FROM THE DAILY COLONIST, Dec. 21.

STROEBEL CONFESSES

That It Was He Who Fired the Fatal Shots Killing John Marshall.

The Two Quarrelled About Lizzie Bartlett—Counsel for Defence Deceived.

Albert Stroebel, the convicted murderer of John Marshall of Sumas Prairie, yesterday confessed himself guilty of firing the fatal shots which a chain of conclusive circumstantial evidence had fastened upon him. The truth was first told to Lizzie Bartlett, the doomed man's sweetheart, during a morning visit to his cell. Later in the day Stroebel sent for Mr. Morrison, who had conducted his defence, and to whom he repeated the story.

When a COLONIST representative afterwards called at the jail he found Stroebel "not quite ready to talk," as he expressed it. He had, he said, laid all the facts before his lawyer, and Mr. Morrison had promised to think the matter over and see if an opportunity could be secured for him to make his confession to the judge before whom he had been tried.

It was suggested that the time for this had in all probability passed, and that it would have been better to have told the truth before.

"I guess it don't much matter," was Stroebel's rejoinder. "I know that I didn't murder him if I did kill him. I shot him in self-defence."

Then in fragmentary sentences he proceeded to give the headings of the story he had told to Lizzie Bartlett and subsequently to Mr. Morrison:

"I don't want to go over it all now," he explained. "I want to tell it in court, and if I don't get a chance to do that, why, if you can come up here to-morrow I'll give you the whole thing. They were all 'off' about robbery; money had nothing to do in the matter. Old Marshall threatened to kill me and tried to do it, and I shot him to save myself.

"The trouble started at the supper table about Lizzie Bartlett. He wanted to marry her, he said, and when I told him we were engaged he got furious and threatened to kill me. There was a little axe there and he made to strike me with it. The axe, when I dodged it, struck the side of the door, and when he went to come at me again I shot him. We weren't more than from here to there" (pointing to the wall some four feet away) "apart.

"Marshall was a man of very savage temper; he was a 'Portugee'. I was friends with him at the time but we had had trouble before and I knew what a temper he had. Of course I was a fool not to tell the truth about it, and to have misled my lawyers. It wasn't by their advice that I took the course I did. The first they knew about the facts was this afternoon. I didn't breathe a word to a living soul till to-day."

When Lizzie Bartlett returned to her hotel after her first visit to Stroebel yesterday, she gave an outline of what he had told her. This was that he had had a quarrel with Marshall "over her" and Marshall threatened to kill him, whereupon he had fired the fatal shots. She had not, she said, believed at any time that Stroebel did the deed and the confession from his own lips came as a horrible surprise.

Officer Moresby was spoken to last evening in regard to Stroebel's last statement, and asked if he had noticed any marks on the side of the door such as might have been made by an axe blow. He said that he had not, and that he was sure no such mark had an existence. As to the axe, if there had been one it would have been found—and it was not. On this point, Mr. Morrison says that Stroebel told him yesterday he had, without thinking what he was doing, hidden the axe under the wood pile.

Stroebel's coolness has not yet deserted him. He conversed calmly yesterday, discussing his fate with apparent unconcern, and manifested no emotion when, after a long conversation, he bade Lizzie Bartlett good-bye last evening. She stated yesterday, that but for the murder they would have been married within two weeks of the fatal night.

THE ARION CLUB'S CONCERT.

Artistic and finished excellence is probably the term which should be applied to the second season of the Arion Club; and it was given under the most favorable circumstances possible (excepting the weather, perhaps). The audience was large, keenly appreciative, if a trifle critical, and full of magnetism and receptiveness. It was possibly the best composed audience that has been got together in Victoria for some time, so that there was every inducement presented to the singers to acquit themselves to the best advantage. The programme itself was a model of tasteful selection, ranging over a wide field and giving pleasure to all. It was more interspersed with solos than on former occasions, which gave the public a better idea of both the individual and collective strength of the club. In this connection it may be said that Mr. Booth appeared to advantage in a convivial song (in Latin), rather solemn at times, but bringing out many pleasant little effects in part singing. Madame Laird's sympathetic voice was heard in a couple of solos, and she each time responded to a well-deserved recall. After her rendering of "The Daily Question," she gave a sweet little ballad that was admirably suited to her voice. The club passed from a pleasingly sounding work by A. S. Sullivan to the heavier and more serious German music by A. W. Thayer, the transition making an effect very creditable to the singers, who showed, by the able manner in which they handled two so entirely different schools of music, that there has been much conscientious practice going on. The latter piece, "Heinz von Stein," was well rendered, the execution in the closing part of the last verse being faultless.

