

Twice-a-Week Times

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PROSPECTIVE SOURCES OF WATER SUPPLY.

As our readers well know, the Times holds no brief for the Esquamit Water Works Company, so our position will not be misunderstood when we point out that our correspondent "Taxpayer," whose contributions we value very highly, falls into a too common error in regard to the capacity of the Goldstream property as a source of water supply for the city of Victoria. The reservoirs of the Esquamit Water Works Company at Goldstream are capable of storing a sufficient supply of water, according to competent engineers, to meet the requirements of a population many times in excess of the population of Victoria at the present time. Three million gallons per diem would be a generous allowance for all the people within the existing municipal boundaries and for all else whom we may be morally bound to consider in laying plans for the immediate future. In any of the schemes for augmenting this supply the utmost that is contemplated is a pipe capable of delivering at the city boundaries five million gallons per day. That is the capacity of the pipe the experts figure upon when they estimate the cost of connection with Sooke Lake. For every additional unit of five million gallons up to the full capacity of the lake that estimate would have to be increased correspondingly. It is therefore, obviously, a mistake to assume that an expenditure of from fifteen hundred to two million dollars would, as many do assume, would make available for the purposes of citizens the whole of the watershed of Sooke Lake.

It is well to remember, in considering the matter of future water supply, that the fact of the waters of Goldstream becoming exhausted, or nearly exhausted, during the past two years, does not necessarily imply that similar conditions would obtain should the city acquire the system. The tramway coming has been calling for a supply of water for power purposes of from twelve to fifteen million gallons per diem. In the water thus released were conserved for domestic purposes it would be ample for the requirements of a city having a population greater than any one living is likely to see congregated within the present municipal limits. Taken in conjunction with the present system, it would serve, beyond question, the population of the entire peninsula.

FIGHTING FOR OUR TIMBER.

Quite an interesting contest is being waged in Washington in which British Columbia timber is the special prize. There has been a good deal of speculation within the past year in our timber, American capitalists have acquired large holdings at considerable expense, from which the people of the province, the original owners, have derived very little profit. These American speculators in our resources and other owners of native timber are now endeavoring to persuade Congress to legislate in such a manner as will redound to their particular interests. Owners of American timber want our lumber kept out of their home market. Owners of British Columbia timber want it to be admitted at reduced rates of duty. The fight is ostensibly in the interests of the people at large, in reality it is in the interests of persons who are already pretty fairly endowed with this world's goods, but who, in accordance with the natural traits of human nature, want to heap up great mounds of treasure. The advocates of a low rate of duty, altruistic to a degree, maintain that if some outside source of lumber supply be not found, the whole of the country must soon be shaven clean of its resources in timber. The protectionists protest that if their products are brought into competition with cheap British Columbia or Canadian lumber they will be absolutely ruined. Their misfortunes will, furthermore, fall with terrible force on workmen, whose bread and butter will be cut off with the closing of mills and camps and all the institutions which live and move and have their material being in the environment created by the timber industry. In face of such a perplexing situation what is a poor Congressman to do? He is listening patiently to the arguments of the contending factions in the House. But he is also giving his ear to the more potent suggestions of the persuasive gentlemen in the lobby, where the real contest is taking place. At the present writing it appears that the speculators who have acquired the timber limits of British Columbia are likely to prevail. Whatever the outcome, the effect ought to be to increase our natural pride in the plenitude of our natural resources. This feeling of elation need not necessarily be tempered with resentment against our government for not striving to realize on behalf of the public the profit which has passed so easily into the pockets of private individuals. Why should the pub-

lic be envious of the increasing number of persons, some of them very intimately connected with the McBride government, who are growing rich as a result of speculation in timber, which is after all only figuratively the property of all the people?

AIR NAVIGATION.

