

SIDNEY AND ISLANDS REVIEW

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SNEAK THIEVES ROB LIBRARY

Magazines Disappear Almost
as Fast as They are Put
on the Tables

The young ladies of the Basket Ball Club who have been the main stay of the Public Reading Room ever since it was founded a little over a year ago, are up in arms this week and in fact have been for several weeks past. They have a grievance and it is a perfectly justifiable one, and that is the manner in which the magazines and papers have been disappearing from the tables in the reading room. The sneak thieves, whoever they are, like nothing but the best, and as a result all the more expensive publications, such as the Ladies Home Journal, the Scientific American, and several others of the better class of the short story monthly magazines quietly fade away almost as soon as they are laid on the tables.

At the present time, as everyone knows who visits the reading room, there is no regular caretaker there during the greater part of the day, as the funds at the disposal of the young ladies in charge will not permit of the expenditure. In the past it has been the custom to trust the honesty of those using the rooms. That this trust has been misplaced is only now being brought to light, as the young ladies have patiently borne the loss and said nothing about it, until at last their patience is exhausted.

It is a crying shame that these light-fingered gentry are allowed to roam at large, and if any of them are caught, as it is hoped they will be in the near future, there are several citizens around town indignant enough to take them out to the end of the Sidney wharf and throw them overboard.

There are one or two individuals who are in a measure suspected but no direct evidence can be procured against them, and there does not seem to be any particular reason for them resorting to this petty thieving, as their circumstances would not lead anyone to think they were at all hard up for the small amount of cash it would take to purchase the magazines at the bookstore.

It is unfortunate that the thieves should have begun operations just as the cold rainy days are setting in, for if they do not cease at once it is very likely steps will be taken to close the reading rooms during the greater part of the day until one or other of the young ladies are at liberty to act as watchman. Honestly we did not think we had a citizen within our boundaries who was mean enough to enter the public reading room and make a practice of walking off with a book or magazine when no one was looking.

Five per cent. of all Rexall Store purchases of Rexall Goods goes to the Canadian Patriotic Fund.

QUEEN CITY SAILS BY

A party of commercial travellers arrived in town on Monday morning last by the V. & S. Railway, intending to take the steamer Queen City to their destination on one or other of the islands. We would not like to record some of the nice things they said about C. P. R. boats in general, and the Queen City in particular, as they stood on the Sidney wharf and watched her go sailing by about half a mile out in the Strait, without even blowing her whistle or paying the slightest attention to the fact that Sidney was located on Vancouver Island, and according to the agreement entered into by the C. P. R. when they were after that bonus, to make this a regular port of call. The sea was not rough either for such a huge boat as the Queen City, as immediately after she passed the travellers engaged a small launch to take them as far as Fulford.

In fact the Queen City almost entirely ignored Sidney last week, as she did not call here from Monday morning of last week until Tuesday evening of this week, and it is doubtful if she would have come in then only she had gathered up such a deck load of freight for this forgotten burg on her many trips up and down the coast that she was afraid of going to the bottom in case a real storm did overtake her.

FIRE COMMISSIONERS ORDER HYDRANTS PAINTED

New Gong Will Be Placed in Position
This Week—Night System of
Alarm Arranged.

At a meeting of the Fire Commissioners held on Monday afternoon, and at which there were present Messrs. J. B. Kelly, A. L. Wilson, P. N. Tester, Fire Chief F. M. Humber and Secretary-treasurer A. E. Moore, it was decided that the hydrants all over town should receive a new coat of paint in order to protect them from the weather and also make them a little more conspicuous on a dark night in case the brigade is called out to a fire.

The matter of a gong or some other means of calling the firemen together at the hall was also taken up and Chief Humber reported that he had received word from Chief Davis, of the Victoria department, in which the latter stated that a siren such as he had recommended would cost about \$35. As this amount had to be paid in cash, owing to the fact that the town is not incorporated, and as there was not sufficient funds on hand to make the purchase, it was decided that some other means of fire alarm would have to be adopted.

Several suggestions were brought before the meeting and it was finally decided to try out a gong manufactured out of a piece of tool steel by Mr. D. Craig, the blacksmith. However, in the meantime arrangements have been made with Mr. Pickering, local manager of the B. C. Telephone Co., in case of fire at night to give the alarm by ringing the telephones of all those living within a reasonable distance of the fire hall.

In the navy of Great Britain there are 437 effective fighting ships.

GANGES CLUB PUTS ON PLAY

Proceeds of Which Will Go to
the Fund for the Relief
of the Distressed

Posters are now out announcing that the Ganges Harbor Dramatic Club will present the three act comedy entitled "Caste," in Mahon's hall at Ganges Harbor on Wednesday and Thursday, December 16 and 17.

That the people of this progressive little burg on Salt Spring Island are not by any means behind those of other parts of our great Empire in contributing their share towards the relief of the suffering in these times of war, is borne out by the fact that the proceeds of both entertainments will be devoted to the Patriotic Relief Fund of Canada.

This same dramatic club in the plays staged a year or so ago met with most brilliant success, and this year their efforts will no doubt meet with keener appreciation than ever owing to the worthy cause for which the members of the club have been working.

