

PROTESTANT ORPHANS

Affairs of the Philanthropic Institution for Their Care Presented at Annual Meeting.

Board of Management Enlarged—The List of Directors for Present Year.

The annual meeting of the Protestant Orphans' Home was held yesterday afternoon at the city hall. There were present Mr. Chas. Hayward in the chair, and Bishop Cridge, N. Shapere, Rev. Dr. Campbell, A. C. Plummer, Rev. W. Leslie Clay, Edgar Crow Baker, John Jessop, Rev. Dr. Wilson, J. J. Kelso, Messames C. Kent, C. Hayward, F. W. McCulloch, W. Denny, G. A. Sargison, W. R. Higgins, R. A. Andrews, E. Smith, J. D. Wilson and Miss Carr.

After prayers by the Rev. Dr. Campbell and adoption of minutes, the president presented the following report: Ladies and Gentlemen—This annual meeting of the members of the British Columbia Protestant Orphans' Home reminds us that for twenty-five years the institution has had continuous existence, doing without interruption and with marked success the beneficial work designed by its founders, some of whom are still with us, encouraging and stimulating by their example and influence to renewed efforts.

It would be a tedious, but not difficult task, to go back over the records of the past, and in a report present the details expended; and in numbers the orphan children, who have passed into and out of our care, and no doubt our lives would reveal many other items of peculiar interest. But we have no books showing, or even approximating, the real work of this institution during the last quarter of a century. No record can be found there of the happiness and comfort imparted to the host of unforgotten and little ones who have been the object of our care, nor of the sorrowful tears that have been dried, nor of the sum added to human happiness by these long years of unostentatious and loving work by the kind friends of the home.

The reports to day devoted to you today show well that in many particulars 1897 has been a record year. The number of inmates (64) is larger than at any previous time. The income (except in the memorable year of John G. Taylor's munificent bequest) has been larger than ever before; and the expenditure has naturally followed the increased demands of the inmates. As nearly as can be ascertained the cost per capita for food, clothing and other necessities, which, although \$2.20 per head more than last year, is still nearly \$3 below the average cost of the last five years.

In making up the cost of maintenance each year, there is always the unknown value of food, clothing and other necessities to the home to be dealt with. As these comparative statements serve a most useful purpose; to ensure greater accuracy in this respect in the future, it might be worth while to run the risk of "looking these gift horses in the mouth" and keeping a record of their value for the private information of the members of the finance committee.

The internal management of the home has been as heretofore in the hands of the ladies' committee to whom, with the assistance of our excellent and experienced board of trustees, the present satisfactory condition of affairs is mainly due.

It would be of great assistance to the managers if "volunteers" were taken whereby the matron, or some one or more of the officers could become legal guardians of the children, and in the present satisfactory condition of affairs it is mainly due.

The excellent idea of selecting one of the inmates of the home for special attention has been growing into favor. By this means the children are now being provided with suitable and approved clothing by the Little Helpers of the Poor, and by Mrs. H. D. Helmcken. This good work, which necessarily involves much outlay in cash, is heartily commended to our lady friends.

To provide for the economical way for the children now on our hands and for demands likely to be made upon us, we require for the coming year about \$2,000 in addition to the money already dependent for this large amount upon voluntary contributions, we need not be dismayed at the task of securing the money. It may require a little subdivision of labor among the managers so that a larger area than heretofore may be canvassed, and a larger number induced to take an interest in the home. We shall greatly miss in this department of our work our lamented friend and colleague, Dr. G. O. Plummer, who for many years has been one of the most active of our number, and whose loss we greatly deplore.

Our cordials are extended to his beloved widow and children. The grateful thanks of the managers is accorded to all who by kind deeds or donations of food, clothing or money, have enabled them to successfully carry on the work, and particularly to Dr. G. O. Plummer for his general interest and assistance of the home; to Dr. O. M. Jones, for special oculist's attention; to Dr. Lewis Hall for medical services under the directorship of the Provincial Royal Jubilee Hospital for kindly receiving two of our invalid children.

In conclusion the managers acknowledge with gratitude the divine goodness that has helped them thus far, and to express the hope that future efforts on behalf of these orphan and destitute children may be blessed with His favor.

