BRITISH COLUMBIA.

NORTH SALT SPRING ISLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

North Salt Spring, Dec. 23.—The semi-annual examination of the North Vesuvius public school was held last week, the results attained being very satisfactory, and all expressing themselves well pleased with the progress which the children are evidently making. There are at present 25 children enrolled at this school, and the attendance is very good, the average for December being 22.26. Among those present at the examination were: Mr. and Mrs. Booth, Mr. and Mrs. Robertson, Mrs. Rosman, Mrs. Cotsford, Mrs. Whims, Mrs. Sampson, Mrs. McFadden and Mr. E. Lakin. On the evening of Friday the 20th instant a Christmas tree was held in the school house, and the sight of the numerous presents which were hung thereon caused many a happy smile to pass over the faces of the little ones. The school house was very prettily decorated during the day, and with a number of Chinese lanterns which were lighted and hung about, the place presented quite a cheerful aspect. The Rev. Mr. Wilson took the chair, and after delivering a very interesting address to those present, the programme of songs, recitations, dialogues, etc., was commenced. A large number of the children took part in the programme and acquitted themselves in a very creditable manner. The programme consisted of the following: Recitation, Mary E. Rule; recitation, Martha C. Rule; song, six girls of the school; recitation, George Booth; recitation, Mary McFadden; song, Rose, Bertha and Martha Whims; recitation, Lily Sampson; recitation, Charles Luckey; recitation, James Richards; song, Lily and May Sampson and Mary McFadden; recitation, Bertha Whims; recitation, Wilkie Richards; recitation, May Richards; song, "Good Night," by the school; song, Mr. Irwin; reading, Mr. Robertson; song, Mr. and Mrs. McFadden and Mrs. Cotsford; reading, Mr. Booth; song, Mrs. McFadden and Mrs. Cotsford; reading, Mrs. Mahaffey; dialogue, "A Scene in a Railway Station;" reading, Miss Furness; recitation, Mr. Wharnock; song, Mr. G. Bittancourt; recitation, Mr. E. Rosman; song, Mr. Furness; recitation, Mr. J. Shaw; dialogue, "The Gridiron."

After the programme was ended, the Christmas tree was lighted, and Santa Claus then made his appearance, and presented the children with the pretty presents which had been hung on the tree for them.

The teacher, Miss Furness, was presented with a very handsome writing desk. Refreshments were then served from the well-filled baskets supplied by the ladies, after which the seats were removed and dancing commenced, being kept up until about 6 o'clock the following morning. ALPHA.

MAYNE ISLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

On Friday, December 20th, Mr. Jas. W. Sinclair, teacher of Mayne Island school, held his annual entertainment in the school house. The hall had been very prettily decorated for the occasion, and no trouble was spared to give all visitors a gracious and hearty welcome. The programme prepared by Mr. Sinclair was well rendered throughout and the teacher is deserving of the highest praise for the manner in which the children rendered it. Miss Carrie Cullison and the Misses Sinclair, Master Fritsy Heck are deserving of special mention for the fearless manner in which they went through their different parts. A Christmas tree had been provided loaded down with useful and pretty presents and Mr. Clapham acted the part of the ever welcome Sana Claus.

Programme.—Chrismas hymn, "Oh come, all ye faithful;" song, "School is Lu (school;" My First Recitation, Robt Trachsler; dialogue, "Preparing for a Picnic," four boys and four girls; song, "My Nellie's Blue Eyes," school; recitation, "A Little Boy's Speech," Fritsy Heck; exercise song, "Hold Right Hand up," seven little girls; dialogue, "Recess Speech," five boys and five girls; song, Miss Mary Cullison; recitation, "Guess What's in my Pocket," Gertie Yack; Shaking of Hand song, school; recitation, "What I Know About Cows," Anchew Georgeson; song, "I Don't Want to Play in your Yard," Miss Gertie Sinclair and Miss Carrie Cullison; dialogue, "The Rehearsal," three boys and four girls; song, "Sing, Sing, Sing," seven little girls; recitation, "How to Cure a Cough," Carrie Cullison; instrumental music, Mr. C. D. Worgs; dialogue, "The Bet," Andrew Georgeson and S. Robson; "song, "Little Dash," school; recitation, Mr. Dalton Deason; song, "Gather Around the Christmas Traee," school.

