

The Colonist.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2.

WINTER WEATHER.

Hitherto eastern Canadians have listened with incredulity to the accounts that were given of the genial climate of British Columbia. They found it difficult to believe that at a time when the thermometer with them was many degrees below zero, when their rivers and lakes and bays were covered with a thick coat of ice, and when snow-storms made travel difficult and at times almost impossible, inhabitants of any part of the Dominion were enjoying mild weather, when there was neither frost nor snow, and that even the flowers had not ceased to bloom. The accounts that came to them of the mildness of the winter months they regarded as travellers' tales, that should be received with many grains of allowance. There was then no way of overcoming their scepticism. The British Columbian could not, in proof of their assertions, show any official record of the weather. This is, we are glad to say, no longer the case. There is now a meteorological station at Esquimalt, and from it are issued daily bulletins signed by Mr. Baynes Reed, showing the temperature, the rain-fall and the state of the weather generally. From these bulletins we find that up to the 28th of the present month the temperature has been, but once, and that for only part of a day, as low as the freezing point. On the 5th of December the mean temperature was 37° and the lowest 32°. During the whole of November the temperature ranged between 55° and 35°, and during December the range differed very slightly, being between 53° and 32°. On Christmas Day the highest temperature was 46° and the lowest 42°. The mean for the twenty-four hours was 44°. The reader who studies the meteorological record for Victoria carefully, will conclude that to have roses and chrysanthemums and other hardy flowers blooming in the open air at Christmas, is not by any means impossible. He will see that up to the 28th there has not been a nip of frost. As a matter of fact the heavy rains of December have done more harm to the flowering plants than the cold weather.

As we have indicated, there has during the last two months been a good deal of rain, but, nevertheless, the weather has not been by any means unpleasant. Mists are not frequent in this part of British Columbia and a clear sky is a thing unknown. Wind and rain hardly ever come together. When the wind is high there is no rain, and when the rain is heavy there is no wind. It is consequently not at all unpleasant to take exercise in the open air when it rains.

It will be found that the word "cloudy" is used to designate the appearance of the sky during the greater part of November and December. This does not mean that the days are dark, and that there is no sunshine. As a matter of fact, the sky is seldom so gloomy in the east during the late autumn and early winter. Here, the clouds are continually breaking, and there is hardly a day, even in the wet season, in which there are not gleams of sunshine. The rain generally comes in showers, and a steady down-pour in Victoria together is seldom seen. (In the whole, the winter weather in Victoria is very far indeed from being unpleasant. The frost does not come until late, and there is very little of it. The fall of snow is light, and does not last long. The rainy weather, as we have already tried to show, cannot be said to be disagreeable.

THE CAMPAIGN OF EDUCATION.

Ex-President Cleveland made a speech at a banquet held in New York on the 23rd, to celebrate the victory gained by the Democratic party in November, which some of his admirers declare deserves a place in the classics of political literature. The speech was in response to the toast "The Campaign of Education." It may not deserve the very high praise accorded to it by the Democratic press, but it certainly is, in many respects, a model political speech. It is clear in its statements, moderate in its tone, and vigorous in its diction. It is, in the opinion of the leading men of the Democratic Party, the United States electorate need instruction on political subjects, and that it is the duty of the Democratic Party to lead them in the way in which they should go. This idea seemed to haunt Mr. Cleveland. He saw that some qualification or some explanation was required to prevent the toast being offensive to those whose good opinion and whose support he desired to retain, and he set about putting his hearers and his readers in a good humor with themselves and with the Democratic Party. This is how he accomplished the delicate task.

The Democratic party is willing to trust the ordinary intelligence of our people for an understanding of its principles.

It does not seem itself above the common feelings and sympathies of humanity, and in an arrogant assumption of supreme learning formulate political doctrines suitable only to those favored with advanced educational opportunities. It recognizes the fact that the masses of the Campaign of Education, that it was not the ignorance of the people which had led them to submit to the evils of bad government, but it was owing partly to the busy activities of their occupations, and the consequent neglect of political subjects, and partly to the rigidity of their party ties, and their unquestioning confidence in party leadership. Having once settled upon their political affiliations, they had been wont to turn from a watchfulness of public affairs to the daily routine of their labor with virtuous satisfaction that they were not politicians. Therefore the mass of their education in the campaign has consisted in persuading them to bear up, to examine the theories of party organizations and the ends to which they led; to recall the promises of political subjectivity, and the means by which such promises have been redeemed; and to counsel with us as to the means by which their condition could be improved.

