

Victoria West Wins

The City Council Order the Removal of Craigflower Road Obstructions.

Electrician Hutcheson Explains Reason for Recent Defective Street Lighting.

For two hours and a half last night the city's representatives on the aldermanic board wrestled with a variety of subjects ranging from the ordinary topics of streets and sewers to the perennial one of Craigflower road. The latter subject was revived by a resolution submitted by Ald. Beckwith asking that the sidewalks recently laid across Craigflower road should be removed and the same road, where it intersects Mary and Skinner streets, should be repaired.

The deputy minister of marine and fisheries wrote enclosing the following letter from Pell & Gregory:

Sir:—Referring to our letter of the 28th November, 1898, and your reply to same, dated 13th December, 1898, and further reply 25th January, 1899, we have the honor to advise you that the city of Victoria are again proposing to deal with this matter, acting in conjunction with the B. C. Electric Company, and propose to put additional bents of piles between each row, as the bridge is presently constructed in that portion of the bridge west of the draw, and also to fill the same in with stone, and also filling the westerly half of the span over which the draw extends and making permanent the closing of the swing.

Should this be done it will seriously interfere with navigation in these waters and will cause the deposit of a large amount of silt in that portion of Rock bay which is now open to the action of the current, which will be closed. The city of Victoria has a sewer for surface drainage opening into that portion of Rock bay, and it is inevitable that this sewer will have such an effect upon this portion of the bay that in the course of a few years the water will become so shallow that it will be absolutely impossible to do anything.

We have the honor to be, sir,
Your obedient servants,
PELL & GREGORY.

Ald. Humphrey, in moving that the letter be referred to the city solicitor, city engineer, and a special committee on the Craigflower road, said that as Mr. Roy, resident Dominion engineer, was at present in the city, he also should be seen in regard to the matter.

The suggestion was adopted and the motion carried.

H. Mortimer Lamb, publisher of the B. C. Mining Record, is asking for a bonus of \$100 for the Christmas number of that publication, which was to be devoted largely to a write-up of Victoria.

Ald. Hayward thought the money would be well spent, and so did Ald. Stewart. They moved that it be referred to the finance committee.

Ald. Brydon wanted to know who was to look into the "nice" article to be written. If the council were to bonus the publication they ought to have some supervision of it, and Ald. Stewart even went the length of expressing the opinion that the mayor and finance committee might alter the matter of the articles.

Ald. Macgregor wanted to know how many copies were to be issued. In reply to this the mayor said 10,000 copies would be first struck off and the forms left standing in case more were required. The council would also receive 50 copies.

The motion was carried, the matter of arrangement with the publishers of the Record in regard to cuts, etc., being left in the hands of the finance committee.

Wallace Craig informed the council of injuries to his horse on November 22nd by its falling into a defective drain on Belleville street. He gave notice that he would claim damages for these injuries and enclosed a report on the horse's condition from Dr. Hamikon.

Ald. Humphrey was of the opinion that if the facts were as stated the workmen who left the defective work should be sharply dealt with.

The matter went to the city engineer and city solicitor for report.

Mrs. S. A. Carmichael complained that she had sustained serious injuries by falling off one of the sidewalks in allowing some persons to pass in the dark. As a consequence she had lost her boarders, her only means of support. The loss to the writer was heavy and she thought a committee of the council ought to be appointed to look into the matter.

long ere this. With reference to the work of the foreman, he has more work than he can do properly, and I would recommend that he be relieved of the work of taking care of horse and buggy, as the following statement of his day's work shows the necessity of the change: Tramp of lamps, allowing 8 minutes to each, 8 hours; 1/4 hour at stable in morning, 1/4 hour at noon; 1/4 hour at stable in evening; making in all 10 1/4 hours per day. The difficulty now is that at this time of year there is only about ten hours elapse between sunset and dawn in morning and start up in evening, so that if a lamp becomes defective there is no time to bring it in and make a change, as all available time is taken up. This, to my mind, accounts for defective lamps in some cases remaining unchanged for a time. He trouble experienced on crickets from storm on Saturday evening last, I am of the opinion that the facts of the case should be communicated to the council board, as some one has seen fit to air themselves in the press in a manner most misleading and unreasonable. The facts are simple. Dynamos operating east section of city started flashing at 6:45 p. m.; at 7 p. m. flashing became severe, endangering new dynamos. It was switched off to avoid damage as a case of necessity. I yesterday inspected lines in east section and found a number of glass insulators had been mastic broken, also that falling branches of trees had fouled the lines, thus grounding the lines. I am of the opinion that trouble will be experienced from slack in lines allowing them to swing in contact with each other.

