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SURFACE DRAINS AGAIN.

Various Resolutions Introduced Relative to Them.

DISCUSSION OF DAY LABOR QUESTION

Ald. Belyea Advises the Council to "Go Slow" in Dealing With the Disputed Contracts and They Go Slow—Other Business.

The council sat for three hours last night but succeeded in doing very little business. The first hour and a half was devoted to the reading of long formal reports from the finance committee. A little other business was transacted and then resolutions relative to the surface drains came up and long discussions followed. When all the other aldermen had spoken Ald. Belyea would advise them to let the question stand over and they would do so.

There were present at the meeting Mayor Beaven in the chair, and Ald. McKillican, Belyea, Styles, Bragg and Robertson.

Ald. McKillican moved that the minutes of the last meeting be taken as read and adopted.

Ald. Bragg objected to this. The minutes had been read at several previous meetings and the rule should be continued. The minutes were therefore read.

The reports of the returning officer announcing the election of W. A. Robertson and Anton Henderson were received and filed.

The finance committee's reports recommending the payment of accounts and appropriations were adopted. One of the accounts was from H. Carmichael for $150 for examining the stomachs of two Chinamen suspected of being poisoned in April last. At that time the charge was supposed to be excessive. Mr. Carmichael enclosed letters from other professional men to show that the charge was less than usual.

The building inspector was authorized to accept the work done at the Old Men's Home by Fullarton & McDonald if it is satisfactory.

The school trustees asked for $7000 to purchase a site for the new south ward school from Charles Wilson, and $7100 for a north ward school site to be purchased from L. Erb.

Ald. Styles asked if the property had been selected by the city.

Mayor Beaven thought that the sites should be certainly purchased in the name of the corporation of the city.

Ald. McKillican moved that the money be paid to the trustees if the property is deeded to the city.

The street committee recommended that the contract for sprinkling the streets be awarded to C. King at $4.50 a day. That the request for repairs on Carr street cannot be granted as the work must be done under the local improvement by-law and that the road leading to the old agricultural building be repaired. The report was received and adopted.

The mayor reported that by an order of the Supreme Court the corporation was restrained from proceeding with the Spring Ridge surface drain the contract for which was awarded to H. H. McDonald & Co.

Ald. Bragg's motion to authorize the corporation to enter into an agreement with property owners in Work estate to run a surface drain through their property.

Ald. Bragg thought it was necessary to have work on the Work estate drain commenced as soon as possible.

Ald. Styles did not think it would be satisfactory to the residents of Work estate if the surface water only was to be carried off by the drain. It would be very little good to them if they were not allowed to let their sewerage water run into the drain.

Ald. Belyea said there was a discrepancy in the language used in the by-law and the deed transferring the property, but as the resolution conformed with the deed, he did not think that there would be any trouble.

The motion was adopted.

Ald. McKillican moved, seconded by Ald. Styles, that that portion of a resolution of the council passed on the 9th day of August, 1893, which awarded the Spring Ridge surface drain contract to Messrs. H. H. McDonald & Co., at 89784, and that portion of a resolution of the council passed on the 14th day of August, 1893, which authorized the city clerk to affix the corporate seal to the contract awarded for the above work to Messrs. H. H. McDonald & Co., be hereby rescinded and annulled; and that the Spring Ridge surface drain be constructed in brick and the contract for the same be hereby awarded to Messrs. Coughlan & Mayo at $8935, and that the city clerk be authorized to affix the corporate seal to the contract."

Ald. Bragg moved in amendment that the surface drain be constructed by day labor.

Ald. Belyea—Are the other fellows going to do the work by night?

Ald. Bragg said when the council awarded the contract to two firms they did what they thought was right. After the manner in which a certain gentleman had pursued members of the boards, the action proposed by Ald. McKillican should not be carried out. Several members of the board favored day labor, for good reasons. When the contract for the Cook street drain was awarded it was thought the work would be done satisfactorily but now "dagoes" were being employed. The water works department did their work by day labor and it was done well. Only to-day, Mayo, the contractor for the James Bay sewer, would not pay a laborer what the contract says should be paid. There were a large number of men who were wanting work and the city having $100,000 for surface drains lying idle in the bank should take it out and use it. The work could be done well and just as cheaply by the city as it can be done by the contractors. The work for the waterworks department was done well and cheaply by the city.