The task, it must be admitted, was cleverly performed. To tell men that they had been too busy to pay much attention to politics, and that they had placed too much faith in their party leaders, to examine very closely the doctrines they taught and the principles on which they acted, was the truth. It was truth, too, which could easily be coarsely and offensively stated, but Mr. Cleveland told it in the way that was least calculated to offend the self-love of his hearers or lower them in their own estimation. What he said of the electors of the States of the Union is true of electors under all forms of constitutional government. They have public duties to perform, but they are too busy to acquire the information which will enable them to perform those duties intelligently, and they are too apt to take their political opinions from trust.

Mr. Cleveland, it is evident, is keeping his position among the public men of the United States. While President he gained for himself the reputation of being an honest man, whose views were large and whose judgment was sound, and who had besides the courage of his opinions. His reputation has grown since his defeat—if defeat it can be called—and he stands today the first among the public men of the United States. There is not a man of either party who has so good a record or holds so high a place in the esteem of the whole people.

THE RESULT OF AN EXPERIMENT.

The inefficiency of prohibitory laws is made very plain by a controversy which is now going on in Charlotteville, Prince Edward Island. The Scott Act has been nominally in force in that province for about ten years. It is as favorably situated for the strict enforcement of the law as any community can well be. It is an island, having a "silver streak" of considerable width between it and the neighboring provinces, and one which, for the purposes of commerce, is almost impassable for a considerable portion of the year. It is isolated by water in summer and doubly isolated by ice in winter. It is divided into three counties, in all of which the Scott Act has been adopted. Prince Edward Island has, therefore, been a Scott Act province from one end to the other for ten years or thereabouts. The population is chiefly agricultural, and farmers, as a class, are not given to habitual drinking. It will, therefore, be concluded that the Scott Act had as good a chance of being enforced on that island, and of doing good, as in any part of the continent of America.

The Act was first adopted in the municipality of Charlotteville. It is a quiet, provincial town, with a population of between ten and twelve thousand, and among them are many zealous and influential advocates of the Scott Act.

The Roman Catholic Bishop, the Right Rev. Peter McIntyre, and nearly the whole of his clergy, and all the Protestant clergymen, without an exception that we know of, are staunch upholders of the Scott Act. In this city, in which the prohibitory law has been in force since 1880, there is to be an election for the abolition. One would think that, after ten years of prohibition, advocated and upheld by good men of great influence, the men who advocate going back to the old license system would stand no chance, and would not have a word to say for themselves that the sober and respectable part of the community would listen to for a moment. In ten years nearly all the old whiskey heads would have died off, and the young men, who had grown up under the Temperance Law, would be almost to a man steady and sober, and opposed to the abolition of a law of which so many good results were expected and predicted. If those expectations had been realized and those predictions fulfilled, Charlotteville to-day would be almost a haven on earth. Drunkenness would have wholly disappeared and its inhabitants would be in the enjoyment of all the advantages, arising from the complete destruction of the liquor traffic. Has this been the case. Has prohibition in Charlotteville prohibited?