Ald. Macgregor alone lifted his voice in protest against acting arbitrarily with those who wished to improve their premises. Tree planting should be encouraged, rather than discouraged.

The matter was referred to the city engineer.

The city engineer reported as follows: "Gentlemen:—I have the honor to report on the following communications referred to me:

Mr. Lewis Hall, re improvement on Catherine street, between the old Esquimaux street and the present one. Upon consideration of same, it is found to be in a very bad condition, but before recommending any permanent improvement on the roadway in question, I would ask that all the fences now projecting on the street be removed, and the present one be replaced by one about 25 cent being spent on the southern portion of ditching, etc., which no doubt would be a benefit to the residents thereon.

Communication from J. H. Frank re Chestnut avenue improvement. The street in question has never been graded, and I could not properly recommend surfacing same with stone or gravel until such time as the weather is favorable for this class of work; besides there are several other streets more travelled, and these should have first attention. Hoping this will be satisfactory.

I have the honor to be, gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
C. H. TOPP,
City Engineer.

In regard to the improvement of Catherine street, Ald. Humphrey suggested that the houses be moved back before any grading was done. Ald. Beckwith thought it was only leanto's which were referred to, but the former speaker said the main building of the old Globe hotel was on the road. Ald. Beckwith thought also that a good sidewalk should be laid as the present two-paved walk had been laid by the management of the churches without city aid.

Ald. Kinsman suggested some way of compelling people whose property encroached on streets to adopt the proper lines.

In reply to a question, the city solicitor gave it his opinion that while people might be compelled to remove their fences of the street, in regard to houses on the street, the powers of the council depended very much upon what circumstances attended the erection of these houses.

Ald. Williams moved that the city engineer prepare a plan of the street and that in the meantime \$25 be expended in improving the road.

In regard to Chestnut avenue, Ald. Macgregor thought that even a plow ditch would relieve some of the property effected from being flooded. The section of the report was adopted.

The water commissioner reported: Regarding the petition of D. H. Bate and others for an extension of the water main to Baronet street, the estimated cost of a three-inch pipe if taken from Richmond avenue by way of Leighton road is \$440; from Oak Bay avenue via Hulton street, \$435.

Some of the aldermen thought there was not sufficient money on hand to do the work this fall. The report was referred back to the water commissioner for further report as to revenue derivable from this source.

The city assessor reported that an examination of the Chilliwack railway petition proved that it contained 216 signatures, representing \$2,506,168—considerably in excess of the tenth required by the law.

The medical health officer urged more accommodation at the Old Men's Home as absolutely essential to the comfort of the inmates. He suggested that a vacant cottage in the neighborhood could be rented to relieve the congestion. Referred to the Old Men's Home committee.

The city engineer and city assessor reported upon the cost of paving Yates street from Broad to Douglas streets. The cost of the work would be \$6,200.

The report was received and filed and the work ordered to be advertised in the usual way.

The same officials reported upon the cost of paving Broad street between Yates and Fort streets as being \$8,640. This report took the same course.

City Electrician Hutcheson reported as follows: Dear Sir:—With reference to vacancy in the staff of the lighting station, viz., the position of foreman, I would respectfully draw attention to the fact that the position is an important one and that in selection there is a good deal to be considered. It is important that the foreman should not only be fully capable of taking care of the boilers and attachments, but he should be able to assist in engine or dynamo room in cases of emergency. The man engaged temporarily (Mr. Ed. Vipond), is a good man for the position, and I would be pleased to have him appointed permanently, as his past experience in running electric light engines, etc., may prove a great convenience in case of absence of other members of the staff. I also desire to point out that owing to bad weather encountered for some weeks back necessitated an almost continuous run of plant. The foreman has in consequence been unable to give the usual amount of time to lamp repairs. We are short of spare lamps, and although I am aware that some lamps to be sent to the electrician for repair, I fully expected to be able to replace them by new ones ordered,

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of the Royal Jubilee Hospital be complied with by making a grant of \$10 monthly to the board, dating from the 30th of June last. Their report also recommended the expenditure of \$4,381.46 for the month.

