The Colonist.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27TH, 1889.

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY MORNING.
BY
W. H. ELLIS, A. G. SEHGIBSON, } ELLIS & CO.
THE COLONIST BUILDING, GOV'T ST.

TERMS:
THE DAILY COLONIST
PUBLISHED EVERY DAY EXCEPT MONDAY

Per Year, (Postage free to any part of Canada)	$10 00
Parts of a year at the same rate	
Per week (if delivered)	25
THE WEEKLY COLONIST.	
Per Year (Postage Free to any part of the Dominion or United States	$ 2 00
Six Months	1 25
Three Months	75

Subscriptions in all cases are payable strictly IN ADVANCE.

ADVERTISING RATES:

TRANSIENT ADVERTISING — Per line solid nonpareil:—First insertion, 10 cents; each subsequent consecutive insertion, 5 cents. Advertisements not inserted every day, 10 cents per line each insertion. No advertisement inserted for less than 1.50.

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CHRISTMAS.

We wish our readers a MERRY CHRISTMAS. This is the time when everybody tries to feel kindly towards everybody else, and when the effort, we fully believe, is in very many instances successful. It is a good thing to be able honestly to endeavor to carry out the main precept of the Christian religion even once a year. To clear our hearts of all angry and hard feelings and to be at peace with all the world, to think of nothing but how to please others and to make those whom we love happy, has an elevating and a refining effect. This, we think, is what makes Christmas so popular. It touches a tender chord in the hearts of men, women and children, and it speaks well for them all that the response is so quick and so general. The influence under which men feel that they can really love their enemies and do good to those who hate them, must be a good one, and it is pleasant and cheering to see that so many surrender themselves to it unconditionally. We are glad that Christmas keeps its place, that old and young are pleased when it comes and joyfully comply with its requirements. May its benign and cheering influence never grow less.

OUR WINTER.

Here it is Christmas, and we have not had a cold day yet. There has been no frost to speak of. There have been two snow showers, but the ground was white for only a few hours. The winter, so far, has not only not been unpleasant, but it has been very pleasant. The weather has been the reverse of gloomy. The sun has shone not only brightly but genially. The visitor from the East finds it hard to understand how a December sun can be so warm. The sun shines sometimes in December in Eastern Canada, and although its rays are bright enough they are not perceptably warm. But here the sunny side of the street is very pleasant. The mild air, the warm sun, and the clear sky remind one of the pleasant days of early spring in the East.

People in other parts of Canada are told that if there is not much frost in British Columbia during the winter months, there is a great deal of rain—that there is a perpetual downpour, and that for months there is hardly a break in the leaden sky. There could not be a greater mistake than this. So far, this winter, the weather has been rather showery than rainy. A good deal of the rain has fallen in the night time, and the showers in the day have been, for the most part, light and of short duration. It is quite a mistake to suppose that the winter rain in Victoria and the country surrounding it is incessant. We venture to say that there have been many more bright days in and near Victoria since the 1st of November than in any Eastern Canadian city or town that can be named. There has been hardly a day since that date in which a delicate person could not have taken exercise in the open air and enjoyed it. A good idea can be had of the kind of weather that we in Victoria have had when it is known that the roses have not yet ceased to bloom in the open air. We do not say that all rose bushes are covered with bloom, but we do say that the buds which were formed earlier in the season have not yet ceased to swell and to open out. In many Victoria gardens on this Christmas Day may be found roses in bloom.

The mildness and the pleasantness of the winter in Victoria is remarkable and should be better known. There are comparatively few Canadians east of the Rocky Mountains who know that they need not go out of their own country to enjoy more agreeable and more salubrious weather in the winter months than can be found in Florida and many other winter resorts on this continent. If some of those who dread the rigors of the Eastern Canadian winter should come west to Victoria instead of going south to Florida, they would pass their time more agreeably in more congenial society and with greater benefit to their health. This is a matter that invalids and delicate persons in the East should enquire into. Our own opinion is that the advantages of Victoria as a winter resort can hardly be overestimated. Unfortunately the climatic advantages of the Canadian Pacific coast have been hitherto little known in the East, and until of late years it has been difficult of access. But now there is nothing to hinder every Canadian knowing what a pleasant place Victoria, British Columbia, is in the winter time; and the Pacific railways have brought it within easy distance of all the Eastern cities. The journey to the Coast can be made without fatigue and at little cost. Part of it, too, is through scenery of unrivalled magnificence, which every Canadian ought to see at least once in his lifetime.

THE EXAMINATIONS.

The Christmas examinations are over. We congratulate both the teachers of our public schools and their pupils that that ordeal is passed and that the holidays have commenced. We hear from many sources that the schools in this city are in a most creditable condition; that the teachers are zealous and efficient, and that the pupils are as industrious and as well-behaved as they can reasonably be expected to be.

