

[FROM THE DAILY COLONIST, December 18.]

TREASURES OF ART.

Victorians Enjoy the Opportunity of Admiring the Works of Masters.

Random Notes of the Exhibition Now Open at the City Hall.

If Victorians had realized the real merit of the art exhibition now in progress at the city hall they would crowd the rooms in which the pictures are hung from early morning until night. To go once is to remain as long as time permits, and then leave with reluctance to return at the first opportunity. The large upper chamber is eminently suited to the purpose for which it has been brought into service, it being well lighted from three sides and above; and the paintings brought together through the efforts of the newly formed union make up a collection such as has never before been presented for the inspection of British Columbians. Among the loaned treasures are works of some of the best masters—Raphael, Greuze, Keesey-Halswelle, Smart, Van Dyke, and others—others equally well known to lasting fame—while the less ambitious paintings and sketches presented by the union are quite as attractive, demonstrating as they do the existence of a high standard of productive ability as well as artistic taste. Mr. Barff, Shrapnell, Bamford, Maclure, Tyler and Quentin all have good work on view—work that would command attention anywhere for its fidelity to the spirit of the subject treated as well as to nature. There are in all 231 loaned pictures to be seen and admired besides 185 paintings and water color drawings forming the Art Union collection.

Among the two hundred and thirty-one loaned pictures in oil and water color, "The Missing Boat" (31), by R. Anderson, is perhaps the most attractive work of all, the one that commands the most attention as well as one of the best pictures in the exhibition. The figures on the stony beach depict the most extreme anxiety or despair for the safety of the boat and the feeling of its damp upon the cheek. There is, too, a rare attention to every detail that still further enhances the value of the great work, which is loaned by Mr. F. Angus. A landscape (1), also owned by Mr. Angus, is an excellent example of the work of the famous author, the late Keesey Halswelle, R.S.A.; a group of willows branching over a beautifully rendered bit of pool, by the banks of which sheep are sleeping in the summer afternoon. The whole picture breathes of peaceful nature.

Mount Baker (45) by Mme. de L'Aubiniere, loaned by Mr. A. J. Langley, is perhaps the best of the many paintings by this lady artist, who was here only a few years ago. The difficult subject rendered most admirably and the coloring and technique are very good. Number 14 is a clever picture of Sydney Harbor in "the fifties" by E. B. Boulton, loaned by Mr. T. C. Boulton. Number 17, "Loch Arne," (Smart, R.S.A.), loaned by Mr. F. Angus, is a beautiful picture of a well known Scottish scene—the coloring and atmosphere being simply perfect, while the skilful handling of many combining elements commands the enthusiastic admiration of the artist. Number 25 is a very fascinating landscape by H. Whatley, loaned by Mr. James Dunsmuir; and number 67, "Glendalough Valley" (A. Hartland), owned by Mr. W. H. Ellis, is another grand study of the Highlands, a work of both magnitude and importance, the heather-covered hills in the background and the reflected gloom of the great cliffs being magnificently treated.

There are many of Shrapnell's works on view in the loan collection as well as among the Union's pictures, the latter being the general subject—a class of painting in which Mr. Shrapnell has few living rivals. An incident of yesterday places him on a level with the Grecian painter whose grapes tempted the observant birds—it was an Irish setter this time, that was completely deceived by one of his willow grouse. Mr. Shrapnell also shows a number of paintings from his private collection, including a curious "Adoration of the Infant Christ"—painted on marble by an unknown artist of centuries gone. A portrait, by Arrowsmith, of Mr. Shrapnell's grandfather, the late General Shrapnell, inventor of the Shrapnell shell, is one of the most interesting works in the class; the shell is seen, too, and the picture attracts lively attention among artillerymen. "Miss Minnie" (178), is another of Mr. Shrapnell's treasures, a marvel of good portrait work and rich costume coloring; and the portrait of "The Infant Christ"—painted on marble by an unknown artist of centuries gone. A portrait, by Arrowsmith, of Mr. Shrapnell's grandfather, the late General Shrapnell, inventor of the Shrapnell shell, is one of the most interesting works in the class; the shell is seen, too, and the picture attracts lively attention among artillerymen. "Miss Minnie" (178), is another of Mr. Shrapnell's treasures, a marvel of good portrait work and rich costume coloring; and the portrait of "The Infant Christ"—painted on marble by an unknown artist of centuries gone.

