[From The Daily Colonist, Dec. 20.]

COLLEGIATE SCHOOL.

Bishop Perrin and the Minister of Education Deliver Interesting Addresses.

A Resident Committee Formed to Conduct Local Examinations for Cambridge.

The closing entertainment given by the Collegiate School at Institute hall proved both successful and enjoyable. Between 200 and 300 people were present, including His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, the Lord Bishop of Columbia and Miss Perrin, Sir Henry Crease and family, Mrs. Croft, Mr. and Mrs, Vernon, Dr. and Mrs. Hanington, Mrs. Sillitoe, Miss Pooley, Mr. and Mrs. Gillespie, Mr. and Mrs. Aspland, Rev. W. D. Barber, Ven. Archdeacon Scriven, Capt. Clive Phillips-Wolley, the Misses Foster and Cornwall, Mr. Lobb and family, the Misses Drake, Mr. and Mrs. Helmcken, and many others directly or indirectly interested in the progress of the school. The entertainment began with with musical drill under the management of acting Garrison Sergeant-Major Porter, R.M.A., and the results of his training were gratifying both to the parents of the pupils and to himself. Mr. C. Lowenburg very kindly and ably presided at the piano during the drill, after which a picked squad of boys went through the single stick exercise very creditably.

The next portion of the programme was a speech by the Bishop, who presided ex officio as patron and visitor of the school. In his remarks he dwelt upon the fact that Victoria was to be congratulated upon having a Church of England boys' school which provided religious instruction. He deplored the idea that it was possible to give a really good education without religious instruction, and referred to the fact that in proportion as nations separated themselves from religion so they began to decline in prosperity. He was glad to know that the Bishop and clergy of the neighboring diocese of New Westminster were as keenly interested in the success of the Collegiate as he was himself. He then announced the result of the scholarship examinations which was: The school scholarship to J. B. Hanington; the entrance or Bishop's scholarship to C. Wilmot. Both of these young gentlemen he wished a successful school career. In conclusion, he introduced Colonel Baker, who would, he said, speak on the question of the formation of a local committee to conduct the Cambridge local examinations; upon which the Minister of Education was especially qualified to speak as a Master of Arts, of Trinity college, Cambridge.

Colonel Baker said that the idea of having a centre for the Cambridge local examination rested upon the fact that this examination was very widely acquired—first, as excusing a student from matriculation at the university; and secondly, as excusing a candidate from preliminary entrance examinations in law, and medicine. It seemed to him an admirable plan that candidates here should be able to pass this examination, and so be on a par with boys and girls in England, and able, as it were, to measure their strength against those of their own age in the old country. He thought that Mr. Laing, of the Collegiate school, deserved great credit for having introduced the idea, and he hoped to see the educational establishments throughout British Columbia welcome and adopt it.

After this followed recitations, J. B. Hanington gave, in Latin, "Cicero's Denunciation of Catiline"; S. M. Johnson gave, in French, "Esther's Appeal to Ahasuerus"; E. L. Dewdney gave "Wolsey's Farewell"; C. H. Aspland contributed "Sir Galahad"; and A. Vernen, "The Dream of Eugene Aram." Of these the Latin speech was the most loudly applauded, perhaps because in revived in the memories of most the recollections of their own school days, and some remembered the quotation, omne ignotum pro magnifico. There was then an interval for refreshments, which were provided on a lavish scale, and the entertainment concluded with a presentation of Mrs. Jarley's waxworks ably described by Miss Aspland, and efficiently handled by Mr. Phillips, of Ethiopia. Among these works of art, all of which were creditable, E. L. Dewdney as Nero, S. M. Johnson as an Indian Chief, J. B. Hanington as the Ancient Mariner, and L. Spencer as Henry VIII, was especially noticeable. Messrs. Sharp and Laing of the Collegiate school must have been gratified by the members and appreciation of their guests, and by the manifest interest taken in the success of the school.

IN THE DISTRICT SCHOOLS.

Closing Exercises of Special Interest at Esquimalt, Oak Bay, Tolmie and Goldstream.