We must say that we do not regard the pupils' performances on examination days as anything like a reliable test as to how the schools are conducted, or as to what progress the pupils have made. It is very pleasant indeed to see the young people all cheerful and neatly dressed go through a prepared programme. But it does not always happen that the most deserving children make the best show on those days. How a boy or girl acquits himself or herself before a number of strangers is very much a matter of nerve and temperament. The excitement may be the stimulus necessary to make some do their best, while it confuses others and prevents them doing themselves justice. The youngster who is not naturally bright, but who does his best every day of the week, does not make much show on examination days and does not appear to do much credit to his teacher. But he and the class to which he belongs are often the most deserving of the pupils, and those on whom the faithful teacher has bestowed the most pains, and who by and by when the work of the world comes to be done will very probably make the best use of what they have learned. A little display in school matters may be all very well, but it is not good to place a great deal of dependence upon it. Appearances in this matter, as in many others, may be deceptive, and much time that could be more profitably spent may be wasted in preparing for public examinations. The teachers' skill, like that of every other workman, is shown in the quality of the work he produces and that quality cannot be tested or discovered on examination day. Solid improvement of mind and character cannot readily be displayed. It cannot be exhibited for show like Christmas goods in the shop windows.

Although it is easy to place too high a value on public examinations, it is impossible to over-estimate the usefulness to the community of our public schools. In them are being prepared for the work of life the men and women of a few years hence. The province wants all the intelligence that can be produced in it. Ignorance is the bane of every community. The country in which there is the greatest number of untrained minds is the most backward country and the most difficult to govern. The Government of this province, by providing the means of education for every child within its bounds, is doing for its inhabitants the most valuable service that a Government can perform. It is for them to avail themselves to the utmost of the advantages of this most precious provision.

A KEG OF BEER—A FABRICATION.

We are able to state that the article in last evening's Times, saying that one of the Cabinet Ministers, having accepted an invitation to the Cowichan Pioneer Society, had taken with him a keg of beer for the occasion, is a complete fabrication and a libel alike on the worthy pioneers of the district, and the Attorney-General, who partook of the evening's hospitality.

The other portion of the malicious article, presumably, arose from the trifling incident that in carting some of the things for use at the banquet, a keg of beer rolled out of the wagon, was almost immediately afterwards recovered, placed again in the wagon and carried to its destination.

Sorely pressed as the opposition organ is for material to use against the Government, we should have thought it above the manufacture of pure lies, aimed at the personal character of those it has so long, but unsuccessfully, opposed. It is its dependence on silly slanders like this beer story that has brought the Opposition into contempt, and that makes even those who have no liking for the Government disgusted with its mean and spiteful attacks on members of the Government.

VICTORIA TRADE.

CURRENT PRICES.

This week's corrected market quotations read as follows:

FLOUR—Hungarian	$6.25 @ 6.50
Strong Bakers	5.50 @ 6.00
Royal	6.50
Premier	5.75 @ 6.00
Snowflake	5.50
Wheat, per ton	35.00 @ 37.50
Oats, per ton	30.00 @ 32.50
Barley, per ton	28.00
Middlings, per ton	28.00
Bran, per ton	25.00
Ground Feed, per ton	30.00
Oil Cake, per ton	40.00
Corn, whole "	40.00
" cracked "	45.00
Cornmeal, per 100 lbs. Canadian	2.75
Oatmeal " " Saanich	3.50
Beans, large white, per 100 lbs	5.00
" small " "	4.00
" Bayo "	3.75
Peas, for feed, per ton	28.00
Potatoes " "	30 to 32
" Sweet, per 100 lbs	4.00
Onions, "	1.75
Hay, baled, per ton	18.00 @ 20.00
Straw, per bale	1.00 @ 1.25
Apples, Gravenstein, per bx 50lbs	2.00
Bananas, per bunch	4.00
Pears, choice Bartlett, per box	2.00
Grapes, Muscatelle, 20lb	1.50
Cocoanuts, per 100	11.00
Eggs, Island, per dozen	50 to 60
" Imported, "	27½ @ 30
Butter, roll, Island, per lb	35
" tub or firkin, creamery	27½ 30
" " dairy	15 to 25
Cheese, Canadian per lb	12½ @ 15
" California "	11 @ 12½
Hams, Evans, per lb	15
" American "	17 @ 18
Bacon, Evans, Breakfast, per lb	14 @ 16
" American, per lb	16½
" Rolled " "	14
Shoulders, per lb	12½
Lard "	12½
Meats—Beef "	8
Mutton, per lb	10
Pork, fresh "	12½
Veal, dressed, per lb	12½ 15
Tallow, per lb	2½
Venison	10
Duck, per pair	1.50
Grouse, per pair	1.00
Chickens, each	75
Wool, per lb	
Hides, "	4 to 7½
Skins, sheep, each	25 @ 35
Fish—Salmon, per lb	10
Halibut, "	10
Prongs "	3½
Skate "	10

A Wonderful Flesh Producer.

