

ARCHITECT'S REPORT

On the Condition of the North Ward School and the Necessary Repairs.

Arrangements Made to Have Classes Meet in Temporary Quarters.

The board of school trustees at a meeting held this afternoon, received from Architect Wilson a report on the condition of the North Ward school and the steps it was necessary to take to make the building safe. Building Inspector Northcott agreed with the remedy proposed by Architect Wilson, but he does not agree with the cause. He sticks to his opinion that the building was rendered unsafe through the shrinking of the timbers. The architect's report follows:

Victoria, B. C., Aug. 17, 1896. To the Board of School Trustees:

Gentlemen:—Having now made a careful examination of the top story and staircase of the North Ward school I have the honor to report as follows:

In order to give a better general idea of the construction of the former I might explain that the space for the assembly room is formed by raising the centre portion of the main roof (about 75.0x37.0) above the surrounding roof on wooden walls formed of 2x8 studs 24 inches apart, covered on one side with 1x10 diagonal sheathing, the side wall which carries the bulk of the weight being supported on double steel girders, 15x15 inches, bolted together, and the end walls on the heavy wooden breast-summings carrying the floor.

It does not appear to me that any objection need be found with this general arrangement, provided that the various portions forming it are of sufficient strength to fulfil their various duties, and due allowance being made for wind pressure, which must be considered at times, but I find:

1 That the main trusses carrying the roof have settled about 3 inches, whether caused by the shrinkage of the timbers alone or assisted by the peculiar form of truss adopted is perhaps a matter of opinion, but I am certainly inclined to favor the latter theory.

2 That the diagonal props which extend out beyond the ends of trusses and rest on brick walls, not being securely tied in at the foot, are practically useless as supports to the trusses, and have been a source of weakness by pushing out the main wall and buckling the steel girders laterally.

3 That the double steel girders formed of 15x15 inch girders bolted together without proper separators or lateral support over a span of 37 feet, have settled about five-eighths of an inch and buckled laterally 11.4 inches. As before mentioned and according to my estimate (assuming them at 45 pounds to the foot) they are loaded in excess of their safe carrying capacity.

4 That there is practically no lateral bracing for the superstructure as a whole to withstand the wind pressure. To suggest a remedy for these four defects without reconstructing this portion of the building or putting unsightly columns through all the class rooms is not at first sight an easy matter, but after careful consideration I am of opinion that the building can be made perfectly safe for ordinary school purposes by strengthening the various parts on the following lines:

1 To put two heavy wooden posts under each truss down the centre of the assembly room, resting on brick walls below, with iron braces or brackets on each side securely bolted to posts and tie beam, or, if preferred, 2x6 inch stud partitions might be constructed under the two centre trusses, securely braced and covered with diagonal boarding.

2 To put similar posts under ends of trusses, inside of the main wall, with iron braces, and also put diagonal boarding on outside of partitions so arranged as to distribute the weight over girders, and remove present diagonal props altogether.

3 To endeavor, by temporary rods, to straighten steel girders laterally, and tighten up all straps and bolts throughout.

4 To put three-quarter diagonal rods between each truss at the beam level, as wind braces, running together with iron brackets, etc., on posts before named, will be sufficient for all transverse strains.

5 To pull down the portion of main walls at present out of plumb and rebuild same, also build up the ends of large transverse beams carrying top floor, extending through wall and large washers on outside.

Acting on your instructions I have had the whole of the north and south staircases stripped of plaster and the men are now working on strengthening them under my instructions. I found that the two short flights immediately inside side entrances were 12 feet wide without any carriages or blocking whatever. The two lower flights of main stairs on each side of building were 5 feet 6 inches wide, also without any carriage or blocking; the next flights, 17 feet long, had carriages, but were insecurely fastened top and bottom, and a large landing, 11x6.5, was also insecure and had settled 2 inches. The upper flights were better, but in all cases the treads and risers were not properly nailed or wedged into wall strings. I have made no special inspection of the rest of the building, but I have no reason to believe from what I have seen that there is anything of importance to bring to your notice.

