

prizes, 95 per cent. being necessary to qualify for these.

"The answering in the Shorter Catechism was also very good, the questions having been according to classes, some of the Senior Classes having the whole Catechism and proofs. We had eight getting full marks, of 100 per cent., and a goodly number getting second prizes with answers that secured 90 to 95 per cent., very few missing except a word misplaced here and there. So, on the whole, the School did very well. Eight prizes were awarded last January for memorizing scripture, two getting 100 per cent., and the lowest two 85 per cent. So the answering was of a very high order.

"Altogether the scheme is working out very well, and every one, including the parents, take a great interest in the work being done.

"I thought I would try an innovation and announced that I would examine the children in the church before the parents, or rather ask their Catechism and scripture as they had all been examined and prizes had been awarded.

"I am glad to say they did splendidly, none missing, and the people so enjoyed it I shall continue it next year. I find it increases interest amongst the parents and in the homes. We had a record attendance, and this year hope to have an equally large or even better attendance.

"Speaking generally, I find we require the sympathy and cooperation of the parents, and that such cooperation counts for a great deal is proven by the fact that in a number of families two, three and four children have secured prizes, showing that the children had been well taught at home."

## OUR BEST CHRISTMAS

*By Rev. J. R. Robertson, B.D.*

Last year St. David's Presbyterian Sunday School, Vancouver, B.C., had a "White Feast" for Christmas. The School rendered a Cantata, White Gifts for the King, including Christmas hymns and carols, Christmas stories and birthday Bible readings. Above the platform was a brilliant star, and under the star a cross in white. During the cantata, all came and offered their "white gifts" to the King, stacking them at the foot of the cross. They brought gifts of every kind: bouquets of flowers and buckets of rice; sacks of flour and sacks of sugar and salt; bags of potatoes and bags of peanuts; loaves of bread and pounds of butter; bottles of milk and bundles of groceries; toys for the tots and tubs of carrots and cabbage, boxes of salmon and barrels of apples; jars of jelly and jam and jars of honey and cheese; platters of turkey and chicken and preserves of pickles and prunes; ribbons and ruffles, tea and toffy, coffee and coppers; bonnets and boots; buttons and belts. The old people smiled, the School sang, the girls laughed, the boys shouted, as all these white gifts were brought to the

King. Really it was "more blessed to give than to receive."

After the white feast the King's gift-bearers paid a kindly visit to the homes of the poor. He knew of the fears in the father's hearts and the tears in the mother's eyes, and had heard them tell their little ones that Santa could not come this year because he was so poor. But now they were all happy. The fathers' fears had flown, the mothers' tears had gone and the children were bright and gay. The tables were spread with turkey, mince pie and fruit, the fireplaces were crackling with cheer, and the homes were warm and bright.

On Sunday the throng of children at School almost bulged out the church. There was a band of willing teachers, some of whom were new and young, but all of whom were happy in their work.

If any one had asked how it came about that the School was so crowded, the reply would have been: "At Christmas time we had a white feast in honor of our King's birthday. We were asked to bring white gifts as presents to the King. And our