EOPLE UNDER ARMS IN PERSIA

actionaries and Constitutionalists Bivouack in Artillery Square --Hope of Settlement

ondon, Dec. 19.—Presiding to-day the annual meeting of the Imperial nk of Persia, Sir Lepel Henry Grif- read a cablegram from the man- r of the Bank at Tgheran. The ssage said:

Since last Sunday there have been nerous armed parties around the embly and a large display of troops the artillery square, but it is evi- t that neither party is anxious to t. There were large crowds on the eets, but excepting for one or two es of violence, there has been ab- tely no disorder. This, (Thursday) rning, the situation is very much eter as a result of the negotiations a reconciliation that were carried last night. The exile of the late mier, Nazir El Mulek and two icesses, has been cancelled."

eheran, Dec. 19.—Matters looked re hopeful for a brief period this rning, and the armed factions which e occupied the streets of the Per- capital since Sunday began to perse when suddenly a few random ts were fired in the public square, sing a speedy reassembling of the anized force.

s a result of the deliberations of night between the Shah and the liamentary party it is agreed that otiations could continue with a nce of success only if both sides ck their tents and dispersed. Ac- ingly the reactionaries who were ouacked in the artillery square and constitutionalists who surrounded assembly building, started to with- r from their positions. A number hops had reopened, the people ware nning to circulate on the streets, the members of the assembly were perating the best solution of the s when suddenly the firing from square was heard. Each faction ght it had been deceived. In the se of the afternoon large and fully ed forces representing each side, cupied their former positions. The tude of each faction is largely de- ive.

QUOR CASE DISPOSED OF

istrate Jay Acquitted Dallas Hotel of Selling Liquor Contrary to Law.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

e charge against the Dallas hotel for g sold liquor on a Sunday to Wil- Lang was this morning dismissed by strate Jay on the ground that there no illegal act proven.

evidence for the prosecution was some days ago, and this morning al witnesses gave evidence for the ce. The first of these was George ence Busk, who resides as a guest e Dallas hotel. He stated that he ined the register on November 24th saw Mr. Lang's signature there.

. Huggan, also a guest at the s hotel, said he saw Wm. Lang at hotel between 12 and 1 o'clock. He t shaved but in every other way as all right. Lang said he was not g well, so witness asked him to take . They accordingly went in to- r. He ate a good meal. Witness for a wine card and Mr. Lang had all brandy, witness taking a glass er. After dinner the same thing repeated and witness paid the bill. then retired to the billiard room alked for about fifteen minutes, and witness left Mr. Lang in the small

the small room later in the day he a quart Martell brandy bottle. reason for going into the room was Lang had just gone, and he went in rn out the lights.

ress further said he registered 's name, as it was customary for e inviting a guest to dinner to reg- his name. He paid for the liquor in billiard room to James Patterson, brought it from the bar.

. Isabella Patterson, wife of Wil- Patterson, told of seeing Mr. Lang hotel. She came down just as they commencing lunch and waited on Mr. Lang ate a very hearty meal got a couple of drinks, which Mr. an paid for. She further stated that a guest of the hotel brought a visi- e was responsible for him; he ac- ngly registered for him.

did not know how long the bar- r was on duty that day. The bar- r stays in the billiard room, and anyone wants a drink he goes in gets it.

Hart, chief clerk and assistant ger at the Dallas hotel, said he had neral idea of the brandy stocked. It custom ary to carry "One Star" ly in stock. They had not kept Mar- for a long time.

gan, recalled, stated the bottle in on was an ordinary quart bottle.

Moresby, in summing up, said there limitations to the statute against liquor at an hotel. The statute ed that liquor could be served to , and a guest meant that a man n and about the hotel as a means of to the proprietor.

sale or disposal in this case was ggan. It was quite clear that Lang uor from a bottle that he brought him, and thus he got himself into ndition in which he was found.

f Langley, summing up for the ution, reviewed the fact of Lang to the hotel in a partially intoxi- condition, of his being supplied liquor at his meals, and of liquor supplied later when Lang awoke small room. He further stated that been allowed to ask the questions hed he could have shown that oth- sides Lang were drinking there.

giving judgment the court stated was shown from the evidence of uggan that Lang was an invited There was some mystery as to ttle being found, but that was only erence. With regard to the other he liquor was not consumed, and ndition of the man at that time have required that he should be brandy. He felt it was a good the investigation had taken place r to clear the matter up.

