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B. WILLIAMS & CO., 68--70 Yates St.

Calendars now ready for distribution.

Local News

From Friday's Daily.
 -Jailer W. H. Sheppard has received the sad intelligence of the death at Perth, West Australia, of his nephew, Wm. Green. Deceased leaves a family of seven small children and a widow.

-One of the prettiest calendars of the year is that issued by L. Dickison, the Douglas street grocer and feed merchant. The lithograph is a reproduction of a photograph of Mr. Dickison's famous bull dog "Bobs," which was so much in evidence in the patriotic demonstrations of last summer. The identical flags which the dog bore in his mouth in the parades mentioned are held under his paw in the lithograph.

-With one accord throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion unite in saying that if there is one paper which should be in every household, it is the Family Herald and Weekly Star of Montreal. Subscribers are pouring into their office in Montreal at a tremendous rate. Canadians without the Family Herald and this season's pictures, do not know the treat they are missing.

-In Chambers this morning Mr. Justice Drake heard an interesting case arising out of the expropriation of lands at Work Point by the Department of Militia for the purposes of the new barracks which were erected there this summer. All of the property desired was yielded without trouble, excepting a plot of ground belonging to the defendant, Schoger, of which he refused to relinquish possession, even after the Department of Militia, through Mr. Alexis Martin, who acted for the Minister, had proffered him \$3,150, the sum which he himself estimated he was entitled to for the purchase of another piece of ground and the erection of a house. This offer was made by the department without prejudice to his claim. The court granted the application for the issuance of a warrant to put the Minister in possession, but the warrant is to be in the registry for a fortnight before being executed. Mr. Martin for the Crown, and Mr. Yates for the defendant.

-The mystery regarding the identity of the man whose decomposed body was found in the Chemainus cove by a hunter named Leers, has not been solved. The body was found near Westholme, and was brought to Chemainus. An inquest failed to clear matters, as the verdict was of a purely open nature. It is not certain whether the body actor is that of a white man or Chinaman. According to information received by the provincial police, who have the matter in hand, it had apparently been in the water for about six weeks. In this connection it might be mentioned that nothing has been heard of Sidney Arnold, who disappeared from this city just prior to the federal election. While it is not over probable that the remains are those of the missing man, it has been suggested that this might be the case. The only means of identification would be the clothes, as the advanced state of decomposition would render all other means impossible.

-It was the ship Challenger, not the Charmer, as was first reported by Port Townsend dispatches, that was sighted on December 19th, 150 miles south of the Columbia river, flying signals of distress. A later dispatch from Port Townsend says all that Capt. Gracie, of the Falkland, could make out was the signal J. S. K. D. Other signals were flying, and he thinks they read, "Report me," but is not sure. At the time he spoke her she was heading northeast, in a strong westerly wind and a tremendous sea. The ship was laboring heavily and evidently in serious straits. She had lost her main topmast and mizzen mast and had only the lower main yard left on the mainmast and was travelling with only a jib set. Capt. Gracie says that he could have lent no assistance had he remained by her on account of the terrible sea that was ransacking at the time. The Challenger was loaded with coal from Ladysmith, B. C., for Kahlutai and is twenty-nine days out. From the course she was running it is evident that she had turned at sea and was trying to make Cape Flattery or some harbor of safety on the coast. Capt. Piltz, of the Challenger, has been unfortunate of late with his vessels, having but recently left the new four-masted barkentine William Carson, just outside of Honolulu, in collision with a steamer. At the time she was bound from Australia, coal laden for Honolulu.

From Saturday's Daily.
 -The building inspector recently inspected the exhibition building at Oak Bay, and ascertained that before being utilized it will have to be somewhat strengthened. It is the intention to install new pillar supports beneath the large dome. An expenditure of \$1,000 will be required.

-An adjourned meeting of the license board of North Victoria was held at Spanish last night. Messrs. Grimmer, Walters and Armstrong presiding, to consider the application for a license for W. M. Robson, of Mayne Island hotel. It was opposed by Canon Padden and

W. T. Collinson. After a lengthy argument the commission was unanimous, and granted the license. G. E. Powell supported the applicant.

-Mrs. Mary A. Shaw, aged 73 years, died at her home, Esplanade road, today. She was a native of St. Andrew's, N. B., and leaves two daughters, one in Victoria, and Mrs. William Lader, of Ladner's Landing, also Thomas Cavin, a lawyer, in this city. The funeral is arranged for Monday afternoon.

MRS. HIGGINS'S FUNERAL.
 Striking Testimony to the Esteem in Which Deceased Was Held.

