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The Kootenay Mail.

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Vol. 2.—No. 42. REVELSTOKE, WEST KOOTENAY, B.C., FEBRUARY 8, 1896. $2.00 a Year.

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

Above Revelstoke—An Interesting Report thereon by Engineer Gamble.

We publish in the MAIL to-day the report of Dominion Engineer Gamble of his survey in April last of the Columbia river from Golden to Revelstoke. This exploration was made in response to the petition of the people of Revelstoke and the Provincial Government, praying the government to improve the navigation of the Columbia river between Revelstoke and Downie creek and Canoe river. We are glad to be able to give this report to the readers of the MAIL in advance of its publication in the blue book. Aside from its particular importance to the miners, lumbermen and farmers between Revelstoke and Canoe river, it is a very graphic and interesting description of a district that has not been heretofore described by any one as competent to perform it as Engineer Gamble. His conclusion that he would recommend the preliminary expenditure of $2000 on condition that a steamer of sufficient power to cope with the current is put on, gives hope that an appropriation will be made at the present session of Parliament, and that our member, Mr. Mara, will have the amount placed in the supplementary estimates, for it is of course known to him that the Str. Lytton will be fitted for the up-river trade as soon as a steamer is required for that purpose. It would be a mistake to put a steamer in readiness for this route for the shipment of material, machinery and ore, which is now quite urgent, and then have to wait a year for an appropriation to improve the river and make navigation safe.

Mr. Gamble's report, which is addressed to the Chief Engineer of the public works department at Ottawa, is as follows:

SIR,—Adverting to your letters relating to the Columbia river at and above Revelstoke, viz., (1) No. 554, dated 5th March enclosing file 148,863 being a report of the Executive Council of British Columbia requesting (a) that obstructions be removed from the Columbia river between Canoe river and Revelstoke and (b) that the bank of the river at the latter place be protected from further injury; (2) No. 600, dated 9th March, conveying the Minister's consent, at the demand of Mr. Mara, M.P., to the examination of the river above Revelstoke; and (3) No. 824 enclosing file 149,565, being a petition from the inhabitants of Revelstoke and district, praying for the removal of rocks and obstructions in the Columbia river from Revelstoke to Downie creek. I beg to say that in compliance with your instructions I have made the preliminary examination at the lowest stage of water possible, and transmit herewith, accompanied by a tracing of the general plan of the portion of the Columbia river under reference, and also one of reconnaissance survey of Death Rapids, the greatest obstables to navigation south of Canoe river, a report thereof:

This portion of the river lies north of the line of the C.P.R. between Revelstoke on the south and what is called the Boat Encampment situated at the mouth of the Canoe river, which, flowing from the north joins the Columbia at the apex of the Big Bend. The latter river here doubles round the northern limit of the Selkirk Range and flows toward the international boundary in a direction almost true south, its previous course from its source in the lakes, lying 120 miles south of the railway, having been north-west.

From past experience of this and other rivers of like physical characteristics confirmed by general information gathered from those who claimed to have a personal knowledge of the portion of the river under reference, I decided, as the most expeditious and least expensive way of making the examination to start from Beaver Mouth, a station on the C.P.R. situated on the east side of the Selkirks at the junction of Beaver creek with the Columbia, and run down by boat to Revelstoke in preference to attempting to ascend the river from the latter place to Canoe river, a journey that would be long and tedious, by reason of the strong current and many rapids that exist, the majority of which could only be overcome, going up stream, by tracking poling or portaging.

In conformity with this decision I went to Golden and there engaged a boat crew of three experienced men and a cook; with Captain Armstrong in charge, and purchased the requisite outfit comprising a suitable boat, 30 ft. long by 5 ft. beam, and provisions.

On the evening of the 19th of April the men were sent forward from Golden to take the boat down by river to Beaver, whither I proceeded next morning, the 20th, by train, taking the greater part of the outfit with me. At four p.m. on the same day we left Beaver and run 7 miles down stream, camping at 5:30 p.m. The next morning, the 21st, three men with the boat were sent back to Beaver for some necessary articles which had been inadvertently overlooked.

This delayed us until 1 p.m., but nevertheless, and notwithstanding head wind, Bush river, 24 miles by the river below Beaver, was reached in time the same evening to pitch camp before dark. I may here observe that the distances mentioned herein will not agree with those taken by scale from the plan between the points alluded to, for the reason that the general direction is only given thereon, it being impossible to show the actual winding of the river on so small a scale.