AINSWORTH.

Nelson Tribune.

The last contract of 200 feet on the Highland is nearly completed and the tunnel is close unto 600 feet in length. The last 50 feet has been run through a fine chute of galena ore, quite solid in places.

From Nov. 11th to Dec. 10th, one month, a profit of about $100 to the man employed was made on the No. 1. Fifty-six tons were sent to the smelter and 150 tons of concentrating ore extracted.

The Mile Point lessees have begun shipping to the Pilot Bay smelter. Their fine chute of ore still holds its own and it is the general belief they have a bonanza.

All the machinery, comprising Pelton wheel, compressor, and power drills, for the Canadian Pacific company at Woodbury creek, has arrived.

The last snow covers the ground clear down to the lake shore so that laden ore sleds can go all the way without transferring. The output of the Skyline will probably be increased materially from now on.

J. E. Boss and Jack Robertson sampled several mines of the camp during their recent visit, and have gone to Spokane, expecting to return after the holidays. It is said Mr. Boss and associates propose to build a smelter next year which will treat and save the contents of all kinds of ores.

For a couple of years rock has been found in this camp which assayed more or less in gold. Some samples go over $22 per ton. A quantity sent east for analysis was pronounced sulphide of said to be some large veins of it here manganese, or mangan blende. There are said to be some large veins of it here that have been passed over and considered worthless. As manganese is as valuable for fluxing purposes in a smelting furnace as iron, should this material prove to be manganese and carry a percentage of the noble metals, it would be quite a feature for the camp.

The three-inch pipe siphon which Clark and Van Hook rigged up to drain Loon Lake last year has been working continuously since the 16th of January last, and in that time has lowered the lake about 20 feet. This body of water is about half a mile in length by 300 feet in width. There is but a few feet of water remaining in the lake and by spring it should be practically dry. The boys are now sinking on the vein nearest the lake and are down over 20 feet without the water being troublesome. Three leads run through the Lady of the Lake ground, each one showing up well on the surface. One shipment netted $76.50 per ton.

ROSSLAND.

(Rossland Miner.)

The following notice is of great significance: "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 operating a railroad from a point at or near the mouth of Trail creek, on the Columbia river, extending through or near the towns of Rossland and Midway, to a point on the Okanagan lake at or near the town of Penticton, in the districts of West Kootenay and Osoyoos, British Columbia, with power to construct, equip, maintain and operate branch lines therefrom to all mines lying in the vicinity thereof; and also to construct, equip, maintain and operate telegraph and telephone lines; and to build wharves and docks in connection therewith; together with the powers of acquiring lands, privileges, bonuses or other aids from any government, municipal corporation or other persons or bodies, and to make traffic or other arrangements with railway, steamboat or other companies; and for all other usual, necessary or incidental rights, powers and privileges in that behalf. F. E. Ward." Mr. Ward in proposing to make application for this charter represents, Mr. Heinze, who is building the smelter at Trail. This charter is to include the one for the tramway or narrow guage railroad from the mines about Rossland to the Trail smelter works, or rather it is to take its place. The details of Mr. Heinze's enterprise have not been perfected further than as they apply to the territory between Rossland and Trail. The line through this territory is already under construction and will probably be completed within sixty days. It is hardly probable that anything will be done towards the proposed extension through the Boundary creek country before spring. It is evidently Mr. Heinze's ultimate purpose to place himself in a position to secure some of the Boundary creek ores for his Trail smelter. How he expects to reach Okanagan lake, which is about 150 miles west of Rossland, is not yet quite clear.

