

NO ALTERATIONS.

Council Decided That the Contract at Beaver Lake be Finished Without Changes.

Mayor Beaven Makes Recommendations Regarding the City Solicitor and Barrister.

Last evening's council meeting was opened by the reading of the following recommendation by Mayor Beaven:

"I have to call the attention of the council to the condition of the business of the city in relation to the position of a city solicitor and barrister. It was decided in 1886, that the separate positions held by C. D. Mason as solicitor, were to be annulled and the duties were to be performed by one person...

Ald. Partridge favored the continuance of the present system, and he thought the other aldermen were of the same opinion.

Mayor Beaven said that the council had voted to combine the offices.

The council having refused to pass a by-law to combine the offices, they have evidently changed their minds.

The matter was dropped, no action being taken.

John Brownlee complained that corporation work was not distributed among the city workmen but given to one set of men.

Thos. Thompson again wrote regarding the election of Mr. Winsby as collector, which he claimed was irregular.

G. Campbell wrote that sewer connections made with a house on Fort street, by A. & W. Wilson, was not done according to the by-law.

Ald. Wilson produced a letter from Inspector Parr drawing attention to the defects, which, he said, were being remedied.

After a short discussion between Ald. Wilson and Macmillan the letter was referred to the city engineer for investigation.

The market superintendent reported that he had collected \$87.30 during March. Received and filed.

The finance committee, or rather two members of it, reported as follows:

"That in regard to the request of The Winnipeg Electric Plating & Novelty Manufacturing Co. as to what inducements Victoria would give to have their works located here, we would suggest that they be informed that this city has no inducements to offer, as the by-laws in force here it has been decided that we do not wish any increase in our population, capital or industries, and should they locate here they will have to pay the following taxes: licenses, etc. Wholesale license \$100 a year; each workman, \$3 a year revenue tax; workmen not workmen, \$2 fixed tax; buildings and improvements to be taxed; machinery and stock taxed; fire insurance tax; interest on borrowed on mortgage tax; income tax."

Ald. Macmillan moved that the report be adopted and a copy be sent to the interested parties.

Ald. Cameron said he had signed the report because it was the time the city changed its tactics if it intended to be serious.

Mayor Beaven objected to the words in the report stating that the city did not want population.

Ald. Partridge moved that the report be received and filed. The council was not the place to air single tax ideas.

Ald. Wilson seconded the motion, agreeing with Ald. Partridge.

Ald. Williams had not signed the report because he did not believe in throwing mud at the city. Victoria had enough enemies right in her midst, without the council joining them.

The city had to levy taxes to carry on her affairs.

Ald. Marchant signed the report because every word in it was true. It was better to remove an evil than to hide it.

Victoria charged factories \$100 while Vancouver did not do so, thus inducing people to go there in preference to coming here.

The real enemies of Victoria were those who endeavored to keep up an iniquitous system of taxation. People were going to Vancouver because they can carry on business there at a less cost than they can here.

Ald. Marchant contended that Victoria would have a better chance of being a great industrial centre if it was not for the system of taxation.

Ald. Glover thought that in this case it might be wise to tell "the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth."

The report was received and filed. The finance committee recommended:

Awarded Highest Honors—World's Fair, DR. J. C. CALBREATH'S CASSELL DISTRICT.

Mr. Justice Drake this morning gave judgment in Holmes vs. the Corporation of Victoria. The plaintiff Marie Holmes, sued for \$100 damages for injuries received in a fall down a shaft at Fernwood road in 1895.

The Odd Fellows' association is opposite the place where the accident occurred. The city moved to add several members of the association as defendants. The application was dismissed with costs.

The city, D. Murphy for plaintiff, and F. F. Gregory for Odd Fellows.

She—Poor fellow! Only one eye. How came you to lose the other? Tramp—A looking for work, mum.

GRADING OF PUPILS

Trustees and Teachers Discuss the Equalization of Numbers in the Classes.

Principals of the Schools Oppose any Changes in the Middle of the Term.

At the conference of the trustees and the principals of the different schools held in Secretary Williams' office last evening, several matters relating to the grading of pupils in the different schools were discussed.

All the principals were present, as well as all the members of the board with the exception of Trustee Saunders.

Chairman Hayward stated that the board had decided at its previous meeting the grading of the pupils in the different schools, and it was then considered advisable to discuss the matters further with the principals. Hence the conference.

Trustee McKicking was of the opinion that the system of promotion examinations now in vogue was detrimental to the best interests of the schools. He considered better service would be secured if the teachers, who knew what the pupils were capable of performing, should have more to say in the promotion of those pupils.

Chairman Hayward remarked that promotion examinations did not wholly guide the principals in making promotions.

Miss Cameron corroborated the chairman's statement. Pupils were sometimes promoted on the recommendation of the teachers.

Trustee Yates wished to get some information regarding the discrepancy in numbers that existed in different grades in the schools. Some teachers had only 30 pupils, others had over 70.

Trustee Yates pointed out that the teacher in the fourth division of Spring Ridge had over 70 pupils.

Principal Doran, of Spring Ridge, said that none of the pupils of the fourth division were fit for the third and none therefore could be promoted in justice to themselves or to the pupils in the third division.

