

SIDNEY AND ISLANDS REVIEW

Vol. 7. No. 6

SIDNEY, B. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1916

Subscription \$1.00 Per Year In Advance

TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE

SPECIAL TRAIN WILL BE ARRANGED FOR ON JANUARY 25TH.

"Messiah." The rehearsals for this oratorio are taking place regularly every week and both chorus and orchestra are doing excellent work, and this production will without doubt be the greatest musical treat ever offered to a Victoria audience and it will be all the more gratifying to know that the entire production will be given by local artists.

Tickets may be purchased from Mr. J. J. White, who has kindly consented to look after the sale of seats in this district, and he has also offered to arrange for a special car to and from the concert.

Remember it is in aid of the Red Cross Society and will be given in the Royal Victoria Theatre on January 24th and 25th.

THE KHAKI VISITORS.

Among those who paid a short New Year visit to Sidney was Pte Earnie Wallace. Some years ago Earnie was time keeper for the Sidney Island Brick and Tile Company, but is now a member of the 67th Western Scots. Military life seems to agree with him as he looks exceedingly well. Earnie spent the New Year with his sister, Mrs. Courtney, of Sidney Island.

Wallace Courtney, a son of Mr. George Courtney, of Sidney Island, was another week-end visitor. Wallace is now a corporal in the 50 Gordon Highlanders, but intends transferring to an overseas battalion. He spent the holiday with his mother, Mrs. G. L. Courtney.

Pte. C. Stutchbury, of the Ambulance Corps of the 88th, was a visitor in town during New Years, being the guest of Mr. and Mrs. W. Whiting. Sargeant Almond, of the 103rd, spent the New Year as the guest of Mrs. J. H. Williams.

Pte. Jas. Stansby, of the 62nd, spent the New Year's holiday in Sidney the guest of Mr. and Mrs. J. Nelson.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ENTERTAINMENT AT SOUTH SAANICH.

On Thursday evening of last week a very enjoyable entertainment was given in the South Saanich Methodist Church by the children of the Sunday School. The chief part of the programme was the rendering of the cantata "Under the Star." A few of the children from the Sidney school, under the direction of Mr. Marshall, helped the South Saanich children in rendering some of the choruses, a few of the other parts being taken by the Sidney children alone. Recitations were given by Willard Mitchell and Jessie Rodhe, and a recitation by four children, two boys dressed as Boy Scouts, and two girls as Red Cross nurses were well received and drew forth hearty applause. A doll song by six little girls was also well rendered. Some special numbers were given by Mr. Petch, Sr., Miss Violet

Petch and Mr. Robert Petch. Mr. J. Brooks played two violin solos in a splendid manner.

One of the special features of the programme was the ceremony of the unveiling of the star which took place at the beginning of the evening's entertainment. The Christmas tree was a fine one and looked good laden with gifts and prizes for the children. The arrival of Santa Claus and the distribution of the parcels from the tree was very interesting to the children. Violet McNally got a first prize for best attendance for the year, and Jessie Rhode got second, being only one mark behind Violet. At the conclusion all present were treated to oranges, apples and candy.

The accompanists were Mrs. Deacon Miss Burgess and Mrs. Morris. Mr. J. Marshall played the violin in connection with the selections from "The Story of the Star."

LATEST RECRUITS.

Mr. James Black surprised his many Saanich friends on New Year's Day by appearing in a brand new khaki uniform. To say he looked good is putting it mild. The popular Jim joined the 103rd Regiment and is now in the transport service of that Battalion.

Mr. James Scott last week went into Victoria and enlisted with the 103rd Battalion Overseas Force, and will take up his duties on the 17th of January, to which date he has leave of absence. Mr. Scott has resided in Sidney for about seven years and his many friends will be pleased at seeing him in khaki.

Mr. Harold Simpson, of Swart's Bay, is another of our residents who has heard the clarion call and has enlisted in the 103rd Overseas Battalion. Mr. Simpson is the fourth from that particular part of the Peninsula who has joined up, Capt. Curtis, Capt. Worsnop, Mr. Parks and Mr. Simpson. Good luck to them all and all the boys at the front.