The new compressor of the Centre Star was put in motion this week and is now in perfect running order, supplying power to three Ingersoll-Sargeant drills with reserve for four more. The greatest strength of the Centre Star consists in the extent of its ore bodies. The 500 feet of tunnel already run extend almost continuously through ore. This ore is from 18 to 20 feet wide and is in chutes of varying extent and richness. One chute is 147 feet long—one of the greatest ore bodies yet found in this wonderful camp. The grade of the Centre Star ore runs all the way from $12 to $35 in gold per ton. It will probably average $20.

GALIANO ISLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

Galiano, Dec. 23.—On Thursday, 19th inst, the Galiaono school examinations were held in the school house, by the teacher, Miss E. Crockford, in the presence of a large number of parents and friends. The children acquitted themselves most creditably and thereby showed the remarkable progress they have made under their present teacher. No pains had been spared decorating the school house to make it look as attractive as possible, hot-house plants having been procured in Victoria and placed about the room at different intervals among the evergreens. After tea had been served, a programme, was well rendered by the scholars. In a song by three little girls little Miss Winstanley is deserving of comment on the fearless way she sang and for the expression she put in the music.

Programme:—Song of Welcome, school children; recitation, "The Figures," nine little girls; song, "Up, Up in the Sky," three little girls; song, "The Light at Home,' school children; recitation. "Trades,' six boys; recitation, "Twins," G. Rudd, chorus, "Sunbeams," school; recitation, "The Smack in School," Bessie Rudd; chorus, "The Soldier's Song," school children; dialogue, three boys and five girls; Chorus, "Gather Around the Christmas Tree, school children;

At the close of the programme Mr. J. W. Rudd, the chairman, congratulated Miss Crockford upon the way the children had acquitted themselves that evening. Trustees Winstanley and Wright having been called on to speak the former in the course of his speech stated that the school never had an attendance of twenty-three children, with an average daily atendance of twenty-two and he believed that thirty would be enrolled on the school register next term. Mr. James W. Sinclair, teacher of Mayne Island school, adressed the children with a few encouraging remarks, pointing out the absolute necessity for law and order, especially in a school. A Christmas tree had been provided with both useful and pretty presents for the children, and the proceedings closed with three hearty cheers for the teacher.

KASLO.

Nelson Tribune.

The mineral claims Lardo and Duncan, on the headwaters of Hall Creek, a tributary of Duncan river, are said to have been bonded to Spokane parties for a good round sum by J. C. Wagner, J. A. Kennedy, and John McCartney. A cash payment bound the bargain.

At a mortgage sale of city realty on Tuesday last, the lot formerly occupied by the Dardanelles hotel, on the north side of Front street, in the burnt district, brought $400, and the two lots on the south side of the same street, with the building, brought $1000. O. T. Stone was the purchaser.

The owners of the Reco and Goodenough mines have amicably settled their differences in a manner which seems to be satisfactory to both parties. The boundary lines will be adjusted so as to conform to the more recent and corrected surveys.

The snow plows and flangers placed on the locomotives of the Kaslo & Slocan railway have been doing effective work during the week and trains have been running on time, notwithstanding the frequent snow storms in the hills. A new snow plow is daily expected from St. Paul.

NEW DENVER

The Ledge.

The Kalispell is reported sold for $3000 cash to Deadwood men.

H. P. Heacock, of Helena, Montana, is in British Columbia looking for investments for Montana capital. He was in the Slocan last week and took away with him cash and bonding propositions on the Tamarac, Arlington and Currie. He will return at a later date.

The force on the Currie, with the exception of one or two men, was discharged on Saturday. The property has developed into a huge concentrating proposition, and will require plenty of capital to work it profitably.

NELSON.

Nelson Miner

The Pilot Bay smelter, which had been stopped owing to a shortage of ore, has been blown in again.

Charles L. Arnold came in on Thursday from his claim on the Salmon. He and two men have been opening up the ledge, which has a most promising appearance and affords good looking samples of copper pyrites.

