FIXING BLAME FOR BAD ROADS

CITY COUNCIL TO TALK TO STREET OFFICIALS

Aldermen Admit That the Public Has Cause for Complaint.

One outcome of Wednesday evening's meeting of Ward Three ratepayers is a decision on the part of the city council to make every official connected with street work walk the carpet at an early meeting of that body. City engineer, water commissioner, street superintendent, their assistants and all the foremen in charge of the outside work will be notified to be on hand.

The members of council will endeavor to ascertain where the blame lies for the disgraceful condition of the streets and the too-evident lack of system in the carrying on of the work. To what extent the officials may turn the tables on the council and the meagreness of an appropriation that allows six cents a mile per day for street maintenance remains to be seen.

Smarting from the plain-speaking of the ratepayers, Aldermen Fullerton and Gleason brought the matter up at the close of the special meeting of the council on Thursday afternoon. The Mayor and their other colleagues admitted that the complaints of citizens were fully justified, but all felt that they were being unfairly blamed for the condition of affairs.

The discussion took a conversational turn, in the course of which there was no attempt on anyone's part to deny that there is no system in regard to street works to-day. Although the water commissioner was given the entire supervision of laying the watermains by the council—a work which anyone would consider part of the city engineer's duty here as it is everywhere else—the members talked as if they had made a mistake in this, and the opinion was frankly expressed that the roadways have been left in an intolerable condition by the waterworks department. Instances were given, too, of street work where the concrete-mixing apparatus had been moved away and back again as many as five times in the laying of one block's length.

"We are made to look like a set of fools, and we are fools to put up with it," said Ald. Gleason.

"We have got to find out who is running this city's business, the aldermen or the foremen," added his colleague from Ward Three, Ald. Fullerton.

Ald. Gleason mentioned the inquiries made at Spring Ridge as to Street Superintendent Warwick and the assertion that someone in authority had given instructions that he was not to be obeyed. Ald. Fullerton recalled a remark that the Mayor was the man. "It certainly was not me." His Worship declared with emphasis. "Mr. Warwick was given full authority and he has power to fire any employee who refuses to do as he orders."

Ald. Henderson said all the officials would have to do their duty or the council would get others.

In the end the decision to have all the officials interested up before the council was come to, and the time will probably be Friday night next.

NEW YEAR RECEPTION.

Ottawa, Jan. 2.—Earl Grey held his New Year's reception yesterday at which most of the prominent citizens attended. The ministers who were there were Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Hon. W. Patterson, F. Oliver and Charles Murphy. R. L. Borden also called upon his Excellency. Sir Wilfrid Laurire, R. L. Borden, Sir Frederick Borden and the members and officers of the headquarters staff visited the quarters of the different corps during the afternoon.

VICTORIA'S WELCOME TO THE NEW YEAR

A Noisy Reception Given 1909 on the Streets of the City.

Nineteen hundred and nine was welcomed by Victorians with customary merriment, and, if anything, rather more noise than usual. With tin trumpets, cow-bells, kettles, trays and fire-crackers the din along Government street was something which had to be heard to be appreciated.

It was a thoroughly good natured crowd which thronged the street, and for the time everyone knew everyone else. The fun began early and waxed faster and more furious as the clock moved round towards midnight. By that time the walks and roadway were carpeted with bright colored confetti and the debris of fireworks.

One of the features of the evening was an automobile which sped around Government, Yates, Douglas and Fort streets, scattering a trail of sparks and the smell of powder behind it. Fire-crackers in strings of a couple of thousand were hung over the back of the machine and made a brave showing.

At midnight the steamboat, railway and factory whistles began to toot and added to the din. Here, there and everywhere throughout the city there were little local celebrations, individual householders or groups of them going out on the street to rouse things up with anything that was noise-producing. The crowds remained on the down-town streets until long after the new year had come in.

RAILWAY VICTIMS.