Great interest was evidenced by the many friends and parents of the children of the Esquimalt school in the closing exercises of the term, which were held yesterday afternoon. Neither time nor trouble had been spared by teacher and pupils in decorating the room, which presented quite a neat and tasty appearance. Mr. Campbell was congratulated by the trustees and visitors on the marked improvement in all branches of the school work during the past term; and the removal by death of Mr. John Doran was alluded to by several of the speakers in feeling terms, general regret being expressed at his absence from the closing exercises at the school which in the past he had so delighted to attend. During the afternoon the pupils of the school, under the leadership of Mr. H. Middleton, gave the following pleasing programme in excellent style:

Address of welcome.....Violet Goodwin
Song—"The Birdie's Call".....School
Song—"The Pilot".....School
Song—"The Maple Leaf".....School
Song—"Good Night".....School
Song—"Stylish London Dress".....
.....W. Winsley
Recitation.....Ellen Nunn

Mrs. Langmaid presented the prizes and presents to the girls in a graceful manner, while Mr. E. Baynes Reed distributed to the boys their gifts and prizes, in a short speech congratulating both teachers and pupils on the results of the term's work. Rev. Messrs. Sharp and Hicks followed in the same happy vein, and Trustee Goodwin presided. After cheers for the trustees and teacher, the audience dispersed with the singing of "God Save the Queen." The promotion lists follow:

From Senior Fourth to Junior Fifth—Mable Porter, Esther Kerr, Ellen Munn, Willie Henwood, and Willie Isbister.

From Junior Fourth to Senior Fourth—Fred Hickey, Bella Isbister, Alice Atkins, George Muir, and James Doran.

From Third Class to Junnior Fourth—Percy Hayden, May Munn, Lizzie Henwood, Maud Kerr, Willie Jordan, Bella Frith, Fannie Young, Nellie Bisson and Maggie Blatchford.

The pupils of the Oak Bay school, of which Miss Josephine D. Colquhoun is teacher, also celebrated the coming of Christmas yesterday with closing exercises, of which a real old fashioned Christmas tree was a conspicuous feature. The room, too, was very prettily decorated, and addresses were made by several of the visitors including Rev. Dr, Wilson of the Church of Our Lord, R. E., and Rev. J. C. Forster, the resident Presbyterian minister. The promotions announced for the term just ended were as follows:

From Senior Second to Junior Third—Ethel Frith, Winnie Tuck, Stephen Hemwood, Alfred Hammond, and Sadie Astlee.

From Junior Second to Senior Second—Willie Wensley, Eva Muir, Mamie Stock, Maggie Kerr, Phoebe Glover and Edith Clayton.

From Chart Class to First Primer—Gordon Edwards, Clarency McLarty, Herbert Vye, Willie Sutherland and Margaret Rich.

Second Primer to Second Reader—Maggie Sutherland and Nora Rich.

Second Reader to Third Reader—Marion Elwyn, Beatrie Eden and Ellen W. Radford.

Third Reader to Junior Fourth Reader—Ann Holmes.

The closing examination of Tolmie school took place on Friday last, when in the afternoon a pleasing programme was rendered by the pupils to a large gathering of parents and friends. The promotion list was as below:

MISS M. GODSON, TEACHER.

From Junior to Senior Fifth Reader—Ada Mary Driver and Louisa Carto.

From Senior Fourth to Junior Fifth Reader—James Owens, William Wrathall, Annie Jobson, Rachel Ferguson, Mabel Liddell and Bernice Peter.

From Junior Fourth to Senior Fourth—William Gillespie, Henry Driver, Herbert Clarence Caselton and Margaret Russell.

MISS G. A. GODSON, TEACHER.

From Senior Third to Junior Fourth—Margaret Driver, Jennie G. Littlewood, Norman A. Owens, Mary Turner and Robert Ferguson.

From Junior Third to Senior Third—Albert Harold Hancock and John Gillespie.

From Second Reader to Junior Third—May Agnes Muriel Graham.

MISS E. J. MILLER, TEACHER.

From Second Primer to Second Reader—Isabella Macdonald and Francis Driver.

From First Primer to Second Primer—Rhoda Hancock, Harry Johnson and Maud Owens.

From Chart to First Primer—Olive Sewell, Ethel Chislett and Jennie Duncan.

PRIZE LIST.

Senior Fifth—Dorothy M. Moxon, first in examination; and Alice Maud Turner, attendance and deportment.

Junior Fifth—Ada Mary Driver, and Louisa Carto.

Senior Fourth—James Owens, and Rachel Ferguson.

Junior Fourth—William Gillespie, and Fred. Liddell.

Senior Third—Margaret Driver, and Mary Turner.

