

## MUNICIPAL NOTES.

To November 16, no further certificates of approval to money bylaws were issued by the Inspector of Municipalities, Victoria.

The City Treasurer, New Westminster, was recently in receipt of \$25,000 from the Northern Pacific Railway. This sum is the first payment on account of rentals in advance for the waterfront property leased to the railway by the city, comprising 495 feet of wharfage, including the present site of the city market. The lease which passed the City Council had been duly executed, and was handed to Judge Reid, the attorney for the railway, in return for the \$25,000. Under the agreement with the city, the company is now at liberty to take possession of the site at any time before July, 1916, the date when the lease becomes automatically operative, on giving three months' notice to permit of removing the market. On taking possession, a further sum of \$27,000 must be paid, after which rentals are payable quarterly in the usual manner.

The Board of School Trustees of the City of Victoria let a contract for the erection of a school on the South Park site of Luney Brothers for a sum of \$7,670. Work will start immediately.

Ratepayers of Vancouver will not be asked to vote on any new money bylaws for school purposes at the coming election, according to a recent decision of the School Board. A bylaw for \$50,000 for a new gymnasium at the King Edward High School will be resubmitted, however, and sanction asked for diverting the funds to general school purposes. The gymnasium may be built out of money obtained from the sale of the Grandview school.

City Treasurer of Victoria's statement issued this week showed that up to the end of October 67 per cent. of the taxes levied had been paid. The extension of the rebate period will undoubtedly induce further payments. The estimated expenditure for the year was \$2,500,000. There has been collected up to October 31 in taxes the sum of \$1,460,000, and other revenue for the year was estimated at \$530,000. The estimated expenditures have, however, been curtailed by the Council, an amount of about \$115,000 having been cut off following the recent efforts of the Council to reduce outlay as far as possible, and other changes will probably permit of still further reductions.

It was expected that the Finance Committee would be in a position to deal with the matter immediately, but in view of the extension in the rebate period it has been decided to wait and ascertain what effect such extension will make.

Victoria's bank statement at the end of October showed credit balances in favor of the city to the amount of \$852,767. The total credit balances were \$2,202,547, chief items of which were: General purpose sinking funds, \$753,081; local improvement sinking fund, \$600,272; school purposes loan funds, \$89,000; Sooke Lake loan, \$117,560; sewer loan, \$209,000; local improvement construction accounts, \$267,000; police headquarters loan, \$70,714; water works loans, \$79,000; debit balances totalled \$1,349,779, made up of local improvement advances, \$832,362; annual loan by-law notes, \$475,000; general revenue account, \$42,417.

## NEW SHEEP RAISING COMPANY.

The British Columbia Sheep Company Limited, with an authorized capital of \$100,000, has been incorporated for the purpose of engaging in sheep ranching in the Province. The officers are: D. S. McDonald (president), John S. Rankin (secretary-treasurer), and D. A. Whitaker (general manager). The company is stated to have purchased 320 acres at Gibson's Landing with a large strip of land available for grazing purposes. The company hopes to be in operation about January first.

Undoubtedly the field is large. It will take some years of growth and development to satisfy the demand for lamb and mutton that is now obtained from beyond the borders of the Province. The experiment will be watched with a great deal of interest.

## LAND IN THE UPPER FRASER VALLEY.

The Pacific Great Eastern Railway, building north from Vancouver, crosses the summit of the coast range into the Dry Belt and into the upper Fraser valley, all within 120 miles of the coast and 160 miles of Vancouver. Here it follows north along the river 25 miles, leaving to the east by way of Kelly's Creek. This Fraser valley should not be confused with the lower Fraser, through which the C. P. R. and C. N. R. go. It is a continuation north from Lytton, where these railways leave it, to Big Bar, about 100 miles. The railway enters at Lillooet 47 miles north of Lytton, and leaves about 20 miles south of Big Bar. The valley is not wide, and there is not a great deal of land, approximately 15,000 acres workable, but the soil and climate will make this equal to a much larger area of less favored land. The land lies along the river in benches of from 100 to 500 acres, all level or nearly so, and all well above the river. These benches have been taken up and successfully farmed for years. They are mostly cleared of sage brush and individual irrigation systems have been installed. The soil is yellowish in color, slightly sandy in spots, sometimes stony; it is deep and very strong. The climate is excellent from a farming standpoint, and healthy and pleasant for residency. The only detailed precipitation records available are for Lillooet town. They cover from 1878 to 1882 inclusive, and show a range from 9 to 20 inches a year; 12 to 15 inches would be a fair average. The snowfall is light and the winters are not very cold except through winds. The summers get plenty of warmth for crops, and generally good harvesting weather. The crops successfully produced and well proven are: alfalfa, oats, wheat, potatoes, vegetables, berries, white beans and apples. Alfalfa grows three cuttings of from 1½ to 2 tons each. The potatoes are certainly equal to our renowned Ashcroft. Of the Pacific slope irrigated fruit districts Lillooet lies the farthest north, and its apples in flavor and keeping qualities benefit greatly therefrom. With the coming of the railroad the present farms will be cut in tracks of 30 to 80 acres. Small tracts, if properly worked, will be sufficient for individual holdings. It is hoped the settlers will cling to mixed farming; the alfalfa and good root crops will make dairying and hog raising profitable.

## CORPORATION OF B. C. LAND SURVEYORS.

The following gentlemen have been authorized recently to practice the business of land surveying: J. A. Carson, 1625 Eighth Avenue West, Vancouver; G. M. Christie, Ashcroft; H. McL. Elliott, Williams Building, Vancouver; A. R. Heyland, Kaslo; A. L. Purdy, Nelson; C. L. Roberts, Victoria; P. Sweatman, Box 200, Vancouver; E. O. Wood, Salmon Arm; H. C. Whitaker, New Westminster.

## The Standard Trusts Company

HEAD OFFICE .....	WINNIPEG
BRANCHES .....	VANCOUVER, EDMONTON, SASKATOON
Capital Subscribed and Fully Paid .....	\$ 750,000.00
Reserve Fund .....	400,000.00
Total Assets .....	12,750,000.00

All business of a trust character transacted. Administration of estates a specialty. Consultations and correspondence invited. Trust funds invested in first mortgage securities.

## VANCOUVER BRANCH

Jas. G. Forrester, Manager.

701-704 Vancouver Block.