor.

"The problem of woman from a biosociological point of view" is treated by Sig. G. Ferrero in the Monist. "The essential condition of feminine existence," which he desires to analyze in his paper, is that which he names "The Law of Non-Labor." "As it is a natural law that the man must labor and struggle to live, so is it a natural law that the woman should neither labor nor struggle for her existence. Biology clearly shows us that the physiological prosperity of a species depends on the division of labor between the sexes, for in exact ratio to this is the duration of life." "Marriage, as found among the higher animals, is "a perfected form of the division of labor and mutual co-operation of the sexes." During hatching time the male bird does all the providing for his brooding mate. At other times her functions in seeking food are merely auxiliary. Similarly with lion and hyena. The fearful toil which falls to the savage woman the writer pronounces to be "merely a passing phase, a very dangerous aberration, produced by the excessive selfishness of man, which does not and cannot last long." He remarks that the races in which it is found "have remained in a savage state and have made scarcely any progress."

"In civilized nations female toil is not necessary for the production of the wealth needed for humanity. "Man alone could do this. Woman labor only tends to lower the marketable value of male labor, for while woman is working in the factories there are everywhere, and especially in Europe, crowds of men vainly seeking employment, to whom the cessation of work is an oft-recurrent and terrible evil. This shows that, even from a sociological point of view, female labor is a pathological phenomenon.

"Statistics show us an increase of mortality among women and children in countries where industrial life has pressed mothers into its ranks. A perfect woman should be a chief d'oeuvre of grace and refinement, and to this end she must be exempt from toil. The working woman grows ugly and loses her feminine characteristic. Womanly grace and the love which men bear a beautiful woman have perhaps been the origin of paternal love, and of all the other sweet and tender feelings of which the male is capable. Grace is the esthetic side of weakness. Woman, more than man, enjoys all the benefits of civilization, which nevertheless have been in great part acquired by him alone. Man labors and toils to-day just as he did of old, and there is nothing abnormal in this fact, for it is his positive duty.

"What advantage, then, can be gained by participating in man's struggle for existence, when woman has only to wait until he places these benefits at her feet? I cannot understand why the question of woman suffrage should so excite public opinion. It is entirely profitless to her. If her husband strains every nerve already to provide her with all the luxuries of life, he will certainly not be lax in defending those interests which are identical with those of his family."

Some Curious Trees.

On the Canary Island grows a fountain tree—a tree much needed in some parts of the island. It is said that the leaves constantly distill enough water to furnish drink to every living creature in Hiero; nature having provided this remedy for the drought of the island. Every morning, near this part of the island, a cloud or mist arises from the sea, which the winds force against the steep cliff on which the tree grows, and it is from the mist the tree distills the water.

China, too, claims her remarkable tree. This is known as the tallow tree, so called from the fact of its producing a substance like tallow, and which serves the same purpose, is of the same consistency, color and smell. On the island of Lowchew grows a tree about the size of a common cherry tree, which possesses the peculiarity of changing the color of its blossoms. At one time the flower assumes the tint of the lily, and again shortly takes the color of the rose. In Thibet there is a curious tree known as the tree of the thousand images; its leaves are covered with well-defined characters of the Thibetan alphabet. It is of great age and the only one of its kind known there.

The baobab tree is considered one of the most wonderful of the vegetable kingdom. It appears that nothing can kill this tree; hence it reaches an astonishing age as well as an enormous size. The natives make a strong cord from the fibers of the bark; hence the trees are continually barked, but without damage, as they soon put forth a new bark. It appears impervious to fire and even the ax is resisted, as it continues to grow in length while it is lying on the ground.

In Mexico there is a plant known by the name of Palo de Leche. It belongs to the family of euphorbia. The Indians throw the leaves into the water and the fish become stupefied and rise to the surface and are then caught by the natives. In this case the effect of the narcotic soon passes off. The milk of this plant thrown upon the fire gives out fumes that produce nausea and headache. The milk taken internally is a deadly poison; it will produce death or insanity according to the size of the dose. There is a popular belief among the lower class in Mexico that the insanity of the ex-Empress Carlotta was caused by this poison.—San Jose (Cal.) Mercury.

The Human Eye.

The apparatus for keeping the eye moist is complex and efficient. It comprises the lachrymal gland, which secretes the tears; the lachrymal caruncle, a small fleshy body at the inner angle of the eye; the puncta lachrymæ, two small openings at the nasal extremity of the eyelids; the lachrymal ducts, which convey the tears into the nose, and the lachrymal sac, a dilatation of the canal.

35,000,000 Pages Per Year.