This is the title given to *Scott's Emulsion of Cod Liver Oil* by many thousands who have taken it. It not only gives flesh and strength by virtue of its own nutritious properties, but creates an appetite for food. *Use it, and try your weight.* Scott's Emulsion is perfectly palatable. Sold by all Druggists, at 50c. and $1.00.

Now ready for delivery: Christmas Illustrated London News, Graphic, Sporting and Dramatic News, Montreal Star, Toronto Globe, etc. Also Boys' Own, Girls' Own, Chatterbox, Little Folks, Wide-Awake, and other Xmas Annuals. Orders for the above, or for juvenile books, will be promptly attended to, and, when left to our selection, any books can be returned if not satisfactory.

T. N. HIBBEN & CO.

From THE DAILY COLONIST, Dec. 23.

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

Obituary.

Mrs. Sara Insley, relict of the late Capt. John Insley, died at Westminster on Friday at the residence of her son, Capt. A. Insley. The funeral takes place to-day. The deceased lady was 73 years of age.

Dominion Voters for 1890.

The Dominion Voters List for Victoria District for 1890 has been completed, and shows a total of 3,135 names; as compared with 2,229 for the last election; an increase of 41 per cent. The following table will show the relative increase in each of the twelve subdivisions:—

	Last Election.	Next Election.
District No. 1	193	295
" " 2	205	260
" " 3	202	229
" " 4	204	292
" " 5	220	323
" " 6	225	320
" " 7	201	260
" " 8	202	234
" " 9	203	249
" " 10	141	214
" " 11	192	288
" " 12	33	41
Total	2,229	3,135

Midnight Burglars.

The private boarding house of Mrs. R. J. McDonnel, Birdcage Walk, was entered by thieves during Friday night or early Saturday morning, and the rooms of several of the boarders visited and quietly ransacked. Mr. N. E. Groves lost his entire wardrobe, Mr. E. M. Skinner a watch and chain and a small amount of money, and several other lodgers little articles of no special value to any but the owners. The robbers, it is supposed, entered by the back door, which had been carelessly left open by the Chinaman. This is the first time in years that the back door has been left unlocked, and that the robbery should have occurred on that particular night is, to say the least, singular.

All's Well That Ends Well.

Through the energy of a Post-Intelligencer reporter, the father of the baby born on the Sehome a few days ago was on Friday brought to the side of the unfortunate girl whom he had wronged, and who followed him from San Francisco to Victoria and from this city to Seattle. The sight of her suffering had a good effect on the young man, and he promptly offered to right the wrong he had done Ray Morris by making her his wife. The ceremony took place at the Phœnix Hotel, Seattle; the bride being propped up in bed with pillows; and the ceremony being performed by Rev. D. D. Campbell. The name of the young man is Frank Donovan, and the baby has been christened "Sehome."

Bourchier, Croft & Mallette.

The real estate firm of Bourchier & Higgins has been dissolved, and a new firm organized, the members of which are Messrs. Francis Bourchier, Henry Croft, M. P. P., and C. E. Mallette. The team is a strong one in every way, each partner having a thorough knowledge of business, and also the confidence of the community. It is their intention to do a general real estate business on the North Pacific coast, and with this purpose in view Mr. Mallette will make his headquarters on the Sound, Messrs. Bourchier & Croft attending to the British Columbia business. The present large movement in Victoria realty and the rapid strides the city is making, is proof that there is room for such an energetic firm as Bourchier, Croft & Mallette will undoubtedly prove. The business will be continued in the handsome offices in THE COLONIST building.

Christ Church Cathedral.

A window to the memory of Mrs. Hills has been erected by the Bishop of Columbia in the east end of the church. The stained glass which recently arrived from England is exceedingly beautiful. The main design is the Ascension of Our Lord, which is represented in three panels of perpendicular gothic tracery, under which are three small subjects, "Christ and St. Peter," "The Descent of the Holy Spirit," and "Christ's last Command to His Disciples." In the head of the window the two angels who appeared to the apostles after the Ascension are depicted. The work was executed by Messrs. Burlison & Grylls of Newman street, London, and is a most admirable example of the style of that eminent firm, and a great adornment to the cathedral. The new framework of the window has been made and fixed by Mr. G. C. Mesher, under the direction of Mr. T. C. Sorby. The side windows of the chancel have been darkened in order to concentrate the light on the east window and the subdued effect thus produced is particularly striking and pleasing.

