

MERRY CHRISTMAS PASSED IN CITY

AFTER BUSY SEASON
ALL ENJOYED HOLIDAY

Y. M. C. A. and W. C. T. U.
Looked After Those Away
From Home.

After a holiday trade which was acknowledged to have been the heaviest in the history of the city the business men of Victoria enjoyed a well-earned rest on Christmas Day. Of all the holidays in the calendar Christmas is one to be spent in the various homes, and so it was observed in most of cases.

A week or more of ideal weather for shopping preceded the holiday and enabled everyone to get this necessary feature of the festive season carried out without discomfort. Business men all testify to having done a record trade and owing to the steadiness with which it was done no trouble was experienced in giving satisfaction to all.

The optimistic spirit which prevails throughout the city had its effect in making the season one of increased happiness. The approaching new year will be entered upon by Victorians with the fullest assurance of prosperity.

Christmas morning broke with light covering the snows without making those citizens who have lived in the eastern provinces feel that the weather was seasonable. This light covering, however, disappeared in a few minutes after day broke, and a delightfully pleasant day followed more in keeping with Pacific coast ideals.

In addition to the happy home gatherings in the city provision was made locally for those who were away from home and departed from that pleasure which is recognized as the greatest of all at this season of the year.

In the Hospitals.
At the Royal Jubilee hospital and at St. Joseph's also the patients and nurses were more than ready to meet the season of good will to all. Decorations were well carried out and the utmost done to make all happy.

Y. M. C. A. at Home.

The dinner given on Christmas Day at the Y. M. C. A. was a most successful affair. Those who promoted it were delighted to see so many young men present, some 50 gathering to participate in this enjoyable dinner. R. C. Horn, vice-president of the association, presided. In his opening remarks he welcomed all those who were present and wished them "A Merry Christmas." Mr. Horn also stated that he did not see how those who were present could but enjoy themselves with such a bountiful repast before them. The menu was an elaborate one.

For several days members of the association had worked hard decorating the hall for this season. The decorations were remarkably well in giving the room a new appearance. The table was also artistically decorated.

After the dinner an impromptu programme was given and many of those who were present and had musical voices were called upon to give a selection. The afternoon passed in a most pleasant manner and an invitation was extended to all the young men present to partake of supper together in the rooms. As a result 50 sat down to a supper which was nearly as elaborate as the dinner. The evening was pleasantly spent.

At the W. C. T. U.

Great credit is due to the matron and men of the W. C. T. U. mission on the grand display that they made at the Mission hall on Christmas Day. The decorations were very tastefully displayed and everything went off exceedingly well. Some seventy men partook of dinner, which consisted of turkey, ham, etc., and last but not least, the usual Christmas pudding. The tables were cleared of the eatables speaks volumes as to the quality of the viands provided. Plenty of willing helpers were kept busy during the whole day and the men again gave thanks for the splendid repast that had been prepared.

During the afternoon and evening gramophone selections were given, and then the men sang at intervals, and all seemed to have had a very happy Christmas.

RETURNED UNOPOSED.

Orangeville, Dec. 27.—John A. Best, of Mulmur, has been elected by acclamation as member of the Dominated House from Dufferin. The seat was formerly held by Dr. Barr, who died suddenly recently. No Liberal candidate was nominated.

Take a Vapor Bath In Your Own Home

Far better than the ordinary bath from a health standpoint and just what you need after the nerve-racking Xmas festivities.

BATH CABINETS

Each, \$7.50, \$9.00 and \$13

The come of simplicity and safety. Come in and let us tell you about them. Ask for circular FREE.

CYRUS H. BOWES
CHEMIST,
122 GOVERNMENT ST.

COMPLAINTS HEARD AT STREETS COMMITTEE

City Engineer Topp Reports on a Number of Matters.

Aside from the discussion relative to the Wharf street pavement, reported in another column, the business to come before the streets, sewers, and bridges committee Thursday evening was purely of a routine character.

F. T. Radlin, of Radlin road, complained that his premises had been damaged by the recent floods. He held the city responsible and would claim damages. The city engineer reported that in his opinion the city was in no way liable.