Shanghai boasts of the largest mission press in the world. In connection with it is a type foundry, where electrotyping and stereotyping are also done. The press has fonts for printing in many languages and every year sends out more than 35,000,000 pages.

SPREEWALD MAIDENS.

STILL RETAIN MEDIAEVAL DRESS AND BRIDAL COSTUMES.

Some of the Quaint Things to Be Seen Only a Few Miles From Germany's Capital—The Island of the Amager and Its Old Fashioned Inhabitants.

There is a little island lying in the sound a few miles from Copenhagen, the highly cultured capital of Denmark. It is called Amager, or Amak. Its quaint community, numbering 10,000 inhabitants, descends from a colony of Hollanders, who were induced by King Christian II. in 1516, to come and cultivate its fertile soil. The fame of the Dutch for growing fine flowers, especially tulips, luscious fruits, and vegetables had spread far and wide, and the Copenhagen market at that time was sorely in need of these staples. The Amagers have occupied their little isle for nearly four centuries. Their Dutch boats have plied to and fro, between Copenhagen and the insular towns, their maids have served the aristocracy of the Scandinavian metropolis, and all have lived in constant intercourse with the most refined and enlightened of Danish society, but all this has not been able to overthrow their national individuality. Their patois still savors of the idiomatic Dutch and provincial gutturals, the same strange costumes are worn by men, women, and children which Jan Steen and Van Dyke have perpetuated on canvas, and their manner of marriage and living and baptismal customs are precisely what they were 400 years ago. Matrimonial alliances outside of their own environment are scarce. Here, however, their remains little of the superstitions. A holy reverence for evangelical faith and life makes jails and poorhouses superfluous, and their scruples against intermarriage, do not cause either mental or physical deterioration. The conscientious cleanliness, proverbial of all Hollanders, has also been transplanted and maintained on Danish soil.

In the Bresse and Vendee provinces, not far from fashionable Paris, men and women still cling to the grotesque headgear of the knightly period. Corsets are ridiculed, and the independent bourgeoisie of the Atlantic provinces snap their fingers at all new-fangled caprices of fickle society.

The same strict adherence to traditional life, costumes, and jargon characterizes the peasants and fishermen of Friesland and Heligoland, across the Zuider Zee from historic Amsterdam, though not extravagantly pervaded by religious eccentricities. The Dutch theatrical companies who exhibited at the World's Fair arrayed the girl waiters in the peculiar dress and gold and silver caps which the Frisian women wear to the present day.

That in the heart of Prussia, a few miles from Berlin, the quaint Spreewalders have been able to uphold their Wendish individuality, is remarkable. The graphic sketches which Artist Westphalen of Moderne Kunst has gathered on the banks of the Spree show that they have not yet been influenced by the modern progress with which the great Prussian capital has always been identified.

Much that is new and much that is peculiar is encountered in the Spreewald. Both nature and people differ from the rest of Germany. For centuries this has been a most picturesque region, separated from the historic highways of the North. Many usages and customs have outlived all innovations of modern times from the early Wendish period. The saga spring is still kept running, the forest and meadows are still peopled with all sorts of ghostly gnomes and uncanny water folk.

One thing must not be expected on a tour through the Spreewald—luxurious hotel accommodations. Sumptuously equipped buffets, with haughty mien'd waiters, have not yet deprived these parts of their simple rusticity. There are nevertheless a few unassuming gasthoefe (roadside inns), with amiable hosts who provide plain palatable food and wholesome beverages.

Malcontent epicures had better steer clear of the Spreewald, but let all who yearn for air and sunshine, for sweet seclusion for soul and body, come to these shaded woodpaths and brook watered meadows, where overfilled highways are unknown, where, instead of the everlasting wagon rattle and horse trot, resound the song of the lark, the call of the cuckoo, and the beat of the blackbird.

What a charming variation of park and rural landscapes and prettily bridged river scenes! Here and there an oddly constructed cottage, an old fashioned farmyard, and occasionally a hoary church, that seems to have withstood the storms and ravages of ages. And such attractive little gardens around the houses, such a tasteful arrangement of fruit trees and flower beds!

Baptisms, weddings, and funerals remain in every detail just what they were when Christianity first weaned the Wends away from pagan practices. As well do away with the sacrament altogether as to seek to alter the least in the ceremonies and usages here connected with them.

The women go to the Lord's supper in funeral attire—an all black dress with white neckwear and white bonnet. The bride also appears in white on the wedding day. It differs from the funeral and sacrament in that for the marriage ceremony a plain black skirt and bodice is surmounted by a broad royal white ruffled collar, such as Norwegian and Danish pastors wear over their ministerial gowns while officiating. The collar almost conflicts with the large myrtle crown so that the rosy face can barely peep from between the tulip-shaped adornments. The metropolitan who witnesses the ceremony wonders how the bridegroom will be able to impart the traditional wedding kiss without serious damage to the starched envelopment.

