

# Salt Spring Island Parish and Home

FEBRUARY, 1896.

The Arcturus, the ship that loaded props here last summer, was wrecked off Santa Rosalia in the gale of December 30th.

The ranchers of the divide have sent in a petition to Mr. Pope, Supt. of Education, signed by twenty names, asking for a school.

We regret to hear that Mr. and Mrs. Langley are about to give up their pretty cottage on Mary Lake, which they built a year ago, and to remove to Ross-land.

Mr. Walter Dukes nearly met with a serious accident on the 12th ult. He has the misfortune to be stone deaf, and was knocked off the road by a fast driven team.

Items of news are invited from Mayne, Galliano, Pender, Saturna, Kuper, Moresby and other Islands. They should reach the editor not later than the 24th of the month.

Some pieces of rock have been found on Mr. Broadwell's land containing little, round, semi-transparent pebbles which have been pronounced by a Vancouver jeweller to be garnets.

Mr. A. W. Cooke gave his annual Christmas entertainment at the Burgoyne Bay school house, on the 17th ult. The room was crowded, and all enjoyed themselves greatly.

The private telegraph line on Salt Spring Island, connecting two houses half a mile apart, is in daily operation. A correspondent on Kuper Island wishes it could be extended there and also to Chemainus.

Mr. J. T. Collins has purchased Mr. Levi Davis' ranch, and intends building and settling on it with his family. He left on the 27th ult. for England to settle up his affairs there, and will return in about three months' time.

Salt Spring Island is ready to defend her coasts. There is already talk of forming a volunteer corps. Should it become necessary to raise more militia in the district, the Government will supply the necessary uniforms and instruction.

A representative of the Electric Light Co., Vancouver, has been prospecting for coal in Ganges Harbour, the past few weeks. He found some show on Mr. W. E. Scott's farm, and has started a drift into the side hill, with the view of striking the main seam.

Moon's phases:—New, Feb. 13; first quarter, 21st; full, 28th. The bright planet in the S.E. sky in the evening is Jupiter, and its four moons can be seen with a good glass. The rainfall during December was 10.31 inches—one of the heaviest on record.

A meeting to organize a Fruit Growers' Association was held at Mr. Akerman's, Burgoyne Bay, on Dec. 30th. Messrs. W. G. Scott, Theo. Tregge, and A. A. Berrow, were appointed a committee to canvass the Island for subscribers. The subscription is \$1 per annum. The object is to improve fruit culture and to bring the best market returns possible to the grower.

Five "Christmas Trees" were held this season in different parts of the Island, and nearly every child received a present. Hearty thanks are due to the Bishop of Columbia and the Victoria friends for their kindness in sending a supply of gifts; also to the Rev. B. Haslam for supplying St. Mary's church with lamps. The Bishop expressed himself as much pleased with his recent visit to Salt Spring.

The Salt Springs at the North End, which give their name to the Island, are now to be made of practical use. Dr. A. H. Bailey, who has been in the salt business at Goderich and elsewhere since eighteen years of age, is satisfied that salt may be produced in paying quantities. He has leased the property from Mr. J. P. Booth, and will at once commence boring. Dr. Bailey thinks also that there is a good prospect of striking petroleum at the North End. As all salt is at present imported, and coal oil is retailing at forty cents a gallon, either of these "finds" would prove a benefit, not only to this Island, but to the country at large.

At a meeting held at Mr. Broadwell's, on the 18th ult., to further the Public Hall project, the following list of shareholders was submitted: J. P. Booth, six shares (\$5 each share); J. C. Scovell, two; W. G. Scott, two; H. Scott, two; E. Walter, two; J. Sheppard, two; Rev. E. F. Wilson, two; W. Robertson, two; J. Shaw, two; Malcolm & Purvis, one; N. Nilson, two; E. Nilson, two; G. Scott, two; T. W. Mowat, two; H. W. Bullock, five; J. T. Collins, two; J. Irwin, two; T. Scovell, two; H. Stevens, two; J. Broadwell, four; A. Walter, four; R. A. Purdy, two; E. J. Bittancourt, two.

Our usually quiet Island was quite excited over the earthquake which occurred at 10:20 p.m. on Friday, January 3rd. One lady was feeding her dogs, and her lamp was upset. A gentleman was cutting tobacco, and the knife slipped and cut his hand. One party thought his daughters who had just retired to bed were coming through the floor. A gentleman in the agonies of toothache reprimanded his patient wife for attending to the earthquake instead of to his face. The father of a family, thinking his house was going to collapse, ran out of doors and called to his wife to look after the children. Two gentlemen and a lady were in such very eager conversation that the earthquake passed unperceived by them, although another party in the same room was nearly upset out of his chair.

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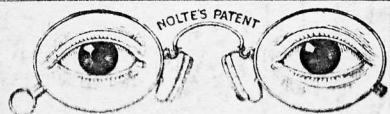
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