H. T. Gravin and others of Hultain street protested against the city putting down boulevards there. The city engineer reported that he had looked into the matter and found that there was no intention to do boulevarding on that street.

City Engineer Topp reported on the two complaints by George Jeeves which had been forwarded to him. He agreed with Mr. Jeeves that the rails of the Victoria & Sidney railway along Blanchard avenue were above the line of the street and that the matter should be attended to. He had some time ago taken the question up with the railway company, but nothing had been done. In regard to Mr. Jeeves' complaint about the drains at the corner of Kings road and Quadra street, the engineer appeared to be with faulty catch basins. These had now been repaired and he did not anticipate any further trouble.

The residents of MacLure street, between Vancouver and Cook, asked that the street be improved. Cement sidewalks had recently been laid. On motion of Ald. Henderson, it was decided to accede to the request.

Justin Gilbert, who lives on Douglas street, adjoining Beacon Hill Park, at a point close to the western boundaries of the larger artificial lake, complained that owing to lack of adequate drainage facilities water flowed over the bank and ran across Douglas street to his residence. The matter was, on motion of Ald. Henderson, referred to the city engineer with power to act.

E. Warwick, superintendent of sidewalks, asked what he should do with a small maple tree which would come in the way of a cement sidewalk improvement on the corner of Vancouver and Humboldt streets. The board decided that the tree should be cut down.

COL. CURRIE CONVEYS HOLIDAY GREETINGS

Drill Season of Fifth Regiment Begins Early in January.

Regimental orders issued by Col. Currie, commanding the Fifth Regiment, are as follows:

The following man, having been granted his discharge, is struck off the strength of the regiment, Gnr. H. Godfrey.

The following man is suspended in accordance with the terms of regimental order No. 11, para. 1, 1909, Gnr. A. W. Best.

The officer commanding has been pleased to approve the following promotion in the band, to be acting sergeant, Gnr. W. Fairall.

The following men having been duly attested are taken on the strength of the regiment, and will assume the regimental numbers opposite their names, and are posted to companies as under: To No. 1 Co., Gnr. Alfred Cockburn; to No. 2 Co., Gnr. Victor Zala.

The officer commanding desires to convey to all ranks his best wishes for the coming Christmas and New Year.

The regular drill season will commence on January 10th, 1910; the company drill nights being as heretofore: Mondays, No. 3 Co.; Tuesdays, No. 1 Co.; Wednesdays, No. 2 Co.

Recruits will parade on Wednesday evenings, commencing January 12th.

Office will be held as usual on Wednesday evenings.

Band and also with the usual custom the drill hall will be closed from December 25th to January 1st, both inclusive.

EXPLOSION ON OIL TANK STEAMER

Three Men Are Injured and One Will Probably Die.

(Times Leased Wire.)

Vallejo, Cal., Dec. 27.—Three men, one dying and two seriously burned, were brought to this city to-day and placed in the Downing hospital as the result of an explosion on board the oil tank steamer Roma at Oleum late yesterday.

The dying man is Manuel Silveira. The two seriously burned victims are Lewis Tyler and Sam Knutson.

The men were burned when an electric light that they had lowered into the hold of the steamer exploded and ignited oil gas which filled the tank of the Roma.

FATAL RESULT OF QUARREL.

Milton, Ont., Dec. 27.—Wm. Hilson, who kept a boarding house at the line, near here, is dead as a result, it is claimed, of a fight in his house on December 25th. It is alleged the trouble started over a game of cards among some of the boarders. Hilson interfered and in the fracas which followed was thrown against the wall with such violence that he was badly cut about the head and lost a large quantity of blood.

DEATH ROLL OF STORM INCREASES

FIFTY PERSONS PERISH IN EASTERN STATES

Property Loss Estimated at \$10,000,000—Suffering Among Poor.

The property loss on Saturday and Sunday in the blizzard that swept the Eastern and New England states is estimated at \$10,000,000.

At least fifty lives were lost, due directly or indirectly to the storm.

Trains in Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts and New England are seriously delayed by drifts. Freight traffic is practically abandoned. Wire communication is wrecked throughout the storm belt.

Philadelphia, New York, Boston and Pittsburgh are seriously inconvenienced by delayed street car traffic.