REPLIES TO MR. SHEPHERD

In last week's issue several letters were published in connection with the repairs to the Sidney wharf, and in reply to the one received from Mr. Frank Shepherd, M.P., the secretary of the Sidney Board of Trade this week forwarded the following:

Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 20th inst., and am instructed by my board to thank you for same, and that they are glad to learn of your efforts to secure the needed repairs to the Sidney wharf. The Board is fully alive to the importance of retrenchment at the present time in order to enable Canada to do her part for the Empire, but they are also concerned for the welfare of Sidney, and the loss of even one boat is a serious matter at the present time.

Your reference to the public building is hardly needed, as since your former letter on the subject the Board have not pressed for it, though it was promised long before the war. I am to remind you that James Island is now occupied as a munition factory site and the Sidney wharf is in constant use in connection therewith. All that is asked is of absolute necessity, as reference to the various inspections will confirm. I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. H. DAWES,

Secy. B. of T.

SYNDICATE WILL EXPLOIT GOLD FIND IN SIDNEY

Local Citizen Finds Precious Metal When Preparing New Year Dinner

Little did Mr. C. F. Parks, of Shoal Bay, think when he purchased that brace of ducks for his New Year dinner from the Local Butchers that their crops contained a quantity of that rich mineral known to mortal man as "gold." His surprise was therefore all the more genuine when on examining the small stones and pebbles, a considerable quantity of which he found in the gizzards of the birds, (not that we wish to cast any reflection on the integrity and honor of the local firm of butchers by insinuating that they were "salted" for the purpose of making a sensation) as we are assured that they were imported stock and came in cold storage from some point far away to the east of British Columbia. Yet, nevertheless, Mr. Parks discovered the gold among the pebbles, and by the looks of it it is good gold too. He immediately informed Messrs. Harvey and Blackburn, of his lucky strike, and as Mr. T. R. Davis happened to be in the store at the time a syndicate composed of Messrs. F. C. Parks, T. R. Davis, Ed. Blackburn and A. Harvey and capitalized at several million dollars was immediately formed and the remaining stock of ducks that came in this shipment were purchased post haste. After they have been dissected and the gold extracted therefrom the remains will be offered to the general public at a small fraction of their original cost.

Needless to say the syndicate have already engaged the services of several expert gold detectives to trace the ducks to the place of their nativity, and when found their instructions are to purchase immediately many thousands of acres of land in the neighborhood in which the ducks were raised.

Our advice to our readers is to secure one of these ducks at once, as the number is very limited, and it may be that in their hurry the newly formed syndicate may overlook a large piece of the precious metal and you will thereby gain much interest on your investment.

A SOLDIER'S LIFE FOR HIM

The following extracts from a letter received this week from their son who is at present in France by Mr. and Mrs. Griffin, gives some very interesting information and throws light at a different angle on the war situation over there.

Dear Mother,—As I have nothing else to do to-night I will answer your letter. I have been down to the town near where we have been billeted and spent my month's pay, but we were allowed extra for Christmas, on various things. I got several souvenirs in the shape of handkerchiefs for my girl friends, and also

some real lace for you and Sis. The latter is made here in many of the houses and you can see the old ladies making it. The two pieces enclosed cost eight dollars. Some price, isn't it? The town is French and many of the shop assistants speak very little English, so my French comes in very handy as I am able to make myself understood quite easily. It's certainly lots of fun. In Belgium or Flanders they speak Flemish, but all understood French.

Of course, as you know, this is a Catholic country and almost every corner has a little cross fastened to a tree, and many of the buildings are "blessed" having the same. Every little while on the road there will be a little brick building, about 8x8, with an image of the "Virgin Mary" in it. Many of these have been hit by shells and the little images on the trees and buildings by bullets, but strange to relate not one of them which has the cross with the figure of Christ upon it has been destroyed. The French and Belgians regard it superstitiously. Even in the cathedral at Ypres where hardly one stone remains on another, yet the cross above the altar still stands intact.