Ald. Styles wanted it understood that he did not favor one contractor more than another. He did what he thought was fair and honorable. He had been the first one to advocate day labor but the council thought otherwise and it was decided to do the work by the contract system and tenders were called for. The tender of Coughlan & Mayo was the lowest and he favored the lowest men. If the other firm had been in Coughlan & Mayo's position he would have favored them.

Ald. Robertson was satisfied that if the contract was let to Coughlan & Mayo there would be more trouble. If the work could not be done cheaper by day labor he would like to know where the contractors' profits came in. There were many men in the city who were anxious to get work or they would be unable to pay their taxes. Certain regulations were made to bind the contractors but who enforced the regulations? Nobody.

Ald. Beyea confessed that he did not know much about the question. He had unfortunately missed all the fun that his friends the contractors had been having. Since his return home he had looked into the matter but he was not prepared to vote for either resolution or amendment. The matter had better be left alone while it is being considered by the supreme court. Ald. Baker, Henderson and Munn were absent and the matter had better be left over until more aldermen were present.

Ald. McKillican had tried to do his best for both contractors. The city engineer had stated that Coughlan & Mayo's tender was the lowest, and the lowest tenderer should be awarded the contract.

Ald. Bragg contended that the tender of Coughlan & Mayo was not clearly the lowest. Of course the tender could be made to mean almost anything.

Mayor Beaven—But the engineer reported that Coughlan & Mayo's tender was the lowest.

Ald. Styles—Their tender was $1800 less than the next highest.

Ald. McKillican asked when the case would be heard by the supreme court.

The mayor explained that no time had been set for the hearing.

Ald. McKillican—If the court restrained the corporation from proceeding in any way the matter would have to be laid over.

After reading the order of the court Ald. Belyea advised the council to be very careful and leave the matter alone until it was decided upon by the court.

The amendment and resolution were laid upon the table.

Ald. McKillican moved, seconded by Ald. Belyea that F. W. Adams and W. P. Sayward be notified to remove their fences on View street for the purpose of widening that street. The motion was adopted.

Ald. McKillican moved, seconded by Ald. Styles, that residents along the line of surface drains be allowed to connect with those drains until sewers were constructed on the streets.

Mayor Beaven read the following report from the city engineer on the question:

City Hall, Victoria, B. C.,
4th September, 1893.

His Worship the Mayor and Board of Aldermen:

Gentlemen,—As requested by your worship, I beg to submit the following report re the construction and use of the surface drains now being laid.

The primary object of these drains is to provide an outlet for water that otherwise would stagnate in natural depressions on the ground, and also to carry off water that would accumulate in the street gutters.

The contracts being executed by Mr. F. Adams and Messrs. Harrison and Walkley comprise the Cook and View street drains, and some of their principal branches, the drainage from all of which it is propose to convey into the outfall sewer, near Southgate street, through which it will be discharged at Clover Point, provision being made by means of an overflow to allow only so much of the storm water to empty into the main sewer as will not overtax its capacity for carrying off sewage until the population of the city is far greater than it is at present. Ultimately it is intended to extend the Cook street drain to discharge into the gulf at the south end of that street. Along Cook street, from Southgate to View, and along View street, west of Cook, sewers are laid and mos of the houses are connected therewith. On the lines of the surface drains between Cook street and North Pandora, via Johnson street, Mr. Dooley's property, South Pandora and Comosin street, and between Cook street and Fernwood road, via View street and the school reserve, no sewers are as yet laid.

The drain through the school reserve replaces a wooden box drain that had become rotten and useless, and to which a number of houses were connected. The question to be considered is whether direct house connection with the drain is to be permitted temporarily until such time as sewers can be provided, or the sewage from the houses is to be allowed to run in open gutters and find its way into the drains through catch basins or gully traps, and so continue the nuisance at present complained of; whether direct house connection is to be permitted with the surface drains or not, provision for occasionally flushing them in the dry season will necessarily be made, in order to keep them clean and in good working order. These drains are constructed of material and on scientific principles equal in all respects to sewers, proper inspection and ventilation being provided for by means of manholes and ventilators.