The gem of the portraits is, however, that of the "Boy Writing" (207), a genuine Greuze, loaned by Mr. Scroggs, which through the centuries since its production has retained not only all the warmth and freshness of its color, but a depth of individuality seldom to be found in a child's picture. The charm of the work is not easily defined; it is not due to the skilful brush of a master in colors, but seems rather to come from the soul of the genius shining through his work. Number 204, "Beggarmen and Child," is another picture that commands long and unqualified admiration. It is loaned by Mr. H. Dumbleton, and though unsigned proclaims itself the work of a true genius, a student of his subject's character as well as a master of the painter's craft. Miss Peers' collection of family portraits by Van Dyke and Sir Godfrey Kneller commands much attention, as does every naturally the authenticated Rafael which she contributes—a head of Christ.

The works of A. Lee Rogers are well represented in pictures loaned by Mr. A. C. Flumerfelt, Mrs. Scroggs and Mr. Maclure. Mr. J. H. Brownie's contributions a pair of Rhode Island coast water colors by Levey; Indoni's "Italian

Peasant" comes from the collection of Dr. I. W. Powell; and among other well known artists recognized in the loan attractions are Thorpe, Surrey, Coleman, Sophie Lewis, Kames, Shute, Hoyte, Anderson, Widgery, Macdonald, Poisson, Ballantine, Magbelli, Drummond, Gavanni, Weber, Inchboud, Hodgson, Suter, Miss M. Carter, Salmon, Caldwell, Henry Sandham, Verner, Blair, di Franchesi, David White, Bishop, Fowles, Gray, Mrs. Murry, Loomans, G. T. Brown, Grimshaw, Captain Caddy, Mulready, Bainbridge, Mortimer, Furni, J. Alden Wier, McKay, de Grosse, Camarolena, and Christian Ellis. Of these detailed mention will be made during the progress of the exhibition, as well as of the paintings and sketches from the hands of our own Lieutenant-governor, Dewdney, Miss Worsfold, Tyler, Miss Drake, Miss Wallace, S. Maclure, T. Bamford, T. L. A. Aspin, Mrs. T. Ross, Miss Clapham, Miss E. M. Saunders, Miss Hayward, L. C. Barff, R. Quentin, E. S. Shrapnell, Mrs. T. A. Hall, Miss Ross, Mrs. G. Leiser, F. Pauline, H. Hardie Simpson, Miss Kinsman and Miss Hayward.

Among the Union pictures are found numerous examples of Bamford's ever present love of his art and evidences of his continuous improvement in technique. Tyler is best represented in his scene in the Himalayas, a tremendous subject skilfully handled; and Quentin, in a large view of Nanaimo harbor, although the latter artist's dramatic style is elsewhere evidenced. Barff is at his best in the oil view of the Straits (43), the curling incoming waves arresting the eye and showing its full front of green, being admirable indeed in its treatment. The gem of this artist's collection of Japanese sketches is undoubtedly Yumoto-lake—a charming study of sky and water. Maclure's design of a full treatment of skies and calm water is much in evidence, while his snow scenes are worthy of much commendation. Like Barff, his forte is water, however; though here the comparison between the two artists must cease. Mr. Barff's pictures stamp him a realist whose constant aim is to paint nature as she is; Mr. Maclure, on the other hand, is an idealist, who invests his every scene with the charm of poetry. Shrapnell, though unquestionably at his best in dead game, has numerous beautiful landscapes on the walls—one, especially good, being a picture of Welsh lake and mountain scenery.

The exhibition continues to-day, and on Friday the school children of the city will be the special guests of the Union.

A RAILWAY ROW.