Further snow and wind, though not so violent as yesterday, are in sight, according to the weather bureau.

Rockford, Ill., Dec. 27.—This city to-day is face to face with the prospect of being utterly without light, heat and transportation facilities as the result of the blizzards that have been sweeping this section for the last two days.

Officials of the local electric companies that supply the city with light, announced to-day that within 24 hours its supply of fuel would be exhausted, unless traffic conditions, demoralized by the storm, are restored so that more fuel may be rushed to Rockford.

At the end of that time, it was stated, the local plant will be forced to close down. The company also furnished power for the local street car lines.

Little fuel of any description remains in the city. The inadequate supply that is left is being distributed among the poor, who are suffering acutely.

All trains into the city are snow-bound. Railroad officials declared that every means is being exhausted to relieve the blockade so that fuel may be brought from Chicago and other places.

(See also Page 1.)

FEW PASSENGERS AND LIGHT FREIGHT ON TRIP

Umatilla Arrived From San Francisco Christmas Night.

The steamship Umatilla, Capt. Reilly, from San Francisco, reached the outer wharf at 10:30 Christmas night, bound for Seattle. She brought a large cargo for Victoria and a full consignment for Seattle, with some for Vancouver.

The cargo consisted of fruit for the Hudson Bay Company and F. R. Stewart & Co., and Patterson Bros. The remainder of the Victoria cargo consisted of machinery for the Ramsey Machinery Company and general freight.

Captain Reilly made a fast trip up the coast in good weather and brought eighteen passengers, three of whom were for Victoria—A. B. Clark and wife and S. J. Burford of the U. S. immigration office. The remainder of the passengers were booked for Seattle.

There were also four second class passengers.

CHRISTMAS TREE AT GOLDSTREAM SCHOOL

Scholars Give a Concert Which is Greatly Enjoyed.

(From Monday's Daily.)

A very enjoyable Christmas tree and concert was held by the pupils of the Goldstream school a few evenings ago. An excellent programme had been arranged and all who took part in it acquitted themselves admirably. There was a very large attendance and everyone enjoyed themselves. On the tree were gifts for the teacher and scholars. The full programme was as follows: Chorus—"Welcome Song"....Scholars Recitation—"Xmas Carol"....Eva Payne Song—"Silver Threads Among the Gold".....Mary Irving Recitation—"When I'm a Man".....Duet—"Bells of Dreamland".....Eva Payne and M. Burnett Recitation—"Jolly Old Christmas".....Elizabeth Brown Song—"Miss Fogarty's Xmas Cake".....Miss F. Payne Song—"Smarty".....Edith Irving Song—"Queen of the Earth"....W. Wilson Recitation—"If".....Chris Brown Trio—"Will You Love Me When I'm Old".....Petrel Payne, Eva Payne, and Lucy Brown Recitation—"Jolly Old St. Nicholas".....Lily Woodruff Song—"Fou the Noo".....J. McKenzie Encore—"Loss of Drummong Castle"....Song—"Broncho Buster".....Edith Irving Song—"Mona".....W. Wilson Dialogue—"King Santa Claus"....School

FOUND DROWNED.

(Special to the Times.)

Brantford, Ont., Dec. 27.—William Zarn, a farmer of Townsend township, was found in Waterford pond on Christmas evening after he had been missing a week.

BENECIA BATTERED BY WINDS AND GALES

Put Back En Route to Honolulu and Goes Into Dry Dock.

The American barquentine Benecia, Captain Hayes, is going into drydock on the Sound to-day for a thorough survey and repairs. The Benecia sailed for Honolulu from Willapa, but had to put back on December 13th, being badly buffeted and battered by gales off the coast, which kept the crew working night and day at the pumps to keep her afloat. She has arrived at Seattle in a badly crippled condition. In her bad condition she was towed to Hadlock, where her cargo of lumber was unloaded, when it was first possible to ascertain the full extent of her damages.

The Benecia is badly strained both above and below the waterline, while many of her seams are yawning or just ready to open. At Seattle caulkers were put to work on her top sides, and in drydock she will receive the necessary repairs.

Further snow and wind, though not so violent as yesterday, are in sight, according to the weather bureau.