LOCAL NEWS.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

—Owing to the fact that W. C. Moresby, counsel for the owners of the Dallas hotel license, did not appear this morning, the police magistrate reserved judgment in the Sunday liquor selling case until to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

—The funeral of the late Sarah Edith Lewis took place yesterday afternoon at 2 p. m. from the parlors of the B. C. Funeral Furnishing Company, where services were conducted by Rev. E. G. Miller at the parlors and graveside. The following acted as pallbearers: A. Sturgess, H. Lewis, F. Guest and A. Newson.

—Three hundred and thirty-two dollars has been cabled to Sir John Kirk, for the Poor Children's Christmas Dinner in London, Eng. The citizens and Sunday schools of Victoria have responded well. A meeting is called for all interested in the movement to meet in the Y. M. C. A. board room to-morrow night at 8 o'clock to effect a permanent organization and elect responsible officers. It is hoped a large number of citizens will attend.

—Yesterday afternoon the funeral of the late Caroline Dibb, of Esquimalt road, took place from W. B. Smith's undertaking parlors, 35 Yates street. Rev. Mr. Payne, of St. Paul's church, Esquimalt, conducted the services at the parlor and at the grave. There was a large number of friends present and the floral offerings were numerous. The pallbearers were: L. Leigh, J. Manuel, W. H. Clayards and W. B. Smith.

—Word has been received from T. J. Smith, president of the Diamond Vale Iron & Coal Mines, which company owns large areas in the Nicola valley, that coal had been struck in the main shaft at a depth of seventy feet. The coal being at a fair depth underground, is of the finest quality in the valley. The seam is a five-foot one, and is a part of the bed which underlies the whole of the district. There are many Diamond Vale shareholders in Vancouver.

—A well has lately been drilled on Mrs. White's farm at South Saanich, water being found at a depth of about 65 feet. The work has been done by a drilling machine, the property of Perkins & North. For years this farm, like many others, has been suffering from lack of a suitable water supply, but this solves the problem. The windmill is being installed, and within a week or two this farm will have one of the finest water supplies in the country. This is the second well sunk by Perkins & North.

—The regular meeting of the Natural History Society, held last evening, was exceedingly well attended, a large number of lady visitors being also present. After the disposal of the usual routine business came the paper of the evening, "Old Time Reminiscences of British Columbia," by Frank Sylvester. This was a continuation of a paper read in November, and the lecturer still further graphically depicted the stirring events and scenes of the early settlement of Victoria, the subject being highly interesting.

—Many Hindus in the city are reported by G. D. Kumar, the religious worker among them, to be in need of aid. The cold weather has led to suffering from coughs and fever. Many of them, he says, are out of work and are not able to get shelter at night. He acknowledges the receipt of $5 and a bottle of jam from Mrs. Blackwood. This, he says, will be utilized for the benefit of the Hindus who are suffering. Mr. Kumar intends to get some quinine and other medicines and distribute them among his countrymen needing treatment. He wishes to thank the public of Victoria who contributed towards the procuring of an artificial limb for the Hindu who lost his leg. Dr. Hasell has assured him the leg will be procured.

(From Wednesday's Daily.)

—The hospital board are asking that $10,000 be appropriated next year from the city funds for the Royal Jubilee hospital.

—Rev. H. A. Kinley, of Milestone, Saskatchewan, arrived in the city last night, where he intends to spend the winter. Mr. Kinley has been suffering from nervous prostration.

—On Thursday evening at 8 p.m. the regular weekly meeting of Victoria, No. 17, K. of P., will be held at Castle hall, corner Pandora and Douglas streets. Work in the knight order will be given.