There is trouble up at Sandon growing out of the dispute, it is understood, between the Nakusp & Slokan railway and the Kaslo & Slokan railway. A brief dispatch from Nelson yesterday was received stating that a gang of men had torn up the track of the Nakusp & Slokan railway at Sandon, pulled down the buildings erected thereon, and had cut the telegraph wires and uprooted the poles. Mr. H. Dallas Helmecken, Q.C., acting for the Nakusp & Slokan railway at once communicated to the Attorney-General, and as a result, Superintendent H. H. H. of the provincial police, was instructed to take steps to secure the keeping of the peace. A message was wired to Mr. Fitzstubs, government agent at Nelson, to at once proceed to the scene, to report on the position of affairs and to take every step necessary to preserve the peace. The two roads have been fighting in the courts lately. A short time ago the Kaslo & Slokan railway tried to get an injunction against the Nakusp & Slokan on the ground partly that the latter road was interfering with their line and had neglected to apply to the chief commissioner of Lands and Works for a deviation of the line. The injunction was not granted, the court holding that it had not been shown that the Nakusp & Slokan was intending to touch or cross the Kaslo & Slokan line. Now the Kaslo & Slokan have an application pending for an injunction restraining the Nakusp & Slokan from trespassing on their right of way. The hearing has been postponed to give the Nakusp & Slokan a chance to put in affidavits in reply to those of the Kaslo & Slokan.

DR. FRANK HALL EXPLAINS.

TO THE EDITOR:—With reference to the coroner's address, the jury at the close of the picture show, I desire to say my conduct in not immediately notifying the authorities when I was informed of some irregularity, I may say that his conduct was unjust and entirely uncalled for, and it is only fair to myself to state that I was not in a position to do so. I am a member of the profession in such matters, and in each and every step I exercised discretion by consultation with different members of the profession, and with reference to the treatment of the deceased, I will allow it to be challenged by any three of the best experienced practitioners in the city. Furthermore, this case seems uncalled for, as a coroner and not inquire definitely into treatment. With reference to the coroner's statement that I made no effort to obtain information from deceased, I may say that the coroner had forgotten that in my evidence I stated that the deceased was not an answer questions I asked her with reference to this matter, and to further show that the coroner was indiscreet, or prejudiced against myself, I may say that Foreman Hanna asked him to retract part of his statements, which he did at once did.

FRANK W. HALL.

THERE were no further developments yesterday in the case arising out of the death of Mary Ellen James, one who was shot to death by John Kaye Garrow and Harry Creech were arraigned in the police court yesterday—the former charged with being the murderer of the latter, and the latter charged with accessory before the commission of the crime. A crowded court room expectantly waited to hear the particulars of the tragedy again related from the witness box. In this they were disappointed, the policemen yet being ready to proceed, and the coroner's jury, which was introduced, adjourned being accordingly granted, until Friday morning. Detective Peers due now has the case in hand, and it is expected that additional evidence, supplementary to that presented to the coroner's jury, will be introduced during the progress of the police court inquiry.

Hall's Hair Renewer renders the hair lustrous and silken, gives it an even color, and enables women to put it up in a great variety of styles.

THE BOARD OF TRADE, THE SCHOOLS CLOSING.

Special Committee to Make a Joint Report on the Comparative Legislation Question.

Annual Report of the Board Elicits Favorable Comment From Many Places.

At a meeting of the Council of the British Columbia Board of Trade yesterday forenoon, the Secretary reported having received a large number of acknowledgements of the annual report of the board, which has been sent to boards of trade, chambers of commerce and similar bodies all over the continent, various parts of the empire and foreign countries. The comments contained in many of these letters were highly favorable, showing the distinct value of such a publication of information about the province. For instance, J. M. Barr, a prominent Michigan lumberman who has recently visited to province for the purpose of examining its timber capabilities, writes regarding the report that "it will be of great service to me." From a Vancouver business man comes praise to the effect that it is "the best statement yet published as to the possibilities of the country." Mr. John McNab, inspector of fisheries, and many others speak similarly in terms of praise.

Individual reports were received from the members of the committee to which was referred the communication of the under secretary of state, enclosing the document issued by the "Society of Comparative Legislation." The society of which Lord Herschell, G.C.B., Lord Chancellor of England is president, has been formed with the object of promoting knowledge of the course of legislation in different countries, more particularly in the United States. The object is both practical and scientific; the society is intended to be of service to legislative bodies, practising lawyers, jurists and students of sociology, and besides the assistance of the science and legislation services of the chambers of commerce throughout the Empire are asked in furthering the aims of the society, as having a direct bearing on the interests of merchants and manufacturers.

