WANT CENSOR OF SHOW HOUSES

MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION WRITES TO CITY COUNCIL

Urges That Theatrical Offerings in This City Be Scrutinized

At a recent meeting of the Ministerial Association of Victoria the question of the character of the theatrical attractions which are being offered the people of this city was discussed at length, and it was the unanimous opinion that the time had arrived when it is imperatively necessary that a public censor should be engaged to regulate the show houses. Several productions which were recently offered Victorians were cited as proof that a halt must be called if the morals of the people are to remain uncontaminated and a decision was reached to take action in the matter at once.

In furtherance of that decision the secretary of the Ministerial Association forwarded a letter to the City Council and the same was read at Monday's meeting. The communication urged the creation of the office of censor of theatrical productions and the appointment of a competent person to perform the duties of that office. The letter was referred without debate to the health and morals committee and the same will receive consideration immediately.

Thanks to the determined efforts of Ald. Sargison, the work of paving Linden avenue with asphalt will be taken in hand at the earliest opportunity. The alderman pointed out, when the question of improving that thoroughfare came up for consideration, that the property owners had expressed themselves as in favor of the Warswick system of asphalt pavement, and he thought they should get it.

The mayor pointed out that the city engineer had not yet recommended that sort of pavement for the residential districts. To this Ald. Sargison replied that he understood that Mr. Bryson had said that the Warswick system was a good one and had, indeed, favored it. The company was about to establish a plant in the city to cost $20,000, and if this work were authorized the company would go ahead with the erection of their plant at once.

It was finally decided to utilize asphalt on Linden avenue, but the selection of the system to be followed was left in the hands of the city engineer.

The following reports on local improvements were received from the acting city engineer and the city solicitor and assessor:

Cost of laying asphalt pavement on Linden avenue, from Fort street to Dallas road, with curbs and gutters on both sides from Fort street to Rockland avenue and curbs and gutters and boulevards from Fairfield road to Dallas road, with necessary approaches to each lot, $62,875, of which amount the city share would be $12,336. Permanent walks on both sides of Discovery street from Government street to Douglas street, total cost $2,835, city's share $567; permanent walk on the south side of Cormorant street from Store street to Government street, total cost $2,455, city's share $199; permanent walks on both sides of Pembroke street, from Government street to Douglas street, total cost $2,856, city's share $571; paving Douglas street from Cormorant street to Fisguard street with wood blocks, total cost $11,520, city's share $3,840; permanent sidewalk on the east side of Douglas street, from Johnson street to Pandora avenue, total cost $4,320.

A request from the S.P.C.A. for a donation of $500 to assist in the work of the organization was referred to the finance committee.

The city engineer will be asked to report on the condition of the garbage scow, the sanitary inspector having written that the craft is in an unseaworthy condition.

The action of the streets committee in awarding the contract for sand and gravel to the Lineham & Scott Company was approved on the understanding that the city engineer will carefully supervise the method of the company in dumping gravel on certain streets of the city in making delivery.

Authority was given to the finance committee to have a new city map prepared by Dennis Harris, C.E., at a cost of $295.

On a report from the fire wardens the purchasing agent was authorized to procure the following supplies for the department: Canadian Rubber Company, 500 feet of "Squelcher" hose, at $1.05 per foot; Vancouver Rubber Company, 1,500 feet "Paragon" hose at $1.10 per foot and 300 feet Maltese Cross brand (chemical) at 65c. per foot. Forty-five hats and one dozen tarpaulins for the fire department will also be purchased as well as a team of horses from J. Bryce, Sidney, for $660.

The question of increasing the salaries of the members of the brigade will be taken up when the estimates come to be considered.

The fire limits, as determined by the fire wardens, were amended by making the eastern boundary run along Vancouver street between Broughton and Mason streets, instead of along Quadra street.

The following recommendations from the streets committee were adopted: That the tender of the Michigan Puget Sound Lumber Company for paving blocks be accepted; that the granite concrete pavement on Pandora street, between Government street and Douglas street, and on Broad street, between Johnson street and Cormorant street, be done by the city under the direction of the city engineer; that 1,500 feet of 19-bar, 57-inch, Page wire fencing be placed around the Smith's Hill reservoir; that tenders be called for an electric sewage pump required to complete the sewage system in the pumping area in Victoria West.