There is some difficulty in getting the Hall Mines tramway into good running order. First of all some of the pulleys were found to be defective owing to bad work on the part of the foundry which supplied them to the contractors. The recent cold snap has interfered with the adjustment of the tension, a most delicate matter. The result has been the capsizing of two of the towers. In ordinary weather this could be remedied in a few hours, but the same work has to be performed now in about four feet of snow which makes a very considerable difference. The tramway has shown that it will work satisfactorily, and as soon as these mechanical effects can be put straight it will be running again. Meanwhile the works at the smelter are all but complete and will be quite ready by the proposed date, 1st January.

Nelson Tribune.

Over $200,000 a month is paid out for wages in the several towns and mining camps in Southern Kootenay. In 1896 that amount will be doubled.

The Lillooet, Fraser & Cariboo Gold Fields, Limited employs sixty men in all in the province, twenty of whom are doing development work on three claims in West Kootenay. The company has a 12 month option and is prospecting five claims near Rossland, in Trail Creek district.

This week the following Slocan mines shipped ore to the smelter at Pilot Bay: Good Enough, 15 tons; American Boy, 17tons; and the Dardanelles, 45 tons.

A traffic arrangement has been made between the Great Northern railway and the Spokane & Northern and Nelson & Fort Sheppard railways, which, if for any extended time, will practically put an end to steamboat navigation on what is locally known as the Bonner's Ferry route. Heretofore steamboats from Kaslo and Nelson made close connections at Bonner's Ferry with trains on the Great Northern, and considerable traffic were handled. But it is not practicable, at least with the steamboats now in use, to navigate the Kootenay river during winter months, and the business of necessity must be handled over the Spokane & Northern and Nelson & Fort Sheppard railways, connection being made at Nelson or Five Mile Point with steamboats for points on Kootenay lake. It is not unlikely that the agreement is for a term of years, as it is intimated that passenger trains will be run daily between Spokane and Nelson in the spring. Under this arrangement, the steamboats now on Kootenay lake can handle the traffic.

CURIOUS HABITS OF LIZARDS.

One Species Leave Their Tails Behind When Danger Threatens.

The lizard family has many queer and remarkable habits, but none of these antics will compare with that known to the naturalist as "shooting the tail." All species of lizards are born cowards, but the effects of fear are not the same among the different members of the family. As an illustration I will say that there is one variety of the lizard family (the so-called horned-toad), which, when excited, spurts a fine stream of blood from a duct situated just above the eye. Another variety, an inhabitant of Australia (naturally bluish-black) turns suddenly white and appears to be perfectly paralyzed the moment it finds itself confronted by a real or imaginary danger. The most curious habit of all, however, and one which is possessed by a large percent of the entire lizard family, is that of voluntarily amputating the tail if suddenly surprised by one of its many enemies. The lizard's habit of ridding itself of the caudal appendage under such circumstances reminds me that the lobster always drops or sheds its claws in the time of thunderstorms. In fact, anything that excites or irritates the lobster will cause a similar exhibition of this peculiar power. The lizard which amputates or purposely drops the tail when scared, does not become paralyzed, like his Australian brother, but hurries away as fast as the four legs will carry the tailless body. The amputated tail is left to the mercy of the enemy. It lies on the ground floundering like a fish. This attracts the attention of the pursuer, which makes a meal of the amputated member, while the body is escaping to a place of safety.—St. Louis Republic.

Death Seemed Preferable to the Agonizing Pain.

Mrs. Roadhouse, of Williscroft P.O. Ont., writes: "I have used Dr. Agnew's cure for the heart since last fall, having taken in all nine bottles, and I now feel entirely like another woman. I am 54 years old, and have been troubled with heart disease for more than twenty years; sometimes for five hours at a time suffering such agony that death seemed preferable to the pain. The cold sweat would stand out in great beads upon my face. The Heart Cure gave me relief from almost the first dose and proved a great blessing.

"You are liberty to publish this letter if you think by doing so any good may be accomplished." Sold by Dean & Hiscocks and Hall & Co.

Manchester—I think Snaggs has concluded that it is about time some of his daughters were getting married.

Birmingham—Did he tell you so himself?

Manchester—No; but he has given away his two dogs.

—The best value for your money at Shore's Hardware.

THE OTHER BAD CHILD

Spain's Second Disobedient Dependency, Porto Rica, Joins the Cuban Junta.