The opinion of Mr. T. B. Hall was that this was not a case where a merchant could give much advice—it was rather legal in its aims. In this opinion Mr. G. Leiser concurred, while Mr. J. L. Forrester said it appeared to him that the society would be of benefit to the province, directly to members of the Board of Trade, provided the local judges and lawyers became members and took an interest in the society, as comparative legislation with a view to uniformity is to be desired by every community.

Mr. F. J. Claxton while believing the objects of the society to be good suggested that the opinion of the legal members of the board should be obtained as it more particularly affected their profession.

Mr. W. Templeman believed the endorsement and active encouragement of the board should be given. As there were few of the members of the board who could give the proper time to such a large and involving much research, he suggested that the fee of one or more suitable candidates for membership be paid—the secretary, a permanent official, preferred—who could from time to time keep the board informed of the society's work.

The matter was referred back to the committee for a joint report.

Mr. W. H. Ellis was elected a member of the council in place of Mr. T. M. Henderson, resigned. A vote of thanks was passed to Messrs S. T. Walker and C. S. Rashdale, of New Denver, for the fine mineral specimens they have presented to the board of trade cabinet, and the adjournment of the meeting followed.

WELLINGTON'S BIG STORE.

The following is from the last issue of the Wellington Enterprise: Messrs. Leiser & Hamburger can well claim to have the largest retail establishment in the province. From a comparatively small beginning the business has grown to truly gigantic proportions, embracing every branch of mercantile traffic. The floor area embraced by this firm with their added space is one-third of an acre. The building recently completed by the firm is occupied by the ground floor by general furnishings and furniture, while the upper store contains the tailor and manufacturing shops and dressmaking rooms. The tailoring shop is under the management of Mr. H. J. Robie, and will soon contain thirteen hands, and the intention of the firm to manufacture their own stock of custom made clothing, collars, cuffs, overalls, jumpers, etc. They are commended for their enterprise in this matter, as it means an expenditure at home of much money that has hitherto been sent out of this province. This store is now resplendent in its display of holiday goods of all description. It is safe to say that no one can roam through the building without expressing a feeling of admiration for the energy of the proprietors.

The chopping contest for the championship of Cowichan at McPherson's last Saturday took place in a pouring rain, the attendance being limited on account of the weather. The chopping was done on the farm of John McPherson, son, J. J. Mahony, being chairman of the committee of arrangements, reading the rules governing the contest and introducing the following presiding officers: Judge P. C. Colville, referee, John McPherson; timekeeper, L. Anderson and J. J. Mahony; and clerk, E. Miller. The contest, which was for the best time in making two Wm. Mearns, 14 min. 12 sec.; M. Allard, 14 min. 46 sec.; R. G. Ryan, 16 min. 10 sec.; J. Humphreys, 11 min. 48 sec.; T. Humphreys, 14 min. 36 sec.; and R. Mearns, 14 min. 3 sec. As shown, Mearns won the gold medal, M. Allard the silver medal, and J. Humphreys, third prize—a steel axe. All the contestants were satisfied at the result of the match and all who attended spoke well of it.

Eleven men have deserted from the steamer Florida, loading at Hastings.

Pupils of the North Ward and Girls' Central Dismissed for the Holidays.

The Prize Winners and the Children Entitled to Promotion in the Various Classes.

Two more schools closed for the Christmas holidays yesterday, the North Ward and the Girls' Central, the former in the morning and the latter in the afternoon. At North Ward there was simply the reading of the promotion and prize lists, followed by short addresses by Trustee Mrs. Grant, Trustee Glover, Inspector Burns and Rev. J. H. Betts. Miss Walker, who is resigning her position as teacher, was presented by her pupils with a souvenir in the shape of some pretty table ornaments. The Principal, Miss Murtion, and Miss Dowler also had presentations from their pupils.