A policeman whose judgment of time was tested by counsel at the Shoreditch, London, County court, declared on the expiration of sixteen seconds after counsel said "Go!" that a minute had expired.

VERNON WANTS STATION IMPROVED

Council Discusses Grant to the Board of Trade for Publicity Work

Vernon, Mahch 7.—At the last meeting of the council a letter was read from the board of trade enclosing a resoution with reference to theatrical and other posters on the main thoroughfares. A report from the civic improvement committee of the same body was received.

Mayor Husband said he would make it a point to be present at an early meeting of the board and inform them what the council would do. He was in favor of the yearly citizens meeting being held prior to nomination day; and he expressed himself as pleased to see that the board of trade took such an active interest in civic affairs generally.

Some discussion followed as to the amount of the grant to the board of trade this year. Alderman Glover, as chairman of the finance committee, said that the policy of the council this year must be one of very strict economy, and they would have to go very cautiously in the matter of donations. He was in favor of cutting down last year's amount to at least one-half. All the other aldermen agreed with Alderman Glover that the council could not afford to spend much money on board of trade advertising. Alderman Gaunt, while agreeing with the rest of the council that they must economize wherever possible, made a strong appeal to them for as liberal a donation as possible. He outlined the board's work for this year, and spoke of their improved methods of advertising, which is calculated to do much good to this district. The matter then dropped, and was left to be reconsidered when the year's estimates were brought in.

A resolution was passed urgently requesting the C. P. R. to give early attention to the matter of an improved station here.

EXPLORATION WORK IN LE ROI MINE

Satisfactory Progress Made With Diamond Drill—Rich Ore in the Mayflower

Rossland, March 7.—Shipments continue to be made each week from the Le Roi of ore of a good grade, and the proceeds derived from its sale materially aid in keeping the mine in operation. Diamond drills continue to explore the territory of the Le Roi for new bodies and the borings have reached the territory 1,000 feet below the 1,650-foot level. While the results are encouraging, no very large bodies of pay ore have been encountered so far, still some medium-sized bodies of pay ore have been located.

Work on the Mayflower is making good progress and there has been found in the main ledge a foot and a half of steel galena that goes from $40 to $60 to the ton. This is being extracted and within a few days a shipment will be made to the Trail smelter. The lessee is very much pleased with the manner in which the Mayflower is developing.

Following is the report of the Le Roi Two for the month of January, which was cabled to London by Ernest Levy, the mine manager: "Josie Mine Report for January: "Shipped 2,440 tons. The receipts from smelter are $42,358, being payment for 2,200 tons shipped, and $1,515 being payment for 58 tons concentrates shipped. In all $43,873."

HAD NARROW ESCAPE.

Kelowna, March 7.—Mr. Harry Chaplin had a narrow escape from drowning last week. He was crossing from Kelowna to his ranch near Bear creek, when a sudden squall capsized his sailboat and threw him into the water. He climbed on top of the overturned boat, but it rolled over with him. He got hold of it again, however, and held on with desperation, calling loudly for help. His cries were heard by C. R. D. Cleminson, who put off in his launch to the rescue, but the engine bucked so frequently that progress was slow. Fortunately R. N. Dundas had also heard the calls and he hastily launched a boat and rowed to the rescue. He reached the capsized boat a minute or two before Mr. Cleminson, and quickly took the numbed and almost completely exhausted man on board and conveyed him home. Mr. Chaplin had been in the water about half an hour, a trying ordeal in winter time for the strongest of men, and he could not have hung on to the boat much longer.

BOILER OF RAILWAY ENGINE EXPLODES

Two Cars Are Thrown From the Track and Nine Persons Sustain Injuries

Walla Walla, Wash., March 8.—Nine persons were severely injured at Whitman station yesterday when the boiler of an Oregon Railway & Navigation Company locomotive exploded and threw two of the cars off the track.

Engineer Byrne, who with his fireman, was blown from the cab, is only slightly injured. The fireman escaped unhurt.

The train was coming from Walla Walla and was near Whitman station when the accident occurred. The locomotive was blown to pieces and two cars in the train were wrecked. That no one was killed is considered to be a miracle.

SENATOR G. W. ROSS ILL.

Ottawa, March 8.—The condition of Senator G. W. Ross is not regarded as serious. He is suffering from a recurrence of rheumatism, but is somewhat better to-day.