Cuba's Success Means Her Triumph, and Cuba Also Appreciates the Alliance.

New York, Dec. 26.—A local paper says: Members of the Porto Rican revolutionary party, who have organized a junta to work in conjunction with the Cuban junta, are purchasing arms and fitting out an expedition. The organization of the party and junta has met with the approval of Porto Ricans in this city and elsewhere who realize that a decisive blow can be struck for liberty, now that Spain's energy is devoted to quelling the insurrection in Cuba.

It was positively learned last night that Senor Estrada Palma, on behalf of the Cuban junta, has entered into a compact with Dr. J. Julian Henna, president of the Porto Rican revolutionary party, whereby both parties will co-operate in promoting the cause of Cuba and Porto Rica. President Henna acknowledged that he had been in consultation with President Palma, and that steps will at once be taken to assist the people of Porto Rica, who are anxiously awaiting the signal to arise.

A meeting of the members of both the Cuban and Porto Rican juntas will be held at the Cuban headquarters, when a plan of campaign suitable to the Porto Ricans will be decided upon.

The Cuban junta recognizes that it has secured powerful allies in the war with Spain. With the development of an insurrection in Porto Rica the efforts of the Spanish to put down the insurrection in Cuba will necessarily be weakened, and troops will be sent from the Island of Cuba to Porto Rica.

For mouths past the revolutionary Porto Ricans in this city have been corresponding with the revolutionary spirits in the island, and President Henna said to-day that thirty towns had been heard from whose inhabitants are all ready to revolt when the proper time comes. He said:

"We addressed communications also to our general delegate, Dr. Ramon Betances, who is also agent for the Cubans in Paris, and to other prominent Porto Ricans and Cubans abroad. From them we received great encouragement and proffers of assistance. They forwarded me the necessary documents of indorsements.

"I realize that a few men have no right to force a revolution, even in the cause of liberty, but our people are waiting only for leaders, and revolution is what the people want. Our plans are maturing.

Cuba's success means Porto Rica's triumph. We will aid Cuba and she will aid us. When we are prepared for battle our people will arise, armed with guns and ammunition sent from this and other countries."

VENEZUELAN COMMISSION.

President Cleveland is Considering the Personnel of the Arbitrators.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 26.—President Cleveland is just now devoting a large share of his time to the consideration of the personnel of the Venezuelan boundary commission to the exclusion of practically all other public matters, including that of another bond issue, which latter he regards as, temporarily at least, in the hands of congress.

In making selections for the boundary commission, the President, it is said, will be guided by only one consideration, namely that the members shall be men of international reputation, of high character and intellectual attainments. He will use greater care in the selections, for the reason that it is said the work of the commission will be largely of an ex parte nature and hence the character of the commission must be such as to command for their conclusions the full confidence and respect of all nations.

It is thought that the President is especially anxious that Chief Justice Fuller of the United States supreme court, should head the commission, but there are said to be reasons why it should not be expedient for the chief justice to relinquish, even for a short time, his place as presiding officer of the court. The matter, however, it is believed, has not been definitely settled and Mr. Fuller may yet be called upon to form one of the commission. Ex-Minister E. J. Phelps, it is believed, has already been offered a place on the commission and if he has not accepted, it is thought he hardly will do so. The name of ex-Secretary Robert Lincoln is suggested, and it is believed the president now has it under consideration. The fact that Mr. Justice Harlan, of the United States supreme court, served on the Behring Sea commission, has naturally brought forward his name in connection with the Venezuelan commission, but there are good reasons to believe his name has been passed over. The name of ex-Senator George F. Edmunds, of Vermont, has been considered by the President, but whether he would accept it is by no means certain, nor can it be stated positively that the President is fully satisfied as to the expediency of his appointment. Many other names have been suggested and are now under consideration.

Later—New York, Dec. 26.—A World special dispatch from Washington this morning says: President Cleveland has tendered places on the Venezuelan high commission to Edward J. Phelps, of Vermont, ex-Minister to England, and Robert Lincoln, of Illinois, ex-minister to England. Their acceptances have not been received. The third place will not be filled until Mr. Phelps or Mr. Lincoln accept.