CHAS. HAYWARD, President. April 6th, 1898. On motion this was received and ordered to be placed on the minutes. The following financial statement from Mr. A. C. Plummer, heretofore treasurer for the year ending January 31st, 1898, was then submitted by him:

Table with columns for Receipts and Disbursements, listing various financial items and their amounts.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Members Get Down to Business and Pass Measures in Short Order.

Mr. Kelso Gives the House Some Opinions on the Care of Children.

WEDNESDAY, April 6.

The legislature spent most of yesterday afternoon on private bills and during a recess heard an address by Mr. Kelso, superintendent of neglected and dependent children. The proceedings opened with prayer by Rev. J. C. Speer and then on the suggestion of the Premier the recess was taken and Mr. Kelso addressed the members for an hour.

The Premier having expressed their thanks to Mr. Kelso, the house resumed business. RETURNS ORDERED. Mr. Forster moved for a return of tenders for supplies of stationery to the various departments. This was carried.

Mr. Higgins moved for a return of creameries financially aided by the government under the Dairy Associations act. Agreed to.

Mr. Helmecken moved for returns of the names of clergymen, if any, who are justices of the peace. Agreed to.

Mr. Macpherson moved for a return of the names of clergymen, if any, who are justices of the peace. Agreed to.

Mr. Kelso moved that a committee of the house be appointed to visit the Victoria jail and reformatory and report upon the condition and management thereof. The committee to consist of Messrs. Helmecken, Stoddard, Kidd, and the mover. This was carried.

QUESTIONS ANSWERED. Mr. Forster asked the Provincial Secretary, is the government aware that Chinese are employed in the Union, Alberta and Extension mines? 2. Is it the intention of the government to enforce the provisions of the Coal Mines Regulation act, prohibiting the employment of Chinese in coal mines? 3. Have instructions been given to the Inspector of Mines (Mr. Dick) dealing with the employment of Chinese in the above-mentioned mines?

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moved an amendment to make the bill invalidate all contracts made to import workmen from outside of British Columbia to do work in the coal mines of the provinces of Canada as well as outside countries. The amendment was objected that the amendment would do away with the principle already put in the bill by the house. It would be legislating against the other provinces of the Dominion and should be condemned.

The Leader of the Opposition took the position which he had on former occasions and would support the amendment. The debate proceeded along the same lines as it did on the second reading. Mr. Hunter, Dr. Walker and Mr. Higgins opposing the amendment and Mr. Kennedy being in its favor.

The amendment was lost on the following division: For—Messrs. Williams, Semlin, Cotton, Graham, Kelle, Swock, Kennedy, Hume, Forster, Walker, Biddell, Voder and McGregor—13.

Against—Messrs. Baker, Turner, Pooler, Martin, Eberts, Eberts, Adams, Smith, Mutter, Helmecken and Higgins—19.

The report of the bill was adopted and the house rose for recess. After recess, Mr. Williams, when the second reading of the Liquor Traffic Regulation Act Amendment Bill was reached, asked that the order be discharged as the bill had already been passed by the Attorney-General.

COAL MINES REGULATIONS. Dr. Walker in moving the second reading of the Coal Mines Regulation Act Amendment Bill, stated that he desired by it to extend the provisions of the prohibition to work underground to Japanese as well as Chinese.

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ment that the petition did not necessarily involve an expenditure. Mr. Swock concurred, and Mr. Eberts said he would like to have seen Mr. Speaker in a position to have decided that the petition could be received, felt that the ruling was correct. The government was both willing and anxious to hear any expression of the people of the country had to make on the subject of representation, but as Mr. Speaker had decided, the rule forbade the reception of the petition, because it led to an expenditure of public funds.

The house sustained Mr. Speaker. A RETURN PRESENTED. Hon. Mr. Turner presented an additional return in the Revelstoke banks in connection with a letter from Hon. Mr. Tarte. This was the document referred to the previous day in the house.

The Premier explained that as the Times had accused him of keeping back correspondence, a short explanation was in order. As a matter of fact, the correspondence had been forwarded to the Provincial Secretary, but from that of the Provincial Secretary, he had instructed his secretary to go to the correspondence together, and had handed it over to the Provincial Secretary, not knowing that it was incomplete.

The returns had, indeed, been forwarded to the Provincial Secretary, and he had received, and his secretary had understood that only the correspondence received up to the time the return was made should be presented. As soon as however, as the omission had been noticed, he had directed that this other correspondence be presented. A remark was made that whereas the letter had only been presented a day or two to the house, a recent paper had published it more than a week before, which went to show that the department at Ottawa was sending letters to this Revelstoke paper.

