ANNUAL ENTERTAINMENT HELD AT SOOKE

School Children Contribute to Programme—Rifle Club Prizes Distributed.

(Special Correspondence of the Times.)

Sooke, Dec. 21—The heart of the small boy, and also that of the little miss, was made glad on the evening of Friday, December 18, when the annual Christmas tree and entertainment of the school children of Sooke were held at Charters' Hall. The occasion was also one of great pleasure to the older folk present, and they were many. The programme rendered showed careful rehearsing, and reflects credit on Miss M. Dewar, the teacher for her painstaking efforts. The programme was as follows:

Song—In an Old Fashioned Garden .. .. Alice Gordon and D. Ross
Recitation—Our Baby ..... Clifford Way
Song—Don't Forget Your Old Home, Far Away .... Miss Marjorie Anderson
Drill—Dumb Bells..Sooke School Children
Recitation—A Warning ..... Agnes Milne
Dialogue—Jake Hayseed in the City .. Daisy Ross, Bert Mugford, Clifford Way.
Song—Love Me and the World is Mine ..... T. Oldershaw
Recitation—Betty and the Bear ..... A. Gordon
Recitation—Christmas Day in the Morning ..... A. Shields
Song—With You in Eternity.T. Oldershaw
Flag Drill ..... Sooke School Children
Recitation ..... Bertha Muir
Recitation ..... Lavinia Anderson
Song ..... Mabel Way and Daisy Ross
Recitation ..... Winnifred Knapton
Children of the Empire...School Children
Song—Just Some One ..... Miss Marjorie Anderson
Dialogue ..... By the Girls
Comic and Character Songs..... Mr. Cave

During the evening the Rifle club prizes were presented by Mrs. H. D. Helmcken to the following winners: Helmcken Medal, Louis Godfel; Schoolmaster's Cup, J. D. Donaldson; Figure Target, Johnny White.

Presentations were made by H. Dallas Helmcken, K. C., to Messrs Murray, French and Milne, leading members of the Sooke Farmers' Institute, in appreciation of their efforts in bringing the resources of the district to the front rank.

Santa Claus having performed his duties in distributing prizes from the Chistmas tree, refreshments were next in order, after which the hall was cleared for dancing. The light fantastic was tripped until a late hour, which terminated one of the most successful gatherings of the people of Sooke.

Miss Dewar, the retiring teacher, was highly complimented for her interest in her pupils, and regret is general at her departure from the district.

PRIZE WINNERS.

Miss Messenger's School Closes for the Christmas Holidays.

The annual distribution of prizes to the girls of Miss Messenger's school took place at "The Poplars," Burdette avenue, on Monday. The results of the examinations were extremely satisfactory, the more so as the percentage necessary to the obtaining of a prize has been raised since last year.

In the first class, Olive Day gained the arithmetic prize with 91 per cent. and the French prize with 85 per cent.

In the second class, the following girls obtained special prizes: Eveleen Floyd, highest examination and term's marks, 83 per cent., arithmetic 91 per cent., spelling 85 per cent.; Doris Worsfold, English history 82 per cent., literature 89 per cent.; Angela Beanlands, English elocution 86 per cent., Florence Smith, French 80 per cent.

In the third class prizes were awarded as follows: Hilda Fleming, arithmetic 87 per cent., geography 85 per cent.; Gundrid Rebbeck, French 78 per cent.; Kitty Smith, English grammar 80 per cent.; Vivienne Charlton, spelling 95 per cent., dictation 91 per cent.; Victoria Wylde, writing 88 per cent.; Isabella Elliott, Scripture 80 per cent.

Fourth class prize winners were as follows: Jessie Wootton, English history 79 per cent.

The following among the pupils not having obtained prizes for special subjects received awards for very satisfactory general improvement: Armine Pemberton, Margaret Macdowall, Phyllis Slater, Philippa Pemberton, Margaret Hollyer, Carmen Macdewall, Cordelia Jennings, Isabel Fox, Aline Stewart Williams.

The special music prize of the year to Miss Archbutt's pupils was gained by Annie Grace Robertson, who earned it in strenuous competition by her unflagging, conscientious work.

