From THE DAILY COLONIST, December 12.

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

J. J. Daley's Affairs.

Mr. D. W. Morrow has been appointed receiver of the estate of Mr. James J. Daley, and the stock has been purchased by Mr. M. W. Waitt, who will continue the business, from the other creditors.

Betting Has Commenced.

Despite the unsavory reputation of recent racing events, the interest in the MacKay-McLean race to be rowed on the Frazer river next Saturday, is on the increase. The match is to be in outrigged skiffs, for $500 a side, three miles, with turn. Betting has already commenced at even money, a couple of hundred dollars having been thus far laid.

Beautiful Grapes.

In the garden of Mr. Trounce, James Bay, there are at present ripening some of the finest grapes that have ever been grown here. They are a fine purple in color, of large size and excellent flavor. Their development at this late period of the year is a strong and pertinent argument in favor of the wonderful capabilities of British Columbia as a fruit producing country.

Squatters at Port Angeles.

A large number of men are flocking into Port Angeles to stake out squatters' claims on the reservation. There are over 800 claims already taken on the reserve, which comprises 3,000 acres. The squatters will have to take chances on future legislation being favorable to their claims.

H. M. S. Melpomene.

The people of Esquimalt are looking forward with great interest to the arrival of H.M.S. Melpomene, which, as has already been announced, replaces the Amphion on the Pacific station. She is expected to reach port about Monday. Her officers are among the most popular in the service and a jolly winter is expected.

British Columbia Lands.

Numerous enquiries have recently been received at the American Consulate from people on the other side the Sound as to the terms and condition upon which timber lands or lands for settlement can be acquired. Mr. Myers has duly informed himself on the subject and forwarded replies, which may result in a movement in this direction.

Letters Found the Lost.

A few weeks ago, THE COLONIST published three letters from anxious relatives, addressed to Postmaster Shakespeare, and enquiring the whereabouts of young men supposed to reside in this city or province. Although not one of the lost ones had been heard from at home for upwards of a year, the item reached them all, and happiness reigns in three families in consequence.

Died in Baltimore.

News reached here yesterday of the sudden death at Baltimore, Md., on the 10th inst., of Mr. A. Caldwell, son of Mrs. Caldwell of this city, and a student at the Baltimore Medical College. The deceased was only 20 years of age, and the news of his death is a great shock to his mother and friends here. The body will be brought to this city for burial.

Odd Fellowship.

The Loyal Waverley Lodge, No. 145, I. O. O., F. M. U., held their regular meeting last night, with Bro. Fullerton, N.G., in the chair. Considerable important business was transacted in completing arrangements for the entertainment next Thursday. Mr. Dilworth was initiated by D.D.G.M. Wm. E. Ottaway, assisted by M. S. Wade, M.D.

Cedar Hill.

Rev. Mr. Brown, the genial and popular Church of England clergyman at Cedar Hill, announces that the ladies of St. Michael's church are getting up, for the benefit of the church funds, a miscellaneous entertainment, to come off on Monday week, the 29th instant. The programme is expected to bring out some excellent talent, the ladies interested having entered heartily into the work. Refreshments will be served, and every one knows what the good people of Cedar Hill are capable of doing in this direction.

Excitement at Port Orchard.

There is considerable excitement in the vicinity of Port Orchard, Wn., over the report that the dry dock is to be located there. The vicinity is flooded with real estate speculators, among whom are many from Portland and Tacoma. Arthur A. Wright sold his homestead for $15,000. Edward Curtis and John Gorst sold 174 acres for $17,400. Daniel Ross sold 165 acres for $25,000. Sackman brothers sold 600 acres of outside property for $30,000. Besides there are numbers of small deals which were consummated on the side.

A Hop at Esquimalt.

The ladies in Esquimalt are getting up a hop to come off in Blue Ribbon hall on the 30th inst. The fair sex of Victoria's most westerly suburb are well known and appreciated for their hospitality, and there can be no doubt that the affair will be of a most pleasant and enjoyable character. It will be well for those who are not engaged on the evening in question to bear the Esquimalt ball in mind. Blue Ribbon hall is easily accessible from Victoria by the tramway, and it is beyond question that the company with its usual enterprise will of necessity furnish such extra accommodations as the demands of the ball-goers may justify.

Is this Chaff?

This is how the Vancouver Telegram speaks of the editor of the News-Advertiser's connection with the late mayoralty election: "The people of Vancouver are now fully informed why Mr. Cotton is not mayor of the city. It is also to be especially noticed that Mr. Cotton approves the conduct of Mr. Cotton, and thinks he acted judiciously. This is exceedingly satisfactory. The people of this city were all extremely anxious for this very important intelligence, and we are sure will sleep the better for having received it. We congratulate the citizens on their good fortune. Had the information, now happily supplied, been withheld, the results might have been serious."