With regard to the surface drains that discharge elsewhere than into the Cook street drain, the less sewerage matter introduced into them the better, and drains from water closets should be entirely excluded, but until sewers proper are constructed, and they are urgently needed, it will be impossible to prevent sewage from house drains that discharge into the gutters and box drains from entering the surface drains. In the separate system of sewerage which has been adopted the surface drains are for carrying off surface and storm water, but until the other part of the system is complete they will carry off sewage from houses that is not disposed of by the scavenger. In order to have the city properly sewered and drained each part of the system should be complete or satisfactory results cannot be obtained.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

E. A. WILMOT,
City Engineer.

Ald. McKillican said that many people had the idea that the surface drains would gather sewerage matter and deposit it where it would endanger public health. This was not so. The drains would be as well built as the sewers and could be used temporarily for carrying off sewage. Of course water closets would not be connected with the drains.

Mayor Beaven suggested that the city barristers be asked for their opinion. The money had been borrowed for surface drains and the ratepayers had refused to vote money for sewers.

Ald. Belyea said that if the drains were used for sewers it would be a long time before the city had sewers. Those people whose houses were connected with the drains would say that was good enough sewerage for them. Besides this he did not think the city could legally use the drains for sewers.

Ald. Bragg thought it would be all right to use the drain for a sewer. In fact he thought the drains were better than the sewers.

Ald. Robertson did not think there would be any trouble if the drains were properly constructed. Of course there would probably be an injunction.

Ald. Belyea moved that the resolution be referred to the city barristers. This motion was adopted.

The city engineer reported that Mr. Adams, the contractor for the Cook street surface drain, had agreed to pay his laborers weekly.

James Baker tendered his resignation as alderman for north ward.

The council adjourned at 11 o'clock.

London, Sept. 4.—The Times says that the friction between the Healyites and the followers of Sexton is growing rapidly on one point of dispute, as to whether the American parliamentary fund can be rightly applied to the relief of tenants.

BOARD OF TRADE.

Reistration of Partners' Act to be Introduced to the Legislature.

INTERNATIONAL SHOW AT TASMANIA

English Capitalists Disposed to Erect Cold Storage Warehouses in the Provincial Cities—Landlords' and Tenants' Act Complained of by Merchants.

Several matters of importance were brought up at a meeting of the council of the B. C. Board of Trade, held this morning. There were present: President Flummerfelt, in the chair, and Messrs. T. B. Hall, H. F. Heisterman, G. Leiser, A. L. Belyea, C. E. Renouf and H. E. Connon.

A letter from the Postmaster-General was read. He stated that the government had no objections to the N. P. R. steamers carrying mail from the Orient, but it was a matter for the Oriental countries to deal with.

Mr. H. E. Connon said the matter had evidently been misunderstood. The N. P. R. steamers do carry mail from the Orient, but the company wished to carry mail to the Orient and be paid sea-going rates for it. At present mail is sent to San Francsico, and the steamers are paid sea-going rates for it.

The matter will be referred to the department in the way explained by Mr. Connon.

Gordon Hunter wrote stating that he had been requested by the attorney-general to acknowledge the letter of the board, and to say that the government would introduce a bill at the next session of the legislature providing for the registration of partnerships. Received and filed.

The Sherbrooke and Saginaw boards of trade promised to lend their aid to encourage trade between Canada and Australia.

The San Francisco chamber of commerce asked the board to co-operate with them in their endeavor to have the Nicaragua canal constructed. The letter was acknowledged and the secretary was instructed to notify the writer that the board recognized the benefit that would result from the construction of the canal.

Jas. Huddart expressed his sorrow that the name of Victoria was not mentioned in his company's pamphlet, but promised to bring it forward in matter to be printed. He urged the board to continue to foster trade between Canada and the Australian colonies. Received and filed.