The moral conduct prize was awarded to Hilda Fleming, who was also the recipient of the "Noblesse Oblige" badge, this prize being voted by the girls themselves. Angela Beanlands was such a very close second in this contest that she was presented with a small badge of merit.

The school will re-open on Wednesday, January 6th, 1909, at 9.30 a. m.

UNION RATES ABANDONED.

At a recent meeting of the Association of Sailing Ship-Owners at London the minimum charter rate on wheat and barley from Pacific Coast ports to the United Kingdom of 27s 6d was abolished. Masters and owners are now at liberty to accept whatever rate they can get.

This will, of course, make an enormous difference to local shipping and will result on an increased activity in the chartering of sailing ships now lying idle in Esquimalt.

You cannot possibly have a better Cocoa than
EPPS'S
A delicious drink and a sustaining food. Fragrant, nutritious and economical. This excellent Cocoa maintains the system in robust health, and enables it to resist winter's extreme cold.
COCOA
Sold by Grocers and Storekeepers in ¼-lb. and ½-lb Tins.

LANDS RAILWAY MATERIAL.

Steamer Henriette Carries Large Cargo to Prince Rupert.

Prince Rupert, Dec. 19.—McKenzie Bros. steamship Henriette arrived from the south on Tuesday with a full cargo of supplies and railroad construction material for Foley, Welch & Stewart. After unloading she left at midnight on Wednesday for the Queen Charlotte Islands, from where she will take a large shipment to Vancouver.

The Union steamship Coquitlam arrived from Vancouver on Tuesday night with a good cargo of supplies consigned to the local merchants for the Christmas trade. The usual trip to Port Simpson and the Nass was abandoned this time and the Coquitlam left again southbound early on Wednesday morning.

SEARCH FOR OLD CREW OF VANCOUVER BELLE

Money Paid Over by Russia Ready for Distribution.

Considerable difficulty is being experienced in finding the crew of the sealing schooner Vancouver Belle, which was seized by the Russians in 1892 and later was broken up at the dock at Vladivostock. The claim for damages was established and at last Russia has paid the damages assessed. A sum of about $43,000 is now in the hands of the government, with which to pay the men who were employed at that time on the schooner, and also the owners. The men will be paid first and an effort is now being made to find them. So far the names of only five of the crew have been ascertained. Of these, two are deceased.

The odd thing about this case is that the shipping office has no copy of the articles or anything to indicate who the men were. The shipping master is still searching, but it is hardly likely that he will be successful as he has already gone through all the copies of articles and other papers once.

ST. GEORGE'S CLOSING.

Boarding and Day School Concludes Term in Pleasant Way.

The children attending St. George's boarding and day school had a very pleasant time at their Christmas closing, and a number of the parents were present. The school colours, red, white and blue, were worn by all the pupils. A lengthy programme of songs and recitations was rendered, in all of which the children gave evidence of the careful and thorough training they are receiving from Mrs. Suttie and her assistant, Miss Henderson. The accompaniments were played by Miss Ohlson, who has recently returned from studying in Germany, and will be the teacher of music in St. George's school next term.

Mrs. Suttie, in an interval of the proceedings, made a short address, and praised the children for the good work done by them. She expressed the hope that still larger premises would be obtained during next year, which would give larger classrooms and also afford ample space for school games.

Prizes presented by the kindness of some of the parents were awarded as follows: First, for conduct and attendance, Laura Macklin, who gained 760 out of 760; kindergarten form, Gwennie Hughes, 759 out of 760; first form, term prize, Doris Macklin; examination prize, Kathleen Weeks. Additional prizes were also given in the kindergarten form to Julian Menkus and Joe Stubbington for Arithmetic, Bertie Oates for writing, and Harry Eakins for punctuality.

