

SHORT LOCALS.

Cleanings of City and Provincial News
(From Tuesday's Daily.)

The Royal Arthur is again in Esquimalt harbor, having arrived back from Vancouver last night.

Mrs. J. M. Ellis lectured last night in Institute hall on Phenology. The subject to-night will be Adaptation in Business.

Purser Mackintosh of the steamer Joan has just learned of the death of his father at Woodstock, N.B., at the great age of 82.

At the weekly meeting of the Guild of St. Saviour's church last night an interesting paper on British Columbia was read by a lady member.

The resignation of Rev. J. E. Coombes, the pastor of Calvary Baptist church, will take place at the end of the year. The congregation is looking around for a new pastor.

Charlie Sing was arrested by Special Constable Carroll yesterday on the Indian reserve. The Chinaman had whiskey in his possession. He was arraigned in the police court last Wednesday. The case was continued till Wednesday.

The Young People's Association of Central Presbyterian church discussed Imperial Federation at last night's meeting. Messrs. Hodges and Hewartson, J. E. Coombes, and Messrs. Davidson and Walkley in the negative. Next meeting January 8th.

Allan Graham, president of the B. C. Pioneer Society, this morning handed the secretary of the Pioneer Society a check for \$25, the pioneers' donation for the poor of the city. The Benevolent society is badly in need of funds, their bank account having been taxed to the utmost.

W. B. Townsend is back from the east and has signed as hunter on the schooner Libbie with Captain Fred. Hackett. Mr. Townsend had engaged to bring the new schooner Florence M. Smith around the cape for Captain Kelly, but at the last minute they failed to reach satisfactory terms. He says the schooner is a very fine one, about the size and build of the Arietas.

Mr. Justice Grease this morning gave judgment on a motion by the defendant in Fletcher vs. McGilvray, to dissolve an injunction granted in June last restraining the defendant or his agents from disposing of any portion of block 50, being part of the townsite of New Denver, up to the date of the action. His lordship dismissed the application and the injunction, consequently stands until the action is tried.

The Young Men's Institute elected officers last night. President, P. J. Soli; First Vice-President, M. Steele; second Vice-President, H. J. O'Leary; Corresponding Secretary, J. McKenna; Recording Secretary, Thomas Deasy; Financial Secretary, Rev. J. A. Van Nevel; Treasurer, D. McDougall; Marshal, J. Swain; Inner Guard, J. Delahanty; Outer Guard, J. McDonald; Executive Committee, W. H. Harris, J. Leonard, J. Scanlan, M. Dowdall, M. Rybanick. The installation of officers will take place on the 4th of January. D. McDougall, institute deputy, will install the officers.

The sheriff of Tacoma has offered a reward of \$1,000 for the arrest of H. H. Hart, alias Louis L. Kann, alias Louis Doscher, L. L. Cann, I. Hershman, S. Oppenheimer, absconding banker of Buckley, Washington. He is a German Jew, but denies it. He left Buckley on the 25th of November, Marched with a young man who is evidently his son, about 21 years of age, of slight build and light complexion and of a Jewish cast of countenance. He is wanted for embezzling \$30,000 from the Buckley bank. He has been defrauding his creditors in Canada and the United States for a quarter of a century.

True Blue lodge gave a concert in Temperance hall last night. A well selected musical programme was presented, the numbers of which were instrumental selections, Mr. Kettle, Miss Kettle and Mr. Holmes, Mr. and Mrs. Brown and Mr. Parfitt; Miss Haughton, Miss Braden and Mr. Proctor; vocalists, Miss Hattie Nicholas, Miss Hamber, Miss Anderson, Messrs. Richardson, Grant, Rowlands, Wells, Snyder, Thomas and Russell, and Master Benjie Nicholas; club swinging Miss Hattie Bachelor; recitations, Miss Gertrude Furnival, Miss Beatrice Jobin and Master Thomas Furnival. A laughable farce entitled "Fun in a Lunatic Asylum" was appreciated. The characters were represented by W. G. Furnival, J. Graham, J. Braden, Jr., Wm. Snyder and Henry Hume. Refreshments were served by the ladies.

The Reformed Episcopal church bazaar opened at noon today in Philharmonic hall. The ladies in charge had a choice luncheon ready and there were many visitors. At 2 the sale of work began. The stalls were very neatly arranged; the decorations were artistic. To-night a musical treat is in store for those who attend the bazaar. The programme is as follows: Piano solo, Mrs. Dove; solo with violin obligato, "The Dove." Mrs. D. R. Harris; solo, "When I'm Big I'll be a Soldier," Mr. Booth; tableau, "Picture gallery of court beauties in the time of Charles II.," solo, Dream's Sorrow, Mrs. Mackenzie; tableau (statue) "Faith, Hope and Charity"; recitation, Miss Powell; tableau, "Three scenes from Fairyland"; solo, "Non e ver," Mrs. Schwengers; violin solo, Mr. E. Wolff; frieze of statuary; solo, Mr. Warlock; tableau, "The Muses"; God Save the Queen.

