

QUESTION OF LIQUOR AND TRADE LICENSES

Council Holds Lengthy Meeting Discussing Report of Special Committee.

ANNUAL TAX BY-LAW LAID OVER

A Brief Reference Made to the All Absorbing Water Question.

(From Friday's Daily.)

At a special meeting of the city council last evening the report of the special committee appointed to enquire into the liquor and trade licenses was received and caused considerable debate.

Ald. Fullerton stated that several complaints had been made to him by residents of the South ward regarding the Small Supply of Water.

It had been said that it was caused by the canneries but the outer wharf using such a large quantity.

Ald. Vincent said that he did not think that the shortage was caused by the canneries but by the general demand throughout the city.

His Worship said that this grievance would be taken up with the water question as a whole.

The special committee appointed to enquire into the liquor and trade tax reported as follows:

Liquor Licences. Gentlemen—Your committee appointed to collect information as to the manner in which liquor and trade licenses are dealt with in other Canadian cities and report to the council.

Our committee are of opinion that the Municipal Classes Act could, with advantage, be amended in several particulars.

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we are not prepared to recommend an increase in the amount charged for these licenses for the purpose of effecting a reduction in the number, as has been frequently suggested. We have the feeling that the persons to pay who are granted the privilege, and further, that they should not be used as a weapon against any proposed moral reform.

The Municipal Classes Act as amended at the last session of the legislature will prevent the granting of any additional licenses to the city for a number of years, and the natural tendency will therefore be to a reduction of the same from a number of causes.

Your committee are of opinion that there is need of regulations for limiting the number of houses that shall be used in the city, for the guidance of the licensing commissioners in determining the question of revoking and cancelling licenses; for the regulation of the licensed premises; for the guidance of the police in carrying out their duties in connection with this question; also prescribe the conditions on which same is granted printed on the back.

At almost every city has enacted regulations of this character, but that in this city nothing authoritative on this important subject exists, and the local officials whose duty it is to carry out the law have nothing to guide them, but have to be guided by the capricious instructions of some one vested with a "little brief authority" that is not that of the state of affairs should exist, but that there should be certain definite and specific regulations for the guidance of all concerned; we have therefore requested the city solicitor to draft a by-law embracing these requirements, which we will submit for your consideration as received.

Debate on Report. Ald. Davey, as chairman of the committee, moved that the report be laid on the table and that copies be given every citizen.

Ald. Fullerton seconded the motion and drew attention to the fact that the committee had recommended that they should be given the power to raise the rate for the purpose of revenue, but did not recommend to raise the tax.

Ald. Vincent was of the opinion that the Victoria & Sidney Railway company should be given the right to market building and should be made to pay rent.

Ald. Stewart was of the opinion that the V. & S. railway should be given a fair chance. He pointed out that the company had been carrying on their contract to the letter and if they had not the council had no right to pay over the \$50,000.

Ald. Hall, for the committee, stated that they had not intended to deal in any other manner than fairly, but the committee could not agree on any fixed sum, but had left it to the council. All the parties had agreed to the market building pay for its up-keep.

Ald. Kell pointed out that while the company were trying to assist Victoria, and had maintained a ferry across the Gulf and.

Improved the Roadbed. There was always a kink, but since the ferry had been discontinued and no improvement had been made on the road there was nothing left. He pointed out that the Victoria & Sidney Railway had to improve their service they still had the use of the market free of charge. He was of the opinion that the company could be expected to have the privilege of having the market free of cost for ever, and he was in favor of the recommendation.

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His Worship said that he was not laughing; but wherever a secret meeting was held the information generally leaked out. He did not see any "Secret" Meeting that had done any good.

Alderman Stewart—How about the so-called "secret" meeting? That was kept quiet till it was ready to be given to the public.

Alderman Hall was of the opinion that an early start should be made in having the traffic stopped out in Victoria West. In his opinion it was a disgrace to the city to have the streets in their present condition.

Ald. Fell—It is very important so that the council objects to any expenditure towards getting the lines straightened out?

His Worship—I would like to know how far it is going to cost before we get into court.

Ald. Davey wished to know if a conference could not be had with the barrister.

His Worship—You can have it now if you wish. The room can be easily cleared. Or you can have it whenever you desire.

Monday afternoon was suggested. Ald. Fullerton objected to a meeting on Monday afternoon. He was of the opinion that the council of last year had a very good system by which they would not be obliged to discuss any private business before the public meeting in the council chamber and he was of the opinion that it would be a good idea to have a meeting on Monday.

It was decided to meet the city barrister and solicitor on Monday evening at 7.30.

Ald. Fell also asked permission to withdraw his motion regarding the independent auditor.

This was granted.

CYCLONIC AT CANNES. Cannes, July 5.—A destructive cyclonic storm swept over this section today, and railway traffic has been stopped owing to the tracks being blocked by trees. Many houses were unroofed and many fishing smacks were dashed to pieces on the rocky coast.

His Worship wished to know if it was the intention of the committee to have the by-law at the same time the report was considered.

Ald. Stewart was of the opinion that the report should be considered before the by-law.

Ald. Davey pointed out that the consideration of the by-law was separate from the report.

His Worship—Do I understand from Ald. Davey that the by-law can be drawn up before the report is considered?

Ald. Davey—Yes; I think it can.

His Worship—Well; that is considered.

