

W. E. OLIVER AT SPRING RIDGE WATER AND STREETS ARE NEEDS OF CITY

W. E. Oliver, candidate for mayor of the city, met the electors in the Spring Ridge district Monday in the Fernwood hall and laid down the lines of the policy he would pursue should he be elected mayor.

"I respect the Spring Ridge residents because I see they have the same contempt for public meetings that I have. I see there are very few here. I dislike talking just as much as I dislike hearing people talk too much and I propose to be even shorter than I was at my last meeting."

"There are two things of importance for the city—water and streets. Water is Victoria's first importance. That to my mind is before anything else. People coming here intending to settle and driven away by dust and insufficient water."

"The schemes for the settlement of the water question are," said Mr. Oliver, "by extension of the Esquamit waterworks or to go to Sooke lake, which would take in contaminating agricultural lands, and to exercise the statutory rights and take water from the Esquamit Water Company."

"The question has to be settled for all the surrounding municipalities. I want all our interests identical. The water is done in England is to bring these bodies together and have a joint water policy and appoint a joint water board for the whole of the affected districts."

"The board would have to take over the city waterworks and issue bonds guaranteed by the municipalities and the provincial government. The same course would be adopted in regard to Sooke. The payment being made by sale of bonds. The security of interest and sinking fund would be the rates and if there was a deficit the municipalities would have to share it proportionately."

"The board would have powers to expropriate existing works, first taking over the city water works at a fair value and then obtain an option on the Esquamit property and then hold perpetual rights on Sooke lake. Mr. Oliver said he did not think the reserve on Sooke lake was at present perpetual, but the city should make it so and get its hands on all water supply when the city desires to go there."

work should report it to the council and let that body take action. Oak Bay started with contract labor, but owing to exceptional labor conditions about two years ago had to change temporarily to day labor. If the works were in charge of a thoroughly competent conscientious foreman no system could be better than day labor. If on the other hand an experienced or honest contractor could be secured nothing could be better than contract work. It all depended on the man. In his opinion the city of Victoria would have had far better and cheaper work done if it had put them out to contract. He approved of the city expropriating the sand and gravel pits and regrading them. He thought it a good plan provided the re-sale of the pits would return as much money as the cost of expropriation, but he did not believe in the general fund being drawn on for this purpose. He did not see any reason for the city requiring two lawyers to do its work.

TROUBLE WITH FIRE PUMPS SOME DEFECTS IN SALT WATER SYSTEM Machinery Fails to Deliver Quantity of Water Expected.

