(From Friday's Daily Edition.)

Christmas Entertainments.

Children of the Protestant Orphanage Enjoy Their Annual Treat.

Annual Gathering of Christ Church Cathedral and Other Sunday Schools.

Of all the entertainments provided for the amusement of children during the holiday season, none attracts more attention than that which helps to brighten the lives of the fifty odd children, who are so well looked after at the British Columbia Protestant Orphans' Home. During the week kind friends having been pouring presents into the Home, and have also seen to it that the larder has been well provided with those delicacies which seem indispensible during the holiday season. Yesterday therefore was a day long to be remembered, not only by the children themselves but also by the ladies and gentlemen who make it one of their duties to attend to the affairs of the Home, for a happier lot of children never gathered together. The children contributed to a programme of songs and recitations for the entertainment of the visitors and this was followed by a most interesting stereopticon exhibition by Mr. W. F. Best. Then came the big Christmas treeladened with presents for one and all, and so well had the matron, Mrs. McGregor, arranged things that each little master and miss received just what he and she had been longing for. Each received toys as well as useful articles, while nuts and candies were bountifully supplied. And in the midst of all the good things stood a huge fruit cake at least two feet square, and handsomely frosted, which showed that all the soldiers fighting in South Africa are not "Absent-Minded Beggars." This cake was a present to the children from Private F. Finch-Smiles, of the first Canadian contingent, now serving in South Africa. When here Mr. Smiles took a deep interest in the orphanage and before leaving for the front ordered the cake from a local confectioner to be delivered on the day of the annual treat.

During the afternoon the members of the ladies' committee of management presented Mrs. McGregor with a Christmas gift and also awarded the prizes, competed for by the elder girls, for bread and bun making and needlework. They also entertained the guests at tea. Among the gentlemen present were: Ald. Hayward, president of the board of directors; Bishop Perrin, Bishop Cridge, Revs. J. C. Speer, W. L. Clay, J. H. Sweet and Dr. Wilson, H. D. Helmcken, Q.C., M.P.P., Major Nicholles, Thornton Fell, and Mr. W. F. Best.

* * *

A most successful entertainment was held at the Odd Fellows' hall, Spring Ridge, last evening, the feast of the Holy Innocents, about 200 children of St. Barnabas Sunday school and their parents were present. The concert was preceded by a tea for the children who were ready for what was to follow.

The programme was as follows:

Address on Santa Claus by the Rev. E. G. Miller.

Selection on the gramaphone.

A capital rendition of "Cinderella," which was much enjoyed, six girls and boys.

Violin solo, Thos. Hood.

Tableau—Old Woman in a Shoe—Miss Lancaster and class.

Piano solo, Miss E. Cole.

Recitation, Juanita Sears.

Song, Rev. E. G. Miller.

During the playing of the march the curtains were drawn and Santa Claus appeared in a cutter drawn by four deer. He distributed the prizes and toys, the latter to the small children. The prizes were too numerous to state, but the name of Julius Rausch as being the most regular in attendance at the choir and Arthur Whittaker for not missing a Sunday in the whole year, deserve special mention.

During the interval of the arrival of Santa Claus and the dismissal Miss Alice Turner gave a recitation and "Her Majesty" was sung by the Misses Andrew.

With the customary three cheers and the usual distribution of oranges and candy a very successful evening was brought to a close.

* * *

The children of the Victoria West Methodist Sunday school were entertained by their teachers and friends in Semple's hall last evening. Refreshments were served, presents distrubuted and a concert programme rendered.

* * *

This evening the pupils of the Victoria West Presbyterian Sunday school will enjoy their Christmas tree.

* * *

The entertainment of St. Columba's Presbyterian Sunday school will be held on Friday evening in the school room, Oak Bay avenue. A good programme, which will commence at 7:30 sharp, has been prepared. A free offering will be taken at the door.

* * *

On Wednesday evening the members and friends of the intermediate Epworth League of the Metropolitan Methodist church to the number of forty, armed with cake, candy, fruit, and other dainties, carried out a very pleasant and successful surprise party on the inmates of the Old Ladies' Home. After crowding the sitting room and front and rear halls, standing room being at a premium, Mr. Siddall made a short opening address, which was followed by scriptural readings and a few hymns. The following excellent musical and literary programme was then rendered: Harmonica solos, E. Speer; recitation, Miss Lindsay; vocal solo (harmonica accompaniment), Miss Renfree; recitation, Miss E. Coles; sacred solo, Miss Armson; violin duet, Miss Margison and Mr. N. Baker; vocal solo, Miss Kewon.