Philadelphia, New York, Boston and Pittsburgh are seriously inconvenienced by delayed street car traffic.

Further snow and wind, though not so violent as yesterday, are in sight, according to the weather bureau.

Philadelphia, New York, Boston and Pittsburgh are seriously inconvenienced by delayed street car traffic.

Further snow and wind, though not so violent as yesterday, are in sight, according to the weather bureau.

Philadelphia, New York, Boston and Pittsburgh are seriously inconvenienced by delayed street car traffic.

Further snow and wind, though not so violent as yesterday, are in sight, according to the weather bureau.

Philadelphia, New York, Boston and Pittsburgh are seriously inconvenienced by delayed street car traffic.

Further snow and wind, though not so violent as yesterday, are in sight, according to the weather bureau.

Philadelphia, New York, Boston and Pittsburgh are seriously inconvenienced by delayed street car traffic.

(See also Page 1.)

SETTLERS COME FROM OREGON TO BANFIELD

Large Party Coming to the Island—Much Literature Going Out.

C. Michelsen has arrived in Victoria as the pioneer of a colony of settlers which will come from Oregon and take up land at Banfield.

Mr. Michelsen and his friends will come here as a result of the work of the Vancouver Island Development League. Between 300 and 400 acres of excellent land have been purchased by Mr. Michelsen and clearing will commence at once. Mr. Michelsen returns to Oregon in a few days and will be accompanied on his return by a large number of settlers.

The league is distributing a quantity of its literature in Eastern Canada and the Old Country, both by mailing it to individual addresses and distributing it through such agencies as the agent-general's office in London. The secretary of the league will be pleased to forward literature to any addresses he is given by residents of the island who wish it sent to friends.

The annual meeting of the league will be held early in the new year at whatever point the majority of the branches vote for.

DISASTER OVERTAKES CANADIANS IN CUBA

Plantations of Colonists Swept by Hurricanes—May Sell Their Land.

(Special to the Times.)

Ottawa, Dec. 27.—Canadian Trade Commissioner Kirkpatrick in Cuba says the condition of the Canadian colony at Ocean Beach is as bad as possible. The colonists have ground between two municipalities, both of which insisted upon the right to collect taxes. Recently the plantations were swept by three hurricanes which have greatly added to the misery of the colonists. The only hope of the colonists, Kirkpatrick says, is that an American syndicate will purchase their land and give them a chance to go home.

SHIP SUBSIDY BILL.

(Special to the Times.)

Washington, D. C., Dec. 27.—A ship subsidy bill that can pass congress and meet the approval of the president seems to be in sight. Congressman Humphries, of Washington, and members of the merchant marine committee of the House have introduced before President Taft a bill introduced at the last session with amendments that have since been made. The amended bill met the approval of the president, it is said.

Further than to say that the amended bill is neither a straight ship subsidy measure proposing to subsidize by tonnage and voyage, nor a mail subsidy bill, no members of the committee would tell of its provisions.

GEORGIAN BAY CANAL.

London, Dec. 27.—Sir Robert Perks leaves for Canada early next year to devote his undivided attention to the Georgian Bay canal. He estimates the cost at \$20,000,000 or \$30,000,000.

BIG INFUX OF SETTLERS OF COLONIZATION WORK

G. S. DENNIS SPEAKS OF COLONIZATION WORK

C. P. R. Land Commissioner in City on a Brief Visit.

J. S. Dennis, C.P.R. land commissioner, is in the city, a guest at the Empress hotel. Mr. Dennis is here on some departmental business and returns to the mainland this morning. To the times to-day Mr. Dennis said that the feature of the year's business in his department has been the phenomenal influx of settlers from the United States and the great quantity of land sold to these home seekers.

Mr. Dennis mentioned that the receipts at the Calgary office for the past six months have averaged \$1,000,000 per month. Settlers were pouring into Western Canada at a very rapid rate, and there was every indication that the influx next year would assume even greater dimensions.

As indicating at once the immensity of the Canadian West and the huge problem of peopling so vast a land, Mr. Dennis pointed out that while the company have thus far disposed of a little over 11,000 acres of irrigated land, they have over two million acres left.

The company also owns alternate sections of land in the other district of Alberta, and this, with the irrigated section, makes about four million acres of land, which the company has yet to dispose of.

