

THE THLINGET

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Sitka

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A LITTLE GAMBLE

Word has just reached us of the arrival of a ten pound girl at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Gamble in Portland, Oregon on the 18th. Mr. and Mrs. Gamble were formerly members of the faculty of our school. The Thlinget extends congratulations.

The old laundry which has served long, well, and faithfully at the Sitka Training School has just been torn down. On several occasions in its time it has tried to burn down but could not succeed. It was no small task to remove the engine and boiler, shafting, and worn out machinery, and it required five men several days to complete the job and clear the way so that the contractor and his men could more easily gain access to the location of the new laundry-heating plant building.

The New Covenant Legion held their regular election of officers the first week in December with the following results: President, Martin Thompson; Vice President, John Newell; Secretary, Andrew Wanamaker; Treasurer, David Konkata.

HURTFUL PASTIME

The white man's dance, the "respectable" dance, as some of the native people are wont to call it, has certainly aided in the rapid retrogression of a large number of natives in many Alaskan towns during the past two or three years. In Sitka, although many people became infatuated with this form of amusement, and some lives were as a result heading downward both physically and morally, a halt was called before the people reached the point where their minds were wholly given up to the dance and its progeny. A number of natives here never participated in this respectable(?) pastime and just lately many more, who have had a part in it, having seen some of its evil results as well as tendencies in the lives of their people, have determined to put it out and spend their time in recreation less dangerous to their general welfare.

One of these people recently said to the writer: "Our dances are making trouble among our people. Some people get jealous because of dance. Some of our young folks get crazy in their heads. Pretty soon our dances be all the same as Juneau dance halls. I don't want no more of it." This sentiment has been repeated by many others.

We honor the Sitka natives for the stand they have taken. It is a well known fact that the native village here is the cleanest and most progressive village in southeastern Alaska where the communal house still exists. It is also well known that its people in general are industrious and law abiding, beyond that of many other similar villages. So now,

at a time when the white man's dance has almost stolen the minds of the natives in many of our towns, and when it is being introduced by natives in other villages into their old custom feasts and potlatches with more direful results than their own ancient form of dancing, it is surely fitting that the Sitka natives should again take the lead, put that which they cannot control aside, and thus set an excellent example for all the native people of Alaska.

BUILDING PROGRESS

The plasterers have completed their work in the large girls' building. The interior finishings will arrive by the Steamship Northland early in the new year.

Five buildings—the large boys' large girls', small boys', small girls', and school or main building—are all completely covered in.

The roughing in for plumbing and heating has been completed and tested in all except the small boys' building.

The electrician has finished the wiring for electric lights throughout the buildings and the dynamo and fifty horse power gasoline engine have been ordered.

The work on the sewer system is progressing nicely. The main trunk from cleanout sump to beach has been completed. The excavation for that part of the sewer which is to drain the basement in the large girls' building is now under way. For some distance the depth of the ditch for the sewer pipe is over thirteen feet.