While the ladies were being entertained in this manner, the "kitchen corps" had been busily engaged preparing tea, cake and fruit, which was now served out and a social chat engaged in, the old ladies evidently enjoying the sight of so many young faces and the sound of so many young voices. During the interval each of the old ladies was presented with a prettily worked apron, made by the leaguers, and a beautiful supply of home-made candies, provided by the genial Mrs. Siddall. As it was growing late the proceedings were brought to a close by the singing of the National Anthem, and three cheers for Queen, Empire and the old ladies.

* * *

Through the kindness of friends, a large number of presents, some of them quite costly, now adorn a Christmas tree in the school room of the A. O. U. W. hall, and will be distributed this evening to the members of the Deaf and Dumb Institute, whose classes are held there. The children have decorated the place themselves, with very pretty effect, and hope to see present this evening all of their friends among the public who can make it convenient to attend. The admission charge, to cover expenses and aid the Institute, is only 10 cents. The net proceeds of the recent entertainment on behalf of the Institute were but $7.

* * *

The Christ Church Sunday school, the choir boys and Miss Perrin's Bible class held their annual treat last evening. Vespers were said at the cathedral at 6:45, after which the children adjourned to the school room. Prizes were awarded to two scholars in each class for regularity of attendance, these being distributed by Bishop Perrin. Carol singing followed and was very nicely rendered. Tea was then served and full justice was done to this part of the programme. Games were indulged in, and the finale was the raising of the stage curtain. There stood a huge Christmas tree, laden with gifts and sparkling with tapers. Every scholar received a present and a bag of candy, and an enjoyable evening was concluded by singing the national anthem.

The teachers desire to thank the members of the congregation who kindly supplied candy and cakes.

LOCAL NEWS.

A Correction.—Among the presents received by Mr. and Mrs. Alexander on the occasion of their golden wedding was a check from Mr. D. R. Ker.

To Be Cared for.—The provincial police yesterday disposed of the two charges which were placed in their care on Wednesday, the Chinese leper being sent to Darcey island, and Jackson, the insane Indian, to the asylum.

Farmers' Meetings.—Prof. Spillman, of the Washington experimental farm at Pullman, has written Mr. J. R. Anderson that he will be here on January 13 for the meetings of the Dairymen's Association and Central Farmers' Institute. Messrs. Shutt and Marker, the Canadian experts, will also be present.

New Teacher.—At a special meeting of the board of school trustees held yesterday afternoon, Miss Le Page, of the Vancouver teaching staff, was appointed to the staff of the North Ward school in succession to Miss King, who has resigned. A few of the salaries were also re-arranged in accordance with the regulations.

Appointing a Chief.—The police commissioners have spent two days in a private consideration of the credentials of the applicants for the position of chief of police, which Chief Sheppard vacates on Sunday evening, but they have not yet selected the man who is to fill the office. The appointment may possibly be made this evening.

Season's Greetings.—Lt.-Col. Gregory, commanding the Fifth regiment, yesterday issued the following regimental order: "The following telegram from Gen. Hutton, promulgated in district orders, is published for the information of all concerned: 'Col. Peters, commanding military district No. 11. Please convey our best wishes for Christmas and New Year to your troops, their wives and families. Gen. Hutton and Mrs. Hutton.'"

Expensive Fun.—For some time past the provinical police have constantly been receiving complaints from the Cedar Hill and Mount Tolmie districts in regard to the destruction of property, particularly unoccupied houses. Yesterday they had two boys before the magistrate on a charge of breaking a window in Mr. R. Mason's house on Mount Tolmie road. The boys pleaded guilty and were fined $5 and $2.50 costs each. The magistrate advised them not to repeat the offence.

The Last Rites.—The funeral of the late William Henry Thistle took place yesterday afternoon from the Odd Fellows' hall, under the auspices of Victoria Lodge, No. 1, I. O. O. F., of which deceased was a member. Noble Grand Rumble, assisted by Chaplain Graham, read the impressive ritual of the order, both at the lodge room and at the grave at Ross Bay cemetery. The following gentlemen officiated as pall-bearers: Messrs. W. H. Huxtable, John Crowther, T. R. Mitchell, A. Rowe, Allan Graham and A. Rumble.

