

# TRAMWAY COMPANY SUBMITS PROPOSAL STREET SPRINKLING BEFORE COUNCIL

Tentative Agreement Will Be Dealt  
With on Thursday Night—Question  
of Auditor.

At Monday's meeting of the city council a considerable budget of important business came up for consideration. The proposed agreement between the B. C. Electric Light Company and the corporation for the sprinkling of streets during the summer months was given its first reading, so to speak. Final action was deferred until Thursday night's session. A report of special interest was submitted by the committee having the Indian reserve question in hand. The information it contained shows that this somewhat vexed question is gradually assuming definite shape, and it may not be long before the civil authorities reach some kind of an arrangement by which these valuable lands will be transferred to civic control.

His Worship Mayor Morley presided, and there was a full attendance of aldermen.

A communication was received from the B. C. Telephone Company in respect to cheaper rates for the city hall, the manager informing the council that the conditions in Victoria and Vancouver were very different. He explained that there was a switchboard in the Vancouver city hall from which all the offices were connected at an expense of \$1 a month per instrument. Concluding, he announced that the same thing could be done in Victoria providing the corporation undertook to install the necessary apparatus. It was referred to the special committee appointed to deal with the matter.

A statement from A. T. Goward, local manager of the B. C. Electric Light Company, was read as follows: "Victoria, March 19th, 1906. C. H. Topp, Esq., City Engineer, Victoria:

Dear Sir:—Re street sprinkling. In reference to our conversation on Saturday, when you asked me to submit a tender for the entire running of one electric sprinkler, I am not in a position to make any definite offer, as I am not in possession of full facts as to the hours of running. Also, you would kindly understand that weather conditions, number of hydrants, and the special streets to be operated over, would materially affect the tender. A heavy car like the tank car, when running up grades would use a very large quantity of current.

However, I have had an estimate made of the approximate cost to us of running the sprinkler for a ten-hour day, with two men (water free), and governed by the general grade of streets in Victoria, and find same to be \$13.31.

For the sake of argument, we will deduct from this one-quarter, which I think would roughly cover the proportion of street covered by the track, and this would leave \$10.23 as the city's share.

From these figures you will see that our company's offer to supply the motive power and keep the tank in repair is a proportion of the expense, is a very liberal one. The figures given merely cover the actual daily cost of operating as near as we can get it. If a contract were entered into, allowance would have to be made for contingencies, viz., possible accident to other cars or passengers, burn out of electric motors, etc., etc.

ARTHUR T. GOWARD,  
Local Manager.

The Mayor explained that a tentative agreement was appended. Ald. Fullerton objected to the proposition forwarded by the tramway company. He said it had never come before the committee, or at least, he said he didn't know whether Ald. Stewart had been taken into the confidence of the committee or not, but his intention to be a figurehead, and he thought he had a right to have been informed when the report was submitted, and to have been given an opportunity to express his opinion with reference to the agreement.

His Worship, addressing Ald. Vincent, asked whether the tramway company's communication was in the form of a report, or a letter.

Replying, the latter stated that as far as he was concerned it was a report. The council had asked for figures that they had them. It was now in their hands to consider them or otherwise.

The Mayor then laid the question aside for discussion with other reports. The reply of the school board in regard to the council's request for a reduction of their estimates was next read. It embodied the resolution moved by Trustworthy J. A. Gardner, agreeing to reducing the proposed expenses by \$1,000, instead of \$2,000 as proposed by the city fathers.

Ald. Hall wanted to make an explanation in this connection. He said that he noticed that Trustworthy Gardner had remarked that he was surprised at the attitude assumed by the speaker in regard to the question of school expenditures. He contended that he was by no means inconsistent. The city, he said, found itself facing a deficit amounting to about \$29,000. His argument was that all departments should share as nearly alike as possible in the economy that would necessarily have to be exercised in order to reduce the sum mentioned. He acknowledged the magnanimity of the trust in cutting down their estimates to the extent of \$1,000, but he believed that the amount first fixed by the council, namely, \$2,000, should be insisted upon. He knew that the former sum could be saved if a proposed extra teacher in Rock Bay school was not appointed. In his opinion the pupils attending that institution could be so graded as to make more than two instructors unnecessary. Furthermore, he believed the council had power to compel acquies-

cence on the part of the school board. Therefore he moved that the matter be referred back to that body.