Junior Third—Albert Hancock, and Eva Ferguson.

Second Reader—May A. M. Graham, and Lottie Grimm.

Second Primer—Isabelle MacDonald, and Francis Driver.

First Primer—Rhoda Hancock, and Maud Owens.

Chart Class—Olive Sewell, and Harold Abbott.

Friday last was closing day in the Goldstream public school in connection with the Christmas holidays. The term just ended has been a very successful one for all the pupils attending. Quite a number of interested visitors were present, and after the presenting of prizes and the reading of the promotion lists, short addresses were given by Trustees Phair, Frazer and Rhode. A vote of thanks was tendered to Miss Harrison for the efficient manner in which she has conducted the affairs of the school during the term, and the proceedings terminated with the singing of "God Save the Queen."

THE COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE.

The end of the Christmas term came yesterday to the pupils of the Victoria Collegiate Institute, when after oral examinations in the class rooms in the early morning, the entire school assembled in the gymnasium, with parents and friends as their guests; and the advent of the holidays was marked with appropriate announcements as to term results, addresses by prominent visitors and vocal music. A summary of results of the term, the order of merit in each of the four divisions being shown, is appended:

Victoria Collegiate Institute.

FIRST DIVISION.

First Sixteen Pupils in Order of Merit—Nellie Evelyn Marchant, Hjalmar Jacobson, Dorothy Allison, Alexander Dow, Blanche Couves, Maud Bone, Louis Duval, Rosemary Reid, Roberta Nason, Humbert McConnell, Ina McFadden, Robert Branke Powell, Arthur Netherby, Frederick Herd, Annie Cathcart and Reginald Hayward. Miss Christina Anderson and Masters Ceoil Berkeley and William Redfern, from sickness, and Miss Alice Doran, from domestic affliction, were unable to complete the examination.

SECOND DIVISION.

First Ten Pupils in Order of Merit—Alexander Thompson, Nils Ohlson, Fanny Whyte, William Peddle, Mary Holmes, Sarah Mills, Evis E. Nicholson, Margaret Johnson, A. S. Burgess, and Flossie Creedon.

THIRD DIVISION.

First eighteen pupils, in order of merit—Ernest Cleaver, Sarah Breidfjord, Noel Barker, John H. McKay, Blake Nason, Hugh Wilmot and Elizabeth Lovell, Hattie McKay, Arthur Patton, Margaret Lowe, Elsie Shrapnel, Millie Newby, Edwin Siddall, Hattie Williams, Alice Nicholson, Kate Lettice, Irene Ure and Fanny Devereux.

FOURTH DIVISION.

First thirty of fifty-five pupils, in order of merit—Charles Coates, Gordon Grant, Lancelot Clark, Catherine Chapman, Harry Gartley, John Cumber, Mary A. Crocker, Kenneth T. Hughes, John Leeming, Louis A. Bord, Clementina D. King, Winnie Ewart, Irene G. Pickard, Laura J. Veitch, Eleanor C. Loat, Alleda M. Horner, Alexander A. McRae, Sydney F. Bone, Olive E. Souden, Thomas Crocker, Viva J. Babington, Maud Munsie, Winnie B. Hopper, Emily J. Taylor, Bertha A. Muirhead, Mabel J. Sabiston, Ernest H. Hall, Roy B. Dier, Violet Hardie and Arabella Hood.

The entire school makes an especially creditable showing in mathematics, Miss Marchant taking 97 1-6 per cent. of full marks on the paper set for the first division: A. S. Burgess, in the second division, having 89 3-7 per cent.: Miss Breidfjord, in the third division, 90 2-9 per cent.; and Lancelot Clark, in the fourth division, 96 2-9 per cent. The teachers and the subjects taught are: E. B. Paul, M.A., principal, classics and higher mathematics; A. J. Pineo, B.A., science and history; E. H. Russell, B.A., mathematics; and J. N. Muir, B.A., French, English and commercial branches.

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.

The fac-simile signature of Chas. H. Fletcher is on every wrapper.

Rev. Dr. Campbell arrived home last night from Minneapolis, whither he had been summoned by the sickness and death of his daughter.

THE CITY.

As anticipated, a verdict of suicide by hanging was returned by the jury whom Coroner Crompton empannelled yesterday, in the case of the Japanese Totaugh.