In the interval a very pleasing ceremony was performed by Mr. Herbert Kent, who, in felicitous terms, presented, on behalf of the club, a Christmas box to the conductor, Mr. Greig, in the shape of a handsome baton. To Mr. Greig, he said, belonged in no small measure the success which has attended the club from its birth. He had been untiring in his zeal for its welfare.

Mr. Greig replied that it was purely a labor of love, and supplemented with a few humorous remarks that set the audience in good humor for the second part of the programme.

This opened with a selection from Abt, "Vineta," an almost religiously choral piece, which met with refined treatment from the club. "Selections from Robin Hood" (De Koven) were by no means the least pleasant item in the dainty bill of fare. Mr. Kent, as "Little John," was in excellent voice, and was very warmly encored. The "Tinkers" won the audience with its fascinating ring and vim. Mr. George Jay was also the recipient of much favor for his execution of the part of the "Armorer." The concert closed with an exquisitely well rendered number, "Strike the Lyre," making another in the chapter of unbroken successes of the Arion Club.

THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS.

The annual Christmas gathering of the First Presbyterian church Sabbath Sunday school was held last evening, when over 300 children sat down to tea in the lecture room. After tea the children and their friends assembled in the auditorium of the church where an excellent programme was carried out. Mr. Meston presided, and Rev. Dr. Campbell presented the prizes which were numerous and good. Messrs. Brown, Graham and Collister acted as judges in awarding prizes for class and solo singing, to which considerable attention is given in the school.

GOLD AT ESQUIMALT.

Application for record was made yesterday for a gold claim in No. 2 section, Esquimalt district. The claim is described by the parties interested as on the harbor front, on Imperial Government property, and very close to the town. The locator is John Sandercock, shoemaker, of 43 Quadra street, who has two or three other Victorians interested with him in the discovery, all sharing the opinion that their claim will prove one of the greatest finds British Columbia has ever known.

The circumstances of the discovery, which was made last summer, are for the present withheld. One of the syndicate said last evening that he was confident that there is "millions in it."

"The lode," he continued, "contains gold, silver and copper in quantity; there's nothing to beat it in the Province, unless perhaps the Silver King. That is what the assay shows."

No development work has yet been done, of course, but a company is now in formation to proceed on an extensive scale. The ledge can be comparatively easily worked, being very accessible and near the surface. Mr. Sandercock, who stumbled upon the supposed fortune, is not a mining man himself, but has been among mines and miners the greater part of his life and knows a good thing when he sees it.

THE CITY.

IN the Hotel Victoria billiard tournament last evening Mr. E. Pauline (250) beat Mr. Allen (238), the game being a good one. To-night Mr. Francis plays Mr. Knight, each receiving 100.

GEORGE STEPHENS, Andrew McIntosh and William Griffith, the three water thieves run down on Tuesday by Officer McNeill, have offered to waive the formalities of extradition, and will be handed over to the American authorities to-day.

S. WHITTAKER has just mounted one of the largest panthers ever shot in the neighborhood of Victoria. The animal was killed a few weeks ago at Goldstream by a young Englishman, and is a trophy of which the owner may well be proud. It is on exhibition at Whittaker's barber shop for a few days.

ABOUT ten days ago a little girl's bicycle was stolen from the premises of Geo. L. Simpson on Douglas street. The matter being reported to the city police, Sergt. Hawton ascertained that a boy had found a bicycle hidden under the sidewalk on Pandora street, and further investigation showed this to be the missing machine. It was returned to Mr. Simpson yesterday. It is thought likely that it was stolen by a lad now in gaol.

ALREADY steps are being taken to put the new athletic and lacrosse grounds at the corner of Cook street and Queen's avenue in shape for the opening of the spring season. Tenders are called for, to be sent in to Mr George A. Morphy not later than Saturday, for the grading, levelling, sowing grass seed, rolling and clearing the grounds. There is no doubt that when the many improvements contemplated are carried out the grounds will be splendidly fitted for the purpose for which they were secured.

CAPT. J. G. COX arrived back last night after his trip to London in the interest of the Canadian sealing business. He states that he found the London market in a pretty bad condition, owing to the recent general panic in financial circles. He talked the business over fully with the firms controlling the market in London, and though on the whole he found the outlook somewhat discouraging, at the same time he got sufficient encouragement to be able to say that the whole fleet might go out the coming season.

THE formal opening of the Merchant's Exchange club took place yesterday when luncheon was served to upwards of a hundred members and as many guests, Steward Virtue and his assistants looking well to the comforts of those who surrounded the tables. The bulletin board in the exchange room proved as great an attraction as was anticipated. This will contain passenger and consignee lists, information as to when the Mainland steamer left for Victoria and whether connecting with the train or not, shipping news and general information for the business world.

