

W.C.T.U. CONVENTION

Committees Appointed at Yesterday Afternoon's Session of the Union.

Addresses by Rev. J. C. Speer and Dr. Hathaway at the Public Meeting.

Yesterday afternoon's session of the W.C.T.U. began with opening exercises of a devotional character and then the various committees got down to work. The following are the standing committees for the convention:

Obituary—Miss Brown and Mrs. Chapman.

Awarding Banner—Mrs. J. W. Williams and Mrs. Henderson.

Resolutions—Mrs. Jenkins, Mrs. Halliday, Mrs. Sinclair, Mrs. Manson, Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Morrison.

Convention Expenses—Mrs. G. E. G. Brown, Mrs. McGregor and Miss Breese.

Press Reports—Mrs. Jenkins, Mrs. Gould, Mrs. Forbes, Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Sieveright, Mrs. Presley, Mrs. Halliday and Mrs. Henderson.

A report on the plan of work for the past year was presented by Mrs. Sheriff, of Chilliwack, recapitulating what had been achieved through the press.

An able discussion on the subject ensued and it will be further dealt with by the resolutions committee.

Mrs. Major's report of literature and Woman's Journal was then presented, and the urgent necessity for a Canadian paper in the interest of temperance work and the advocacy of the W.C.T.U. cause was dwelt upon.

Mrs. J. Brown, of Vancouver, read an able paper on juvenile work, and Mrs. Cunningham, of Westminster, followed with an interesting sketch, giving a graphic outline of similar achievements.

Mrs. Jenkins related her experience in this direction, and the Rev. Mr. Trotter and several ladies spoke in support of teaching temperance in Sunday schools.

In the evening, the Metropolitan church was, if not crowded to the doors, at all events comfortably filled, and there was a good sprinkling of men scattered among the fair sex.

Mrs. Lamb, the president, presided, and took the chair punctually at 8 o'clock and was supported on her left by Mrs. Gordon Grant.

After the opening exercises at this afternoon's session the temperance, coffee house report and hospital and parlor meeting report were received and accepted.

The resolutions committee presented their report, and then the president was presented with a basket of flowers in the name of the women's president of the W.C.T.U., Mrs. Francis Willard, by two to grant them the franchise.

He also presented the work that woman is doing in the Greater Britain under the Southern Cross—for God, for home and for humanity—and concluded with an earnest appeal to the women of British Columbia to organize and form branches of the Woman's Franchise League all over the province, to stand together as their sisters across the sea had stood, and the time would come, perhaps soon, when they would be free—free mothers of a free and noble people.

The first business when the session opened this morning was the consideration of the report on the flower mission, presented by Mrs. C. S. Keith.

The report described the work of the flower committee in visiting the sick at their homes and at the hospitals, distributing flowers with appropriate Scriptural texts. The report was adopted.

The committee on the plan of work for the approaching plebiscite, each local president be asked to urge upon the necessity of using every means possible to arouse public opinion in favor of prohibition. Also that they be asked to use such means as distributing literature, public meetings, canvassing for votes as well as co-operating with the temperance societies, church organizations, etc., and that individual members be prepared to give hearty assistance in whatever capacity required.

That from this time until the commencement of, and during the campaign, the plebiscite shall be made the subject of constant public and private prayer.

Viewing with alarm the appalling prevalence and growth of cigarette smoking with all its evil effects among the boys, we would again this year suggest that superintendents urge the distribution of anti-tobacco literature through the young people's Christian societies, Sunday and day schools, and in the general literature distribution of the Union that efforts be made to have the "Anti-Tobacco Gen" taken by the Sunday schools and distributed with other Sunday school papers. That we urge the formation of anti-cigarrette leagues in our public schools, whereby scholars are pledged against the use of tobacco until the age of 21.

That as Christian women we pledge ourselves to preserve the sanctity of our Christian Sabbath by doing no work on that day other than what is positively needed, and to use the day only for the purpose for which God intended it—rest and holy worship. And that we further the early closing movement, by doing our shopping as early as possible, especially on Saturdays, so that both employer and employee may be better

able to enjoy the privileges of the day of rest.

The report of the Refuge Home committee was received and adopted. There were thirteen inmates cared for at the home during the year, two of whom were afterwards married and four have returned to their homes. One only returned to her former life. During the year eight maternity cases were reported. Thanks were given to the donors towards the home, doctors who have freely given their services, and to the press and clergy. The total receipts of the home during the year were \$2,567.07; the expenditure was \$1,492.55, leaving a balance on hand of \$1,114.52.

The consecration meeting this afternoon was led by Mrs. Manson, of Nanaimo, and then Mrs. Cunningham, of New Westminster, the corresponding secretary, presented her report. The session is still in progress.