RAPIDLY ASSUMING PROPORTIONS OF CITY

Prince Rupert is Developing at a Rapid Rate—Building Operations

Prince Rupert, March 7.—Your correspondent spent several days in the New Grand Trunk Pacific town and travelled over the ground from the waterfront to the eastern limits, and from Seal Cove to the proposed location of the roundhouses at the southerly limits. The present townsite covers about 1,700 acres, with a great deal of the ground cleared. Buildings are going up in every direction. All buildings are of frame, ranging from one to three storeys in height. Two large hotels cater to the travelling public at reasonable rates, while a large number of smaller hotels and rooming houses furnish meals and sleeping accommodation at low prices. There is no lack of room, and several new hotels are in course of construction.

The residentail sections are spreading out in all directions. In no special locality are the buildings going up in preference to any other. The wholesale district will tend towards the waterfront, from the Grand Trunk Pacific towards the proposed Provincial Government wharves from Second avenue westward, some on leased ground and others on private property. Second and Third avenues promise to become a retail centre, and the hotel streets. Property at the corner of Fulton street and Third avenue is now valued at $12,000 for a 25-foot lot, with none for sale. Second avenue property commands $10,000 and over. Sixth avenue is the central street of the city, on which stores, a skating rink and other buildings are being built. A few days ago the sum of $14,500 was paid for two lots on the corner of Third avenue and Sixth street in the present business centre. Real estate is changing hands every day, and the number of offices dealing in property are plentiful enough to keep in touch with those desiring to locate.

In the past seven months the buildings erected were valued at $750,000, which is a conservative estimate. Contracts have been let for a large number of buildings, covering over $1,000,000, which will be expended before the town is incorporated.

The Grand Trunk Pacific company is excavating for their passenber station, and proposes erecting an up-to-date hotel. The Trapia is now unloading steel rails at the city wharf. Another rail-laden steamer is expected in a few days.

Steamers run daily to Port Essington, while communication is kept up between Queen Charlotte Islands and the mainland by ferryboats. The trade of Stewart is tending towards Prince Rupert and the fishing craft call at the town for provisions. The run of herring is phenomenal, and the fisheries will constitute a main source of revenue.

A board of trade, consisting of representative citizens are making an effort to suggest the requirements of the place They are working industriously.

Prince Rupert is located on an ideal townsite—the residential section commanding a splendid view of the harbor and surrounding country. The depth of water in the harbor and facilities for the accommodation of shipping cannot be excelled. With fourteen miles entirely free from obstructions and a minimum depth of thirty-six feet at low tide, the harbor is sheltered from storms and can be entered without the assistance of a pilot.

The people of Prince Rupert have every reason to be optimistic and to name their city "The Gem of the Pacific." Within a year it has grown more rapidly than any other city on the continent; it must and will grow faster, and the correspondence received by those acquainted with the western movement of population and capital shows the illimitable possibilities of the city and district tributary to it. With grain elevators, smelters, mills, contractors, fishing plants, unlimited water power, coal, timber, pulp mills and other industries, the future of Prince Rupert is assured. There must follow the development of the natural resources extant throughout the province and will assist in the populating and developing of the nearest neighbors, on Vancouver Island.

BURIED FOR EIGHT HOURS IN SNOW

C. P. R. Watchman Has Narrow Escape in the Mountains

Revelstoke, March 7.—A. Latsbury C. P. R. watchman, near Rogers Pass, had a unique experience last week. He was standing near his house, between it and the tool shed close to the back when a heavy snow slide came down, completely burying him for several feet and forcing him against the wall of the tool shed where he remained practically buried for eight hours. As soon as it was known that the slide had come and that a man had been caught by it a relief party was sent out. The work of excavation was soon commenced but without any success. Meanwhile a dog belonging to Latsbury had been sniffing about some distance away from where the work was going on which attracted the attention of the workmen. Convinced that the dog had located the body, digging was commenced there, and very soon Latsbury was rescued.

ALLAN LINER DAMAGED.

London, March 8.—The Allan liner Ionian, which has arrived on Clyde, reported having collided with a derelict steamer on Thursday. In the severe impact the Ionian had forty plates on her port side smashed, fortunately all above the water line. The fifty passengers were much alarmed, but the coolness of the officers and crew allayed their fears.

The population of Greece is increasing faster than any other country in Europe at present.