Ald. Beckwith's resolution instructing the city engineer to remove the sidewalks across Craigflower road and to fill the holes in the road at the intersection of Skinner and Mary streets, next came up for consideration. The mayor, in presenting the resolution, said the council, while they had agreed to remove the sidewalks, had said nothing about repairing the road. If this clause were pressed he would oppose the motion.

Ald. Beckwith insisted that the repairs were for Skinner and Mary streets, not for Craigflower road.

Ald. Humphrey wanted to know what was the object of making these repairs. Was it to enable people to travel on these streets? There had never been a pick or shovel put in the street named. If Ald. Beckwith would bring in a motion to grade Skinner street from Russell to Catherine he would support it; otherwise he would oppose the motion.

The Mayor—Oh, that's another question.

Ald. Humphrey, continuing, said that while he did not question the power of the mayor to order the sidewalk laid, yet he had been against laying the sidewalk having been laid, he now opposed taking it up.

The mayor would like the solicitor's opinion on Ald. Beckwith's motion.

Ald. Humphrey said that a great deal of nonsense had been talked by members of the council, when waited upon by a deputation from Victoria West in regard to new features having developed during the trial regarding ownership of the road. The council had never considered the matter of ownership of the road. Misstatements in plenty had also been made by members of the deputation in regard to the Beaver by-law dealing with the same question.

The solicitor here expressed the opinion that the motion in regard to repairing Craigflower road was irregular. The road had been closed and the city had now no right to make repairs on it.

Ald. Beckwith—Are Mary and Skinner streets recognized city streets?

The Mayor—Yes.

Ald. Beckwith observed that such being the case he could not see the force of the solicitor's statement. He had named the streets he wished repaired. Surely the council didn't mean to say that a road might be improved "up to where Craigflower road crossed it, but that the road the improvement must cease. He contended that his motion was perfectly regular. When he moved that these two streets be repaired, he meant exactly what he said. Mary and Skinner were regular streets to the Beaver by-law dealing with two city streets. Neither did he think it fair for Ald. Humphrey to raise a question by saying "new matter" had been introduced by the statement "that the road was Crown property."

Ald. Humphrey—I said it was never entertained by the council.

Ald. Beckwith—It was never entertained by a portion of the council, but it was thoroughly thrashed out in committee.

Continuing, Ald. Beckwith said that as the majority of the council seemed to be opposed to the latter part of the motion he would withdraw it, although he thought it most advisable to draw a few loads of gravel onto the streets. It would save the necks of some very worthy citizens, as for instance the city solicitor who had driven over the old road lately of going round. (Laughter.)

The Mayor—Then these repairs are for the purpose of helping those who use the old Craigflower road?

Ald. Cameron thought the latter part of the motion should be withdrawn. The council had decided that while the question of ownership still remained open they might remove the sidewalk, but they might not support the motion. He, at least, would not support the motion. The residents had a good road and sidewalk by the regular streets and the council should adhere to their position in the matter.

Ald. Macgregor—How often has the sidewalk been put down and removed?

The Mayor—I don't know.

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Castoria is so well adapted to children that I recommend it as superior to any prescription known to me." H. A. ARCHER, M. D., Brooklyn, N. Y.

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the main motion carried, minus the clause involving repairs to the road.

Ald. Beckwith's motion asking the council to approve of the petition of Victoria West, resident for improved fire protection and recommending a new fire hall and chemical for the suburb to the incoming council, was then submitted and passed, although Ald. Stewart characterized it as unnecessary owing to the well known need of such improvement.

Before adjourning, Ald. Brydon wanted to know what was being done toward compelling the Street Railway Company to prolong their line on Douglas street?

The solicitor said a case would be stated to the court. They were waiting the convenience of the company's solicitors.

Ald. Brydon said a while ago it was explained that the company's solicitors were ready to go on, but the city was not ready. The need of the extension was very great these dark nights.

The solicitor thought the case would be heard before Christmas, while a factious alderman suggested referring the matter to the council of 1901. Then the council rose.

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