The Port Angeles Murder.

The murderer of Mrs. Moss, near Port Angeles, has been captured and he has confessed. As suspected the man is James Woods, alias "Stubby Jim." He was captured by three Indians and Deputy Sheriff Frank Fisher, of Clallam, at the mouth of the Elwha river, and was taken to Port Angeles, reaching there about 2:30 yesterday afternoon. He was given a preliminary examination. Upon being questioned as to whether he wanted a lawyer, he replied "No," and when Judge Haynes, of Port Angeles, asked him if he were guilty or not of the crime, he hung his head and said "guilty." There was much talk during the whole of yesterday about lynching should the murderer be caught, and up to a late hour last night a deadly calm pervaded the streets of Port Angeles which boded no good for the confessed murderer. Sheriff Morse, of Clallam county, has sworn a number of deputies to assist him in case there is an attempt at lynching.—Port Townsend Leader.

These Chinese Exhumations.

Yesterday, Dr. Milne, City Health Officer, visited the Ross Bay Cemetery to inquire into, and report upon the Chinese practice of exhuming corpses and preparing them for shipment to China. He is understood to be preparing an elaborate report on the subject, for submission to committee and council. It will, it is understood, take some days to complete, and will involve not only the presentation of the facts, but the study of the writings of a number of authorities on matters of health.

A Mermaid.

Judge Swan of Port Townsend has received a present from a Chinese merchant of that city, of a mermaid supposed to have been captured in the Chinese seas. It is an ugly-looking thing and dispels the illusion of the beautiful and fascinating monster of fable. The mermaid of fiction is represented as possessing the head and bust of a lovely woman with long, flowing hair, and other characteristics of a propossessing female. Seventy-five per cent of this remarkable creature was fish tail. So much for the poetical idea. The thing hanging in Judge Swan's office has a hideous looking head, little arms with webbed hands, and the remaining portion of the creature a fish.—Port Townsend Call.

The Canadian Route Preferred.

Mr. Robert Keppler, travelling passenger agent of the Rock Island and Albert Lee route, arrived at the Driard last night from Portland. He notes that travel continues to be very good, but says that the bulk of the trade and traffic appears to take the Canadian route. The extension of the Canadian road to Seattle is anxiously awaited, as it is considered certain to be of the greatest benefit to the cities on the Sound. The headquarters of the Oregon Improvement Co. had been removed to Portland by General Manager Smith. He was convinced that the steamers belonging to the company, which had been placed under seizure, would shortly be released and resume their accustomed trips.

One Runaway Returns.

Instead of being the well known Caffire, it was his companion, Sellick, who returned from the Sound on Tuesday night. Brief mention of the runaway's return was made in yesterday's COLONIST, and the facts of the case are now stated as follows: After Sellick and Caffire had bade the Provincial reformatory an unceremonious farewell, they lost no time in placing the Sound between themselves and Victoria. Sellick's parents, however, did not approve of his fresh rascality, and, as soon as they could locate the boy, went over to Tacoma, where he was hiding, brought him back with them to this city, and handed him over to the authorities, on Wednesday morning. He now languishes in the Provincial jail.

Liquor Caused all the Trouble.

Owen Thomas, an Indian who appeared to be just recovering from a prolonged spree, was charged in the city police court yesterday morning with being drunk. This was an accusation that Thomas did not think it worth his while to deny and he was accordingly fined $5, which he handed over without a murmur. Charlie, another noble Siwash, also charged with being drunk, pleaded not guilty and escaped, as there was no very strong evidence against him. Charles Smith, a white man, was less fortunate, and $5 was demanded of him. Thomas McNeeley was convicted of supplying beer to Indians, and the result of a $50 fine, was committed to jail for one month with hard labor.

Must Have Been Insane.

One of the most uncommon and fiendish cases of self-destruction ever heard of in this city occurred at the residence of Right Rev. Bishop Cridge during Wednesday night. The victim was the Chinaman employed in the reverend gentleman's kitchen, who was found yesterday morning lying in his own bed, which was saturated with blood. The cause was apparent. The Chinaman, who was doubtless insane, had horribly mutilated himself with a razor and then stabbed himself in the side with a butcher knife. He was removed to the Jubilee Hospital during the morning, where his wounds were dressed, but the loss of blood was so great that he expired last evening.

Invented a Gallows.