ESQUIMALT PUBLIC SCHOOL.

The closing exercises of the Esquimalt public school were held on Friday afternoon. The pupils were examined by Mr. D. Jones, teacher, in the various subjects of study, and showed good general improvement. The most interesting feature of the examination was a spelling match for the three head classes, the successful competitor being Miss Alice Doran.

At the conclusion of the exercises, Mr. J. Doran, trustee, addressed the pupils, and called for three cheers for their teacher, to which they heartily responded. Mr. Jones thanked the pupils for the compliment, after which they were dismissed for the holidays, with best wishes for a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.

BANQUET AND SOCIAL

Given by the Pioneers of Cowichan.

The third annual banquet given by the Cowichan Pioneer Society was held on Friday evening at the school-house Somenos, and was an eminent success. Several ladies, the wives and daughters of the settlers, graced the affair by their presence, and the viands prepared for the occasion by the ladies, would have done credit to Mons. Marbœuf of the Poodle Dog restaurant.

The chair was taken at 8 o'clock p.m. by Mr. William Drinkwater, the reeve of the municipality and president of the society, who, after ample justice had been done to the good things under which the table literally groaned, proposed the first toast of "the Queen."

Mr. John N. Evans, ex-reeve, proposed the governor-general, the senate, and Parliament of Canada, eulogizing His Excellency and the members of both houses in neat and appropriate language. The toast was responded to by Mr. William Beaumont, of Maple Bay, who created much diversion by referring to a basket of apples, which he had presented to His Excellency—grown in his (Mr. Beaumont's) own orchard at Maple Bay—continuing, Mr. Beaumont said: "I told His Excellency I was a Yorkshireman, and in return I received a letter from His Excellency himself saying that the apples were the finest he had seen outside of my native place—Yorkshire."

Mr. William Duncan proposed the toast of the Local Government—which, he said, he did with much pleasure, as the Local Government was deservedly popular in the district.

The toast was responded to by the Hon. the Attorney-General, Mr. Theodore Davie, who, after felicitating the Pioneers at this gathering congratulated them upon the number and desirable class of settlers who had taken up their abode in the district. The attorney-general spoke at some length on political matters generally, after which he proposed the health of the Pioneers of Cowichan, which toast was responded to by the president, Mr. Drinkwater, in fitting terms.

Mr. Horace Davie proposed the ladies, responded to by Mr. Angus Bell. Several good songs were given, Mr. Monk accompanying upon the harmonium.

After the supper and singing were over, the tables were cleared away and dancing indulged in and kept up until midnight, excellent music being discoursed by Messrs. Robinson and Payne, after which, the ladies having gone home, time was passed in songs and reminiscences of pioneer days, the convivial throng finally dispersing at about 3:30 a. m.

CANADIAN BONDED FREIGHT.

Inspector Young Submits the Proposal for Handling Bonded Goods to the Railway Companies.

Inspector Young yesterday received instructions from Ottawa regarding the new regulation concerning Canadian bonded goods. He has submitted by letter the requirements of the Canadian customs to the agents in this city of the Northern and Union Pacific railways, who will forward same to the managing officers at Portland for consideration. There is little doubt but that the railways concerned will immediately assent to the proposition of the Canadian customs, for the new method will place them as far as freight delivery is concerned in equally as good a position as their Canadian competitors:

Following is a copy of the Inspector's letter:

VICTORIA, B. C., December 21st, 1889.

E. E. Blackwood, Esq., Agent Northern Pacific Railway, Victoria, B. C.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you, that I have just been instructed, by the Honorable the Minister of Customs, to allow the transportation of Canadian goods from ports on the Sound, to be resumed by the steamers, of United States register, lately engaged in that trade.

In this connection I would also inform you, that it will now be necessary for your Company, through the General Manager, to apply to me by wire or letter (at an early date) for the appointment of Canadian customs officers, to be stationed in the interest of your roads at all such points, west of Duluth and Minnesota transfer, as you may wish to break our seals at, or transfer Canadian goods from car to car, or from car to vessel.

This letter will also require to contain a guarantee to me of the payment of the officer's traveling expenses from his home to his destination, and of his salary at the rate of $3.00 per diem.

Should the officer's services be required beyond six hours, or after 6 p.m., he will be entitled to charge 50 cents an hour for this overtime in addition to the $3.00 above mentioned.

The officers will be paid their salaries from Ottawa, and your company will refund the amount, $3.00 per diem, to the Department by monthly drafts, made to the order of the Commissioner of Customs, Ottawa. The "overtime account" will be settled for by the Company, through the Inspector of Ports in British Columbia, whose address is New Westminster, B. C.