The deep hold which the late Mrs. D. W. Higgins had upon the affections of the people of this city, and the sympathy that all classes feel for the bereaved husband and family, were manifested by the large gathering of the representatives of all sections of the community, who attended the obsequies to-day and the numerous floral offerings with which the coffin was covered. As a friend expresses it, Mrs. Higgins in distributing her benefactions and in assisting the sick, knew neither color nor nationalities, and won the love of all with whom she came in contact. Hence it will surprise none to know that in several of the city churches yesterday feeling allusion was made to the sad event and to the deceased's blameless and useful life referred to as an example worthy of emulation. The floral tributes were composed of rare and beautiful flowers, tastefully arranged in crosses or other forms emblematical of life here and hereafter. The Native Sons of the organization Mr. Frank Higgins is chief factor, sent a handsome wreath, which bore the society's motto, "U. S. C. T. U. Home Nursing Society, the Ladies' Auxiliary, the Macabees and several other charitable organizations contributed beautiful tokens of regard and respect.

The burial service at the Reformed Episcopal Church was performed by Rt. Rev. Bishop Dodge, assisted by Rev. Dr. Wilson. The following gentlemen acted as honorary pallbearers: Hon. J. H. Turner, Hon. Justice Martin, Dr. J. W. Powell, Mr. John Bryden, Mr. Wm. Wilson, Mr. W. Minnie, Mr. W. G. Giesler, Mr. H. B. W. Ilkman. The cortege to the cemetery was very large, and after a brief service the body was lowered into the grave and the last farewells said.

THREE MORE RETURN.
 Ptes. Leeman, Smethurst and Brethour WIR BE WELCOMED TO-NIGHT.

Three more of Victoria's volunteers will reach home to-night, Ptes. Smethurst, Leeman and Brethour being among the detachment which reached Vancouver to-day. They will probably arrive in the city to-night about 9:30 p.m. A reception will be given at the Princess Louise from the Matland.

At the wharf the men will be met by the mayor and aldermen, members of the patriotic committee, officers and men of the Fifth Regiment, and a large number of the city. A procession will be formed, and the men escorted by way of Fort, Government, Yates, and Douglas streets to the city hall.

The men will receive a formal welcome upstairs in the large council room. The three Victoria men mentioned are the only ones to arrive this evening, the remainder staying over at points along the line, to visit friends. Private Smethurst was with the quartermaster's stores, and was at all the engagements in which the first contingent was concerned, which was also true of Leeman and Brethour. A number of Saanich people will be present to assist in giving welcome to Brethour.

The city council will be in session to-night and will seek to have the evening's business disposed of before the arrival of the boat. After the receipt of it is possible that the mayor and aldermen will attend the end-of-the-century service in St. Andrew's church.

WORKER REMEMBERED.
 Children of St. Columbus Church Present Address and Oak Secretary to Miss Watson.

The following address, together with a handsome oak secretary, was presented by Miss Watson at the annual entertainment of the St. Columbus Presbyterian Sunday school, Oak Bay, held the other evening.

Dear Miss Watson:—We, the members of the Ladies' Aid Society, together with the boards of managers and session, desire to express our heartfelt appreciation of the spirit and manner in which you are fulfilling the many positions of responsibility and honor with which you are at present entrusted. Believing that you have always done your duty unwaveringly and to the best of your ability, we therefore take very great pleasure in asking your acceptance of this secretary as a small yet tangible expression of our love and esteem towards you as a co-worker for the cause of Christ in this place.

The effect of the collapse of the London & Globe Finance Corporation, may have been felt in this city, through British Columbia mining shares. The latest advices are that the tone of the market is more buoyant and that no serious failures are anticipated. It would be unfortunate indeed if the year to which we are looking forward so hopefully should be darkened at its very dawn by a shattering of the confidence of the investing public.

question of hospital matters was left in the hands of the incoming board which meets on Friday night. A communication was received from St. Thomas, Ont., where the lodge doctor is endeavoring to make room for Conservatives, writes the Times. "Mr. Cousiner, gold commissioner at Revelstoke, was dismissed because he was a Liberal. No more would be thrown out. Mr. Armstrong got his dismissal without any reason being assigned at all—rather a peculiar method of discharging office-holders. Mr. Fraser's dismissal has been suggested from Revelstoke, but up to the present time he has not got his discharge." We have not heard the government's defence in these matters. Will the Premier explain—before he goes to Ottawa?