Thus far the river presented no obstacles to safe navigation by the ordinary sternwheel river steamboat. The timber, consisting of fir, cedar and spruce, is not large, but is said to be plentiful in the vicinity of Bush river.

If the demand becomes great enough the timber, either in the rough or manufactured, can be transported by the river to Beaver without the expenditure of a dollar in improving the river.

The width of the river varies, according to the conformation of the shore, from 250 to 600 feet. It was observed that the snow still lay very deep in the woods and along the banks of the river.

The weather was fine with bright, warm days and frosty nights.

At 6 a.m., Sunday, the 22nd, the camp was struck and in 30 minutes after starting we approached Surprise Rapids. This proved to be a greater obstacle to rapid progress than we expected, being nothing but a series of riffles, rapids, and cataracts or cascades, more or less dangerous to run, for a distance of 2½ miles.

However after ten hours steady work alternately portaging, lining down, and running the least dangerous places, we camped at the lower end at 6 p.m.

I should say that the total fall was not less than 120 feet in 2½ miles. The next day, Monday the 23rd, we ran out of the Canyon into comparatively smooth though strong water, free from any obstruction to navigation, and reached Kimbasket lake at 11 a.m. It was found to be still closed with ice. Upon close examination the ice appeared to be rotten in places, and it was determined, after waiting 24 hours in the hope that the warm sun and perhaps a snow slide would help to clear the lake somewhat, to break through it as far as possible, landing at the most convenient place. We entered the ice at 1 p.m. on the 24th, and after constant and severe work managed to make about two miles by 6 p.m., we then camped. On the following morning, the 25th, an early start was made at 5 a.m., to take advantage of the crust on the snow, as the ice had become, as we advanced down the lake, too solid and thick to force a passage through it. The boat was hauled out of the ice and taken across the lake, empty, to the lower end, 4½ miles, where open water was observed. This was accomplished without any accident, although the men frequently dropped through the ice up to the middle.

In the meantime provisions were packed along the shore about a mile and by the time the men had returned from the lower end of the lake, luncheon was ready. The rest of the dunnage was then packed up to this point and camp made about 2 p.m., it being found impossible to proceed further owing to the deep and soft snow.

The necessities of the situation compelled us to camp close to the edge of the lake near a large snow slide, and it was with no little anxiety that about 4 p.m. a snow slide was observed coming down the mountain side directly above us, but it was turned aside by an intervening ravine, unobserved at the time, and entered the lake half way between us and our camp of the previous night.

The first rush of snow stopped at the waters edge but that coming behind, from a greater height with an ever increasing velocity, cut a channel through it, leaving the sides hard and polished, and passed out into the lake some 1400 feet, spreading out like a fan as it went and resting on the bottom.

As the lake is very deep at this point, probably not less than 100 feet, this will give some idea of the quantity of snow that rushed down the mountain. During the afternoon the roaring of other slides could be heard, and in some cases they could be seen, as the mountains, which are scarred and seamed into lines cut through the timber by former slides, rise deeply from the lake shore.

The next morning, 26th, again an early start was made and by 10 a.m., just as the crust on the snow refused to bear the packers any longer, the whole of the dunnage was loaded in the boat laying in the open water at the lower end of the lake. The length of the lake I should say was not less than 6 miles in a straight line from end to end by about 2½ to 3 miles wide.

(Concluded next week.)

Not Much of a Revenue Producer.

At the last session of the legislature an amendment to the Mineral Act was passed which permits a claim owner to hold his claim by paying $100 to the provincial treasury in lieu of performing the annual amount of assessment work required by the Mineral Act. At the time the government was casting about for means to increase its revenue, and it was expected that this amendment would add a considerable sum annually to its coffers. Those opposed to the alteration expressed the fear that it would retard development and deprive the prospector of his principal means of revenue by enabling the claim owner—in many cases a non-resident—to pay the amount of $100 into the provincial treasury instead of expending it in actual work on the claim. The actual results for last year show that neither these hopes or fears have been realized to any extent. Only five claim owners have so far availed themselves of the privilege afforded by the amendment and but $500 has been added to the provincial revenue from this source. Of this total West Kootenay contributed $300.

TROUT LAKE NOTES.

The Silver Cup rawhide trail is near completion and horses for bringing down the ore have gone forward with all the necessary equipment for commencing work.

