

# SEEKS TO SETTLE RESERVE QUESTION

## Mayor Morley and Municipal Committee Believe Songhees Indians May Be Removed --By-Law is to Be Prepared.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

It will be remembered that during the late civic election campaign one of the strong claims put forward by the present mayor was for a settlement of the Indian reserve question. He promised if elected to leave nothing undone which would result in a solution of this vexed Songhees reserve question. He, moreover, urged that there were strong reasons for believing that a settlement could be reached.

Upon assuming office the mayor at once set in motion the machinery for the consummation of his object, and already he and the committee appointed to deal with the question are able to report progress.

It is true that the matter has not yet been solved. Much remains to be done, but the mayor is sanguine, with the information which he has, that a happy way may be found out of the difficulty, and that Victoria may see the Indians removed from their present location to a more suitable one, both for the Songhees tribe and the city of Victoria.

The committee which has had the

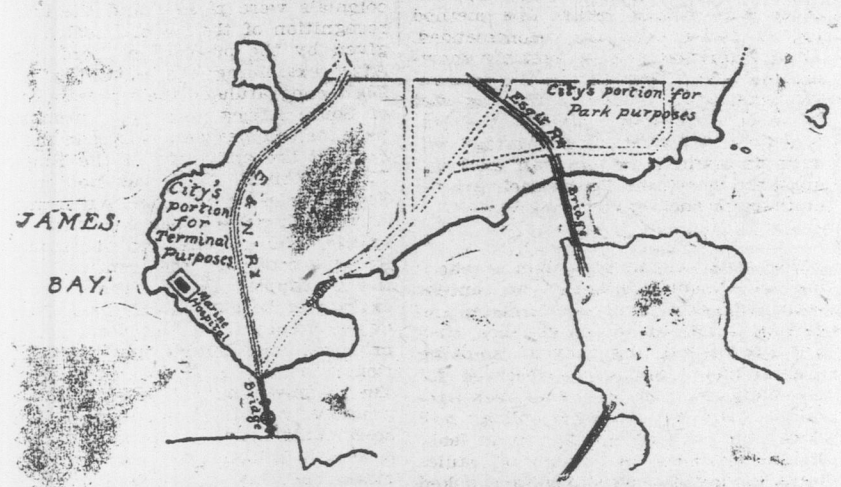
at last night's meeting was as follows: Victoria, B. C., April 9th, 1906. To the City Council, Victoria, B. C.:

Gentlemen—We, your committee on the Songhees reserve settlement, beg to report as follows: That we have arranged the following terms of agreement with the provincial government for the settlement of the above question:

First—That the twenty-five acres, more or less, of the reserve lying to the north of the Esquimalt road will be assigned and granted to the city of Victoria for park purposes, with the right to erect a new Victoria West school building at the corner thereof.

Second—That the eighteen acres, more or less, being the land lying to the south of the E. & N. railway line, will be assigned and granted to the city of Victoria for industrial, railroad and other municipal purposes, the city undertaking to leave nothing undone which would result in a solution of this vexed Songhees reserve question. He, moreover, urged that there were strong reasons for believing that a settlement could be reached.

Third—That in consideration of the above grants to the city, the city of Victoria will provide a new reserve for the Indians, satisfactory to them and the Dominion and provincial governments,



PROPOSED DISPOSITION OF SONGHEES RESERVE

work in hand is composed of His Worship and Aids, Yates, Hall and Douglas. It is the intention of the committee to leave nothing undone to bring it to an issue. It is further agreed that there shall be no loss of time, and the committee will proceed to work at once to secure a new site for a reserve. It is understood that they have one in view, and that the whole question will be brought to a head within a very short time. The consent of the Indians must be obtained, and with that the sanction of the Dominion government.

Another point which the provincial government insists upon in rehabilitating the Indians, is that the reservation rights in the James Bay area shall be secured to the province.

It will be remembered that at the 1905 session of the legislature an act was passed by which power was given to the government to dispose of the lands of the reserve upon the removal of the Indians. That bill when introduced was opposed strenuously by many of the members, as it gave rather dangerous powers to the government. It was regarded at the time that the government was playing a game with this act as a means of influencing the elections in the city of Victoria by making a show of dealing most generously with the city in this reserve question. The report of the municipal committee presented to the council last evening shows that the Premier is ready to give the city that portion of the reserve north of the Esquimalt road for the purpose of laying out a park, and for a school site, and that part south of the E. & N. railway for providing terminal facilities to railway companies which may seek it for other purposes. The city is to rehabilitate the Indians and is to bear all the expenses, but will be repaid out of the proceeds of the sale of the central portion of the reserve between the Esquimalt road and the E. & N. railway.