Last evening's Y.M.C.A. popular concert was well attended and equally well enjoyed, the programme furnished, of which announcement has already been made, being varied and of such merit as to suit everyone who heard it.

The officers of the Teachers' Institute for the new term are Mr. S. B. Netherby, president; Miss Agnes Deans Cameron, vice-president; Mr. D. Dallas, secretary-treasurer; and the foregoing, with Messrs. A. B. McNeill, and A. F. Doran, Miss A. F. Barron and Miss A. F. Gardiner.

Dr. G. L. Milne entertained the following gentlemen at dinner last evening at his residence Pinehurst, viz: Hon. A. G. Blair, Lt.-Col. Domville, M.P., Senator McInnes, F. L. Beique, William Templeman, Geo. Riley, A. H. Scaife, H. A. Munn, R. H. Hall, A. Martin, A. L. Belyea, Dr. Watt and C. E. Renouf.

Arthur Langley, the young man who has recently been amusing himself as a special "moral reform" detective, was yesterday convicted of vagrancy and sentenced to three months' imprisonment at hard labor. He did not, as he had promised, produce "half a dozen clergymen to testify to his good character.

Still another remarkably sudden death, supposedly due to heart disease, occurred yesterday, when Joseph Hilliard, aged about 60, was found dead in his room, in which he lived alone. He was a pioneer of the city and province and for several years was proprietor of a thriving grocery business on Store street. Coroner Dr. Crompton will probably hold an inquest to-morrow.

John McPlows, who was charged with stealing several pieces of iron from the sawmill at Sidney, a few days ago, pleaded guilty in the provincial police court yesterday morning. In explanation, he said that while he admitted having taken the iron, he had done so at the request of another man, and did not know that he was stealing. The Magistrate, in view of the explanation, took a lenient view of the case, and fined McPlows $4 and $6 costs.

Meier, the young man who imagined he had met a highwayman on Thursday night and the next morning pleaded guilty in the city police court to having stolen an overcoat from the Occidental, was yesterday convicted of the petty theft and given three months' jail. He was recognized by Miss Brown, of Victoria Crescent, as the man who had attempted to rob her on the street in which she lives, and she identified him also in yesterday's court, by his voice as well as general appearance. Meier, of course, swore that he was not the man.

Subscriptions are being received at the Colonist office and at several other places in Victoria for the fifty or more little folk in the Sapperton R.C. orphanage at Westminster. Last Christmas the managers of this excellent institution were able to give each orphan a present, besides providing a good dinner for the little ones. The surplus was exhausted by the sending to the Home of nine tons of coal. The same friends of the orphans ask now for a contribution towards the same end. The following ladies will manage the funds: Mesdames T. J. Trapp, D. S. Curtis, J. A. Armstrong, A. Malins and C. J. Fagan.

Miss Janet Donaldson, of Niagara street, on Friday evening became a happy bride, although she does not acquire by the interesting ceremony the new name in such cases customary. With her it is simply "Mrs." instead of "Miss," the bridegroom being a cousin, Mr. Robert Donaldson, to whom she was united by Rev. T. J. McCrossan at her parents' home on Niagara street, a select party of most intimate friends witnessing the ceremony. Mrs. Gracen supported the bride and Mr. William Donaldson, a brother of the groom, assisted him in the capacity of best man. During the evening an informal reception was held; the company inspected and admired the numerous wedding gifts; and much amusement was created by the advent of a party of six amateur minstrels, who took advantage of the occasion to admirably entertain the wedding party. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Donaldson will make their home on Simcoe street.

Captain John Panton, R.N.R., the popular skipper of the Northern Pacific steamship Victoria, sailed from Glasgow for this Coast on Thursday last—not in command of a new ship, however, as many expected, but with a personally more important and pleasant charge. He was married in Glasgow the day previous to his departure for this country, the lady of his choice being Miss Daisy Keedy, daughter of the late William Keedy, of London. The honeymoon tour will, it is expected, terminate in Tacoma on the third or fourth of the coming month, when in all probability Captain Panton's nautical charge will be in port awaiting with colors flying the arrival of bride and groom. There is no younger man in a similar position in the Oriental service than Captain Panton, and none is better liked. He, as will be remembered, was presented with an address from the Victoria Board of Trade some years since upon his arrival here in the first of the Northern Pacific liners. Since then Captain Panton has been almost constantly in command of the Victoria, this year's rest being the first that he has taken in a long service at sea.