The Great Northern is holding its own, in fact improving as the work advances, with lots of ore stacked, which is to the point and will talk.

Wm. Hoar has arrived with a party of men enroute for the Abbott group of mines.

Messrs. McGillivray and T. Downs were in town last week and dispensed the needful paper which talks in Trout lake. They brought some very rich ore from the Silver Cup as a specimen.

The Forks, four miles from here, will in the spring, bloom out as a catering point for prospectors and visitors. Messrs. Ferguson, Walker and Vickers are putting up a really first-class place there, which will prove a great boon for prospectors.

The weather is spring like and warm.

TROUT LAKE.

Trout Lake City, Feb. 3.

Storms to Come.

Prof. Foster says the third disturbance of February will reach the Pacific coast about Feb. 11, cross the west of Rockies country by close of Feb. 12, great central valleys Feb. 13 to 15, and eastern states Feb. 16. The warm wave will cross the west of Rockies country about Feb. 11, great central valleys Feb. 13, eastern states Feb. 15. The cool wave will cross the west of Rockies country about Feb. 14, great central valleys Feb. 16, eastern states Feb. 18. Extensive snows will fall in northern portions of the United States. The storms of the middle part of February will all be unusually severe and cause very unpleasant weather, especially in the northern states.

A Dividend on Common Stock.

A New York despatch of the 5th inst. says: It is learned on the best of authority that the C.P.R. company has decided on the resumption of dividends on the common stock and will, on April 1st, pay a semi-annual dividend of 1½ per cent. The action of the directors is based upon the largely increased earnings and the prospects of their continuance for some time to come.

Fire in a Tunnel on the N.P. Railway.

One of the most remarkable fires ever known has been burning from one side of a mountain to the other, a distance of a mile, in Montana for four months. The fire is, or originally was, in the Bozeman tunnel on the Northern Pacific Railroad. The tunnel was heavily timbered for support. On Sept. 18th last fire started at about the middle of the tunnel. The great quantity of woodwork furnished abundant material for the flames to feed on, and every effort to quench or check the fire was unavailing. In a few days smoke began pouring in great volume from each end of the tunnel. In a week the tunnel was a furnace from end to end. Immense quantities of water were poured into the tunnel, but to no purpose. Then the ends of the tunnel were sealed up and kept so for several weeks. When unsealed the fire was as hot as ever. The whole mountain seemed afire internally. Meantime the railroad people had built a switchback track over the mountain to accommodate the traffic. A week or two ago the ends of the tunnel were sealed up again, and they will be kept so for an indefinite period.

John Hays Hammond, the American mining engineer, charged with the leadership of the late uprising in Johannesburg has been liberated on bail.

COMING TO THE FRONT.

The Big Bend is Attracting the Attention of Investors.

The Big Bend, as a field for investment, promises to attract considerable interest amongst mining men this year, and much good to the district and Province generally is sure to accrue from an investigation of its merits in this particular by those having capital to invest in mining enterprises.

Ves Howe, one of the best known mining men in the Northwest, returned from Seattle this week where he has been for some time on business matters. In discussing mining prospects Mr. Howe said that there was every indication of a revival of interest in the Big Bend. The district was very much talked of amongst mining men in the Sound cities, and he looked for a large influx, from those centres, into north Kootenay this summer. Many who had intended to go to Alaska have altered their plans and will put their time and money into the Big Bend instead.

Mr. Howe is interested in the Gold Yam, a gold proposition on Carnes Creek, and will demonstrate his faith in its possibilities by putting a large force of men at work there as soon as possible. His concern will probably build a steamboat to do their freighting, as the cost of packing over the trail is too great to permit of operations on a large scale.

Before interesting himself in the Big Bend Mr. Howe visited all the big camps in B. C. and neighboring states, but none of the districts visited seemed to offer as good a field for investment.

Beginning to Ship Ore.

Word was received from Trout Lake to-day that the ore movement from the Silver Cup has begun. They have eight horses at work packing over the rawhide trail and over 100 tons of ore on the dump. Seventeen men are at work there.

Big Bend Items.

Geo. Laforme left Monday with over 100 pounds of mail matter for the various camps in Big Bend.

Gus Lund came down Tuesday from Carnes Creek and returned Thursday, accompanied by Ves Howe, J. B. Mason and L. G. Allis, of Seattle. Mason goes up with a view of buying into the Gold Yam.

It is a Matter of Arrangement.