From Wednesday's Daily.

Arthur C. Charlton married last evening Linda, daughter of Robert Knott.

Mrs. J. M. Ellis delivered her second lecture on phonology at Institute hall last evening.

The children of the Victoria West Methodist church enjoyed their Christmas tree last evening.

The Y. P. L. A. of St. Andrew's Presbyterian church held a concert last

—G. W. Rhodes (250) beat P. T. Patton (243) in the Hotel Victoria billiard match last evening.

The total proceeds of the Y. L. I. concert was \$161.40; expenses, \$58.65, leaving a balance of \$102.75.

The concert given by the ladies of the R. E. church in the Philharmonic hall last evening, following their bazaar, was well attended.

The case of Carruthers, charged with killing a Chinaman at the Bayward mill, upon which a jury were unable to agree, was this morning adjourned until the spring assizes.

At the Victoria West school examination Miss Northcott, teacher, was presented with an address and a handsome piece of jewelry by the pupils. She is severing her connection with the school.

The concert of the Arion club last night was another great success. A large number attended. A good programme was presented, as usual. Mr. Greig, the director, was presented with a handsome baton by the club as a token of appreciation of his services.

The steamer Burt was sold yesterday to Money Bros. of Vancouver. The price paid was \$2,500. The steamer will go to Vancouver and will be placed on the route to the northern islands.

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That droll comedian, Frank Daniels, who is to appear at the Victoria theatre to-night, is the most popular local comedian on the American stage, and has earned that distinction by good, hard, conscientious work. His scenic revival of "Little Puck" is said to be a great improvement over the old version.

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and it proceeds to the upper regions, where the vault is situated, thus doing away with the awkward job of lugging half a hundredweight of ledger upstairs. The elevator was made by Wagner & Co., of Cincinnati, O.

Two quarrelled on Store street at 4 o'clock this afternoon; the quarrel ended in a fight. The one man used a knife and cut the other severely about the head and body.

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SINGLE TAX DISCUSSED

Believers in the Principle of a Land Tax Only

GATHER FOR BUSINESS LAST NIGHT

Housing Addresses by Earnest Men—The Principle of a Land Tax Only—Exposed—Dignity of Labor; Arrangement of Wealth.

There was a fair attendance at the public meeting of the Single Tax Club held in the council chamber of the city hall last night. Single tax publications were distributed throughout the hall, and a large number passed the time perusing them till the meeting was called to order.

At 8.15 President Howell of the Single Tax club took the chair. There were among the audience at the time the mayor and several of the aldermen, besides many prominent citizens of Victoria. But the main part of the audience was composed of either members of the Single Tax club or advocates of its principles.

President Howell said it had been decided to bring forward three resolutions bearing on the municipal act. These resolutions embodied the most vital points in connection with municipal matters. Under the present act men who were responsible for the city's financing, the legislators from Cariboo, Nanaimo and other points had it in their power to say what should be the government of the city, who should be taxed and how they should be taxed. This was against the fundamental principles of popular government. The Single Tax club invited free and open discussion on the subject.

W. G. Cameron then moved "that in the opinion of this meeting the municipal act should be amended so as to make it compulsory to exempt all improvements from taxation; and that the system of taxing useful trades and industries by trades licenses be abolished."

He said there were many bad and good points in the present charter. A great many members of the legislature did not pay any attention to the municipal act. The matter fell into the hands of a few who were interested in municipal government. Other cities were doing better. It was necessary to have special acts, as Vancouver and Westminster. He favored a special act, since under the general municipal act a clause might be inserted by one municipality that would be detrimental to another. The people would have a chance to speak under the special act; under the general municipal act the citizens had little or nothing to say. Improvements should not be taxed at all; the present 50 per cent. exemption was a stop to the real estate man's greed. He emptied improvements; why not Victoria? To tax improvements was to tax industry. The citizens' committee had reported in favor of exemption. The speaker asked the audience to consider a man with \$25,000 of real estate in Victoria. If he went into business he had to pay the city and government over \$200 a year, and he was taxed 3-4 of one per cent. on all money he made. Was not this (cheers)? A man should be taken for granted in British Columbia? The license tax was also wrong. It bore only on the local merchants. Travellers from other provinces could not be legally taxed. The tax was general, no matter what land or not. Whether they were small traders from going into business. The speaker also thought all taxes should be collected at one time, and not piecemeal, as at present.

William Macdonald seconded the resolution. He believed in the principles of Single Tax. In details he might differ from other believers. There were many people Single Taxers who did not know it. He understood by Single Tax exemption from taxes except on land. All taxes should be removed from improvements. By taxing improvements enterprise was taxed. If a city was to grow it must have enterprise. Wealth created for much, but enterprise more. Vancouver and Victoria were compared. Vancouver was an enterprising and poor city, and Victoria was a less enterprising but richer city. This could be said without disparagement to Victoria.