The following was the programme:

The Maple Leaf.
Recitation—The Fruit Tree ..... Bjornson
Jessie Oates, Winnie Lee, Ernest Hall and Maitland Twigg, with chorus.
Song—Baby's Horse ..... Wardle
The Little Boys.
Recitations—
The Bee ..... C. Rosetti
Julien Menkus.
The Busy Bee ..... Watts
Jim Hanbury.
Recitation—September ..... M. Howitt
Gwendolyn Humphreys.
Song—Baby in the Garden ..... Wardle
The Little Girls.
Recitation—Ladybird, Ladybird ..... Old Rhyme
Edna Shouldice.
Piano Solo .....
Miss Ohlsen.
Recitation—Hiawatha's Fishing ..... Longfellow
Beatrix Lees.
Song—The Miller's Little Children .... C. C. Moseley
Solos by Doris Macklin, Gwennie Hughes, Bernard Lee and Joe Stubbington.
Recitation—A Night With a Wolf ..... Bayard Taylor
Philip Twigg.
Recitation—Sixpence ..... Old Rhyme
Bernard Lees.
Pianoforte Duet—Waltz ..... Kinross
Doris Macklin and Miss Ohlson.
Riddles and Rhymes .....
Harry Eakins, Bertie Oates, Joe Stubbington.
Recitation—My Shadow..R. L. Stevenson
Kathleen Weeks.
Song—Wynken, Blynken and Nod ..... Words by Field; Music by MacDonald
First Form.
Recitation—Three Welshmen..Old Rhyme
Laura Macklin.
Recitation—The Babes in the Wood .. .. Nursery Rhyme
Elise Menkus, Alison Suttie, Gwennie Hughes.
Pianoforte Duet—Melody ..... Kinross
Beatrix Lees and Miss Ohlson.
Recitation—A Little Girl..Alma Tadema
Doreen Ross.
Recitation—The Fairies' Song ..... Shakespeare
Doris Macklin.
Christmas Carols and Hymns—
Good King Wenceslas.
Hark, the Herald Angels Sing.
Once in Royal David's City.
Solos by Beatrix Lees and Winnie Lee.
God Save the King.

At the close the children, and later the grown-ups, enjoyed the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Suttie.

THE RUPERT CITY.

MacKenzie Steamer Expected to Make Trial Trip on January 2nd.

Steamer Rupert City, formerly the Powhattan, has already been transformed into an up-to-date passenger ship. Two tiers of housework have been built, and it is expected that she will be ready for her trial trip on January 2nd, when several hundred people will be entertained by the MacKenzie Steamship Company. The steamer is fitted with wireless apparatus, and her dining saloon has accommodation for 125 people at one sitting.

NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA PAYS LARGE DIVIDEND

Makes Good Profit Despite Falling Off of Revenue.

Addressing the shareholders of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha at the annual meeting held in Tokio recently, Mr. Kondo, president of the company, said:

The financial depression since last year has greatly affected the shipping business in general which was placed in a very deplorable situation and much anxiety has been entertained about the result of our business for the term just ended. It is gratifying, therefore, that we are able ta declare a dividend of 12 per cent. In England more than 200 vessels are at present reported to be lying idle, being unable to get any cargo, while a great steamship company in Germany is unable to declare and dividend for the term. This company was able to net a comparatively good profit in spite of the fact that our gross earning was less this term than in the previous half year. This is quite owing to the timely measures the company adopted in closing several branches, diminishing the number of clerks and employees and the adjustment of liners. The economical depression and presidential campaign in America have also had a serious effect on the shipping business not only in Japan but the world over. In China the slump in silver, the boycott in the south and the recent court affliction in Pekin have greatly affected her trade with this country, and consequently proved no little impediment to the shipping business in this part of the world. Again, the restriction of Japanese emigration to Canada and the United States has added to the stagnancy of the shipping business. In short, with revival in the business world the recovery of shipping business may be expected.

WEEKLY REVIEW OF COAST CHARTER MARKET

The coast grain freight market is dull and uninteresting, says the San Francisco Commercial News of Saturday. Two vessels were taken during the week to load at northern ports, the Archibald Russell to load at Tacoma on owners' account, and the Bossuet to load at Portland at 22s 3d, this rate being 5s 3d below the union minimum and showing a very weak market. But three vessels are left to load at this port, seven on the Sound and nine at Portland, with only a very few under charter to arrive. One of the free list at this port has been ordered to Australia in ballast, leaving but three vessels available for grain on the free list. The list at northern ports, however, is large enough to be a considerable drag on the market, and there is little possibility of any improvement in rates while that list remains as large as at present. In fact, shippers generally look for a weak market for months to come.