DEFEAT FOR MANY CLAUSES

SEVERAL OF THEM WERE DESIRED BY VICTORIA

House Strikes Out What Are Considered Vicious Municipal Amendments

Legislative Press Gallery, March 7.

In committee on a bill amending the Municipal Clauses Act this afternoon several sections, which were alleged to be there for the main purpose of enabling the city of Victoria to get around some of the difficulties which it has experienced in the last couple of years, were struck out of the bill at the instance of the member for the Islands, A. E. McPhillips, K.C. These included sections regarding street encroachments (recalling the trouble in Victoria West), the fencing of unfenced lots, entering on lands to prevent or mitigate damage from improvement work and the collecting from owners of cost of works not carried out to completion according to the original plan.

There was trouble with the bill from the start. The first section was designed to make permissive the dividing of a municipality into wards. At present municipalities must be so divided, although councils have power to abolish the ward system upon petition of more than one-half in value of the property-owners. The present bill, which contains the proposals of the Union of B. C. Municipalities among other amendments, proposed to substitute "may" for "shall."

The attorney-general objected to this provision, saying that there was a growing feeling that local autonomy should not be interfered with in the matter of wards. A man would do better work for the city when elected from a ward than when elected from the whole city.

William Manson (Skeena) stated that Prince Rupert wishes to start off clear from ward restrictions and the citizens were strongly in support of this proposal.

J. H. Hawthornthwaite protested against lack of uniformity in this and every other matter. The whole province, he declared, should have the one system, whatever it might be.

John Jardine said that there was a growing desire to do away with the ward system generally.

The attorney-general considered that nothing could be more disastrous to the new city in the north than for it to start off wrong. There was only a small handful of people there now controlling public opinion and these would be lost in the crowd in the course of five years. It would be a misfortune for the city if the people now in control were to change the general system.

The section was struck out.

Fencing Lots.

On the section to add to the subjects on which city municipal councils may pass by-laws, the compelling of the fencing of unfenced lots in any specified area, Mr. McPhillips said that cities had the power of getting after nuisances on any vacant spaces and enforcing sanitary laws instead of leaving them as they were too often seen now in many cities. But to compel owners to fence property not built upon was too onerous, besides which it tended to the accumulation of all sorts of rubbish as nuisances out of sight behind fences, as well as affording lurking places for tramps and criminals.

On motion of the hon. gentleman the motion was struck out.

J. H. Hawthornthwaite pointed out, on a section empowering councils to exempt from taxation grounds or buildings used exclusively for athletic purposes, that it might be possible for a few men to get together, form themselves into an athletic association and hold a piece of property for their own profit free of taxes. The idea of exempting bona fide amusement and recreation parks he approved of. But golf clubs, for instance, he said, were well able to pay their share of the taxes.

H. C. Brewster also considered that municipalities should not be given too wide powers along this line. If the public were to be excluded from the grounds or if these were to be run at a profit it would be decidedly unfair to other ratepayers to exempt from taxation. It would be all right so long as the grounds were run solely for the encouragement of athletics and the only charge was for the necessary upkeep and so on.

W. H. Hayward pointed out that it would be in the discretion of councils as to what exemptions they would give when the question came up.

At the suggestion of the attorney-general the section was held over.

Sections were passed authorizing the passage of by-laws for the carrying-out of the juvenile offenders' act by the establishment of detention homes and the payment of the judge and officers of the juvenile court.

City municipalities are given power to deal with the removal of buildings and other nuisances in a summary manner.

Tax on Boosting.

The provision of a $100 six-monthly tax on transient real estate agents gave the member for Nanaimo an idea in regard to publicity organizations, which seem to have got themselves into bad odor with him and his colleague from Newcastle. He proposed that municipalities be empowered to impose an annual license fee of $1,000 on development leagues and "booster" clubs.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite in support of his motion, said that there were a number of busy-bodies in every community who poked their impudent noses into matters that did not concern them, labor matters especially, and did a lot of damage. In Greenwood, for instance, they talked of refusing to give credit to labor men and of ridding the country of them and so forth. They were sending out constantly misleading notices of the condition of their cities, bringing workers to them when there was no work for these men, and were in general carrying on their mischief-making in an irresponsible manner.

Mr. Bowser defended the leagues and the work they were doing for the advancement of the province as a whole, as well as for their own sections. They were composed of the best men in town, working in a public-spirited manner and spending their time and money in the general interest. The only development leagues he knew of were doing good. Victoria's was made up of very prominent men, who were contributely largely to keeping up the work. They were advertising Vancouver Island for settlement and the government was assisting them to a small extent.