THE regular meeting of the Christ Church Cathedral branch of the Canadian Church union was held at the Cathedral school on Tuesday evening, Mr. E. H. Marshall, vice president, in the chair. There was a fair attendance including Bishop Perrin and Revs. Canon Beanlands, Hewetson, Arden and Lipscombe. The office was read by Canon Beanlands. The charter of the union, which has just arrived from the East, was passed round for inspection. A committee consisting of Rev. Mr. Scholefield, Mr. A. H. Ridgman and Mr. Scroggs was elected to assist the present officers. Rev. Mr. Scholefield read an able and interesting address on the "History of the Book of Common Prayer," tracing its origin to the Gallican Use which St. Augustine found the British Christians using when he landed in England, A. D. 597. The Bishop made some interesting remarks at the close and several names were added to the list of members.

CHICAGO, Dec. 16.—Samuel G. Rogers was elected president of the American Federation of Labor to-night over John McBride, president of the United Mine Workers of America, by a vote of 1,334 to 1,222.

OUR FAMILY PHYSICIAN.

DEAR SIRS,—I was troubled with eczema (salt rheum) for about two years, but I did not bother with it until it began to itch and spread over my hand. I then took four bottles of B.B.B., which completely drove it away. It was by my son's advice I took B.B.B., as B.B.B. is our family physician.

J. S. MILLS, Collingwood, Ont.

THE "MAUD S." CASE.

The Full Judgment of the British Court at Yokohama.

No Reason to Disbelieve the Explanation Given by Captain McKiel.

In the British court at Yokobama on the 4th instant, Judge Mowat, sitting as a judge in Admiralty, rendered the following written decision in the case of the sealing schooner Maud S., of this port. The case is the first on record taken under the "Seal Fishery (North Pacific) Order-in-Council of 1893," and therefore possesses peculiar interest. As already intimated by cable the judgment was in favor of the schooner:

"The suit is one of forfeiture instituted by Her Majesty's consul at this port against the British schooner Maud S. in respect of an alleged breach of the provisions of 'The Seal Fishery (North Pacific) Act, 1893,' and of 'The Seal Fishery (North Pacific) Order-in-Council, 1893'—under the combined provisions of which enactments the killing or hunting of seals within a zone of thirty miles round the Komandorski Islands, (amongst other specified districts) is prohibited between the 4th of July, 1893, and the 1st of January, 1894. There is also a counter-claim for damage by the defendant, the master and owner of the schooner.

"At the close of the case I had no doubt as to either of the matters in issue, but I thought it desirable under all the circumstances, and more especially as this was the first case brought under the Act and Order-in-Council, to put my judgment into writing.

"The Maud S., which left Yokohama in April last on a sealing cruise, was seized by His Imperial Russian Majesty's dispatch boat Yakout at 5 a.m. on the 29th August, at a distance of twenty-two miles from the southern point of Copper Island, one of the Komandorski group; and of the fifty-seven sealskins then found on board, two are described in the Russian protocol of seizure as being 'perfectly fresh and still wet.' It has thus, under the 6th sub-section 1 of the Act, become incumbent on the master to prove that his vessel was not, as a fact, at the time and place in question 'used or employed in contravention of the Act.' His own evidence and that of the crew have left no doubt whatever on my mind that the two seals were killed, one late in the forenoon and the other early in the afternoon, of the day previous; and I have further come to the conclusion, on the evidence mainly of the master and his chief officer, that the seals were not killed within the prohibited zone. The evidence of both these witnesses—and I see no reason at all to disbelieve it—is that their vessel was at noon in Lat. 53° 24' N., and that the E.N.E. course set at 12:30 brought her at 4 p.m. into Lat. 53° 35' N., that is to say, when the seals were caught she could not have been within fifty miles of the island. Indeed, counsel for the Crown practically abandoned this part of the case. He urged, however, that the ship, being indisputably within the prohibited zone when seized on the morning of the 29th, must be considered to have been then in pursuit of seals. Now, the master ascribes the fact of his being within the zone at all to an error in his chronometer, by which he was misled as to his true position, and denies hunting for seals while there. Nor is his evidence on these points an after-thought, for at the time of the seizure he appended to the protocol a memorandum as follows: 'I, Robert McKiel, do hereby declare that my vessel being inside of Thirty Mile Zone of Commander island is caused by my chronometer being in error, and in going from the southern waters to hunting ground north of the Island, I got inside the limit when I thought I was at least fifteen miles to the eastward of my position, and the two fresh skins were taken yesterday when my vessel was forty miles to the southward of her present position, and I also declare that my boats have not left the vessel, nor has there been a seal taken since I have been inside of the above-described zone, and on above grounds I protest against confiscation.'