AN AGED LOCOMOTIVE.

HERO OF ALEXANDRIA WAS THE INVENTOR OF IT.

And It Is Two Thousand Years Old—The Shrine of Baccheus Also Described—Moved Automatically in Various Directions.

A writer in a scientific journal says: The Scientific American contains an account by R. W. Durfee of a locomotive that was invented and used 2,000 years ago.

There is a general belief among mechanicians what vehicles containing within themselves the means of their own propulsion are of comparatively recent origin; and the fact of the adhesion of the rims of their wheels to the earth or a supporting rail being sufficient to enable adequate power applied to the wheels to move the vehicle was a discovery of not earlier than the middle of the last century. But in this instance the writers on locomotive machines have not dived deep enough or stayed down long enough among the records of antiquity to discover the bottom facts in the history of such mechanisms.

The first locomotive, or self-moving vehicle, of which we have any account was the invention of Hero of Alexandria, who lived about 5,000 years ago. In his work descriptive of automatic or self-moving machines, there is illustrated a shrine of Baccheus mounted upon three wheels concealed within its base.

The shrine was crowned with a canopy, about which figures of dancers were made to move by hidden mechanism. Within the base of the shrine were three supporting wheels. Of these two were fixed to an axle, on which was a drum. Around this drum was wound a rope which passed upward on one side of the shrine and over two pulleys. It was then attached to a heavy leaden weight. The gradual escape of sand through a hole in a compartment beneath the weight caused it to descend. The weight thus pulled on the cord and revolved the drum and wheels, causing the shrine to move forward in a straight line.

Hero also describes how to arrange the wheels in order to make the shrine move in a circular path and to make it move in straight lines at right angles.

By turning the figure of Victory two fountains beneath the canopy could be made to discharge wine or milk at pleasure. This apparatus is an adaptation of the two-way cock familiar to modern mechanical engineering.

The mechanism of the shrine of Baccheus proves that 2,000 years ago the fact that wheel vehicles could be propelled by power applied to the axles on which the driving wheels were fastened was well known, and that the mechanical principles involved in the application of the power were well understood. Furthermore, the shrine afforded evidence of a high degree of refinement in mechanical manipulation in the cylindrical plug two-way cock, as well as in the general arrangement of the details of apparatus, for performing the seeming miracle of changing wine into milk or milk into wine.

It is confidently believed that this is the first time this self-moving vehicle (which the shrine certainly was) of Hero has been described or even referred to by any writer in the English language. This is not strange, for the work of Hero descriptive of automata is very scarce, and the translations of Commandine into Latin and of Baldi into Italian are also rare.

It is universally admitted by writers on mechanics that Hero is the author of the first description of a machine actuated by steam; but hitherto no one has claimed for him the honor—to which the evidence above submitted clearly entitles him—of having invented the first self-moving carriage or locomotive.

A Camera for Naturalists.

At a recent meeting of the Royal Photographic Society, T. R. Dallmeyer described a new modification of his telephotic lens, by which it is made suitable for long or short extensions of the camera within certain limits, so as to give the power of obtaining at will a large or small amplification of distant objects. He said that the main point with lenses of this class is the question of rapidity; it is easier to make a telephotographic lens at the sacrifice to some extent of the luminosity of the image upon the sensitive plate. He also exhibited his new naturalist's camera, a long, narrow instrument of light weight, made chiefly for photographing wild animals from a distance, when the camera is held in the hand, or when it can be partially rested against a tree or other fixed object, or when lying on the stomach on the ground.

It is a long camera of light weight, preferably fitted with a telephotographic lens, acting upon a sensitive plate of somewhat small size. It has a lengthy eye-piece, mounted upon its upper surface, and when this is adjusted to suit the eyesight of the user, it need never be shifted from that adjustment for the particular user; the image on the plate being at the same time in focus; it is never necessary afterwards to alter the adjustment of the eye-piece, for all the objects he sees in sharp focus through it will also be in sharp focus upon the plate. To minimize vibration a particularly light spring had been made for the instantaneous shutter.

Miss Arabella Jones-Smyth.

She isn't very pretty,
She isn't very witty,
Her conversation sometimes is quite plain;
But the "swells" all flock around
With reverence profound—
For she proudly sports a hyphen in her name.

She dances like a camel,
Her complexion is enamel,
Her figure would a hat-rack put to shame;
But the "dudes" bow down before her,
And "just one waltz" implore her,
Fascinated by that hyphen in her name.

—Truth.