Let us see what the advocates of the law themselves have to say, with respect to the present condition of Charlotteville, as far as the drinking habits of its population are concerned. The Rev. Mr. Lloyd, a clergyman of the Church of England, in a letter to the Patriot declares: "Drunkenness, gross, persistent, habitual, alarmingly prevalent in Charlotteville, I fear, in all classes of the community; and, as a consequence, so also are those crimes which are born of alcoholism. Reputations are being blasted (many hopelessly), pockets emptied, health ruined, fair promises blighted, hearts broken, noble manhood wallowing in the mire." Does the Patriot, which favored the introduction of the Scott Act and which has been its advocate ever since, deny the truth of the Rev. Mr. Lloyd's statements? Not by any means. All here are some of its comments on Mr. Lloyd's letter. It says: "We are most pleased with the tone of the Rev. Mr. Lloyd's letter, published in to-day's paper. We hope all our clergy will speak out as Mr. Lloyd has done. The facts of the case are patent to every one, but those possessed of that worst of all blindness—do not want to see." The Guardian is the Scott Act advocate par excellence. In an article, published not long ago, it said: "There are 300 unlicensed dens in full blast, where men, women and mere boys can get all the liquor they require, with or without payment, Sundays as well as Mondays. Many have sold their farms, and come to town to conduct grocery liquors. We believe we speak the minds of the better thinking people in this city and province when we say that the present moral condition of affairs, as brought before us during the last two weeks, causes us to hang our heads for very shame." The same Guardian is quoted by the Examiner to have declared that "there are so few cities in the Dominion that are so completely in the hands of the rum element as Charlotteville." And this after ten years of the Scott Act! A controversy is going on as to whether the moral condition of Charlotteville is better now than it was before the introduction of the Scott Act. If what the Patriot, the Guardian and the Rev. Mr. Lloyd say is true, there is not much to be gained by the controversy. The figures in blue books can be of little avail against the testimony of citizens of the town who have the best opportunities for observation, and the truth of whose statements is not so much as questioned. But the figures as given do not show that temperance is flourishing in Charlotteville, or that the Scott Act has made its inhabitants more sober and more orderly than those of cities in which the license system prevails. In 1880 there were on the Island 260 convictions, or one conviction for every 413 of its inhabitants. In 1889 there were 390 convictions, or one for every 369 of the population. According to this test, P. E. Island, instead of getting better under the Scott Act, has grown worse. How do these figures compare with British Columbia, in which the license system obtains and in which the consumption of strong drink is admitted to be large in proportion to the population? Last year the number of convictions in this province was 368, or one for every 410 of its population. On P. E. Island, for the same year, there was one conviction for every 369 inhabitants. These statistics go to show that the operation of the Scott Act favors the increase of crime. This we do not believe. To tell the truth, we place very little reliance on these figures, but as they have been cited in the controversy in Charlotteville, it is as well to show the conclusion to which they lead. But the sad truth is, the advocates of the Scott Act themselves being the witnesses, ten years of prohibition have not advanced the cause of temperance on Prince Edward Island. Its operation has not resulted in any improvement of either the moral or the material condition of its inhabitants. This is a great disappointment to the friends of Temperance. But it is, after all, what is to be expected when mechanical means are resorted to to effect a moral reform.

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

Some weeks ago a young man named Leigh, a book-keeper, disappeared under somewhat unusual circumstances. He was not seen again in his Victoria acquaintances until Sunday last, when he returned to Victoria.

Only a Chimney. There was an alarm of fire from box 63, last evening, and the fire department went tearing through the streets in search of a fire. A smoking chimney was found to be the cause of the alarm, and no harm was done, except to one of the firemen, whose ankle was badly sprained.

Watch Night. On Wednesday night, a watch night service will be held in the Pandora Avenue Methodist church, beginning at half-past ten. This is the first of the members of the old church. In making this announcement, Rev. Mr. Watson said that he hoped that the new church would not prove itself to be better than the congregation.

City Council. A meeting of the members of the city council was held last night, under the presidency of the Mayor. The by-law regarding the streets and the members of council was read a first time, and it was agreed that the members of council should meet the Board of Trade at three o'clock this evening to discuss the presence of hundreds of spectators, many of whom were friends and intimate acquaintances of the deceased young man.

Women's Missionary Society. Last night, the Women's Auxiliary Missionary Society, in connection with the Pandora street Methodist church, held a highly successful meeting, under the presidency of Mrs. Siddalls. Addresses were delivered by a number of ladies, who reviewed the work of the society, and the necessity for more energetic work. A number of gentlemen also spoke, the proceedings being varied with singing by the girls of the Chinese mission.

Burial at Westminster. A dispatch from New Westminster says that on Sunday night between 7 and 8 o'clock, while Rev. T. Souther was conducting services in St. Andrew's church, burglars broke into his residence, forced open the door of his secretary, and abstracted \$100 which the reverend gentleman required for a pecuniary engagement in a few days. The burglar next went up stairs and took Mrs. Souther's purse, but there was no money in it. They did not take some valuable jewelry which was lying on the table, but completely at a loss in the matter of these things, they did not make the faintest clue to the guilty ones.

