

Local News.

According to a private message received in Nanaimo the steamer Wyndfield will leave San Francisco for an un-named Russian port with a cargo of flour.

Thursday the Young Men's Christian Association received a gift of \$25 from W. R. Rubb, of Comox. Secretary Northcott gratefully acknowledges the generous donation.

Several school teachers who appeared desirous of dispensing with the formality of paying the revenue tax were summoned to appear in the police court on Friday, at the instance of Collector Carter. They had to pay, however, not only the tax but the costs in each case, which amounted to \$2.

The sneak thief was busy at Shawigan Lake on Wednesday afternoon. He entered the house of Frank Elford while the latter was away, and made off with a suit of clothes in which was a watch and chain. The local police were notified, but in the absence of any clue to the identity of the man it is hardly likely he will be caught.

Inquiries are being made as to the whereabouts of Mr. Nelson, formerly of Salt Spring Island. On November 29th he was on his farm on Salt Spring Island and came to Victoria. He was last seen about December 2nd. Anyone with information respecting his whereabouts is requested to communicate with P. J. Bittancourt, 53 Blanchard street.

The third annual banquet of the Victoria newsboys will be given by the Colonist Printing & Publishing Co. at the Hotel Davies on the evening of the 27th. The youngsters are looking forward to the coming treat with pleasurable anticipation, recalling the delights of the two previous feasts. These, it will be remembered, were given by Ripple Hall, M. P., and Senator Bittancourt respectively.

An express driver met with a misadventure on View street Thursday. He was driving towards Douglas street, and just as he reached the corner a heavy gust of wind removed the wagon top. The driver was carried away with it, and being entangled in the reins was dragged across the street. Sergt. Redgrave hastened to his assistance, and readjusted the wagon top. The driver received several cuts on the head.

A quiet wedding took place at Christ Church cathedral on Wednesday evening, when Mr. George E. Frederick Sutton, of this city, and Miss Daisy Jane Middleton, were united in the holy bonds of matrimony. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Hugh Allen. Later, the happy couple, together with a number of guests, enjoyed a festive supper at the residence of Mr. Callow, Fort street. A large array of presents testified to the popularity of the newly married couple.

Friday afternoon the drawing took place for the gramophone drawn for in connection with the sales of White Swan soap. The drawing was held at the West End Grocery, and the winning number was 1,052. The soap which won the prize was sold by John Bros. The holder of the ticket can obtain the gramophone by calling at the office of the B. C. Soap Company, Humboldt street. Another drawing will be held for a gramophone about the end of January.

The manager of the Seaman's Institute thankfully acknowledges the receipt of reading matter during the month of November from the following: Miss Jessie Mason, Miss Margaret, Mrs. H. D. Turner, Mrs. Wm. Atkins, Mrs. P. H. Turner, the Lord Bishop of Columbia, the Navy League (Victoria), the branch, E. G. M. Municipal Council, and C. D. W. Higgins' book "The Mystic Spring". Mr. Thos. Barle, M. P., Mr. John H. Yeo, Mr. J. C. Mackay, Mr. David A. N. O'Neill, Mr. Wm. Bennett, the weekly paper Progress, and one anonymous donor.

At a meeting of the school board on Thursday a letter was received from the secretary of the Vancouver board, asking for the local trustees' opinions regarding a conference to discuss amendments to the School Act. The secretary was instructed to inform the writer that the Victoria board would be represented. The board authorized the secretary to arrange for a formal meeting at the High school grounds on the opening day of next term. Principal Gillis was granted two months' leave of absence from January 1st. The board also granted permission to attend the Manitoba teachers' convention to those who intended reading papers. The superintendent was authorized to make arrangements for a meeting for a teacher for the High school for the coming term, as it was not deemed expedient to make a permanent appointment at present.

The Victoria Orphanage has received a Christmas gift from Cariboo which is most acceptable at this season of the year. The donation, consisting of Bakerville, B. C., and has been handed to the treasurer of the Home by Mrs. Charlotte Brown, of Beacon Cottage, Victoria, to whom the anonymous donor sends the thanks. The donors were Mrs. A. Kelly, \$5; James Bryce, \$2.50; Harry Jones, M. P., \$2; James Innis, \$2; Harry Wilson, \$2; Mrs. Harvey Elyan, \$2; John Stevenson, \$1; John Bowen, \$1; James McKen, \$1; Geo. Walker, \$1; John Pomeroy, \$1; Wm. Anderson, \$1; Alex. Conitt, \$1; A. Blair, \$1; Mrs. James Stone, \$1; Mrs. Wm. Kelly, \$1; Patrick McKenny, \$1; Mrs. J. Chas. Howse, \$1; James Ross, \$1; Wm. J. McCarty, \$1; A. H. Beady, \$1; Robert Yonston, \$1; Miss Catherine Brown, 50 cents; total, \$32.

