

Salt Spring Island Parish and Home

JANUARY, 1896.

The first snow this winter on Salt Spring Island fell December 15th. It very soon departed.

A well attended Church Bee was held at St. Mary's Church, Fulford Harbor, the first week in December, to fence in the churchyard. The job lasted two days, and was very well done.

The heaviest crop of Swedes, perhaps ever grown on this Island, was raised this year by Mr. William Scott, at Ganges Harbor. Some of the roots weigh as high as seventeen pounds, and all are very uniform in size. Mr. Scott has harvested five tons of carrots off a quarter of an acre of ground.

His Lordship, the Bishop of Columbia, administered the rite of confirmation both at St. Mary's and at St. Mark's Church on Sunday, December 8th, when nine persons were confirmed. During his stay at Fulford Harbor the Bishop was the guest of Mr. Fred. Raines, churchwarden, and at Vesuvius he stayed with the Rev. E. F. Wilson.

It is proposed to hold another "Church Bee" at St. Mark's Church on Wednesday, January 8th, to finish off the work of leveling and fencing which was so well begun last November. Men, teams, shovels and pickaxes will be in general demand, and the wants of the inner man will be attended to at the Church Hill Farm table.

Steps are already being taken towards the establishment of a school across the "Divide" in the central part of the island. The settlers in the vicinity are prepared to turn out and erect the building if the Government will assist them and furnish a teacher. There are at present about twelve children of schoolable age within walking distance of the spot selected—besides which are plenty of smaller youngsters coming on.

A short private telegraph line is now in operation on the Island between the residence of Mr. Broadwell, postmaster, and the Rev. E. F. Wilson, the proprietors being Mr. Joel Broadwell, Jr., and Mr. A. L. Wilson. The idea of these young men is to perfect themselves in the art of telegraphing with the hope that some day the line may be extended to more distant parts of the Island and eventually, perhaps, be made to connect with Vancouver Island.

A very interesting lecture on fruit culture was delivered at the Church Hill Farm on Monday, Dec. 17th, by Mr. R. M. Palmer, provincial inspector of fruit pests, Mr. J. P. Booth, M.P., in the chair. A considerable discussion on orchard pests and their remedies followed the lecture, and at its close Messrs. Ruckle, Scott and Berrov were appointed a committee to organize a local association in connection with the Fruit Growers' Association of British Columbia, whose next annual meeting will take place January 29th and 30th, at New Westminster.

Rev. G. F. Wilson will hold service at Mr. Lewis' residence, Friday, Jan. 16th, at 4 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 24th (moonlight), at 7 p.m.

Canadian Order of Odd Fellows—Noble Grand, A. W. Cooke; Vice-Grand, J. Vinter; Secretary, T. Cundell; Treasurer, J. Nightingale. Next Lodge meeting, Saturday, Jan. 18th, at Burgoyne Bay.

A very enjoyable Christmas tree entertainment was held at North End, Friday, December 29th. Nearly 100 were present, and the schoolroom crowded. Miss Furness has been most successful as teacher.

The Children's prize giving and Christmas tree entertainment at the Vesuvius School, took place Monday, Dec. 23rd. Over 100 were present, and a most enjoyable evening spent. About \$25 had been expended in presents and prizes.

Another new resident has come to the Island since our last issue. Mr. Fisher, with wife and three children, arrived from Vancouver on Friday, the 13th December, and they have taken up their residence in a picturesque spot overlooking the Ganges Harbor, the property of Messrs. Mahon Bros.

A public meeting was held in the old Vesuvius school house on Saturday, the 14th December, to consider: (1) The disadvantage to the farmer of the present game laws. (2) A proposal to erect a public hall. Mr. J. P. Booth, M.P., was elected chairman, and Mr. E. Harrison secretary. The general feeling in regard to the first question seemed to be that the present game laws had been framed too much entirely to suit the sporting community, and without sufficient regard to the interests of the farmer. It was shown that great damage had in several instances been done to farmers' crops, both by deer and pheasants. The following resolutions were moved and adopted: (1) Moved by Mr. A. Walter, J.P., seconded by Mr. Johnston, That in view of the ravages committed both by deer and pheasants, this meeting is of opinion that the settlers should be given better protection for their crops. (2) Moved by Mr. A. Walter, J.P., seconded by Rev. G. F. Wilson, That settlers should be allowed to kill deer for their own use the year round. (3) Moved by Mr. E. Harrison, seconded by Mr. H. Dagan, That settlers be allowed to kill pheasants the year round in their own enclosures. All these resolutions were carried unanimously. In regard to the second question—the erection of a public hall—a scheme was presented by Mr. Joel Broadwell, postmaster, for the formation of a limited liability company, the value of the shares being \$5 each; half to be paid at time of signing the paper, and the other half at the completion of the building; the building to be utilized for holding an annual agricultural show, besides other purposes. Mr. Broadwell's scheme was adopted, and a committee, consisting of Messrs. Broadwell, Walter, Berrov, Bullock and Robertson, appointed to carry it out. Twenty-seven shares have already been taken up.