One of the pleasant and satisfactory features of the Girls' Central was the results of manual training in the first division. The pupils of this division have made for presentation to the Jubilee hospital thirty pillow cases. The merits of these useful articles were judged by Mrs. Charles Hayward, with the result that the prize was awarded to Miss May Gowen, while Miss Irene Eyer, Helma Wilson, Olive Sonden and Clem King received honorable mention. A number of songs were very creditably sung by the pupils of this school, and there were addresses by Inspector Wilson and Mrs. Grant, and Mr. Marchant and G. Glover.

Miss Williams the principal of the Girls' school was presented by her pupils with a silver napkin ring and Miss Barron received a silver jewel case from the girls of division II.

The promotions in the schools were:

NORTH WARD.

DIVISION I.
Mr. A. R. McNeill, Principal.
Prize List—General proficiency, Brenda Nicholls; diligence, Victoria Douglas; arithmetic, Lancelot Clark; grammar, Rose Maynard.

DIVISION II.
Miss M. Sanderson, Teacher.
To Division I—Laura Stella Simpson, Alice Jane Bishop, Wallace Alexander McMorran, Frederick William Smith, Rose Alice Hall.
Recommended—Lillian May Sheriff, Lizzie Strachan, Juanita Louisa Davis, Gertrude Hackett, Frank Catterall.

To Division II—Laura Simpson, English history; Wallace McMorran, Canadian history; Alice Bishop, grammar; Rose Hall, writing; Frederick Smith, arithmetic.

DIVISION III.
Miss H. Bachevalier, Teacher.
To Division II—Henrietta Emma Bachevalier, James Mackay, Ethel Jones, William Baker and Frank Coley, equal; William Alfred Blake John Williamson, Frank William Monroe Cantrill, Mabel Holt, Thomas Neil, Alice Moressey, Arthur Williams, Blanch Bush, William Bloomfield, and C. S. Rashdale, head of class—Henrietta Bachevalier.

DIVISION IV.
Miss L. D. Dowler, Teacher.
To Division III—Geddes Lyall, Alice Mary Eccles, Fanny Grace Carlson and Mary Peters, equal; Ethel May Mills, Grace Hackett, Ethel Maude Hosker, Priscilla Maude Beatty, Norman James Ford and Mary McDonald, equal; Mary Emily Haughton, Henry Robert White, Lillian Cousins, Maude Atkins Glover, Frank Hix, Gertrude Annie Creech and Elizabeth Barker, equal; Robert Clark, Agnes Ward, Christina Jeanette McDonald, Minnie Florence Stapleton and Margaret Campbell, equal; Thomas Field Wilson.

Prize List—General proficiency, Geddes Lyall; second, Alice Eccles, presented by Miss Mills; third, Grace Carlson and Clifford Pines, presented by Mrs. Glover; fourth, Ethel Mills; mental arithmetic, Harry White, Thomas Wilson; written arithmetic, Norman Ford, Gertrude Creech, Lillian Cousins; writing, Minnie Stapleton; composition, Maude Glover, spelling, Maggie Campbell; grammar, Ethel Hosker; special prize, Johnson Gilchrist.

DIVISION V.
Miss S. J. Murtion, Teacher.
To Division IV—Mable Fredica Lyall, Lewis Leiber Chamberlin, Georgina Bird, Mary Nell, Olive Helen Lyall, Margaret Mary McNeill, Mabel May Scott, Maggie McLean Carmichael, Herbert Walker, Charles Irvine, Mable Williams, Ralph Thornton, Francis Elizabeth Smith, Charles Campbell, V. H. Gray, Henry Andrew Humber, Elizabeth Edward Bell.

Recommended—Hilda Gunnason and James Baker, equal; Bessie Williams, Helen Louise Baker, Victor Williams. Prize List—Mabel Fredica Lyall, first rank and highest marks in reading; Lewis Leiber, second rank; and geography, Georgina Bird, third rank; and zoography, spelling, Mary Nell, fourth rank; and writing, Ethel Vail, fifth rank, highest marks and arithmetic.