I did not see the King when he was over as we were in the trenches at the time. I have received several packages, also a parcel of socks, etc., from the little girl in Revelstoke who was married on the 24th of last month. I also received a snap shot of a bunch of the first overseas contingent on their way to England, taken while the train stopped a few minutes at Kamloops. There is only one left besides myself, the rest are all wounded, etc.

Later, Dec. 2. Well, I guess I will finish my letter now. We have just returned from a march of about ten miles (return) to brigade headquarters where we were having some athletic sports. A few days ago we marched six miles into town to attend a concert given by the Medical Corps. After we got there we found that about half of us had to stand, so you may believe we were "somewhat tired" when we got home again. It is quite mild now, but last week it was pretty cold, in fact there was ice strong enough to bear one's weight, and as we are sleeping in an old barn our shoes, were frozen every night and had to be thawed out by racing around, as we are allowed no fires in the barns now as several of the buildings have been burned. All the buildings here are built of brick with straw thatched roofs, the more modern with tile roofs, and every farm where there is a group of buildings one of them has the date on it. Some of them are very old but you can hardly tell them from the new buildings, so well preserved is the brick.

Your loving boy,

CHARLIE.

I. O. D. E. MEETING.

At the regular monthly meeting of the Allies Chapter, I. O. D. E., of North Saanich on Tuesday afternoon January 4th, it was decided that the Chapter forward the sum of five dollars monthly to the Patriotic Fund.

It was also arranged that the annual meeting and election of officers take place in conjunction with the regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 1st. A very interesting paper was read during the afternoon on the subject of "The Australian System of Military Training," after which some discussion took place.

SEND MESSAGE OF GREETING

RED CROSS HEADQUARTERS RECOGNIZE GOOD WORK ACCOMPLISHED.

The following letter and telegram were received this week by Miss Houghton, convenor of the needlework committee of the local branch of the Red Cross Society:

Dear Madam,—I enclose a copy of a telegram received from Toronto which shows that they have appreciated the work done by this branch and the various sub-committees attached thereto. Please let all your workers see this as we are sure they will feel that their work has been appreciated not only by us but by headquarters.

Yours truly,

CHAS WILLIAMS, Hon. Secy-Treas.

To Chas. Williams, Hon. Secretary Victoria Branch Canadian Red Cross Society.

Executive Committee desires to convey to you their kindly greeting at this Christmas time, and best thanks for the excellent work performed by your branch and other branches within your jurisdiction.

NEOL MARSHALL.

Dec. 24, 1915.

SIDNEY AND NORTH SAANICH PATRIOTIC AID FUND.

Subscriptions received for week ending 6th January, 1916, are acknowledged as follows:

Amount subscribed up to	Dec. 30 for ensuing year
A. Daniels, Sid. Trading Co.	\$1707.00
E. Munro, Sid. Trading Co.	12.00
J. A. Nunn, Sid. Trading Co.	12.00
J. F. Simister, S. Trading	12.00
Allies Chapter, I.O.D.E.	60.00
R. L. Pickering	30.00

Total to date \$1845.00
The Patriotic Aid Fund is for the wives and children of the men who are defending our homes. "Come and do your BIT. Subscribe NOW."

ARTHUR O. WHEELER

THE KHAKI VISITORS TO SALT SPRING ISLAND.

Among the Salt Spring Island boys who passed through Sidney on the way to spend the New Year holiday at their homes were Pte. Arthur Wilboms, Pte. Jack Lumley, Pte. W. Mason, Pte. Hech and Bandsman Rogers, all of the 88th Battalion. Pte. Robert Lumley, of the 62nd; Pte. B. Raynes, 5th R. C. A.; Pte. B. Conery, 67th; Pte. C. Conery, 67th and Pte. W. Rogers, of the 50th Battalion.

RED CROSS FUND.

The following subscriptions have been received this week in aid of the Red Cross Fund.

H. Hulbert	\$10.00
E. Blackburn	2.50
J. J. White	10.00
T. Pearson	5.00
Mrs. Morton	5.00
High School Children	1.50