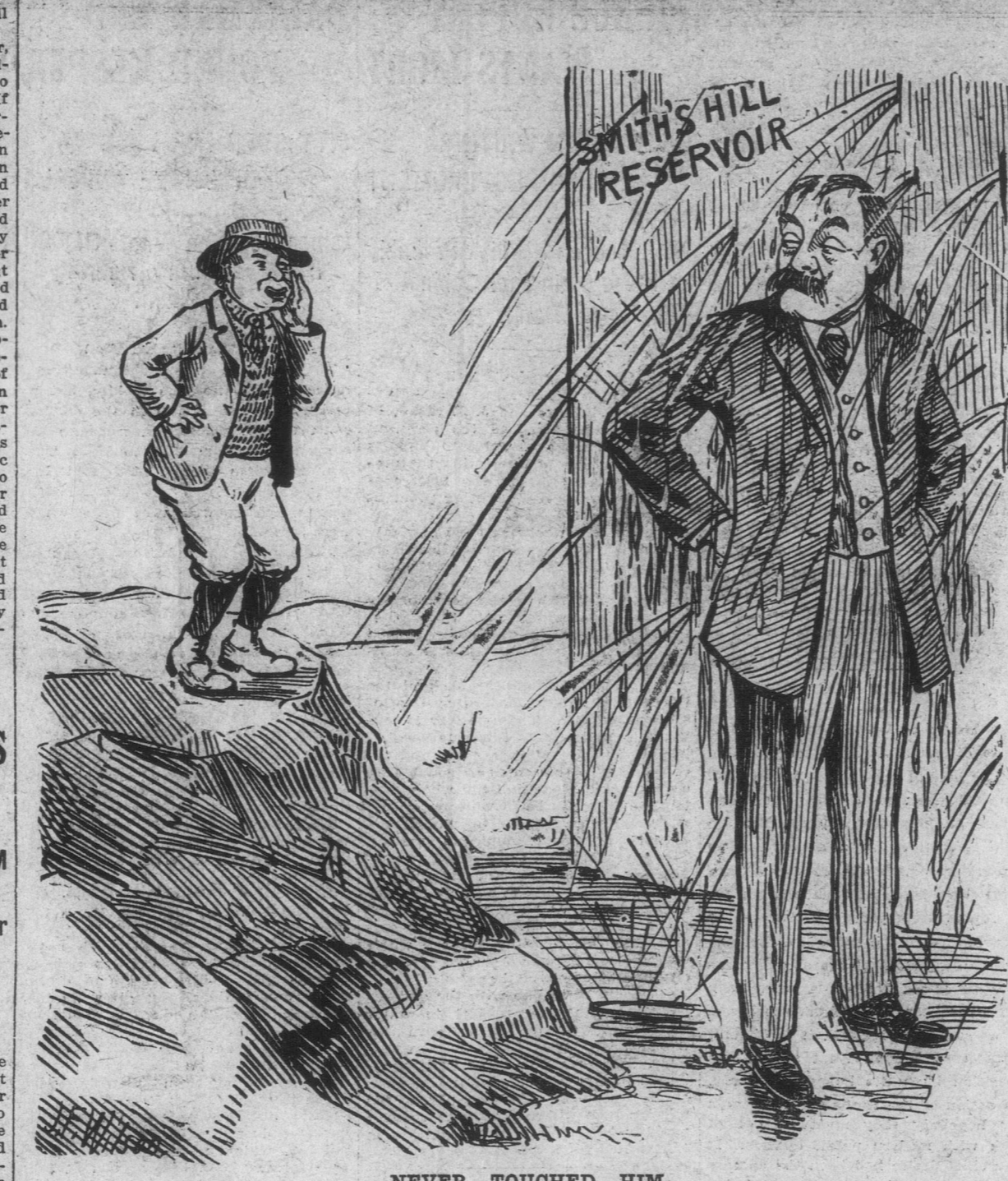
In a report which W. Wagner, the insurance expert, who was brought here at the instance of the Vancouver Island Board of Fire Underwriters to inspect the salt water high pressure fire protection service, has submitted to that body, he mentions that a further difficulty has developed with the machinery at the pumping station. The pumps, which were supplied by the D'Olier Engineering Company of Philadelphia, were to have had a capacity of 3,000 gallons per minute. On a test they have only developed a capacity of 2,660 gallons per minute.

While this latter pressure will give good fire protection it is felt by Mr. Hutcheon, the superintendent of the electrical station, who has charge of the pumps for the salt water system, that the city should get what it ordered when the contract was let and an effort is now being made to bring the pumps to their capacity. J. Smith, of the D'Olier Engineering Company, has been in the city for some weeks superintending the installation of the pumps, and the subsequent tests, and he has been in communication with his firm, and has received instructions to make such alterations in the designs as will bring the capacity up to the required amount. These changes will not be made, one unit being removed at a time, so as to obviate any danger from a big fire occurring and finding the service unavailable. In Mr. Wagner's opinion, the proposed alterations are theoretically correct and should give the stipulated capacity.

It is believed that the difficulty which has arisen in respect to the pumping capacity is due to the fact that the manufacturers used the American gallon as a unit of measurement, as up to the present the capacity has been about 82 per cent. of what it ought to have been. The contract for the pumps was awarded by the advice of Arthur L. Adams, the water expert. The figure was \$19,000. The city has already paid some \$3,000 on account of the contract, but will insist that the plans and specifications drawn be fulfilled before any more money is paid over.

DISPUTE OVER RAILWAY LANDS Appeal by B. B. Angus is Dismissed in the Supreme Court.

Ottawa, Dec. 14.—The Supreme court yesterday gave judgment in Angus vs. Heinze, a British Columbia case, dismissing the appeal with costs. The appellants, B. B. Angus and Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, acquired the title to a subsidy of lands of the Columbia and Western railway and agreed to divide them equally between themselves and F. August Heinze. The latter refused to take a conveyance of his share, as upon transfer it would become liable to taxation. The Supreme court upholds the judgment of the provincial court that by the agreement obtained the appellants were to hold the title until Heinze formally asked for a conveyance of his share.



Small Boy—"Mister, you're getting wet! The Mayor—"Oh, pshaw. Only newspaper talk! They're always knocking me and the city."