An Eastern exchange says: "A recent Canadian Pacific press dispatch from Victoria stated that the Great Northern railway proposed to withdraw from passenger business between the Mainland and Victoria. W. V. Graves, Canadian freight and passenger agent of the Great Northern at Toronto, yesterday received a letter from the Victoria Branch, in which it is stated that the road, in which he states that this report may have created the impression among Canadian shippers, that the Great Northern intended to withdraw from Victoria business altogether. He, therefore, desired to advise all parties interested, especially those shippers who have favored the Great Northern with Victoria business in the past, on who are in the habit of shipping to British Columbia territory, that it is not the intention of the company to withdraw from handling Victoria freight, and that shipments will be made as heretofore, namely, in the original cars without breaking bulk."

The educational classes of the Young Men's Christian Association will this week be held as follows: Wednesday, arithmetic; Thursday, book-keeping; Friday, penmanship.

The death occurred on Monday of Mrs. Mary Cecilia Littlewood, aged 84 years, wife of Geo. F. Littlewood, No. 3 McClure street. The funeral has been arranged to take place on Wednesday afternoon at 2.30 from the residence.

There were some interesting handball contests at the Y. M. C. A. gymnasium Monday. One of the best was as follows: Meyer and Holden beat B. Fisher and P. Fisher, 21-17, 14-21, 21-20.

G. H. Hadwin has returned from Ontario, where he went shortly after the provincial exhibition last September, to dispose of six carloads of horses bred in British Columbia. He brought back a carload of thoroughbred stock.

Geo. Snider, the well-known contractor, thoughtfully remembered the Times staff on Christmas with a box of cigars. The cigars were of the finest quality and the staff who do not use tobacco broke their good resolutions and raised the box.

A great number of complimentary references have been made to the handsome and striking full page cover of the Times. The cover is a credit to the artist and workmen, being designed and executed by the B. C. Engraving Company of this city, whose work is attaining a more than local fame.

Thursday afternoon the remains of Wilhelmina Eliza Redgrave were laid at rest. The funeral took place from No. 50 Dallas road at 2 o'clock, religious services being conducted by Alfred H. Brown. A number of appropriate floral tributes were presented. The following acted as pallbearers: P. Phillips, B. Phillips, J. Donaldson and J. D. Phillips.

The little ones of the Protestant Orphanage will make merry on Thursday afternoon from three to six o'clock, when their annual Christmas treat will be held at the home. All friends of the institution are cordially invited to attend, and contributions will be thankfully received. It is to be hoped that charitably disposed Victorians will not neglect this opportunity of making the little ones happy.

A dispatch from Omaha says: "Edna Wallace Hopper was the star in an interesting performance in straight comedy under the management of Frank McKee at Boyd's theatre Sunday night, for which she was paid an absurdly small amount. Miss Hopper has the star of the Omaha Country Musical Law. She appeared in the principal role of 'The March of Time' as a curate's wife. In both of these comedies she makes the change from tragedy to comedy with easy grace. The two comedies selected for her are bright and crisp and full of amusing situations and complications."

The committee in charge of the children's Claretella, to take place on Tuesday night at Assenby street, are hard at work. All friends are asked to contribute cakes. Volunteers to assist with the children's refreshments, to be ready to welcome the children, and to assist with the refreshments, are requested to call on Mrs. J. D. Heimken, at a room commencing Col. Gregory, Major Hibbin, Messrs. T. Pooley, A. G. Leveson, E. O. P. Ker, of Victoria, J. K. B. Adams, the pastor, occupied the pulpit. The musical programmes were especially creditable. "The Star of Bethlehem" was sung by the choir. Hicks in the morning, "St. James Upon the Midnight Chime" was a vocal solo rendered in splendid style by Mrs. G. J. Burgess. Her services were especially creditable. "The Star of Bethlehem" was sung by the choir. Hicks in the morning, "St. James Upon the Midnight Chime" was a vocal solo rendered in splendid style by Mrs. G. J. Burgess. Her services were especially creditable. "The Star of Bethlehem" was sung by the choir.

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Considerable talk is heard on the waterfront, today about the iron loaded life preserver shown in a number of places on Saturday. The Times was informed that the life preserver had just been found on the beach. The life preserver was found on the beach. The life preserver was found on the beach. The life preserver was found on the beach.

On her last trip south the steamer Leelanaw, chartered to R. W. Dunsmuir, of this city, sustained considerable injury. A survey was made on Thursday to determine the extent of the injuries to the steamer's hull. Much water was pumped out of the hold, says the Tacoma Ledger, and one of the holes on the starboard side was discovered. It was impossible to learn the exact nature of the leak, as there is much sand and debris about the hole, and has since been men is at work to clear the hold. The hole was partially stopped up with cement. Whether the Leelanaw will have to do any drydock work, or whether she will be repaired at another port, is yet unknown. The work of discharging the inward cargo of 1,800 tons of concentrates from the Treadwell mines was pushed rapidly yesterday.