Officer James Hunter of the Provincial Police, has recently perfected an invention, a model of which may be seen in practical operation at the office of Sergt. Langley. The invention is nothing more nor less than a patent improved gallows, by means of which any hangings that may be necessary in the province hereafter may be carried out without the butchery and bungling that have so increased the horrors of capital punishment in other parts of the country during the past few years. A scaffold, square and supported by stout corner-posts, contains a drop in two pieces, which, on the bolt being released, fall on either side, in the same manner as the slides or shutters in an instantaneous photographic camera. Stout springs hold them open, and there is no possibility of a rope twisting. The invention, which is shown at work upon a six-inch skeleton, seems to be faultless in its operation.

St. Andrew's Statue.

Yesterday, a COLONIST reporter visited the outbuildings of the Bishop's Palace, on Yates street, where he found Mr. John R. Gilmor busily at work on the mould of the base, or the lower half, of the colossal statue of St. Andrew, which is to be placed on the peak of the roof of the new Roman Catholic cathedral, on View and Blanchard streets. The mould itself will weigh upwards of two tons. The model, from which the mould is being formed, is a great improvement on the miniature described some time back, the artist having had greater opportunity for bringing out the details of feature and drapery. From the encasement of plaster little or no idea can be formed of the admirable model inside, which all who have seen declare to be excellent, and certain to be an especially interesting feature of the outside appearance of the sacred edifice.

Return of Rev. D. MacRae.

The Rev. D. MacRae returned, last Wednesday night, by the Islander after a visit of two weeks to the interior, taken chiefly for the benefit of his health, which has not been satisfactory for the past two months, and also to look after some Presbytery work at Kamloops and other points along the railway. His friends will be glad to learn that Mr. MacRae's health is now almost fully restored, and he will be able to resume his work, as usual. Mr. MacRae took part in the services connected with the induction of Mr. Lee to the pastoral charge of the Presbyterian congregation at Kamloops, and also gathered information that led the Presbytery, at its meeting in Vancouver, on Tuesday, to decide upon appointing a missionary to labor along the railway from Yale to Spence's bridge. Mr. MacRae speaks highly of the benefit of the change to persons not in good health—for even a short time to the clear, bracing air of Kamloops, and the excellent treatment that guests receive at the Grand Pacific.

CHANGE IN SYSTEM.

New Departure Proposed in the Management of the Affairs of the Pandora Avenue Methodist Church.

At the last meeting of the quarterly board and trustees of the Pandora Avenue Methodist church, the report of the special committee favoring the amalgamation of the trustees' and quarterly board funds was adopted. In brief, the idea is that each sitting in the church, which is allotted shall, under the envelope system, return 25 cents per Sunday, which sum shall include every church call save and except, perhaps, missionary contributions and calls in behalf of the ministers' superannuation fund. It will also be provided that after the people contributing 25 cents shall have selected their places those who are not able to pay 25 cents, or who do not feel justified in doing so, may make their selection from among the remaining unoccupied pews on contribution by them of 10 or 15 cents. It is intended, however, to reserve every fourth or fifth row in the church for the use of strangers and casual attendants. It is expected that, under this plan, something like 500 sittings will be let, making a return of about $6,500 from this source. Casual collections would, it was thought, raise the entire revenue to $7,000 or $8,000 which, after paying all ordinary expenses of the church would leave something towards a sinking fund for the indebtedness on the church building. After being formally approved by the church authorities the proposal will be brought before the congregation for final consideration, on which occasion the matter will be fully entered into and explained with, it is expected, their almost unanimous support.

FINE ELEVATORS.

Messrs. Lenz & Leiser Introduce One of Milwaukee Manufacture.

Messrs. Lenz & Leiser, whose new business block is a conspicuous ornament of Yates street, have determined that all the fittings of their new establishment shall be as complete and modern as possible. First class elevators are essential parts of commercial premises, and Mr. Leiser accordingly went over the Sound a few weeks ago to examine samples of the best makes in use in Seattle and Tacoma. He was favorably impressed with the Kieckheber Elevator, the first sample of which to come to Victoria is now being erected in the new Lenz & Leiser building, by Mr. Miller, sent specially from Milwaukee for the work.

There are now 60 Kieckheber lifts in successful operation in Seattle, their most prominent characteristics being speed and absolute safety. The 33 feet which Lenz & Leiser's elevator has to travel, is expected to be traversed in five or six seconds. A strong safety grip of iron is so arranged at the top of the car, as to grasp the sides of the well and to hold the carriage on the very instant that any accident might occur to the rope. The car in this first hoist of the kind to come into Victoria is arranged for the accommodation of both passengers and freight, its capacity being one ton.

