

Twice-a-Week Times

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UNWISDOM AND HASTE.

When a motion was made by an alderman at the city board two weeks ago calling for a report from the engineer who is preparing the plans for the Sooke Lake water scheme the Times was disposed to commend the reasonable anxiety of the alderman that some knowledge of the progress of the scheme should be laid before the council. Doubtless Alderman Langley thought, as many of the citizens of Victoria think, it was about time progress was reported on the work of the engineer. We question, however, whether it was anticipated or intended by Alderman Langley that his motion would result in the exhibition of undue haste in letting the contracts which the ratepayers will be asked to sanction before the scheme is to be carried into execution.

When Mr. Wynne Memmott was put in the responsible position which he holds, it was assumed that he was a competent engineer. It did not require the careful after-investigation which it is claimed has been made into his qualifications and the certificate of competency which he has been given by a self-constituted local authority. The time to have made such investigations was before, not after, his appointment. Those who urged the appointment must now accept the responsibility with all that it involves respecting the carrying out of the scheme.

It will be recalled, however, that when the Sooke Lake water scheme was approved by the ratepayers and a blanket by-law passed the chief point of contention was whether the city should purchase the Esquimalt water works at the price asked by the company or go to Sooke Lake for the water supply. The understanding that no money should be spent on the scheme beyond the amount authorized for preliminary work until the additional sums were approved by another by-law proves this. It is now proposed to let contracts for parts of the work, and official intimation is given to contractors to prepare to submit bids. The letting of these contracts will tie the city up to a definite scheme before the outlines of that scheme are intelligently placed before the ratepayers.

While we are aware that the preliminary surveys of the engineer have resulted in a statement that an initial water supply can be completed for something under \$2,000,000, everyone who has had anything to do with municipal water works knows that—often for reasons inexplicable—these cost much more than the early estimates set forth. It will be marvellous if the Victoria undertaking is any different.

It is stated that approximately twenty-four months will be required to complete the initial scheme and provide for the delivery of 16,000,000 gallons of water. If the engineer urges the letting of contracts immediately or in the early future we think little objection would be made, but the responsibility should rest with the engineer and he should not be hurried into the letting of contracts until all the possible difficulties respecting titles and surveys are overcome.

We are of the opinion that it is just at this stage of the development of the Sooke Lake scheme that over-caution rather than under-caution is necessary. The history of engineering work in Victoria has not been reassuring and granting the competency of the engineer—we do not think he should be hurried. It is in this connection that we think another quotation from the Contract Record anent the engineering undertakings of the city may not be out of place. The Contract Record says: "The mix-up at Victoria leads us to consider the matter of the engineer's responsibility. Who spends the ratepayers' money? And who is responsible for the economy of that expenditure? These and similar questions are pertinent at this time. Aldermen are elected, but they are not experts. What, then, is their duty? Nominally they are responsible for the well-being of the community over which they preside, for the work which they control, and much depends upon their tact, their knowledge and their supervision in all that concerns the health and the wealth of the constituency. Still, they must rely upon their experts for guidance. Thus in the end the responsibility rests upon the shoulders of the expert. Of course, our argument may be incorrect. If it is, so much the worse for our experience. But if we are even approximately correct, we ask in all seriousness if the expert advisers of the councils are treated as if the responsibility resting upon them were recognized. No doubt a council has to decide upon a policy, but generally the policy is followed upon them by circumstances. There is little forethought, though brilliant examples of it might be cited. Usually a water, or a sewage, or a lighting scheme is postponed till necessity knows no law, when the policy is adopted.

"The position of the council being admitted, it is the engineer who has to advise and prepare a scheme, and here

the greater or lesser ability comes into play. The money has to be spent in carrying out the scheme, and the economy depends upon the perfection or otherwise of the design. Just at the present time the true meaning of economy in many municipal councils is ignored or not understood. The engineers stand aghast when commanded to prepare a scheme for a low initial outlay. They know the result will be disaster and soon an annual sum for maintenance that with a little more initial outlay could be avoided. Is not this fashion partly the result of our system of government? A man wants to be elected to the council. His first cry is economy and his desire to show what he could save where his opponents would spend. Is this working altogether for good, or does it not naturally react upon the policy of councils in that it causes them to try and carry out schemes at a lower cost than is really economical?"

In view of these undoubtedly wise reservations, there are two things the ratepayers of Victoria should guard against. One of them is the creation of a campaign slogan out of the water scheme. We think it would be unfortunate to have this subject brought into the approaching municipal contest. Yet there are indications that such a course is contemplated by one of the candidates. The other is the letting of unnecessarily hasty contracts.

CHURCH AND LABOR.

The church is undoubtedly losing ground with the working classes of all countries. The thoughtful working man says rightly that it is not only useless to him, but that it is false to its own principles as laid down by Jesus Christ.