THE MUNICIPALITY ACT.

To the Editor:—In Monday evening Times appeared an editorial headed "Masterly Inactivity" in which the municipalities act of last session is dealt with, and, as is the custom of the Times, all defects, errors, omissions and commissions are laid at the door of the provincial government.

Can you tell me, Mr. Editor, what all the trouble really is about? Is it a case of a small fire and big smoke for political capital? If I recollect rightly this act was dealt with by a committee, of which a very active opponent of the government was chairman. Perhaps it was a deep laid scheme of his "agin the government," or is there really as much amiss with the new act as the opposition are trying to make out? By replying and enlightening you will relieve the terrors of A Municipal Voter.

Victoria, December 18.

SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

Navy and Victorias Meet at Last in Their Long Delayed Rugby Match.

Golf Tournaments Here and at Tacoma in the Christmas Holidays—Association Football.

The first match of the season between the Victoria Rugby football club and the Navy was played yesterday at Caledonia park and resulted in a win for Victoria of six points to nil. Owing to the recent heavy rain the ground was too soft to admit of good combination and passing, and the game in consequence was one in which the forwards had to bear the brunt of the contest. The ball was kicked off by Victoria and straightway taken into the Navy twenty-five, where Victoria made several ineffectual attempts to score. At last, however, the Navy forwards carried the ball into Victoria's twenty-five, and for a short time it looked dangerous for the home team, particularly when the Navy were awarded a free kick. The Victoria forwards rose to the occasion, however, and again the ball was carried to the Navy end of the field. Here Miller, Gamble and Scholefield several times secured, and but for the prompt tackling of the Navy back contingent would have crossed the latter's touch line. Half time being called found the ball in centre field, neither side having scored. After the usual rest play was resumed, the play for the longer portion of the second half being near the Navy's twenty-five line. The first touch down for Victoria was scored by Langley and the place kick taken by Petticrew, who failed, however, to convert. The Navy afterwards tried hard to score, and succeeded once in getting within Victoria's territory, but the ball was promptly returned to centre field, where Wilson secured it and by a splendid run added another try to the score of the city team. No goal was scored, and shortly after "no side" was called, the play being then at the Navy's end of the field. Dr. Marriott, of H.M.S. Wild Swan, acted as referee.

The Navy will have their chance for revenge at the return match to be played next Saturday at the Canteen grounds, while Westminster is sending down a team to play the Victorias on New Year's Day.

ANOTHER WIN FOR THE REGIMENT.

The Regiment added another victory to their list yesterday, when they defeated the Y.M.C.A. football team by two goals and two tries (sixteen points) to two goals (ten points). The game throughout was fast and exciting.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.

Y.M.C.A. V. R.M.A.

In the words of the Barracks men it was a case of bombarding the Y.M.C.A.'s goal during the greater portion of the game played on their grounds yesterday afternoon. Spasmodically a hard attack would be made on the Barracks defence, but it was repulsed generally with overwhelming strength, the goalkeeper, Shaw, being almost impregnable in his territory. In the absence of Gadsby, Irvine played back for the Barracks. The game throughout was full of animation, although the ground was far from being in good condition. For the Barracks Hall kicked five goals, Hanbury two, Canon one, and Barraclough one, making a total of nine to their opponents' one.

CHESS.

The winter handicap tournament of the Victoria Chess Club has an added interest this year owing to the presence of Mr. Molineax St. John, a member of the Montreal Chess Club, as a line is thus obtained whereby the strength of the East and the West may be compared. Mr. St. John was in the third class, receiving pawn and two moves from the best players of Montreal; the Victoria firstrate, Mr. Chapman, concedes a rook, and Major Williams concedes the Eastern player a knight. The games between the two last named players were most skillfully contested. The odds given Major Williams, although inferior in force, managed to concentrate a vastly superior array of heavy pieces upon the vital points of his opponents, and effective checkmate before his adversary's superior force was developed. In the second game Mr. St. John played some strong chess, and with a piece to the good looked like winning; his opponent detected a flaw in a sacrificing combination, however, and forced a draw. Mr. Chapman is winning all his games, conceding odds varying from pawn and move to queen. The following is a full score to date:

	Won.	Lost.
W. C. Chapman	4	0
T. Laurie	1	0
B. J. Perry	2	1
Capt. Mitchell	4	3
Major Williams	2½	½
Capt. Clarke	2	4
E. A. Wolff	3	1
A. Gomason	1	3
M. St. John	2½	2½
P. T. Johnston	3	5
R. H. Johnston	2	1
F. Fullager	2	1

WHIST.