The motive power is hydraulic, a short cylinder of iron—one ton in weight, 20 inches in diameter, with five feet stroke—being used. It is also proposed to do away with the metre, utilizing the indicator, which does the work equally well and saves one-third of the required pressure. If the use of the indicator is proved a success, the metres all through the city will have to go. It is understood that the Turner block and Allsop & Minson's new premises on Yates street will be provided with Kieckheber elevators. They are sold to run as rapidly as 400 feet per minute, and to carry weights of as much as 12,000 lbs., the capacity of the one in use in the establishment of Taylor, Young & Co., Portland. That of Messrs. Lenz & Leiser will be in operation by Wednesday of next week.

A CONSUL'S INTERFERENCE

With the U. S Authorities at Galveston, Texas, Likely to Result in His Recall.

GALVESTON, Texas, Dec. 12.—Lyall, the British consul here, lately undertook to defend a man named Kelly, an Englishman, convicted of burglary in Houston. His efforts in behalf of the burglar resulted in correspondence which will probably cost him his official head. On November 8 Governor Ross wrote to Secretary Blaine, inclosing the papers in the Kelly case, together with Consul Lyall's letter, and closed with these words:

"I respectfully suggest that the inclosed letter is of such a character as to call for action by the United States authorities with a view to withdrawing his exequatur. Entertaining the views expressed, his further official relations with the people of this state are calculated to disturb the friendship and comity existing between this and the British government. A number of letters received from him have been wanting in that tone of proper respect which should obtain from a foreign consul to the executive of a state, but I have hitherto passed them over as unworthy of notice; but the present assault on the integrity of our judiciary, and the threats he makes use of, render it necessary that some action be taken for the preservation of the respect due this government, and therefore the matter is confidentially committed to your hands."

Following is Blaine's reply to Governor Ross, dated Dec. 3: "Referring to your letter of the 8th ultimo, concerning the improper conduct of Lyall, British consul at Galveston with reference to the case of Kelly, I have the honor to inform you that the matter has been duly brought to the attention of the British minister at the capital, with a statement that in the opinion of this department, the conduct of Lyall has destroyed his usefulness as a consular representative of her Britannic majesty's government in this country. This communication has just been answered by a note from the British minister, in which he states that he has transmitted copies of the papers to Lord Salisbury, and the department waits the reply of the minister before taking final action in reference to the subject."

British Consul Lyall writes to the press saying he is blameless, and the governor wrong, in their controversy.

Since Childhood's days.

I can highly recommend Hagyard's Pectoral Balsam. It cured my daughter of a cough she had been troubled with since childhood. She is now twelve years old.

MRS. M. FAIRCHILD, Scotland, Ont.

From THE DAILY COLONIST, December 13.

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

Opening at Vernon.

Messrs. Martin Bros., formerly of Chilliwhack, have opened a well-equipped general store at Vernon, where they are now having commodious brick premises erected.

Contract Awarded.

Messrs. Baker & Snyder are understood to have received the contract for road-making, on the Macaulay Point property, soon to be put on the market by the Hudson's Bay Co. Work will not be commenced until required information is received from England.

The Breakwater Stood Firm.

Mr. T. F. Sinclair, contractor for the new ocean wharf, says that notwithstanding the terrific sea and heavy winds of Thursday night and yesterday morning, no part of the work in progress was damaged in the least. The sea was wild enough outside, but within the breakwater as calm as a mill pond.

Rescue Home.

The following persons have made donations to the Home: Mr. Lewis, apples; Mrs. J. Jones, Mrs. Heart, Mrs. McNaughton, Mr. Andeen, fruit; Mrs. McMillan, Mrs. M. Humber, Methodist Sunday School, vegetables; Mrs. G. Eliza, Mrs. Rudlin, Baptist Reunion, Mrs. D. Spencer, Presbyterian ladies.

Christ Church Cathedral.

Funds for the erection of the new cathedral continue to pour in in gratifying sums, and already the subscriptions are said to amount to between $30,000 and $40,000, which includes one donation of $1,000 cash from one prominent lady resident in Victoria, who, while not a member of the church herself, believes in doing all she can to help along the city. Members of the church hope to be able have the corner stone laid some time about Easter Monday.

Jubilee Hospital Notes.

The new hospital gates are now completed, and add very materially to the appearance of the grounds of the institution.

Miss Hardy, one of the most valuable nurses of the hospital staff, has gone to California on a two months' holiday with her father.

A plan of the route and full information regarding the extension of the hospital drains to the sea will be laid before the board on Monday next.

New Scalers.