The working man thinks, and with some justice, that the church has opposed labor legislation and factory reform and all attempts to ameliorate his condition. He believes that she stands against him. The only answer to this argument is the admission that she has not stood with him; that she has given herself over to the establishment of doctrines and truths that have no reference to daily life and hard luck.

She has laid emphasis on the future, not the present. She has established a monastic and exotic spirituality which is lacking in practical application. It is not true that the poor man finds in the church a dual social order in which he is separated from the rich as finally as he is separated in the world? Does the church not condone gross wealth existing in her own precincts beside gross poverty?

These are the facts that must be faced. They are truths, not the vapors of demagogues. They cannot be discussed and dismissed with a phrase or an epigram. The church must get at the heart of the difference and meet the changes that are demanded of her, the changes back to the old Christian order when the spirit of the Lord's table destroyed distinction between classes. She must go back through the centuries to the spirit which did away with slavery and which formed the original brotherhood of man.

The note of social service which has sounded through the meetings is not enough to solve this problem. The church must do more than appreciably express the teachings of Christ. She must live them. She must face the fact that she cannot serve God and mammon; she must insist on the brotherhood of man, on the disregard of wealth. She may say that she does advocate these things; but if she says this, the poverty which is a shame and a crime to civilization in juxtaposition to the wealth which is its curse leaps up to answer her contention.

It is contrary to the teachings of Christ that wealth should be aggregated, that women and children should be sweated, that men should live below the poverty limit and be denied the right to work.

The church knows these things exist, and she acquiesces in them. She had better stop her output of missionaries and examine the machinery of her organization, for as long as she lets her things continue she cannot be the church of the common people. She can never evangelize the working man. The Alexander-Torrey revivals have proved this. They have not reached the laboring classes. Why? Because the church brings a message from has not set her face against wealth; because she is not the welcome home of the poor. She has not established a stewardship that is applicable to rich and poor alike, and until she does this she will not meet the needs of the people who have recognized her limitations and left her severely alone.

The Times is well aware that this is a strong indictment of the Church, using that word in its universal sense. We are aware also that at first reading the impulse of the average loyal churchman will be to express resentment that a secular paper should so unqualifiedly attack an institution which presents itself to the world as the earthly vessel in which all spiritual gifts are contained. Though the secular press is every little while exposed to the severest censure of the hierarchy for some real or fancied grievance, the turning of the tables will not be accepted as graciously by the pulpit as it usually is by the press. The Times has great sympathy with that sentiment prevalent in the church that its tasks are difficult enough without

the manifest weakness of the institution being thus exposed to the gaze of the world.

That there may be no misunderstanding and no recrimination respecting the Times, this paper hastens to say that—however much it may be in agreement or disagreement with these sentiments—they are not the criticisms of a secular paper. The words constituted the pith and marrow of an address delivered by Rev. Dr. Gray of New Zealand before the Baptist World Alliance at its summer meeting in Philadelphia.

The report of the session at which this address was delivered states that it was received with most approval and frequent applause. What is perplexing to the Times is that such an address, when delivered by a minister to other clergymen and laymen in good standing in a church, should excite applause, while, if a secular paper were to say these things of its own accord it would arouse the antagonism of church people everywhere, almost without exception. Is this condition of the church mind another evidence of the fact that preaching has lost its power? Does this state of affairs mean that clergymen may win the plaudits of their hearers with criticisms of the institution which they maintain, while the same criticism, if it come from without the ranks, must meet with reprobation? We think there is food for reflection in these questions.

MANY INQUIRIES

FROM NEW ZEALAND

Significant Situation in Antipodean Dominion—Homesteader Wants Exchange

(From Mondays' Daily.)

The significant feature of the inquiries brought by the last mail to the offices of the Vancouver Island Development League is the number coming from New Zealand. It has been known for some time that conditions in the insular Dominion were not as satisfactory as might be expected, but when settlers began to show a disposition to ask about conditions in the sister Dominion overseas it points to a spirit of unrest among the farming community in the Antipodes which is new to that country, and points to the fact that the cultural conditions are not booming to the extent they did a few years ago.

The inquiries come from all over New Zealand, but mostly from the North Island. Only one letter from Australia has been received on this occasion, from Brisbane, Queensland. The other requests for information follow the usual different parts of the North American continent, and the United Kingdom. One, however, is of a somewhat unusual nature, being from the new settlement of Zealandia, Saskatchewan, where a settler with the customary 160 acres as a homesteader, wants to exchange his improved homestead for an acreage here suitable for poultry or fruit farming. The attitude of residents from the prairies here is a common fact, but whether there will be found a British Columbian willing to give up improved land here for the sake of going back to the Saskatchewan plateau remains to be seen.