As to the cost of the proposed repairs and the time necessary to complete them, it is almost impossible for me to say at present as one thing almost invariably leads to another in work of this kind, but I should think it is hardly likely to be much under \$1000, and to take three or four weeks to complete.

As some may be liable to form an exaggerated view of the insecure state of the building I might perhaps add in conclusion that, outside of the staircases, which I consider must at times have been supporting their loads almost "by a thread," that without snow or heavy winds there is practically no immediate danger to the superstructure, and the brickwork appears to be sound in itself and well able to carry all that is required if no unnatural strains are put on it. Yours faithfully,

W. RIDGWAY WILSON.

The architect was authorized to proceed with the work. As it will be fully a month before the school can be re-opened, the board decided to make temporary arrangements for holding classes, in fact some arrangements have already been made, and with the exception of two or three lower divisions 8 and 9A, the classes will meet at the school grounds on Wednesday morning and march to their temporary quarters. The 1st, 2nd and 7th divisions will occupy the old Rock Bay school, 5th, John Ross, Hay, and 3rd and 3rd A, Protestant Orphan's Home. An effort is being made to secure the Centennial Sunday school building for the 8th and 8th A divisions.

BRIEF LOCALS.

Cleanings of City and Provincial News in a Condensed Form.

From Friday's Daily. —The Cariboo Lumber Company, Ltd., has been incorporated. The trustees are Duncan Patterson, D. D. Allan and A. G. McIntosh, of 64-Mile Post, and the capital is \$4,000 in \$100 shares.

Lieut. J. B. Tite, of the Fifth Regiment, Vancouver, has arrived in the city to take a special course under Col. Rawstone, R.M.A. The other Vancouver officers are expected over this evening.

—Being unable to secure the necessary bonds, Peter Larsen, who was yesterday bound over to keep the peace, was served three months at the provincial jail, to which place he was taken this morning.

—Twelve dollars was this morning contributed to the city treasury by offenders against city by-laws. One was fined \$5 and \$2 costs for not heeding a notice to have thistles cut and the other \$5 for leaving his horse untied.

—Notice of the following appointments is given in the Gazette: Dr. R. W. Jakes to be coroner of Kettle river district; G. H. Rashdall, of Nelson, to be mining recorder and collector; and Cornelius O'Keefe, of Okanagan, to be a justice of the peace.

Captain Robbins, of the sealing schooner Walter L. Rich, has written to Mr. George E. Munro, from Unalakusa under date July 20. In the letter he states that all the schooners which left Victoria for Behring sea had arrived there, the majority of them making the passage in eighteen days.

—Charles Holmgren, a sailor on the steamer Tees, this morning wrote to an information charging Arthur Hibbard, also a member of the crew of the Tees, with stealing \$30. According to the informant Hibbard promised to take care of the money for him and return it to boat. Instead of doing this he took the boat for Vancouver last night.

—Notices of incorporation are given by four new mining companies in this week's issue of the Gazette. They are the Chaune Mining Company, Ltd., of Vancouver, capital \$1,000,000; the Morning Glory Mining Company, Verdon, capital, \$50,000; the Eastern Star Gold Mining Company, Spokane, capital \$500,000, and the Fairview Gold Mining Company, Seattle, capitalized at \$1,000,000.

—Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper has been retained by some of the sealers who have claims to represent them before the Behring Sea Claims Commission, which is to sit here some time this fall. The question was first brought up at a meeting of the creditors of Capt. J. D. Warren, who is one of the claimants. This will not interfere with arrangements with local counsel, being principally retained on account of his knowledge of the questions concerned, obtained while he was minister of marine.

Mr. George Byrnes has received instructions to sell the British ship Kilbrannan as she lies at Esquimalt on Saturday. August 20, the Kilbrannan ran on Point Victoria in February last, and after being pulled off was taken to Esquimalt for repairs. Since then the owners have had considerable difficulty with the underwriters with regard to the question of insurance, but his has been settled, and Captain Macdonald, who has remained with the vessel since the accident, yesterday received instructions to sell.