Following is the cast of characters: Hon. George D'Alroy, Mr. V. Case Morris.

Captain Hawtree, Mr. F. A. Wall. Eccles, Mr. Gilbert Wilkes. Samuel Gerridge, Mr. L. H. Garrett.

Dixon, Mr. Cameron. Marquise de St. Maur, Mrs. V. Case Morris.

Polly Eccles, Mrs. A. J. Smith. Esther Eccles, Mrs. F. Scott.

Reserved seats will be on sale shortly and the plan of the hall can be seen at the stores of the Salt Spring Island Trading Company, and Messrs. Mowat Bros., and those living around Fulford Harbor can secure their seats from Mr. C. M. Bandy, either by phone or by calling upon him. The price of the reserved seats is \$1.00, and unreserved seats can be obtained at 50 cents.

Refreshments will be served each evening and a general good time is assured all who attend.

THE BOYS ARE OFF.

The Militia Department has ordered the mobilization of the B. C. Engineers for the second contingent, and consequently most of the men are concentrating at Ottawa. Our local representatives in this corps, Messrs. Apps, Duffus and Hayward, who joined Company No. 6, at Vancouver in September last, have left that city for the east about ten days ago. To say that the boys are pleased to get away is putting it mild, for they have looked forward for many weeks for the chance to get at least a few steps on their way to the front.

The next Sidney boys to leave will be Messrs. Frank Cooper and W. J. Lait, who have been ordered to report in Toronto where the bicycle corps to which they are attached is to assemble. Although their notice was short the boys were delighted

to learn that their departure for the concentration camp had been hastened. These instructions would naturally lead everyone to believe that it will only be a short time before the second contingent is on its way to the Old Country where they will occupy the training grounds used at present by the first contingent who will by that time be on the firing line.

WILL TRAIN AT TORONTO.

Cyclists Section Recruited in Vancouver Will Go East Shortly.

Announcement was made by Lt.-Col. J. Duff Stuart, brigadier, Saturday morning that the special cyclist platoon organized in Vancouver will leave Sunday morning for Toronto, where the men will train with similar units from other parts of the Dominion. Capt. A. E. Humphreys of the 6th D. C. O. R., has been appointed to command the contingent of cyclists which will go to Europe with the second expeditionary force. Lieut. Fatt, of Victoria, will be in charge of the local section which comprises thirty-five men.

W. J. Lait and Frank Cooper belong to this platoon and were in Sidney a short time on Sunday to say a final farewell to their friends here before leaving for Toronto.

ENTERTAIN SENIORS.

The Strathcona Juvenile Temple of the International Order of Good Templars entertained the Senior Lodge in right splendid fashion last Monday evening at an open meeting. A programme consisting of recitations and dialogues, duets and choruses was well rendered. Rev. Mr. Gibson and Rev. Mr. Miller both addressed the children. Mr. Alex McDonald presided as chairman. A collection was taken up which amounted to \$5.00, half of which was given to the treasury of the Allies Chapter of the Daughters of the Empire, and the remaining half will be given to the Public Reading Room Committee.

Previous to the evening's entertainment the children had gathered for supper together and had an hour of games and amusement. The children were in charge of the Superintendent of the Temple, Mrs. F. J. Loptheim, assisted by Miss Glen, Miss Logan and Mr. Fralick.

OFFICERS WERE DULY ELECTED

Moral Reform Council Organized at Meeting Held on
Monday Evening

A local Social and Moral Reform Council for the North Saanich district was duly organized last Tuesday evening in Wesley Methodist church. The delegates appointed by the various churches and the I. O. G. T., were practically all present in addition to the resident clergy. Rev. T. C. Des Barres acted as chairman pro tem, while Mr. W. I. Land was elected secretary pro tem. After the election of officers it was decided for the present to hold monthly meetings of the council. Some little time was spent in discussing an immediate programme of work for the council to take up, chiefly in the matter of educational enterprises. The following is the list of officers:

President—Mr. Alex. McDonald.
Vice-President—Mr. Wilkinson.
Secretary-Treasurer—Mr. W. I. Land.
All other delegates are known as councillors.

Before leaving for the front Quartermaster-Sergeant T. J. Moss, of the 34th Brigade Royal Field Artillery, whose home is at Teddington, said to his wife as a joke, "Don't worry, dear, you will see me come back with a commission." He now writes to his wife: "You will be pleased and surprised to hear that I am a Second Lieutenant."

Princess Mary has agreed that a photograph of herself shall be embossed on the lids of the boxes of smokers' requisits which, by means of her fund she will send to troops at the front as Christmas presents.

The authorities who are responsible for the safety of London are said to be anxious to hear of an intrepid airman who will undertake to paint out the moon.—Punch.



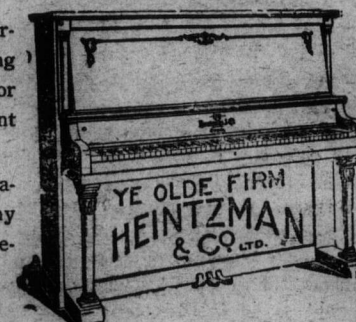
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