The motion carried.

A. T. Goward, local manager of the B. C. Electric Light Company, asked permission to place poles upon certain streets for extending the system. Ald. Yates moved and Ald. Goodacre seconded that the matter be referred to the streets, bridges and sewers committee. The former explained that this would allow the city to look into the respective powers of the corporation and the council. He pointed out that in Vancouver so many conditions had been attached to privileges granted the B. C. Electric railway that the latter finally turned around and offered 2 per cent. of the gross receipts to the city, something which amounted to a considerable sum. The moral the speaker drew was "never give anything away without first finding out whether any advantages can be derived therefrom."

The motion carried.

Thos. I. Worthington wrote asking when the Birdcage Walk extension project would be started. All the improvements to his property hinged upon that work, and he thought it should be started at an early date.

Laid on the table.

Mrs. S. M. Tuck asked that a certain section of Blanchard street be included in the pavement improvement system. This was referred to the city engineer and city assessor for report.

Thos. C. Sorby, secretary of the North Ward Municipal Association, wrote enclosing a number of resolutions, passed by that organization. They recommended the appointment of an auditor and that all new works be done on the local improvement plan.

Ald. Yates thought that the question of the auditor would be a matter for the people to decide at the next election by the referendum. He believed a great many wanted the official mentioned employed by the council and not the government, as was at present the case. He moved in accordance with his suggestion.

Ald. Fullerton believed that the appointment of an outside auditor was an important question, to much so that warrant the delay of decisive action until the next election. In his opinion the selection of an auditor should be left to the Lieutenant-Governor.

Concluding, he announced that the same thing could be done in Victoria providing the corporation undertook to install the necessary apparatus. It was referred to the special committee appointed to deal with the matter.

In a brief, forceful address, Ald. Stewart expressed his determination to support Ald. Yates' suggestion with respect to the referendum. He didn't think, however, that the matter was so imperative as had been contended. When Mr. Hellwell, chairman of the committee, had inspected the local system his report had not thrown the slightest suspicion upon the accounts as at present kept in the city hall. All he had to suggest was that the bookkeeping might be audited. The importance of the question had been overrated. "You, Mr. Mayor," he went on, "made it a plank in your election platform, but it was only for the purpose of raising noise, practically for nothing." That, Ald. Stewart thought, was the situation, and he believed it would be best dealt with by the voters through the referendum.

Ald. Hall moved that the clause of the communication dealing with the appointment of an auditor be laid on the table.

The suggestion was seconded by Ald. Day. The latter pointed out that if Ald. Fullerton's resolution carried it necessitated a rearrangement of the city departments.

Ald. Yates' motion finally carried.

A report was received from the purchasing agent and city electrician, announcing that tenders had been received for the supply of carbons and other electric supplies. It was recommended that the tender of the Canadian General Electric Company, being the lowest, be accepted. Adopted.

The sanitary inspector and city assessor reported that the following buildings were in an unsanitary condition, and should be destroyed: Three wooden sheds near the city hall, two wooden buildings rear of 32 Store street, belonging to L. G. Quaglin; No. 46 Store street and store in rear belonging to J. Craigdarrie; shed in rear of No. 10 Store street, owned by the Leng H. Wong Company.

Upon motion of Ald. Stewart it was resolved that the occupants or owners of these structures be asked to give reasons why they should not be destroyed.

The building inspector submitted plans and specifications of the new B. C. Electric Railway Company's headquarters to be erected on Fort street. It was recommended that they be approved, or a letter.