DIVISION VI.
Miss E. J. King, Teacher.
To Division V—Nellie Edna Gray, Charles Theodore Bushell, Irvine Walker, Sidney Burrows, Mary Gertrude Edmonds, Dora Grace Wolff, Delphia Mary Jane Smith, Dorothy Bell White, Eunice Victoria Erskine, Edith Linora Heater, John Young McArthur, Ellen Aspray Salt, Jessie Hallitt, May Meredith Wolff, Arthur Louella Spence, Marie Lillian Wolff, Arthur Cox.

Recommended—Mabel Emily Billingsley, Kate Pamer, Eva Edna Taylor, Edwin Parsons, Florence Palmer, Mildred Baker, Mary Geneva Gillespie, Russell Robinson. Prize List—Proficiency, Nellie Edna Gray; department, Charles Theodore Bushell; diligence, Irvine Walker, dictation and spelling, Mary Gertrude Edmonds.

DIVISION VII.
Miss A. Sprague, Teacher.
To Division VI—Douglas Virgil McGary, Charlotte White, Mary Lillian Malaga, Alzie Olive Beatty, Henry Bird, Irene Mary Bellamy, James Archibald Brewster, Ethel Mabel Bush and Arthur Dakers, equal; Henry Meldram Walker, Dakers, and Henry Rule, Alvin Benjamin Gunnason, Helena Margaret Campbell, Edward John Edmonds, Bert Fuggle, James Austin Gill, Ernest Walsh, Walter Brill.

Recommended—Lillian Smith. Prize List—General proficiency, Douglas McGary; regular attendance, Hettie Melin; Grace Lillian White, Nellie Luan, Arthur Dakers, Joseph Rule, Le Brooke Vail, Bert Fuggle and James Gill; full marks in writing, Douglas McGary.

FIRST PRIZE.
To Second Prize—Peter Egar, Irene Mary Carter, Jessie Emily Walker, Irene Mary Madigan, Alice Gregg, Pearl Mucella Robbins, Florence May Kirschberg,

Leanne Alice Lemon, Kenneth William McCarter, Hector Rule, Grace Isabel McDonald, Annie Louise Slater, Myrtle Elaine Canning, Winnifred Barlae Irving, George Heathfield Grant, Victor Auld. Recommended—Charles Hugh Mackintosh, Charles Mackay, Maude Spicer, William Kamers Collier.
Prize List—Peter Egar, McCarter, general proficiency; Jessie Emily Walker, general proficiency; Isabel Gregg, writing; Florence May Kirschberg, arithmetic; Leanne Alice Lemon, spelling; Herbert Chamberlin, general proficiency; James Baker, general proficiency; Pearl Mucella Robbins, arithmetic; Irene May Madigan, arithmetic.

ROCK BAY SCHOOL.

DIVISION I.
Mr. D. Dallas, teacher.
To Division III—John Patrick Andrew, John Wilkie McArthur, James Barron Russell, Ruby Marguerite Grant.
Prize List—John Patrick Andrew, general proficiency; Frederick G. C. Wood, proficiency and deportment; Arthur Edward Collier, writing; Caroline Voss, deportment.

To Division IV—Frederick Gordon, Campbell Wood, Benjamin Levy, Mable Elizabeth Saunders, Arthur Edward Collier, Phoebe Babburck, Earl Herbert Robbins, and Fritz Victor Homer (recommended).

DIVISION VI.
Miss M. Lucas, teacher.
To Division V—Clarence Baker, John Carmichael, Willie Strachan, Clara Bishop. Recommended—Winnie Betts.
Prize List—Clara Bishop, Winnie Betts, Hugh Caven, Nellie Tagg, George Moir.

GIRLS' CENTRAL SCHOOL.

DIVISION I.
Miss Williams, principal.
To High School—Clementina King, Irene Eyer, Annie Winsby, Maud Munzie, Alice Nicholson.
Prize List—Head of school, Winnifred Hopper (presented by Hibben & Co.); plain sewing, May Gowen (presented by Mrs. Crocker).

DIVISION II.
Miss Barron, Teacher.
To Division I—Euphemia Cole, Lily Sipora Cohen, Kate Frances McCormick, Agnes Nicholson Anderson, Ada Mary Howell, Sadie Eugene Tressa Rogerson, Lillian Elizabeth Hobbs.
Prize List—Deportment (by vote of the class), Violet Emily Robertson; diligence, Florence Amy Carter.