An Australian commercial company wrote requesting the board to become a subscriber. The company will be notified that the board were pleased with the offer and that possibly individual members would subscribe.

The letter as follows was read by the secretary:

Melbourne, Aug. 4, 1893.

The Secretary of the Board of Trade, British Columbia:

Sir,—Mr. E. Parker, of the firm of Messrs. Huddart, Parker & Co., who have lately established direct steam communications between the Australian colonies and your country, has furnished me with your name as secretary of the Board of Trade of British Columbia, and I take the liberty of addressing you in regard to certain information I desire to obtain.

It is proposed to hold an international exhibition in Hobart, Tasmania, in the latter part of next year, and it has suggested itself to me that merchants and manufacturers of your Canadian colonies might be induced to send exhibits there as a means of bringing their manufactures prominently before the Australian people, and to the furtherance of an interchange of commerce.

As an exhibitor's representative I desire to bring this exhibition directly under the notice of your commercial community, and to enable me to do this I would ask you to be so good as to supply me with the names and addresses of those whom you consider would be likely to entertain my proposal, either by means of a business directory or other list as will be sufficient for my purpose.

I would also ask whether your board would be prepared to render me assistance by taking such steps as would be necessary to induce the co-operation of individual firms, with a view to the exhibits being fully representative of your industries and exhibited as a whole. If so I will be pleased to furnish you with all details and necessary information for your assistance in bringing the matter to a successful issue.

I may say that Messrs. Huddart, Parker & Co. have promised their help as far as possible through their agent at Vancouver, and as they have a line of steamers running from Sidney to Hobart, through bills of lading could be issued, and, I have no doubt, special concessions made in freight on exhibits.

Should your board, however, be disinclined or unable to take this up, I should esteem it a favor if you can give me any information or suggestions as will assist me in securing this co-operation, for I am assured that if firms can be induced to enter into the spirit of the thing it will greatly assist towards opening up commercial trading between us, and my utmost endeavors will be to further their interests in this direction, not merely at the exhibition, but in business which may be the outcome of it.

I am sending under separate cover, for your information, a schedule and prospectus of the exhibition, also a copy of a circular, and would be glad if you will favor me with a reply by first opportunity. I shall be in Melbourne for some months hence, therefore please send your letter to the undermentioned address. I am, sir,

Yours truly,
W. G. ANDREWARTHA.

The exhibition was endorsed by the board and the secretary requested to supply the writer with all the information he could. Intending exhibitors are requested to communicate with the B.C. board.

Mr. Renouf was of opinion that this exhibition would give Canadian, and especially British Columbian, manufacturers a good opportunity to bring their goods to notice in the colonies. He suggested that the legislature be requested to take the matter up.

The following letter was read:

Victoria, B. C., Aug. 24, 1893.

The President of the Board of Trade, Victoria, B. C.:

Sir,—I am authorized to inform you that a syndicate of English capitalists are disposed to undertake the erection and maintenance of cold storage warehouses at Victoria, Vancouver and New Westminster (at either of these places or at all of them) if reasonable prospects can be shown that the volume of business in perishable foods likely to pass through the warehouses annually will be such as would warrant their erection, and also if sufficient inducement is extended towards the enterprise to insure, at least, a moderate interest on the capital necessarily embarked.

The importance and present pressing need of cold storage at these ports must be apparent to the business men represented by your board. Few cities of any importance are without cold storage, and wherever they have been established the results in the development of business in perishable foods and in other businesses, have been extremely satisfactory.

The beneficial effects produced by the introduction of cold storage establishments in all the principal cities of the world are universally admitted; not only do they increase the commercial importance of the cities, but they enhance their value as places of residence. The preservation of meat, fish, game, fruit, vegetables, butter, poultry and all sorts of perishable foods in quantities, and in prime condition, and which can be drawn upon at all seasons of the year as needed, must necessarily increase the comfort and health of the citizens as well as cheapen the food supplied, while the facilities for exporting the surplus products in these cities increases the volume of trade to a very marked degree.