The motion was voted down.

Street Encroachments.

A provision was proposed in the bill, the object of which was to declare that proceedings to enable a a council to cause the removal of encroachments might be taken in a summary way and "notwithstanding anything in this or in any other statute contained."

Mr. McPhillips said that it was quite evident there was an intention here, in regard to some difficulties which had arisen in Victoria West, and in which litigation was pending, to slip legislation in which would enable the city to arrange these matters in a summary way. All the provisions which might exist in other acts or in the Municipal Act itself for the protection of the public were to be swept on one side, were to be abandoned. There was an attempt on the part of the city to put fences up against the wishes of the owners. In Victoria West hardly any industrial concern could improve its property but it had to face an injunction on the part of the city. It was a succession of that all the time and here was now this legislation proposed to make that action on the part of the city more summary. It was very wrong on the part of any municipality to go before the municipal comittee and endeavor to get in legislation of this kind. All these questions should be left to settlement in the courts and no municipality should try to get a snap judgment in their own favor in this summary way. If the legislature was to go it could fill up the statute books with extravagant and extraneous matter.

Mr. Hayward, as chairman of the municipal committee, said he understood that this was a Union of Municipalities amendment.

The attorney-general, correcting this, said it was the suggestion of the city of Victoria. There was a great deal in what the member for the Islands said.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite pointed out that if the city desired to take any of this property it could do so by expropriation and arbitration, but it looked as if it was acting in its usual high-handed manner. "Its members are so silent that we cannot get information about this most mysterious city, but I have acquired the impression that this city is very high-handed in its proceedings, especially where small holders are concerned."

The section went out by unanimous consent.

Local Improvements.

The next section to give trouble was one proposing a new subsection to the local improvement sections, to the effect that a municipality might pass by-laws for the taking, purchasing on entering upon, holding or using, without consent of the owner, any real property or interest, right, title or easement therein for the purposes of local improvements, and for selling of the same when not required for such purpose.

Mr. McPhillips opposed this also. He said the idea lying behind the section was obtaining by a municipality of the right to enter upon and take a man's land for the purpose of mitigating damages to which he would be subjected by the works which it was carrying on beside his property. For instance, it might be cutting a street grade lower than a property, when it would, if this right was given them, be able to enter on an adjoining property and shore it up or do whatever they thought proper to reduce the loss for which the owner would be entitled to compensation. The law was that if property was interfered with it was at the peril of the person or corporation interfering and compensation had to be made. This was another attempt to slip in legislation in order to escape the consequences which the law provided.

On Mr. McPhillips' motion the section was thrown out.

The section following was another new one, the intent of which was to provide that councils could assess and collect the cost of works only completed in part the same as if these had been carried through to completion. As introduced this was to apply to "a by-law already passed or which may hereafter be passed," but in the municipal committee a proviso was put in that it should not affect pending legislation.

Mr. McPhillips said that but for this proviso the section, if made law, would have applied to the case of Rockland avenue, no matter what the result in John Arbuthnot's appeal, now awaiting judgment in the court of appeal. In that case, instead of the road the owners asked for and were willing to pay for they got a much inferior one and the city wanted them to pay for it just the same. This section would make it law in such a case that the proprietors must pay for work only partly carried out according to agreement. There was no principle of right or common-sense in this. The Ontario courts had held that in a Windsor case, where the city had undertaken to lay a road, gutters and a sidewalk of a certain width and then laid a sidewalk much narrower, that the cost could not be collected from the owners but must be borne out of the general revenue.

Ernest Miller (Grand Forks), secretary of the municipal committee, drew attention of the attorney-general to the fact that the side-note to the section set forth that it dealt with assessment for dyking and drainage works completed in part, and was understood to include also sewerage, but the section applied to every kind of local improvement work.

The attorney-general replied that the section had been put in to meet a case in Revelstoke, and would have to be redrawn so that it would not apply to so generally as it now read.

The section was, therefore, held over.

Clearing Bush by Fire.

An amendment was made to the Bush Fire Act, under which any person who is occupying lands will be held responsible for the fires started in process of clearing, if these are started without permit or allowed to get out of hand.