KEARY DEFEATED IN NEW WESTMINSTER J. A. Lee, President of the Board of Trade, Elected Mayor.

New Westminster, Dec. 14.—After the hottest mayoralty campaign that has ever been fought in this city, John A. Lee, president of the board of trade, defeated W. H. Keary, who has held the position of chief magistrate for eight years, by a majority of about 55 votes. There were 15 candidates for aldermanic honors, and the following were elected: J. K. Johnston, A. W. Gray, C. A. Welsh, J. S. Bryson, H. W. Gilley, J. B. Jardine, J. Carter Smith. For school trustees—Dr. T. B. Green and T. J. Trap were elected. It is practically certain that the referendum which places the city under the Municipal Clauses act has carried.

POLAR CONTROVERSY Dr. Grenfell Says He Has Now Lost Faith in Cook.

St. John, N. B., Dec. 14.—Dr. W. T. Grenfell, the Labrador missionary, who spent some hours here yesterday on his way to Newfoundland from the United States with his bride, made a statement relative to the Cook-Pearry controversy. He said: "I am very well acquainted with both Peary and Cook. I confess that at first I, like many others, believed that Dr. Cook had reached the Pole, but I am now, like you and everyone else, in view of the overwhelming evidence of his duplicity, persuaded otherwise."

BRAWL RESULTS IN FATAL FIRE HUSBAND THROWS LAMP AT HIS WIFE Flames Spread in Tenement and Seven Persons Lose Their Lives.

Cincinnati, Dec. 14.—A brawl between a man and his wife was responsible for a fire in a tenement house here in which seven persons were burned to death and three fatally injured. The husband threw a oil lamp at his wife and the flames spread rapidly. The bodies of the victims were found huddled near the emergency doors which refused to open. Hamilton convicted. Former Adjutant-General of Washington Found Guilty of Embezzlement. Olympia, Wash., Dec. 14.—Ortis Hamilton, former adjutant-general of Washington, has been found guilty on a minor charge of embezzlement of state funds. He will appeal for a new trial. The sentence is from one to ten years.

MCCURDY FLIES EIGHT MILES IN AIRSHIP Ascends About 250 Feet in Air—His Cottage Destroyed During Flight.

Baddeck, C. B., Dec. 14.—J. D. McCurdy, of the Canadian aerodrome, made a remarkable flight at daybreak yesterday at the Bentneck farm. The machine took the air easily after traveling about one hundred yards on the frozen ground. McCurdy gradually ascended until he was about two hundred and fifty feet in the air. He circled the meadow four times at this elevation, covering eight miles in all. While the party were at Big Baddeck, witnessing the flight, Mr. Baldwin's cottage on Beinn Breagh was completely demolished by fire. The fire was caused from a blaze in the back room from a radiator pipe. The house was burned to the ground. Mr. and Mrs. Baldwin lost all their wedding presents, together with many valuable scientific records.

CLAIMS DAMAGES. Denver, Dec. 14.—W. C. Smith, a politician, has brought a suit for \$50,000 damages over the story now running in a magazine called "The Beast and the Jungle," being written by Judge Lindsey and Harvey J. O'Higgins.

CHAIRMAN APPOINTED. Ottawa, Dec. 14.—Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King was yesterday appointed chairman of the committee on proportional representation.

TRAGEDY IN INDIAN VILLAGE. Nelson, Dec. 14.—A wire received by J. T. Blackie, constable of the provincial police at Nelson, states that an Indian named Mathews, of the Upper police force at Kootenay Landing, had gone to Baker's Ferry, near the Colville Indian village, and had been killed by another Indian. The wire states that the murderer had been captured at Sand Point.

WHITE PLAGUE IS DISCUSSED IN COMMONS House Will Be Asked to Vote Larger Sum to Aid in Fight.

Ottawa, Dec. 14.—Practically the whole of yesterday's sitting of the Commons was monopolized by a discussion of the evils of and remedies for tuberculosis. That so much should be spent upon the fight against tuberculosis in cattle by the Dominion government and so little to save human beings from the ravages of the same disease was commented upon by several of the speakers as unworthy of our present day civilization. The resolution, which was introduced by George Perley, was discussed by a number of the medical men of the House. Dr. Schaffner, of Souris; Dr. Paquet, of L'Islet, and Dr. Sproule, of East Grey, continued the debate. H. H. Miller, South Grey, ex-president of the Canadian Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, presented the report of the association. Hon. Sydney Fisher concluded the debate. He accepted the resolution for the government, and said that the House would be asked for a larger grant to the association. However, the provinces were now beginning to play their parts, and it would be unwise for the federal government to enter the field. In defending the government against the charge that more money was spent on preserving the health of animals than that of human beings he said the one really had to do with the other. While protecting animals they were protecting human life. To-day not ten per cent. of the cases were due to tuberculosis milk. The resolution, carried without a division.