In order to make the introduction of cold storage a success the business must be gone into on a scale commensurate with not only the present needs but the future possibilities of the cities, and this necessarily involves the expenditure and command of large capital. The employment of large capital for enterprises of this kind also involves great risk, and the subject is one not lightly to be gone into and demands careful consideration, as a cold storage is like an elevator for grain; once located it cannot be pulled to pieces or removed, and in order to be made to pay and to meet the requirements of the trade, nothing short of complete arrangements are necessary.

The growing importance of Victoria, Vancouver and New Westminster is becoming more apparent every day, and the need for cold storage has become essential to develop and maintain the export trade with the Orient, Australia and other places, especially in the matter of fish and fish products.

While capitalists are willing to undertake a certain amount of risk in ordinary business ventures, it is absolutely essential that they have some data to proceed upon, as well as to have some guarantee that they will have the support and assistance of business men. In a business of this kind, while provision must be made at the start for the erection of such buildings as will not only meet the requirements of the present but of the future, it is but reasonable to expect from the cities to be benefited some substantial assistance until the business can be put upon a paying basis. There are several ways in which the cities could assist in securing the erection of such storage; for example, by grants of suitable business sites, by freedom from taxation for a number of years, by bonuses, or by a guarantee of interest at say 4 or 5 per cent. for a period on the capital invested. The present financial stringency in all the money markets of the world requires some special inducement to tempt the investment of capital, and I feel quite certain that a little encouragement at the present time will attract a large amount of English capital into British Columbia for the development of its vast natural resources.

An approximate estimate of the cost of a cold storage establishment with a capacity of 75 carloads of products in storage ranges from $75,000 to $125,000, depending somewhat on the cost of construction of piers for the foundation, etc.

If either of the cities referred to are prepared to give some specific inducements, and if an estimate is furnished me of the probable annual volume of business, I am authorized to inform you that a refrigerator expert, whose firm has carried through some of the finest and largest installations in England, will be sent out at once to look over the ground and report as to the whole situation, with a view to immediate action in regard to the erection of buildings.

I am asked by the syndicate of capitalists which I represent to solicit your assistance in obtaining information as to the approximate volume of business in perishable foods likely to pass through the cold storage annually in your city, and to get from you an expression of opinion in regard to the support and specific assistance likely to be given. An early answer is requested. I have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,
JOHN B. MCKILLIGAN.

P. S.—I have addressed a similar letter to the Boards of Trade at Vancouver and New Westminster. J. B. McK.

The president said that Mr. McKilligan had told him that he could not at present make public the names of those gentlemen interested, and Hon. Col. Baker knew all about the syndicate and he was prepared to endorse it.

On motion of Mr. Leiser, seconded by Mr. Heisterman, it was decided to hold a meeting at 4 o'clock next Tuesday afternoon to discuss the matter. The butchers and provision merchants will be invited to be present.

President Flummerfelt said that since the last meeting he had been discussing with merchants the law between landlords and tenants. The furniture dealers particularly were complaining, and they thought that the existing law should be modified. They supplied furniture for a house, and as soon as it was inside the door it could be held for all back rent.

Mr. Hall—Why should landlords have any priority rights? Their buildings were good for nothing until they were occupied and furnished. For every one landlord who was "bilked" 100 merchants were "bilked."

Ald. Belyea explained that the landlords' priority law had been abolished in Ontario. The landlords could now only seize furniture or contents of a building for three mouths' rent. Any more rent owing had to be collected in the ordinary way. The law at present in force in British Columbia is the same as one that prevailed in England about 100 years ago. The Ontario act could be taken in its entirety for British Columbia.

Mr. G. Leiser told of several cases that had come under his notice. At Westminster some time ago he had to pay the rent that a previous tenant owed. Another time a farmer who drove a number of sheep into a shed for which rent was due lost his whole herd.

The matter will be brought to the attention of the provincial government.

It was decided to post the names of delinquents in the secretary's office.

The meeting adjourned at noon.

Improving British Returns.