T. G. Mitchell, who has been appointed Lloyd's surveyor for British Columbia, is receiving the attention of the most competent engineers in Victoria. He has long been connected with the C. P. R. Company's fleet, and previously with the C. P. N. Company. A meeting was held during this time about the most responsible positions in either service, it having been only last year that he was sent to England to superintend the installation of the machinery in the steamer Princess Victoria. He came out from England in charge of the engine department of the ship, and has since presided over that vessel's machinery. Previously he was engineer on the Charmer, and has earned for himself a reputation for ability that led to his being selected by Lloyd's when a selection of their British Columbia representative had to be made.

Sir Thomas Shaughnessy's prediction before the board of trade in Victoria, when he was here last summer, namely, that it would not be long before the C. P. R. Company would be supplying a fortnightly service to the Orient, appears to be within measurable distance of fulfillment. The news from London, published in Friday's Times, confirms the information given in this paper a few days previously in effect that more of the steamers to be built would be for the Pacific. The company now proposes to supply the service with two more steamers added to the fleet it would be in a position to provide the fortnightly service contemplated in a very efficient manner. According to the dimensions given of these liners, as announced yesterday, the ships will be considerably larger than the vessels now operated. They will also be at least two knots faster, and will doubtless in the matter of appointments and equipment rank first on the Pacific.

HOW VICTORIANS OBSERVED XMAS

SANTA CLAUS CALLED AT ALL THE HOMES

The inmates at different Public Institutions Fared Well - Treats Yet to Come.

Christmas Day was observed in a quiet manner by Victorians. Santa Claus made his annual visit to the residences, distributing gifts with his usual generosity and bringing joy and happiness to every family with the usual zeal.

The annual Christmas gathering of the members and friends of the Burnside Baptist mission, Tenison road, will be held to-morrow evening. Tea will be served to the children at 8.30 o'clock, after which a programme of choruses, recitations, etc., will be given by the children.

The Christmas tree and entertainment of the Victoria West Baptist Sunday school will be held this year in Semple's hall, Langford street, on Thursday evening. The children will partake of supper at 6 p. m., after which a programme of music, etc., will be rendered.

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PROVINCIAL NEWS.

ROSSLAND.

A. B. Mackenzie, secretary of the associated boards of trade of eastern British Columbia, has issued a notification that he had been instructed by G. O. Buchanan, the president of the associated boards, that the next annual conference of the boards would be held in January or February, when a number of subjects of urgent importance to the district will be introduced for consideration. Among these will be the proposed railway; the organization of a department of mines as a branch of the Dominion service; the imposition of a duty on rough lumber coming into Canada; the preservation of the remains of our forests from destruction by fire; the cancellation of the reserves on land; greater attention to the surveys of provincial lands, with the object of guarding against the issue of duplicate titles to the same land; assistance to a coast to Kootenay railway, and to the Kootenay Central railway.

At the regular committee meeting of the city council on Friday evening the mayor and aldermen handed to Guards Jos. Burr and R. B. Kelly, of the provincial jail, a gold-headed ebony cane and a case of pipes respectively. These gifts were made in recognition of the service of Messrs. Burr and Kelly in putting in shape the grounds of the Carnegie library with the chain-gang, of which they had charge.

On Friday morning the British Columbia Electric Railway Company, through the local manager, E. R. Glover, presented to the city council a cheque for \$1,000, which was accepted by the council. The cheque was presented by Mrs. George Adams with a handsome gold ring, in recognition of that lady's presence of mind in connection with the attempt to break away from the jail an anti-urban car.

Mayor Keary has received a communication from the secretary of Andrew Carnegie to the effect that as soon as the work on the public library is completed, another cheque of \$1,000 will be sent along to defray the expenses of bringing that institution up to a thoroughly up-to-date position.

The city is now covered with snow, which is still falling. Trade is increasing, and the number of commercial men now visiting the city is more than usual.

In good many inquiries are being made for farming lands in the neighborhood, and it is likely a boom in real estate will shortly occur.

"Batling" Nelson will not prosecute his manager, Teddy Murphy, who, with Eddie Santay, was taken from Strath and was largely attended. The Cumberland band headed the procession. Wide sympathy is felt for the family as Mr. Santay was largely and universally respected.

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DATE FIXED FOR MEETING OF HOUSE

LEGISLATURE WILL ASSEMBLE FEB. 9TH

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SALT SPRING ISLAND NOTES.

On December 21st the people of the Vancouver Bay neighborhood held a Christmas tree entertainment in the North Bay school. There was a good attendance and the programme was interesting and instructive.

On the evening of Wednesday the young men of Ganges Harbor gave a party to their friends in the Mahon memorial hall.

Messrs. Main and Young, carpenters, of the firm of Haslam & Co., Nanaimo, are erecting a Methodist church in Centennial settlement, between Ganges Harbor and Vesuvius Bay.

The six schools of the island had their Christmas parties on Saturday. The pupils and teachers are now enjoying their Christmas holidays.

A LIBERAL STANDARD BEARER.