Accidental Death.—An inquest was held yesterday by Coroner Hart to formally decide upon the cause of the death of Marvel Conn, who fell down the stairway of her residence, Broad street, on Tuesday morning and died on Wednesday evening. The verdict was in accordance with the facts recited in the Colonist yesterday, viz., that the woman accidentally fell down the stairway and fractured the base of her skull. The witnesses were the inmates of the house who heard the woman fall and found her unconscious, and Dr. Gibbs, who held the post-mortem examination. One of the first named witnesses stated that the unfortunate woman was apparently ill just before she fell. Dr. Gibbs stated that the fracture of the skull positively caused death, the organs being normal. The jury was composed of Colin Cameron (foreman), W. Dean, G. Brooks, Pierce Watson, M. Marks and Arthur Holmes.

Mineral Exhibit.—The first consignment of specimens for the British Columbia mineral exhibit at the Paris exposition, consisting of 71 cases, was yesterday forwarded to Ottawa. It is expected that another 30 cases will be sent, a most welcome lot of specimens having been received yesterday from Mr. J. B. Hobson, manager of the Cariboo Consolidated Hydraulic Mining Company. These specimens are presents to the province, and when they are returned from Paris will become part of the exhibit in the parliament buildings. Mr. Hobson's donation includes one gold nugget valued at $15.40; two ounces of coarse gold from the stratum in channel, $32.40; two ounces of amalgamated gold from the sluices, $18; two ounces of amalgamated gold, $32.60; and two ounces of platinum osminum iridium; and from the Horsefly mine 700 grains of gold recovered from cement crushed in the ten-stamp mill, $24.50, and sends some black sand recovered from the residue of hydraulic sluice after cleaning up, which he thinks may contain some minerals not yet known to exist among British Columbia gravels. Other specimens are expected from Omineca.

DR. A. W. CHASE'S CATARRH CURE ... 25c.
is sent direct to the diseased parts by the Improved Blower. Heals the ulcers, clears the air passages, stops droppings in the throat and permanently cures Catarrh and Hay Fever. ● 1 lower free. All dealers, or Dr. A. W. Chase Medicine Co., Toronto and Buffalo.

The Official Notifications.

Redistribution of Mining Districts Cause of Some Other Changes.

Appointments to the Civil Service and New Companies Noted.

Yesterday's issue of the provincial Gazette contained notice of the following appointments, which have been approved by the Lieutenant-Governor:

To hold small debts courts for the Alberni division, Arthur E. Waterhouse, of Alberni, vice G. A. Smith, resigned; and Charles Talbot-Haslam, of Alberni, vice A. D. Faber, deceased.

Edward H. Lewis, of Trail, to be a notary public for the Mainland.

Justinian Pelly, of Chilliwack, to be a stipendiary magistrate for the county of Westminster, and to hold small debts courts in the Chilliwack riding of Westminster district.

John Reid, of New Westminster, to be selector of jurors for Westminster county, vice J. E. Kennedy.

Charles G. Johnson, of Vancouver, to perform the duties prescribed by the Investment and Loan Societies act in respect to all such societies, with head offices in that city.

William John Dickie, of the city of Revelstoke, to be a judge of the court of revision and appeal under the Assessment act for the Revelstoke division of West Kootenay.

The government has extended the time for receiving tenders for the pumping machinery for the Matsqui dyke to January 14.

Tenders are being called by the department of lands and works for the purchase of a ten-stamp quartz mill with engine and boiler, now at the government office at Yale.

Sittings of the Supreme court for the trial of West Kootenay civil cases will be held at Nelson on February 13, and at Rossland on February 20.

The Bosun Mines, Limited, of London, Eng., capital £50,000, local office New Denver, W. H. Sandiford attorney, has been registered as an extra-provincial company. The Cuthbert-Browne Co., of Victoria, capital $10,000; Northern Belle Consolidated Gold Mining Co., of Rossland, capital $1,000,000, have been incorporated.

Application will be made at the coming session of the legislature for an act to incorporate a company to build a railway from a point on the international boundary near Cascade, thence west along Kettle river to Carson, with a branch from Grand Forks to a point 50 miles up North Kettle river, and a branch from Grand Forks southwest by way of Greenwood to Midway.