The committee is satisfied with the results of the negotiations with the government. While there is not an agreement entered into, it is specified that the assurance given by the Premier are such that it amounts to an agreement and may be acted upon. The act of 1905 provides as follows: "That upon removal by the Dominion government of the Indians from the said land, it shall be lawful for the Lieutenant-Governor in council to dispose of such land upon such terms and conditions as may be deemed advisable."

Under this it would appear that the government is not in a position to enter into an agreement with respect to the land until the Indians have been actually removed. The Premier has, however, given the assurance that the disposition of the lands will be as set forth.

Aid. Yates explained last evening that the Dominion government had been given the privilege of getting a new reserve. This had now been delegated in turn to the city.

The report brought into the council by the revisionary interests of the said reserve to remain in the province. Fourth—All the cost of and incidental to the removal of the Indians and their rehabilitation, also all expenses in connection with the sale of the central portion of the present reserve to be provided for out of the proceeds of such sale, the provincial government to have full charge of such sale.

Fifth—The city of Victoria to advance all money that may be required in transferring and rehabilitating the Indians on

Aid. Yates did not think it mattered who got the credit for this. He had worked on the question for years, and was glad to have it settled. He hoped that Aid. Fell would not press his objection to adopting the report.

Aid. Fell said that if the chairman of the committee would say that any interests of the city would be jeopardized, he would not press for its being held over.

Aid. Yates did not know of any interests which would be jeopardized, but he did not advocate delay.

His Worship wanted the report adopted, as it was important that no time should be lost.

Further discussion as to what last year's council did followed. Aid. Stewart contended that the Mayor did not know what had been done by last year's committee. He said that last year's council had done much more work on this question than the present council.

His Worship said that if the council last year had followed his (Mayor Morley's) advice and waited until the Premier this matter might have been settled last year.

Aid. Stewart said he did not believe any such thing.

Aid. Yates said that he admitted that this year there were circumstances which did not exist last year, and which tended to facilitate the carrying out of this. (Laughter.)

His Worship said it existed last year also.

Aid. Yates said it was not as near. (Laughter.)

Aid. Fell after reading the report wished it left over. He said that there did not appear to be an agreement entered into with the government.

Aid. Yates said there was not an agreement, but preparatory work had been done which would result in an agreement. There were many things which had to be considered.

The report was finally adopted, and the committee thus given power to proceed further with the work and prepare the necessary by-law.

## ONLY NEOPOLITAN NOW IN VICTORIA

### SIG. CLAUDIO TELLS OF MOUNT VESUVIUS

#### Many Cities are in Danger of Being Swept out of Ex- istence.

While Victorians are reading with horror of the appalling devastation being wrought by the present eruption of Mount Vesuvius, there is one in this city who is scanning the dispatches of the terrible outbreak with more than ordinary interest. Signor Claudio, the well known violinist, is the only Neapolitan in Victoria.

His mother still lives in Naples, and he himself is familiar with the whole country surrounding the capricious mountain. Since the present eruption he has been closely following the reports of the descent of the molten lava from the crater's mouth, and in his own mind has been speculating as to the distance it is likely to travel. Of course, to reason this out with any degree of certainty would be as difficult as to prophesy the extent of the vomiting likely to be done by the huge giant of ages. But the spirit that dominates Signor Claudio in this instance is doubtless the one, with greater emphasis, that permeates the many residents of Naples in their beautiful homes beneath the mountain. To guard against the awful streams of lava that are now sweeping with irresistible force down the mountain, great drains have been dug around the mountain, all leading to the sea. But in the appalling results that are now being recounted nothing is mentioned of the great part that has been spreading death and ruin over the countryside. That the streams will reach Naples, Signor Claudio has no fear, unless the eruption proceeds with undiminished violence. Naples is ten miles distant from Vesuvius, and before it is reached many intermediate cities must first be wiped out of existence. A number of these have been built with comparatively recent years. Citizens, oblivious of the lessons taught in times gone by, having been attracted by the beautiful foliage, built fine homes, and laid out magnificent gardens, as if in defiance of all danger.