The appended report was submitted by the city engineer upon the system in vogue in his department.

C. H. Topp, Esq., City Engineer:

Dear Sir:—Referring to our conversation in connection with your report to the Mayor and board of aldermen, and in answer to their request for suggestions regarding the simplification and manner of keeping the accounts of expenditures incurred in the different departments under your supervision—I may state that my own belief is that no cause for alterations in the system I have for keeping the several details, notwithstanding Mr. Hellwell in his report to the Mayor remarked that he saw no less than 19 books in my office, which, he had made a closer inspection, would have shown several of these 19 to consist of account books not at present in daily use, but kept in the case for reference at various times, when questions concerning expenditures for years past are asked for. At the same time he himself, also his assistant, complimented me on the manner of keeping the several books examined, and on finding that I had too much to do; which fact I have not been ignorant of for several years past, in proof of which I may call your attention to the annual expenditures from my books from the year 1901 to 1904 having increased from \$100,000 to \$200,000. Therefore, if a controller is appointed I should be pleased to be relieved of my share in connection with the waterworks accounts.

I might suggest also, as a portion of my own consensus in keeping calls of all expenditures in the several departments, that all accounts pertaining to same should pass your office, and not a portion of them, as has been the case heretofore.

H. P. ORTON,  
Accountant.

Received and laid on the table.

In a lengthy communication the city solicitor asked for an increase in the estimated expenditure for the maintenance of his department. He concluded with the following statement: "I further desire to point out the imperative necessity of this year preparing and putting before the other municipal institutions of the province forming the municipal union, the desirability of the changes which should be sought next year."

"There is, in my judgment work of a very important nature beneficial to the city, which should be taken in hand by my department, namely, the consideration whether by joint commission from the council and appointed representatives of the sections of taxpayers, or in conjunction with the municipal union, of the incidence of taxation between property owners, business taxpayers, and the incidence of taxation between municipalities and the provincial government, with a view of obtaining an increase of revenue to municipalities by taxation on a fair and equitable basis acceptable to the taxpayers population."

"I could further instance the necessity for a carefully thought out by-law dealing with the granting of liquor licenses and regulation of the same. The best interests of the city require that the city solicitor's department should have ample assistance, without which it is impossible effectively to cope with the increased work thrown upon it by the department."

"I beg, therefore, with great regret, to urge upon the council's attention the additional moderate sum asked for, and unless this be granted to me, I shall be gravely compelled to do so, with due regard to the convenience of the council, after which the council will have to make other arrangements."

It was referred to the finance committee for report.

The sanitary inspector recommended that a certain piece of civic property consisting of a small shack and a lot submerged with stagnant water be put in repair. Upon motion that official was instructed to ascertain the cost of such improvement.

The city engineer and city assessor stated that seven tenders for the hauling of gravel had been received, the lowest of which was that of R. Daverne. It was at a sale of \$1.09 per cubic yard. They recommended its acceptance. Adopted.

A large petition was submitted by residents of Mary street, Victoria West, asking for a light on the corner of Mary and Bay streets. Referred to the electric light committee.

A second petition came from residents of Ellice street for a sidewalk on the north side of that thoroughfare. Referred to the streets, bridges and sewers committee.

P. Carne and a number of others asked permission for the admittance of W. F. Brown to the Old Man's Home. Referred to the committee in charge of the affairs of that institution.

Tenders for the police telephone system were handed in by the city clerk. Mayor Morley proceeded to open them, when the question of the authority of the council was introduced.

Ald. Stewart, although he didn't know what power the council had in the matter, wanted to register a "kick" against the expenditure contemplated by the police commissioners.

Ald. Hall, however, didn't know what power the council had in the matter, wanted to register a "kick" against the expenditure contemplated by the police commissioners.

Ald. Yates recommended that the commissioners look into their power under the act before they took definite action.

The Mayor summarily curtailed the discussion by stating that the question was not properly before the council.