London Commerce says: "Anyone who is disposed to take an optimistic view of the trade returns which we publish, fully tabulated in another column, will find material for comparatively cheerful anticipations. There are no serious deficiencies to chronicle, and for this, looking at the figures for the last twelve months, we have much to be thankful. Imports are within a merest trifle of what they were a year ago, and the exports slightly in excess. Making a comparison, therefore, with last year, we find that the shrinkage reached its lowest point in May, since then there has been an improvement. Has the tide turned? The answer is difficult. At least it is satisfactory that the downward trend is checked. The worst feature is the decrease in textile exports. These, for the seven months ending July 31, show a falling off of over £2,500,000. The next thing to bringing about a concrete improvement is furnishing an adequate explanation. The decrease in exports of textile manufactures is susceptible of abundant explanation. It might also be condensed into a single word—silver. The cotton manufacturers of Lancashire have had to compete with the products of Indian factories working under a monetary system which practically gives them a protection, as against English imports, of about 33 1-3 per cent. When to this are added the advantages of labor out of all comparison cheaper than anything we can command, there is small wonder that our exports to India have come down to a very low ebb. The other items which are included in the returns have nearly all their special interest to those connected with foreign trade, but the general drift of the movement is more hopeful than they have been of late."

Music's Charms.

An elaborate study of the influence of music on man and animals has been made by Professor J. M. Dogiel, of the University of Kazan, Russia. The action on the human heart was made evident by means of the pletismograph, an apparatus in which the man's arm is enclosed in a glass cylinder due to changes in the blood circulation in the arm moves a delicate lever which draws a line upon a revolving drum. Melody of different kinds gave an interesting record. It was shown that music affects the nervous system, the heart, the muscles and the respiration, but acts differently upon different individuals, while nationality has much to do with the influence. Intelligently used, music is of value in treating disease and necessary in educating our feelings.

AMONG THE ART TREASURES

Famous Pictures by Celebrated Painters—Canadian Exhibitors.

ELIZABETH THOMPSON'S "ROLL CALL"

The Original "Bubbles," "The Harvest Moon," "Lingering Autumn" and Other Great Paintings—The Human Nature of Russian Youth.

(From our own Correspondent.)