DISMISSAL OF LIBERALS.
 A correspondent of the Times, who is in a position to know the facts as to the dismissal of Liberals by the Dunsmuir government to make room for Conservatives, writes the Times. "Mr. Cousiner, gold commissioner at Revelstoke, was dismissed because he was a Liberal. No more would be thrown out. Mr. Armstrong got his dismissal without any reason being assigned at all—rather a peculiar method of discharging office-holders. Mr. Fraser's dismissal has been suggested from Revelstoke, but up to the present time he has not got his discharge." We have not heard the government's defence in these matters. Will the Premier explain—before he goes to Ottawa?

ADVISED TO ORGANIZE.
 (Special to the Times.)
 Nanaimo, Dec. 31.—A delegation from the striking miners at Alexandria and Extension mines laid their grievances before the Nanaimo Miners' Union on Saturday night. The union expressed sympathy, but could not act. They advised the delegation to organize all the employees of the Dunsmuir collieries into a protective union. This, it is learned today, they will do.

Not a single candidate of the nine who submitted to the examination for mine manager's certificates passed. The question papers were very stiff.

FIRE RETURNS.
 The Losses This Year Were Less Than Any Since 1895.

The fire statistics for the past year show the total number of fires to have been 90, the losses amounting to \$11,400, the smallest since 1896. Last year's loss was \$34,500. During the past month there were five fires, the principal being at P-andry's cabins on Humboldt street, and in the window of Cochrane's drug store. Total loss for the month \$660.

The yearly record since 1887, when Thos. Deasy became chief, is as follows:

Year.	Fires.	Losses.
1887	29	\$2,750 00
1888	64	10,000 00
1889	34	8,500 00
1890	81	10,795 00
1891	57	10,970 00
1892	93	52,187 00
1893	61	18,900 00
1894	56	57,500 00
1895	104	24,243 00
1896	76	9,940 00
1897	92	14,472 00
1898	90	52,500 00
1899	90	34,500 00
1900	90	11,400 00

Total 1,017 \$304,786 00

NORTH SALT SPRING.
 The Closing of Vesuvius School for the Holidays.

The North Vesuvius public school closed on Thursday evening, Dec. 20th, for the Christmas holidays. Everything passed off very successfully. There was a good attendance of parents and friends, who crowded the little schoolhouse. The Christmas tree was well loaded with toys and presents, and when lighted presented a pleasing spectacle. After the chairman's remarks, the following programme was rendered by the scholars in such manner as to reflect great credit to their teacher, Miss Brethour:

Song—"The Maple Leaf"..... School
 Recitation—"Six Times Nine"..... Carrie McFadden
 Recitation—"They Ask Me Why Am I So Bad"..... Edward Mahaffey
 Recitation—"John Hardack"..... May Richards
 Song—"Red, White and Blue"..... Three Girls
 Recitation—"Dolly's Woe"..... Miss Rule
 Recitation—"Lost Hymn"..... Martha Whims
 Recitation—"Inventor's Wife"..... Miss Rule
 Song—"Three Mice"..... School
 Recitation—"Jee' Fore Christmas"..... School
 Recitation—"How to Make Cakes"..... School
 Recitation—"The Forty Thieves"..... Eliza Whims
 Dialogue—"Boys' Rights"..... Four Boys
 Song—"Jack Frost"..... Three Girls
 Recitation—"Johnny's Pocket"..... School
 Recitation—"Richard Lee"..... School
 Song—"Hop, Hop, Hop"..... School
 Recitation—"Five Girls and Two Boys"..... School
 Recitation—"Children's Telegram"..... School
 Recitation—"When the Teacher Gets Cross"..... Bertie Bertram
 Song—"Vacation Song"..... School
 Recitation—"Going Back"..... Edgar Cotsford
 Reces, Five Minutes.

Recitation—"Santa Claus"..... Miss Rule
 Recitation—"Pardon Come Too Late"..... School
 Recitation—"When the Teacher Gets Cross"..... Miss Brethour
 Dialogue—"Fish Love Letter"..... Three Girls
 Recitation—"The Setting Sun"..... Mr. Rosman
 Refreshments were then handed round, and gifts distributed to the children. "God Save the Queen" brought the concert to a close.

Tragedy At Sooke

Runaway Accident Cut Short the Careers of Two Promising Young Men.

Both Precipitated From Top of Load of Straw—Death Probably Instantaneous.

Shortly before noon on Saturday a terrible accident occurred on the Otter Point road, which plunged in mourning one of the most highly respected families in the district, and terminated the lives of two bright young men at the very threshold of promising career.

The victims of the tragedy were John and Andrew Muir, as briefly mentioned in these columns on Saturday evening, and the circumstances which robbed the community of two estimable members were not observed by eye witnesses are doubtless sufficiently plain to obviate the necessity of a coroner's inquest.