"It appears that having been advised a few days before by a brother captain to try the sealing ground to the north of the Island, he had started on his way thither on the morning of the 28th, the day on which he caught the two seals. At 7 p.m. on that day he made his position long. 168 deg. 5 min. E. and lat. 53 deg. 42 min. N., and he then set a N.E. by N. course. This course would have carried him clear of the zone had the longitude been correct, but owing to his chronometer placing him 15 miles farther to the E. than he really was the course set brought him, in the early morning of the 20th, inside the zone instead of to the E. of it. If that is an honest account of the matter, I doubt whether actually sealing under the circumstances, i.e., under a bona fide mistake as to his real position, could be properly considered as a contravention of the statute; it certainly would be very harsh, if a sound construction of the Act. But his evidence goes on to establish that immediately on land being reported, which was shortly after 4 o'clock, he altered his course to N.E., and a moment later, after consulting the chart, to E. by N., with the view of getting away from the land as quickly as possible, not, however, because he thought himself inside the zone, but because he was nearer the land than he cared to be. Half an hour after this, he says, and while still standing away from the island, he sighted the vessel that turned out to be the Yakout.

"Now in all this, there is nothing in the slightest degree improbable, nor, as will appear, is it any way inconsistent with the statements in the Russian documents—on which alone in consequence of the seizors not having thought fit to produce witnesses, the case for the Crown rests. If, then, I believe the master's account of the matter, he will have discharged the presumption which arises against the ship under the Act from the mere presence within the prohibited zone with sealskins on board, and there will then be an end of the case for the Crown. Against the master's version there is, besides the protocol already referred to, one other document—the decision upon the master's protest of the commission of Russian officers, but that does not really carry the case against the ship any farther than the statements in the protocol do. The grounds upon which 'the decision' is based are thus stated:—'Considering that when the schooner Maud S. was sighted from the despatch-boat she was going in the direction from the southern point of Copper Island to the sea, on a day when the weather being perfectly clear it was possible in consequence of the distinct visibility of the shores, to take the bearings, and also that there was nothing to bear out the master's declaration (as, on inspection of the schooner, no official log-book was to be found), and, finally that on said inspection some fresh sealskins were found and the traces of blood had not yet dried.' Now, as to the first ground—viz., that the Maud S. when sighted was standing out to sea—that is obviously what an innocent master would do when he discovered that he had got too near the land. No doubt a master who had knowingly gone inside the zone to hunt seals would equally have altered his course seawards if he saw a cruiser approaching, and the Yakout was fairly entitled, under the circumstances as observed by her, to assume that such was the case with the Maud S. But the schooner's presence within the zone being susceptible of two explanations, one of them consistent with innocence, the question of guilt or innocence manifestly cannot be determined by that one circumstance alone. As to the error in the chronometer, it appears that chronometers of this class of vessels are frequently more or less incorrect. In the Parliamentary Paper 'Russia, No. 3 (1893),' which was referred to for another purpose in the case, I find, in the report of the Special (Russian) Commission appointed to inquire into the circumstances attending the seizure last year of several British sealers in the vicinity of Copper Island, that the chronometer of the Marie, one of the vessels in question, had, curiously, the same amount of error as in this case.

"The second ground of the decision is that as no official logbook was found there was nothing to bear out the master's declaration. It would appear from the evidence that it was probably the absence of an official logbook which really led to the vessel being ordered to Yokohama, and if so, the loss of the logbook—for it seems to have been lost—was a most unfortunate circumstance for the master. But if it had been forthcoming, it would not have contained any entries bearing one way or the other upon the questions of the position or course of the ship or the time when or place where the seals had been caught, for under English law such entries would not appear in an official logbook at all. The absence, then, of the official logbook was a circumstance from which no unfavorable inference as to the facts in issue in the case could properly be drawn, though, I may add, I can quite understand the suspicion which such a circumstance would not unnaturally create in the minds of the Russian officers. Then the last ground assigned is that 'some' (really only two) 'fresh sealskins were found, and the traces of blood had not yet dried.' No evidence has been given in opposition to that of the master as to the time during which sealskins would remain fresh, and I have no difficulty in believing that skins would remain wet and traces of the blood upon them would not dry for the interval which elapsed—fifteen and eighteen hours at the most—between their having been taken from the animals and their being found in the damp hold (used as a salting room, of the ship. Moreover, as I have already observed, counsel for the Crown did not seriously dispute the time when the animals were caught.

"Having thus gone into the question at some length—as under the circumstances I considered it advisable to do—it appears clear that there is no real conflict between the master's statement and the documentary evidence on the other side. As I am further quite satisfied of his truthfulness, and I will add, of his *bona fides* throughout, I pronounce in favor of the ship and dismiss the petition.

