

School Children Home for Christmas.

Interesting Features of the Day Before the Holidays—Winners of Competitive Drill Flag and the Governor-General's Medals.

(From Saturday's Daily Edition.)

That Britain has another generation of true-hearted Canadians growing to active manhood and womanhood, who will be ready to bear their parts when the time comes in sharing the responsibilities and dangers of the Empire, was amply evidenced at the closing of the city schools yesterday—patriotism being the keynote of the interesting exercises everywhere, and the stirring martial poetry of the nation, together with expressions of affection for the grand old flag, being important features of the programmes in all cases. The new rule providing for annual examinations, having come into force, the customary voluminous promotion lists were not in evidence, and the closing exercises consisted in the main of recitations and readings, with the illustrations of the practical work of the school rooms, supplemented with recitations, recitations and vocal music by the pupils, all of whom entered into the proceedings with zest and evident enjoyment. The practical work of the schools, presented especially in the morning, assembled parents and friends of education, much encouragement to the devoted instructors being thereby afforded. Nor was the physical drill, most important factor in the education of the men and women of a few years hence, in any way neglected, the supported general programme of a literary and musical character was presented during the afternoon, and the High school students also assembled in the morning for the presentation by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of the Governor-General's medals, the award of the hand-drawn flag presented by Ald. Hayward, and a competition in drill, and an instructive address by Hon. Abraham E. Smith, the resident consul of the United States.

AT THE HIGH SCHOOL.

Captain McMicking's Drill Company Takes the Flag—The Governor-General's Medals.

Punctually at 2 o'clock the Lieutenant-Governor and Hon. Abraham E. Smith, resident consul of the United States, entered the hall, and the procession through an aisle of standing High school students, who sang "God Save the Queen" as His Honor advanced to his place under a canopy of white cloth draped on either side with the flags of Britain and the United States. Mr. Russell then played the "Royal Anthem," after which Mr. Paul, the principal, read the list of promotions, from the fourth to the third division, and from the third to the second, and the most important motions being made at Christmas from the second to the first division. The fortunate school boys, who were arranged as follows:

From Division III to Division II (in order of standing)—Miss Elizabeth Bryce, Miss Marion Othman, Miss Olive Preston, Miss Katrina Johnson, Miss Ruth Ford, Miss Forrest Potts, Miss Sophie Hines, Miss Christina Murray, Miss Joanna Johnston, Miss Jennie Potts, Miss Wm. Johnston, Miss Catherine Lorey, Herbert Hines, Miss Len Somerville, Sydney Powell and Miss Amy Wilson.

From Division IV to Division III—Miss Strachan, was first in order of merit, and Miss Noble second. The following are the promotions: Master Anderson, Miss Black, Miss Campbell, Miss Carson, Miss Dunn, Miss Few, Miss Glover, Miss Goddard, Master G. Galloway, Master J. Galloway, Master Gibson, Miss Hines, Miss Johnston, Master McKarthur, Miss Noble, Master Russell, Miss Selick, Master S. Shanks, Miss Shields, Miss Strachan, Miss Sweet, Master Sweetland, Miss Wilson, Master Word and Miss Watson.

The programme of the day, which was returned by Mr. Paul, the principal, was most satisfactorily carried out as follows:

Song—"The Maple Leaf" (V.).
Presentation of medals and Principal's Prize.
Remarks of Principal Paul on the nature of the drill competition.

The medals are the medals presented by His Excellency the Governor-General of one of silver, for the pupils of the High school, won by Miss Fanny Forbes, Miss Selick, Miss Strachan, Miss Sweet, Master Sweetland, Miss Wilson, Master Word and Miss Watson.

The flag was presented by Ald. Hayward for competition in drill among the four companies of the High school, as hereunder:
No. 1 Company—Miss Crawford, captain.
No. 2 Company—Miss Harris, captain.
No. 3 Company—Mr. Edgar McMicking, captain.
No. 4 Company—Mr. Samuel Shanks, captain.

A Light House In Darkness.