It is understood that the model of the schooner W. P. Sayward has been adopted by the owners of the new craft soon to be built on Turpel's ways. The new boat will, however, be about 10 feet longer than the Sayward. Mr. A. Bechtel is said to have purchased the schooner San Diego, which will, in the future, as in the past, fly the American flag. Magneson & Earle are mentioned as the present owners of the California schooner, Sylvia Hardy, another addition to the Victoria fleet.

Change of Management.

Mr. E. W. Matthews, manager of the Dun, Wiman Mercantile agency here, received a letter from headquarters yesterday, advising him of his promotion to the management of the Winnipeg office, of which he will take charge about the end of January. His successor as manager of the Victoria agency, for a time at least, will be Mr. C. J. Jones. Mr. Matthews will leave behind him in Victoria many friends, personal as well as business, who, however, unite in wishing him continued prosperity in his new and enlarged field of labor.

Wellington Notes.

They have established, under the most promising auspices, a literary and debating club at Wellington with Mr. A. Sharp, of the Wellington collieries, as president. The Library Association has been reorganized, and it is intended to reorganize the Good Templars' lodge. There has, of late, been a large influx of practical miners, and the output of coal exceeds the most sanguine expectations. In the words of a correspondent of the Nanaimo Free Press, "peace, happiness and prosperity brood over the camp, and all who desire can find remunerative employment."

Temperance and Reform Council.

A private meeting of the recently organized temperance and reform council was held in the Y.M.C.A. hall, last evening, the session lasting until a late hour. It is understood that certain details of church revival or special services were first disposed of, and the deputation was then formed to wait upon the City Council on Wednesday next, the summary of matters to be presented to the aldermanic board being also decided on. The association has not, as rumored, prepared a ticket to contest the coming municipal election.

An Unpleasant Mistake.

A wandering dentist was holding forth to an interested audience at the Government street end of Trounce avenue, last night, when one of the crowd presented a tough-looking grinder to be operated on. The pinchers were applied, and out came a tooth—not the tooth, however, but one of the best in the patient's head. Not caring to loose the ivory, the victim proceeded to make it lively for the "doctor," to the intense satisfaction of the onlookers, and the knight of the forceps finally took to his heels, and when last seen was travelling at a rapid pace towards Nanaimo.

The Pitt Meadows.

On Thursday morning, the Pitt Meadow Syndicate held a conference with some of the owners of land between the Pitt meadows and the Fraser river, to make arrangements with them for joint action in the scheme to dyke the low-lying lands along the Pitt river. Mr. Pyke, a gentleman from the East, who has had vast experience in dyking, was also present. It is expected that a satisfactory arrangement with all parties will be made, and this work, which means the reclamation of a large tract of those fertile lands, be soon begun and carried through to completion. This would involve the expenditure of about $300,000.—*Vancouver World.*

From Kootenay Lake.

Mr. G. B. Wright arrived from Kootenay Lake by steamer City of Kingston, Thursday evening. Mr. Wright is one of the commissioners for amending the mining laws of the province. He reports everything as looking very bright for the mining camps on Kootenay Lake. Preparations are being made for shipping ore early in the spring. Dr. Campbell is building on the banks of the lake an ore house to hold 3,000 tons, which amount he expects to transport down the mountain from the United and No. 1 mines, and have ready for early navigation on the Columbia in the spring. Wheeler & McCune have the machinery ready to operate on the Sky Line, and have contracted for the extension of their shaft two hundred feet deeper than it is at present. The Fourth will continue operations during the winter. The "Tender Foot" and "Old Timer" have, both of them, excellent veins of iron and native silver ore, and will be worked energetically. Ainsworth is being built up quite extensively, and is preparing for a boom in the spring.

City Police Courts.

Robert Davidson was in this court yesterday morning, charged with vagrancy. He was found guilty and given until the 14th to get out of town. A boy 10 years of age was next called forward to answer the charge of shooting cats on the street. Although he was found guilty, the case was dismissed on his promising not to break the law again by so doing.

Civic Politics.

Mr. A. J. McLellan will be a candidate for election as alderman in Johnson street ward.

Several candidates for the mayoralty, besides Mr. Grant, are spoken of.

Dr. Milne, Capt. John Irving, and Mr. John Coughlan are spoken of as possible candidates for municipal honors. Ald. Harrison will not come out again.

The Sealers' Case.

Mr. A. L. Belyea, last night, received a telegram from the Minister of Justice, informing him that the appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States, from the judgment of the Alaska court, condemning the seized schooner W. P. Sayward, was shortly coming up for hearing at Washington. The deputy Minister of Justice leaves Ottawa, for Washington, this morning.

Work at the Foundries.