"The petition being dismissed there arises the remaining question in the case, the defendant's counter claim for damages. In the pleading he bases the counter claim on unreasonable delay in instituting the proceedings and unreasonably long detention of the vessel, but in argument his case was presented on a broader basis, viz., that there was no reasonable ground for the detention at all.

"I think there is no foundation for the counter-claim. Although the vessel herself arrived in Yokohama on the 25th September, under the provisional certificate given to her by the Russian commander to enable her to proceed thither, her papers with the Russian documents establishing the ground of seizure did not reach the plaintiff till the 4th October, and early in that month he instructed council to take the necessary steps to bring her before the court for adjudication. The petition, it is true, was not served till the 4th November, but it was open to the defendant in the meanwhile, under the second sub-section of Section 2 of the Act, to procure the lease of his ship by giving satisfactory security for her appearance in the event of any legal proceedings being taken; and any delay after the proceedings were instituted (which is all that is left to support the 'unreasonably long detention of the vessel') could have been dealt with on the defendant's application under our Rule of Procedure 63.

"As to the contention that there were no reasonable grounds for any detention of the vessel at all—a contention which, in strictness, is not open to the defendant on his pleading as it stands—I am unable to accede to it. Plaintiff had the order in council from which he learnt both of the prohibition of sealing by British ships at certain places during a certain period, and of the arrangement between Her Majesty and the Emperor of Russia, whereby Russian cruisers were authorized to seize British ships found sealing in contravention of the order in council; he had also the protocol of seizure by a Russian war vessel, setting out facts from which he could reasonably suspect that an offence against the order had been committed, and though, it is true, he was not aware of the actual terms of the act of parliament under which the order-in-council was framed, he had official information of it, and he was entitled to assume that it would prescribe penalties for the offences specified in the order; and he was therefore, in my opinion, fully justified in detaining the ship, as he did.

"In the result, then, both the plaintiff's petition and the defendant's counter-claim are dismissed. Each party will bear his own costs."

There were present in the court when the judgment was delivered Mr. H. C. Litchfield, crown prosecutor, who appeared for the nominal plaintiff—Mr. James Troup, H.B.M.'s consul; Mr. D. McNeill, who appeared for the schooner, defendant; Capt. McKiel, her master; Consul Troup, and Prince Lobanow de Rostow, H.I.R.M.'s vice consul.

THE DAVIS MILLIONS.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—An effort is being made to bring the litigation made over the $10,000,000 left by Andrew J. Davis, of Montana, into the courts of this county, and with that object in view, argument was heard by Surrogate Ransom for the appointment of an administrator in this city to take charge of whatever estate may be found to be in this state. The application was made in behalf of Mrs. Harriett R. Sheffield, a niece of Mr. Davis, who claims that her rights are not protected in the proceedings in the courts of Montana, and as she wants to have her day in court she seeks to have the matter as to the validity of her uncle's will disposed of here.

[It was the brother of A. J. Davis, then in enjoyment of the estate, who died some time back from the effects of a fall in the Driard hotel, Victoria.]

The R. M. S. Warrimoo, sailed from Sydney on the 18th inst., and is due here January 8th.

CLOSE OF THE SCHOOLS.

A Large Attendance of Visitors at the Christmas Closing Exercises.

Addresses to the Children—The Promotion Lists and Prize Winners.

The Christmas closing exercises of the Girls' Central school took place yesterday afternoon, when there was an unusually large gathering of the parents and friends of the children, who, decked out in holiday attire, all assembled in the large examination room upstairs, and went through the following programmes, greatly to the entertainment of the visitors:

JUNIOR CLASSES.

Christmas Carol.....School
Recitation—"The Walrus and the Carpenter".....Fifth and Sixth Divisions
Song—"Child's Good Night".....School
Song—"Daddy would'at buy me a Bow-Wow".....Mable Lyon
Song—"The Snowman".....School
Song—"Counting Lesson".....
.....Seventh and Eighth Divisions
Song—"Slumber Song".....
.....Fifth and Sixth Divisions
Song—"The Burlesque Band".....
.....Seventh and Eighth Divisions
Song—"The Three Little Piggies".....School

SENIOR CLASSES.

Carol.....'Good News He Brings."
Recitation.....'The Owl Critic."
Carol.....'Sweetest Music."
Composition.....'What I Will do."
Carol.....'What do They Say."
Recitation (simultaneous).....'Clear the Way."
Carol.....'Oh! How Sweetly."
Reading.....'In the Children's Hospital."
Song.....'Hard Times."