The necessary for this action is, that under our law and regulations, Canadian goods passing "in transit" through the United States can only be allowed "free entry" again into Canada, on its being established that the goods, while "in transit," were protected by Canadian customs seals, and that these seals were not broken, except in the presence of a Canadian customs officer.

These regulations are almost identical with those enforced by the United States Treasury, in its dealings with like cases.

As soon as the officers are asked for, I will supply you with copies of their instructions, so that your Company may see at a glance what is required. Desk room, desks (locked), stationery, seals and seal press, and books will all have to be supplied by your company.

The officer so stationed, in the interest of your Company, will be responsible to, and take orders from Inspectors of Ports of the Canadian Customs only.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
GEO. H. YOUNG,
Inspector of Ports.

Mr. Blackwood states that his company will immediately apply to Inspector Young to have the necessary officer stationed at Tacoma for the purposes explained in the above letter.

PERSONAL.

J. Semi returned from Vancouver last night.

J. C. Henderson, of Chilliwhack, is in the city.

Ald. Harris will shortly leave on a trip to England.

Inspector Young is confined to his house by a severe cold.

Major Peters was a passenger from Westminster yesterday.

Miss Lockhart arrived over from Westminster yesterday.

Ben. Young came over from Vancouver by last night's boat.

H. E. Crossadile and W. D. Ferris arrived over by the Louise yesterday.

R. H. Fletcher, post office inspector, returned from the Mainland last evening.

M. Lopatecki returned last evening from an extended trip to Mexico and California.

F. E. Campbell, of Vancouver, was in the city yesterday, and went home this morning.

W. F. Carson, travelling agent of the C. P. R., arrived over from Portland last evening.

Ald. A. Maher, of Nanaimo, was a passenger by the Olympian from the Sound yesterday.

Rev. Dr. Reid has almost entirely recovered his health and will officiate in the Reformed Episcopal church as usual to-day.

U. S. Consul Stevens returned from Seattle last evening. Mrs. Stevens will spend the holidays with her daughter, Mrs. Hatfield, at Seattle.

MARINE.

The steamer Geo. W. Elder, which had been lying at Port Townsend for the past week having two new blades put in her propeller, left at two o'clock on Friday afternoon for Nanaimo, for coal. While she had been backed up on the beach her pipes had become filled with sand, which made it necessary for her to return to Port Townsend.

Steamer Pilot returned from Nanaimo last night at 11 o'clock, having towed up the ship Glory of the Seas to load a return cargo of coal for San Francisco.

The steamer Pilot will be the ship Commodore to sea this morning. The Commodore was towed out early in the week, but has had to do some work on her main topsail yard and put back for repairs. The Pilot will keep a sharp look out for the wreck of the Idaho, and if sighted will tow the derilict to port.

LITTLE LOCALS.

John Aiken died at Nanaimo on Friday morning from the result of injuries received in the Southfield mine last Monday.

Hon. J. S. Helmcken, M. D., is on hand with his usual Christmas donation to provide a good dinner for the prisoners at the Provincial Jail.

H. M. S. Acorn arrived in the harbor of Vancouver on Friday afternoon and will remain for several days, going from there to Westminster.

Have you secured a bird's-eye view of Victoria? If not, purchase one at THE COLONIST office. It makes fine, framed, a handsome ornament for a room.

The schooner scow Bonanza, formerly owned by Capt. J. D. Warrns, was sold yesterday to Mr. W. P. Sayward for $1,000.

SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

HERE AND THERE.

The valuable racing mare "Nellie Howard," owned by Mr. John Howard of Esquimalt, is dead. Several days ago the mare, while running out, was shot (it is supposed accidentally), the bullet entering the flank. Two days afterwards the mare was found near the naval hospital, her injured limb being inflamed. She was taken home, but inflammation set in and death resulted. The mare was worth over $500, and had quite a record in this city as a racer. She came from good stock.

Parson Davies, Jackson's manager, has sent Peter's "colors" to the California athletic club. The ground is of fine white silk, with a double blue border, inclosing the arms of Australia and two shields, one Australian and the other the United States stars and stripes. In the lower corners of the handkerchief are the inscriptions: "A Fair Field and No Favor," and California A. C."

A Strong Following.

MANY diseases result from neglected constipation, such as sick headache, bad blood, foul humors, heartburn, dizziness and general ill health. From one to three bottles of Burdock Blood Bitters is guaranteed to cure constipation and all diseases caused by irregularity of the bowels.

Tried! Tested! Proved!

A Year ago last summer I was troubled with dysentery. I procured Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry and took according to directions, which completely cured me. ROBERT E. GREEN, Lyndhurst, Ont. This medicine cures all looseness of the bowels. sw

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria

From THE DAILY COLONIST, Dec. 24.