—The Capital Furniture Company are showing a very fine assortment of buffets. The goods are all of the most up-to-date designs, in quartered oak. Quality in furniture can always be found in the bright, comprehensive home-furnishing store. On account of a lote of late arrivals in the furniture department a special sale is now on as announced in to-night's issue.

—Next Friday evening an entertainment and Christmas tree will be given at Metchosin hall for the pupils of the public school by the teacher, Miss Buss. The play of "Bluebeard" will be given by a number of pupils. A large number of the friends of the pupils are expected to be present.

—At the regular meeting of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Y. M. C. A. on Monday afternoon it was decided to change the day of meeting from the third to the fourth Monday in each month.

—Next Thursday evening at 8 o'clock Bishop Perrin will give his third lecture on "Church History," illustrated by magic latern slides, in the Christ church schoolroom. The subject will be the time of the reformation.

—The teachers as well as the parents and children are asked to remember that this year the offerings of the school children for the Friendly Help Society are to be brought to the schools on or before Friday next, the day of closing.

—The bank clearings for the week ending yesterday show a record of $1,146,396. This is over $100,000 of an increase over the clearings of the week previous.

—The funeral of the late Hugh Calwell took place yesterday afternoon from Hanna's undertaking parlors. The services were conducted by Rev. G. K. B. Adams. The pallbearers were as follows: Wm. Mable, Police Sergeant R. H. Walker, T. M. Brayshaw, W. C. Bryant, J. G. Hay and W. J. Clark.

—The order in council extending the open season for the taking of beaver until March 31st has been passed. In order that those trapping beaver in the upper interior may have a chance to dispose of their pelts, the season within which they are taken, it will be lawful for them to have beaver pits in their possession until August 31st.

—This evening at 7.45 o'clock Rev. R. Connell, of St. Luke's, Cedar Hill, will deliver an address in St. James' church, James Bay, on the history of the English church for the past two hundred years. In connection with it there will be a thanksgiving offering, to be presented in St. Paul's cathedral, London, at the meeting next year of the Pan-Anglican conference.

—A special public service will be held under the auspices of the Central Baptist church on Thursday evening at 8 p. m. in the Emmanuel church building. A number of believers will be immersed and Pastor Christopher Burnett will preach a sermon relevant to the occasion. A hearty invitation is extended to the public.

—At a recent meeting of the Bartenders' League the officers for the ensuing year were re-elected. At the next meeting the trustees will report. The officrs elected were as follows: President, W. R. Jones; vice-president, W. Hill; financial secretary, R. Bittencourt; treasurer, E. Macevoy; recording secretary, F. Jewel; inspector, W. Eccls; chaplain, B. McClusky.

—Mrs. E. Whin, of this city, is mourning the death of her mother, Mrs. Spray, in Seattle. The deceased fell on the walk in front of her residence after bidding her daughter, Mrs. Whin, farewell as she was about to start for Victoria. The injuries received resulted in her death the following day. Mrs. Spray was well-known in Victoria, where she frequently visited. She was the widow of the late George Spray. Besides Mrs. Whin of this city, the family consists of Mrs. B. Keagh, of Bellingham; Mrs. J. H. Phipps, of New York; Mrs. T. H. Huntly, Miss Della Spray, and L. E. Spray, L. R. Spray and Fred C. Spray, all of Sattle. The deceased was very popular.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

—The well drilling operation now going on in Saanich is under the management of North & Kirby, and not Perkins & North, as stated a few days ago.

—The funeral of the late Charles E. Waller took place yesterday from the undertaking parlors of W. B. Smith. The services were conducted by Rev. J. H. Sweet.

—Donations of holly, trailing ivy, home-made candy, decorations and gifts for the Christmas tree, flowers and plants, or contributions toward the purchase of the same, will be most gratefully received by Mrs. Hasell or Miss Macdonald for the Royal Jubilee hospital on Saturday or Monday next.

—The last regular meeting of the year of the school board will be held on Friday night in the superintendent's office in the city hall. There will be two vacancies to fill on the school staff, one at South Park and the other at the High school. There are so far only two or three male applicants for the positions and the selection will probably be made from these.