EDITOR KOOTENAY MAIL,—Can you, Mr. Editor, or any of your numerous readers, inform me how the Mineral Act relating to assessment work should be read. It is plain as far as the owner of a claim is concerned, as it emphatically states $100 shall be spent on the claim. If a party contracts to do assessment work for a claim owner and he has to pack his grub and get it on the claim which takes him, say, two days and it also takes him two days to return after completing contract. Now, who pays for the four days taken in going to and returning from the claim? If $100 has to be spent on the claim and the contractor only gets the said $100 for the work, who is going to pay him is the question asked me by several here. TROUT LAKE.

A Silver Victory.

The long struggle in the U.S. Senate over the question of the free coinage of silver terminated last Saturday in a victory for the friends of silver. The great fight was over the Finance Committee's substitute to the House Bond Bill. When the concluding votes were taken the free silver substitute was adopted by a vote of 43 to 31, and the bill, thus amended, passed by a vote of 42 to 35. Its title was changed so as to make it read, "To restore the coinage of silver dollars and for other purposes." All the sections of the House bill are struck out, and, instead of them, the bill provides that the mints shall be open to the coinage of silver, and that dollars of 412½ grains troy of standard silver shall be coined upon the same terms and subject to the same limitations as regulate the coinage and legal tender quality of gold. It also directs the coinage of that portion of the silver bullion in the Treasury that represents the seigniorage, such silver dollars to be used in the payment of the current expenses of the Government. It forbids the issue of national bank notes of denominations less than $10, and it directs the redemption of greenbacks and of the Treasury notes issued under the act of July 14, 1890, in standard silver dollars, or in gold coin, at the option of the Treasury Department, and their re-issue as under the existing law. The bill now goes to the House for concurrence in the substitute, and the next move, after the House refuses to concur, will be the appointment of a conference committee.

THE LUMBER COMBINE.

A Gigantic Trust Representing Millions of Capital.

The biggest trust ever formed on the Pacific coast and representing a capital of over $70,000,000 went into effect last Saturday. It is the Central Lumber Company of California. Its membership includes every mill, all ship owners, wholesale and retail dealers of the western coast of the United States and British Columbia.

All charters of vessels and sales of lumber must be effected through the Central Lumber Co., which regulates freights and puts the buying and selling price on lumber, regulating also the product of each mill and the proportionate amount of lumber each vessel shall carry.

Not only are the markets of the Pacific coast thus controlled, but lumber shipments to foreign countries are placed under the same restrictions. Every mill on the coast has its product regulated. The first order issued by the company was an advance in the price of lumber of $2 a thousand. Last year the estimated product of the coast was 600,000,000 feet and this advance will enhance the profits of mill owners the coming year over $1,000,000. About one-half of this sum comes from foreign lumber dealers and the remainder from the consumers along the coast. Not a single stick of lumber for water shipment can be purchased on the coast except through the Central Lumber Co. More than 150 ocean sailing vessels come under its control.

Kellie's Wages Bill.

The following is the text of "An Act Respecting Wages" which J. M. Kellie, M.P.P., has introduced at the present session of the Legislature:

1. Whenever an assignment is made of any real or personal property for the general benefit of creditors, the assignee shall pay in priority to the claims of the ordinary or general creditors of the person making the same, the wages or salary of all persons in the employment of such person at the time of making of such assignment, or within one month of the making thereof, not exceeding three months' wages or salary, and such persons shall be entitled to rank as ordinary or general creditors for the residue, if any, of their claims.

2. In distributing the assets of a company under the provisions of the "Companies' Act," the liquidator shall pay in priority to the claims of the ordinary or general creditors of the company at the time of the making of the winding-up order, or within one month before the making thereof, not exceeding three months' wages or salary, and such persons shall be entitled to rank as ordinary or general creditors of the company for the residue, if any, of their claims.

3. All persons in the employment of the execution debtor at the time of the seizure by the Sheriff or within one month prior thereto, shall be entitled to share in the distribution of money levied out of the property of a debtor within the meaning of the "Execution Act," shall be entitled to be paid out of such money the wages or salary due to them by the execution debtor, not exceeding three months' wages or salary, in priority to the claims of the other creditors of the execution debtor, and be entitled to share pro rata with such other creditors as to the residue, if any, of their claims.

4. This Act shall apply to wages or salary whether the employment in respect of which the same shall be payable by the day, by the week, by the job or piece, or otherwise.