DIVISION III.

Miss A. Keast, Teacher.
To Division II—May Agnes Musson, Maud Louise Field, Zealandia Carter, Evelyn Olive Rant, Annie Denman, Irene Hiseocks, Agnes Etiole Dier, Mabel Sarah Davis, Margaret Jane White, Margaret Helen Lovell, Grace Amelia Burr, Louise Margaret Ray.
Prize List—General proficiency, May Agnes Musson (presented by Mrs. Grant); 2nd, Maud Field.

DIVISION IV.
Mrs. Caldwell, Teacher.
To Division III—May Harlock, Lizzie Taylor, Rose Bamfield, Laura Elford, Alice Cripps, Alberta Wrigglesworth, Gladys Bertrid, Ida Hood, Rose Robinson, Eugene Lewis, Harriet Chambers, Ardell Layden, Cora Heal, Grace Meredith and Margaret Moore, equal; Violet Bryant, Agnes Webster, Emma Vigedus, Sarah Dearle and Jessie McKilligan, equal; Nellie Kent, Elizabeth Chambers, Henrietta Barnwell, Dora Marks and Hilda Leiser, equal; Matilda Garies.

DIVISION V.
Miss Arrowsmith, Teacher.
To Division IV—Lillian Tuttle, Ruth Stillwell, Flora Tait, Lillian Mansell, Mabel McCormick, Clara Paulson, Myrtle Jones, Annie Levy, Gladys Shrapnell, Edith Belle Roberts, Annie Tait, Alice Walls, Pearl Weiss.
Prize List—Deportment—Julia Nicholl, Beatrice Lawson, Rose Denman, and Edith Renfree.

DIVISION VI.
Miss Russell, Teacher.
To Division V—Juanita Hastings, Sophie Whitson, Muriel Henderson, Mabel Lyon, Maggie Proctor.
Miss Christie, Teacher.
To Division VI—Janet Williscroft, Lottie Pearce, Edith Bullock, Annie Paterson and Margery Sherburn, equal; Nancy Harrison, Annette Cohen, Mary MacInnes, Francis Lillian Arthur.

DIVISION VII.
Miss E. S. Shrapnell, Teacher.
To Division VII—Lily Smith, Amelia McGregor, Maud Smith, Gladys Cruickshank, Louisa Alexander, Josie Colbert, Millie Helman, Mable Coles, Maggie Sutcliffe.

OTHER SCHOOLS.
To-day at 1 p.m. the closing exercises of Victoria West school will be held at Sample's hall. To-morrow Spring Ridge school closes in the forenoon and the Girls' Central in the afternoon. The Collegiate Institute closes on Friday afternoon.

FIRST OF THE SERIES.

The Christmas Sunday school entertainment of the First Presbyterian church was given last evening. Tea was served to between three and four hundred children, including about thirty from the Protestant Orphans' Home, and afterwards a most enjoyable program of vocal and instrumental music was carried out. The recitations were well rendered; the club singing by Rubie Grant deserves special mention, and what was exceedingly unique and enjoyable was the "Santa Claus" Frolic. A chimney below the mantel shelf was built on the platform by a master mason in presence of the audience with bricks full of candy—and a number of Brownies dressed in character carried the bricks through the chimney to Santa Claus who handed them to the Mason, the Brownies, Santa Claus, Mason and choir of children singing appropriate selections. Santa Claus also distributed the school prizes, and finally the bricks were distributed to the pupils. Both Santa Claus and the Brownies appearing and disappearing through the chimney, were the delight of the young folks. All were thoroughly drilled and reflected great credit on the superintendent and teachers.

The parents and friends thoroughly enjoyed it, too, and manifested their appreciation of the efforts of the staff of Sabbath school workers by filling the large auditorium of the church. As a token of appreciation a handsome chair was given by the pupils and teachers to Mr. John Weston, who is a most efficient, popular and painstaking superintendent.

The First church Sunday school is now the second largest Presbyterian school in British Columbia, and last night's entertainment was one of the most successful in its history.