Offshore lumber chartering is quiet and is likely to remain so until after the holidays. One steamer is reported taken on time charter for the West Coast and a coaster is fixed from Grays to Sydney at 30s. Coastwise freights hold steady, rates being quoted $3.50 to $3.75 to San Francisco and $4.25 South.

Offshore rates are quoted approximately as follows: Lumber from Puget Sound or British Columbia to Sydney, 27s 6d@28s 3d; to Melbourne or Adelaide, 30s; Port Pirie, 30s@32s 6d; to Fremantle, 37s 6d; to Japan ports (steamers), 30s; Callao, 38s 9d@41s 3d; direct nitrate ports, 38s 9d@4ss 3d; Valparaiso for orders, 40s@42s 6d, 2s 6d less to a direct port; to South African ports, 47s 6d, to U. K. of Continent, 48s 6d@50s; Guaymas, $5.75; Santa Rosalia, $6.50.

Liverpool mail advices give the following fixtures: Rotterdam to San Francisco, coke, 21s; South Australia to U. K., 22s spot and 21s 3d January; nitrate freights steady at 14s.

Weddel, Turner & Co.'s Australasian freight report, dated London, December 1st, says:

South Australia and Victoria — December boat fixed for wheat to Bombay at 16s; also several steamers at 22s@22s 6d, U. K., Continent, with options, December-January-February loading. January-February ship chartered for Cape at 19s.

New South Wales—(Newcastle)—Two steamers fixed for 5s six months time charter, delivery Newcastle, redelivery East at 2s 9d on d. w. (Sail). West Coast done at 18s 6d@19 d, and direct nitrate ports 18s@18s 6d.

OLD BARQUE SOLD.

The Elizabeth Will be Converted Into a Barge.

The old barque Elizabeth, built in Bath, Me., in 1868, was sold a few days ago by Norwegian owners to a London firm to be converted into a barge. The Elizabeth was once upon a time one of the finest windjammers flying the Stars and Stripes. She was of the Coloma and Alden Besse class, although built many years before them.

The Alden Besse is still afloat, but the Coloma went down in a storm off Cape Flattery a couple of years ago. Her crew were saved by a passing windjammer. The Elizabeth was transferred to the Norwegian flag after her days of usefulness in the American merchant marine had passed, but she still managed to earn a fair profit for her new owners for a number of years. Another old barque of the same school recently turned into a barge was the C. F. Sargent, which plied out of Portland in the Alaska salmon fleet until about two years ago, when she was sent around the Horn to New York to serve as a receptacle for coal.

—The funeral of the late Joseph Evans took place on Wednesday at 2 o'clock from the Hanna chapel, where A. J. Brace conducted an impressive service. The deceased served through the South African war. The funeral was held under the auspices of the Sons of England Society.

COASTING ACCIDENT.

Two Girls Have Legs Broken, Having Been Thrown From Sled.

New Westminster, Dec. 21.—While coasting down the sidewalk on Tenth street shortly after nine o'clock on Saturday evening, two girsls, Mary Mack, daughter of J. Mack, engineer on the C. P. R., of Third avenue, and an eleven-year-old companion named Illis, of Vancouver, were thrown violently from a sled, both being seriously injured. Miss Mack, who is fourteen years of age, sustained a broken leg and a number of bruises on the head and face, while the other girl was more seriously hurt, one leg being broken in two places, in addition to a number of scratches and bruises on different parts of the body.

WILL JOIN CITY ON UNIVERSITY QUESTION

Ratepayers of Esquimalt Meet and Elect Committee.

A meeting of ratepayers of Esquimalt district was held Tuesday at the Soldiers and Sailors' home, Esquimalt road, to select a committee to act in conjunction with the city committee on the question of the establishment of a provincial university in Victoria. John Jardine, M. P. P., occupied the chair and explained the object of the meeting.

Mr. Jardine said it was probable the Hudson's Bay Company would donate fifty acres at the corner of Craigflower and Admiral's roads for the purpose and that a committee should be formed to join with the city committee and look into all matters in connection with the project. Vancouver and Westminster, he explained, were busy and now was the time for Victoria to make a move.

J. C. McIntosh thought the committee should interview the Hudson's Bay Company and ascertain just what that company would do in the matter before interviewing the government, as it would be better to go to them with a definite proposition.