Mysterious Failure of Light on Egg Island Will Be Investigated.

Schooner Sled Turpel Disabled in a Gale—Tug Boat Captains Change.

The officers and crew of the Dominion government steamer Quada will spend Christmas this year at sea, the vessel's absence from port being necessitated by the need of investigating at once conditions at Egg Island lighthouse. Queen Charlotte Sound, and the vessel left on that mission yesterday morning. Calling at Mary Island on her last Northern trip, Capt. Foote of the steamer Danube was notified that it had been reported to the authorities there on the 13th instant that the light at Egg Island was not showing. The Danube passed the lighthouse on December 17, and was unable to ascertain exactly whether or not the light was in operation, only observing a faint fixed light, instead of the usual revolving flash-light. The house at Egg Island is in charge of William Brown, who is absolutely alone save for the company of his three-year-old child, and it is conceivable that he may be prostrated by sickness, or even that the lamps may be out of order. It is to ascertain the exact circumstances that the Quada is being sent to the lighthouse—a most important one, by the way—draws from the Dominion government the magnificent salary of \$40 per month. Penned up in a desolate corner of the world, without communication with civilization for whole months at a time, it is not surprising that the Quada is a man who will take charge of the light if it be found that anything is wrong with the lamps.

THE TURPEL IN A GALE.

Sealing Schooner Disabled in a Heavy Blow at Entrance to Straits.

The sealing schooner Sled Turpel, Capt. A. McDougall, which left for the West Coast on Tuesday morning last, after an Indian crew, returned to port yesterday in a rather dilapidated condition. The Turpel had got well down to the Straits when a heavy gale, which had accompanied her thus far on her voyage, increased to a gale of force, and the vessel was blown back to the city, arriving here early yesterday morning. The disabled schooner was towed to the wharf, and leave again for the sealing grounds as soon as possible.

LOCAL NEWS.

The Aldermanic Contest.—It is understood that endeavors are being made to induce ex-Ald. James Baker to consent to stand for North Ward at the approaching municipal election. He is, however, adverse to again accepting aldermanic honors, and will not likely consent to be a candidate.

St. Andrew's Church Treat.—The young folk of St. Andrew's Presbyterian church, in their turn, had the honor of a visit from Santa Claus' special representative last night, that functionary distributing seasonable gifts from a well-stocked sack.

The Girls Are Glad.—In connection with the pleasing drill competition at the High school yesterday, it will please the girls to know that Capt. Olive Phillips-Wolley has expressed his intention of offering a suitable prize for a calisthenic competition somewhat on the line of his suggestion in presenting the Hayward flag. The schools are announced to be open on January 8, the second Monday in the new year.

Helping the Needy.—The various local charitable organizations are making the usual preparations to provide a measure of relief to the needy. The following are a list of those making further donations to the Friendly Help Society: Bertha Cannon, Georgina Babbington, Katie Harburger, Herman Harburger, Elaine McMicking, Annie Williams, John Williams, Thomas Jeffrey, Bertie Hendroff, Victor Searns, David Raynour.

Victorians on Board.—The report of the fact that the steamer Oceanic was overdue at Liverpool caused considerable uneasiness here yesterday, there being a number of Victorians on board, among them Hon. P. O'Reilly, Mrs. O'Reilly, Mr. O'Reilly and Mr. H. Bullock-Wester. The arrival of the steamer had not been reported yesterday, although she was due at Liverpool on Thursday, and it was not until yesterday morning that it was ascertained that she was on her way.

Victorians at the Front.—Probably no British Columbia family is better represented at the front—if as well—than that of Mrs. Blumenthal, a former and well-known member of the family that her eldest son, Louis, is a prisoner in the hands of the Boers, at the moment of the family being notified that them in deciding how to mark their ballot at the forthcoming municipal campaign.

YOUR ASSOCIATE TEACHERS.

THE RED BADGE OF COURAGE.

Pluck of the British Soldier Illustrated by Several Historic Anecdotes.