Singers, public speakers, actors, auctioneers, teachers, preachers, and all who are liable to over-excite and irritate the vocal organs, find Ayer's Cherry Pectoral, a safe, certain, and speedy relief. It is timely done of this preparation has prevented many a throat trouble.

A TRYING EXPERIENCE.

Uncomfortable Quarters on the West Coast—Disabled Steamer or Searching Vessel?

A New Steamer for the Freighting Fleet—The "Sohome's" Successor.

Yesterday's Tacoma Ledger says: "The four-masted schooner Nokomis, Captain Charles Roas, arrived here at 8 o'clock Friday night from San Pedro, coming near being wrecked on the Vancouver Island coast last Monday. Her trip was made under adverse conditions, sighting on Tuesday morning of an ocean steamer that is supposed to be the disabled Strathnevis. The Nokomis arrived off Cape Flattery December 8 after experiencing heavy weather, and have to wait a tug. Monday morning the vessel was a little off the north of Clayquot Sound. At noon land was described four miles distant, with a reef of immense rocks extending along its front. The waves broke against these rocks, throwing up water like so many fountains and as high as the masts of the ship. The seas were tremendous. The vessel continued drifting closer and closer until nightfall. The boats were provisioned and provided with water, and all valuables belonging to the captain and crew placed in them in readiness to put to sea. The swell was high that it was thought the hawseers would part as soon as the strain of the vessel came upon them. At 8 o'clock, when the vessel was within half a mile of the breakers, a severely perceptible wind began blowing off shore. The sails filled, and the schooner began to stand slowly out. Within four hours the land had disappeared beneath the eastern horizon. Capt. Roas thus describes the meeting with the strange steamer Tuesday morning just after the incident just described:

"At 3:30 o'clock the next morning we sighted a steamer. She was in latitude about 48 north and longitude about 128:30 west, or about seven miles off the Vancouver Island coast. We passed within half a mile of her. I thought she was a tug at first, but when we got closer saw that she was a large ocean steamer. We were in company with her about half an hour, during which I squared away for the Cape. I could not see if she had any sails set, as it was raining and very thick, the wind being from the southward. She was hove to, and if she was steaming at all, it was just enough to keep her head to the wind. When first sighted she was on our lee side. We passed under her stern, and finally lost sight of her on our weather side. I caused the fog horn to be blown, and we also burned torches on the ship, but she did not answer any of our signals. In my opinion it was the Strathnevis. Had the vessel we saw been disabled, she certainly should have answered our signals, though it is rather curious that the signals were not answered. In my opinion it was one of the vessels searching for the disabled steamer.

KEEL LAID FOR A NEW STEAMER.
Lying on a cradle made specially for it in Turpel's shipyard, is a large and pretty stick of dressed timber, the keel of what will shortly be a good sized freighting steamer. Captain George Cavin, who has had charge of many tug boats sailing out of Victoria at different times, is the owner and builder of this new craft, the plans for which have been out for some time. They call for a vessel of 80 feet keel, or of a length overall of nearly 100 feet. The other dimensions will be in proportion to this in order to secure a good carrying capacity. It is Captain Cavin's intention to place the steamer when ready for service in the ordinary carrying business, this branch of the shipping trade being now recognized as one of the most profitable. Every successive year seems to call for more steamers in this line, indicating the growth of agriculture in British Columbia.

MARINE NOTES.
The sealing schooners Ida Etta and Favorite were launched from Turpel's ways yesterday morning after being put in good condition for the coming season's engagements. Later in the day the schooner E. B. Marvin and the tug Vancouver were "hailed out" for renovations. The former is not very much in need of an overhauling, but this will be given her if for no other reason than as a matter of practice on the part of the owners.

It was after 1 o'clock yesterday afternoon when the Sohome got in from the Sound, the delay being due partially to the late hour at which she started out from here on Monday. Her crew had confidence in the report that she is soon to be succeeded by the Edith, a craft of smaller dimensions, but of more convenient accommodation, now, it is said, fitting out for the purpose in Tacoma.

No sufficient inducements offering in the way of freight and passengers, the Rainbow's special trip North, upon which she was to start on Monday evening, has been cancelled.

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