Mr. Eberts then read a letter from the Provincial Secretary, which was a most extraordinary thing to do. The house adjourned until Tuesday next.

"NEVER MIND THE NAME." Cowley, the Crippled Thief, is Sorry Now That He Left His Incomplete Card.

J. H. Cowley, a young man of unusual thieving accomplishments of which he seems very proud, was convicted yesterday at the police court on three different charges of theft and sentenced to six months in jail for each offence. During the short time he was in the court before his departure for Vancouver, he succeeded in robbing a couple of city clerks to the extent of about \$100, and this right in front of the eyes of the clerks. He would enter a store on a rainy day and steal something which was generally found in stock.

While it was being looked for he would slip something inside of his coat and tuck it under his arm. He would then deal with the details themselves. Another thing was that this proposal to pull down the blinds and expose the interior of the store to the public gaze would cause a greater temptation to the young than if the inside were hidden from view. He left a note on a table and with it the file which he had used in effecting his entrance. On the note was written: "Comments of —; never mind the name."

The detectives who worked on the case of finding the goods, and caused to the conclusion that inasmuch as the handwriting was the face simile of J. H. Cowley, that he must be the author of the flippant remark and that his was the missing signature.

When he was accused of stealing from the grocery store, he was charged with his possession, he acknowledged his guilt, but when the robbery of the government assay office was charged to him, he indignantly denied it and told the detective that he was not so smart as he thought himself. The other man took the roll from Henry's hand to count it over, and as soon as he saw the roll snatched it and ran out through the back door. Henry tried to follow him, but could not get past the other fellow who put himself in his way some time.

When at last he did get through the back door Williams had disappeared over a fence. Henry went back to make sure the other man was gone. Then he realized that he had been the victim of a scheme to which both men were parties, and from that time he has been as well as what the police have since learned, his realization of the situation is quite true. Had he been susceptible to the inducement which the game seemed to offer his money might have been taken from him through tricks with dice, but he was decidedly averse to gambling and he had to be content with the roll. It is the same kind of a case which the Seattle police have to deal with every day. This class of swindlers have fortunately been seen in Victoria, but business is evidently growing dull on the Sound and the great army of sharpers who have concentrated their forces there are compelled to spread out during the remaining days of the year.

John Smith, for breach of the street law which in this case means too fast driving, was fined \$7.

The quarterly meeting of the British Columbia Board of Trade will be held on the 15th instant, and will prove of more than usually important character. It is well known that the board is the chief business of the Dominion and Provincial governments, and the immediate action towards securing the building of a line of railway from a port on the coast of British Columbia to Teslin Lake.

UNITED STATES PENSIONS. Secretary Bliss on the Immense Payroll Which Has Annually to Be Provided.

In sending to Congress a deficiency estimate of \$8,070,877 for pensions for this year, Secretary Bliss makes an interesting statement on the general subject of pensions up to date. Secretary Bliss says: "The total number of pensioners on the roll June 30th, 1897, was 79,014, while on the 28th of February, 1898, there were 986,613, or an increase of 1,167,599. Between the latter date there was disbursed for the payment of army pensions \$96,370,873, leaving the sum of \$46,629,272 for the payment of pensions to the end of the present fiscal year. The Commissioner of Pensions has substantially doubled since the close of the fiscal year more than \$8,000,000 in the amount of pension appropriation. It is now the commissioner's opinion that, in view of the increasing application for actual pensions and the increase of pensions, there will be an inability to attend will fail to take advantage of an opportunity to gain a more intimate knowledge of his calling.

The programme prepared for the occasion includes the names of British Columbia's most prominent teachers. "How strange," he said, "the roll has increased from 772,023 in 1890, to approximately \$12,000,000 in the present year. The total number of pensioners on the roll was 79,014. At the close of the current fiscal year the number of pensioners on the roll was 986,613, an increase of nearly 90 per cent. since 1890. In that time the value of the roll has increased from \$72,000,000 in 1890, to approximately \$12,000,000 in the present year. The total number of pensioners on the roll was 79,014. At the close of the current fiscal year the number of pensioners on the roll was 986,613, an increase of nearly 90 per cent. since 1890. In that time the value of the roll has increased from \$72,000,000 in 1890, to approximately \$12,000,000 in the present year. The total number of pensioners on the roll was 79,014. 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