In Richard's "Old Ocean's Grey and Melancholy Waste nothing but a wide expanse of sea is to be seen. But as we look the whole canvas seems to be moving, so life-like are the waves. We look and listen; the busy, jostling crowd around is forgottn, and in the distance we can hear the gentle lapping of the incoming wave upon the sand, and then the low, faint gurgle as the spent water rolls back over the pebbles. It is very real. In the British section are representative pictures by Sir Frederick Leighton, Alma Tadema and David Murray. The chief Canadian exhibitors are: C. Ahrens, Toronto; F. M. Bell-Smith, Toronto; W. Brymner, Montreal; H. De Forest, St. John; E. Dyonnet, Montreal; J. Franchere, Montreal; O. Jacobs, Toronto; O. Leduc, St. Hilaire; O. Pinkey, Quebec, and C. Schreiber, Ontario. In the British section are old Windsor tapestries exhibited with the approval of Her Majesty. Here also are two fine statues. The one represents Henry Irving as Hamlet; the other is Morpheus, the dreamy god, with his hands lazily uplifted above his head. I defy any one to look at it for 25 minutes without yawning. Twenty minutes' contemplation of it will cure the most pronounced case of insomnia. In the whole British section the only battle scene is Elizabeth Thompson's "Roll Call," lent by the Queen. The coloring is very sombre, so that the steel engravings we so often see of it are faithful color copies. It is a grand picture. After looking at it for half an hour or more I seemed to have the expression of the different faces firmly fixed on my mental vision. I might close my eyes at will and conjure up that row of earnest faces as each soldier fell into line. Here, too, is another old favorite, no less a personage than Millais' "Bubbles," kindly loaned by the Pears' Soap Co. The sweet little upturned face, the broken flower-pot, the soap suds bowl and the vanishing bubble look quite familiar. I had heard once that the little chap who sat as model for "Bubbles" had four or five "fights to a finish" with school fellows who would persist in hailing him as "Bubbles" on the king's highway, against his express wish, thereby wounding the budding dignity of 13. I looked again at his sweetly contemplative face and tried to fit it into the story. Then I called to mind Dickens' vivid description of Pip's fight, and thought that there is a point where endurance ceases to be a virtue. There is a point where we would fight ourselves—we'll not judge Bubbles. I had often admired an etching, "The Harvest Moon," and was delighted to stumble upon the original picture in all its beautifully-vivid autumn coloring. The companion piece, "Girls Dancing by the Sea," is also shown. Another oil painting, "Lingering Autumn," by Sir John Millais, is lent by George McCulloch, Esq. Looking at this canvas we see a low meadow covered with browning grass and in the distant low banks of white cloud surmounted by a pale blue sky. A brook with many branches crosses and recrosses the valley. In the centre is a little bridge, and willows spring up from the swampy ground. A wee bare-footed girl with short dress and blue pinafore is tripping across, carrying in one hand a heavy tin of water and looking far off into the mazy distance. The whole effect is one of peaceful repose. In the Russian section is a pleasing plaster group called the "Bathers." One boy sits on the rock with his arms folded over his knees, his shoulders hunched up, contemplating the water. His companion stands by his side with such a comical look on his face anticipating the cold plunge which the other is in no hurry to take. Human nature in a young Russian does not differ materially from the human nature that crops out of any boy, never mind where you find him. An oil painting, "Before the Exam." is laid in Russian interior. A box of bones is on the floor. There are three girls in the room. One sits in a deep window ledge with her books on her knee. Another leans over a table, resting her head on her elbow, a big book spread open before her. The third is in the foreground and looks discouraged. She holds a skull in her hands and an open book in her lap. Evidently she can't find in the skull what the text book calls for. My whole heart went out to her in sympathy. I had just been up to exam. myself, and, well— I'd rather look at pictures. This is the last one I can try to describe, for any word-picture is weak as one looks at this speaking canvas. It comes from Sweden and is called "Wild Geese. We in British Columbia are often startled by the cry of wild geese, and, looking upward, we see long V-shaped files of these birds migrating, and sometimes perhaps we lazily wonder when and where they alight. Here is the place. The sky shows that it is near the hour of sunset. In the far distance stretches a low line of purple hills. Nearer the front of our picture is a winding blue river making its way slowly through a meadow field. On the ground half a dozen wild geese are greedily feeding. One, in the immediate foreground is just in the act of alighting, and, as we look along the slowly-descending line we catch the flutter of their outstretched wings and wonder that they are not afraid of us.

A. D. CAMERON.

Dongola Against Canoe.

The peaceful routine of the World's Fair life was interrupted one morning by an incident which sent a ripple of excitement over the grounds. On the shore of the South Pond, which connects on the north with the Lagoon, there is encamped a colony of the Haidah, or Quakuhl Indians, from Queen Charlotte and Vancouver Islands. They have their massive cabin dance house, tall totem poles and canoes conspicuously located along the shore. Some of the canoes, which are very large and are fashioned from the trunks of the huge trees indigenous in these islands, bear resemblance in form to the Venetian gondolas. The resemblance, however, is confined to contour, for while the gondolas are gorgeous with paint and plush upholstery, the Quakuhl craft are rude, weather-beaten craft.

On the morning above mentioned, Hawmissati, chief of the Quakuhls, had gone out in his canoe for a constitutional along the Lagoon. Paddling leisurely along with Hisynish, his nephew, in the bow, the chieftain viewed with surprise the majestic buildings around him and bowed reverentially to the golden satue of the republic as he entered the great basin, probably thinking it an idol.

Presently at the west end of the basin a gondola, manipulated by two athletic gondolliers named Guiseppe Martino and Enrico Salini, shot out from beneath the bridge and glided swiftly past the dreaming Quakuhls.

Their gay appearace roused the patriotic pride of Hawmissati. Grasping the paddle firmly he made a sign to his nephew, and soon the black craft swept up to the gondola. The Venetians saw the movement, and a race ensued which enlisted the attention of thousands along the basin.

For a time the two boats were nose and nose, on an easterly course. It was curious to note the different action of the rowers. The gondoliers made long steady strokes with their oars, feathering them in the water, while the Indians, on their knees, caused their short paddles nervously until the foam rippled in white streaks from the bow of the canoe.