His Worship called attention to the fact that the committee were digging up Port street to straighten their track, which, in his opinion, was not necessary. A strong resolution should go from the council to the tram company to stop the digging.

He desired that the street, sewer and bridges committee should take the matter up and report on Monday evening.

In referring to the water question Ald. Fell said that he was of the opinion that the meters were not working right.

He also stated that the council should be informed that every meter required a certain pressure before it would register, and at present with the low force none of the meters were registering.

His Worship stated that he had a question from the B. C. Marine railway for permission to erect some poles along the foreshore of the park for marking of miles in order to test the speed of vessels.

The request was referred to the park committee for report.

The tax by law was then taken up, but before going into the by-law, Ald. Yates wished to give the council committee had any statement to show where the corporation "was at."

Ald. Goodacre replied that they had not; and suggested that the by-law be laid over to give the committee time to go into the matter.

Ald. Hall suggested that when the statement was made, they be given a chance to show how many miles it was costing for education.

The committee arose and reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

A Resolution Proposed. Ald. Fell moved a resolution in connection with the water question which he stated was on the lines suggested by the city barrister and solicitor.

It is resolved that the owner of lot 103, on Catherine street, Victoria West, be required forthwith to remove from the premises all fences, buildings and other improvements belonging to or used by her, and that there be tendered to her previous to or with the formal notice to remove, the sum of \$1000 in compensation without admission of any liability on the part of the city, and that if default be made in the removal, the city should remove the same, and the cost therefor from the owner, and if same not paid that the necessary steps be taken to collect.

Ald. Yates wished to know what the sum of \$1000 was offered as compensation.

Ald. Fell—That is the advice of the barrister. You can see that it is a fair offer. You can see that it is a fair offer. You can see that it is a fair offer.

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MUTINY AND DISORDERS SPREAD ON ALL SIDES

Mutineers at Samara Prepared to Proclaim Republic in Case of Strike.

THE CZAR'S INSANE MOVEMENT

Disorders Resumed at Vladivostok and Business Stopped by the Rioting.

St. Petersburg, July 5.—Despatches received here today from Samara state that two regiments garrisoning that important provincial capital had mutinied and proclaimed a republic.

The officers promised to satisfy the service demands if the mutineers would return to duty, but the latter replied that they would be satisfied only with compliance with all of their demands, and that they would not return to duty until the situation, but are not judging in excesses. The situation is complicated by the fact that in Samara the revolutionists are pushing a movement to proclaim a republic in case a general strike is declared.

Emperor's Insane Step. Emperor Nicholas has taken the almost unprecedented step of publicly directing the Duke Nicholas, grand duke and commander of the forces in the military district of St. Petersburg, to investigate and report on the "disorders" among the troops.

Accompanying these instructions were orders relieving Prince Vassilchikov, commander of the grand duke's first division, and General Gadan, commander of the Probalsky regiment, the first battalion of which was recently disgraced for expressing sympathy with the mutineers.

General Gadan is said to be a descendant of an American named Gordon, whose name having been furnished by the late Emperor, attempts to purge the army of the spirit of disloyalty, now that it has invaded the pampered garrison of St. Petersburg.

The gravest news regarding the rebellious spirit among the troops in the Caucasus continues to arrive here. The general insubordination has been declared by the proletarian organizations of this city, in sympathy with the demand for the pardon of 27 soldiers who have been sentenced to death because they refused to fire on the populace during the disturbances here last March.

The troops are greatly excited and, if the conditions persist, a revolt of the garrison is feared.

Riots in Vladivostok. London, July 6.—The correspondent at Tokyo of the Daily Telegraph reports that the East Asiatic Steamship Company's steamer "Columbia," which left Vladivostok on account of disturbances there, and which has now arrived at Nagasaki, reports that all shops and houses in Vladivostok were closed by police orders, and that on June 30 thirty riotous leaders of the "Black Legion" were shot.

The correspondent states that the Russian soldiers in the city were armed with military stores, struck a mine in Postel bay and sank.

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GUATEMALA AND SALVADOR. Movement to Settle Their Differences by Arbitration.

Washington, July 5.—Guatemala and Salvador are making serious efforts for the settlement of their troubles resulting from the alleged activity of Salvador in supporting revolutionary movements against General Caceres.

It is likely that the United States will be selected as the country in which the board of arbitration will meet. The American desire of the two countries, which are almost at the point of making war against each other, to have their difference settled by arbitration, is an amicable settlement finally will be effected.

At the first intimation of outside interference in Guatemalan affairs, the state department sent the Marbled from Panama to prevent meddling; and Mexico and the United States both made it clear that they would take with disfavor on any combination of Central American powers to overthrow President Cabrera of Guatemala.

When the position of the United States became known, Salvador announced the appointment of a special envoy to present the Salvadorean position to the American ambassador, and prevent any serious international complications.

The state department has been advised of the departure of Mr. Facus, the special envoy to the United States, and it is not believed that he will arrive in Washington for several weeks, because of the difficulty in reaching this country from Salvador.

Insurers Live Stock.—Among those registered at the King Edward hotel is W. J. Walker, vice-president of the Pacific Live Stock Association of Spokane, Wash. The business of this association is to insure live stock against death from any cause. Mr. Walker will be in the city today and from here will make a tour through the Gulf Islands in the interest of the association.

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