INCREASE DUTIES ON IMPORTS.

Chicago Business Men Also Favor a Gold Bond Issue.

Chicago, Dec. 26.—The Times-Herald this morning says:

Chicago business men are almost unanimously of the opinion that the only way to pay the debts of the nation is to increase the duties on imports. They were pleased at the prompt action of congress in responding to the appeal of the President to relieve the treasury by another issue of gold bonds, because they felt the issue was necessary to meet the present exigencies. But it was considered this ought to be the final issue of bonds, as higher import duties would provide the government with sufficient funds in the future, and the gold reserve would remain intact.

Secretary Carlisle's statement that the present tariff is sufficient to support the government is disputed by one on the ground that the administration is compelled to keep the gold reserve intact by issue after issue of bonds. Everywhere it is recognized that more revenue is needed to carry on the business of the nation without appealing to foreigners to buy government bonds. Increase of internal imports is not favored, though some would like to see a stamp tax and others a tax on beer. The needed revenue should come from imports, particularly luxuries, so that the burden would be equally distributed. The United States exports food products, while most of the imports might be classed as luxuries.

In the interviews obtained by the Times-Herald yesterday, several merchants declared that they would not favor a general advance in taxes on imports, but would rather have the duties limited to tea, coffee, sugar, imported cigars and other luxuries. Only a few Democrats hold that free trade is best for the country. S. P. McConnell, president of the Iroquois club, though he considers a high tariff to be vicious, holds that Mr. Cleveland's policy of gold monometallism will compel the government to increase the duties on imports in order to pay the debts of the nation. While another issue of gold bonds is advocated by Chicago men, the bankers generally believe the present embarrassment only temporary.

A TRICK ON VANDERBILT.

How Mr. Brice Managed to Sell the Nickle Plate Railway.

The present Senator Brice's greatest play was building the Nickle Plate. He put in every dollar he could get, and from any source. There came a time, too, when to save himself from utter ruin, if not something worse, he had to sell. He went to Vanderbilt, whose road the Nickle Plate paralleled. Vanderbilt wouldn't buy the Nickle Plate. He said he could afford to wait the first mortgage foreclosure and buy it from a sheriff.

"If you don't buy it, Jay Gould will," said Brice.

"Oh, no he won't," said Vanderbilt.

Brice then went to Gould. He knew that he didn't want the Nickle Plate, but he had a beautiful scheme to propose. He knew Vanderbilt would buy the road before he would allow Gould to get in. Here came Brice's strategy. He told Gould that if he would sit silent and not contradict, neither affirm nor deny, any newspaper articles to the effect that he was going to buy the Nickle Plate, and after this clam-like silence had continued for a week, if he would then ride slowly over the Nickle Plate in an observation car, Vanderbilt would buy the road, and he would give Gould $500,000.

Gould didn't care for the $500,000, but he was a jocose speculator and it struck him that the whole thing would be a majestic joke on Vanderbilt. The papers said that Gould was going to buy the Nickle Plate. Gould, when questioned, looked wise. At the end of a week he meandered, snail-life over the Nickle Plate in the rear end of an observation car, and had all the air of a man who was looking at a piece of property. Stories were wired about Gould's trip from every water tank and way station along the line, and before Gould had reached Chicago, Vanderbilt, in a fit of hysterics, wired Brice that he would take the Nickle Plate. Vanderbilt took the Nickle Plate and Brice was saved.

NO FALSE DELUGE.

Living Picture Models Were Only for a Slight Shower.

There was a dress rehearsal of Kilanyi's "Glyptorama" at Koster & Bial's yesterday afternoon.

But yesterday's private exhibition was remarkable in other ways than for artistic merit. The posing was all that could be desired. So was the scenery. So was the manipulation of lights and drapery, but they did not fit. It was the first time they had been tried together. The cues were all wrong, and the result superbly funny, Michael Angelo's studio, with an excellent reproduction of the statue of Moses, was still in the foreground when the scene had raced on to represent the steps of Pharoah's palace when the great lawgiver was being discovered in the bullrushes by the potentate's daughter.