BIG BUILDING ON FORT ST. APARTMENT HOUSE IS TO BE ERECTED

Mrs. Bowker to Put Up Fine Structure in the Spring.

At Monday's meeting of the city council a letter was received from Messrs. Elliott & Shandley, acting for Mrs. Bowker, asking for further time in which to remove a number of decrepit buildings from Fort street adjoining the Merchants' Exchange saloon. The buildings are utilized as stables and extend through to Broughton street. The legal firm pointed out that their clients intended shortly to build an apartment house on the premises and asked that they be allowed to have until March 31st of next year in order to clear the ground of the buildings. All the buildings were let, and it would be necessary to notify the tenants from January 1st next.

Evidence as to unsanitary nature of the premises was given by City Assessor Northcott and Sanitary Inspector Lancaster. Mr. Northcott said he had been informed on good authority that it was proposed to erect a large apartment house on the premises and that the architect had consulted him about the matter. On motion of Ald. Henderson it was agreed to meet the wishes of Mrs. Bowker and a motion was passed that the nuisance must be abated in the time specified.

City Barrister Taylor advised the board that the city should finally execute the lease with the Taylor Mill Company and the Lemon, Gonnason Company of the waterfront lot at the foot of Queen's avenue for a period of ten years, the time to run from the present. The letter will be considered at the next meeting of the streets, sewers and bridges committee on Friday evening and an invitation will be sent to John Dean, who has led the opposition to the lease, to be present. A petition from property owners on Douglas street between Fisgard street and Cormorant street, asking for the extension of the paving and lighting scheme was referred to the city engineer for report.

The building inspector will be handed a petition from a number of owners on North Park street complaining that Wm. Drysdale, who had obtained a licence to erect a carpenter shop, is intending to establish a saw and door factory and asking that he be prevented from doing so. George McInroy and Ernest Englehart were taken on the permanent staffs in the city assessor's office and the water commissioner's office, respectively. The cemetery committee will take up the question of effecting some repairs at once to the fore-shore of the Ross Bay cemetery, which is being badly damaged owing to the wash of the waves. Permission was granted to the B. C. Electric Railway Company to proceed with their plan of double-tracking Douglas street from Pembroke street to Hillside avenue, work starting on January 7th. In this connection Ald. Henderson raised the question as to whether it might not be advisable to ask the company to run their double tracks down Douglas to Humboldt, so as to relieve the congestion on Fort and Yates streets, but no action was decided upon.