Mr. Dennis is continuing Mr. Dennis, is building up an elaborate system of colonization bureaus in various parts of the world. The company has, for instance, over 1,000 agents in the United States who are doing special work on behalf of the land office in Canada.

These agents visit sections of the country likely to supply desirable settlers and give the latter every information regarding conditions in the Dominion. The company has about 250 agents in England and shortly will have a large number also in other portions of Europe.

Mr. Dennis has no connection now with the administration of C. P. R. lands on Vancouver Island, and therefore knew nothing about local colonization projects. Mr. Marpole is in charge of the lands within the B. & N. belt.

Mr. Dennis said, however, that during the past season the company had expended a considerable sum of money in advertising British Columbia in the United States. The work was done mainly as an experiment and the results were very satisfactory. A very large number of inquiries were received from prospective settlers but the company experienced difficulty in locating people owing to the fact that there is little land available for colonization.

The C. P. R. is clearing a tract of land at Jaffray in East Kootenay, with the idea of closely estimating what it will cost to clear large tracts. Stumping machinery is being used and it is hoped that as a result of the experiment some scheme may be formulated which will result in opening up larger tracts for settlement than are at present available.

Mr. Dennis said he noted signs of great progress both at Vancouver and Victoria since his last visit. He was certain that a great future awaited both places. In this connection he mentioned the Panama canal, which when completed in a few years would entirely alter the problem of transportation in this section of the world. There would be developments of a tremendous nature on the opening of that waterway connecting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, and the growth and development of the ports on the British seaboard, which would have the handling of ocean-borne traffic, would be equally tremendous.

(See also Page 1.)

STEAMER SANK AT DOCK AT SEATTLE

Rammed by Steam Schooner and Goes to Bottom in Five Minutes.

(Times Leased Wire.)

Seattle, Wash., Dec. 27.—Driven in by a strong tide, the steam schooner Tiverton rammed and sunk the steamer Columbia, which operated on the Bellingham-La Conner run, as she was moored alongside the Standard Oil wharf late yesterday.

The Columbia, an oil burner, had replenished her fuel supply and was waiting for the completion of the loading of oil drums upon a scow she was to tow, when the accident occurred.

The Tiverton, whose registered tonnage is \$85, had come over from Port Ludlow to load 200 barrels of oil. She attempted to berth on the south side of the pier, on which side the Columbia was moored. The landing was made difficult by the position of the steamer B. L. Drake, lying alongside the face of the wharf. Carried by the tide, the Tiverton rammed the Columbia amidships, punching a hole below the water line. Water soon filled her hold and she sank in five minutes. Only her upper works remained visible, but as the tide came in she was entirely covered, with the exception of her mast and funnel.

The Columbia has a tonnage of about 150, and is owned by Captain Goode, of Portland. During the summer she was on the Everett-Wildby Island run in competition with the Island Transportation Company's steamers. At present she runs between Bellingham and La Conner, and is subsidized by an organization of Bellingham merchants.

WILL FIGHT INDICTMENTS.

Woman Placed on Trial Charged With Receiving Stolen Money and With Blackmail.

Cincinnati, O., Dec. 27.—Charged with having received stolen money and with blackmail, Mrs. Jean Stewart-Ford was placed on trial here to-day.

Charles L. Warriner, convicted treasurer of the Big Four Railroad Company, in whose accounts there was a shortage of \$44,000, is scheduled to be the star witness. Warriner, who last Wednesday pleaded guilty, was sentenced to six years in the penitentiary on a charge of embezzlement.

Mrs. Stewart-Ford, both individually and through her counsel, had announced that she will fight to the limit the indictments against her.

COBALT SHIPMENT.

Toronto, Dec. 27.—Cobalt ore shipments last week totalled over 512 tons.

NING CHOW HERE FROM THE ORIENT

To Unload Three Hundred Tons of Cargo Here on Wednesday.

The steamer Ning Chow, Capt. Allen, Dodwell & Co., agents, arrived from Yokohama yesterday with freight for Victoria and Washington state ports. The Ning Chow docked yesterday morning remaining an hour at the outer wharf and then left for Tacoma and Seattle, where she will unload the American cargo.