No one, not even the most sanguine of scientific "aviators," had any definite idea of what practical results are likely to follow the experiments in air navigation now so general throughout the world. Some experimenters tell us that the airship will be a valuable aid to military men in directing the operations of an army. But wars and battles are not such common incidents in the lives of men and of nations as they were a half century or a century ago. If the inventors of airships hope to derive profit from their works, they must turn their machines to more general and more practical account. Some of them are convinced that this can be done. There may be plenty of reason for the faith that is in them. They have as yet given the sceptic no reason for divesting his mind of its natural prejudices. The weakness of all air-navigating vessels is their limited carrying capacity. It is out of all proportion to their displacement, as the hulls of water-ships might say in his matter of fact way. Even Count Zeppelin's dirigible balloon, which, as its name implies, can be successfully steered in the direction its navigator wills, a structure nearly as large as an ocean-going steamship, can only carry fifteen or twenty men. Of what use would such a machine be in the practical affairs of this world when a steamship or a railway train can transport so many thousands of tons of freight and so many thousands of human beings? That is the point which cannot be explained. But the builders and the navigators of these new machines continue to construct and to experiment with them. They meet the criticisms of doubters by pointing out, and with truth, that in the early days of steamships and steam locomotives the future of these vehicles, now indispensable, was just as doubtful. Their inventors were called victims of misdirected enthusiasm, sometimes madmen. The directors of scientific journals are encouraging the airship men, which they would scarcely do did they not believe that there is method in the present epidemic of apparent madness. The Scientific American is offering a trophy for the inventor who flies his machine farthest through the air under certain conditions. Our New York technical contemporary seems to believe that Mr. Douglas McCurdy stands a good chance of carrying off this prize. It says:

"Judging from the recent performances of Mr. McCurdy in Nova Scotia with the fourth aeroplane—the 'Silver Dart'—of the Aerial Experiment Association, the year 1909 is to witness even more rapid progress in aviation here than was made in France last year. 'After having made comparatively few practice flights, this young Canadian engineer, on March 10th,' increased his previous records to nearly 20 miles in two flights of 13 and 22 minutes duration respectively. Two days before he had already made a flight of 11 minutes duration. The aeroplane, mounted on wheels, started and landed on the ice of Lake Bras d'Or, near Baddeck, N. S. In one of the flights this new aviator is said to have attained a height of 50 feet and to have performed various evolutions. At his request, the Aero Club of America is sending a representative to Nova Scotia to officially control a flight for the Scientific American Trophy, which it has recently been decided to award each year to the aviator who makes the longest flight in an official trial. Hereafter, anyone having a heavier-than-air machine which has shown it self capable of flight can have an official trial by notifying the Aero Club of America two or three days in advance, and remitting double the railway fare from New York to the point of trial, plus \$4 for each day upon which a trial is to be made. The minimum distance for 1909 is 25 kilometers (15½ miles). If a sufficient number of machines are developed during the next few months, it is probable that a contest will be arranged near New York city."

"The Scientific American Trophy has served a useful purpose in encouraging the development of new flying machines. From now on it will stand for the greatest achievement in aviation in America."

VICTORIA'S HONORABLE MEMBER.

Considering the peculiar circumstances under which he obtained his seat in the House of Commons, one might reasonably expect the representative of Victoria to be exceedingly discreet in his public utterances and modest in his parliamentary demeanor. But Mr. Barnard, we are exceedingly sorry to observe, is not so. On the contrary, he bears himself with an effrontery that must be positively offensive to his fellow-representatives and embarrassing to his leader. During the discussion last week of the question of deferred elections, brought up in the house by Mr. Burrell, the member for Victoria once more took occasion to deny that he was responsible for the forgery of a telegram which played such an important part

in his election. To Mr. G. H. Barnard's futile efforts to dissociate himself from that malodorous transaction we have no objection to raise. The fact that he feels impelled to deny all connection with the forgery proves that Mr. Barnard is quite conscious of the indefensibility of it. But our representative, whose status in the opposition is measured by the position to which he has been relegated upon the back benches, was not content with protesting his innocence of connection with the forged telegram. He must needs inflate his chest and boast of his wonderful achievement in defeating the Minister of Inland Revenue. Along an unaided thirty gentleman, with a "headlines" character, says the great Barnard family, he went forth and overcame a member of the government. But Mr. G. H. Barnard was careful to boast at a time when no other representative of British Columbia had an opportunity to reply to him. Those representatives know, as every one knows in Victoria, that there were influences other than Mr. George Henry Barnard's piousness personally applied to secure the defeat of the Minister of Inland Revenue. And such influences were not confined to whispered pledges of what Mr. George Henry Barnard would do for the constituency and persons in the constituency in case he were returned at the head of the poll. Furthermore, if Mr. George Henry Barnard did not know at the time he read that telegram that it was a forgery, he knew shortly afterwards of the commission of the crime. And the chances are that he considered it a master political stroke. If he had been an honorable man, knowing as he did twenty-four hours before the polls opened of the commission of the offence, he would have made the facts public and shaven his conscience of the sin of being an accessory immediately after the fact. Even yet, if Mr. Barnard were a man of fine feelings and deep sense of honor, he would resign his seat and refuse to profit by the criminality of his newspaper organ.