Buffalo, N. Y., Jan. 2.—A fast mail train on the New York Central bore down on a gang of riveters at work on the Broadway subway yesterday, killing two of them and injuring a third. The dead are: John Baker and John Conrad, both of Pittsburg. Louis White had four ribs broken and his spine injured.

WANT PRESTON PARDONED.

Labor Party Appeals to U. S. Secretary of State for Release of Socialist.

Carson City, Nev., Jan. 2.—Application for pardon was filed with the secretary of state on Thursday by those representing M. R. Preston, Goldfield labor leader, who is serving a twenty-five-year sentence in the state penitentiary for the killing of John Silva, a Goldfield restaurant keeper, in 1907.

An appeal for a rehearing of the case was denied by the state supreme court some time ago. Since that time many of the Goldfield labor leaders have been in this city preparing to file the application for pardon, which will be considered at the January meeting of the board of pardons.

Preston was chosen as the presidential candidate of the Socialist Labor party during the last campaign, but owing to his imprisonment was represented by a proxy during the campaign.

ROBS COURT POLICE OF THEIR BELONGINGS

Building of Justice in Centre Street, New York, is Looted.

New York, Jan. 2.—Burglars on New Year's Eve broke into the criminal court building in Centre street, and completely looted the police station situated there. When the court squad of about 30 policemen reported for duty yesterday they were astonished to find their lockers ransacked, their revolvers and all other personal effects of value stolen and the entire place in the wildest confusion.

With the arrest last night of William Delaney, a former patrolman, the police believe they have not only captured the man who last night broke into and looted the police station in the criminal courts, but have under lock and key "The Scarfaced Man" they have been seeking for nearly a month on the charge of impersonating an officer and making unauthorized arrests. Headquarters detectives assert that Delaney has served terms in Elmira and Sing Sing for impersonating an officer and for larceny.

CARPENTER DROPS 600 FEET TO DEATH

Shocking Fatality at Western Fuel Company's Mine at Nanaimo.

(Special to the Times.)

Nanaimo, Jan. 2.—Nelson Penn, a carpenter, aged 25 years, met with a horrible death here this morning while working in the Western Fuel Co.'s mine. He was walking along a drift without a light and fell down the air shaft of No. 1 mine, dropping 600 feet. Death was instaneaneous. Deceased was a native of Bates Cottage, Northumberland, and has been in Canada about two yers.

U. S. WARSHIPS NEARING SUEZ.

Suez, Jan. 2.—The U. S. Atlantic battleship fleet, homeward bound, on the night of Dec. 31st was 619 miles from Suez. The fleet is due here to-morrow morning. While passing through Babel Mandeb Strait into the Red Sea on Dec. 19th, Jesse Scotland, an able seaman of the battleship Illinois, fell overboard and was drowned before the boats, which were at once lowered, could reach him.

MANY CITIZENS CALL ON MAYOR AND MRS. HALL

New Year Day Greetings Extended to Chief Magistrate of the City.

Friday afternoon Mayor Hall and Mrs. Hall received their many New Year's Day callers at their home, Victoria West. There was a large number of visitors, and for several hours the house was thronged. Refreshments were served in the dining room, which was very prettily decorated with red carnations and green asparagus ferns.

Among the many who called were the following:

Richard L. Drury, Capt. T. N. Brown, Frederick Crease Nivin, Wm. McKay, H. F. Shade, H. Dallas Helmcken, Wm. Scowcroft, J. Parfitt, Simon Leiser, Frederick Davey, M. P. P., Frank Davey, Herbert Leiser, Ald. F. A. Pauline, Ald. H. A. Gleason, G. H. Barnard, M. P., Dr. Burt C. Richards, Hon. Richard McBride, Geo. H. Hall, R. F. Green, Eric Gordon, Dr. Ernest A. Hall, Ald. W. T. Fullerton, Ald. Henry Norman, Wm. Winfield Gardiner, J. Bruce McCallum, O. H. Nelson, Ernest B. Jones, Mr. Longfield, sr., R. B. McMicking, Major A. W. Currie, Jesse H. Longfield, Arthur McCurdy, Lieut.-Col. J. A. Hall, Herbert Hogg, Capt. T. N. Brown, Arthur N. Kenah, W. Winterborn, Walter Walker, A. Wilson, H. A. Maclean, T. Drysdale Veitch, Jas. Foreman, Thos. R. Cusack, J. M. Langley, P. J. Riddell, R. Erskine, Jas. L. Raymer, A. T. Monteith, Richard Hall, W. W. Northcott, W. P. Allen, Ald. A. McKeown, W. S. Terry, Thos. Tubman, E. B. Reed, W. Kyte Houston, Dr. G. L. Milne, Wm. H. Bone, D. W. Higgins, Abraham E. Smith, Walter E. Staneland, Geo. McCandless, Rev. T. E. Holling, B. A., F. M. Perkins, Wm. Minty, J. G. Hands, R. C. Hall, E. B. H. Rickaby, J. Stuart Yates, Wm. Winfield Gardiner, Dr. H. E. McMicking, Albert Parfitt, Rev. D. Campbell, J. G. Brown, Arthur Lee, Fred Parfitt, B. Lewis, C. H. B. Topp, Ed. B. Paul, superintendent education, Mr. C. Crawford, Major Hibben, Rev. Dr. McRae, Capt. Harris, Ald. J. Meston Dr. G. A. B. Hall, M. P. P., Robert Morrison, D. Fraser, Mr. Moore, W. A. Robertson, James Bell, D. Futton, F. Gilchrist and J. Martin.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATED AT PRINCE RUPERT

Services Held in Churches—Children Are Entertained.

(Special Correspondence of the Times.)

Prince Rupert, Jan. 1.—With the thermometer standing at several degrees above the freezing point, a cloudless sky, and the warm sunshine through the windows, the residents of Prince Rupert looked out upon an ideal Christmas morning. To most of them it was a novelty, being their first Christmas in the north, and to the majority who had been accustomed to a colder climate the mildness of the weather was indeed a revelation. The pioneers were besieged with questions as to the conditions that existed a year ago, before the G. T. P. railroad construction work had been commenced, the townsite shorn of its virgin timber and Knoxville, the mineral claim suburb where most of the population now reside, was but a dream.

A year ago there was but one messhouse where travellers could obtain a meal cooked by Chinamen, but now there are several good hotels where meals and accommodations can be had equal to those obtained in any other city in Canada. Many were the conjectures as to what another year would bring forth when lots have been sold and Prince Rupert has become a city with a population of several thousand people, instead of a busy little hamlet of about 700 as it is to-day.

Christmas services were held in all the churches, and the first mid-night mass celebrated in Prince Rupert was held in the Roman Catholic church by Rev. Father Kientz. After the service Father Kientz was presented with a testimonial and a suitable gift by the members of his congregation.

A Christmas tree festival was held in the Presbyterian church on Christmas Eve, in which most of the Sunday school children took part. The programme was made up of songs, dialogues, and recitations, after which Rev. W. J. Kidd, pastor of the church, distributed the presents to the little ones, and a most enjoyable evening was spent.

The patients in the General hospital were remembered by the people of Prince Rupert on Christmas Day, when a subscription list was passed around and $122.25 collected. With this money the committee made purchases, and each one of the 24 patients in the hospital was presented with a suit of underwear, two pairs of socks, a shirt, a handkerchief, pair of suspenders, a pipe, package of tobacco and a bag of candy. As nearly all of the patients are laboring men who have been disabled by explosions and other accidents on the railway construction, the gifts were much appreciated.

Although there are now scores of children in Prince Rupert, a year ago there were but thirteen and a group photograph of them appeared in the Christmas number of the Empire. This year a Christmas tree was erected in the Empire office, and for each of the little pioneers John Houston had provided what he considered suitable gifts. While looking after his little pioneers the veteran newspaper man did not forget his sixteen newsboys, and they, too, were remembered.

HONORED BY CITIZENS.