S. H. GRAVES DIES

SUDDENLY AT OTTAWA

Ottawa, Nov. 13.—Samuel Haughton Graves, of Chicago, president of the White Pass & Yukon railway, was found dead in his bed at the Aylmer apartments here to-day. He was here on business before the railway commission. His death was due to heart failure. His body is being forwarded to Chicago.

S. P. C. A.—The annual meeting of the Victoria S. P. C. A., will be held in the Police court on Wednesday evening. The chair will be taken by Mr. Lindley Crease.

Gratifying Increase.—Victoria Lodge, I. O. G. T., held its usual meeting on Friday in the school of the Church of Our Lord, corner Humboldt and Blanchard streets, when the new officers provided refreshments and a brief programme of songs and recitations. Seven new members were received, an increase of thirteen over the two first nights of the quarter.

Work Tied Up.—A large number of men in the skilled trades are losing much time on account of the severe weather of the past few days, but of course with the continuance of frost, the plumbers are kept very busy. Only ten per cent. of the carpenters are working, and all the building trades are suffering considerably.

Auto Speeding.—Thomas Plimley was fined \$20 in the police court on Friday for automobile speeding but told the magistrate that while he recognized his responsibility as owner of the car, he had previously lost his license number and believed that some one having found it had been using it and committed the breach of the act under the disguise.

Y. M. C. A. Social.—At the Y. M. C. A. Friday night's social gathering was held in connection with the Young Men's gymnasium class, at which a pleasant programme was carried out, and refreshments served. Among those who contributed to the musical programme were D. Johnson, mandolin solo, songs, Messrs. Rimes, Fisher, and M. Collins, and recitations Messrs. Fuller, Huddleton, and H. G. Beall (reading). Gramophone selections were also rendered. About 75 took part in the proceedings.

Tuesday, an Interesting Showing of Women's and Children's Furs and Women's Rain Coats



Fur Sets and Coats for Women and Children—A Great Variety at Popular Prices

Here you will find as large and well assorted showing of Furs as one would wish to see, and the prices are very low, when quality is considered. There are plenty of the very finest Mink and Marten sets to choose from as well as a big assortment of the more popular priced furs.

Quality, style and economy are well combined in this showing, and to get an idea of the splendid range that is now being shown you should see the displays in the department.

MINK-MARMOT COATS well padded and lined with satin. These garments have roll collars and turnback cuffs, and represent splendid value at, each\$150

SEALETTE COATS WITH ALASKA SABLE COLLARS. This is a full length coat and has turnback cuffs. For long service as well as a handsome appearance this garment will be hard to beat. Price\$100

PONYSKIN COATS, with a wide sable collar and turnback cuffs. This is a full length coat and is very attractive and serviceable. Price\$95.00

MINK SHAWL STOLE—This is a very long shawl, reaching below the knees, fits well over the shoulders and down the back. Finished with heads, tails and feet. Price\$250

MUFF TO MATCH, neatly lined with good satin, large cushion shape. Priced at\$135

MARTEN SET—This is a very handsome set. The stole is a cape effect and is finished with heads and tails at the back and front, while the muff is the large pillow style. Price of Stole\$95.00
Price of Muff\$97.50

STONE MARTEN TIE—This is a long and wide tie, that has fur on both sides part of the length and is finished with tails. A very fine quality. Price\$150.00

MINK MUFFS, made in many different styles and ranging in price from \$125, according to size and quality, down to\$85.00

BROWN KOLINSKY FURS—These are rich in appearance and are remarkably good values. They come in a wide range of styles, at prices for stoles or muffs from \$50.00 down to\$25.00

Children's Coats in White and Colored Bearskins

Here is a fine display of little coats that should provide baby with ample protection from chilly winds. They are made of imitation bearskin, in white and colors, red, blue, grey and beaver, lined throughout with white flannel. There is a large variety of styles to choose from; some with white collars—almost wide enough for capes, in plain material, or in cream cloth, handsomely trimmed with braid, while others are in the tunic style, with long fastenings and leather girdle. Prices range from \$1.75 up to \$5.75

Muffs and Ties for Little Girls

There is a splendid assortment to choose from— all entirely new—in very dainty styles and marked at prices that will please you.

MUFFS AND TIES in white bear, beaverette, striped and black sealette and imitation ermine, all neatly lined and finished with cords, ranging in price from \$1.25 down to50¢

SETS IN BEAVERETTE, round shaped tie and bag shaped muff, finished with tassels and cords. Very handsome. Prices \$2\$1.50

SETS IN WHITE BEAR, with very neat tie and muff, well lined. Remarkable value75¢

"Check-Rain" Coats for Women Thoroughly Waterproof

For real good value, this line is hard to beat. The garments are light in weight, attractive in appearance and thoroughly waterproofed in spite of the fact that they are rubberless. The material is closely woven and firmly finished, but is smooth to the touch, perfectly odorless, and may be had in mixtures of greens, greys and fawns. Full length coats with storm collars. Price \$13.75 and\$25.00

"Zambrene" Rain Coats in Popular Tweed Mixtures

These are most serviceable garments, are made with Raglan sleeves, large turnover collars, in single and double breasted styles, that will button up close to the neck. Some have deep turnback cuffs, while others are fitted with small straps and buttons to tighten up the cuffs. The colors are mixtures of greys, greens and browns. Pockets are inside the coats and all the seams are double stitched. All sizes to be had in this line at prices starting at\$20.00

Cold Weather Footwear—Popular Prices

CLOTH OVERGAITERS for women.