SIDNEY CONSERVATIVES HAD A HOT MEETING.

Thursday the residents of Sidney were startled. There was a sudden rise in the temperature, and it became hot. Unwanted noises were heard in the neighborhood of the court house. Various theories were advanced, but it proved to be only a meeting of the Conservative Association, or, to be more accurate, of the Inland Revenue department of the spoils provided by the McPhillips branch of the McBride government, the hot polls, the mere voters were not invited—the select few only had tickets.

FIRE DEPARTMENT VACANCY.

Chief Watson of the Victoria Fire Department has resigned his position. Mr. Watson was a very energetic official. There is no question in the mind of the most outspoken of his critics that he did the best he could to guard the property of citizens from destruction by fire. The general trend of the complaint against him is that he did not display that administrative or organizing ability which should be the prime requisite in the head of a fire department. In consequence for some time there has been a latent feeling that it would be better in the interests of the city if a change were made. Mr. Watson has given the fire wardens an opportunity to engage an official whom they deem better qualified for such an important post. The judgment of this department of municipal government in making the selection of a successor to Mr. Watson will be watched with a good deal of interest by our citizens. They may be presumed to be acquainted with the personnel of the present members of the city's fire-fighting corps and to know whether any of these members are competent to fill the vacancy resulting from Mr. Watson's resignation. There will also doubtless be a considerable number of applications from outside sources, making the matter of selection an extremely difficult one.

At this crisis in fire department affairs it is not a matter for surprise that many citizens turn to the record of the predecessor of Mr. Watson, Mr. Thomas Deasy, and inquire whether a wisper thing could be done than attempt to secure his services. The Times does not know whether Mr. Deasy is disengaged, or whether, being disengaged, he would consent to his name being submitted as a candidate for the position. But the consensus of opinion is that, although somewhat autocratic in his relations with his men (a temperamental attribute which caused some friction and finally his resignation), the regime of the former chief was remarkable for the immunity Victoria enjoyed from destructive fires. It was possibly only natural that a volunteer fire brigade would not submit to the methods of discipline considered necessary by one who is essentially a disciplinarian. We have a fully paid department now, which is presumably amenable to whatever regulations may be considered necessary with the view of obtaining efficiency. Mr. Deasy's qualifications have been proved in the city of Nelson since he resigned his position in Victoria. None but a tried man should receive the appointment, in any event. The position is one of great responsibility and should go to a man of proved ability.

During the past couple of years the growth of the residential districts of Victoria has been remarkable. The business section of the city is just beginning to feel the quickening impulse of a new life. Many new blocks of handsome character and design are projected and will soon be in process of construction. The year 1909 will mark the beginning of our "growing time."

NELSON'S NEXT FIGHT.

Milwaukee, Wis., March 29.—Batting Nelson announced yesterday that a match had been arranged for him on April 23 in New York. His opponent will be picked from Pauley McFarland, Freddie Welsh or Owen Moran.

WILL UTILIZE TIMBER AT JORDAN RIVER

Company That Has Taken Over Holdings Is a Strong One.

The Michigan Lumber Company, which has recently taken over the holdings of the Jordan River Lumber Company near here, are preparing to fully develop their holdings. Several days ago the announcement was made in the Times that the transfer of the property had taken place. Those interested in taking active steps to get everything in shape to take full advantage of the rich holdings. The company includes among its directors: Charles W. Liken, president of the Huron Bay Lumber Company of Sebawaing, Mich.; John H. Moore, of Seattle; W. T. Coleman, of the Nebraska Investment Company, Seattle; S. M. Cochran, president Nebraska Investment Co., Seattle; Charles W. Moore, president of the Mackley-Phelps-Bonell Co., Grand Rapids, Mich.; Wm. F. Knight, president White River Lumber Company, of Quebec, Canada; E. B. ... view president of the Standard Scow Co., Detroit, Mich.; Charles T. Moore, timber expert and mill owner, of the Wainwright and Judge W. L. Carpenter, of Detroit.