—Mr. John Elliot, solicitor for the applicants, gives notice that at the next session of the legislature a private bill will be introduced for the purpose of incorporating the petitioners as a railway company and authorizing them to construct a railway from the mouth of the Granite creek, West Kootenay, to the summit of White Grouse Mountain and passing thence across Johns' and Macaroni basins to a point within a radius of five miles therefrom, with power to build branches to any mines and mineral claims in White Grouse mineral district.

From Saturday's Daily. —A mocking bird fire whistle has been placed on the Excelsior Brewery, Victoria. West. A fire alarm box will also be placed in a central location in that part of the city.

—A Chinaman whose mind was unbalanced and who gave the city police considerable trouble, was shipped to his friends in China by the steamship Victoria, which sailed this afternoon.

—Mr. Stewart Houston, secretary of the international tennis tournament at Niagara-on-the-Lake yesterday acknowledged the receipt of Mr. Foulkes' entries. He states that he is delighted to receive the entries and that the "glad hand" awaits Mr. Foulkes.

—Mr. W. A. Ward, vice-consul of Sweden and Norway, yesterday received the following cablegram from Stockholm: "Cable if you know more about Andree balloon contained in Indian agent's telegram." As nothing further has been heard from the north, Mr. Ward could not send any additional particulars.

Mrs. Barbara Appleby, wife of William Appleby, of Foul Bay road, died yesterday at the Jubilee hospital. She was 38 years of age and a native of Newcastle-on-Tyne, England. She leaves a husband and three children to mourn her loss. The remains were

removed to Hanna's parlors and the funeral will take place on Monday afternoon.

—August 15th being the anniversary of the birth of Sir Walter Scott, the Victoria Public Library, at the suggestion of a special programme for last evening's meeting. An eloquent address was given by Rev. W. Leslie Clay, his subject being "The Great Scottish Novelist and Poet." Several recitations were given. A discussion of the Burns memorial closed the meeting.

—The residents on the higher levels are no longer suffering from a scarcity of water, in fact some of them have been under the necessity of having new plumbing placed in their residences, the force is so strong. This was brought about by the 8 inch main which was laid from the pumping station on Yates street to the head of that street and connecting with the Fort street main. No connections are to be made to the new main, it being used simply to pump water to the higher levels.

—On Thursday evening a rather serious stabbing affray took place on board H.M.S. Imperieuse. Two of the blue-jackets who were pretty much under the influence of liquor quarrelled. One of them drew a knife and plunged it into the other fellow. They were soon separated and the wounded man was removed to a naval hospital. Porters on duty in the street saw the knife and the knife did not strike a vital part. The cut, though rather extensive, is not considered dangerous.

—Lizzie Martin, who was retained as a witness in the case of Mrs. Ferguson, charged with stealing several hundred dollars from James McConnell, was arrested this morning charged with stealing \$90 from Fred Fisher, a blue-jacket from the U. S. S. Monterey, who was charged with stealing \$300 from the woman's house on Yates street last night. He had in his purse \$170, including eight twenty dollar gold pieces. When he woke up at 2 o'clock this morning the woman had been in his house and he was under the pillow. Four twenty dollar gold pieces and two five dollar pieces had been extracted. He immediately informed the police and the woman was arrested. A search by the officers in the house failed to find the balance could not be found. This morning in the police court, the evidence of Fisher, his companion, and the police officers was taken, and the case was recommended until Monday. An effort should be made to close the house, not only because of these stealing cases, but because several children, sons of Mrs. Ferguson, reside there with her and they can certainly learn no good.

From Monday's Daily. —Messrs. Bolton and Laing, who completed the exploratory tour of the island started by the Province two years ago, returned on Saturday evening.

—Four drunks were dealt with in the police court this morning. One forfeited \$10 bail, two paid \$5 each, and the other was committed and discharged, it being his first offence.