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

The Beautiful.

The snow lies six inches deep at the summit on the Island railway. There is good sleighing at Nanaimo.

From San Francisco.

The steamer Queen of the Pacific arrived at midnight from San Francisco after a rough passage. She brought a small cargo and the following passengers: W. R. Greig, J. C. Moore, Mrs. Joseph Ralph, William Ralph, James Smith, F. Huck, M. O. Pope, Harry Marboeuf.

Injured on the Track.

Ed. Frank, while attempting to board a freight near Shawnigan, slipped and fell, the truck of the caboose striking him on the shoulder and severely injuring it. He came on to Victoria, where an examination showed that no bones were broken. He is staying at his mother's house on Blanchard street.

A Splendid Start.

Special collections were taken up in the Pandora street Methodist church at both morning and evening services on Sunday last. The morning's offertory, with I. O. U's. from substantial members of the church, amounted to about $5,000. In the evening this was further swelled to the very handsome figure of $20,500.

Unsound Minds.

Two unfortunates, a man and woman, were taken to the city lockup on Sunday on a charge of being of unsound mind. The man was found on the streets a few days ago and taken to St. Joseph's hospital, but had to be removed to the lockup for safe keeping. The woman was also an inmate of the hospital, but she is not as badly affected as the man. They were both examined by Dr. Milne yesterday afternoon, and pronounced insane.

A Fatal Charivari.

The young man John Hall who was shot by Martin Phillips last Monday night, on Lopez Island, while, with a party of others, giving a charivari to Phillips and his bride, has died from the results of his injuries. Phillips has been arrested and brought to Port Townsend for trial. The feeling against him is said to be very strong throughout San Juan county. On Lopez Island threats of lynching were openly made, but better judgement prevailed and the law will be allowed to take its course.

Perry Creek Mines.

A report received yesterday from the working foreman at the Perry Creek mines, is to the effect that the tunnel has been run in 45 feet since the last statement was made of the progress of the work. The ground was becoming much easier to work, at present face boards not being required. The men have now passed the drive which was run overhead, but they are still running in the canyon. The total wash up for December amounted to 18.10 ounces, which came down yesterday.

The Wreck of the Idaho.

The American tug Discovery found the floating wreck of the steamship Idaho, which slid off the rocks last Friday, floating down the straits on Saturday. All the machinery had disappeared and the copper had been removed, and the remnants were not worth towing into port. The floating wreck will prove a dangerous obstruction to navigation unless measures are taken to beach or sink the wreck. This is positively the last chapter in the Idaho case, unless some vessel fouls her and gets badly damaged.

Good for Victoria.

At a meeting of the Commercial Travelers' Association held in the rooms, Bastion Square, last evening, Mr. D. E. Brown, of the C. P. R., after the object of the meeting had been explained, offered, on behalf of his road, to meet the views of the Association and place their wholesale friends on the Coast in a position to enable them to compete with houses as far East as Cannore. After considerable discussion, a vote of thanks was tendered the C. P. R. and Mr. Brown, and the meeting adjourned.

Gambling for High Stakes.

It has been common talk around the city for the past two days that on Friday night a retired cattle dealer and speculator lost about $8,500 in a Johnson street saloon at cards, and that only a few weeks previously he had lost $700 or $800 in the same saloon. On Friday night the game started with what the principals termed "a quiet little game of poker," and resulted in the ex-cattle man losing about $8,500. He gave his winner a cheque for $7,000, but it, with the cash, was afterwards returned to the victim, who, it is to be hoped, is now a wiser man. Perhaps more may be heard of the transaction when the board of license commissioners next meet.

Hospital Decorations.

The Christmas decorations at the Royal Hospital are perhaps the prettiest in the city, Steward and Mrs. Garland having surpassed all their former efforts in this direction. On entering the grounds the visitor's attention is first attracted by the evergreen decorations on the outside of the buildings; the verandahs and window sills being covered with green fir. The halls are also prettily decorated with evergreen boughs, but the main decorations are in the dining room, where the walls are covered completely with the same material which is used in the exterior decorations. Set in the evergreens are large mottoes made of fir and gold paper, with large pictures of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, Gladstone and Sir John Macdonald. At the head of the room is a large banner with "Faith, Hope and Charity" inscribed on it. On the left is the Star of Bethlehem. The banners, mottoes and frames, which form the main features of the decorations, are all the work of Steward Garland, who has been at work for the last three months in making them.

Along the Docks.

The bark Dochra, salmon laden for the old country, and the bark Nanaimo, bound for Shanghai, both expect to get to sea on Christmas Day.