ROAD GRANT OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT GIVES RISE TO TROUBLE.

Two sessions ago the McBride government made an appropriation of \$125,000 to be spent on the main trunk roads of North Saanich. This money was not handed over to this municipal corporation as yet, but the city council knew a trick worth two of that. It was to be spent by the appointee of the association, but under the direction and with the advice of the association. One of the money has been spent for the purchase of a building which will be of brick and will be fitted up with every convenience.

OFFICERS AND INDIANS FIGHT PITCHED BATTLE.

Oklahoma City, Okla., March 29.—In a pitched battle at Hickory camp ground on Saturday night between a posse of five officers and twenty Creek Indians of the Snake clan, Officers Edward Daun and Herbert Odum, both of Cheolach, were killed. Frank Jones and William Carr, other members of the posse, escaped without injury and fled the settlement, where the news of the battle was telephoned to Sheriff Odum.

Frank Swift, a member of the posse of officers sent to the home of Chittl Harjo, chief of Snake clan of the Creek Indians, to serve a warrant on the chief, was not killed, but was probably fatally wounded. Herbert Odum, son of the sheriff of McIntosh county, and Edward Daun, city marshal of Cheolach, were killed outright. Swift dragged himself from the scene of the battle and was later picked up by Wm. Carr, one of the escaping officers, and taken to Pierce, a station a mile away. Frank Jones, another of the posse who escaped, boarded a train at Pierce and went to Cheolach, bearing some details of the battle.

The officers, having heard that the Snake Indians have been again peaceable after the battle of Thursday morning, approached the cabin of Harjo, near Hickory camp ground, without fear. As they entered the chief's yard twenty guns were levelled upon them from as many men in the house and around the corners. Odum and Daun fell dead and Swift was seriously wounded. Jones ran some yards and hid himself in a clump of trees until the Indians disappeared. Then he hurried to Pierce.

Within thirty minutes of the time when reports of the battle reached Cheolach, a hundred men were armed. Every available gun and practically all the ammunition in town were taken. In an hour fifty men were marching toward Hickory ground. When the news reached Muskogee, officers immediately issued a call for men, and in a short time a posse of fifty were ready to march.

A dispatch from Cheolach says that the Snake Indians have been purchasing rifles and ammunition for a month past, and that they are supplied with powder and lead enough to last them two days. Harjo, who had so often within the past two years expressed displeasure at the restraint of law, and has often called his men into council on that account, is believed to be determined to make a firm stand in behalf of his ideas of liberty. His band have been outlaws for years.

DEATH OF GEORGE PRICE.

St. John, N. B., March 29.—George Price, bow or of the famous Paris crew, died on Friday night at his home in Carleton. The crew won the championship of the world at Paris, France, in 1896, when he was but a like a fish trap now, but as it was a mile from the sea it could not be used for that purpose.

The final result was that a motion picture of the action of the McBride government in directing the diversion of the \$250,000. But Mr. Hewitt said the work on his road would go on the next day all the same.

Fancy Parasols Will Be Popular This Year

Indications point to this season being the greatest season for parasols that there has been for some time. Fancy parasols of all kinds will be greatly used, and parasols to match the suits worn are absolutely correct.

