

# Salt Spring Island Parish and Home.

JULY, 1896.

The last thing struck on this island is said to be gas.

The steamship *Joan* is to go on the Vancouver route and will be replaced by the *City of Nanaimo*.

Mr. Collins arrived home from England on the 16th ult., accompanied by his sister-in-law, Miss Pedder, and his youngest child, Edwin.

Mrs. Dagan gave birth to a child on the 7th June and Mrs. Whims on the 8th, both girls. There have been ten babies born since New Year; the first five were boys and the last five girls.

The Oddfellows will hold their annual picnic at Ganges Harbour on Wednesday, July 1st. All members of the lodge, together with their families, are invited.

At the last meeting of the church committee of St. Mark's Church it was suggested that an attempt should be made to form a boys' choir, and now it is whispered that choir seats are shortly to be placed in the chancel.

Bible Questions:—(See notice on third page of cover)—1. Who was Naomi? 2. What were her children's names? 3. Who gleaned in the cornfield? 4. What did Boaz say to the reapers?

Weather report for May, Kuper Island—Mean temp., 50.48; max., on 29th, 74.01; min., 15th, 32. Max. sunshine, on 21st, 13h. 18m. Days completely clouded, 3. Rainfall, 1.49 inches.

Mrs. Stevens and her sister, Mrs. Smith, have exerted themselves to have the Church of England cemetery at Vesuvius put into proper order this summer. Contributions amounted to a little over \$30. The land has already been nicely cleared up and levelled and in the autumn it will be seeded down with grass and the picket fence painted.

The churchyard of St. Mary's Church, Fulford Harbour, might, with but little expense and trouble, be made quite ornamental. The soil is dry and sandy and it is one of the most picturesque spots on the Island. There are at present but four graves. Those of Mrs. Lee and Mrs. Foord are shortly to be enclosed each with a low fence and will also have headstones.

The season has been very backward. Cold nights and too little rain have kept back both the crops and the fruit. Strawberries were only just ripening on the 15th of June, and cherries a week later. The hay crop, it is feared, will scarcely be an average one. Apples seem likely to be good, but the plum crop is poor.

A new public school is to be built at Burgoyne this summer, at a cost of \$400, the old one being in a state of delapidation.

Those who have gardens should remember that there is to be an Agricultural and Horticultural show at Vesuvius this fall and try to raise something worth showing.

There is not as yet enough hay grown on the Island for home consumption. Many of the farmers have every year to purchase baled hay from Vancouver and Westminster.

Church Hill Farm is undergoing a thorough renovation—papering and painting—in preparation for the summer season. In addition to her present boarders, Mas. Stevens will be able to accommodate about six other visitors.

The road past Mr. H. Stevens' residence has been widened and improved, and the top of the hill past St. Mark's Church has been lowered. This, with the extensive slashing done on the west side of the road by Messrs. Harrison, has made quite a change in the appearance of this part of the Island, opening up to view St. Mary's Lake and the distant mountains.

We are very much in need of a daily boat between the islands and the Sidney Railway, especially now that the small fruits are ripening. It has been suggested that, should no larger craft be put on, it would pay anyone to run a naphtha launch during the summer months. A good sized one, such as could be purchased for \$700 or \$800 at Tacoma, would carry twenty-six persons and would only require one man to run it. Passengers might be charged fifty cents each way, and light freight such as eggs, butter and fruit could also readily be carried.

The new school on the Divide is to be called the Gange's School. A public meeting was held about a month ago to elect school trustees. It resulted in the election of Messrs. Ed. Walter, A. Cartwright, and S. Connery. Messrs. Cartwright and Connery have since been exerting themselves to raise money to defray cost of lumber, &c. They succeeded in collecting upwards of \$60. The lumber has been ordered and Messrs. Beddis and Irwin will erect the building, giving part of their time free. The school will stand on half an acre of land, donated by Messrs. A. and E. Walter, on the fork of the road just above Mr. Cartwright's house. It will be ready for use after the summer holidays. Mrs. Beddis has a new dwelling house in course of erection within a short distance of the school, and it is expected that she will contribute two or three of the pupils.