The minister of mines has issued a notice terminating the tenure of office of all gold commissioners and mining recorders for the districts the boundaries of which have been changed, and reappointing them to the newly described districts. Transcripts must be made of all records of claims affected by the change of boundaries, even in cases where claims have become vacant or abandoned.

There has been set apart as a reserve in the Coast district a belt of land extending back from the shore line ten miles on each side of Kitimaat Arm, to the north of Kildalla Arm, and also a belt commencing at the mouth of Kitimaat river, thence north up the Kitimaat valley to Lake Lekelse, and thence by the mouth of Copper river and the Skeena river to Kitsilas canyon, with a width of ten miles on each side of this line.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

Arrangements for a Guard of Honor to Attend the Lieutenant-Governor.

Members of the legislature are commencing to gather in the city for the session of the legislature which opens on Thursday next, and the ministers and their deputies are kept busy preparing business for the members to consider. The Fifth regiment having been invited to provide a guard of honor for the opening, which takes place at 3 o'clock, Lt.-Col Gregory has issued a regimental order in which he says:

"The non-commissioned officers and gunners of the Fifth regiment C.A. will parade at the Drill hall at 2 p.m. o'clock Thursday, the 4th January, 1900, for the purpose of forming a guard of honor to his honor the lieutenant-governor on the occasion of the opening of the legislative assembly, Capt. Drake will command and will be assisted by Second Lieut. H. M. Grahame. The paymaster-sergeant will attend."

Messrs. M. & L. Young have been appointed caterers for the legislature restaurant during the session.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS.

Interesting Ceremony at the Masonic Temple on Wednesday Evening Last.

The officers of Vancouver-Quadra lodge No. 2, A. F. & A. M., were installed in the Masonic Temple on Wednesday evening—St. John's festival—by the right worshipful district deputy grand master, Geo. Glover, assisted by most worshipful past grand master David Wilson. There was a very large attendance of the brethren and the ceremonies were conducted with all the solemnity usual on such important occasions. The following are the officers for the ensuing year:

W. Bro. Charles E. Stallard, I.P.M.
W. Bro. Fred V. Robertson, W.M.
Bro. Thomas Horne, S.W.
Bro. Edward B. Paul, J.W.
Bro. J. B. Lovell, treasurer.
W. Bro. A. Maxwell Muir, secretary.
Bro. A. W. Currie, director of ceremonies.
Bro. W. F. Carey Pope, senior deacon.
Bro. Wm. Parcell, junior deacon.
Bro. Jas. Blackwood, senior steward.
Bro. Jos. Randolph, junior steward.
Bro. Richard Drake, inner guard.
Bro. F. Stockham, tyler.

At the close of the installation an adjournment was made to the supper room where a pleasant time was spent at the festive board, the brethren responding with enthusiasm to the usual loyal and masonic toasts.

The D. & L. Emulsion benefits most those having Lung troubles with tendency to hemorrhages. A few bottles taken regularly make a wonderful improvement. Made by Davis & Lawrence Co., Lim.

CARPETS, RUGS, ART SQUARES

UP-TO-DATE GOODS IN EVERY LINE.

We show 10 patterns to any other stores one.

Axminsters,
Wiltons,
Brussels,
Riche Velvets
Tapestry,
370 pieces Carpets,
324 Rugs,
214 Art Squares

Above goods were just received by us in one shipment from the manufacturer.

WEILER BROS, . Victoria, B. C.

WAR MECHANISM.

Searchlights, Steam Ploughs and Telephones in South Africa.

As might be expected, the British are using in the South African war the most modern military appliances that can be had. They are thoroughly up to date in the matter of guns and ammunition, and even the surgeons are using new means of developing X rays. The war office has negotiated with Marconi's business representatives for wireless telegraph outfits, and by this time the apparatus ought to be in service. Moreover, a number of other appliances that are not necessarily instruments of war have been put to use in the contest with the Boers.

One of the most striking instances of this kind is the employment of a steam plough for digging trenches. The ploughshare and pruning hook are particularly typical of the arts and spirit of peace, but now, for the first time in history, the former implement has become a military weapon. The steam plough is not in itself any novelty. It has been used for years on a large scale in the Western States, where the great wheat and corn crops of the country are raised. It is also well known in other parts of the world where agriculture is conducted on the wholesale plan.