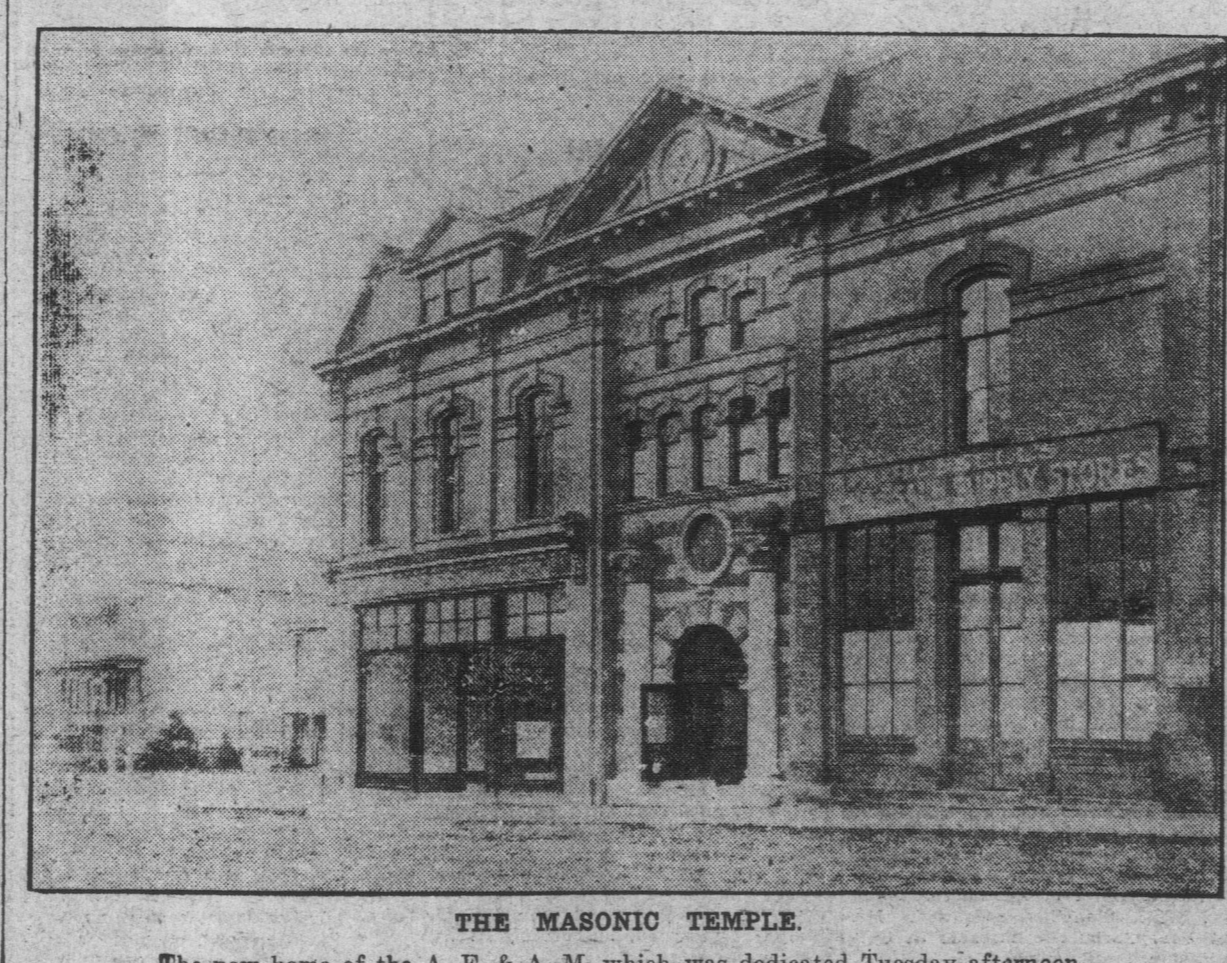
B. C. E. R. EMPLOYEES. Vancouver, Dec. 13.—A meeting of the employees of the B. C. Electric Railway Company was held in the lecture room at the car barns, Westminster avenue, for the purpose of electing officers of the B. C. Electric Company section of the National Electric Light Association, the object of the section being to foster and promote the common interests of its members and to advance scientific and practical knowledge in all matters relating to electric light and power companies and also to establish cordial and beneficial relations with kindred associations and between the members of this association.

H. E. Grant was chosen chairman of the meeting, and after the minutes of the inaugural meeting had been read by the secretary pro tem, the chairman declared the meeting open for the nomination of officers. The voting resulted in the following gentlemen being elected: Hon. president, R. H. Sperling; president, J. George Lister; vice-president, H. E. Grant; secretary-treasurer, K. B. Ryan; executive committee, D. R. Kennedy, C. Rummel, W. T. Woodroffe, L. G. Robinson. Mr. Rummel announced that he had been authorized by Mr. Sperling to state that the company was willing to assist the section and would furnish a meeting room.

BLERIOT INJURED. Falls to Ground When Airship Collides With House.

Constantinople, Dec. 14.—Another serious accident has overtaken M. Bleriot, the French aeronautist, who is the only man to fly across the English channel, and he is suffering from serious internal injuries as a result of driving his airship against the side of a house. M. Bleriot was giving an exhibition in the presence of an immense crowd, when he lost control of the machine and it collided with a house. The force of the impact turned the machine completely over and M. Bleriot fell to the ground. His left side was hurt and he also sustained internal injuries. The machine was wrecked. A strong wind was blowing when he started his flight. No sooner had he ascended than he was carried away a mile and a half by the wind. He endeavored to tack and return, but was unable to rise above the roofs of the houses.

Falkirk town council, which owns the local gas works, is giving householders the free use of cookers.



THE MASONIC TEMPLE. The new home of the A. F. & A. M. which was dedicated Tuesday afternoon.