—Lizzie Martin was this morning sentenced to six months in jail with hard labor for stealing \$300 from an American blue-jacket. After sentencing the woman the magistrate told Mrs. Ferguson, in whose house the robbery was committed, that the house would be attended to.

—A fisherman captured an eastern lobster in Esquimalt harbor on Saturday afternoon. The specimen is evidently one of those received from the east. It was in good condition. The market department request fishermen to restore to the water any lobsters which they may inadvertently capture in their fishing operations.

—The Stonecutters' Union have taken the initiative in the matter of a celebration in Victoria on Labor Day. They have solicited the aid of the different unions in the city, also the Trades and Labor Council. It is understood that nearly all have expressed their willingness to assist in arranging for a labor celebration.

—A dispatch from James L. Warner, M. E., of Rossland, states that assay results of ore from the Georgia mine justify shipments of ore to the Trail smelter and that the Georgia shows a large body of ore. The mine is nearly all in Victoria. Development commenced on April 16 last and has been prosecuted with vigor ever since, the amount of work done not being excelled by any other mine in the camp.

—A number of those who lost relations in the Point Ellice bridge disaster have organized for the purpose of bringing a test case to place the responsibility. At a meeting recently held the following, being relatives of 30 of the victims, were represented: Mrs. Patterson, Mrs. Adams, E. C. Shepherd, E. Hooson, G. I. Post, W. Hetherbell, Mrs. McConnell (formerly Mrs. Carmichael), J. H. Adams, Mrs. Bowness, Capt. Smith, G. W. Biggar, E. O. Nathan, B. W. Murray, James Jackson, Mrs. Wolcott, W. F. Fullerton, W. J. Creel, C. A. Bossi, and J. Pearson. It was decided to retain J. H. Adams, J. Richards, Q.C., Mr. D. G. Macdonnell, Mr. Dalton McCarthy, Q.C., and Mr. E. J. Osler, Q.C., the two former to take the matter into the courts here and the two latter to act as counsel. An executive committee was chosen, consisting of Messrs. B. W. Murray, chairman; H. G. McCannan, G. W. Biggar, A. W. Fullerton, J. H. Adams, James Jackson and Captain Smith, treasurer.

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ROYAL Baking Powder has been awarded highest honors at every world's fair where exhibited.

FROM BEHRING SEA

The Steamer Portland Brings News From the Victoria Sealing Schooners.

Two Large Sailing Vessels Arrive in the Royal Roads—Other Shipping News.

The first news of the Victoria sealing schooners since the Behring sea season opened was brought down by the steamer Portland, Capt. Wm. Kidston, which arrived at Nanaimo on Saturday from St. Michaels, Alaska. The passage from St. Michaels occupied 14 days, one day having been spent at Unalakusa, which port was left on Aug. 6. To a Free Press representative Captain Kidston stated that up to the date of sailing from Unalakusa no large catches were reported from any of the sealing vessels, in fact the revenue cutter Rush which had just arrived with news of the sealing fleet, had after rounding all the schooners found that few of them had more than a dozen skins. As only six days had passed since the season opened, this is of course no criterion of what the total catch will be. The information is also given that on board the steamer were "two large express boxes containing the fine quantity of \$370,000 worth of gold dust. Of this \$70,000 belongs to the Dominion government, being the amount collected for duty." This is evidently a long bow drawn by a jolly skipper. Last year about \$5,000 was collected by the Port Cudney authorities for duty, and notwithstanding the boom that has prevailed on the Yukon this year, it is hardly probable that \$70,000 has already been collected for duty. Captain Kidston expressed the opinion that all the sealing vessels, in fact the revenue cutter Rush which had just arrived with news of the sealing fleet, had after rounding all the schooners found that few of them had more than a dozen skins. As only six days had passed since the season opened, this is of course no criterion of what the total catch will be. The information is also given that on board the steamer were "two large express boxes containing the fine quantity of \$370,000 worth of gold dust. Of this \$70,000 belongs to the Dominion government, being the amount collected for duty." 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