The particular plough used in South Africa was designed by Col. Templer, of the Royal Engineers, and differs only in trifling details from that with which the wheat-grower breaks up the surface of the fertile prairie. The superiority of this means of digging trenches is so manifest that one wonders why it was never thought of before. A three-wheeled "traction engine," such as is employed in hauling heavy wagons from town to town or in operating itinerant threshing machines, drags the steam plough of Col. Templer through the soil. Two of the wheels are large and broad, and the third, out in front, carries only a small part of the load and is used mainly for steering purposes.

There is nothing especially new in the resort to telephony. The American signal service has long had ample equipment of this kind for field work, particularly in the dissemination of orders from headquarters and the receipt of reports from subordinates during an action. It is not at all likely that the English are ahead of the United States in this respect. However, some interesting features are presented by one of the instances of telephony in South Africa just described in the despatches.

After arriving on the field of battle at Elandslaagte, Gen. French saw the necessity of prompt reinforcements. In his army were several telegraphers, who were provided with portable telephones, batteries and incidental apparatus. A regular telegraph line passes in the vicinity of Elandslaagte. Gen. French's men tapped one of the wires of this line. The first step was to establish an electric connection with the overhead wire. This was done by suspending thereon, by a metallic hook or clip at the top of a light, portable stick, one end of another wire. The latter extended downward to a box containing a telegraph key and sounder, two or three cells of battery, and a convenient combination of telephone transmitter and receiver. To make the apparatus work it was further necessary to run the lower end of the hanging wire into the ground. Thus a regular "circuit" was formed, the earth affording a return route for the current. Either a telegraph key or a telephone could be used, according to the convenience of the operator.

It is probable that at first the operator in the field used his telegraph key to call up the station with which he wished to open communication. The same means were employed, perhaps, to instruct the receiving operator to connect his wire with a telephone. It then became possible to resort to ordinary speech, thus greatly facilitating matters. A despatch to the London Times says that as soon as Gen. French had reported his need, he was informed that two regiments of cavalry, two field batteries, and two and a half battalions of infantry would be despatched to his assistance immediately. On receiving this reply Gen. French knew what disposition to make of the forces with him.

A convenient substitute for Marconi's apparatus has been found at Kimberley in the powerful electric searchlights there. It is a mistake to suppose that such a device is serviceable only at sea. Although the uses which it has in the navy are somewhat different from those thus far found for it on land, it certainly has its value on terra firma. At Kimberley it has performed a double office. It has assisted in the watch for an enemy, and it has furnished an excellent means of telegraphing. By switching the current on and off the light can be broken up into dots and dashes, to form telegraphic letters. The enemy might see these signals, but as a secret code would doubtless be employed, the significance of the flashes would not be understood except by the initiated. Searchlights have been made whose rays could be discerned at a distance of 50 or 75 miles. At Kimberley it was known that Lord Methuen's army had come within twenty or thirty miles. No difficulty should have been experienced in sending messages concerning the situation in the beleaguered city, therefore, although a reassuring response could not so easily be transmitted.

DREADING AN OPERATION.

Weary of experimenting of salves, suppositories and ointments and dreading a surgical operation, scores and hundreds have turned to Dr. A. W. Chase's Ointment and found in it an absolute cure for piles. The first application brings relief from the terrible itching, and it is very seldom that more than one box is required to effect a permanent cure.

LITERATURE IN THE PULPIT.

Well Enough Perhaps but It Ought to Be Correctly Presented.

From the New York Evening Post.

"He seems to be a flowery youth, fond of alliterations, like mud and misery." This was the grim comment of an old theological professor after reading one of the printed sermons of the successor of Henry Ward Beecher in Plymouth church. The Rev. Mr. Hillis has now brought out a volume of his literary discourses, "Great Books as Life Teachers" (F. H. Revell & Co.) He excuses the introduction of such themes into the pulpit on the ground that "for some reason, our generation has closed its text books on ethics and morals." Hence the duty of the preacher to turn to "the great poems, essays and novels." As a means of temporarily conciliating our generation, these lecture-sermons have been, if we may judge by newspaper reports, a great success. But it remains a grave question if the experiment has really been justified, and more than doubtful if other clergymen would do well to follow Mr. Hillis' example.