- FANCY PARASOLS, a beautiful assortment of sunshades, made of silk applique and chiffon, all dainty, desirable shades, and finished with frills. Priced at \$6.75 and \$9.75
FANCY PRINTED BATISTE PARASOLS, with spot, stripe and ring designs. \$7.50
LAWN PARASOLS, in sky, pink, Nile, pongee cream and white, cane handles \$1.00
LAWN PARASOLS, with fancy striped borders, in pink, mauve, sky and pongee at \$1.50
WHITE SILK PARASOLS, in Jap taffeta and Glace silk, \$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.00, \$3.50, \$3.75 and \$4.50
PONGEE PARASOLS, in lawn and silk, with pretty mounted natural handles, \$1.50, \$1.75, \$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.00, \$3.50 and \$3.75
SILK PARASOLS, in pongee, with floral design border, and tan and navy, with fancy striped borders \$2.50
SILK PARASOLS in newest stripe and fancy borders, with patent frame, in all colors. \$2.75, \$3.00 and \$3.50
WHITE LAWN PARASOLS, with lace and Swiss insertion and double row tucks, non-rusting frame, natural wood handles at \$1.75
SELF-COLORED PARASOLS, with silk mixture cover, in shades of Alice, tan, brown, electric, royal green, sky, emerald and navy blue, with natural wood handles \$1.50
SILK PARASOLS, with pretty stripe and check effect and satin border \$2.00

Settle the Hat Question Now

Don't wait until the last minute, when the milliners will be rushed, select your hat now, the assortment is broad enough to please you, no matter how hard you are to suit, and this season's styles are so varied that you will have no trouble getting a hat that is correct and at the same time becoming.

DAVID SPENCER, LTD.

ANOTHER BLOCK TO BE BUILT IN CITY

B. C. Land & Investment Company Will Erect Three-Story Building.

Victoria is to be marked this summer by the greatest activity in the building line that it has seen for many years. In addition to those already mentioned, the B. C. Land & Investment Company have made arrangements to at once erect a new block on the corner of Langley and Broughton streets.

PREPARING TO CELEBRATE EMPIRE DAY

Nanaimo, March 25.—There will be a meeting to-morrow night in the Athletic Club to consider the question of holding a celebration on the 24th of May on an entirely new plan. The club would include the Saturday matinee, but when the theatre is occupied by touring shows the Gardner company will fill the night at the Vancouver opera house, returning next day for the night performance here.

ATHLETIC CLUB MAY ARRANGE FOR PROGRAMME AT NANAIMO.

The prices for the season will probably be \$1.50 for boxes and \$1.00 to 25 cents for other seats. The preliminary arrangements include the painting of the outside of the theatre and the re-decoration of the interior in parts, and the re-appointing of the stage and dressing rooms.

Brookville, Ont., March 29.—Joseph Laroque, Gilbert Russell and James Murray, three boys, were found guilty of robbing mail boxes at the local post-office on April 23 in New York. They are sentenced to terms of not less than three years and not more than five years. All go to industrial schools at Toronto.

VICTORIA THEATRE LET TO EDMUND GARDINER

High-class Productions Promised for Summer Months.

A sixteen weeks' lease of the Victoria theatre has been taken by Edmund Gardiner, well known in the United States as a theatrical director for the past fifteen years, and last summer of San Diego, Cal., where he occupied the Isis theatre the whole summer. Mr. Gardiner has to-day taken possession of the theatre and is this morning busy giving instructions to contractors for the rehabilitation of the premises inside and out.

MAIL BOX ROBBERIES.

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PIONEER RESIDENT OF CITY PASSES AWAY

Thomas Edward Wood Died Saturday at Very Advanced Age.

In the death of Thomas Edward Wood, which took place on Saturday at the family residence, 1123 Caladonia avenue, Victoria loses one of its oldest citizens, both in years and in length of residence.

WRONG IMPRESSIONS OF SOQUEL WAGON

James Thom recently, take rectly, some he fears has circumstances of life from Pacha last corrects some the account of the Soquel. son says: "While recollecter and related crew for it seemed to me the completely done by Capt. er Tees, with doubtly he would have more hours which their vailed. "Being a pe an eyewitness from the mo ed till the fa attest to the fact. "On Saturd 23rd, somehw wreck was sig the second m and immedi who, with h once order shap toward close to the safety. No e either on boar time. Later lieved a man smoke either Capt. Townes lowered, man lam and four them life bet this was goi done altho also, which by the life-s The Tees' bo however, and er boat, the about an hou out effect, owing, to make men, who n having left Leesho's boat crew saved mately a line the men o the sea in a earned great steamed whe Richards, had ing them, an that was use "As daylight nothing more lowing morn into Banfield "It was re Cape Beas the and the A made an att searchlight, b suit.

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