Steamer Dalay arrived in yesterday with a big scow load of stone.

Rumors in regard to the fate of the old Idaho were of a very variable character yesterday. Some said that she had drifted ashore on the Port Angeles spit; others told the story that she had been towed into Port Townsend by the Pilot. The most common sense and easily confirmed story of all was that brought by the Alert, which fell in with the old hulk again on Sunday and got about $200 worth of wreckage from her. The Alert reported that only the upper works of the water-logged craft were floating, the bottom having dropped out and, with the boilers, gone to the bottom.

The City of Puebla leaves for San Francisco to-morrow.

A fine load of ducks was brought over from the Fraser on Sunday by the schooner Delta.

Steamer George W. Elder, bound for Alaska, will call at the outer wharf today on her way up.

Oh, Where Have They Gone?

Mr. John Black, who lives near the waterworks headquarters at Elk Lake, telephoned to the police last evening to ask them to keep a sharp lookout for his horse and rig, which he thought had been stolen from where he left it standing during the afternoon. The horse was a gray one, and the wagon a light express. When Mr. Black was ready to go home, and found his rig gone, he imagined the horse had broken loose and made tracks for the stable alone. He accordingly marched home by the muddy road in a manner content that all was well. On reaching his house he found, however, that it wasn't, and at once communicated with the police. The wagon, Mr. Black states, contained one jar of whiskey, two horse blankets and an umbrella, from which inventory it will be seen that all possible climatic changes were carefully guarded against by the owner of the missing turnout when he came to town.

CHRISTMAS IN THE CHURCHES.

The Services and Special Music With Which the Day will be Celebrated—Beautiful Decorations.

Christmas services will be held in the majority of the city churches to-morrow morning, many of the sacred edifices having been tastefully decorated for the occasion, and special music having been prepared by the choirs of several of the churches.

St. John's church looks particularly pretty, every part having been carefully and effectively decorated by the ladies of the congregation, who have been engaged for the past month in their artistic work. To-morrow morning at 11 o'clock a Christmas sermon will be preached by the rector, Rev. Percival Jenns, and an unusually fine musical programme will be presented by the choir who have had it under careful rehearsal for the past few weeks.

Right Rev. Bishop Cridge and Rev. Dr. Reid will officiate at the Christmas service in the Reformed Episcopal Church at the usual hour, 11 o'clock, Christmas morning. Special anthems will be sung by the choir, and the Lord's Supper will be administered at the close.

At St. James' Church, James Bay, which has also been tastefully adorned with evergreens and flowers, the holy communion will be administered at 8 a. m. on Christmas Day by the Venerable Archdeacon Scriven; and the usual public service held at 11 o'clock, special music forming a very enjoyable part of the service.

It has been arranged to have "the world's most honored holiday" ushered in by the ringing for the first time of the new chimes recently placed in the tower of Christ Church cathedral, tonight at 12 o'clock. They will also be rung again at 8 o'clock on Christmas morning, when a Christmas service, interspersed with choruses and carols, will be held in the church. Another service will be held at 11 a.m., and a third at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

In the Methodist churches, Pandora street and Gorge Road; in the Calvary Baptist church, and in the Pandora street Presbyterian, the usual Christmas services will be conducted at 11 a.m on Christmas Day by their respective pastors. The collections taken up at the first named place of worship will be given to the needy poor.

At St. Andrew's, R. C., pro-Cathedral, Christmas will be ushered in at 12 o'clock to-night with a pontifical mass, Rt. Rev. Bishop Lemmens officiating, assisted by all the clergy. A splendid programme of music has been prepared for the occasion, selected from several of the finest masses. Early masses will also be celebrated on Christmas Day, and at 10.30 a.m. there will be a pontifical mass.

NEWS FROM ROCK CREEK.

Three Good Trails Built to the Mines by the Government—Rock Creek Deserted for the Winter—Mining Notes.

(Correspondence of THE COLONIST.)

TO THE EDITOR:—When we left Okanagan we took the usual route over what is termed the new trail to Rock Creek.

There have been three good trails built by the government to Rock Creek. I wish some one would tell me the secret of the way you get your government to build trails, or wagon roads, to every mine, whether it be good or bad, that happens to be found. I wonder if every B. C. miner has a pull on the government? It looks so to an outsider who is used to mine on the U. S. side, where if you want a trail to a mine you may build it and pay for so doing. If B. C. does not become the greatest mining country in the Americas it will not be the government's fault.

Rock Creek puts one in mind of the "Deserted Village," nearly all the miners having left for the winter. As we rode up to the one hotel and saloon its woe-be-gone appearance put me in mind of Romeo's apothecary shop. We came here to look at the Victoria, but could not tell much about it. It is said to have had a shaft 90 feet deep in ore, but it is all covered in. This claim is four miles east of the present camp, and was the first mine struck in the district.