Leaving Naples in the direction of the mountain there is a line of cities as closely together as it would seem possible for them to be. First comes Giovanni Trionfo, a city of one street and built mostly of factories, of which there are many. The street extends for about three miles. Then comes Barra, a commercial place of seven or eight thousand inhabitants. Portici brings one to within three or four miles of Vesuvius, on the west side of the mountain. The city is a wondrous place, very beautiful, and is made up chiefly of the homes of wealthy Italians. Resina adjoins Portici and is even more picturesque. It was built about fifteen years ago, and has five or six thousand inhabitants. Following the coast line still further one enters Torre Del Greco and Torre Annunziata, cities of larger size than the last three or four mentioned, and given up more to commercial pursuits. Torre Del Greco is noted for its fishing industry, and Torre Annunziata for its factories. They are places of fully twenty thousand of a population, and like the others named, have been built right under the mountain. Inland to the east of the mountain are the cities of Guiseppe and Avellino. But the most fearful fate of man in the way of buildings about the mountain is that to be seen in Castel Morrone, a pleasure resort half-way up the mountain side, which is brilliantly illustrated by night and is a place where young Neapolitans are wont to congregate on festive occasions.

On Saturday evening at the Alexander Club rooms Rev. C. E. Cooper gave a delightful dissertation on the salient points of the British Constitution.

Rev. Mr. Cooper gave great pleasure to all present by his masterly handling of his interesting subject.

Dr. E. A. Hall said that he was not in the mood to give a dissertation on the British Constitution. He pointed out that the attack upon the liquor license in connection with the grocery business was to take away the selling of liquor as groceries which had been a pleasure to all present by the bottle.

Rev. Mr. Gladstone said that the objection to the liquor license was not the liquor license itself, but the fact that it was a monopoly.

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## COUNCIL WILL BUY CREOSOTING PLANT

### FOR TREATING THE PAVING MATERIAL

#### Powers of Police Commissioners Called in Question—Temperance Delegation Put Forth Views.

The council had to extend the time of the sitting on Monday in order to get the desired business disposed of. Several knotty questions came up and the discussion was prolonged.

The first question was a resolution to catch the last car. Mayor Morley before closing called attention to the fact that there was a lot of unfinished business which it was desired to complete another meeting would have to be called.

It was agreed to hold another meeting on Thursday evening. His Worship also intimated that if business was not put on record that it looked as though some restraint should be put upon the members of the council, including himself.

A deputation consisting of Dr. E. A. Hall, David Cameron, Rev. W. Gibson, representing the public meeting held in Institute hall a short time ago, and Rev. T. W. Gladstone, Rev. W. Hicks, and H. J. Knott, representing the City League, waited upon the council to ask for certain action with reference to liquor licenses and the sale of intoxicants on grocery premises.

These gentlemen did not occupy much time, stating their case briefly and then retiring.

The Songhees Indian reserve was discussed at some length on a report of the committee dealing with the question on an understanding being reached with the provincial government. The discussion finally resolved itself into a debate between the Mayor and Aid. Stewart as to whether last year's council had done all it could in the matter.

The action of the police commissioners in deciding upon the tenders for a police telephone system was brought up. Aid. Yates said the police commissioners had no right to award a contract for this. He and other members of the council were strongly opposed to the introduction of this system at the present time, considering that the city required the money in other ways.

Aid. Yates even proposed to appeal to the Lieut.-Governor in council. Aid. Stewart wished to put on record that the council disapproved of the proposal. It was finally agreed to get the opinion of the city solicitor on the question of what power the commissioners had.

Mayor Morley stated that he had asked the police commissioners to put on record that they were in good faith under the impression that he was following the right course.

Another point which was not very fully discussed owing to its coming up at a late hour, was the street paving proposition. It was decided to install a creosoting plant at a cost not exceeding \$6,000, and in order to distribute the cost over as large an area as possible.

A request was made for aid for Geo. Douglas, who was represented by not fit to help himself. It was referred to the home committee.

George Smith complained of a cess-pole and manure heap which gave him trouble. This was referred to the sanitary inspector for removal.

The police commissioners reported upon tenders having been received for an electric telephone system for the police and that a tender had been accepted.

Aid. Yates wished to know what power the police commissioners had to award the tender. If they had the power, what was the use of reporting to the council?

His Worship said that he had been informed by the chief that this was the usual routine.

Aid. Yates did not think the commissioners had the power under the law to order this. He did not think the city could afford this, as it was not necessary in a city of this size.