There is a wonderful picture in a recent issue of the Illustrated London News which gives food for thought. Gen. White is represented as riding unconcernedly by while a shell is exploding within ten yards of him. The man wears that impassive expression which made an American officer once remark to the writer that he never saw anything human so wooden in appearance as the British soldier. "A mere machine," he called him, and I think I can see Tommy A. thrust his tongue in his cheek and screw his eyes up to laughing point at this highest of all praise in his wise estimation. A mere machine. What greater can be said of masses of men, men who are represented as riding unconcernedly by while a shell is exploding within ten yards of him? The man wears that impassive expression which made an American officer once remark to the writer that he never saw anything human so wooden in appearance as the British soldier. "A mere machine," he called him, and I think I can see Tommy A. thrust his tongue in his cheek and screw his eyes up to laughing point at this highest of all praise in his wise estimation. A mere machine. What greater can be said of masses of men, men who are represented as riding unconcernedly by while a shell is exploding within ten yards of him?

DIED OF SPINAL MENINGITIS.

William John Craigie, youngest son of the late Thomas Craigie, and for several years past an assistant in the Col. onist job printing department, died yesterday after a very brief illness. Deceased had a few days previously complained of feeling unwell, but his illness was not considered serious. His condition becoming suddenly worse, Dr. Frank Hall was summoned to attend to the patient, who was suffering from spinal meningitis, happily a very rare affliction here. Young Craigie rapidly succumbed and passed away at an early hour yesterday morning at the residence of his mother, Mrs. John L. Blackmore, 239 Yates street.

Deceased, who was but 19 years of age, served as a "subject" to hypnotists in the late 1880s, and was here and when news of his death was first circulated some were inclined to attribute it to the experience he had undergone with the hypnotists, but his mother is disinclined to connect that with the cause. The funeral, conducted under the auspices of the A. O. F., of which deceased was a member, will take place on Sunday next from the Yates street residence.

FELIX LESLOUIS DEAD.

Pioneer of Fifty-Eight Passed Away Yesterday Morning—A Busy Life.

The pioneers of this province will remember the name of Felix Leslouis, one of the oldest settlers of Victoria, having arrived here in the year 1858 with the rush of gold-seekers from the old country. He passed away. He was identified with active mining on the Fraser and Thompson rivers in Cariboo, British Columbia, and occupied a position as gauger or assayer in the Yukon. He was a member of the Victoria Club, and was particularly so one who took a leading part in amateur theatricals and a singer of note in his native tongue. He was well known to the old-time favorites and the walls of the old Theatre Royal, formerly situated on Government street, have recalled his name, and again with the echoes of theatre-goers of those old days. The announcement that he was going to appear on the stage at the Victoria Theatre, was a great crowd of people. The deceased was one of the founders of the French hospital, and was a member of the same. He was a member of the same who was taken over by the Jubilee hospital. He had been ailing for about a year. One daughter, the wife of Mr. Borrie, and one son, a doctor, survives him. Mr. Leslouis was 84 years of age.

The funeral will take place on Sunday at 1:45 from the residence of Mr. A. Borrie, Blanchard street, and at 2 at St. Andrew's R. C. cathedral.

TROUBLESOME INDIANS.

Chilcotins Attempt to Drive White Settlers Out of Their Country.

The Chilcotin Indians are again causing trouble in the vicinity of Tatla lake, where their objection to the settlement of white men in that vicinity being the cause. Mr. B. Franklin and Edward Elkin, a brother of the man for whose murder on the Chilcotin the British government was dragged to the scaffold, his wife and cap torn from him, his shirt rent, and he was hidden to lay his head on the block of the Chilcotin. He was killed with every heart-beat, a reprieve was announced. "Very well," was the reply, "I will be glad to have you to hand me my wig and cap again. He finished his toilet imperturbably, and walked away as if nothing had happened. A runaway dog was seen on our chum, Kipling, was used to say. Our own Prince of Wales showed not a little pride in the man who turned out to be a white man, and he was sleeping again while the Chilcotins were going on. Since, he averred, he didn't see that getting up would stop the row, he looked for fresh things. One of the finest instances of sheer pluck which has ever come under my personal observation was once when, riding late at night through a wooded area, I saw an old Irish squire, a band of Moonlighters, or Land-Leaguers, leaped out and seized the horses by the heads. More than one gun barrel leaped to shoulder, when the dear old man interposed. "Wait, boys," he said, "don't shoot till I take punch of excellent snuff that has just reached me from Scotland." And they were shaking hands all round a few minutes. "Tut," said the squire, "you ought to be ashamed to be threatening an old man and a child, and they were. They were not bad-hearted fellows, only mistaken.