In conversation with a well-known foundry-man yesterday, it was ascertained that the different works were at present fairly well employed, and that a number of jobs were in sight which would employ a large number of men for the winter. Extensive repairs were to be carried out in the fishery fleet and upon some of the steamboats, while several new vessels, as has already been indicated, are to be built.

"It Was the First."

The claim is made on the part of the evening paper that "it was the first" to draw public attention to the ghoulish custom of exhuming the bones of the dead, and shipping them to China as well as storing those bones in jars on the house-tops. Long before the other paper was dreamed of THE COLONIST loudly condemned these practices; but, of late, for want of something new upon which to specialize, forgetful of the records of its contributors of the staff of that journal have busied themselves in re-roasting old chestnuts, claiming that they had the patent for the original process.

Chinese Fight.

Last night, soon after eight o'clock, Sergeant Walker and Constable McDonald brought in Lum Hip, a Chinaman, upon the charge of maliciously and grievously assaulting Lee Ping, a Chinese actor. The prisoner, it is said, had belonged to a Chinese theatrical company, which had been superseded by the one to which Lum Hip was attached. The members of the latter tried to break up their rivals and resorted to *argumenta ad hominem* to accomplish their objects. In consequence they beat Lee Ping about the head, inflicting severe scalp wounds, which were dressed by a medical man, after which the injured man was removed to his home.

G. C. B. S. and Loan Association.

Yesterday a meeting of the Queen City Building, Savings and Loan Association was held at the office of Messrs. Flint & Williams, Fort street, when a report of the president in place of the late Mr. James Fell. After the reading and adoption of the minutes of the last meeting, a resolution of regret at the removal by death of the late president was unanimously passed, with his family in their severe affliction was adopted and a copy ordered to be transmitted to the relatives. Vice-President Ald. Holland was unanimously elected president, Mr. Charles Kent being appointed to succeed him as second officer. The business of filling the vacancy on the board of directors was deferred till the next meeting.

Want a Location.

There are at present at the Immigration house, Dallas road, a family of a man, his wife and six or seven children, who have arrived here from California, accompanied by a cow, a calf and a quantity of fowls, the idea being to establish "a chicken ranch," provided a suitable location can be found. The head of the family has, for some days, been on the look-out for a place on which to settle, but meantime has not been successful, because, as he says, those who are willing to sell their land want too much for it, and much that might readily be had is not available, because of distance or ineligibility of situation. Possibly some of those who happen to have lands to negotiate may deem it worth their while to communicate with the parties of the first part.

JOHNSON STREET WARD.

Meeting of Residents and Property-Owners at Spring Ridge—A Candidate Chosen.

Last night, a large meeting of residents and property-owners was held at the schoolhouse at Spring Ridge. Those present having been called to order by Mr. J. Phillips, Mr. W. A. Robertson was called upon to preside. The proceedings were of the most interesting and enthusiastic character, while the interested parties were well represented.

After a brief speech from the chairman, Alderman Holland reviewed his connection with the city, both as a citizen and as representative of the ward in the city council. He dwelt upon a variety of public questions, and was heartily cheered, his conduct being thoroughly endorsed.

He was followed by Mr. George Fairbrother, who complimented Ald. Holland upon the service he had rendered, and expressed the hope and conviction that he would continue his representative connection. Mr. Fairbrother also discussed and denounced the course which had been pursued by Hon. Amor DeCosmos, in keeping the city in constant litigation, at considerable expense. He also dwelt upon his political career, which he mercilessly condemned. Mr. DeCosmos, who was present, failed to make any statement in reply or rebuttal, though invited to do so.

Messrs. Peter Wilson, W. Marchant, J. A. Fullerton, Wm. Snider, J. Phillips and others also spoke.

Messrs. Phillips and Snider were both nominated as candidates to represent Spring Ridge section of Johnson street ward; but upon the ballot being passed, Mr. Snider obtained a majority of the votes, and after he been declared as the chosen candidate, responded in a rousing speech, in which he accepted the nomination.

Meetings will shortly be held on the Work Estate and at Rock Bay, so as to give the residents an opportunity of choosing their men.

S. A. Perkins, of Tacoma, arrived on the Kingston, last night, and leaves this evening for home, after a short visit to his friends in the Queen City.

From THE DAILY COLONIST, December 14.

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

Amateur Drama.

The Victoria Amateur Thespian Society, under the direction of Mr. Adderly, will present Queen's Evidence in Nanaimo tomorrow evening, for the benefit of the Band Stand fund. The drama will also be produced in Victoria early in January. Mr. Adderly has been engaged to coach the amateurs of Olympia, in the comic opera "Mikado."

Asleep on the Track.