W. A. Macdonald, of Nelson, Presented With Address and Silver Tea Service.

Nelson, Jan. 1.—W. A. Macdonald, K. C., city solicitor, who is leaving the city to reside at Vancouver, was presented with an address and a sterling silver tea service Wednesday night at a large and representative meeting of citizens. Mayor Taylor made the presentation on behalf of the citizens, and the address was joined in by representatives of the Conservative and Liberal associations, the board of trade and the Nelson club. Mr. Macdonald left for the coast to-day.

BAD WEATHER ON PRAIRIES.

Winnipeg, Man., Jan. 2.—The big storm has blown itself out, but left low temperatures, ranging from 32 below at Regina to 20 below here, and 10 below at the head of the lakes. Trains are running on fairly good time, though some engines have gone dead from the extreme cold. Blizzard conditions apparently prevail just south of the international boundary, for Northern Pacific trains are running several hours late, and report heavy drifts. Prospects are for a very cold new year.

RUSSIAN NAVAL REFORM.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 2.—The defence committee of the Douma rejected to-day the government demand for a grant of $1,500,000 towards the construction of four new battleships. The rejection was based on the ground that there had been no reform in the naval administration.

JUBILEE CONFERENCE OF METHODIST CHURCH

Programme Committee Will Meet at New Westminster Next Week.

Rev. A. E. Roberts, secretary of the conference, leaves on Monday for New Westminster, where a meeting of the programme committee for the next session of the annual conference of the Methodist church will be held. The conference will be held in May next in New Westminister, and will be of especial interest, owing to the fact that it is the jubilee conference in British Columbia Methodism. Fifty years ago the first missionaries of the Methodist church came to British Columbia, and the first place of worship was opened in New Westminster, the first Pandora street church in this city being then in the course of erection. It is hoped to make this a noteworthy conference, and the programme committee will make every preparation to ensure the success of the gathering.

SEATTLE'S CRIME.

Twenty-Four Murders and Seventy-Seven Suicides During Past Year.

Seattle, Wash., Jan. 2.—During the twelve months of 1908, 24 murders and 77 suicides are on record in the office of Coroner F. M. Carroll. The report brought up to date shows 9 suicides, 11 violent deaths and 21 deaths from other causes where a physician was not in attendance, but no murder. Of the 77 persons who killed themselves during 1908, 27 chose carbolic acid as the poison. The others used revolvers, various forms of poison, hanging, gas and severing an artery. Of the deaths caused by external violence, nine were caused in street car accidents in Seattle. Of the other causes 23 met death as a result of railway accidents or being struck by steam railway or interurban trains.

FORGERY SENSATION.

Quebec, Jan. 2.—A big sensation was caused here by the arrest, on the charge of forgery, of George Atkinson, a well known commission merchant of Levis. The charge is brought by Mr. Davie, of Levis, whose name was, he claims, forged to a cheque and drafts to the extent of some $10,000.

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S MINERAL OUTPUT

Total Production of Last Year Valued at Nearly $24,000,000.

Nelson, Jan. 1.— The Daily News' New Year's edition announces the following mineral output in British Columbia during 1908, specially prepared for the Daily News by E. Jacobs, of Victoria: Gold, placer, ounces, 34,100, worth $682,000; gold, lode, 256,000 ounces, value, $5,291,520; total gold output, $5,973,520; silver, $3,637,000 ounces, worth $1,518,500; lead, 43,775,000 lbs., worth $1,654,695; zinc and iron 10,000 tons worth $280,000; copper, 43,885,000 lbs., worth $5,732,820. Total metalliferous output for 1908, $15,219,535.

Coal, 1,700,000 long tons, worth $5,950,000; coke, 248,000 long tons, worth $1,488,000.

Building material, etc., $1,200,000.

Total mineral production for the year, $23,857,535.

Last year's total was $25,882,560. There is a drop in lead and copper values, the figures for 7907 being $2,291,825 and $3,166,544 respectively. The other figures are about the same for both years.

INTERESTING SPECIMENS FOR THE MUSEUM

Caribou Skulls and Hides Received From Queen Charlotte Islands.