MUNICIPAL POINTERS.

Sir: Has the corporation the authority under the Municipal Act to enter into a speculation by taking stock or shares in a work to be undertaken beyond the limits of the city, or within the limit. If it has the authority, no money should be handed over until the whole capital is subscribed and ten per cent. paid up. Mr. Paterson should not receive any money for his interest in Victoria & Sidney railway, but should be paid in stock. Should he receive money, the interest upon the city for so many years should be first deducted. The same course for the city would be to hand over a bonus to a responsible company to carry out the work.

The city should look well to its liabilities in the immediate future. Say-Railway bonus, \$500,000. Three bridges will have to be constructed soon at \$200,000 each. Taxation should be equalized so as not to place all on real estate. Heavy taxation will have the effect of increasing the number of driving people out of the city.

The local improvement charges in addition to the ordinary taxes are much more than the owners can stand. The part of Port street wooden paves that is first the crown and will be on it, which will cause sinking and will be the evil consequences of bad road making is evident everywhere. One wise road overseer laid a foundation of sandstone on some of the streets, and was allowed to do this by a wiser street committee. Such wise yielding constant crop of a mixture of clay and sand—good plaster for a log hut.

THE QUEEN'S TRAMWAYS. New York, Dec. 21.—All the street railway interests in the city of Havana were concerned at the news that the office of the treasurer of the Havana Electric Railway Co., in this city, thus far had not been contested for more than a year ago.

The Queen Adelaide, of the N. P. line, which sailed from Vancouver for this port on December 17, is due about New Year.

Navy Taking Precautions

Steamboats Entering Esquimalt Harbor Will Be Required to Give a Signal.

Bark Reported Ashore Near Bonilla Point Was Not the Overdue Colusa.

The naval authorities at Esquimalt are enforcing more regulations, looking to the protection of the dockyard and drydock. Yesterday it was told how they had doubled the guards and sentries and it is now learned that as a further precaution the harbormaster has been notified to instruct steamboat captains that they will have to give a certain signal before being allowed to enter the harbor.

NOT THE COLUSA.

Bark Which Was in Trouble Off Bonilla Point Was the Vidette.

CHANGE IN CAPTAINS.

Resignation of One Brings Promotion to Rest of Puget Sound Tugboat Company's Masters.

UNEASINESS FOR RESCUERS.

Mounted Police Who Went to Help Edmonton Trailers Overdue at Dawson.

Seattle, Dec. 21.—When W. A. Heber and other Klondike passengers who reached here yesterday from Dawson, left Dawson, some fears were entertained for the safety of the expedition.

COMRADES IN ARMS.

Incidents of African Battlefields Showing How Hard Fighters Carry Kind Hearts.

DOMESTIC SERVICE.

John Charlton, M.P., on the Difficulty of Maintaining Supply of Gold.

THE WAR EAGLE MANUFACTURER.

Toronto, Dec. 20.—The James Goshorn of Montreal, maker of electric machinery, to-day issued a writ for \$150,000 against the War Eagle Co., for alleged libel and slander.

FOR FAITHFUL EMPLOYEES.

London, Ont. Dec. 20.—The London St. Railway Company have decided to distribute \$5,000 at Christmas among employees who stood by them during the recent strike.

FAMED MUSICIAN DEAD.