THE RETURN MATCH.

Teams of fourteen players a side of the James Bay Athletic and Conservative clubs will engage in their return match of whist at the Athletic club rooms tomorrow evening. Players are requested to be on hand at the appointed time, as play will commence promptly. The James Bay team is: H. D. Helmcken, A. J. Dallain, A. C. Anderson, C. L. Wark, J. H. Austin, C. E. Bailey, W. J. Scott, J. K. Macrae, R. W. Clarke, F. A. Gowen, J. M. Miller, F. C. Holden, W. D. Aden and A. H. Finlaison.

Members of the James Bay club are also requested to notice that the usual weekly whist tournament will this week take place on Wednesday evening, instead of on Thursday.

GOLF.

A TOURNAMENT ARRANGED.

A mixed foursome tournament has been arranged by the Victoria Golf Club to be played on their links at Oak Bay on Saturday next, the day after Christmas, by the members only. It is, however, open to gentleman members to invite any lady player, who is not a member, to take part in the event. Members and their partners desiring to enter will kindly send in their joint names to the secretary not later than the 23rd inst.—the entrance fee is fifty cent for the gentlemen only.

An invitation has been sent from the Tacoma Golf Club to the members of the Victoria club to take part in a tournament they have arranged for New Year's day on their links at Tacoma. The secretary will be pleased to receive the names of those likely to go as soon as possible, so that they may be forwarded to Tacoma.

THE "WINNIFRED" SEIZURE.

At yesterday's session of the Behring Sea Claims Commission, Captain Bissett, who was mate of the Teresa in 1889 on the Behring sea cruise, was examined as to the catch for that year and as to the seizure of the Pathfinder, for the purpose of showing that seal were very plentiful at the time the Pathfinder was made a prisoner. Then Captain Hansen gave evidence as to his experience in shooting seal, saying his own loss was about two per cent. of the seals shot. The last witness had tried Indians in 1889, but did not find them satisfactory, as for one thing they were too religious to lower their boats on Sunday, and some other days would come back to the vessel before noon and could not be persuaded to go out again that day.

Questioned as to the case of the Winnifred in 1892, Captain Hansen said she was warned this year not to go into Behring sea, but while hunting off Avanacak island outside the sea a heavy southeaster sprang up with the Winnifred on a lee shore. To save the vessel he was obliged to run through the pass into Behring sea. He tried to get out again, but unsuccessfully, for the next few days, owing first to the storm and then to a calm; during that time he managed to shoot a few seal, and the Rush coming along seized the vessel and took her to Sitka. Witness was imprisoned in the jail, but was bailed out, and left, never going back for trial.

The cross-examination of this witness by the United States was postponed till Monday.

Emil Ramlase gave evidence as to his experience in seal hunting, and went into a number of minute details of his daily catch in 1894 and one or two other years.

James Munger, of Seattle, who was aboard the Carolena in 1886 as a boat steerer at the time of the seizure, stated that he had not heard any rumor aboard the Carolena such as Cotsford spoke of the other day, as to there being a likelihood of a shortage of provisions.

On Mr. Bodwell for the British side asking the witness if he knew anything of the provisions, Hon. Mr. Dickinson objected that this would not be evidence in rebuttal, but that it was evidence that should have been put in before the case in chief had closed. It was only the other day that Mr. Munsie in his examination had stated that he could not find this witness.

In reply to this, and to show that Mr. Munsie had spoken in good faith, an unopened letter was produced by the British side that had been sent to witness on November 15, asking him to appear on behalf of Mr. Munsie. This letter, however, had never reached Munger, but was returned through the dead letter office.

After a long contention between counsel, Mr. Justice King, for the commissioners, ruled on the ground that the evidence was being given simply in rebutal of the statement by Cotsford that there had been a rumor as to shortage of provisions; "the question asked this witness had gone far enough. If, however, the British side had substantial grounds for asking that the witness be allowed to give evidence, because they had not been able to secure him before, that was a different matter.

Hon. Mr. Peters, however, said the British side did not desire to press the last named argument, simply wishing to use the witness for rebuttal.