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Quartette was then given by Rev. G. F. Swinerton, Mr. Spencer and the Misses Spencer, after which an address was delivered by Rev. Professor Easton, of New Westminster.

A mothers' meeting followed, led by Mrs. Spencer and Mrs. Cunningham. Then Mrs. Lamb read a paper on a paternal training and Mrs. Jenkins a paper on the necessity for a mother to keep young and healthy the interests of her children. Mrs. Nott followed, speaking on the same subject.

Miss Bowes, who has just returned from the east, presented the report of the mission department. She stated that during her stay in the east the sum of \$2,240 had been contributed to the mission fund.

Miss Breese, the treasurer, reported showing a balance on hand of \$31.90. The receipts were \$251.05. The election of officers which then took place resulted as follows:

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Recording secretary—Mrs. Gordon Grant.

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An addition was made to the provincial constitution, allowing honorary, life and sustaining members. Sustaining members must be total abstainers.

A letter was received from Mrs. Grigg, the Dominion superintendent, re the memorial to physicians, recommending them not to use intoxicants, morphine, or opium.

Mrs. McNaughton gave an interesting Bible reading, after which the following reports were read and adopted: Evangelistic report, heredity and hygiene, "fill her place in an ayodropolis sense or measured by a yard measure, but not in any other sense," and with this introduction he proceeded to sketch the noble work that woman is doing everywhere to-day. Anecdotes, humor, pathos, appeal, succeeded each other with telling effect as the reverend gentleman with dramatic power kept his audience interested.

Dr. Hathaway discussed woman's franchise in New Zealand, a colony that has recently been his home. He pointed out that New Zealand was the first British colony to open the doors of her universities and colleges to women, and the first to grant them the franchise. He also pointed out the work that woman is doing in the Greater Britain under the Southern Cross—for God, for home and for humanity—and concluded with an earnest appeal to the women of British Columbia to organize and form branches of the Woman's Franchise League all over the province, to stand together as their sisters across the sea had stood, and the time would come, perhaps soon, when they would be free—free mothers of a free and noble people.

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FROM DAWSON CITY

Letter Received Yesterday from James Macaulay, the Yukon Trader.

Gold, He Says, Is "As Free as Mud"—Value of Claims Increases.

Mr. H. C. Macaulay yesterday received a letter from his brother, James Macaulay, who with Ross Eckardt and Hubert Macaulay left here on June 23rd for Dawson City. The trip was made without a hitch, and although they had a stock of between nine and ten tons of provisions, they reached Dawson on July 23rd, and the trip was a success.

James Macaulay flatly denies that any liquor was taken in by the party, which disposes of the other rumor that the Mounted Police had seized the outfit.

The letter speaks very enthusiastically of the prospects of the district, although few details are given. Hubert Macaulay went up Eldorado creek to work on the claim which Mr. Leek purchased in the spring for \$31,000. Since then Leek has been offered and has refused \$100,000 for the property, it being the opinion of miners that there is an immense fortune in the 500 feet of ground covered by the claim. Dick Eckardt, Ross brother, has also three very promising claims, one of which he owns outright, Messrs. Macaulay and Ross Eckardt being interested in the others. Last year Mr. Macaulay purchased a lot in Dawson for \$25,000 and since his return has refused \$100,000 for it. Things are booming in the metropolis of the new Eldorado, gold dust, in the words of the writer of the letter, being "as free as mud." A few letters have been received from the three and four tons of gold went down the river.

The party had no trouble at all in getting to the mines, but they, of course, started before the rush began, and had no difficulty in getting to the mines, but they had a big stock of provisions across the Chilkoot Pass, the route which they travelled. They had a big barge to take their goods down the river.

Mr. Eckardt will come out this fall, but Mr. Macaulay will probably make the winter trip out to buy another stock of provisions and get back again early in the spring. He says nothing about a shortage of provisions.

Several provincial papers some time ago contained a sensational story to the effect that Hugh O'Neill, formerly an employe of Spencer's Arcade in this city, had practically died from starvation in an isolated cabin in Kootenay. The story was evidently manufactured by a man with a vivid imagination, for Mr. O'Neill seems to be very much alive. The Rossland Miner has the following regarding his return to that town, which calling him "Hugh McNeill," whereas his name is "Hugh O'Neill."

"Hugh McNeill is one of the few men who have had the pleasure of reading his own funeral notices, with all the accompanying encomiums. Mr. McNeill left here about six weeks ago on a prospecting trip along the Pend d'Oreille. He had hardly been gone two weeks before it was reported that he had been killed on his trip, and being unable to prepare his food had literally died of starvation." The report was apparently confirmed in the Victoria Colonist of the 25th, and the Colonist in its account of the affair waxed quite eloquent over the many amiable qualities of the deceased. The report caused no little sorrow among Mr. McNeill's friends in Victoria, where he formerly lived. The Rossland Miner has the following regarding his return to that town, which calling him "Hugh McNeill," whereas his name is "Hugh O'Neill."