And when, with gorgeous dress and posing, the next foreground showed him being found as an infant, the background shower a watery desert, with the pyramids in the distance, which made everybody present snicker with recollections of "The Wizard of the Nile."

It was, however, when the big and beautiful scene came on that Johnnie came to the fore. This person had charge of the gauze curtain which helps to give the illusion of the smoke of the field of carnage. Johnnie did his best, but before he got the gauze scene across, the background had faded into an Alpine scene, and the posers were punching holes in the paper rocks in which to get a firm foothold, and one wounded man was explaining to Mr. Bial why he happened to be on the wrong side of the picture.

'I couldn't get me duds on in time, so I tho't I'd drop down here, see? And Mr. Bial didn't attempt to answer but rang up the next.

John was in evidence again when the last two pictures appeared. In both a shapely young woman in skin fitting tights, lies about in odd attitudes on queer rocks, backed by a stormy sea. John had got his gear into working order by this time, and he worked it.

"Stop that gauze!" shouted the stage manager.

"I can't," came the reply from the clouds. "I've got to work the thing fast or the blamed thing won't go."

The real amusement came during the exposure of the last picture. It is called. "The Deluge." Youthful John had charge of a device by which a realistic downpour of water appears inside the frame and in front of the figures. All these figures, ten in number, were clad in modesty and skin tights. One young woman with auburn hair and a figure of a Juno had just objected to the attitude she had been compelled to assume. She said the points of the rock made it impossible for her to sit still, and some of the paint on another rock came off on her hand.

Then John, Jr., pulled the string. He had been instructed to start the flow gently. He made it a real deluge. He just pulled for all he was worth and down came a shower of cold water all over the figures. The auburn girl howled 'Ouch!" and landed on the stage. A little blonde on the left jumped up and wrapped a green skirt on which she had been reclining about her otherwise unincumbered form. There were cries of feminine anguish for a second, a multitudinous flash of pink fleshings and an empty frame, except for the background.

By the time John had been called names in seven different languages he concluded to cut off the shower.—New York Advertiser.

AN OBSCURE LITTERATEUR.

The Income Made by a Writer of "Blood- and Thunder" Stories.

The Philadelphia Press says: It seems odd that a man could make $12,000 a year in New York by writing fiction, die, and remain as utterly unknown as if he never existed. Arthur Elder Nelson was such a man. He did not get even a three-line obituary in any newspaper. His dealings were mostly with two huge New York concerns devoted exclusively to the manufacture of dime and half-dime novels, and his specialty was the fiction that deals with boy pirates, boy highwaymen, boy robbers, and other equally interesting juveniles. He started six years ago, when he was 25. Educated and refined (he was an Oxford man), he came to America shortly after attaining his majority. His first effort in the line of blood-and-thunder narrative was made during his leisure as a drug clerk. The success of his production encouraged him to persevere, and for the past two years he has worked steadily. His publishers say that his own share of the profits of his pen last year was $12,000, and he lived pretty well up to his income. He spoke four languages, and his wide reading and ripe scholarship enabled him to wander at will in the highways of literature, plundering wherever he saw an opportunity. Thus his works were, as a rule, mere plagiarisms, brought down to the level of his readers. He never aspired to anything higher. Certainly if he had wished to be a serious writer his income could never have exceeded, say, $3500 a year, even had he attained great vogue. As it was he kept a horse and carriage, and enjoyed life like a syabite, being unmarried and uncontrolled. And not even his thousands of admirers scattered through the school rooms, district telegraph offices, and street corners of the United States had any idea of his personality.

But it is to be hoped that no one will try to follow his example, for it would be far better to live in poverty than to grow rich writing books that are harmful to the people who read them.

VICTORIA MARKETS.

Retail Quotations for Farmers' Produce Carefully Corrected.