The hides and skulls of the caribou recently killed by Indians on Queen Charlotte Islands were brought over from Vancouver recently, having been sent from Prince Rupert on the steamer Transit by Rev. W. H. Collison. They are much lighter colored in the lighter parts than the mainland caribou, and their legs are quite light in color; in fact, the skins resemble very much those of the reindeer which were recently sent into Alaska. This has given rise to the conjecture that the animals might possibly be reindeer which had arrived there at some early date. No record of such an event is known and Curator Kermode, of the museum, does not think it likely to have happened, but it is possible. Mr. Kermode's theory is that the islands were at one time part of the mainland and that when they became isolated the animals degenerated through inbreeding. The skins show that the animals must have been small, probably less than 300 pounds each in weight. The antlers also differ from the other caribou in that they are more slender, less palmate and they are without the branch that usually comes down over the animal's face, known as the plow. The oddity of two skulls already having been found with only one antler each, also seems to indicate that the animals have degenerated.

A wire was received by Mr. Kermode a few days ago from the American Museum of Natural History of New York, offering to buy the skins. The provincial authorities will not sell and will not allow any caribou to be killed at present. It is not unlikely, however, than the skins and skulls may be sent to New York for examination and description, especially as Ernest Thompson Seton, the noted naturalist, is at present there and he has already examined the first skull that was found.

The antler of the larger animal is broken but the parts are all there and can easly be mended. The skin of the cow is useless for mounting purposes, as the hoofs and skull are missing. The one head is that of an old bull, probably ten, twelve or more years of age. His antlers show thirteen points, and his teeth are worn down very much. It and the second bull, which has but one antler, will be mounted and placed in the museum, although it will be some time before the work can possibly be completed.

PART OF CREW LEAVE.

Among the passengers to Yokohama on Empress of China Saturday were twelve Japanese who have just been paid off from the cable ship Restorer. Their time had just expired, and they decided to return home. This leaves about fifty Japanese on the cable ship, which is at present lying in Esquimalt harbor. Should she have to go out at any time she would have to take about fifty white men to replace the Japanese, who have from time to time been sent home from her, her full crew being in the neighborhood of one hundred.

DEATH OF JUDGE YOAKUM.

Fort Worth, Tex., Jan. 2.—Judge C. H. Yoakum, general attorney of the 'Frisco lines in Texas, and brother of B. F. Yoakum, chairman of the 'Frisco-Rock Island board, is dead at his home here as a result of an attack of apoplexy.

INDIAN VICTIM OF SINGULAR ACCIDENT

Gun Kicks While in Act of Shooting, Driving Hammer Into His Skull.

(Special Correspondence of the Times.)

Clayoquot, Jan. 1.—A young Indian from Ahouset met with a serious accident while shooting mink on Saturday. The gun kicked and drove the hammer through his rubber hat and into his skull. His canoe was upset and the man fell into the water. Notwithstanding that a portion of his brain was protruding from the wound he righted his canoe and paddled four miles home. He was brought to hospital on Monday, where his wound was treated. At the time of writing he is doing nicely, but it is feared that meningitis will set in and prove fatal.

On Thursday evening, December 24th, nearly all the settlers in the district gathered at the lifeboat house for the Christmas tree entertainment. The married people brought well filled lunch baskets, and an excellent supper was served. The bachelors had given about $55 to provide gifts for the children. After supper Mr. McKenna acted as Santa Claus, and distributed the presents. The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

T. F. Futcher, of Victoria, having spent a couple of weeks in the district hunting, is returning on this boat with a well filled bag of geese and ducks.

Burdette Garrard, eldest son of F. C. Garrard, has gone to Victoria to join Mr. Havelock. They will sail for England on January 8th.

Miss Braig has been visiting her cousin, Mr. F. C. McDonald, at Mosquito harbor.

M. Kinsey has taken W. J. Stone's place on the lifeboat crew.

NEW MEDICAL OFFICER.