Aid. Douglas said that it was found that this telephone system would be supplementary to the patrol wagon and was necessary.

His Worship said the police commissioners had carefully considered this. The chief of police was short of men on the force. He had asked for eight patrol men additional. Each man would cost the city \$800 a year. This telephone system would take the place of two men at least, and would be a great saving to the city.

Aid. Vincent thought there was no increase in crime here to warrant this. Aid. Stewart said the chief would certainly ask for everything he could, but the council had to keep the expense down.

Aid. Hall did not blame the chief for asking for anything which he thought would bring the system up-to-date. Last year he had asked for an electric bath for those brought in to stimulate them. (Laughter.) The council of last year had granted this. He did not favor the request in view of the finances of the city.

His Worship said there was no request.

Aid. Hall said that he had understood when the tenders were opened by the commissioners, that it was not for the awarding of them but simply for information. He did not think the commissioners had the power to award the contract.

Aid. Yates said that the statute would be interpreted as precluding the commissioners from awarding the contract. He therefore favored the reference to the Lieut. Governor in council to decide this matter. He would not sanction this action and moved in favor of referring to the Lieut. Governor in council.

His Worship said the commissioners had acted in good faith and he believed the spirit of the act was in favor of the course taken.

Aid. Fell held an opinion similar to that of Aid. Yates relative to the powers of the police commissioners. He

felt was to prevent liquor being sent home as groceries. If it had to be bought by the bottle only at saloons, there would not be the same amount obtained as at present, when it was sent home in oil cases, etc., as groceries.

His Worship assured the delegation that the council would give the question its most careful consideration.

The delegation then retired.

The Victoria Chemical Works Company wrote with reference to the petition of last week and the refusal of the council on the basis of it to abate the cause of the complaint. The letter said that the company did its best to comply with the desire for doing away with any cause of complaint. It was hoped on the return of its representative in England to do away with this.

It was decided to inform the petitioners of this letter.

The Melrose Company complained of a fee of over \$300 being charged under the by-law for inspection of an electric sign, the work occupying only a minute or two.

Aid. Fell said this was a grievance which had come up before. He thought that something had been done last year. It seemed it had not. He thought there was a real grievance and that this should be referred to the writing inspector for report, in the hope of something being done to amend the by-law.

His Worship said this had come before the council on his own recommendation. He had gone into the question with the inspector, who agreed that this was excessive, but that there was nothing in the by-law governing this particular question of signs.

Aid. Yates thought that under the by-law which dealt with lights in buildings the inspector could not collect the fees complained of.

Aid. Fullerton said that a report had been asked for last year. This report had not been received.

His Worship said that he thought this whole thing should be gone into. At the present time the inspector would house himself and inspect his own work. All this might be gone into.

Aid. Fell said that the question was what remedy could be afforded. He thought it would be well to appoint two inspectors, so that neither would inspect his own work.

The whole matter was referred to the city electrician for report.

The Melrose Company asked permission to put in an electric sign for the street, and for putting in a sign over Bastion street and fifteen above the street.

Some objection was taken to this being too large a sign to go over a narrow street, as it would extend half way over the street.

Aid. Fell wanted it specified that the lights should be fixed and not flash lights.

The matter was referred to the city electrician and building committee, with power to act.

Thomas Davis wanted hacks prohibited from standing on Yates street, as it prevented his premises from being reached.

Aid. Douglas thought that this was something to refer to the police commissioners.

Aid. Yates did not think that if the hacks observed the by-law and remained in the middle of the street there was any grievance. He moved to refer the matter to the chief of police to see that the law was carried out.

A. Marion asked for water connection on Southgate street. This was referred to the water commissioner.

A request was made for aid for Geo. Douglas, who was represented by not fit to help himself. It was referred to the home committee.

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did not think it wise to adopt this telephone system. A patrol wagon had been obtained on the recommendation of the chief, but the advantages of this were not properly represented. Instead of a fine being fixed at a certain sum it was divided into so much for a fine and so much for the patrol. It was in this way pretended to show that the patrol paid for itself. But this money would have come in if there were no patrol. It has cost the city a good horse. The original intention was to use a horse from the fire hall. Such had been attempted, but the transferring of the horse from an honorable place in the fire department to drawing the patrol wagon had so preyed upon the horse's mind that after a short time he died.

Aid. Stewart moved to inform the police commissioners that the council did not sanction this action, and that the council would not pay the amount.

Aid. Yates supported this if the council did not approve of his proposal to refer to the Lieut. Governor in council.