H. C. Brewster pointed out that in using fire for clearing land the windfalls and dead timber on adjoining lands made it almost impossible to set fire during the period when it was allowed without danger of its getting away into adjoining lands.

Parker Williams warned the House that if too many restrictions were placed on settlers in regard to clearing lands by fire there would be found many fires getting set by "accident," and it would be hard for the fire rangers to prove there origin. He confessed that his own scheme of morals saw nothing wrong in this.

The bill was reported.

Woodmen's Liens.

By a bill amending the Woodmen's Lien for Wages Act several sections which have been in the Mechanics' Lien Act, lately consolidated and revised, were placed in their proper connection.

H. C. Brewster asked the attorney-general if it would not be possible to protect the wages of miners in some such complete way as that of loggers, instead of by the amendment to the Mechanics' Lien Act passed the other day.

The attorney-general did not see what more could be done for the miner than under the amendment he put through last week.

The bill was read a third time.

Last "Repair Shop" Job.

A bill to validate a by-law passed by the city of Nelson last October, respecting the electric street railway system, was passed in committee. Doubts have been raised as to whether the city had power to guarantee the bonds of the company which is operating the line. This is to be the last occasion on which the legislature is to be used as a "repair shop" by way of government measures to remedy defects in by-laws. Hereafter municipalities will have to proceed by way of private bills and pay the fees.

The city of New Westminster has decided to give its charter, granted in 1888, and operate in future under the Municipal Clauses Act. A bill to this end was introduced by the attorney-general repealing the act of 1888 except as to particular special provisions which are being retained to meet local needs.

W. R. Ross (Fernie) introduced a bill to provide for bi-monthly payment of wages in mining and other industries, where the wages paid do not exceed $4 per day and the monthly pay-toll exceeds $50,000.

The Liquor License Act yas read a third time and passed.

A. CARNEGIE ATTACKS J. D. ROCKEFELLER

Says Oil King Has Copied His Plans in Foundation Scheme

Santa Barbara, Cal., March 8.—Apparently incensed by what he claims is an infringement of plans he is now prosecuting, Andrew Carnegie yesterday declared that the much heralded Rockefeller Foundation is a direct imitation of his own project.

"Mr. Rockefeller's plan is copied from mine," the steel king asserted. "The research commission he has founded is similar to the one I established. The plan was suggested to me by Theodore Roosevelt while he was president, and I have followed his suggestions in many of the details.

"The Carnegie research commission has $12,600,000 in bonds and an income of $600,000 a year. It appears to me that this sum should be sufficient to prosecute certain research work deemed necessary to the scientific world.

"Nor is the Carnegie commission confining its work to one line to such an extent that aid is necessary. Right now it has a yacht cruising around the world collecting data and material for investigation and study. Already the scientists who are on the trip have been enabled to correct many of the charts of the British Admiralty. The Carnegie observatory on Mount Wilson was founded as a part of this plan."

For Educational Purposes.

Pittsburg, P., March 8.—Pasadena, Cal., is to receive one-tenth of Andrew Carnegie's recent "educational" gift of $8,000,000, according to an announcement here.

The $8,000,000 was to be divided among ten municipalities named by the steel king, each to receive $800,000. The interest on the gifts was to be used for educational purposes. The school authorities and teachers in each city were to determine its disposition.

LABOR LEADERS ARE SENT TO PRISON

Four Australian Miners Are Sentenced in Connection With Strike

Sydney, Aus., March 8. — With the leaders of the coal miners in jail for breaking the anti-strike law, the great coal strike continues and a settlement of the difficulties is problematical.

Peter Bowling has just begun serving a twelve months' sentence, the maximum allowed by statute. The men walked out on his orders, it is asserted. Daniel Hutton, Wm. O'Connor and James Butler each have been sentenced to eight months' imprisonment for their part in leading the strike. With Bowling they were convicted of taking part in a meeting, the object of which was to plan to continue the strike.

Bowling pleaded that he was attempting to organize the 20,000 strikers to discuss terms on which they would go back to work when he was arrested. Judge Rogers refused to accept this explanation.

The Sydney labor council have promised that the families of the imprisoned men will be cared for during their incarceration.

