

course of Christian helpfulness. We say rejoice in that, and bring true the sweet old wish

A MERRY CHRISTMAS

The diocese of Pembroke as a whole, and the town of Pembroke particularly have lost a great, good man in the death of the late Bishop Lorrain, whose mortal remains were reverently laid to rest yesterday under the Cathedral in which he gave so much service in his episcopal capacity and so much spiritual consolation during the thirty-three years of his sacred ministrations here. His was in all respects a fruitful life. To his Church he fulfilled the promise which he made in his first pastoral after coming to Pembroke, giving to its service in his episcopal office all that was his of health, of strength, of heart and intellect. "Non recuso laborem" he adopted as his motto, and he was faithful to it unto death. Those of his own flock, who were his especial care, have lost a faithful, earnest and devoted spiritual leader, and those outside that flock a sincere and sympathetic friend. A man who held firm and fast to principle at all times, he practiced Christian charity in all things and differences of race or creed with him were no barriers to friendship. Indeed, it may be said that here in Pembroke some of his most intimate friendships were with those of other faiths and all classes esteemed him for his simple dignity, his kindly qualities of heart, and his broad human sympathies. In Pembroke, and its people he had constant and unflinching interest, and to him the town is indebted in many ways. In its development he had a large part, and the splendid church, hospital, palace and convent will long stand as monuments to his work as a builder. In late years he suffered much through physical weakness, brought on by his arduous labors and the burdens of his sacred office. During the long period of illness, the thoughts of Pembroke people of all classes were often with him and their sympathy was given in generous measure. His passing has caused deep and sincere regret, and the memory of his kindly, useful, helpful life will long be cherished by all who came in contact with his personality or within the sphere of his influence.

The foolish and harmful stories circulated from Pembroke a few weeks ago by representatives of the Ottawa Journal and Toronto News are receiving wide publicity and on Tuesday Mr Thomas Clark brought to The Observer office a copy of the Vancouver Sun of Dec. 14th which has an editorial nearly a column in length that is nothing more or less than a gross libel on the town and its people. While some newspapers in the east are finding fault with the town because of the patriotic efforts of its citizens, the Sun charges us with disloyalty and with moral cowardice in dealing with the German situation here. The Vancouver paper says the town is seething with discontent "because of the continued existence of rabid pro-Germans," and then proceeds to hand out some bouquets to the editor of the Deutsche Post, declaring that "to us in British Columbia it is most astounding to learn that in Ontario the publication of newspapers in the German language is still being permitted, and even more astounding to know that the proprietor of one of these newspapers admits giving preference to German news." It goes on to talk about alien enemies promulgating their hellish doctrines in our very homes and then goes on, on the strength of one of the Ottawa Journal's irresponsible statements, to say that "so-called responsible citizens, who are afraid the stories will hurt the price of real estate, are trying to have them hushed up, and are willing to assist in the betrayal of their country because it may effect their interests. The paper continues: "This attitude is typical of the meanest and most sordid patriotism one can imagine. The dollar is the god of such men as these and on it is difficult to believe that like names are not as German as the sentiments. God help Canada, there are many communities in Pembroke!" We have only quoted part of the Sun's tirade, but a silent to show that the article is

issue of falsehoods and to bear out The Observer's statement two weeks ago that the outside reporters who came here as sensation-mongers had done us a poor service. This is strange recompense to a town which has a record for patriotic giving and recruiting which even Vancouver cannot proportionately approach and which has in some other places been regarded as too prodigal in its giving for patriotic purposes. The libel on the town will be given attention by the local authorities and our main object in giving these excerpts from the Sun's article is to show just how much mischief can be done by a couple of smart Alex. city reporters being turned loose in a community.

H. S. COMMENCEMENT & A PLEASANT EVENING

ANNUAL EVENT WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL.

Very successful, and creditable alike to pupils and teachers, were the annual High School Commencement Exercises, held in the Grand Opera House on Friday evening last. The audience as on past occasions filled the Opera House and the programme furnished proved decidedly interesting, not the least important feature being the presentation of medals and diplomas to the successful candidates in this year's examinations.

Sheriff Alex. Morris, Chairman of the Board of Education, very acceptably filled the position of chairman, and in his opening remarks quoted figures showing the splendid record achieved by the Pembroke High School in the last midsummer examinations, which he said was equalled by few in the province. He referred in very complimentary terms to the work of the Principal and staff and had good things to say also regarding the success achieved in the night industrial classes, though he thought more young men might avail themselves of the advantages which this department offers. The Sheriff spoke very appreciatively of the large number of former High School pupils who enlisted for overseas service, of whom there are upwards of a hundred. Of the school building he could say nothing complimentary—in fact his remarks in this connection were quite the other way, and he insisted that the building was not worthy of Pembroke nor fit in any way for the purpose for which it is being used. Sheriff Morris urged the necessity for a new Collegiate and expressed the opinion that the project should be undertaken at once and building operations commenced in the spring.

Then the programme was proceeded with, the first number being a chorus, "The Tar's Farewell," by the H. S. girls. It was a spirited number, well rendered and encored.

The valedictory, written by Mr Arthur E. Wigelsworth, gold medalist in junior matriculation and who is now at journalistic work in Chicago, was well read by Miss Mildred Hana. It was a bit different in a number of respects from the usual valedictory and the school building though having many happy memories for ex-pupils, was severely scored. There were a number of hits at the pupils and also a fair sprinkling of the sentimental, making the address on the whole an exceptionally clever one.

For the presentation of the medals, some of the donors and some of the medallists were unavoidably absent. Messrs J. S. Fraser, Alex. Milla and Wm. Leacy presented their medals, the recipients being Ralph Moore, Miss Elizabeth Tate, and Miss E. Fitzjohn. Others who donated medals were Judge A. A. Fisher and Mr G. V. White, M. P.

There was a fancy drill by the senior girls of the High School which was very cleverly and gracefully executed, while all were heard again in two splendid choruses, "The Lads in the Blue," and as an encore, "The most patriotic song," "Keep Miss Zan Coburn, who gave it a clever little touches to bring out its meanings, proved probably the most amusing part of the programme. It