The 6 o'clock car to Esquimalt yesterday morning disturbed a sleeping panther in the neighborhood of Mr. C. E. Pooley's residence, lying across one of the rails. The animal did not wait for electrocution, but as the car approached, departed over the fence. The motorneer described the brute as "a great big beauty."

Prominent Visitors.

Among the large number of passengers who came over by the Olympian last evening, and are spending to-day in the city was a prominent party of Americans accompanied by or accompanying Hon. J. W. Fairbanks. In the party are Mr. and Mrs. Russell and children, Mrs. Drashler and Mr. Arter, all from Cleveland, Ohio, and Mrs. B. B. Weston, from California.

"The Five Sisters' Block."

It is understood that Mr. T. C. Sorby, architect, has completed, or about completed, the plans for the new five-story block, for the heirs of the Douglas estate, to occupy the corner of Government and Fort streets. Tenders will probably be called for early in January, and construction commence in March. The estimated cost of the new block is $150,000.

Victoria Talent Abroad.

During the year that is just closing, Mr. T. C. Sorby, of this city has been called upon to furnish plans for a number of important public and private buildings in the cities of Washington, and the towns of the Province. Among these may be mentioned the bank of British Columbia and the new County court at Vancouver, together costing $100,000, and the new Revelstoke hotel, $15,000.

The Caffires in California.

A telegram was received, yesterday, from Chief Tompkins, of San Francisco, stating that the two Caffire boys were at present destitute in Oakland, and that the police there would await orders as to their disposition. No reply has yet been made, nid the police here are mentally enquiring, "Where will they turn up next?"

Mr. Fell's Will.

Inquiry having been made as to the character of the will of the late James Fell, it was explained, that there were no bequests to public institutions, he having always favored ante-mortem instead of post-obit benefactions which are often so productive of misunderstandings, not to mention litigations. Of many of our public institutions Mr. Fell was a generous supporter, while his daily life was characterized by numerous bountiful ministrations to the personal wants of his suffering fellow men.

Some Quick Work.

Probably the quickest job in glazing ever done in Victoria was accomplished, yesterday, at the new Turner block, by Mr. J. W. Mellor, of 65 Fort street. Mr. Coolican advertised his great auction sale of the Allen stock of jewellery and silverware for Monday at 2 p.m. At noon, yesterday, a carload of goods were delivered at the new store, which, up to that hour, had no windows in. Mr. Mellor put his staff to work, and by 6 o'clock five large sheets of plate glass, each 66x125, were in position, as well as four smaller sheets on the doors. How is that for an afternoon's work? Mellor is a hustler.

Semi-Annual School Examination.

The semi-annual examinations of the public schools will be held next week, as follows:—

Jame Bay Ward School—Tuesday afternoon.

Hillside Ward School—Wednesday forenoon.

Girls' Public School—Wednesday.

Rock Bay Ward School—Thursday forenoon.

Boys' Public School—Thursday.

Spring Ridge Ward School—Friday forenoon.

High School—Friday.

Looking for Wharfage.

It was currently reported, yesterday, although no definite information could be obtained on the subject, that the Union Pacific railway company have completed the purchase of several water front lots, not far from Laurel Point, with a view to erecting their own wharves and warehouses thereon. Whether this be true or not, it is known that Capt. D. B. Jackson, general manager of the opposition line, the Puget Sound and Alaska Steamship Co., has secured two fine lots in the locality referred to, which can be utilized for wharves in the event of any necessity arising.

The Steel-Head Salmon.

A dispatch from Portland says a large number of fishermen are securing outfits to engage in fishing for steel-head salmon, which come up the river in the winter. These fish have not yet arrived in large numbers, but as soon as the rains raise the rivers they will appear. Steel-heads used to be thought little of, but are now in great favor for shipping east. They bring six cents a pound in Portland, and bring more in New York than chinook, which sold at Portland this season for three cents. The fact that steel-heads come when no other salmon can be had makes them much sought after, and fishermen look for a profitable catch this winter.

Before Edwin Johnson, S. M.

In the city police court, yesterday morning, D. L. McArthur paid $5 for violating the Public Morals by-law by getting drunk. Alex. McKinney followed in the same beaten path, and a woman of the street was dealt with in the same manner for the same offence. George Winters was charged with assault, the complainant being a man named Bishop, from whom defendant had purchased a quantity of apples, over which a dispute had arisen. The case will come up again, to-morrow, when the much-talked-of apples will be produced in court. Lee Hop, last on the list, was charged with striking and wounding one Lee Ping. The case was adjourned until Tuesday morning, by request of the counsel for the Crown, the principal witness being "on the ways for repairs."

Mrs. O'Shea's Fortune.