Dr. Fagan supported the proposal to interview the Hudson's Bay Company. He, however, thought the location suggested was not suitable. He favored Macaulay point.

R. H. Pooley said Macaulay point had been cut up and the lots sold and re-sold, and the Hudson's Bay Company would not now be able to offer fifty acres of connected land there. The other site, however, was controlled by the Hudson's Bay Company. The provincial library and museum were named as additional advantages to the university if established here.

H. Croft suggested that delegates from the Island towns, from Comox down unite and see the government. While Vancouver and Westminster were working against one another, Vancouver Island could go solid and work together.

The following committee was selected: Henry Croft, Dr. Fagan, A. W. McCurdy, J. C. McIntosh, R. H. Pooley, A. Stewart, A. S. Barton and John Jardine, M. P. P. T. H. Piper was elected secretary.

The meeting adjourned with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

DAY SCHOOL CLOSING.

Mrs. Blaiklock's Pupils Hold Enjoyable Entertainment.

A very pleasant entertainment took place Saturday at the closing of the Victoria day school, Harrison street. After the report of school and examination marks were read, the following programme was given: Wolsley and Cromwell, a scene from Henry VIII., by Freda Bagshawe and Mary Medd; French dialogue from Henry V., Lucy Little and Bessie Jones; scene, "Arthur and Hubert," from King John, Dorothy Edwards, Dorothy Kingham and attendants, Totes Day, Marguerite McDougall, Ethel Rhodes; French play, Peri Warren and Brownie Bodwell; French poetry, Fred Hobson.

A pretty drill also was given by the pupils, dressed in white, with red poles and sashes of the colors of the school, followed by tableaux, from Tennyson's "Princess," in which were sung "Sweet and Low," "Tears, Idle Tears," "Home They Brought Her Warrior Dead."

The singing of "God Save the King" brought the programme to a close. All the parents and friends were very pleased with the work of children. Mrs. Blaiklock will reopen for the Easter term on Wednesday, January 6th, 1909.

—William Fernie, of Oak Bay, has made his annual donation of $10 to the funds of the Royal Jubilee hospital. A cheque for the amount has been sent to the secretary-treasurer of the hospital.

HENRY'S
Now Ready
For the Fall Trade
90,000 Peach, Apricot, Nectarines, Cherry, Plum, Prune, Pear and Apple
In all leading varieties.
10,000 Ornamental Trees
Select varieties suitable for B.C.
Strictly home grown and not subject to damage from fumigation.
STOCK of BULBS on hand from JAPAN, FRANCE and HOLLAND.
Bee Supplies, Spray Pumps, Seeds.
CATALOGUE FREE
Office, Greenhouse & Seedhouse
3010 Westminster Road
VANCOUVER, B. C.
Branch Nurseries, Majuba Hill and South Vancouver.
NURSERIES

FIREMEN OF PRINCE RUPERT GIVE BALL

Over Two Hundred People Enjoy Dancing in New Postoffice Building.

Prince Rupert, Dec. 23.—The first annual ball of the Prince Rupert volunteer fire department was held in the new postoffice building on Friday evening, and proved a grand success in every way. The large room was tastefully decorated with flags, bunting and evergreens, and was well lighted with an incandescent gasoline lamp system that had been installed for the occasion. The large beacon light, lately owned by American poachers and captured by the Canadian cruiser Kestrel in Hecate strait, was set up in front of the building; but instead of serving its original purpose of guiding poachers to a well sheltered harbor where they could clean their fish without being molested, it directed the merry-making people of Prince Rupert to where they thoroughly enjoyed the best dance ever held in the new terminus.

When the grand march was announced shortly after nine o'clock over eighty couples joined in the parade, and from then until in the early morning hours there was not a slow nor tiresome moment.

At midnight a delicious lunch was served by the members of the brigade, after which dancing was resumed. The Metlakatla string band, made up of native sons, who are natural born musicians, furnished good music and responded to many encores. There were fully 225 people present, and the receipts totalled $254, which will be expended in purchasing fire-fighting apparatus.

PREDICTS INCREASED OUTPUT IN ATLIN

Mining Companies Have Made Extensive Additions to Plants.