—A former resident of Victoria passed away yesterday morning in Vancuver, when Emily Skinner died at the home of her brother. The deceased was the youngest daughter of the late Thomas J. Skinner, formerly of Constance Cove Farm, Esquimalt. Her death was due to paralysis. The deceased for many years resided with her sister, the wife of the late Hon. A. E. B. Davie, in this city. The remains will be brought to this city for interment.

—The business places on Fort street, between Broad and Douglas streets, have arranged for the giving of a series of public entertainments during the several evenings of the Christmas shopping season. On Saturday evening the first one will be given. Maynard McDonald has been engaged to throw a series of limelight views on a screen which will be hung on the building formerly known as the Mason hotel. The entertainment will commence at 7.30, and will be repeated on Monday and Tuesday evenings of next week.

—Last evening the regular meeting of the Trades and Labor Council was held in the Labor hall, Douglas street. Considerable business was transacted of a routine character. The executive committee's report dealing with the financial policy of the council was discussed at length. An important portion of the report which was adopted included a motion to ask the affiliated unions to increase their per capita tax 50 per cent. This question will be decided by a referendum vote of the unions interested. On motion the counsel stands adjourned until January 8, 1908, owing to the next regular night of meeting falling on New Year's day.

—Robert Foster wishes it stated that he had nothing to do with the fight that took place yesterday morning. He says that his business is with the boys that play lacrosse, football and other games.

—The funeral of the late Daniel C. Matheson took place this morning from the Hanna chapel, Yates street. Services were conducted by Rev. Joseph McCoy, assisted by Mr. Bace, secretary of the Y. M. C. A. There were many floral offerings and a large attendance of friends of the deceased. The following members of the Y. M. C. A. acted as pallbearers: J. B. McCallum, F. G. Carlow, R. J. C. Smith, J. Martin, George Kuhn and H. Crane.

—A "Citizenship Meeting" will be held in connection with the usual Sunday evening service at Victoria West Methodist church next Sunday. The Rev. G. W. Dean will discuss some ideals of civic government from the standpoint of the church. There will be opportunity for questions and discussion. The meeting is designed to arouse a greater interest in civic affairs, and it is hoped that a large number of the citizens of Victoria West will be present and take part in the meeting.

—On the ground that the warrant of commitment which authorized the translation of Michael McHugh from the courtroom to the provincial jail was defective, a writ of habeas corpus to effect his release was granted in chambers yesterday. It seems that the jurisdiction of the magistrate should have been set forth on the face of the document, and that this technicality was not properly observed. McHugh was sentenced to six months for selling liquor to Indians, the trial taking place at Nanaimo. The application was made on his behalf by R. Lowe of this city.

—There is a provision in the timber act which gives the chief commissioner of lands and works power to put timber areas up to competition. This was done in connection with three limits in the Revelstoke district, which were staked in several different occasions by the Big Bend Lumber Company, but never secured by license, and which were finally staked by another party over the company's stakes and applied for in the ordinary way. The department decided instead of granting the licenses on application to put them up to tender. A petition was heard by Chief Justice Hunter yesterday asking a reversal of the decision of the department. The petition was refused.

THE INCINERATOR BY-LAW APPROVED

It Will be Submitted to the People at the Coming Municipal Election.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

At the meeting of the city council last night Mayor Morley brought forward a draft by-law to provide for the establishment of an incinerator in the city.

The Mayor pointed out the inconvenience which had been experienced owing to the lack of any efficient and sanitary method of disposing of garbage, and argued that the coming election offered a good opportunity to place the proposal before the people. He thought the matter should be considered of sufficient urgency to warrant its determination as early as possible.

Ald. Hanna did not see the need for hasty action, and suggested that the by-law stand over until the next meeting of the board.

Ald. Gleason disagreed with the contention for delay. He thought the by-law should be allowed to pass its initial stage as least.

The Mayor expressed surprise that any opposition should develop to the proposal. He asked the building inspector what the expense of the by-law would be, and was informed that it would be about $300, the same as any other by-law. His Worship then added that his faith in the success of the by-law was so great that he was willing to obligate himself for the cost in the event of its being turned down.