The Ning Chow will return here Wednesday and unload three hundred tons of freight for the Victoria. Captain Allen reports a good passage from Yokohama, which port was left on December 11th with a full cargo. The freight for Victoria, to be landed here Wednesday, consists of general merchandise.

The Ning Chow brought ninety Chinese passengers for Victoria, all but thirty-seven of which were returning after a visit to China.

NEW STEAMER FOR HALIBUT FISHING

The Roman Purchased by B. C. Packing Association in Liverpool.

New Westminster, Dec. 25.—By next spring a new fishing steamer will be running into New Westminster each week carrying halibut from the fishing banks to the Columbia cold storage plant here. This will be the steamer Roman which has been purchased by the British Columbia Packers' Association in Liverpool and will be brought out here this winter by Captain Barney Johnson.

The steamer Roman was built here during the latter part of March. The B. C. Packers have in the past operated chartered boats on the banks in connection with the halibut fishing industry, but they have now determined to purchase a steamer to replace the Flamingo which carried halibut to this port in the past. Captain Johnson was accordingly sent to the old country to bring out the vessel secured. The fishing steamer Roman was purchased from Liverpool on Sunday night for New Westminster. She will make the trip in 75 to 80 days, coming by way of the Straits of Magellan.

The Roman is practically a new steamer. She was built two years ago for fishing on the North Atlantic fishing banks. She is 145 feet in length, and has a speed of 12 knots. According to the plans of the B. C. Packers' Association the Roman is the first of what will ultimately be a fleet of several vessels owned and operated by the association in halibut fishing on the Pacific coast.

Mr. Dennis has no connection now with the administration of C. P. R. lands on Vancouver Island, and therefore knew nothing about local colonization projects. Mr. Marpole is in charge of the lands within the B. & N. belt.

(See also Page 1.)

TURN ATTENTION TO METROPOLIS

LIBERAL LEADERS TO SPEAK IN LONDON

Elections in Number of Boroughs Will Take Place on January 15th.

(Special to the Times.)

London, Dec. 27.—The result of the issuing of the writs for the general elections on January 15th will be that a great many of the borough pollings will take place on Saturday, January 15th. The Conservatives hoped that the first elections would be on January 14th, but excepting in a few cases, when a writ is received before sunset on the tenth, an election on the fourteenth would be impossible. After the results of the pollings on January 15th are announced a fair guess can be made as to how the elections are going.

The Liberals recognize that London is not certain, so their leaders will address meetings there next week. Mr. Gerald Balfour is not yet a candidate, and there is rumor that he has been unable to find a safe seat. Efforts to induce two Tory candidates in East Marlebone to retire in favor of Mr. Balfour have been unsuccessful. The Unionists claim that they have a good chance of winning in the north of London and the southeast, and in parts of the east, which have not been touched by the influence of Labor members.

SCHOONER AND TWELVE MEN PROBABLY LOST

The Doris Palmer Believed to Have Foundered off Massachusetts Coast.

(Times Leased Wire.)

Boston, Mass., Dec. 27.—The belief is general here that the four-masted schooner Doris Palmer, which sailed from Newport News for Boston on December 21st, sank with Captain Keown and eleven sailors during the terrific Christmas day storm off the Massachusetts coast.

A wreck resembling the Palmer was sighted off Point Allerton on Harding's Ledge this afternoon. From its position, with hull submerged, the name of the stranded vessel could not be made out. But its outlines resemble those of the missing collier.

Many vessels arrived here to-day relieving the anxiety felt for their safety since the storm struck the coast, but the safety of the Cunarder Sylvia and the Warren liner Schem, both from Liverpool, is questioned. The liner Arkansas and Lexington from Philadelphia and the Ontario from Norfolk, are still overdue.

FLIGHT OF FORMER PRESIDENT OF NICARAGUA

It is Believed Zelaya Will Go to Belgium After Visiting Mexico.

Mexico City, Dec. 27.—The Mexican gunboat General Guerrero, with former President Zelaya on board, arrived off Salina Cruz last night. The vessel did not attempt to enter the harbor, but anchored outside.

That Zelaya intends to go eventually to Belgium was the belief expressed