To tax improvements was to tax the workers and the poor. The speaker was a capitalist? No. What was he? A poor man, but one of the greatest that ever trod the earth. This exclusion clause in the municipal act was a farce. Who was the founder of the Christian religion? Was he not Jesus Christ, a man of superhuman knowledge? And yet if Christ were to come to earth again he would not be allowed to take a seat at the council board. (Loud applause and cheers.) Christ never had a property qualification of \$500. Who produced all the wealth of the world? It was the workman, and the capitalist would be as naught without labor.

Mr. Berridge seconded the resolution. The property qualification was a ridiculous idea. The Single Tax was not tax at all. Single Tax was simply the destruction of landlordism. The landlord had hitherto pocketed the "unearned increment," and he would continue to do so if the laws were not changed. The land was originally taken by violence, and that which was taken by violence could be retaken by violence. The Single Tax club did not advocate violence. It wished peaceful methods. The speaker referred to the invasion and conquest of England by William the Conqueror, and alluded to it as an instance of violence in dividing up confiscated estates among his followers. In the course of the years the poor gradually became poorer generation after generation. Laws in all countries had been made in favor of the landlords. The speaker referred to the government of the United States, and said it was chiefly composed of capitalists, in fact, there were only four workmen in congress. The greater number of legislators were bankers. This was not government by the people, but government of the capitalist by the capitalist, and for the capitalist. (Cheers.) Reference was made to the speech of Abraham Lincoln, who asserted that capital would never have existed had it not been for labor. Labor existed long before capital, but the inverted order was the rule now.

Chairman Howell asked the mover of the third resolution to address the meeting. Before doing so he would like to hear advocates of property qualification. There were shouts for Ald. Munn and Mr. Wilson.

These gentlemen did not respond. Chairman Howell said in the city of Birmingham there were many councilors who had not property qualification, and several rich men could not get on the council board notwithstanding their wealth.

The chairman put the question. There was a general cry of "aye." Alex. Wilson—"No."

A Voice—"Put him out." Mr. Wilson was the only dissenting voice heard.

J. A. Cohen moved the third resolution: "Whereas under the present system of electing the electorate does not obtain just representation, and many good men refuse to become candidates for aldermen,

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report.

Royal Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE

to the period to which it belongs, the dark ages. (Applause.)

J. Alex. Cohen asked those in the audience who opposed Single Tax to give their views. He spoke of the growth of the Single Tax club. That club had succeeded in getting part of the improvement tax removed. The trouble was that there appeared to be no opposition to the Single Tax idea. He again invited to the platform any opponents.

Many people did not endorse the principle because they did not believe in the name. The term Single Tax was a misnomer. It was not a tax at all. It was a system. The tax was to be put on land. That was not a tax properly speaking. A tax was something that a person had no option in refusing, and was worth money. Land belonged to men in common, and when an individual kept apart a piece of land for himself he was taking it from the community, and in paying a so-called tax he was only paying a rental back to the community, to whom the land rightly belonged.

The chairman asked if the resolution should be called. There was only one dissenting voice.

B. H. West proposed and spoke to the second resolution, which read as follows: "That in the opinion of this meeting the property qualification for mayor and aldermen should be abolished."

He said the best qualifications a man could have for office were his mental and moral capabilities. The speaker's sympathies were naturally with the working man, being a worker himself; but if in the case of two men running for office, one rich, the other a workman, the richer man mentally the superior, he would vote for him. The brilliant men in the ranks of Canadian politics were poor men. Sir John Macdonald was a leader of men, and yet he was not worth \$500 in real estate, free from incumbrances. The late premier could not have held a seat at the board of the Victoria council. The present municipal act prohibited ministers of religion, criminals and men who had not \$500 worth of real estate from holding seats at the council board. It said nothing about the notorious liar. (Cheers, hear, hear.) Moralists had said that the moral man was the best man; yet the municipal act permitted the libertine, drunkard and debauchee to sit at the council board if he had \$500 and excluded a man of mental attainments and moral character because he had not \$500 worth of real estate. This was a principle of the dark ages; this was class legislation, and he trusted that the day was not far distant when class legislation would be entirely swept out of the land. (Cheers of approval.) Whether they were what he was mentally and morally, yet dependent of his property qualification. He should be respected for his high attainments and his morals. The Single Tax men were regarded as cranks. (Cries of approval.) Whether they were so regarded it mattered not; they were working for the interest of humanity at large. (Hear, hear.) Two of the greatest men the world had produced were born and died in poverty, and who was Bobby Burns? (Cheers.) Was he a capitalist? No. What was he? A poor man, but one of the greatest that ever trod the earth. This exclusion clause in the municipal act was a farce. Who was the founder of the Christian religion? Was he not Jesus Christ, a man of superhuman knowledge? And yet if Christ were to come to earth again he would not be allowed to take a seat at the council board. (Loud applause and cheers.) Christ never had a property qualification of \$500. Who produced all the wealth of the world? It was the workman, and the capitalist would be as naught without labor.

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