Ald. Hanna remarked that the Mayor's generosity probably did not contemplate the possibility of his not being elected next year.

Ald. Henderson approved of the proposal to place the matter before the people at the coming election. The present method of disposing of garbage was unsatisfactory, and the sooner they adopted the modern system the better. He suggested that the question as to the expense of collecting the garbage should be left unsettled in the by-law. The petition which had been presented for the by-law was a sufficient testimony in its favor.

The by-law was finally allowed to pass its first reading. The signatures to the petition for the by-law were as follows: A. E. McPhillips, C. A. Holland, T. D. Galpin, B. M. Holland, estate of G. Johnson, James A. Douglas and John Douglas, per C. A. Holland; Weller Bros.; F. B. Pemberton, estate of J. B. Joseph, David Spencer, Limited, Robert Porter & Sons, Limited, and F. B. Pemberton for the following owners: Estate of J. J. Southgate, Lord George and Lady Hamilton, E. Mahon, Mrs. L. E. Russel McGowan, estate of Amor De Cosmos, estate of J. D. Pemberton, E. M. Pemberton, Anglican Synod of B. C., estate of B. W. Pearce.

LONELY MAN'S DEATH.

Yesterday afternoon Gus Peterson, a middle-aged man, who has been watchman on the barque Ivy which is lying in Esquimalt harbor, was found dead by a friend who rowed out to the vessel. Peterson had not been seen for two days and one of his friends went out to the Ivy to see what was the matter with him. He found the man dead with every appearance of having passed away the day before.

An inquest will be held by Coroner Hart to-morrow afternoon. It is believed that heart disease was the cause of death.

NEARING CLOSE OF THE CASE

COUNSEL ARE NOW ADDRESSING COURT

The Plaintiff's Side in the Settlers' Rights Suit Has Been Presented

(From Wednesday's Daily.)

The Settlers' Rights case, now on in the Supreme court was continued this morning.

Joseph Hunter, C. E., was called for the plaintiff. He produced a plan of the Fiddick property involved in the case, made by him. He said he had found the ruins of three cabins on the property, and evidence of some clearing around the cabins and in the swamp nearby. He classed about fifteen per cent of the land as being susceptible of cultivation. There were coal measures on the property.

E. D. Bodwell, K. C., then presented his argument for the railway company. He contended that his clients held a patent to the lands registered in 1887 and that the subsequent grant of these lands to another party was an act of confiscation. It was the agricultural settler whom the legislature aimed to protect in the general scheme of the land laws. Where a man entered upon land as a bona fide agriculturalist it was conceded that he incidentally acquired the timber and coal which lay upon it. But an occupation of land for anything but agricultural purposes was a fraud upon the statute. In all the legislation on the subject it was made sufficiently clear that it was intended to protect the agricultural settler. He contended that the character of the Grandam property was such that it could not be taken up for agricultural purposes, and that the acquisition of the coal was the real purpose of his settlement on the land, and not the land itself. He construed the evidence that Grandam had made no essay toward agricultural enterprise; that there was not enough good land to warrant the supposition that he expected to make a living on the place; that as a matter of fact he did not make a living on the place, and therefor was not a settler within the meaning of the act. He contended that under the Settlers' Rights Act title was only given, by occupation, to so much land as was actually occupied, and did not convey the whole acreage originally staked out. According to this interpretation Grandam was entitled, not to 160 acres but only to that part itself which he had actually cleared or improved, namely about three acres. The act provided that application for a crown grant must be accompanied by reasonable proof of a bona fide intention of living on the land, and such reasonable proof, he argued, had not been offered.

The chief justice remarked that the application was made to the Lieut.-Governor-In-Council and not to the chief commissioner of lands and works. He suggested that it was for the government to determine whether the proof offered was reasonable or not, and that it was not a question for the courts to decide.

Mr. Bodwell argued that the legislature was the supreme authority and that the government was bound by a reasonable interpretation of the statute, and had no right to read the act beyond its rational meaning. Mr. Bodwell concluded his argument by reviewing the contentions he had set up, chief of which was that the act in giving title to land held by occupation confined the grant to the land actually occupied; that Grandam had only occupied two or three acres and that he had never shown a bona fide intention to become a settler within the meaning of the law.