The question then came up as to where it was proposed to get this money.

His Worship thought that it was the intention to pay it out of the appropriation for police.

Aid. Yates thought that if it came out of the police fund he supposed that the council had nothing to say about it.

Aid. Hall did not approve of this. If it was paid out of the police funds this year the appropriation for it would be required another year.

His Worship thought that perhaps the police commissioners should not let the contract. He thought perhaps the commissioners were simply reporting its decision as approving of the proposal. He said that he was not convinced with the action. If he had erred he had done so innocently. He wished to know if the council was ready to approve of this if the expense came out of the police funds.

His Worship then suggested that the question be referred to the city solicitor to report upon the powers of the police commissioners to the latter board. The commissioners might then begin over again if a wrong course had been followed. All he wanted was to settle this matter.

Aid. Yates approved of this, but wished the report of the city solicitor to be made to the council.

Aid. Stewart wished the opinion of the council being taken.

His Worship ruled this latter out of order.

It was decided therefore to refer the question to the city solicitor, who is to report to the council.

Principal Laing complained of a drain creating a nuisance adjoining his property.

Aid. Fell said this was a private matter and was not one for the council to deal with.

The matter was therefore dropped.

The plumbing inspector reported that the plumbing of the Vernon hotel was not in accordance with the regulations.

This was laid on the table, it being represented that improvements were in contemplation.

Tenders for police clothing were received from the following firms: John Barnard, for hats, and Sprinkling Co., Thos. Grant and E. Sheper for clothing.

These were referred to the finance committee, the chief of police and the purchasing agent, who were to act on the question.

The electric lighting committee reported in favor of purchasing carbons from W. Hinton and from Mr. Beck with this adopted.

The park committee reported upon the bounds of the property for which permission had been obtained from the legislature for the city to sell. The report was adopted.

The finance committee reported as follows with reference to the expropriation of land belonging to Mrs. Cameron:

Victoria, B. C., April 9th, 1906. To His Worship the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, Victoria, B. C.:

Gentlemen—Re compensation to be offered the representatives of Mrs. Cameron for expropriation for Birdcage Walk.

Your committee have given consideration to the question and have sought further expert advice, and recommend that \$3,000 be tendered to cover the value of the property expropriated with compensation for compulsory taking and costs in full of all demands.

Your committee consider that as a concession outside of any legal liability or demand of value the representatives of Mrs. Cameron be allowed.

The committee also recommend that the cost of removing all buildings, trees and shrubs from the expropriated premises.

Accounts to the amount of \$6,400.88 were ordered to be paid.

Aid. Vincent moved as follows: That the council determine to pave by means of wooden block on suitable foundation, in accordance with the specifications approved of by the council: Broad street, from Yates to Johnson street; Wharf street, from Johnson to Johnson street; Government street, from Johnson to Fisgard street; Fisgard street, from Government to Store street; Store street, from Johnson to Pembroke street; Cormorant, from Store to Government street—all work to be done by day labor and under the provisions of the local improvement by-law.

Aid. Yates proposed to leave this over until the report of the committee on a creosoting plant was presented.

The discussion then became somewhat general.

Aid. Vincent did not know that there was any report to be presented. He said that it was necessary if wood paving was to be done that a creosoting plant be obtained. It was the only satisfactory way of doing it.

His Worship said there was a question about that. It was an open question whether it were better to expend the money necessary for creosoting or to replace the blocks. That was the question. He did not think the foundation was once laid.

Aid. Vincent could not agree with this. He thought the only right way to do the paving was by creosoting. He explained that the intention was not to lay all this pavement this year. The proposal was to include it all so as to spread the cost of the creosoting plant over a large number of years, reducing the cost to a very small item on any one section.

Aid. Hall said he had made inquiries last year of a member of the Seattle council, who convinced him that creosoting was necessary. He suggested that there be added to the report a recommendation that a creosoting

plant be purchased.

This was done and the motion was carried.

The Tax Sale By-law was finally passed.

The council then adjourned.

## JAMES BAY CREW MAY BE SENT EAST

### Question of Local Four Competing at the Canadian Henley Will Be Discussed To-Night.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

The Canadian Henley, the most important aquatic event held in Canada, is the goal upon which ambitious members of the James Bay Athletic Association have turned their eyes. Why shouldn't we develop a crew here equal to any of those trained in Canada. Is the query the most sanguine put to members who declare themselves