We say this because his volume of sermons yields evidence to the hasty reader that for the pulpit to take to expounding literature would be the sure means of diminishing instead of enhancing its authority and influence. The spirit of scepticism would surely spread abroad if preaching in general were as loose and careless in statements of fact as Mr. Hillis in this book. We say nothing of such assertions of his as the one he makes in describing the death of Jean Valjean: "Doubtless some angel was standing in the gloom, with outstretched hands, waiting for the soul." That is a species of literary criticism in which the clergy must necessarily be the highest authority. But even a layman may "sit up" when he hears a minister say of Gladstone: "Among his close friends at Oxford were Tennyson, Canning, Maurice, Lowe, and that youth who was to be known as Cardinal Manning."

What are the facts? Tennyson was never at Oxford. In the poet's "Life" is published a letter from Gladstone to Hallam Tennyson, giving his recollection of the first time he met Tennyson, which was some years after he had left Oxford. Maurice was never at Oxford. Lowe and Manning were there, and were contemporaries of Gladstone; so that Mr. Hillis' mistakes are three out of a possible five. We fear that a close examination of his book would show other inaccuracies as glaring, if not as many in a single sentence. Thus we find him speaking of Carlyle as being a "young man" in 1850. Fifty-five is young or not, we admit, according to the side from which you view it. It is safe to say that all of Mr. Hillis' congregation above 55 would find this doctrine of his both sound and comforting. But in Carlyle's case, at any rate, the door is closed, for he himself once flouted Thiers for speaking of a certain Frenchman as "young" when the fellow was "forty-odd"! What would he have said at being written down a young man himself at 55?

Such blunders, it must be confessed, would go far towards undermining the authority of the pulpit. It is not a question of opinion. That may be uttered as dogmatically from the sacred desk in a matter of literature as in a matter of religion. Homiletic rhetoric may be allowed to pass unquestioned, as in that bold figure employed by Mr. Hillis of a "weary traveler" on the Rigi, whom he imagines to "stretch out his hand and break off a chunk of damp cloud." But the most devout cannot sit and be edified under the droppings of the sanctuary, when they are palpable droppings into error as respects well-known matters of fact. The historic immunity of the cloth is based on the supposition that it confines itself to sacred themes. "I never prejudicate or censure any preacher," wrote James Howell, "taking him as I find him." But that was only a corollary to his previous assertion, "I love a holy devout sermon, that first checks and then cheers the conscience; that begins with the law and ends with the gospel." Yet we doubt if even the much enduring Howell would have suffered and given no sign if he had listened to a sermon on a poem, suddenly ending, with such a sudden and inexplicable jump as the "Bridgewater Treatises" used to make, "Therefore, hope thou in Christ"!

It would be a serious mistake, we think, for the pulpit to enter into an unequal competition with great literature or great critics. The old comfort of the pious was that, if the sermon were poor, "God takes a text and preaches patience." But if the very text is a poem or essay, there will rather be impatience to get home to poet or essayist at first hand. "Dullness is sacred in a sound divine," but there's no divinity that doth hedge in the pulpit from the peril of invidious comparisons, if it invites them by a choice of secular themes.

PATENT REPORT.

Messrs. Trethewey & Brittain send in the following abstract from the United States Patent Office Gazette, for the week ending December 9, 1899: During that week the number of patents issued to citizens of the United States was 459; Austria-Hungary, 1; Belgium, 1; Bermuda, 1; Canada, 8; Great Britain, 17; France, 4; Germany, 27; Italy, 2; New Zealand, 1; Queensland, 1, and Victoria, 2. A total of 523, 174 of which were assigned to manufacturing firms and others before the grants were made.

Montreal, Dec. 28.—Prof. Ducharme, organist of the church of Jesus and one of the leading musicians of the city, died to-day.

An Early Rush To Cape Nome.

Impatient Gold Seekers to Sail For Frozen North Early in April.

Dominion Light House Policy Criticised Harshly By American Mariners.