A. P. Luxton, K. C., also addressed the court briefly.

This afternoon L. G. McPhillips, K. C. will present his argument for the defence.

THE SCHOOL BOARD.

Trustees Who Will Retire This Year—Prospects of Election.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

There will be four vacancies on the school board this year, the names of the retiring members being E. A. Lewis, Mrs. Jenkins, J. Riddell and A. McKeown. Besides these W. J. Huggett is now living in Vancouver and it is possible he may retire, although he has not yet resigned. There is a possibility of Mr. Huggett returning to this city, and in that case he will continue to act on the board.

Of the retiring members Mrs. Jenkins and Mr. Riddell have definitely announced their intention of running again. Mr. McKeon has not yet made up his mind, while Mr. Lewis is seriously considering the possibility of retiring. No announcements have yet been made by others, but it is altogether probable that there will be a goodly number of candidates appear within the next few weeks.

A HOME WEDDING.

Mr. Edward Bourget and Miss Turner United in Marriage Last Evening.

Last evening at the residence of the bridegroom's father, Pembroke street, Rev. Dr. Cambpell solemnized the marriage of Mr. Edward Bourget and Miss Anneta, eldest daughter of David Turner, of Indiana, U. S. A. The bridegroom was supported by Mr. James Bourget, and the bridesmaid was Miss Caroline Robertson. The bride was beautifully gowned in white taffeta silk with all-over lace, and the bridesmaid was gowned in white luster with silk and lace.

The house was beautifully decorated, and the marriage was celebrated under an artistic ball of evergreens and roses. The presents were numerous and beautiful, showing the popularity of the young couple. After the marriage all sat down to a sumptuous supper. Mr. and Mrs. Bourget will reside at 1614 Pembroke street.

SCOTCH CONCERT.

St. Andrew's Society Spend Happy Evening—Dance Given Afterwards.

(From Wednesday's Daily.)

The concert of St. Andrew's Society last evening was announced on the streets by the parade of the pipers' band, which is now in first-class shape, and the hearts of Scotsmen were made happy last evening as the pipers marched to the A. O. U. W. hall.

The concert itself was a grand success. P. J. Riddell, president of the society, presided. Piper McIvor followed with a selection and the following also conidbuted songs to the programme: Mrs. R. Wilson, John Melville, John Darby, James Taylor and Ernest Wright. Miss Elna Hill, in splendid style, danced the Highland fling and the Shawn Trews.

Refreshments were served after the programme, and then the floor was cleared for dancing and an enjoyable evening spent, with Miss Thain's orchestra providing the music.

SHIPPING NEWS.

WHERE IS ORIANA?

There is considerable mystification among local shipping men in regard to the whereabouts of the British steamship Oriana, which has been chartered to bring a cargo of frozen mutton from Australia to Vancouver for Messrs. P. Burns & Co., in addition to a general cargo of coal, hard wood and merchandise.

The Oriana, which is 4,419 tons, is said to have left Sydney, N. S. W., where she arrived some weeks ago from Auckland, for Vancouver. No official, or even definite, news can be obtained about her, and it is a matter for speculation whether it is a mid-way between here and Sydney or still lying in the harbor at the latter port.

FERRY TO START SOON.

D. W. Higgins, who has been in Port Angeles for some time past, stated to a Times reporter to-day that the arrangements which are being made by the brewing company at that place to put a regular steamship into service between the Washington port and Victoria, are approaching completion. The vessel will be in commission shortly, and will maintain a freight and passenger service with this port and the Sound, calling here twice a week.

QUADRA LEFT TO-DAY.

The D. G. S. Quadra left to-day for Clayoquot Sound to install a buoy on Half-Tide rock, and to place two spar buoys in position to mark the passage through Templar channel to the settlement.

The Quadra will also call at Carmanah, Pachena and Banfield with stores and materials. Should the weather allow of it the Dominion government steamship will attempt a fast trip in order to enable the crew to spend Christmas in the city.