The commission adjourned at one o'clock till Monday morning.

IN THE FULL COURT OF B. C.

The Full court of British Columbia which has just completed its sitting has accomplished a more than usually large amount of work within the past week or so, the following being the complete list of cases disposed of:

Webb v. Montgomery—Argued; judgment reserved. Mr. Charles Wilson, Q.C., for appellant; Mr. E. P. Davis, Q. C., contra.

Re Trustees Relief Act, Western Assurance Company—Issue directed; Mr. T. Fell to be plaintiff. Mr. F. B. Gregory for appellant (plaintiff); Mr. L. P. Duff, contra.

Dunlevy v. Hawkes—Argued; judgment reserved. Mr. A. P. Luxton for appellant (plaintiff); Mr. C. Wilson, Q.C., contra.

Claybon v. Lawry—Sent back to Judge Spinks for his reasons for judgment. Mr. A. Martin for appellant (defendant); Mr. Geo. Jay, jr., contra.

Consolidated Railway Co. v. City of Victoria—Argued; judgment reserved. Mr. W. J. Taylor for appellant (defendant); Mr. E. P. Davis, Q.C., contra.

Sproat and Harris v. Kerlin—Action transferred to Supreme court and receiver appointed. Mr. R. Cassidy for appellant (defendant); Mr. H. D. Helmcken, Q.C., for Sproat, contra; Mr. W. J. Taylor, for Harris, consenting to transfer, and asking for receiver.

Re Aldous—extension of time for appeal refused. Mr. Chas. Wilson, Q.C., for; Mr. E. P. Davis, Q.C., contra.

Nelson & Fort Sheppard Ry. v. Paris Belle Mining Co.—introductory appeal allowed. Mr. W. J. Taylor, for appellant; Mr. P. Æ. Irving, contra.

Wells v. Petty—argued; judgment reserved. Mr. E. P. Davis, Q.C., for appellant (plaintiff); Mr. W. J. Taylor, contra.

Napier, Shanks & Bell v. Canadian Pacific Navigation Co.—stands until next court. Mr. E. V. Bodwell, for appellant (defendant); Mr. W. J. Taylor, contra.

Nelson & Fort Sheppard Railway Company v. Paris Belle Mining Co.—hearing for appeals next court. Mr. E. V. Bodwell for plaintiffs; Mr. W. J. Taylor for appellants.

McCluskey v. Nelson Saw Mill Co.—sent back to Judge Spinks for notes of evidence. Mr. A. Martin for appellant (plaintiffs); Mr. W. J. Taylor contra.

Canadian Pacific Railway v. Bryan—appeal allowed, and new trial ordered. Mr. E. P. Davis, Q. C., for plaintiffs; Mr. Charles Wilson, Q. C., and Mr. Macdonald for plaintiffs.

FOOTBALL IN ENGLAND.

"It is astonishing to note the enormous growth in the interest taken in football," says a recent issue of the Coalville (Eng.) Times. "At the English league matches played on Saturday, despite the miserable state of the weather, the attendances were as follows:

Aston Villa v. West Bromwich Albion	20,000
Bolton Wanderers v. Bury	16,000
Preston North End v. Blackburn Rovers	10,000
Burnley v. Everton	9,000
Liverpool v. Notts Forest	8,000
Sheffield Wednesday v. Sunderland	8,000
Derby County v. Sheffield United	8,000
Wolverhampton Wanderers v. Stoke	4,000

Thus eight matches yield an average attendance of over 10,000."

Belleville, Dec. 16.—W. A. Chapman, whose wife was killed on the railway at Medicine Hat on Saturday night, left yesterday for that place, whence he will accompany the body to Victoria, B. C., where it will be interred.

EXTRAORDINARY TIDE.

The Highest Water Known of In Years Is Looked for This Week.

Seals Reported Plentiful Off the Golden Gate—The "Cairnsmore" Clears.