At intervals during the musical programme, the promotion lists, given below, were read, and after the last song the special prizes generously donated by Trustee Lovell were presented. Speeches were then delivered by Dr. Pope, Superintendent of Education, who presided over the ceremonies; Right Rev. Bishop Perrin, Trustee Marchant, Ven. Archdeacon Scriven, Rev. Canon Beanlands, Trustee Bishop, Trustee Lovell and Rev. G. W. Taylor. The speeches were full of good advice to the children, who listened with great attention. One of the most interesting features of the entertainment programme was the essay, "What I'll do when I'm a woman," read by Rosemary Reid, a bright pupil of Mrs. Caldwell in the second division, whose composition speaks well for the instruction she has received, and does her credit for the liberal sentiments expressed in it. The promotion lists were as follows, the names being given in order of merit:

SECOND DIVISION.

Mrs. Caldwell, Teacher.

Christina Macdonald, Annie Fraser, Rosemary Reid, Mary McCrimmon, Carrie Sutherland, Ina MacFadden, Lulu Shmitt, Ada Macdonald, Marion Hornsby, Bertha Muirhead, Mildred Williams, Nellie Lowrey, Ella Whitelaw, Flora Baker, Bessie Lovel, Genevieve Grant, Cassandra Morison, Maud Lettice, Jennie Kirkpatrick, Ada Sims, Mary Stamford, Agnes Johnston, Edna Meredith.

THIRD DIVISION.

Miss Barron, Teacher.

To Second Division—Annie Winsby, Elsie Cartmel, Flora Rolfe, Florence Creedon and Olive Chambers (equal), Emma Johnston, Ethel Coles, Dorothy Berridge, Amy Beam, Irene Ure, Pauline Mansell, Elizabeth Duncan, Jessie Brown, Annie Morrison, Letitia Beam, Florence Whittaker, Margaret Johnston and Jessie Stamford (equal), Isabel Cartmell, Edna McQuarrie, Mary Steward and Violet Hardie (equal), Agnes Morris, Lillian Hobbis, Victoria Penketh, Lena Robertson, Hermina Wilson, Edith Parr, Kate Logan, Olive Sowden, Amy Wolfe, Evelyn McFarlane, Euphemia Cole.

FOURTH DIVISION.

Miss Keast, Teacher.

To Third Division—Catherine Chapman, Jenny Lory, Beatrice Cook, Florence Hardie, Viva Babington, Alice Futcher, Gertrude McFarlane, Maud Anderson, Mabel Davey, Winnifred Cowley, Lily Cohen, Agnes Anderson, Edith Noble; Agnes Hanson and Amelia Barker, equal; Gladys Cameron, Nellie Pontier, Edith Anderson, Lillie Sherriff, Margaret Hart, Jenny Nichol, Ethel Develin, Isabel Fletcher; Hannah Gonnason and Eva Thoburn, equal; Laura Simms, Agnes Clark, Gertrude Tonin, Elizabeth Strachan, Louise Ray; Sada Rogerson and Miriam Trautier, equal; Grace Ethel Burk, Ethel Sinclair and Alma Buckman.

FIFTH DIVISION.

To Fourth Division—Annie Sparrow, Hermina Wilson, Dorothy Manton, Ruth Cullum, Elizabeth Lost, Lena Sexsmith, Maud Douglas, Lydia Nute, Laura Jackson, Agnes Dier, Isla Tuck, Rachel Sylvester, Gertie Heal, Lily Lyon, Maud Turner, Marie George, Kate Lavender, Eliza Woodill, Annie Dennam, Lilla Guard, Irene Hiscocks, Alice Carter, Emily Jones, Eleanor Denny and Olive Strachan.

SIXTH DIVISION.

Miss S A. Robinson, Teacher.

To Fifth Division—Cora Heal, Katie McCrimmon, Mary Irwin, Alice Cripps, Mona Cleaver, Katie Noble, Sophie Hiscocks, Maude Morrison and Gertrude Shanks, equal; Elizabeth Taylor and Bessie Grant, equal; Ethel Mills, Gertrude Furnival and Nellie Little, equal; Grace Stevenson, Mabel Yates, Gertrude Johnston, Maude Kolp, Annie Wier, Hilda Leiser, Cora Yates and Eva Eckersley, equal; Annie Tait, Amy Law, Lena Chambers and Nellie Kent, equal; Katie Bruna and Annie Morris.

SEVENTH DIVISION.

Miss A. Russell, Teacher.