Dr. Williams Is Appointed By Ladysmith Council.

Ladysmith, Jan. 1.—At the weekly meeting of the city council Mayor Nicholson informed the aldermen that he had seen Dr. Frost, who had expressed himself highly pleased with the offer of the council, but that the doctor could not see his way clear to continue in the office of city medical health officer, on account of his professional work in connection with the Colliery Company. Dr. Frost had spoken in the highest terms of Dr. Williams' qualifications for the position.

It was moved by Ald. McKinnell and seconded by Ald. Campbell, and carried, that the resignation of Dr. Frost be accepted, and that Dr. Williams be appointed city medical health officer, services to commence January 1st.

DAUPHIN LAWYER'S SUICIDE.

Dauphin, Man., Jan. 2.—A. W. Sutherland, 31 years of age, and a member of the law firm of Hardy & Sutherland here, was found dead in his room shortly after noon on Thursday with a bullet wound through the roof of the mouth. The bullet had entered the brain, causing death instantly. The revolver was found beside the dead man, and from all appearances the case was one of deliberate suicide. The deceased was a married man, and came here from Winnipeg about seven months ago. The motive for the deed is unknown.

WEDDED ON NEW YEAR'S EVE.

Marriage of Mr. John Baillie McMillian and Miss Margaret Macfarlane.

At the residence of the bridegroom, Market street, a very pretty wedding took place on Thursday evening when Rev. Dr. Campbell celebarted the marriage of Mr. John Baillie McMillan, superintendent of the Victoria Transfer Company, and Miss Margaret Macfarlane, formerly of Glasgow, Scotland. The bridegroom was supported by Mr. Hugh Andrew, and the bridesmaid was Miss Lily Martin, and the maids of honor were Miss Annie Smellee and Miss Elizabeth B. Robertson.

After supper the newly wedded couple took the midnight boat for Vancover, where they will spend their honeymoon. On their return they will make their home at 722 Market street. They are well and favorably known in Victoria, and have the hearty wish of their many friends, not only for a happy new year, which they so auspiciously began, but for a long, happy and prosperous life.

The Merchants' Exchange reports the arrival at Sydney two days ago of the American barquentine James Tuft, 75 days out. She set out to beat the schooner Tuca and barque Olympia, and was successful.

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS ARRANGE MEETINGS

Local Body Will Take Charge of Services in Harmony Hall.

The Society of Friends have taken charge of the services in Harmony hall. The local society was constituted last September by the Canadian yearly meeting which was held in this city. A delegation was sent out from Toronto, and the local body started on its way. The following are the officers: Trustees, R. W. Clark, W. B. Watson, D. E. Coventry; mission committee, G. H. Little, R. W. Clark and Herbert Dann; correspondent, G. H. Little, box 305, city; clerk of local society, E. Coventry, box 174, city.

Services on Sunday next will be held as follows: 9.45 a. m., Sunday school; 11 a. m., meeting for worship; 7 p. m., mission meeting. The evening meeting will be addressed by Harry Parry, of Vancouver. Mr. Parry has located in Vancouver, and will open a hall for services under the direction of the Society of Friends in that city.

SAVAGE DOGS KILL BOY.

Schenectady, N. Y., Jan. 2.—A special to the Gazette from Johnstown says: Wm. Reski, the 7-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. John Reski, of Hillside Park, a hamlet near this city, was attacked on Thursday by seven vicious dogs, and received injuries which caused death. The lad had been sent to a store by his mother about 11 o'clock, and his lifeless body was discovered about half an hour later, covered with blood and being torn to pieces by the beasts. One arm and one leg had been almost severed from the body, and his face was so terribly mutilated that identification was difficult. The chief of police of this city killed all the dogs of the place save two.

CORSICAN ATTEMPTS TO KILL M. CLEMENCEAU

Bullets Crash Through Window Round Head of French Premier.

Paris, Jan. 2.—An attempt to shoot Premier Clemenceau was made on Thursday by a Corsican named Benedetti, who fired at him while he was seated at a window of his house.