There seems to have been very little real mining work done here. The Eureka, situated at the east end of the camp on a mound, is about 40 feet. The Emma, which is in the lowest part of the basin, has a shaft 65 feet deep. On the Cariboo there is a shaft 50 feet deep and a tunnel striking the ledge about 10 feet deeper.

The Amelia's shaft is about 50 feet. These are the claims which have had the most work done upon them. What may be done in the shape of development work here in time may show these claims up better, as very little real mining work has been done yet.

There is too much snow here to see much of the mining prospects.

We are going from here to examine the Kettle River, and thence to Colville.

Will write you anon.

AMERICUS.

Kettle River, B.C.

THE GRAND CENTRAL R. R.

ST. PAUL, Dec. 24.—A railroad rumor of a good deal of interest was given circulation yesterday on the authority of a prominent railroad man. It is that on and after January 1st, 1890, the names Northern Pacific and Wisconsin Central will be known no more in railroad circles. The two roads go under one management and the consolidated company is to be known as the Grand Central.

LITTLE CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

Something for Every Man, Woman and Child in Victoria.

Detroit Free Press: The best clause in a man's life—Santa Claus.

Philadelphia Call: Don't expect to find a brownstone front in your stocking.

Judge: The girl who hangs up the biggest piece of mistletoe doesn't get kissed the most.

Texas Siftings: The gift show is about played out except on Christmas morning. Then it draws large and delighted audiences.

Yonkers Gazette: Kris Kringle insists on having a "run" time at least once a year. It's when he takes his Santa-cruise.

Boston Post: When the Chicago girls hang up their stockings for Christmas, they are the envy of the rest of the world; but they bankrupt Santa Claus.

Somerville Journal: Santa Claus can't come down the chimneys now, but he gets there just the same.

Consumption Surely Cured.

TO THE EDITOR:—Please inform your readers that I have a positive remedy for the above named disease. By its timely use thousands of hopeless cases have been permanently cured. I shall be glad to send two bottles of my remedy FREE to any of your readers who have consumption if they will send me their express and P.O. address.

Respectfully, DR. T. A. SLOCUM,
186 Adelaide street, west, Toronto, Ont.
sep7-w1y

PROF. LOISETTE'S MEMORY SYSTEM is creating greater interest than ever in all parts of the country, and persons desiring to improve their memory should send for his prospectus free as advertised in another column. no23-4t-dw

From THE DAILY COLONIST, Dec. 25.

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

The Vancouver Smelter.

Thomas Dunn, the hardware merchant of Vancouver, purchased on Monday at public sale the grounds and plant of the British Columbia Smelting Company, located at Vancouver. The price paid was $39,500. The World says it is Mr. Dunn's intention to put the smelter in thorough working order and run it to its full capacity.

Freight and Trade Notes.

The Michigan brought over 200 barrels of cement, 700 sacks flour, and a lot of miscellaneous freight yesterday.

The Islander's freight last night consisted of two carloads of sugar, one carload of whiskey, one of butter and three of general merchandise.

The Steamer Olympian last evening brought two carloads of European and Canadian merchandise.

A New Tug.

A new tug has been designed at the Albion Iron Works by Mr. W. J. Stephens for Messrs. Earle & Spencer, to be used at their cannery at Alert Bay during the fishery season, and during the winter to be used for towing purposes. Following are her dimensions: Length over all, 82 feet; breadth of beam, 16 feet; depth of hold, 8 feet 6 inches. She will be supplied with compound engines, of 225 horse power, and will run twelve knots an hour.

Artillery Stores.

When the battery of Garrison Artillery was reorganized at Westminster a few days ago, many of the great coats and rifles belonging to the corps were missing. A request was made for the return of the stores, and all but sixteen great coats and two rifles have been handed in. It is now stated that if these articles are not returned at once the estate of the late Captain C. McNaughton will have to pay for them. The Westminster corps is now commanded by Captain Townley.

A Regrettable Case.

The person sent to the asylum on yesterday's steamer was the valued housekeeper of Mr. T. R. Smith, assistant commissioner of the H. B. Co. She had been in the service of the family for the past eleven years, and was held in the highest esteem by them, and the affliction which has overtaken her is deeply regretted. The best medical skill available was secured in an endeavor to cure the patient, and it is thought the practical treatment to be had at Westminster will in a short time affect a restoration to mental health, a result much desired by the family with which she has been so long connected.

Where is Mrs. Annie Ohrt?

The Seattle Post-Intelligencer says Mrs. Annie Ohrt, of San Francisco, whose son is employed on the steam