Vancouver, Dec. 23.—There will be a greatly increased gold production in Atlin district next year, according to J. M. Ruffner. Mr. Ruffner is managing director of the North Columbia Mining Company and a subsidiary corporation, the Pine Creek Power Company.

During the past season he directed the work of building a five-mile ditch in order to secure a water supply. The ditch has a width of 26 feet with a delivery capacity of 15,000 miners' inches. The ditch taps Lake Surprise, a lake which has a length of 18 miles. Gates installed at the intake enable the company to regulate the flow into the ditch. Experts agree that the facilities the company will enjoy next year in regard to water supply are unequaled in the history of hydraulic mining. So enormous is the volume of water that no difficulty will be experienced in operating twelve seven-inch monitors.

Owing to the construction work in progress all summer the company worked little ground, the output being one-third of the usual yearly production. All records, however, will be surpassed next season. The company owns 1,300 acres of bench and six miles of creek claims whose richness has been determined by the most careful tests.

Mr. Ruffner bases his prediction of next year's increased output in Atlin on the fact that other companies having made extensive additions to their plants will operate on a large scale in future. This is especially true of the McKee Creek Company and a French company on Otter creek.

STEAM SHOVEL AT WORK AT PRINCE RUPERT

Big Rock Bluffs Will Be Cleared Away by Middle of May.

Prince Rupert, Dec. 22.—The big steam shovel recently brought here by Foley Welch & Stewart to clear away the big rock bluffs at the wharf has been moved to the ground, and is already digging into the loose rock that had been blasted out. A short main line has been laid along the water front, with sidings and switches to accommodate the two trains which are made up of pony locomotives and five dump cars. One scoop of the big iron dipper is sufficient to fill a car. When they have all been loaded the train is run out on the grade and dumped into the space between the fill and the wharf which is now being rapidly filled up.

Judging from the rate at which the work is now being carried on it is estimated that the two big bluffs, containing over 300,000 cubic yards of rock, will be broken up and removed by the middle of May next year.

Another commercial enterprise for Prince Rupert was established here today when the building lately occupied by the Imperial restaurant, and owned by Pat Carey, a well-known pioneer of Vancouver, was sold to the Cromwell-Ormsby Company, who have renovated the structure and converted it into an up-to-date meat market. The building is situated on the main business street of Knoxville. When lots can be purchased permanent buildings will be put up, slaughter houses erected and a cold storage plant installed. Swift & Company of Chicago are reported to be behind the new enterprise.

—The scholars of Burnside Baptist Mission Sunday school held their annual entertainment on Tuesday in the schoolroom of St. Mark's church. An excellent tea was served at 6 o'clock, and later in the evening the gifts from the Christmas tree were distributed.

FAMILY CASH GROCERY'S
CHRISTMAS BARGAINS
BON BONS, per box ..... 25¢
XMAS STOCKINGS, each, 25c and ..... 10¢
XMAS TREE DECORATIONS, each, 25c, 15c and ..... 10¢
NAVEL ORANGES, per dozen ..... 25¢
MIXED NUTS, 3 lbs ..... 50¢
MALAGA TABLE RAISINS, per lb ..... 25¢
STORE CLOSED ALL DAY SATURDAY
The Family Cash Grocery
Cor. Yates and Douglas Streets. Tel. 312

Christmas Goods In Cutlery or Silverware
CARVING SETS
Best Sheffield make. From $1.50 to $18.00
POCKET CUTLERY From 10¢ to $4.00
SILVERWARE A complete list at reduced prices.
B. C. HARDWARE CO., LTD.
PHONE 82 COR. YATES AND BROAD

ST. ANN'S KINDERGARTEN.

Pupils Render Enjoyable Programme and Receive Gifts From Santa Claus.

The closing exercises of St. Ann's kindergarten were held on Tuesday in their pleasant schoolroom on Blanchard street, the centre of attraction in which was a splendid Christmas tree. The faculty of the school were present, and the little folks acquitted themselves most happily and creditably, showing evidence of careful, systematic training. One of the most enjoyable features was a Sleigh Bell Drill by a number of little girls, which was carried through without a break or the slightest hesitation. A very beautiful sacred tableau representing the adoration of the Sacred Child by the wise men, shepherds and angels, was also given.