5. All persons in the employ of an absconding debtor at the time of a seizure by the Sheriff under the "Absconding Debtors Act" or within one month prior thereto, shall be entitled to be paid out of any moneys realized out of the property of such debtor by such Sheriff, the wages or salary due to them by the absconding debtor, not exceeding three months' wages or salary, in priority to the claims of the other creditors of the absconding debtor and shall be entitled to share pro rata with such other creditors as to the residue, if any, of their claims.

Cartridges Made of Mica.

The uses of mica are manifold. One of its latest developments is distinctly novel. An ingenious Australian has invented and introduced a mica cartridge for sporting and military guns. The filling inside the cartridge is visible, and a further advantage is that instead of the usual wad of felt a mica wad is used. This substance, being a non-conductor, unaffected by acids or fumes, acts as a lubricant. Where smokeless powders such as cordite or other nitro-glycerine compounds are used, mica has a distinct advantage over every other material used in cartridge manufacture. Being transparent any chemical change in the explosive can be at once detected. The peculiar property it has of withstanding intense heat is here utilized, the breech and barrel being kept constantly cool. The fouling of the rifle is also avoided; the wad actually cleaning the barrel.

B. Laurance's spectacles and eye glasses are always in stock, every sight far far and near, at the Revelstoke Pharmacy. Eyes examined free by Dr. McLean.

IN ITS INFANCY.

An Idea That Will Develop as the Years Jog Along.

The superiority of refrigeration obtained by mechanical process as compared with that obtained by using ice, appears in the facts that far more intense cold may be secured, that any desired degree of cold may be maintained with perfect uniformity, that a dryer atmosphere is secured in the refrigerating box or room, that the inconvenience of frequently replenishing ice bunkers and the slop and dirt attendant upon this work are avoided, that the annoying uncertainty of ice supply and variability in its price are avoided, that space in the rooms or boxes to be cooled is economized by substitution of a coil of pipe on walls or ceiling for the bulky ice bunker, and that this refrigeration can be employed for many purposes and places where ice cannot be used at all. Added to all this is the fact, of paramount importance, that where much refrigeration is required the cost of a machine and its operation is far less than the cost of ice sufficient to do an equal amount of work.

These advantages have proved so great in practice that every brewery, packing house, cold storage warehouse or other establishment requiring a large amount of refrigeration contains its individual refrigerating plant. Where consumption amounts to ten tons or more of ice daily, the question of economy will be almost invariably decided in favor of the machine; if less than ten tons be required, the cost of a machine and its operation may exceed the cost of ice sufficient to do a similar amount of work. In many such cases the superior quality of the refrigeration obtained, its cleanliness, reliability and convenience, or the requirement of more intense cold than ice will produce, secures the adoption of the machine. Therefore, small machines are frequently found on shipboard, in hotels and apartment houses and in many manufactories. But most of the ice gathered from rivers and lakes, or made in factories, is not consumed by the few who require large quantities, but by the many who, severally, require less than ten tons a day.

The effort to bring this superior refrigeration within the reach of small consumers has taken two directions—the production of small and inexpensive automatic machines, and a system of supply of the refrigerant from central stations. The first has failed hitherto, because the balance of constantly varying pressures, temperatures, strength of solution, etc., is too complex a matter for purely automatic regulation. Without constant skilled attention the machines work unsatisfactorily, while the relatively high cost of plant, fuel and cooling water in operating on a small scale defeats economy.—Cassier's Magazine.

Betrothed Before Birth.

During the Middle Ages it was customary for princes and princesses to become betrothed and married in childhood to insure succession or political advantages. But it was only in exceptional cases that unborn children were disposed of in the same way. Such a case, however, is on record. It occurred in 1358, when Prince Sigmund, son of the Emperor Charles IV., was born. On his baptismal day he was betrothed to Katherine, daughter of the Count of Nuremberg. On that occasion it was agreed that a daughter of Charles IV., with whom he expected to be blessed within five years should be married to a son of Count Frederick, of whom it was also hoped that he should so be provided. This is the youngest bridal couple on record. The hoped-for daughter came in 1373, the last year of the allotted period, and she in time became the wife of Johann III., the son of the Count, who also justified the expectations of his parents.

An Old Custom.