It appears that the two young men were taking a heavy load of straw to the farm of H. Clark at Otter Point. The load was drawn by four horses, one of the leaders being a colt, and for the first eight or nine miles of the journey nothing occurred, but the animals were characterized with the road, having resided in the Sooke district from their birth, and the elder, John, was an excellent driver. Between eight and nine miles from the Muir home the road becomes quite steep for a short distance, assuming a rather sharp curve. At the foot of the curve is a bridge spanning Chartres's stream. From the position of the wagon when found, the state of the harness, and the marks on the road, it is presumed that the harness became entangled in some manner or other, perhaps through the eccentricities of the colt, and the horses bolted with their heavy load. Just at the commencement of the bridge the sudden swerve must have thrown the rack from its position, and precipitated the two young men about fifteen feet below.

The wagon did not strike the bridge, but diverted from its course to the side, and the animals were thrown to a stand still. John was thrown head first into the shallow water almost in the middle of the stream, and his neck was broken. The only mark on him was a bruise on his forehead. Andrew, the younger, fell on a log at the side of the stream, and slid about eight feet. His skull was opened, exposing the brain. In each case death must have been instantaneous. The hay rack was smashed to pieces.

The noise of the runaway was heard by old Mr. Chartres, who was a short distance away, but the aged gentleman being very feeble, was unable to investigate. His shouts for assistance, however, were heard by Messrs. King and Fletcher, who were working in the vicinity, and they responded at once. Arriving at the bridge a shocking scene met their gaze. Four horses held stationary by the position of the wagon at the side of the bridge, a smashed straw rack, and its load of the wagon, told them of disaster. Closer investigation disclosed the sadder, and infinitely more shocking details, as the bodies of the two victims were found floating on the stream. They were immediately removed to the Chartres's residence, where they were prepared for the sad journey to their stricken home. In the meantime the aged parents were gently apprised of the terrible occurrence, and the bodies of the young men were brought home. The shock to the parents was terrible, and their sorrow is shared by not only the entire district, but in the city, where the young men were well known and highly esteemed. Coming at this particular season of the year in a period of general rejoicing and festivities, the stroke is a severe one, and the affliction heavy under any circumstances, and more when it is remembered that both the young men were in the prime of early manhood.

John, the elder, was about twenty-five years of age, and like his brother, was born in Sooke. There is no household more widely known than theirs, their father, John Muir, being one of the sturdy pioneers who came here when the colony was in its infancy. Both young men were educated at Sooke, and they were general favorites in the district. John was captain of the football team, and well known in athletic circles. The younger, Andrew, was 23 years of age, and was, like his brother, very popular in the district. Together with a younger brother, Douglas, who has recently reached his majority, and a cousin, William Walsh, the entire work of the ranch virtually devolved upon them, and their indefatigable industry and ability had made it a splendid tract indeed.

Besides their aged parents and the brother and cousin just mentioned, they leave a younger sister. Yesterday Provincial Constable Cox went out to the scene of the accident to obtain particulars, and his report makes an inquest unnecessary. The funeral will take place from the family residence to-morrow afternoon at 4 o'clock, the interment being in the little cemetery in the vicinity.

Along the Waterfront.

Steamer State of California arrived on Sunday on her first trip on the San Francisco-Victoria run with only eight cabin and thirteen second-class passengers for Victoria out of a total of 70 aboard. Though this is the first visit of the ship here, she is by no means a stranger to the coast. She is one of three steamers built specially for the San Francisco-Portland route fifteen or sixteen years ago. The Oregon was the first to arrive on the coast, then came the Columbia, and later the State of California. The latter is very similar to the well known City of Puebla, having been designed and constructed in such a way as to allow her to cross over the bar of the Columbia without difficulty. The Unatilla, of the Pacific Coast fleet, was also in on Sunday on her way south, and there embarked on her at this port, O. S. Morse and wife, M. Matheson and wife, W. Williamson, J. Manstone, Mrs. D. Allen, Miss V. Elliott, W. Scarth and wife, E. S. Hunt, Thomas Leese, J. Dolton, and Mrs. J. Dolton.

The German ship Carl, which was towed into Port Angeles on Christmas morning, and of which brief mention has heretofore been made, got a very rough deal at the hands of the big storm. Her captain states that during the height of the blow he never expected to reach shore again. The great seas that swept the Carl's decks tore away her stanchions and water poured through the holes thus left so rapidly that she was in danger of sinking, the pumps being unable to cope with the rising water. Her cargo of wheat was saturated, and it became necessary to jettison a portion of it. The Carl, it is said, is to be put in dry dock at Esquimalt.