"His old friends were slowly becoming reconciled to his death, when on Friday night the presumptive corpse came trudging back to town, not very much alive but in the very best of health. It transpired that his reported death was a mistake from the ground up, for he was evidently a very animated corpse, and he assured his friends that he had not had a sick moment during his entire trip. His prospecting had been as successful as he could have wished, and he staked off some very promising placer grounds. Now Mr. McNeill is trying to have the administration of his estate set aside, for, while he has no objection, if it will accommodate his relations, he would like to have some advance notice of when his demise is expected."

"A similar case occurred in Washington a year or two since. A man disappeared and turned up several years after his estate had been given to his heirs. He appealed to the courts and after tedious litigation the supreme court of the state formally and gravely declared that he was legally dead, although very much alive."

LEANDER AND PHAETON.

Cruisers That Are To Believe the Comm and Wild Swan.

The list of officers of H. M. ships Leander and Phaeton, which are to relieve the Wild Swan and Comm, was received last evening. Both are twin screw cruisers of 4,300 tons and 5,000 H.P. The officers are:

Captain, Francis G. Kerby; lieutenant, George C. Day; Guy M. Marsden (N); Edgar B. Morant; and Charles D. Graham; lieutenant R.N.R., George Hamilton (acting); lieutenant marines, Francis G. W. Harvey; staff surgeon,

Henry Harris; chief engineer, Frederick J. Flood; paymaster, Montague Stephens; assistant paymaster, Michael H. Widdington; assistant engineers, Charles J. Gregg and John C. Jenkins; gunner (T), William J. Crothers; boatswain, Edwin R. Rundle; and Thomas Hutchison; and carpenter, John A. Brown.

Here are the leaders of the officers: Captain, Frederick F. Pegasi; lieutenant, Louis J. McHutchy; Tristan Dannreuther (N); Charles P. Mansel, George J. Tait and Walter J. Brown; lieutenant, R.N.R., William D. Irvine; lieutenant marines, Arthur P. Grant; staff surgeon, Hubert W. A. Burke; paymaster, Charles P. Dawes; chief engineer, Henry W. Walcott; assistant engineer, Grant; engineer, Thomas P. Jackson; assistant engineer, Archibald W. Macdonald; gunner (T), Edward Turner; boatswain, Fred. Llewellyn; and carpenter, Samuel J. Wills and Joshua Greaser.

A SUSPICIOUS DEATH.

Mrs. Piper's Sudden Death—Arrest of Dr. Metherell.

The Vancouver News-Advertiser gives the following particulars of the suspicious death of a woman named Piper and the arrest of Dr. Metherell at his pretty well known in Victoria, having resided here for some time.

Mrs. Mary Piper, a dressmaker, died on Monday morning under suspicious circumstances, and in consequence the police arrested Dr. S. A. Metherell at his rooms on Cordova street in the afternoon, and the doctor is now held in the lock-up pending the result of the coroner's inquest, which will be held to-day.

As far as can be learned the deceased went to Dr. Metherell's rooms on Saturday or Sunday, and it is alleged that a criminal operation was performed by the doctor. The woman becoming unconscious, and all attempts to revive her proving unavailing, Dr. Metherell called in another physician. All attempts to save her, however, proved unavailing, and as already stated she died yesterday morning.

The deceased obtained a divorce from her husband a year ago, and lived with her relations on Hastings street. She carried on her business as a dressmaker over Hession & Irving's grocery store, on Hastings street for some time, but at the time of her death rented rooms over Sutherland's drug store on Westminster avenue. Her brother is Mr. McKenzie, an employe in the B. C. Iron Works, who states that he was not aware anything was the matter with his sister on Saturday when he last saw her.

Dr. Metherell was highly indignant at his arrest and was extremely violent when being searched at the police station. In fact he nearly succeeded in striking Officer McIntosh serious injury and had to be thrown down on the floor and held by two officers while the third searched him. In his pockets were two bottles containing morphine and the other, cocaine, besides a number of syringes for administering the noxious drugs.

In his pocket was a type-written letter addressed to "Auntie May" and signed "Alex." The writer said he felt lonely, and states that he would send a letter for her if she could not walk. The writer also asks her to correct any rumor circulated that he was mad, as that was not what he was, and that he was a sane man.

The remains of the deceased are being kept at Kemp & Simpson's undertaking parlors.

VERY MUCH ALIVE.

Hugh O'Neill, Who Was Reported Dead, Walks Into Rossland Last Week.

Had Been Out Prospecting, Had Done Well and Was Feeling Well.

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