None of the shots struck the premier. M. Clemenceau, however, had a narrow escape. He was seated beside the window, through which crashed two bullets from Beneditti's pistol. At the sound of the firing M. Clemenceau arose and opened the window. In the street an excited individual brandishing a revolver and crying "Down with the tyrant; long live the republic."

Just at this time the premier's footman, revolver in hand, rushed from the building and started towards Beneditti.

"Don't fire," shouted M. Clemenceau to the footman.

"Don't fire," yelled the Corsican; "I have thrown away my gun."

Beneditti then submitted to arrest. He claimed he was aggrieved at M. Clemenceau, who, as minister of the interior, had refused him permission to launch a lottery scheme. In all, the man fired five shots at M. Clemenceau's window.

Like the assailants of President Fallieres and Major Dreyfus, Benedetti characterized his act as merely a "gesture" designed to procure justice for himself.

WATERSPOUTS IN CHATHAM SOUND

Two Sighted by Captain Roberson of the Steamer Topaz.

Prince Rupert, Jan. 1.—Although water-spouts are not uncommon in southern seas, where they are occasionally seen by mariners, they are said to be unknown in northern waters, but Captain Roberson, of the steamer Topaz, while towing barges loaded with lumber from Georgetown to Prince Rupert this week reports seeing two water-spouts as he was passing through Chatham Sound. One was very large, while the other was a small one. They were about two miles distant from his vessel and travelling in a northeasterly direction towards Port Simpson. There was no unusual weather at the time, and Captain Roberson, who has seen water-spouts in the Straits of Malacca and in Oriental waters, is unable to account for the phenomena in these northern waters.

THIRTY-FIVE MILLIONS IN OLD AGE PENSIONS

Great Britain's New Burden Which Became Operative Yesterday.

London, Jan. 2. — Postmasters throughout the United Kingdom have commenced the payment of old age pensions under the act of last session of parliament to persons over 70 years of age.

Seven hundred thousand applications for pensions have been received, of which 200,000 were disallowed, chiefly because the applicants have been in receipt of poor relief.

It is estimated that the old age pensions will cost the country $35,000,000 annually. The highest pension is five shillings weekly, which will be paid to applicants having an income below $105 a year. If their income exceeds $105, but is less than $155, smaller amounts will be paid.

DOCTOR'S SUDDEN DEATH.

Buffalo, N. Y., Jan. 2.—A special from Hornell, N. Y., says Dr. Bastered, 70 years of age, dropped dead of heart disease last evening at the home of Wm. Kring, where he had been hastily summoned to minister to Kring, who had broken through the ice on the Canisto river while skating.

ATTEMPTED TO BRIBE JUROR.

San Francisco, Cal., Jan. 2.—E. A. E. Blake, the contractor convicted of attempting to bribe J. M. Kelly, a prospective juror in the Ruef bribery trial, to vote for acquittal, was sentenced on Thursday by Judge Dunne to four years' imprisonment in the penitentiary at San Quentin.

DIES IN CHURCH.

New York, Jan. 2.—Thomas Perkins, a member of the New York cotton exchange, died suddenly yesterday in his pew in the First Presbyterian church, Brooklyn, just after making an address at the New Year's service. Mr. Perkins was 69 years old. He had a large acquaintance in Wall street.

TWENTY YEARS FOR MURDER.

Little Valley, N. Y., Jan. 2.—Mike Stampone was found guilty of murder in the second degree on Thursday and sentenced to not less than twenty years in the state prison at Auburn. Stampone stabbed a friend to death at Salaman on May 24th.

ANNIVERSARY OF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Congregation of Pender Island Held Enjoyable Social.

(Special Correspondence of the Times.)