To Sixth Division—Clara Cripps, Jessie McKilligan, Pearl Clay and Minnie Petit, equal; Laura Elford, Grace Meredith, Dora Marks and Rose Robinson, equal; Mabel McCrimmon and Alice Woods, equal; Annie Levy, Katie Sparrow, Annie McDonald, Maggie Baker, Dora Woodill, Rose Dennan, Sarah Ritchie, Jessie Eglin and Francisca Milliger, equal; Geneva Gillespie and Gladys Shrapnel, equal; Ida Halpenny, Matilda Bossi, Alice Turner and Lizzie Hartnell.

EIGHTH DIVISION.

Miss J. R. Christie, Teacher.

Seventh Division — Viola Hickey, Jessie Leigh, Lillian Lowell, May Brown, Florence Conway, Florence Green, Kathleen Henderson, Florence Bruna, Irene Stricker, Gertrude Curry, Pearl Vigelius, Margaret Harris, Anna Henderson, Edith Burt, Helen Smith, Leanore Carmody, Margaret Bennett, Grace Crosier, Margaret Greer, Lora Norris, Harriet Harris, Nead Eglin, Helen Smith, May Cameron, Edith Cox, Mabel Dales, Christena Webster, Hannah Bowman, Winnifred Cripps and Ida Proctor.

THE PRIZE WINNERS.

Second Division—Christena Macdonald, general proficiency.

Third Division—A. Winsby, general proficiency.

Fourth Division—K. Chapman, general proficiency.

Fifth Division—Annie Sparrow, general proficiency.

Sixth Division—Cora Heal, general proficiency.

Seventh Division—Clara Cripps, general proficiency.

Eighth Division—Viola Hickey, general proficiency.

JAMES BAY SCHOOL.

The closing exercises at the James Bay school were also held yesterday, many parents of the pupils and friends of education attending. The results are appended:

PROMOTIONS.

From Third Reader to Central School—Chas. M. McGuire, Ralph Frank Simon and Robert Peden, equal; George Heaney, Russell Muirhead Burns, Emily Mary Locke, Kate Emily Redfern, Margaret McPherson Lowe, Edith Howitt Bamford, Bessie Lulu Proctor Davis, Elenor Constance Fawcett, Harriet Jane Sabiston, Violet Winnifred Emery, Emma Adeline Campbell, Samuel Wilson Lorimer, Jessie Ethel Prescott, George Henry Morse, Sarah Ellen Spencer, Frances Jane Fraser, Elizabeth Heaney, Alexander Cross Roberts, and Ethel Lydia Winkel.

From Second division to First division—Mary Tait, Katie Bartlett, Guy Semple, Joe Buckham, George McDonell, Bee Cameron, Isabel Dunn, Gordon Jameson, Dorothy Atkinson, Sadie Wolfe, Alice Taylor, Ethel Butler, Walter Laing, John Lawrence, David Kipling, Helen Emery, Muriel Langley, Claude Foot, James Hogg, Maud Stocks, Leonard Newcombe, Kenneth Morrison, Katie Johns, Rex Flewin, and John Tait.

Second Class—Willie Mulcahy, Jessie Fairfield, Dickson McConnell, Nellie Jackson, Andrew Mulcahy, Langdon James, May Winkel, Philip Muriset, Annie Lowe, Willie Ross, Willie Locke, Willie Fraser, Rosie Prescott, Tom Gawley, Clarence Foot, Gilbert Lawrence, Jack Simpson, Willie Gawley, Robert Tait, Hendrika Roskamp, John Norman and Robbie Jamieson.

From Third Division to Second Division—Christina Murray, Ernest Lyall Tait, Elsie Griffin, Alfred Redfern, Ada Spencer, Annie Lorimer, William Chantrell, Archibald Clegg, Lillian Jackson, William Perrin, Pearl Davis, Emily Elizabeth Brookes, James Sabiston, Thomas Peden, Edward Cridge, Annie Maud Brookes, Herman Roskamp, Gordon Bennett, Frank Burns, Herman Atkinson, William Cullin, Amelia Woolcock and Jack Jamieson.

From Second Class to First Class—Frank Fox, Muriel Morry, Jessie McLean, Marguerite Meyer, Marion Thomson, Charles Alder, Clement Finlayson, Dan Miller, Margaret Sinclair, George Fox, John Thompson, Ellen Lambeth, Lizzie Locke, Cora Holm, Rosehannah Goodwin and Victor Gillespie.

From Chart Class to Second Class—James Semple, Henry Stewart, Victor Ireland, Joseph Lawry, Ethel Stocks, Archibald King, Herbert Matthews, Donald McDowell, Jack Newby, Wm. Bartlett, Wm. Danby and Hettie Newcombe.

THE PRIZE WINNERS.

First Division—Charles M. McGuire, proficiency; Ralph F. Simon, second in general proficiency; Robert Peden, arithmetic and geography; Reta Shears and Bertha Cooley, best behaved girls; Kate Redfern, spelling; Lillian Urquhart, head of second class.