Principal Netherby, of the boys' school, was in favor of having monthly promotion examinations in the different schools and promoting any pupils at the end of each month that passed these examinations.

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BENEFITS TO B. C.

The Hawaiian Gazette Points Out Benefits of the Canadian-Australian Line.

A Market Made for Products Hitherto Not Exported—California Feels It.

When the Canadian-Australian line of steamers began running, three or four years ago, the farmers and traders of the Northwest were given the means of shipping goods to the Hawaiian islands and Australia without having first to send them to San Francisco, says the Hawaiian Gazette.

The new line opened up a market for products which previously had been thrown aside because of the expense, inconvenience and possible loss in shipping them to so great a distance as San Francisco. In the fruit and wheat country in Washington, east of the Cascade range of mountains, so anxious were the people to get their products to tide water as quickly as possible that they built a line of railway to connect with the Northern Pacific, and thus land their freight at Tacoma in less time than they could send it by the O. R. & N. company to Portland.

The Canadian-Australian line of steamers had been running but a short time, when the people here, noting that the quality of freight carried was the same as formerly comprised the cargoes on the San Francisco vessels, decided that the farmers and manufacturers of British Columbia were reaping the benefit by means of the new steamship line which properly belonged to the same class of people in the United States.

Ellis Mills, United States consul-general in this port, seems to have been one of these, and when he had secured copies of the manifests of the various straightway penned the following report to the state department at Washington, D. C.:

"The inclosed statement showing merchandise imported by the steamers of the Vancouver Canadian and Australasian line for the nine months ending September 30th, will give some idea of how this line is encroaching on the business heretofore enjoyed by the long established lines of American steamers, and is also opening up an English source of supply for the Hawaiian market, which has heretofore been exclusively American, so far as this particular line of goods is concerned."

"It will be observed that most of the items mentioned in the statement are those which form staple articles of export from California, and it is this class of merchandise which the American line of vessels plying between these islands and San Francisco rely for their freightage business."

"It is noticeable that the quantity of freight which the Canadian steamers bring is steadily increasing, much of it being brought on a ship's account, and what those vessels may lose in the way of freight when the goods are sold is more than made up by the large subsidies which they receive from the British government."

Quantity of merchandise imported in 9 months by the Vancouver line for nine months to September 30th, 1894:

Table with 2 columns: Item, Quantity. Items include Flour, Shooks, Fish, Grain and feed, Hay, etc.

Quantity of merchandise imported in 9 months by the Vancouver line for nine months to September 30th, 1894:

Table with 2 columns: Item, Quantity. Items include Lime, Flour, Shooks, Fish, Posts, Lumber, Bags, Naval stores, etc.

The first to call attention to the errors in Mr. Mills' statement was J. G. Swan, Hawaiian consul at Port Townsend, one of the best posted men in the state on matters of this character.

Judge Swan communicated with the foreign office and suggested that corrections be made by the state department in Washington and published in the monthly consular reports. This was in April, 1895. The suggestion was at once communicated, but not acted upon.

The trouble with Consul Mills' report was that too much was left to the imagination. The quantity and value of the products of British Columbia shipped along the Canadian-Australian line were not specified, and as the officials at Washington were not familiar with such things, and probably interested less they saw little to correct.

This steamship line has brought to Hawaii much that would never have come had San Francisco been the only shipping port. It has given impetus to the manufacturers along the Sound. It has, in many respects, increased the shipments of certain lines. Roach Harbor line, for instance, is imported in larger quantities now than ever before, and the manufacture of line along the Straits of Fuca is no small industry.

In the book of consular reports for February 1896, published at Washington, a statement prepared by Mr. Carlisle appears. He says: "That the greater part, if not all, of the articles named are the produce of the portion of the state of Washington bordering on Puget Sound, whose nearest and most natural outlet to the Hawaiian market is by transit across the Straits of Juan de Fuca to the port of Victoria."

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HIGHEST OF ALL IN LEAVENING POWER.—LATEST U. S. GOV'T REPORT

ABSOLUTELY PURE

THE MILITARY BUILDINGS, Ottawa, March 23.—Some days ago Senator McInnes brought the attention of the upper chamber the militia defenses on the Pacific coast. What Mr. McInnes then said and the reply of the premier was already referred to in the Times. At the same time the senator referred to another question of considerable local importance to New Westminster and general interest to the province. He called the attention of the senate to the incomplete condition of the new drill hall in New Westminster, B. C., which is about to be handed over to the commanding officer, Lieut. Clayton, No. 5 Company, Fifth Regiment, Royal Artillery, and asked if it is the intention of the government to place in the supplementary estimates a sufficient sum to have the building properly heated and lighted and a paid caretaker appointed forthwith. He said that a new drill hall was built at a cost of \$80,000. The building was not heated. The caretaker, too, should be properly remunerated so that the hall would be properly looked after.

Mr. McInnes said: "Another thing, although it is not immediately connected with the subject of which I have given notice—I want to state that the intention of the government to place in the supplementary estimates a sufficient sum to have the building properly heated and lighted and a paid caretaker appointed forthwith. He said that a new drill hall was built at a cost of \$80,000. The building was not heated. The caretaker, too, should be properly remunerated so that the hall would be properly looked after."

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