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SIDNEY AND ISLANDS REVIEW

Vol. 3. No. 16

SIDNEY, B. C., FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 1914

Subscription \$1.00 Per Year In Advance

THE PROVINCIAL POLICE RAID A GAMBLING DEN IN SIDNEY

Gather in Twelve Celestials and a Large Quantity of Wines
and Liquors, also an Opium Bed and Smoking Outfit
---Sentence passed Was Not a Heavy One

For several months past Constable McDonald, of the Provincial Police, has been keeping an eye on Chinatown, and particularly on the store of a certain Chinaman named Chong Lee, as he had good reason for believing that a good deal more went on behind those closed shutters than the proprietor was willing for the police and public to know. Some two or three weeks ago a raid was organized on this establishment but failed completely, owing to the fact that the constables who were to take part in the raid arrived in town on the six o'clock train and were around town during the early part of the evening. Evidently their intention was made known to the wily Chinaman, as on entering the store there was not the slightest evidence of anything wrong.

Constable McDonald, however, laid much better plans for the raid that took place on Saturday evening last and had arranged with the head office to send out Constables R. Owens, R. Armstrong and C. S. Richards to help with the roundup. Promptly at twelve o'clock on the evening in question an automobile carrying the party drew up in front of the Chinese store and without a moment's hesitation or warning of any kind, the four constables walked in upon the most surprised bunch of Chinamen in British Columbia. Several gambling tables were in full swing. Gold, silver and paper money was there in abundance, but as it was not on the tables actually in operation the police could not gather it in.

The frightened Orientals showed no fight of any kind, so much were they taken by surprise, and although there were plenty of fire arms of all descriptions within easy reach, it did take long to gather them into a separate room where they were guarded by part of the posse while the balance proceeded to make a thorough search of the premises.

This search did not prove fruitless, as was clearly demonstrated by the three cases of whisky, three cases of French and Chinese wine, two or three demijohns of rum and two sacks containing bottles of other kinds of liquor, besides several bottles of fancy French wines. And this was not all the search revealed, as in a corner of the premises they discovered an opium bed, an opium lamp and pipe and a small quantity of the sleep producer, all of which were transferred to the court house and put on exhibition there as evidence against the accused when they came up for trial.

After the search was completed the work of transferring the prisoners to the jail was commenced and it was nearly four o'clock in the morning before the last of the twelve prisoners was placed behind the bars and the last case of liquor landed in the court room, it being necessary to use the automobile to transfer the latter.

Seldom has Sidney witnessed such a scene of activity on Sunday morning as that which took place when people began to make inquiries in regard to their Chinese servants who had failed to make their usual appearance that morning, and when they were informed that they were locked up for the time being and bail to the extent of \$25 would have to be forthcoming before they would be released, they began to get busy.

Resthaven, perhaps, suffered most in this respect as four of the employees were among those gathered in. They were released, however, about ten o'clock on bail being furnished by the manager.

Mr. J. J. White, J.P., held several short sessions during the day as bail was presented for one or another of the Chinamen. This privilege was not extended to Chung Lee, however, as the charge laid against him was of too serious a nature, being the sale of liquor and having opium in his possession. The other eleven could only be charged with participating in the gambling and as on-lookers.

PUBLIC ABATTOIR.

A public abattoir for Victoria is project which Alderman Dilworth is now investigating. It is probable that at an early meeting of the city council he will seek the appointment of a committee to go into the whole subject and report. Some years ago the subject was before the council and was discussed at length, but nothing definite was done towards carrying out the project.

TAX PAYERS OF WARD SIX ENTER STRONG PROTEST

They Pray That Work May Be Commenced on Saanich Road in the
Near Future—Error in Contract Not Glaring, So They Say

At a large and representative meeting of the Tax Payers of Ward Six South Saanich Municipality, held Saturday night, the following resolution was unanimously passed, and ordered sent to the Reeve and Councillors of the said Municipality:

"Whereas the Council has taken legal proceedings against the Warren Paving Company, which may result in placing the municipality under a large financial obligation through litigation, and whereas the present Council was endorsed by a large majority, due largely to the promise of putting the contract through under rigid supervision;

And whereas the trunk roads are in a deplorable condition, making necessary the spending of a large sum to put in repair, should contract not be proceeded with;

And whereas the large number of

HIS HONOR THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR AND MRS. PATERSON ACCORD THEIR PATRONAGE TO THE FLOWER SHOW.