So eager are those infected with the Cape Nome fever to reach at the earliest possible moment the new Northern gold fields that several of the Sound transportation companies have decided to despatch steamers as early as April 1 next. That date is fully 60 days earlier than any one would have thought possible to get into that part of Behring Sea three years ago. The knowledge of the country has changed and enlarged the last two seasons. Instead of, as was thought, an expanse of ice fields bounded only by the horizon, it is now said there is open water all the year round up to within four miles of Cape Nome beach. There are two sea captains who wintered in that district last winter and who are reported to affirm that the sea was open all winter. It is partly upon the evidence of these men that the early sailings are based, and the determination made to sail April 1. Whalemen who have had much experience in the Arctic say that even Behring Straits, which is only about thirty miles across, is open in part through the winter. In the latitude of Cape Nome, Behring Sea spreads out to many hundreds of miles with deep water. The location is altogether different from St. Michael and the mouth of the Yukon. There Norton Sound is shallow and the entire body of water becomes a mass of unbroken ice.

To get into the vicinity of Cape Nome in a vessel entering the sea at Unimak Pass, the course proposed to be followed will be towards the Asiatic side and bring up to the eastward of St. Lawrence island, and by so doing avoid all shore ice on this side. Thus early in the season it is not believed any drift ice would be encountered, and mariners believe they will have no difficulty in finding and following open water to within four miles of the Nome beach. At Nome there is a width of shallow water over which ice forms and in the course of the winter is broken away and piled up until it forms into ridges and barricades that will necessitate cutting a path through it. Vessel owners believe they will have no difficulty in tying up to this shore ice and discharging. Contrary to expectation, those who remained at Cape Nome last winter say the sea was comparatively mild and smooth all the time, much more so than during the close of the season this fall. The greatest danger and difficulty to navigation, it is believed, will come when the ice begins to move in the spring months. This will be in May and June, when the packs from Norton Sound, Kotzebue Sound and from Behring Straits begin to crowd down into Behring Sea.

EGG ISLAND LIGHT.

Americans Think More Than One Man Should Be Stationed There.

Commenting on the recent reference to the Egg Island lighthouse, where, on account of the light not working fears were entertained for the welfare of the man at the station, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer says that shipmasters who happened to be in that city hold it to be contrary to all rules of safety for the Canadians to leave a lighthouse in such a dangerous locality as Egg Island with only one man in charge, and no provision for immediate relief in case something should happen to him. In discussing the matter a prominent steamship man said: "It is a mystery I cannot fathom why the Canadian government should leave the lighthouse at Egg Island in charge of only one man. That is one of the most dangerous localities on the inland passage to Alaska, being in Queen Charlotte Sound, and to make the matter worse this station is so isolated that days might elapse before word could be given to the authorities that all was not right there. The nearest place to Egg Island is Alert Bay, which is 30 or 40 miles away. All the American lighthouses have more than one man, none having less than two, and some as many as five or more. Every precaution is taken that the lights shall be kept going, no matter what might happen to the attendants. There should be at least two men at the Egg Island station."

NAMES OF CRUISERS.

Great Cities of the States Blundered in So Hastily Pressing Their Claims.

From the Chicago Times-Herald.

It is beginning to appear that the government or the navy department has made a serious error in the scheme of naming cruisers in honor of our cities. The plan itself is all right; the fault which we have to point out is in the manner of its execution, and this, too, is the result, not of any criminal inexperience or inability on the part of our naval authorities, but rather to the development of the science of constructing warships.

When the building of our new navy was begun, and it was decided to name the battleships after states, and the cruisers after cities, the inhabitants of every town in the land at once began presenting pleas for recognition. Of course the larger cities, being able to make the most noise, were heard above the rest and got their bids in first. So we have cruisers named after New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Brooklyn, Boston, Baltimore, Cincinnati, San Francisco, New Orleans, Newark, Minneapolis, Buffalo and a lot of smaller cities.

New York and Brooklyn are represented by fine armored cruisers, but with the building of the new warships asked for by the secretary of the navy, even the New York and Brooklyn will cease to be regarded as superior ships, and what a sorry figure will then be cut by the little Chicago! To make matters worse, the people of St. Louis are demanding that one of the three new 13,000-ton cruisers shall be named after their city, and it is probable that their plea will be granted. What Cheer, Ia., and Three Oaks, Mich., will probably want to be represented in the navy by the other two first-class cruisers. Thus it shall come to pass that when our cruisers line up a few years hence, Chicago and Philadelphia and Boston and Baltimore will be back near the end of the procession, while New York herself will not be very near the front.