These are almost a necessity for the woman who must go out during the cold weather and will save more than their cost by protecting the wearer from colds. They are made of black cloth and come in 7-button length, at, per pair, 50¢, and 10-button length at, per pair75¢

BLACK CLOTH LEGGINGS, knee length, per pair, \$1, or to reach well over the knee, at, per pair, \$1.50

BLACK CLOTH LEGGINGS, for misses and children at, per pair \$1 and90¢

CORDUROY LEGGINGS, for children, in all sizes. These come in colors brown, fawn, blue, red and white at, per pair\$1.00

WARM HOUSE SLIPPERS

WOMEN'S ALL FELT SLIPPERS, in black only, per pair25¢

COLORADO FELT SLIPPERS—These come in numerous styles and colors. All sizes at, per pair75¢

VELVET SLIPPERS for women. These have felt soles and come in colors red and blue. Price, per pair\$1.00

QUILTED SATIN SLIPPERS for women. These have felt soles and come in colors tan, red and black. A very smart and comfortable house slipper. Per pair75¢

WOMEN'S JAEGER STYLE SLIPPERS, with turnover collar and felt or leather soles. Good values at, per pair75¢

CHILDREN'S ALL FELT SLIPPERS in many colors. Per pair50¢

Women's Sweaters

These are the famous "Monarch Knit" brand that is now enjoying a well earned reputation for its high standard quality and popular prices.

We have neat Sweaters in colors white, black, cardinal and navy, closely knitted and finished with a plain band all round, fastened down the front, turnback cuffs and pockets at side. Price\$1.90

In colors grey and white, with pearl buttons, side pockets, turn down collar and turnback cuffs. Price \$3.75

MEN'S ALL FELT SLIPPERS, in black only at, per pair, 65¢ and 35¢

MEN'S FELT SLIPPERS—These have felt soles, are very warm and comfortable and come in colors red and blue. Per pair85¢

DAVID SPENCER, LIMITED

STORM CLIMBING

NEARLY SCORE

DEATH

Property Loss Total Several—Shipping

Nearly a score of million dollars' worth of property suffering resulted from change of temperature and the storms and the snow that beat the United States' morning. After a November day, storm in Wisconsin a dozen persons and a score. A cold, immediately rolled on the tornado and hours to the Gulf tending seaboard sheet, interfering telephone wires a several persons by the cold, ship Lakes was damaged were cast adrift. The poor in la homeless in storm fered severely. The official we night was for quic die west. The lo can leaving rapid southward. From a point ne began to rise yest bility of further central states.

Storm on I

Chicago, Nov. Evening Star and which were driven gan Saturday night which were thought ed with crews of safe on the Mid Della, after break blown into South Early to-day was the Evanston life St. Joseph, Mich Star landed there.

The storm on severe and it is have been lost.

The tornado wh of Illinois, Wis Saturday night, nearly a score of vilie, Wis., eight a two are fatally in die. The property of Jacksonville has

At Easton, Ill, killed and seven s town of Virginia, financial loss by

Owosso two pers on injured. The reach nearly a ha

The cold weath victim here to-da since the winter

Early Saturday ni son, 40 years of a sctious from the c street, and died in while being taken

Launch Duluth, Minn., N been received of which is more of the "Soo." She driven vessel, how ed she can ride o

Two to four bel twenty below in story of today's tion. Very little s of the lakes, but

In Ne

New York, Nov that chased into the balnrest, add over enjoyed, light and sent the mer gress above. This at 8 o'clock this r afternoon. The frigid weather was continued to-day.

Several small bo outside New York of marine disaster

The high winds service and the t west are doing h difficulties.

Illinois F Lacroix, Wis., and Lacrosse rive the night and th froze over. This of the rivers on temperature to-day s marking one of t days in many ye

San Francisco, of the death of M lieutenant-general

Warders the Ameri tion had to conten here to-day with army transport I

Malvati ranked a mander with Agui won his snits in the Spaniards in

TRAIN

Winnipeg, Nov Trunk Pacific expi day night, was w into an ope

Manitoba. Escap weather made it gner to see thr and from Jan thirty passengers

22. The mail an demolished, and t over into the ditch