Tenders for the supply of hose for the department of the equipment of the local department were received from Peter McQuade, J. H. Warner and the Canadian Rubber Company. They were referred to the purchasing agent and Chief Watson for consideration.

The special committee upon the question of the acquisition of the Indian reserve reported that all information on the subject had been considered. It was recommended that the Mayor and members of the committee be empowered to come to an agreement with the provincial government involving the transfer of the Songhees reserve property. It was resolved that the terms of settlement should be subjected to the ratification of the ratepayers by by-law.

The report was adopted.

The electric lighting committee recommended that the city engineer be authorized to apply for a light on Edmonton road. Other requests were not approved for various reasons. This was adopted.

The finance committee recommended the same communication asking for the appropriation of \$10,000 for sewer construction took the same course.

The streets, bridges and sewers committee submitted the appended recommendations:

Gentlemen:—Your streets, bridges and sewers committee having considered the undermentioned subjects, beg to submit the following recommendations for adoption by the council, viz.:

1. Government street, from Flisgard street to the Fountain, be macadamized, and surface drain laid there. Estimated cost for macadamizing, \$4,000; for drainage, \$1,000.

2. Cook street, from Pandora street to Caledonia avenue, be macadamized. Estimated cost, \$1,000.

3. That Pandora avenue, north side, be macadamized from Amelia street to Rebecca street. Estimated cost, \$1,300.

4. That Fairfield road, from Cook street to St. Charles street, be macadamized. Estimated cost, \$2,000.

5. That a section of the new combination curb and gutter be laid, providing the property owners will agree to pay two-thirds of the cost, and that the city engineer endeavor to arrange for this being done with a number of property owners, and report.

6. That the sum of \$100 be expended on Burdett avenue in improving same at its western end.

7. That Quebec street and Superior street be macadamized. Estimated cost, \$2,700.

Ald. Yates moved that the report lay over for a week in order that it might be considered by the council as a whole.

Ald. Fullerton objected to the proposed delay. He said that laboring men were idle in the morning, and his suggestion was that aldermen, outside the committee, should attend the latter's meetings. Then they could arrive at a good idea of what was being done and there would be no delay. He said he didn't know why the committee's report was accepted, and he didn't know why the council should not be adhered to in this instance.

Chairman Vincent, of the committee, when asked upon an explanation, said that the city engineer's report had been taken, and the most important work upon trunk roads had been approved. The only way to do was to take the committee's report systematically, and that was what was being done.

Considerable informal debate ensued, Ald. Yates insisting upon the delay. Ald. Vincent dryly remarked that this session the committee would soon "dwindle down," because there wouldn't be much money left to spend after the intended expenditure.

The resolution carried.

Ald. Hall, rising to a point of order, objected to the evening meetings. He said there were too many sessions. He said that gatherings held during the week were special, and notice of motion for all business dealt with was necessary.

His Worship did not concur in that opinion, and ruled accordingly.

The reports were then considered. The first was that of the committee upon the sprinkling, which embodied the following tentative agreement with the tramway company:

This agreement, made and entered into this day of March, A. D. 1906, between the city of Victoria (hereinafter called "the corporation") of the one part, and the British Columbia Electric Railway Company, Limited (hereinafter called "the company") of the other part.

Witnesseth that the corporation and the company hereby mutually promise and agree the one with the other in manner following, that is to say:

1. The corporation shall, at its expense, construct a car sprinkling system, or construct as soon as possible a car suitable for sprinkling water on the streets of the city of Victoria upon which the car tracks of the company are laid, and which shall be capable of being operated and over such further tracks as may be constructed and operated in the future, for the purpose of laying the dust, such car with sprinkling apparatus to be of sufficient capacity to spray the whole width of the roadway of the said streets: Provided that where the roadway of the streets exceeds 50 (fifty) feet in width, that any excess over the said width shall be required to be watered by the said sprinkler.

