

Salt Spring Island Parish and Home

AUGUST, 1900.

◦ Caterpillars, caterpillars!

◦ St. Mark's church is in need of ventilators in the roof; the heat sometimes, during summer, is very oppressive.

◦ A. R. Bittancourt's new store at Ganges Harbour is now in full swing. Four years ago there was but one store on the Island—now there are four.

◦ Potatoes, carrots, onions, beets, celery, rhubarb, turnips, lettuces, cabbages, strawberry plants, clover, all are going, and there seems to be no remedy.

◦ The evening services at St. Mark's Church are now discontinued; 3.30 p.m. is now the time for service, except the first Sunday in the month, when it is 11 a.m.

◦ The caterpillars are in the flower garden, too. They seem to have a special liking for primroses; 15 or 20 may be found curled up in the soil beneath each root.

◦ The army made its appearance on Salt Spring Island about the middle of July, and seems to have commenced its depredations first at Ganges Harbour. It is now all over the Island.

✓ The caterpillars when fully grown are one and three-quarters of an inch in length and one-quarter of an inch thick of a greenish grey colour with four tiny light spots forward on the back. They coil up in the ground during the day and come out to feed at night.

◦ We congratulate our member, Mr. J. P. Booth, on being elected, a second time, to be the Speaker of the House. Mr. Booth's name was on the roll of the first legislature after confederation. He was elected then for Cowichan, and served until 1875. He is at present member for North Victoria, which includes this and other islands.

◦ The only thing that seems at all to check them is the mixture recommended by the Department of Agriculture: Mix one pound of Paris green in fifty pounds of bran—dry—then moisten well with sweetened water, and scatter it in the evening around the roots of potatoes, etc. The caterpillars eat this in preference to the green leaves and die in about twenty minutes. Paris green, however, is a dangerous thing to put about. Probably a better plan is to turn on chickens, ducks and turkeys.

His Lordship the Bishop will visit the Island for Confirmation Sunday, August 26th. The services will be: St. Mary's, 10.30 a.m.; St. Mark's, 3.30 p.m.

The Diocesan Mission grant to Salt Spring Island has been further reduced by \$50. The funds of the diocese are very low, and a number of reductions have to be made.

◦ The sum of \$1,550 has been placed on the estimates by the Dominion Government for connecting the telephone system on Salt Spring Island with Vancouver Island and Victoria.

Weather Report for June—Kuper Island: Mean temperature, 59.9; maximum, 89.0 (on 13th); minimum, 39.8 (on 9th); mean ratio of bright sunshine, .37; maximum, .86; days completely clouded, 7; rain-fall, 2.39 inches.

On Monday, August 27th, the ladies of St. Mark's Guild will hold their sale of work at Mr. Wilson's house; the Bishop kindly consents to remain for the afternoon, and it will take the form of a garden party, to which all are cordially invited.

✓ The hay crop on Salt Spring Island this year is certainly larger than ever before. Until quite recently baled hay used to be one of the imports, by steamboat. This year probably there will be hay for sale. Roughly estimated there has probably been cut about 800 tons.

HOME SUNDAY SCHOOL.—The Bible questions given in July issue close the work for the year. Children should now all get their books finished up and handed in to Mr. Wilson, so that marks may be added up and prizes awarded. Then, the next thing will be to make a fresh start for another year, and it is hoped that many more children will join. The membership this past year has been 35. In 1899 it was 26.

◦ The ravages of the caterpillars are daily increasing. They are entirely destroying the second growth of clover, and are swarming in the pea fields, eating both vine and pod. Nursery men are suffering very severely as they are destroying young fruit trees and plants of every description. Whole fields of carrots have been destroyed, the worm gnawing round the crown of the root until the top falls over. Many potato fields are left bare of all green—nothing but yellow naked stalks; and the tubers below perforated by the horrible worms. Nothing was ever seen like it before, we believe, in British Columbia.