Prizes kindly presented by Mrs. W. J. Pendray and Miss Spencer.

Second Division—Dorothy Atkinson, deportment; Mary Tait, general proficiency.

Third Division — Ernest Tait, spelling; Chrissy Murray, general proficiency; M. Miller, deportment; A. King, improvement.

FOR TO-DAY.

Morning—Hillside school.
Afternoon—Boys' Central school.

THE "EMPRESS OF INDIA".

Completes Her Fourteenth Homeward Voyage From China and Japan.

Prospect of Further Trouble in Siam —The Japanese Parliament in Session.

The R.M.S. Empress of India, O. P. Marshall, R.N.R., commanding, arrived from China and Japan early yesterday morning with a full cargo but light passenger list. Sailing from Yokohama on the 8th instant, she made a somewhat slow but pleasant trip, experiencing no ill effects from the terrific gales which now prevail on the Chinese and Japanese coasts, and which have worked sad havoc lately with shipping less able to withstand their violence. Time was lost too in attempting to pick up the lights marking the entrance to the Straits, in the dense fog which prevailed during Monday night and Tuesday morning.

Of the passengers brought by the India the most notable are Lieut.-Colonel and Mrs. Ravenhill who, with Miss Robinson, are travelling home to England, the Colonel having retired from the Governorship of Hongkong. They will spend a few days here before continuing their journey, and are staying at the Dallas in company with their fellow passengers, Lieut. Peltier and Mrs. Morse. The other saloon passengers on the voyage just completed were Mr. J. Berrick, Mr. Date, Mr. Charlton Evans, Miss Johnson and Miss C. Johnson, Mr. J. H. Rosenthal, Mr. A. P. Simpson and Mr. Gustav Wryersberg. Sir Thomas McIlwraith, the ex-Premier of Queensland, who had intended to form one of the Empress' party, is delayed in Kobe by Lady McIlwraith's serious illness; coming up to Japan she contracted a severe cold on the steamer Airlie, which becoming worse forced her to remain in her room constantly from her arrival in Kobe and which now has developed into pneumonia.

The principal item of news contained in the Empress' mail is the following from the China mail of November 27—the last date to hand: "It would appear that the trouble between France and Siam and England is not quite at an end, for we understand that H.B.M.S. Swift, which only arrived on Saturday from Bangkok, is under orders to coal and provision and take in stores with all dispatch and return to Bangkok. H.B.M.S. Severn has also been coaled and provisioned, and has taken on board stores of a warlike nature. She is under orders to be ready to proceed to Bangkok on two hours' notice. H.B.M.S. Archer arrives here from Shanghai to-morrow evening. She will coal at once and proceed to Bangkok. H.B.M.S. Pigmy has received orders to be ready to proceed to sea at 8:30 to-night."

The Imperial Japanese Parliament assembled on November 25, and on the 30th had the pleasure of congratulating the Emperor on the birth of a son, the mother of the latest Imperial prince being Madame Sono Sachiko, the Emperor's eighth wife. The budget speech was delivered in the House of Representatives on the 2nd inst. by M. Watanabe, minister of finance, his statement being introduced by Count Ito, the minister president, who briefly reviewed the policy of the Government and its results during the past year. Special effort had been directed toward the curtailment of administration expenses, and a reorganization of the departments thereby had been rendered necessary. The question of national defence had received careful consideration, and the policy of requiring all Government servants to contribute ten per cent. of their incomes to the defence fund had been found productive of great results. On the whole the affairs of the country had prospered, and the Government, doing as they considered best under circumstances very often adverse, had no reason to be ashamed of the record of the year.

One of the first subjects to demand the consideration of parliament was the Chishima-Ravena collision, which has been made the subject of formal inquiry, with a view to the framing of a law which will prevent the possibility of further accidents of like character. The question of introducing corporal punishment in the schools will also be brought forward during the present session, "strikes" having become of frequent occurrence. The last case of the kind is reported from Sendai, where over 500 students, because they were not allowed two holidays which they demanded for the celebration of some anniversary festival, closed the school for the two days, established a pupils' republic and held the masters prisoners of war.

Hon. Rodolphe Laflamme.

MONTREAL, Dec. 16.—Hon. Mr. Laurier delivered an address before the Club National last night. He paid a high tribute to the work of the late Hon. Mr. Laflamme. The club passed a resolution of regret at the latter's death.

"A snake in the grass" is all the more dangerous from being unsuspected. So are many of the blood medicines offered the public. To avoid all risk, ask your druggist for Ayer's Sarsaparilla, and also for Ayer's Almanac, which is just out for the new year.