The ancient English custom of giving love tokens on the 20th of August died not many years ago. The custom was for "enamoured maydes and gentle women to give to their favorite swains as tokens of love, little handkerchiefs, three or four inches square, with a button or tassel at each corner and a small one in the centre. The finest of these favors were edged with narrow gold lace or twist, and then, being folded up in four cross folds, so that the middle might be seen, they were worn by the favored ones in their hats or on the breast. These favors were generally the handiwork of the faire mayde herself, and well she liked to work the most beautiful a bove she could for her favored suitor; but they became so much in vogue in Queen Elizabeth's time that they were sold ready-made in the shops. This, of course, destroyed the romance of the custom and hence its death.

Earnings of the House of Lords.

Whatever may be the shortcomings of the house of Lords as a political institution, it pays its way. In the last financial year it earned over £25,000 in fees on private bills and judicial proceedings. There is also an item of £126 13 shillings, being fees paid on the introduction of peers. Against this stands a charge of £31 10 shillings, fees due to garter king of arms. It is interesting to note that before the sum was paid over, income tax amounting to 18 shillings 11 pence was rigorously subtracted.—London Daily News.

Antidote for Prussic Acid Poisoning.

A Hungarian chemist, Dr. Johann Antal, already honorably known for his researches in toxicology, has reported to the Hungarian Society of physicians that he has discovered a new chemical compound, the nitrate of cobalt, which, he says, is a most efficacious antidote to poisoning by cyanide of potassium of prussic acid. He tried the antidote first *on animals and afterward on forty living* persons who had been accidentally poisoned with prussic acid. In not a single case did the antidote prove a failure.

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 variation afforded by the threefold system of jointing 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 handed 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 saw him 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 was not man to make his tools, and will not that involve 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 things 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 these 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 years, and loosing 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 in de 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.

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The stock forming part of this estate consisting of Gent's Furnishings, Canned Goods, Teas, Tinware, and some Rope, etc., is now being sold off

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TROUT LAKE CITY.

Trout Lake City is situated in the Lardeau District, and is the centre around which some of the

RICHEST MINES IN THE KOOTENAY

radiate. Large quantities of ore are now being shipped, and quite a rush is expected in the spring.

T. L. HAIG,

Real Estate Agent,

Revelstoke, B. C.

NOTICE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the registered office of the Revelstoke Printing and Publishing Company, Limited, is in the KOOTENAY MAIL building on the north side of Front Street in the town of Revelstoke, B.C. F. B. WELLS, Secretary.

Revelstoke, Feb. 5th, 1896.

Local and Personal Items.

Andy Craig arrived to-day from Trout Lake.

The river rink has afforded splendid skating the last few days.

Judge Cornwall will hold County Court here next Thursday.

Miss E. Bailey left Tuesday to visit friends at Enderby.

Miss O. Steen, who has been visiting Mrs. T. Lewis for some weeks, left for her home in Donald on Wednesday.

F. J. Deane, of the *Province*, arrived in town to-day. He is making a trip to the east in the interest of that publication.

Ves Howe, who is interested in the Big Bend, will move his family here from Seattle, where they are residing at present.

J. N. Trickey, C.P.R. agent at Donald, has been appointed agent at Kamloops. He will enter upon his duties there on Monday next.

Amongst the arrivals in town this week were Angus Beaton, Frank Vandall and Wm. Kirkup, who have been in southern Kootenay for some time.

The Trail Creek *News* has issued a special illustrated edition descriptive of Trail, its citizens and their enterprise. It is a very creditable production.

A. C. Buchanan, who has been teaching school at Vernon, has abandoned the teaching profession and will engage in trade at Nelson. He went down the river Thursday.

John O. Beattie, who has been C.P.R. agent at Kamloops for some years, has been appointed freight agent of the Toronto, Hamilton & Buffalo Ry., with headquarters at Hamilton, Ont.

B. Laurance's spectacles and eye glasses are always in stock, every sight for far and near, at the Revelstoke Pharmacy. Eyes examined free by Dr. McLean.

The members of the Chinese colony will begin their New Year's celebration on Tuesday. Don't leave your horse standing on the street without being tied during the continuance of the festivities.

The Fort Steele Mining Association of East Kootenay has passed the following resolution: That the sympathy of this meeting is with J. M. Kellie, M. P.P., in his efforts to have legislation passed this session to put a stop to claim jumping.

The adjourned annual general meeting of the Revelstoke Printing and Publishing Company, Limited, will be held on Monday next in the Fire Hall at 7:30 p.m., at which the election of Directors and other business will be proceeded with.