2. The company, before completing the purchase of the said car with sprinkling apparatus, or before commencing the construction of the same, shall obtain the approval of the city engineer as to the suitability of the car and sprinkling apparatus.

3. The corporation shall pay to the company, one-half of the cost of acquiring, purchasing and constructing such car, but not to exceed in cost \$3,500 (three thousand five hundred dollars)—the corporation to pay not more than \$1,750 (one thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars) and the city of Victoria to pay not more than \$1,750 (one thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars) in cost to be calculated on the total cost laid down upon the tracks of the company at Victoria: Provided that if the company constructs the car, the cost shall be fairly apportioned to the city and the corporation in proportion to the transportation charges only to be added. And the car to be acquired, purchased or constructed shall be and remain the joint property of the parties hereto.

4. The corporation shall, at its expense, supply the necessary power for the effective operation of the car and the sprinkling of the streets free of cost to the company, and suitable hydrants will be provided from which the car can be taken into the car at such points as will not interfere with the operation of the car schedule of the company.

5. The company will operate the said car on street railway tracks within the city of Victoria for the purpose of laying the dust on the streets—and in the operation of the car the city engineer is to have the right to define when and how the car shall be operated during the day and night, between the hours of seven in the morning and eleven of the night, the city engineer to put his directions in writing; and such car shall be operated under the supervision of the city engineer—all directions, however, are to proceed from the city engineer to the traffic superintendent of the company—the employees upon the car to receive all orders through the traffic superintendent of the company; and the said car shall be only used for the purpose of watering the streets of the city along the street railway tracks within the city of Victoria.

Ald. Vincent moved that the contract be entered into with the B. C. Electric Railway Company.

Ald. Stewart seconded it.

Ald. Fullerton did not believe in the acceptance of the agreement without question. He wanted those present to go into the matter in detail. He didn't know why it wasn't the intention of the city to take advantage of a certain section forcing the company to sprinkle specified portions of the thoroughfares. During the period that had not been complied with the corporation had been doing out of approximately \$303 annually. He did not propose to agree to the company's proposal. His contention was that the B. C. Electric Railway Company be allowed to do its part, and the city continue to do its part by the present method. The latter system, he thought, would prove the most economical.

Ald. Hall and Ald. Yates suggested that the question be left in abeyance.

To this Ald. Vincent objected on the ground that it was important that a decision should be reached at the earliest possible date.

An amendment to the former effect was put and carried.

With reference to the Birdcage Walk extension, Ald. Stewart moved that Thos. I. Worthington be informed that the council had the matter under consideration.

Upon motion of Ald. Yates it was decided that the reports of the streets committee be considered on Thursday night. Carried.

Ald. Douglas moved a vote of condolence to ex-Mayor Hedden in his recent sad bereavement through the loss of his wife, Mrs. Radfern. This carried unanimously.

The meeting then adjourned.

## ORDER PLACED FOR NEW GAME BIRDS

FIRST CONSIGNMENT  
EXPECTED IN THE FALL

Six Dozen Capercaillie and Black Game  
to Be Divided Between Main-  
land and Island.

The importation of a new variety of game to British Columbia is now assured. Some days ago the officials of the Victoria and Vancouver clubs forwarded an order for six dozen capercaillie and black game, the number of each variety being about equally divided, and it is expected that the birds will reach here some time in October.

In the hope of awakening greater interest in the game, the Victoria and Vancouver clubs have decided to divide the first shipment is taken from the train at Vancouver it will be divided between the Mainland and the Island, and as little time as possible lost in freeing the birds in the wilderness, which they are expected to make their future home.

It may be of interest to local sportsmen to know that the game for which the Victoria and Vancouver clubs have been asked to contribute is coming from Norway, the original home of the capercaillie, from whence they have been exported to all parts of the world. The birds are supplied by a Danish fancier, who makes a specialty of such transactions. He recently sent 75 pairs to the state of Michigan, out of which large consignment only three were lost.

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