SEARCHLIGHT FOR TATOOSH.

What will probably be the first electric searchlight to be used for a fog danger signal will be installed at Cape Flattery in a few days time by the U. S. lighthouse tender Columbine. The installation of the light is a new plan which, it is believed, will be of unusual benefit to shipping.

Electric searchlights are believed to be more effective in piercing fog banks than the usual fixed light or revolving light of the coastwise tower. In its movements the electric beam often pierces portions of the fog thinner than others, and often out of range of the stationary lamp's rays.

CASTOR IS STILL MISSING.

The alarm felt over the non-arrival of the British barque Castor, now some time overdue from Valparaiso for this port, is justified by the known facts, says an Astoria dispatch. She appeared off the mouth of the river November 16th and while near the lightship displayed her signals that were plainly read by Weather Observer Kelliher at the North Head station.

The next day she appeared off the mouth of the river and close up, according to Mr. Kelliher, and again displayed her signal flags to designate her identity. She then went off shore again and did not appear for a week, when she came up close again, but has not been seen since. The only inference to be drawn from this is that she has been driven far north during the recent storms or that something more serious has happened.

XMAS CHEER FOR SEMIDIS.

The little steamer Dora, which sails to-morrow from Seattle to return to her lonely run between Seward and ports of Western Alaska, will be the embodiment of Santa Claus for three families living on the desolate rocks called the North Semidis, which lie along the peninsula of Western Alaska north of latitude 56, says the Seattle P.-I. Christmas itself promises to be a sorry day for these people, for they are on the verge of starvation and their belated Santa Claus is the steamer now refitting at Pier 4 will not reach them until after the holiday which is celebrated with so much joy and feasting in the States.

On the North Semidis a few hunters employed in collecting the pelts of the the northern group of the island were once stocked, make their homes. They are the wives and their children, three families in all, make up the human population of the lonely rocks.

In November the little schooner St. Paul was sent from Kodiak to the Semidis with provisions for the winter for the fox hunters on the island and with more hunters. The St. Paul was wrecked on the South Semidis islands and only the timely appearance of the Dora saved the castaways from the vessel from starvation, for all the provisions had been destroyed in the wreck.

While the castaways of the St. Paul were cared for and taken to civilization the hunters and their families living on the northern group of the island were left to face the cold, hard winter with no provisions save what little was left of their last year's stock, then almost exhausted. The sailing of the Dora to Seattle for her annual overhauling removed the only vessel which could take relief to these people. Until the Dora returns they must make out as best they can on coarse corn meal, intended for fox food, the flesh of the two or three cows they have taken to the island and what fish and game may chance their way.

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Coats are $6.00, for.....$4.25	Lounging Robes, $8.00, for..$6.75
Coats, $7.00, for.....$5.50	Lounging Robes, $10.00, for.$8.25
Coats, $10.00, for.....$8.50	Lounging Robes, $15.00, for.$12.50
Coats, $12.00, for.....$9.75	Lounging Robes, $20.00, for.$17.00

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REEVE OLIVER TO BE A CANDIDATE

He Has Announced He Will Again Offer Himself in Oak Bay.

The by-laws for the purchase of the Oak Bay water frontage, and municipal building site, as well as for the necessary money to build the hall, were reconsidered and finally passed at a special meeting of the council held in the office of the clerk yesterday morning. The deed for the other half interest in the waterfront was handed in to the council by Reeve Oliver as promised.

Arrangements were made by the council for the election and, if possible, to secure a more central polling booth than a school house. Several local improvement by-laws were reconsidered and finally passed.

At the opening of the meeting Reeve Oliver announced that he had changed his mind about running again for the position of reeve. He had been asked by a large number of people, and a largely signed petition had been presented to him asking him to run again, so he had decided to again offer his services.

Albert F. Griffiths, chartered accountant of Victoria, was appointed auditor.

At committee meetings held just previous to the council meeting the finance committee passed accounts aggregating $762.70. The roads, sewers and bridges committee decided to accept the offer of the Victoria Motor Club to donate "Go Slow" and "Keep to the Left" signs, and the council will provide for their being put up in suitable places throughout the municipality.