At the regular meeting of the I. O. G. T. lodge Tuesday evening the following officers were installed for the ensuing quarter: C. Wilson, C.T.; Miss H. Lee, V.T.; B. R. Campbell, Sec.; Miss E. M. Lewis, Asst. Sec.; C. B. Hume, Fin. Sec.; Miss A. Valentine, Treas.; A. Williamson, Chap.; R. Flemming, Marshal; Miss M. Behrens, Deputy Marshal; Miss L. Toombs, Guard; G. F. Grandy, Sentinel; E. O. Lewis, P.C.T.

The Divorce Law.

Acting for the defendant in the suit of Mrs. Matilda Levy against her husband, Joseph Levy, for judicial separation, J. P. Walls made application to Mr. Justice Drake at Victoria to strike out certain paragraphs in the petition, referring to events antecedent to the marriage. This was the application which came before the Chief Justice, but which His Lordship declined to hear on the ground that doubts having arisen as to the jurisdiction of the courts of the Province under the English divorce law, he preferred to wait till that question was determined before hearing any case under the divorce act. There has been a difference of opinion among the judges upon this question, some holding that the Provincial Supreme court had full power to act, while others have believed and contended that the English divorce act was inapplicable to local circumstances, and therefore the courts could not deal with questions of divorce. Mr. Justice Drake evidently holds that the courts of British Columbia have full jurisdiction, for he heard the application and made an order to strike out the paragraphs complained of. The subject having been broached in the Legislature in connection with the consolidation of the Statutes of the Province, it seems likely that something will be done to settle the question, which is a highly important one. Much general interest is taken in the matter, not, of course, because any great number of people are anxious to initiate divorce proceedings, but because it affects a most important power that has, hitherto, been exercised by the Supreme court of British Columbia.

CHARACTER IN FEET.

THEY ARE CERTAIN INDICATORS OF PERSONALTY.

At Least So Say Some Artists—How Fashion Distorts Nature—One of the Latest Fads Among the Wealthy People.

It is said by prominent artists and well known chiropodists that a truly perfect foot, from an artistic standpoint, is as rare nowadays as black birds in May. When we remember the famous beauties of olden times, whose feet were tenderly cared for and exquisitely shaped, this appears truly deplorable.

There was no question in those art-loving days of what kind of shoe to buy so that one's foot would show off to the best advantage. Helen of Troy, to whose beautiful and shapely foot sonnets innumerable were written, would have been horrified at the sight of the average modern foot, and would probably have been thrown into convulsions to hear the amount spent each week at the chiropodist's.

That our women of the better class are paying more attention to the care of the feet than formerly is an indisputable fact. A prominent society woman on her return from Paris several months ago exhibited to a room full of admiring friends the sweetest, daintiest little plaster cast of a foot, which, she declared, was a counterpart of her own, made by a sculptor of world wide fame. She was at that moment having a life size one carved in marble to be mounted on cerise velvet, and several small ones, one half the size, struck off in different shades of pale pink, blue and old rose.

It was quite a fad across the sea, so she said, to have your foot photographed as well as your hand or your face—that is, if you were lucky enough to possess one blessd with artistic curves and outlines.

The secret of this is that persons are beginning to find out what sculptors have known all along, namely, that a foot is as much indicative of personality and character as any other active member of the human form, and after being made aware of what delightful and characteristic charms a graceful, poetic foot indicates, the majority of fashionable women are supremely anxious to preserve the model by statuary or pictures.

Some excellent leading points to remember, if a woman wishes to read the lines in her own pretty feet, are that a full, well rounded heel denotes good breeding, and a straight one, of course, just the opposite. When the heel forms a kind of arch with the instep it is sure sign of blue blooded stock, and if it should extend behind to any marked degree you can make sure that great force of character goes with it.

The arched and high instep, as all students of art know, acts as an unfailing indication of a long line of ancestors, together with the refinement of temperament, innate delicacy of feeling and true gentleness of character which distinguish the bona fide lady from her common sister.

Nothing in the wide world will so rapidly remove all natural lines of beauty as an ill fitting shoe, and as friction is as fatal as pressure, too large a shoe does as much damage as if it were several sizes too small. Have the last used in building your footgear resemble the model as closely as possible and don't let the shoemakers persuade you that the vamp ought to come where it will undoubtedly raise ridges and furrows.