The crowning glory of the morning, to the children, however, was the arrival of Santa Claus, who first rang up the school to tell them he was on the way. He was welcomed with a pretty chorus, and upon being invited to do so danced a jig in the centre of the room, after which gifts were distributed.

The programme was as follows: Chorus, "Christmas Bells"; address, "Christmas Wishes"; song, "Santa Claus Will Come To-Night"; musical and recitative, "Three Little Bells"; motion song, "O, Clap the Hands"; recitation, "The Little Dreamer"; solo, "The Little Soldier"; wee recitations, "Trying to Be Good" and "Be a Try-Boy"; physical culture, Sleigh Bell Drill; song, "A Little Boy's Walk"; recitation, "A Note to Santa Claus"; dialogue, "The Story of Christmas"; sacred song, "O, Holy Night"; sacred tableau; Santa Claus' arrival.

SATURDAY SHOPPING.

Most of the Grocery Stores Will Remain Open That Day.

A proposition was made some time ago among the grocery stores in the city to close on Saturday of this week, following Christmas Day. It was thought by some, however, after considering the question that there would be an inconvenience worked the general public by having the stores closed to business for three days in succession and the proposal was dropped.

Most of the stores intend, therefore, to open Saturday, but many will arrange to have the members of their staffs divide the work so that part will get a holiday on the Saturday after Christmas, while others will take it the Saturday after New Years.

Copas & Young intend to close Saturday, however, giving their entire staff a full holiday for that day.

SENTENCED FOR STEALING.

Stable Boy Caught by Detective O'Leary As He Was Leaving the City.

Lou McCurrie, a stable boy, who has been employed at the racing stables out at the exhibition park, pleaded guilty in the police court on Wednesday to stealing $21 from a companion, "Bud" Gulst, on Monday night. He was sentenced to one month in jail and Gulst will get back $21 of the $31 found on McCurrie.

The two young fellows gave up work on Monday and came into town to go away. They had several drinks and late in the afternoon, in a hotel where they were known, the proprietor advised Gaist to let him have his money for safe keeping. Gulst was counting it on the bar as a preliminary to taking this good advice when McCurrie grabbed it up. A little later he slipped away and as he denied next day any knowledge of the matter a warrant was issued for him and Detective O'Leary arrested him on his way to the boat Tuesday evening.

TRADE COMMISSIONER DEAD.

Alexander MacLean Was Formerly Well Known Newspaperman in Eastern Canada.

Ottawa, Dec. 24.—Alexander MacLean, Canadian trade commissioner to China, is dead at Shanghai. News of his death was received at his former home here, but not the details. Mr. MacLean was formerly a well known newspaperman, publisher and writer, and was at one time part owner of the Montreal Herald. He was 73 years old.

BANK TREASURER'S SUICIDE.

Worcester, Mass., Dec. 23.—Frank W. Cutling, for the past 40 years connected with the Worcester Mechanics Savings Bank, and for seven years its treasurer, was found dead by suicide at his home to-day. Bank officials express the belief that his accounts are correct, as two examinations have been held recently.

In Russia, a declaration of love on a post card renders the sender liable to a fine.

EBONY GOODS FOR LADIES
Always appreciable and very popular as Christmas gifts. Why not select one of these genuine articles?
EBONY HAIR BRUSHES $4.00 to $1.00
EBONY CLOTHES BRUSHES, from $2.25
EBONY HAT BRUSHES, prices to $1, 90c and .. 75¢
TOILET CASES, beautifully fitted in Ebony. Full range of prices.
CYRUS H. BOWES
CHEMIST
Government St., Near Yates
VICTORIA, B. C.

SUPERIOR QUALITY AND CORRECT STYLES.

In Buying Your Xmas Presents
You like to feel that you are getting something just a little better than usual. The pleasure will be all the greater to the recipients when they see the name of FINCH & FINCH on the box or parcel—a name that stands for exclusiveness in quality and style.
FOR MEN.
Ties, Suit Cases, Canes, Umbrellas, Dress Mufflers.
FOR LADIES.
Opera Bags, Purses, Linen Handkerchiefs, Neckwear, Gloves and Glove Boxes, Feather Boas.
FINCH & FINCH
HATTERS
1107 GOVERNMENT STREET.
Sole Agents for ATKINSON'S IRISH POPLIN TIES.