The Port Townsend correspondent of the Post-Intelligencer is authority for the statement that the tide of Wednesday and Thursday next will be the highest recorded in many years, and considerable apprehension is manifested in certain circles regarding damages to property. At Port Townsend the rise will be eleven feet and seven inches above the mean low water mark; at Seattle it will be four feet higher; Tacoma, five feet; and Olympia, nine feet ten inches higher. These calculations are based on ordinary tides, but the extraordinary tides on the shortest days in the year will probably increase these estimates a few inches. Should a gale from the west or southwest prevail off the coast of Washington, a large embankment of water would be forced up the strait increasing the height of the tide two or three feet, in which event it would be almost impossible to forecast the result. At this season southerly gales are expected, particularly about December 23 and 24. On the Sound and in the Strait at the present time are large quantities of drift wood, which the high tides have carried off the beach, and much careful navigation is necessary in handling vessels to avoid colliding with large floating logs or trees. The highest tide in 1897 will be on January 1, and will be nine feet eleven inches, or nearly two feet less than the high tides of this month.

FUR SEALS PLENTIFUL.

Fur seals are reported off San Francisco heads in greater numbers than ever before, the schooner Eppinger taking over 59 skins the first two days after leaving port, with all of the boats out when she was reported on the second day. "This state of affairs," says the Oregonian, "must be particularly distressing to the seal experts who, by a scientific course of reasoning, have practically exterminated the seal. Every year the vast herds, in undiminished numbers, swim up the coast of California, Oregon and Washington.

MARINE NOTES.

The sealing schooner Annie E. Paint cleared on her annual cruise yesterday. She will begin her season's operations off the coast of California and will afterwards cross to the Japan coast.

The salmon ship Cairnsmore cleared for Liverpool yesterday.

ALBERNI CONSOLIDATED.

Seventy-five to a Hundred Dollars Per Ton—Work to Resume After Christmas.

Five hundred pounds of crushed rock, the result of forty minutes' work of the stamp mill of the Consolidated Alberni yielded $18 in gold, besides which the sulphurets would bring up the value to $100 per ton. Everyone is well satisfied. There is no truth in the various reports circulating in Nanaimo as to the mine changing hands. Work will resume directly after the Christmas holidays and be energetically pushed.

A meeting of property owners of South Victoria district was held at the Royal Oak last evening to consider the advisability of petitioning the government for the reduction of the rate of assessment on real property in the district. The meeting was attended by a number of the residents of the immediate vicinity; and Hon. D. M. Eberts and Mr. H. D. Helmcken, Q.C., M.P.P., were also present. At the court of revision, held earlier in the day, Mr. S. Perry Mills, judge of the court, reduced quite a number of the assessments, and the subject was discussed at the meeting, the general opinion being that at the present time it would be desirable to have the values property for assessment purposes in the district lowered. This found expression in a resolution asking the government to have this idea carried into effect.

The last chapter in the sad life story of William T. Harris, a well connected young Englishman who has been a resident of this city for some years past, was completed yesterday, when Coroner Crompton and a jury of which Mr. C. J. Wilkes was foreman held an inquest upon his body and returned a verdict of death from pneumonia. Although his prospects and advantages were all of the best, Harris while yet a boy acquired a fondness for drink that quickly worked his ruin. He made various spasmodic efforts to break the clutch of the vice upon him, but unsuccessfully, and on Tuesday last was brought before the police magistrate for druukenness. He was even then on the verge of delirium tremens, and being convicted was remanded and sent to the hospital for necessary treatment. There he died on Wednesday morning, a cold contracted during his spree resulting in pneumonia and death. Had he lived but a few weeks longer Harris would have entered into possession of a fortune inherited from a relative dying not long ago in the old land.

Larger and more fashionable than that of any of the season, the band concert in the Drill hall last evening, was somewhat of a surprise, for the Government street shop windows appeared to monopolize public attention. The music provided was up to its usual high class standard, and two interesting specialties of the programme furnished unlooked-for, but very much appreciated entertainment. One of these was the long deferred potatoe race, which was well contested, and was taken by Gunners D. Schwenger and Chadsey, the former in the first place winning an enterprise meat chopper, presented by Messrs. E. G. Prior & Co., and the latter, two dollars' worth of groceries, given by Messrs. Fell & Co. The prizes were distributed by Lieut.-Governor Dewdney and Col. Peters, D.A.G., the former, as he entered the hall during the evening, having been received with the customary six bars of "God Save the Queen." The Balaclava Melee, the other special number of the programme, created a great deal of amusement among the 600 spectators assembled, and the event was decided in Gunners Rosecamp and Schofield's favor. Sergt. Winsby, of No. 2, is to be presented with a long-service medal (English Volunteers) at the next battalion parade, and Lt.-Col. Prior will at the same time present the general efficiency cups won during his command.