Paris, Dec. 21.—Jean Lameroux the famous musical conductor died today after a two days illness.

Armored Train At Chieveley.

Heroism of the Little British Party Suddenly Thrown on the Veldt.

Bluejackets as Usual Equal to Emergency—Churchill's Solderly Part.

London, Dec. 13.—(Via New York, Dec. 21.)—Burling, the Daily Telegraph's war correspondent, supplies a full account of the annihilation of the armoured train at Chieveley, at which Winston Churchill was captured.

LADYSMITH ALL RIGHT.

Still Well Supplied with Food and Ammunition and Troops in Good Spirits.

London, Dec. 22.—The Daily Mail says: "We understand that news has arrived from Gen. White to the effect that Ladysmith is well supplied with food and ammunition and can hold out much longer than has been estimated."

PALACE CAR MAN SUICIDES.

Washington, Dec. 21.—James Duane Taylor one of the most important officers in the New York City Wagner Palace Car Co. and a son-in-law of the founder of the company, committed suicide today shortly after noon, by cutting his throat with a razor.

Boer Prisoners' Disappointment.

Captives on British Hulk Who Thought to View Cape as Conquerors.

Expected to Sweep Natal Before the British Troops Could Arrive.

By Associated Press. London, Dec. 21.—The Daily Graphic's correspondent describing a visit to the hulk Penelope at Simons Bay, where the Boer prisoners are confined, undertaken in the company of Col. Stowe, the United States consul-general, writes:

"The majority of the prisoners are sleek, contented and indifferent. They told me that they thought the war would be a picnic; that they would rush Natal before the Imperial troops arrived; that England would be involved in foreign complications and that they would be able to dictate terms from Pietermaritzburg and Durban. They thought to rescue the Cape Peninsula as conquerors, not from a prison ship."

A LUDGARE TICKET.

Deadman's Island Park Nominates Candidates for Vancouver Municipal Offices.

A POPULAR YAQHTSMAN.

London, Dec. 22.—Sir Thomas Lipton has been unanimously elected Rear Commodore of the Royal Yacht Club.

LESS THAN TWO ROUNDS.

New York, Dec. 21.—Charles Goff of California met and defeated the English middleweight boxer Geoffrey Thorne in less than two rounds before the Hercules Athletic Club in Brooklyn to-night.

KILLED BY YOUNG WOMAN.

Natick, Mass. Dec. 21.—Louis Perry, until recently employed by the Deming Manufacturing Co. at South Framingham, was shot and killed by Miss Lizzie Roberts, a young woman, at 10 o'clock this afternoon. Miss Morse claims self-defense.

LORD ROBERTS' MESSAGE.

Will Figure in Next Reinforcements for Africa—No Cabinet Dispute.

Why No News Comes from the Front—London Gifts to Volunteers.

London, Dec. 22.—The morning papers give prominence to Lord Roberts' message and most of them comment editorially upon it. The Times says: "In an admirable manner Lord Roberts has given an adequate and welcome expression to our national sentiments."

SECOND CANADA'S OWN.

General Hutton, Colonel Evans and Staffing Unit Howard among the Skilled Officers Mentioned.

SCHOOL CHILDREN'S Terrible Fate.

Fire Envelopes a Merry Ring at Closing Festivities in Illinois Town.

Belgian Classes Go Skating and Forty Perish Through Ice Giving Way.

FORTY LITTLE ONES DROWN.

Brussels, Dec. 22.—Upwards of forty school children were drowned this afternoon in an ice accident at Frelinghem, near the French frontier.

THE CHRISTMAS CARD.

"A letter, sir, for Sergeant Joseph Scott; one of your men, I think, sir, he is not?" "He was till yesterday," the captain said. "But now," he sighed, "go, search among the dead."

Naval Brigade And Militia

Evangelist Moody Dead.

TO BREWERS

E. L. Clarke

Machinery and Brewery Fittings

NOTICE.

OLD AGE.

RYRIE BROS.

BODWELL & DUFF

B. C. STEAM DYE WORKS.

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