In caring for the feet, particular attention ought to be paid to paring the nails, which, according to Dr. Westervelt, should be cut perfectly straight, if anything a little shorter in the centre than on the sides.

The desire among our aristocrats to be spoken of as the owners of prettily shaped feet has been increasing for the last few years. When a woman realizes that she can wear an "A" shoe in width or a one and a half in length she then begins to think about the contour of her foot and immediately seeks to remove all blemishes that will disfigure it any way. She visits her particular chiropodist as religiously as her dentist or manicure, and from him learns the proper method of preserving the beauty and softness of skin. Following out her foot doctor's orders minutely and being particular about the make and fit of her shoe, there is no reason why the majority of women who have time and leisure should not be blessed with as artistic pedal extremities as those of Mrs. Secretary Belknap, whom they used to say invariably attracted a group of admirers, who gathered to gaze at her lovely and daintily clad feet whenever she stepped into her carriage.

Many of our well known New York society women can boast of extremely aristocratic feet. Mrs. E. Marcy Raymond, of Fifth avenue, has a noticeably pretty foot, the artistic contour of which is enhanced by the delicate soft grays and tan suedes she wears. Mrs. Edwin Gould's foot is thoroughly characteristic of the charming disposition of its pretty owner, and Mrs. Theodore Sutro's foot is always incased in shoes that not only match each costume, but fit to perfection at every point. The lines in Mrs. Sutro's foot indicate a purely artistic and musical nature, with high intellectual endowments.

Mrs. Frank Leslie can be happy in the knowledge that she is one of the few women whose boot number only reaches to the height of "one," and whose width does not exceed that of a child. The lines in this foot, as read by an expert, denote great power, indicated by the noticeable size of the big toe, unusual eccentricability, a keen intellect, charm of manner, versatility and high breeding.

One of the first things you notice about the Marquise de Lanza is her extremely pretty foot. It is exquisite in outline, and Mme. Lanza has made it as a subject in some of her writings.

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NOTICE TO TAX PAYERS.

REVELSTOKE DIVISION OF WEST KOOTENAY DISTRICT.

NOTICE is hereby given, in accordance with the Statutes, that Provincial Revenue Tax and all taxes levied under the Assessment Act are now due for the year 1896. All of the above named taxes collectible within the Revelstoke Division of the District of West Kootenay are now payable at my office.

Assessed taxes are collectible at the following rates, viz:—

If paid on or before June 30th, 1896:—
Provincial Revenue, $3 per capita.
One-half of one per cent. on real property.
Two per cent. on wild land.
One-third of one per cent. on personal property.
One-half of one per cent. on income.

If paid after June 30th, 1896:—
Two-thirds of one per cent. on real property.
Two and one-half per cent. on wild land.
One-half of one per cent. on personal property.
Three-fourths of one per cent. on income.

J. D. GRAHAM,
Assessor and Collector.
January 4th, 1896. 39-5t

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a sitting of the County Court will be holden at Revelstoke, B.C., on Wednesday, the 19th day of February, A.D. 1896, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon.

JOS. D. GRAHAM,
Registrar County Court.
Revelstoke, Jan. 13th, 1895. 39-4t

Private Bill Notice.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application will be made to the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia at its next session for an act to incorporate a company for the purpose of constructing, operating and working deep tunnels, drifts, or shafts for the purpose of exploring for, discovering, working, getting, acquiring and recovering minerals situate in blind veins, ledges or lodes in the Districts of East and west Kootenay, Yale and Cariboo, in the Province of British Columbia, and for entering upon and acquiring lands for such purposes, and for collecting tolls for the use of such tunnels or workings by any other persons or companies engaged in mining and for acquiring such water powers or privileges as may be necessary or convenient therefor, together with such other powers or privileges, rights or incidents, as may be necessary for, or incidental or conducive to the attainment of the foregoing objects, or any of them.

A. E. HUMPHREYS,
37-6t. Applicant.

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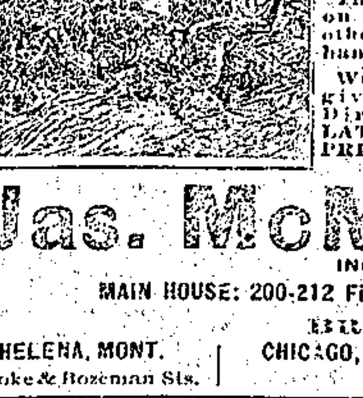
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