LADIES' RINGS
One very strong point in our business—perhaps the strongest—is LADIES' RINGS. We pay special attention to this line and consequently show a large and very choice selection.
DIAMONDS, PEARLS, RUBIES, EMERALDS, SAPPHIRES, OPALS AND TURQUOISE
Set singly and in combination in all the newest and most approved styles.
The values, too, are the very best, and are made possible by personal selection.
OPEN EVENINGS.
THE
J. M. Whitney Co.
Diamond Merchants, Jewelers, Silversmiths and Opticians
Old Number 39 Govt. St.
New Number 1003 Govt. St.

THE DUCREST STUMP PULLER—Most powerful made, catches from 1 to 20 stumps each pull. Will clear a radius of 240 feet without moving. Moved easily in 30 minutes. Apply J. Ducrest, 466 Burnside road, Victoria, B. C.

NEW PORTUGUESE CABINET.

Lisbon, Dec. 24.—A new cabinet has been formed, headed by Dr. W. Des-Peirera De Lima, as premier. The previous cabinet resigned last week because of the declaration of the Regeneration party that it would no longer support the government.

BRIBERY SCA
IN PITT
CHARGES OF CORR
AGAINST COU
Bank Officials Also
Seven Men Arres
Bail of $178,

Pittsburg, Pa., Dec.
the sensational arrest h
of seven councilmen an
on charges of alleged
conducting the public
city, it is intimated to-
more startling developme
pire to-day or to-mor
meantime the people of
surprised almost beyond
the suddenness of the
nine men who are well
During the night the
ants and their attorney
held a number of conf
the officials of the Voter
worked up the charges a
fendants, together with
municipal officials also h
at which, it is said, pl
fected for the arrest of
leged to be implicated
scandal.
Attorney A. Leo. Wei
the Voters' League, s
"This is the beginning.
yet."
The following are the
Councilmen Wm. Brand
J. C. Wasson, T. O. A
Soffel, W. H. Melaney,
son. Former President
say and former Cashier
of the German National
accused.
Information against
members of the council
with conspiracy, corru
and bribery. An addit
tion against Brand. Was
bail in the sum of $30,0
manded. The bail of
members of the counc
$15,000 each.
The information agai
Vlisack charges them
Klein $17,500 as a bribe
ed from each is $14,000
defendants were taken
when arrested last nig
the necessary bail whi
gate amounted to $178
Chas. A. Fagan, vice
bank, in a statement
day announced that t
mediately on hearing
against the officers me
dered their discharge
tution. The bank, the
ed, was in no way af
All the information
by Tensadd De Wolf,
Voters' League, and t
cal writer on a local
Robert Wilson, supe
municipal league of
described as "The m
gun." Mr. Wilson, as
of private detectives
to this city from S
the evidence against
It is explained that t
entire matter was i
out the least publicit
police were not consu
day, when it was de
arrests. Then Mayo
tor of Public Safety
tendent of Police Mc
city officials met in
building where Mr.
tives, and members
League, laid the evid
Previously some of t
torneys in the city h
and pronounced the
to cause the arre
Mayor Guthrie order
the private detective
city detectives, round
fendants.

DEATH OF BISH

New York, Dec. 22
John S. Michaud, bis
Catholic diocese of
mont, died at St. V
day. Death was ca
disease. Bishop Mic
on the steamer Ame
whither he had gon
in a vain attempt to
All through the re
bishop was desperat
the steamer docked
was in a dying cond
Bishop Michaud wa
ton, Vt., Nov. 24, 1
he was a student a
and he took up the
at St. James' semin
He was ordained pr
On June 29, 1892 he
Bishop of Burlingto

HOLD UP CI

Montreal, Dec. 22.
city clerk yesterd
Light, Heat and P
to cut off the ligh
the end of the mo
council comes to
cision regarding re
tract.

CANDY-MAKER

Montreal, Que., D
dry, aged 19 yea
was asphyxiated b
a boarding house
early on Sunday
was turned off at
dry did not close t
the time, and whe
turned on it cause

SILVER FIND

Halifax, N. S., D
silver is reported
this county, and
brook, a former
Fifth Avenue hote
plied to the prov
ment for 230 acres
been found in thi