A letter has been received by Mrs. J. J. White, chairman of the Flower Show Committee, from the Lieutenant Governor in which his honor expressed the pleasure afforded Mrs. Paterson and himself in according their patronage to the Flower Show to be held in Sidney on July 11th next.

His honor stated, however, that at such an early date he could not definitely promise to perform the opening ceremony.

JOAN'S OFFICER FISHES HARNESS OUT OF SEA

Roll of Wire Dropped Overboard Has
Not Yet Been Recovered
From the Deep.

About two weeks ago while unloading freight from the S. S. Joan, a roll of wire fencing was accidentally dropped overboard, and every day since not a little amusement has been caused by the variety of catches made by members of the crew in their endeavor to recover the wire by fishing for it with a line and hook. On Tuesday last the usual angling operations were pursued with the result that a complete set of harness was salvaged from the sea, and while this was not exactly what they were looking for, the fishermen were more than pleased and some went so far as to express their hopes that they might catch the horse next time, intimating that where the horse and harness were the fence might be also.

There is no charity in shouldering other people's burdens until you are sure you are carrying your own.

SUCCESSFUL ENTERTAINMENT IN AID OF THE READING ROOM

Sidney Amateurs Present Pleasing Programme to the Large
Audience in Berquist's Hall on Evening of St. Patrick's
Day---Impromptu Dance Follows Programme

That Sidney has many amateurs of which she can be justly proud was clearly demonstrated at the entertainment given on Tuesday evening last by members of the Dramatic Club in aid of the Public Reading Room established some time ago in Sidney. That the citizens are fully aware of the benefit of supporting a reading room in the town was also clearly shown by the manner in which they packed the large hall on this occasion.

When the curtain ran up on the first act there were seated before the footlights somewhere in the neighborhood of three hundred people and they thoroughly enjoyed every number presented.

A pleasing feature of the evening's entertainment, and one that was highly appreciated by all present, was the excellent rendering of the overture by the North Saanich Orchestra, composed of Mrs. Whiting, pianist, Mr. Colin McDonald, violinist, Mr. Saunders, cornetist, and Mr. Musgrave, violinist. This musical combination made its initial appearance at this entertainment, in fact it was practically organized for this particular occasion, and composed as it is of residents of the district who are gifted with many talents, it is to be hoped that it will not be long until the citizens have again the pleasure of listening to their splendid orchestra.

A comedy in one act entitled "The Conversion of Nat Sturge," was well staged and deserved the hearty applause it received. Nat was a burglar, who, with his accomplice, a novice at the business, attempted to rob a bishop's residence, but owing to the nervousness of his assistant who had dropped the "jemmy" while climbing over the fence, they made too much

noise in attempting to open the safe, and Nat was fairly trapped by the good bishop, who was a very religious old fellow and proceeded to make a convert instead of a convict out of Nat by promising him a very large amount of money if he would quit his evil ways—and there was one other condition attached. The worthy bishop had a daughter who was getting on in years and whom he was very anxious to see married—Nat must marry the daughter. It was jail on the one hand and marriage on the other, neither of which did Nat relish in the least and he did not know which was the greater or lesser evil, but decided to accept the term of hard labor.

Mr. P. N. Tester's impersonation of Bishop Minterweir was well carried out, but as a typical burglar, of the kind we read about in dime novels, Mr. Norman Simister, as Nat Sturge, kept the audience in a merry mode by his witty and comical sayings, while Miss Simister, as Julia, the Bishop's daughter, left little to be desired in her portrayal of a real old maid bent on getting married, no matter to whom.

Mr. J. Cochran, a new arrival in our midst, made his bow to a Sidney audience for the first time, and rendered two selections, "The Boys of the Old Brigade," and "Under the Chestnut Tree," in a very pleasing manner. Mr. Cochran is the possessor of a splendid voice and will be a welcome addition to the musical talent of the town.

Mr. F. A. Saunder's cornet solo, "Schubert's Serenade," was also well received, but when Sidney's favorite singer, Miss Middleton, made her appearance before the footlights and sang "The Little Irish Girl," round over the fence, they made too much

(Continued on page 3.)



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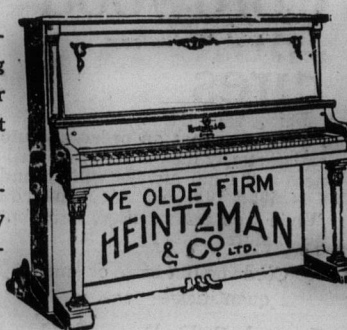
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