There seems to be general satisfaction both in the city and among the councillors and throughout the municipality at the action of the reeve in consenting to run again, and there is a general feeling that he will be re-elected. This has been a trying year. All the work had to be organized and the council were continually on new ground. The success that has been attained in the various branches of work is due to a considerable degree to the diplomatic conduct of the chairman, although of course the support given him by the members of the council must not be left out of the count.

The inauguration of the local improvement plan of doing the work has resulted in the opening up of a good deal of property and the building up of the district such as could not have been attained under any other plan. Next year the new school will have to be considered, as well as the erection of the municipal hall, which has already been provided for. The general advancement of the district depends to so large an extent on the work of the reeve and council that it would certainly seem to be a wise move on the part of the people to re-elect those who have proven themselves to have been a capable lot of business men.

BACK FROM NORTH.

Post Office Inspector Has Returned From Inspection Trip.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

E. H. Fletcher, post office inspector, returned yesterday from an official visit to Port Essington, Hartley Bay and Kitamaat by the steamer Princess Beatrice.

A call was made at Skidegate and Jedway, on Queen Charlotte islands, the establishment of a post office at the latter place being under consideration. At Kitamaat a new wharf has just been completed near the terminus of the railway, and the wagon road from Kitoelas is expected to be finished by the middle of January next.

ELECTED OFFICERS.

Directors of Orphanage Home Select Committee Also at Meeting.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

Charles Hayward was again re-elected president of the British Columbia Orphans' Home. The committee of management met yesterday afternoon in the city hall and the above was their decision. They also re-elected E. Crow-Baker treasurer, and Wm. Scowcroft secretary. A certain amount of routine business was disposed of. The following are the standing committees for the coming year:

Finance, J. H. Lawson, E. C. Baker, D. Spencer. Repairs, H. Dallas Helmcken, K.C., Charles Hayward, L. Goodacre.

For the various churches a committee of ladies were named as follows: Representing the Anglican churches, Mrs. G. Wake, Mrs. E. Crow-Baker, Mrs. C. F. Todd, Mrs. A. Toller; representing the Baptist, Mrs. H. F. Bishop, Mrs. J. A. Van Tassel, Mrs. William Andrews, Mrs. D. P. Pickard; representing the Congregational churches, Mrs. J. Mayor, Mrs. William Scowcroft, Mrs. D. Spragge, Mrs. A. A. Crompton; representing the Methodist churches, Mrs. F. W. McCulloch, Mrs. W. Berridge, Mrs. N. Shakespeare, Mrs. R. Croft; representing the Presbyterian churches, Mrs. D. Miller, Mrs. Latimer, Mrs. William Munsie, Mrs. T. Fell; representing the Reformed Episcopal church, Mrs. W. R. Higgins, Mrs. J. Langley, Mrs. G. A. McTavish, Mrs. K. Huckell.

BARACA BANQUET.

Members of Class and Friends Spend Pleasant Evening Together.

(From Wednesday's Daily.)

The Baraca Bible class of the Central Baptist church held their first annual banquet in Harmony hall. The event was in every way a success, and was attended by about thirty-five. After a splendid dinner a toast list was proceeded with. The King was honored and God Save the King sung by the banquetters. Following that the following toasts were proposed and responded to by the names opposite. "Our City," Angus Galbraith; "Our Church," Rev. C. Burnett; "Our Young People," Gordon McKenzie; "Our Visitors," Geo. Carter, representing the Congregational Baraca class, and E. Lampshire, representing Calvary Baptist church; "Our Class," Guy Birnie; "Our Object," Fred Porteous; "Our Fellowmen," R. W. Coleman.

Music was furnished during the evening by E. Middleton, jr., W. Sherrit, L. Finch and H. Birnie.

A. B. McNeill spoke on behalf of the other Bible classes.

—The endless question of the unemployed came up before the board of works in Vancouver again Tuesday afternoon. As there is still a large number unrelieved, it was resolved to put the men on three days in the week, so that double the number could be employed. The provincial government is also to be requested to find work for 200 more if possible.

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