Pender Island, Dec. 31.—The congregation of Pender Island Presbyterian church celebrated its first anniversary Tuesday evening by a pleasant social time. The neat little church, well lighted and warmed, seemed to hold out a hand of invitation to the passer-by to come in and help celebrate its first birthday, and a good number responded. Among those present were many young people home for the holidays, and they contributed to the social part of the evening. The children, too, were there, for they are justly regarded as "the coming men and women." The chairman of the evening referred to the progress made by the church during this, its first year, the purchase of a new organ which had been paid for, and also stated that the Sunday school choir scholars, although small in numbers, had raised nearly $100 for missionary purposes, etc. A nice little sum towards the putting in of new seats had also been raised. The year's report was a most encouraging one. The chairman stated that Rev. W. Leslie Clay had been invited to give one of his very interesting lectures, but was unable to be present. Mr. Clay has kindly consented, however, to come out before long and give his lecture on Scotland, with limelight views. This will certainly be very much appreciated here and will be loked forward to as a rare treat.

An interesting programme of recitations and song was given by the children and older members. The little ones deserve special mention for their efforts. A short humorous reading was given by Mr. Menzies. This was supplemented by some songs by the adults. "Men of Harlech" was sung by Alex. Hamilton and family, and was much appreciated by the audience. Mr. Spence gave "The Holy City," and also "Toilers of the Deep," in a finished manner. Mrs. Auchterlonie sang very sweetly "She Was a Grand Old Lady," receiving a very hearty encore, to which she responded with "In the Shadow of the Pines." Alex. Hamilton sang "The Skipper," in a way that brought out his splendid bass.

Miss Mamie Hamilton was then called upon and in a very graceful way made a presentation to Mrs. Corbett of a beautiful gold watch and chain, from the congregation, as a token of their appreciation for her services in playing the organ. The secret had certainly been well kept, for Mrs. Corbett was completely taken by surprise. In a few words she expressed her very great appreciation of the kindness shown her. This pleasant event brought the programme to an end. An interesting contest game afforded pleasant amusement while tea was being made. Refreshments were then served and a very pleasant social evening was brought to a close by the singing of "God be with you till we meet again."

Miss Hamilton left yesterday for her school on Denman Island.

The continued serious illness of Mrs. Hope is a source of sincere regret and sympathy among her many friends.

Mr. Moore and family leave for Victoria next week, where they are taking up residence. Their departure will be regretted by their friends here.

CANADIAN FIRE INSURANCE.

Winnipeg, Man., Jan. 2.—An important change affecting the fire insurance business in Western Canada became effective with the advent of the new year. Under this the Board of Underwriters of Manitoba and the Northwest has passed out of existence, and is replaced by a western committee of the Canadian Fire Insurance Underwriters' Association, whose headquarters are in Toronto, and with which the western body has affiliated. The change has been deemed necessary in the best interests of the insurance business of Western Canada.

AMENDED DOG LAW IS NOW IN FORCE

Act Will Be Enforced by the Authorities From Now On.

(From Saturday's Daily.)

Dog owners should pay heed to the changes in the pound by-law which went into force yesterday, and which it is the intention of the civic authorities to enforce strictly, and also to the fact that a new license has to be taken out at once.

From to-day the license fee is $2 for each male animal over six months and $5 for each female animal. Kennel licenses costing $10 will be held to cover ten dogs, with $1 each for any over that number.

The regulation as to dogs running down town, which caused so much discussion and was finally amended last October, says that no person shall allow a dog to run at large upon any public street within the fire limits between the hours of 8 a.m. and 11 p.m. any day. Animals found running at large will be impounded, and in addition to the pound-keeper's fees the owner may be fined a sum up to $50.

Owners, before allowing dogs to run at large, must provide them with a collar, bearing the current year's tag, the penalty for neglecting which is a fine of from $1 to $5, and, of course, pound fees.

In Beacon Hill park the regulations remain in force, requiring that dogs be kept under control by means of a leash.

MARVIN HART AND JOHNSON.

Lexington, Ky., Jan. 2.—An invitation to visit Australia to box Jack Johnson, was received yesterday by Marvin Hart, by telegraph. It is said that Hart is offered $10,000 as his end of the purse. Hart has not accepted, but to friends he said that he would more than likely go. Hart has once defeated Johnson.