St. Andrew's Sunday School. The Sunday school of the St. Andrew's Church school was filled to its capacity last night by the scholars and their friends. After partaking of a hearty supper at 8:30 p.m., they assembled at 7 o'clock, when Rev. P. E. Lloyd presided, and gave a short address, congratulating them on the large crowd which had assembled, telling them that at the end of next year the room would not begin to hold the children. The singing was very pleasing, and the proceedings throughout were highly interesting. The vocal, instrumental and literary programme was of a high order of excellence.

Epworth League. It has been arranged by the United Epworth Leagues of the George Road and Pandora Avenue Methodist Churches to hold an "Epworth League" on New Year's Eve at the Y.M.C.A. building. The object is to provide an entertainment, not alone for the members of the League, but for all others who may choose to be present—parading, Christmas trees, and the like. The present is specially manifested at times like the present. An interesting musical and literary programme has been provided, and at the intermission refreshments will be served. The Christmas tree will be up until the time arrives for the Watchnight service in the Pandora street church. Admission absolutely free.

Wachschneider Ben Germania Club. Last night, an entertainment, followed by a dance, was given most successfully under the auspices of the Germania Club, Oliver's Hall, Broad street. The room was very handsomely decorated, pictures on all the walls, and dependent from the ceiling. In the centre of the room was a very pretty, brilliantly lighted and tastefully ornamented Christmas tree. The floor was carpeted to perfection, enabling the dancers to trip it in the most graceful and easy manner to the music of Spohr's orchestra, which gave a very lively selection of dances and waltzes. The dancing was continued until the time arrived for the Watchnight service in the Pandora street church. Admission absolutely free.

Sir William Wallace Society's Concert. A grand Hogmanay concert will be given by the Sir William Wallace society in the ballroom of the Hotel, on Wednesday evening, when it is expected there will be a large gathering of the clans. The success which attended their previous concerts is a guarantee to the public that they will not be disappointed in a large and varied programme has been selected. Solo, duets and trios, as well as sword dance, Highland fling and reel of Talloch, will form part of the proceedings. When it is considered that the best local talent has been secured, we have only to mention the names of Messrs. J. G. Brown, Firth and McKenzie Munro (the champion dancer and bag piper of Australia), as well as Miss Mrs. Chalmers, Miss O'Neil, and others, who will contribute to the programme. After the concert a select dance will be given, to which a limited number will be admitted. To provide the dancers with suitable music, the services of the Queen's City Band have been secured.

PERSONAL.

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LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

From THE DAILY COLONIST, December 23. A Merry, Moseley Throng. At Philharmonic Hall, a merry company of young lady and gentlemen maidens gathered in all the picturesque and grotesque creations that taste and ingenuity can suggest, enjoyed themselves to the full last evening, in the midst of a delightful dance. Here and there set the ball rolling, and willing hands had come to her assistance as soon as the project of a social ball masque was brought forward. The result was as exciting and enjoyable as the anticipation had been. The dancing was wide diversity in taste, some very pretty ideas being well worked out. Mr. Pauline's orchestra furnished the music, and good music too, and a delicate appetizing little supper was served during the progress of the festivities. The thanks of the company are due to Mrs. H. Kent for taking the initiative, and contributing in no slight degree to the success of the most delightful social event of the season.

Funeral of the Victim on Sunday Afternoon. One of the Largest Ever Seen in Victoria. On Sunday afternoon, the remains of the late David Findlay, who was killed by a train on the Victoria and Esquimalt railway, were interred in Ross Bay cemetery. The funeral was attended by hundreds of spectators, many of whom were friends and intimate acquaintances of the deceased young man.

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From THE DAILY COLONIST, December 23. A Merry, Moseley Throng. At Philharmonic Hall, a merry company of young lady and gentlemen maidens gathered in all the picturesque and grotesque creations that taste and ingenuity can suggest, enjoyed themselves to the full last evening, in the midst of a delightful dance. Here and there set the ball rolling, and willing hands had come to her assistance as soon as the project of a social ball masque was brought forward. The result was as exciting and enjoyable as the anticipation had been. The dancing was wide diversity in taste, some very pretty ideas being well worked out. Mr. Pauline's orchestra furnished the music, and good music too, and a delicate appetizing little supper was served during the progress of the festivities. The thanks of the company are due to Mrs. H. Kent for taking the initiative, and contributing in no slight degree to the success of the most delightful social event of the season.