The steamer John S. Kimball is to be surveyed by Tacoma by the government officials, in consequence of the injuries sustained by the vessel in a storm off Cape Flattery. It has been found that the forward superstructure of the Kimball was badly strained. It will be necessary for the steamer to discharge her cargo.

A press dispatch from Holyhead reports that the bodies of 20 members of the crew of the British bark Primrose Hill, Capt. Wilson, from Liverpool for Victoria, which went on the rocks during the gale and broke up, have been washed ashore.

British ship Dunreagan was launched from the Esquimalt marine railway on Saturday afternoon, but will not leave here for the Sound for eight or ten days yet.

D. G. S. Quadra goes out of commission today for a two months' rest, during which time her work will be engaged in giving her a much-needed overhauling.

Steamer Willapa arrived at Vancouver from Northern British Columbia ports this morning, and will reach Victoria some time this evening.

Ten per cent. reinsurance is being offered on the overdue British bark Castle Rock now out sixty days from Hongkong.

British steamship Milton, 2,004 tons, is on her way to British Columbia from Vladivostok. She sailed on December 17th.

American ship Alexandria, 2,043 tons, is on her way to Modyville from San Francisco for lumber cargo.

British bark Dundee, 1,068 tons, is out 33 days from Hongkong. She is coming to load at Chemainus.

ENTERTAINMENT AT COWICHAN.
 (Special Correspondence of the Times.)
 South Cowichan hall was the scene of a very enjoyable event on Saturday evening, when Mr. and Mrs. Edward Miller gave an entertainment to the children of South Cowichan district school. At 6:30 p. m. all were present, and the fun commenced by many pleasing parlor games. Frank Panned gave selections on the violin, and Mrs. Miller kindly brought her new phonograph into play, to the great enjoyment of all. The games were enjoyed, and participated in by many mothers, as well as their children. At 10:30 tea, cake and many other things were partaken of, after which three classes were given by the boys and girls for Mrs. Miller, and all departed for their several homes, carrying with them a memory of an enjoyable event.

RETIREES FROM CONTEST.
 (Special to the Times.)
 Vancouver, Dec. 28.—Thos. Dunn today announced his retirement from the majority contest. He was not satisfied with the alibemantic ticket chosen by the Citizens' Association. Aid. McQueen will probably be elected by acclamation.

The Times wishes all its friends a happy and prosperous new year, and hopes that they may live long and become thoroughly acquainted with the new century upon which we are entering.

Mines Not Aff

The Work on Rossland Will Be Continued Usual.

They Are Able to Pay Way—West Australian Shares Unsold.

Rossland, Dec. 20.—Continuation was caused here by suspension of the London stock market yesterday; but from information available, that it will not affect the ability.

The London and Globe £150,000,000. It was formed by the London and Globe, which Whittaker Wright, British American Corporation, operating in British with a capital stock of the parent corporation of Kootenay Mining Co., Western Mining Co., No. 2 Smelting Co., and Le Roi Co. and Le Roi No. 2, in the London and Globe, and also when the share made of the Le Roi, Le other flotations made by this way considerable amount is held by the London and Globe. Before this was placed on ever, the B. A. Co. finally to say, they found it case them and to put it advanced in this way, the companies were of shares disposed of. The all standing on their own are independent. They by the companies for and are in no way affected the London and Globe.

The Le Roi has been and Rossland and Green Columbia and Kootenay to ship. The latter has been provided with facilities, and is not in the Le Roi. The Le Rossland and Great could, were the smallest able, ship 1,000 tons of the Nickel Plate Co. and the Le Roi No. 2. The capacity will increase about 1,000 tons, and to handle about all in but in order to prove the smelter's capacity enlarged to at least 2,000 tons.

The management of the city knows nothing of the suspension of the stock market. They effect on the mines by to stand alone and pay that their future was perature of a dog and some sold out of were sold out because up margins. One me Co. shares, and he them for a few days. The London and Globe, ever since the coup in Le Roi No. 2, who bought short success. They have been endeavoring coup in order to get On Friday the annu Bol Company was he the the announcement lag to the large sum ment work and for in, that no dividend is, it is thought, on the London and G suspension.

Situation.
 London, Dec. 20.—The West Australian absolutely unsalable day. Lake View's quarter. The British shares were quoted today they were 10 London and Globe to the 8d. They are there is some speculative shares should become slant probably the worst and globe in the which (the Lake originated, is a high company, which is verse criticism during

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