The Austrian army is trying out a range-finding rifle bullet which is hollow and carries a substance which gives off a puff of smoke when the bullet strikes anything hard

INNINGS NOW FOR BOARD COMPANIES

CONTINUATION OF THE INSURANCE ENQUIRY

R. S. Day on Stand Yesterday Afternoon in Favor of the Proposed Bill

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

At yesterday afternoon's session of the Royal Commission on insurance, R. S. Day continued his evidence on the question of unlicensed competition. He said the practice had the effect of increasing the cost of insurance to the general public. As regards the question of government inspection, every state in the union had a licensed inspector and a state insurer, who inquired into the status of every company. No company was admitted to do business without putting up a deposit equal to what was required by the government where it had lower registry. The Washington government did not control insurance, each individual state being left to look ofter it. He placed in the exhibits the report of the Dominion government on insurance for the last year. Quoting from statistics therein he showed that the companies, for every dollar collected in premiums paid out for fire losses 65.05 cents. The report showed that while British and American companies have for the past 34 years made money in Canada, the home companies, that is, those companies having had offices in Canada, have not. The inference was that the business was extremely unprofitable to Canadian companies. Therefore, there was the greater need for safeguarding the interests of the home companies. The incomes and expenditures of the Canadian companies show that only ten had an income in excess of expenditure in 1908. He put in a table showing the financial standing of stock fire insurance companies doing business in Canada in 1908. In regard to unlicensed competition he put in several circulars from a Chicago firm requesting business from Canadian concerns. This firm offered policies in five foreign companies, a number being in France and Bulgaria. The assets of the various companies were very small.

To Mr. Bodwell Mr. Day said these circulars were coming by mail all the time. He did not know what business they were doing in Canada.

Continuing, Mr. Day read from another circular he got from a New York firm. This firm was willing to accept any business offering and would allow 25 per cent. commission. This circular, said Mr. Day, had a "peculiar seductiveness," in that it offered a larger commission than most agents were getting from bona fide companies. Mr. Day read another circular, this time from a Brooklyn firm, which contained a statement declaring Canada to be a free field for all foreign insurance companies and quoting in support of same a newspaper paragraph. This, said the circular, opened the field; and it urged that this statement should be shown in order to get business. "A tempting bait," commented Mr. Day.

There had been a good deal said about "blanket" insurance, continued Mr. Day. The system had been condemned as unsound, and he was afraid that if local companies attempted to write some of the policies which Lloyd's had written the Dominion act would stop the issuance of the policy. The Dominion act restricts insurance to two forms of insurance, while these "blanket" policies covered every form of loss. The "blanket" insurance was a form which did not commend itself as sound insurance.

Regarding Mr. Shallcross' request for data respecting the business done in Victoria, it was absurd to attempt to generalize from the experience of one city. They could not draw any conclusions respecting the establishing of rates, as the business done over a general territory fixes the rate.

To Mr. Bodwell Mr. Day explained how rates came to be established. An expert sometimes spent months in the work, examined streets for grades, police protection, fire marshall, what was the condition of back-yards, etc. It was a most elaborate system and the rate was finally fixed working from a "standard" city. This was cited as one of the benefits of board companies —it insisted on the minimum of risk being taken by the public in respect to danger from the outbreak of fire and really had proved a great benefit to the community.

Dealing with conditions in Victoria some years ago, Mr. Day said that for a long period the city had little or no fire protection. The board could not arouse the city to its dangers. Fires had to come along and do it, and these disasters and the placing on of 30 per cent rates finally brought about an improvement.

Mr. Shallcross was then ready to proceed with the cross-examination of Mr. Day. The former said he would probably take a long time with Mr. Day, and for that reason might be expected to occupy the best part of this morning.

Wm. Monteith was next called by Mr. Bodwell on behalf of the board companies and the commission adjourned until this morning at 10.30.

Chairman Lennie announced to the press at the conclusion of the afternoon session that owing to the large number of witnesses to be called in Victoria the sessions at Vancouver and Nelson would be held at later dates than had been fixed.

WOMAN DRINKS POISON.

Seattle, Wash., March 8.—Wilhelmina Lawson, wife of H. Lawson, committed suicide at her home, Seventh avenue south and Holden street, Georgetown, by taking carbolic acid. Mrs. Lawson lost a daughter by death about two months ago, since which time her mind has become unbalanced.

Her husband went to Spokane to work recently, and returned home on Saturday. Sunday morning he came to Seattle to arrange for the care of his wife and children, and soon after he left home his little daughter, returning from an errand, entered the house and found her mother in convulsions.

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