It is obvious that a renaming will have to be inaugurated presently to preserve the fitness of things. If the cruisers are to be named after the cities, an effort should be made to preserve some sort of an analogy with regard to the size of the former and the importance of the latter. Cleveland and Tacoma should not, for instance, be represented by boats of the same class and size, and there is no reason why the name of one of the boroughs of New York should be given to a cruiser that is about four times as great as the one which bears the name of Chicago.

CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS.

CURE
Sick Headache and relieve all the troubles incident to a bilious state of the system, such as Dizziness, Nausea, Drowsiness, Distress after eating, Pain in the Side, &c. While their most remarkable success has been shown in curing

SICK
Headache, yet Carter's Little Liver Pills are equally valuable in Constipation, curing and preventing this annoying complaint, while they also correct all disorders of the stomach, stimulate the liver and regulate the bowels. Even if they only cured

HEAD
Ache they would be almost priceless to those who suffer from this distressing complaint; but fortunately their goodness does not end here, and those who once try them will find these little pills valuable in so many ways that they will not be willing to do without them. But after all sick head

ACHE
is the bane of so many lives that here is where we make our great boast. Our pills cure it while others do not.

Carter's Little Liver Pills are very small and very easy to take. One or two pills make a dose. They are strictly vegetable and do not gripe or purge, but by their gentle action please all who use them. In vials at 25 cents; five for $1. Sold by druggists everywhere, or sent by mail.

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AGES OF GREAT MEN.

A great man does not always attain a ripe old age; in fact, hardly half of the greatest men of modern and ancient times have reached that limit of age set by the Bible—70. Among statesmen: Mirabeau was 42, Pitt 47, Caesar 55, Richelieu 57, Cromwell 59; Washington 67, Charlemagne 71, Frederick the Great 74, Disraeli 75, Augustus 76, Bismarck 83, Talleyrand 84. Of great conquerors Alexander the Great died at 32, Napoleon at 51, Hannibal at 63, Themistocles at 65, Marius at 71, Marlborough at 72, Tilly at 72, Bleucher at 76, Bernadotte at 80, Wellington at 83, Xenophone at 86, Moltke at 91. The age of the decease of philosophers was: Spinoza 44, Descartes 53, Hegel 61, Aristotle 62, Socrates 68, Liebnitz 70, Linnaeus 70, Copernicus 70, Galileo 78, Kant 79, Plato 82, Newton 84, Humboldt 89. The longevity of great writers and poets is as follows: Byron 36, Schiller 45, Moliere 51, Virgil 51, Shakespeare 52, Dante 56, Dickens 57, Horace 57, Racine 59, Scott 61, Milton 65, Cervantes 68, Aeschylus 69, Rabelais 70, Petrarch 70, Euripides 74, Corneille 78, Victor Hugo 83, Goethe 83, Voltaire 84, Sophocles 90. To painters death came at the ages stated: Raphael 37, Corregio 40, Van Dyk 42, Holbein 57, Velasquez 61, Rembrandt 63, Rubens 61, Michelangelo 89, Titian 99. Musicians died at these ages: Schubert 31, Mozart 35, Mendelssohn 38, Chopin 39, Weber 39, Schumann 41, Beethoven 56, Bach 65, Palestrina 70, Spohr 73, Handel 75, Haydn 77. And four great religious leaders died at these ages: Calvin at 54, Mohammed at 62, Luther at 66, Confucius at 71.

B. C. SHARPSHOOTERS.

To the Editor of the Colonist:

Sir: Every day brings news of the terrific fighting that is taking place between the British and the Boers. Every report gives accounts of the excellent marksmanship displayed by our enemy. Why not put men against him that are his equal either as shots, horseman or mountaineers? Get permission from the Imperial authorities to muster, say, 250 British Columbians, to be officered by civilians if possible, if not, by army officers, men who have been raised in the mountains and handled firearms since they were barely able to walk. Being excellent shots and good judges of distance over rough ground, arm them with modern firearms, the best the market offers, put them against the Boers on anything like equal footing, and their shooting would turn Oom Paul green with envy. Mount them, for as scouts their equals cannot be found in the British domains. If such a force would be allowed to go they would acquit themselves with honor to British Columbia, and would be indispensible as scouts or sharpshooters to the army now operating in South Africa.

PATRIOT.