Funeral of the Victim on Sunday Afternoon. One of the Largest Ever Seen in Victoria. On Sunday afternoon, the remains of the late David Findlay, who was killed by a train on the Victoria and Esquimalt railway, were interred in Ross Bay cemetery. The funeral was attended by hundreds of spectators, many of whom were friends and intimate acquaintances of the deceased young man.

Women's Missionary Society. Last night, the Women's Auxiliary Missionary Society, in connection with the Pandora street Methodist church, held a highly successful meeting, under the presidency of Mrs. Siddalls. Addresses were delivered by a number of ladies, who reviewed the work of the society, and the necessity for more energetic work. A number of gentlemen also spoke, the proceedings being varied with singing by the girls of the Chinese mission.

City Council. A meeting of the members of the city council was held last night, under the presidency of the Mayor. The by-law regarding the streets and the members of council was read a first time, and it was agreed that the members of council should meet the Board of Trade at three o'clock this evening to discuss the presence of hundreds of spectators, many of whom were friends and intimate acquaintances of the deceased young man.

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Burial at Westminster. A dispatch from New Westminster says that on Sunday night between 7 and 8 o'clock, while Rev. T. Souther was conducting services in St. Andrew's church, burglars broke into his residence, forced open the door of his secretary, and abstracted \$100 which the reverend gentleman required for a pecuniary engagement in a few days. The burglar next went up stairs and took Mrs. Souther's purse, but there was no money in it. They did not take some valuable jewelry which was lying on the table, but completely at a loss in the matter of these things, they did not make the faintest clue to the guilty ones.

St. Andrew's Sunday School. The Sunday school of the St. Andrew's Church school was filled to its capacity last night by the scholars and their friends. After partaking of a hearty supper at 8:30 p.m., they assembled at 7 o'clock, when Rev. P. E. Lloyd presided, and gave a short address, congratulating them on the large crowd which had assembled, telling them that at the end of next year the room would not begin to hold the children. The singing was very pleasing, and the proceedings throughout were highly interesting. The vocal, instrumental and literary programme was of a high order of excellence.

Epworth League. It has been arranged by the United Epworth Leagues of the George Road and Pandora Avenue Methodist Churches to hold an "Epworth League" on New Year's Eve at the Y.M.C.A. building. The object is to provide an entertainment, not alone for the members of the League, but for all others who may choose to be present—parading, Christmas trees, and the like. The present is specially manifested at times like the present. An interesting musical and literary programme has been provided, and at the intermission refreshments will be served. The Christmas tree will be up until the time arrives for the Watchnight service in the Pandora street church. Admission absolutely free.

Wachschneider Ben Germania Club. Last night, an entertainment, followed by a dance, was given most successfully under the auspices of the Germania Club, Oliver's Hall, Broad street. The room was very handsomely decorated, pictures on all the walls, and dependent from the ceiling. In the centre of the room was a very pretty, brilliantly lighted and tastefully ornamented Christmas tree. The floor was carpeted to perfection, enabling the dancers to trip it in the most graceful and easy manner to the music of Spohr's orchestra, which gave a very lively selection of dances and waltzes. The dancing was continued until the time arrived for the Watchnight service in the Pandora street church. Admission absolutely free.

Sir William Wallace Society's Concert. A grand Hogmanay concert will be given by the Sir William Wallace society in the ballroom of the Hotel, on Wednesday evening, when it is expected there will be a large gathering of the clans. The success which attended their previous concerts is a guarantee to the public that they will not be disappointed in a large and varied programme has been selected. Solo, duets and trios, as well as sword dance, Highland fling and reel of Talloch, will form part of the proceedings. When it is considered that the best local talent has been secured, we have only to mention the names of Messrs. J. G. Brown, Firth and McKenzie Munro (the champion dancer and bag piper of Australia), as well as Miss Mrs. Chalmers, Miss O'Neil, and others, who will contribute to the programme. After the concert a select dance will be given, to which a limited number will be admitted. To provide the dancers with suitable music, the services of the Queen's City Band have been secured.

PERSONAL.

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