In a recent issue of the COLONIST reference was made in the dispatches to an arrangement by which Mrs. O'Shea, of Parnell fame, was to come into possession of some £100,000 odd, out of the Wood estate. Mrs. O'Shea is the sister of General Sir Evelyn Wood of Egyptian fame, their father having been the Rev. Sir J. Page Wood, Bart. The fortunes of the Wood family are said to have been derived from an old miser who lived in Gloucester, England. His son was the celebrated alderman, who afterwards became Lord Mayor of London, and took part with Lord Brougham in the defense of the injured Queen Caroline against her husband, George IV. His son was Vice Chancellor Page Wood, the immediate ancestor of Sir Evelyn, and his sister, now so prominently before the public.

A Powerful Fire-boat.

The new fire-boat Snoqualmie, just completed at Seattle, has been tested, and proved more successful than even her designers anticipated. A line of hose was stretched up Washington street nearly to Commercial, and a dozen other lines from the outer end of the wharf, where the boat was moored, up halfway to Railroad avenue. When the water was first turned on little pressure was used, but it was gradually increased to nearly 200 pounds, when four lines of the hose gave way in pieces. At one time eight 2½-inch streams were thrown a distance of at least 150 feet from the nozzles, and, had it been practicable to use higher pressure, even more remarkable results would have been shown. There are two seven-inch pipes which will be worked from the top of the pilot house by means of swivel nozzles. With all these in operation the Snoqualmie can discharge over 2,000 gallons of water a minute. When it is remembered that the largest land engines are only equal to 900 gallons a minute, some idea of the capabilities of the fire-boat can be obtained. She can easily do the work of more effectively—of a dozen land engines.

The Foreign Article.

The commissioners in a few days will open the tenders for sewerage. It is hoped that a local firm, all things being equal, will secure the contract, thus keeping our money with us. It is a mistake to permit everything to go across the water. This is also true of the sewerage pipe. The local pottery company claim that they are now putting in machinery that will enable them to turn out a first-class sewerage pipe. If this proves to be the case, even if their price should be a little higher than the foreign article, it would repay the city to give them the work, thus enabling the establishment of the industry on a large scale. This sending money abroad for goods that can be manufactured here equally as good, is a great error. The council have passed laws to protect certain portions of trade from being monopolized by cheap eastern labor, and if the pottery company really furnish a good article by all means encourage them, by giving them the order. Private firms have work done in this city, which can be secured 10 per cent. cheaper in the East, in order to encourage home manufactures. The city as a whole should be at least as patriotic as a private individual or company.

BROUGHT TO A CLOSE.

Closing Scenes in Connection with the Bazaar in Philharmonic Hall.

In the history of church festivals, the St. John's bazaar of 1890, which was brought to a close last night, will long be remembered as a profitable and pleasurable event. Upwards of $1,000, over and above all expenses, was realized during the three full days,—a very substantial contribution toward the purchase price of the new organ. Apparently believing in the truth of the old adage, "Better late than never," Ellison's toy wonder, the phonographic doll, put in an appearance yesterday, and recited "Twinkle, twinkle, little Star," to the satisfaction of all present. Almost every article offered for sale found a purchaser during either afternoon, and although tired with the hard work they had done, the ladies of the church have reason to feel satisfied with the substantial results of the bazaar.

The Bermuda Cable.

THE Bermuda cable now complete, could carry no truer tidings than that Burdock Blood Bitters excels all other remedies in curing diseases of the stomach, liver, bowels and blood. Known everywhere as the perfect blood purifier, curing even the worst cases when all else fails.

For several days Muirhead & Mann's machinery has been shut down for repairs, only the bench workers having been employed. To-morrow, operations will be carried on as usual, there being numerous orders on hand.

WAS IT SUICIDE?

Strange Circumstances Connected With the Chinese Tragedy of Thursday Morning.

When mention was made of the strange circumstances connected with the death of a Chinaman employed in the kitchen of Rt. Rev. Bishop Cridge, in Friday's issue, it was not thought that the case was anything more than a particularly barbarous suicide. Later particulars, however, tend to cast a doubt upon this theory, and the results arrived at by the coroner's jury, which sits again, to-morrow afternoon, will be looked for with interest. Chinese friends of the deceased have come forward to deny that the dead man would be one at all likely to even attempt his own life, and a credible physician is quoted as saying that, having examined the wounds himself, he is certain that they could not have been self-inflicted. It is further stated, that the Chinaman, before his death, disclaimed that he was his own murderer, though he was too far gone to give any account of how his injuries had been received. His friends assert that murder has been done, and that they will supply the funds to track the guilty parties and bring them to justice.