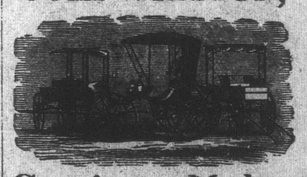
The rush of the holiday trade is now over, and retail houses are settling down to the ordinary routine business. The holiday business has been much brisker than that of the same season last year. The markets are steady, and show very little change in prices. Island eggs are again on the market in large quantities, consequently the price has been reduced, and they are now selling for 40 cents per dozen.

Retail prices are:

Ogilvie's Hungarian Flour	$5 25 to 5 50
Lake of the Woods Flour	$5 to 5 25
Rainier	$4 75
Superb	$4 25
Plansifter	$4 75
Snow Flake	$4 20
Olympic	$4 00
X X X	$4 00
Wheat, per ton	$25.00 to $30.00
Oats per ton	25 00 to 27 50
Barley, per ton	28 00 to 30 00
Midlings, per ton	20 00 to 25 00
Bran, per ton	20 00 to 25 00
Ground Feed, per ton	25 00 to 27 00
Corn, whole	45 00
" cracked	50 00
Cornmeal, per 100 lbs.	45 to 50
Oatmeal, per 10 lbs.	35 to 40
Rolled Oats, per lb.	5 to 6
Potatoes, local	3-4
Cabbage	02
Hay, baled, per ton	$8 to $12
Straw, per bale	1 00
Green Peppers, cured, per doz.	25
Onions, per lb.	5
Spinach, per lb.	5 to 6
Lemons (California)	35 to 40
Bananas	20 to 25
Apples, Island	4
Apples, Oregon, per box	$1 50 to 1 75
Pears	03
Pine Apples	25 to 50
Cranberries, Cape Cod, per gallon	1 00
Quinces	03
Fish—Salmon, per lb.	10
Smoked Bloaters, per lb.	10
Kippered Herring, per lb.	12 1-2
Eggs, Island, per doz	40
Eggs, Manitoba	30
Butter, Creamery, per lb.	30
Butter, Delta Creamery, per lb.	35
Cheese, Chilliwack	15
Hams, American, per lb.	15 to 18
Hams, Canadian, per lb.	15 to 16
Hams, Boneless, per lb.	20
Bacon, American, per lb.	15 to 18
Bacon, Rolled, per lb.	12 to 16
Bacon, Long clear, per lb.	12
Bacon Canadian	16 to 18
Shoulders	14
Lard	15 to 20
Sides, per lb.	7 to 7 1-2
Meats—Beef, per lb.	7 to 12 1-2
Veal	10 to 15
Mutton, whole	7 to 7 1-2
Spring Lamb, per lb.	10 to 12 1-2
Pork, fresh, per lb.	10 to 12 1-2
Pork, sides, per lb.	8 to 8 1-2
Chickens, per pair	1 00 to 1 50
Turkeys, per lb.	16 to 20

A shoal of porpoises, mistaken in the moonlight for a torpedo catcher, drew a brisk cannonade the other night from one of the Dardenelles forts, causing much alarm in the neighborhood.

PATENTS
CAVEATS, TRADE MARKS, COPYRIGHTS.
CAN I OBTAIN A PATENT? For a prompt answer and an honest opinion, write to MUNN & CO., who have had nearly fifty years' experience in the patent business. Communications strictly confidential. A Handbook of Information concerning Patents and how to obtain them sent free. Also a catalogue of mechanical and scientific books sent free.
Patents taken through Munn & Co. receive special notice in the Scientific American, and thus are brought widely before the public without cost to the inventor. This splendid paper, issued weekly, elegantly illustrated, has by far the largest circulation of any scientific work in the world. $3 a year. Sample copies sent free.
Building Edition, monthly, $2.50 a year. Single copies, 25 cents. Every number contains beautiful plates, in colors, and photographs of new houses, with plans, enabling builders to show the latest designs and secure contracts. Address
MUNN & CO., NEW YORK, 361 BROADWAY.

JOHN MESTON,

Carriage Maker
BLACKSMITH, ETC.
Broad Street, Between Johnson and Pandora Streets.