The Venetians in their gorgeous costumes shouted excitedly, but the Indians, stolid as a totem pole, uttered never a word. Several electric launches and gondolas followed in the wake of the racers.

Down the basin and past the golden statue went Indians and Venetians. The gondola reached the tunnel first and went through ahead. The boats then entered the south pond and made for the Quakuhl village. The gondola crept steadily ahead, for the rough-hewn canoe could not be forced throught the water like the painted craft of Venice. When the village was reached the gondola was a dozen lengths in advance. The time from the middle of the north end of the agricultural building to the village was seven minutes for the gondola and seven minutes and thirty seconds for the canoe.

When Hawmissati landed he walked along to the gondola and looked at it attentively for some time. But he is understood to declare emphatically that he has another canoe, bearing the poetical name of the Foam of the Sea, which no gondola can pass.

REINDEER IN ALASKA.

The Experiment of Propagating Them is Proving Successful.

Rev. Dr. Sheldon Jackson, United States general agent of education in Alaska for several years, was in Seattle on Monday on his way to Washington city.

He informed a Telegraph reporter that the experiment of establishing reindeer on the Alaskan peninsula has now, according to his belief, passed the experimental stage and is a pronounced success.

Out of 170 reindeer brought from Siberia last year and placed in Alaska 11 died during the year just closed. Eighty-eight fawns were dropped and 79 of them lived. Under the direction of Mr. Jackson while north the revenue steamer Bear made a number of trips across Behring straits and bartered for 37 more animals, which were safely landed in Alaska.

"Owing," said he, "to the fact that this was the first winter, and a very severe one it was, that the reindeer had spent in their new home, the government felt a great deal of anxiety to know how they passed through and how they got along on the Alaskan moss. Of the 70 landed last year but 11 died, and these from bruises and severe injury received while transporting them to their new home. None of the deaths can be atributed to the change of climate or the new conditions which surround them. The herd was left in the charge of two white men and four Siberian herders, assisted by several Alaskan young men, who are learning the business.

"The question of food did not create the least anxiety. The Arctic moss was so abundant that the herders never had to take their charge to a distance from the village greater than two miles during the year. They are at a station on the harbor of Port Clarence, the nearest American harbor to the Siberian coast.

"During last spring there was an addition to the herd of 88 fawns, and of the number 79 lived and now give promise of doing well.

"Before leaving Northwestern Alaska I made a number of trips across Behring Sea in the month of July and brought over 37 more grown reindeer in the Bear. The winter up in the Arctic was an unusually severe one and the revenue cutter experienced much difficulty from the ice. We encountered at first heavy floes down south as far as St. Mathew's island in the Behring Sea. This was about the 16th of June, when we were steering our way to the northward. From that time on through June and July the cutter met heavy ice floes in every direction. Behring straits was full of ice and the Bear had to pick her way carefully while crosing and recrossing. Two or three of the important stations on the Siberian coast we could not get into on account of the blockade of ice.

"So far there has been no utilization of reindeer milk or meat for food. Experiments will, however, be continued till the herd will be of such proportions that it can be generally used.

"We buy the reindeer from the Siberian villagers by barter. The natives of that part of Siberia do not know anything about money or its value and there is none there of any kind. The reindeer cost about $5 each in barter, and in exchange for them the government gives lead, tobacco, powder, shot, calico, axes, fox traps, knives and numerous things pleasing to their fancy.

"I consider now that the problem has passed the experimental stage and that it is only a question of time and money. It is the intention ultimately of the goverment to cover the whole frozen region of Alaska with reindeer."

Speaking of Siberia Mr. Jackson stated that during the four years in which he had visited the coast he had never seen a Russian or civilized man on the coast.

To Prevent Bias.

Berne, Sept. 6.—It is reported that Dr. A. DeClapereau, Swiss minister to the United States, will be transferred to Vienna. He is a member of the arbitration tribunal which will adjudicate upon the dispute between the United States and Chili. The change will not be made until the close of the proceedings of the arbitration.