

Dawson's Mayoralty

John Grant Likely to Become Chief Magistrate in Event of Incorporation.

Governor Ogilvie Urges Government to Make Improvements to Dawson Routes.

Ex-Mayor Grant, of Victoria, is likely to assume the chief magistracy honors of Dawson, according to northern advisers received by the Amur last night. A meeting of the citizens of Dawson was held on the night of January 10th to discuss the advisability of incorporating, and ex-Mayor Grant was the principal speaker. It is said in event of incorporation that he will not refuse to become "His Grace the Mayor."

The Amur being "in the snow" blockaded reported on the White Pass & Yukon railway has been removed, a train having got through to the coast on the 20th. A large number of passengers were aboard bound for southern ports, but the Victorian being in port, sixty of their number embarked on her for the Sound, reaching Port Townsend yesterday.

The Amur, which arrived at about 11 o'clock last night, brought only three, these being Thomas Moore, J. Dubuque and D. O'Neill. The steamer left Skagway on Thursday, and on the way south passed the disabled steamer City of Topeka heading for the Sound, in tow of the tug Pioneer. She also reports that the steamer Senator struck on her way north, but escaped serious injury.

Dawson advises brought by the Amur state that Albert Kronquist, a miner, was crushed to death by coming earth on No. 45 Bonanza creek. The body was uncovered as soon as possible, but death was almost instantaneous.

The roof of Governor Ogilvie's residence caught fire on the 21st, and for a time the house was threatened, but the governor, unaided, climbed the roof and extinguished the flames before the department arrived.

A Dawson dispatch, under date of the 22nd inst., says: "An exciting race on the trail came to an end this morning when Ralph Green, of Skagway, brother of W. L. Green, the hardware dealer, arrived with a ton of muzzles and late papers a few hours ahead of a competitor, A. W. Whalley, of Seattle, who had been contending with him on the trail in an effort to reach Dawson first, as the success or failure of each was a matter of several hundred dollars, as both had the same date of the Puget Sound papers and current periodicals. Green left Whalley at Dawson first, and the latter started out hot on his trail. On the C. D. cutoff Whalley succeeded in passing his rival nusher, and that night he slept with dreams of big sales. But while he slept young Green secured fresh horses and hit the trail by straight finish reaching Dawson but a few hours ahead of Whalley.

Young Dugas, son of Judge Dugas, has been appointed to the office of deputy register. Seventy of the most prominent men of Dawson have perfected the organization of a gentlemen's club.

In his annual report Governor Ogilvie urges the Dominion government to improve both the summer and winter routes to Dawson. He recommends to the Ottawa government that a cut off be constructed from Selkirk to Gold Run, thence to Dawson. The change would make the trail forty-five miles shorter than that over the present winter route over the Yukon river.

The government officials have prepared a report of the vital statistics of the Yukon country for last year. The report makes a sad showing for the country. It shows that 112 deaths occurred in the Yukon territory for the year from all causes. Notwithstanding the prevalence of malaria for a portion of the year, this is only seven deaths to the 1,000 inhabitants, which is much below the average in other localities. There were no deaths from smallpox. In the list of causes of death, accidents and pneumonia take the lead. The report gives the number of marriages for the year as 73, which is not regarded as a bad showing for a new country.

The first authentic news to be received from the new strike on Livingstone creek in the Big Salmon country is that brought out by Leonard Matfield, who, though not the discoverer, was one of the first locators in the creek. He said: "The discovery was made by the La Rose brothers, and others, and is six miles below Livingstone. It is seven miles from the gulch to the summit and 15 miles from there to the Hootalinqua. It is the finest placial wash I ever saw, and I have been engaged in mining for the past 20 years. When I left there were 22 claims recorded, and as I net quite a number going in on my outward trip, I suppose by this time there are a great many more. I washed out some of the dirt on one of the dumps, and as a result secured 5 dwts. of gold. The gulch is full of large boulders, and it is going to take considerable capital and a good deal of hard work to get down to bedrock, but I am fully convinced from what I have seen that the ground will warrant the outlay.

Alex. H. Anderson, of the A. C. Co., fell in for an agreeable surprise on arrival at Dawson from Teslin last month. Two years ago he had lost a purse containing \$1,000 on the trail. The bag was picked up by some other Teslin trapper, who brought it on down to Dawson and handed it over to the N. W. M. P., who placed it in the Canadian Bank of Commerce. Shortly before Christmas one of the police force had occasion to go over the papers in the care of the bank, and noticed this packet. He knew Mr. Anderson, and it struck him that he would like a Christmas present, so he delivered the papers to their owner, who was naturally very pleased to recover them.

WOLSELEY TO VISIT B. C.

Lloyd's weekly newspaper, January 13th, says: "Lord Wolseley, in a letter to a friend at Vancouver, British Columbia, says he proposes before long to pay a series of visits to his old friends in that part of the world. His holiday will be extended over several months."

TREATED THE PRESS.

In Tackling Dry Business School Board Employ Oranges as Lubricators.

The cynic who would assert that there is no sociability in the public bodies of Victoria, would be speedily disillusioned had he attended the meeting of the board of school trustees' last evening. The consideration of estimates is generally conceded to be a dry undertaking, and the foresight of the superintendent in providing some excellent oranges consequently commended itself at once upon the most superficial observer. That the negotiation of each delectable fruit enabled the board to polish off the business with magnificent alacrity was quite palpable to even the scribes in the street. The latter were not neglected, either, for just before they took their departure, evidently in appreciation of their presence, and, perhaps, as a farewell honorarium, they also partook of some of the hospitality of the superintendent from the box in the corner, and the avid manner in which they demolished their prizes showed that even they could appreciate a good thing when they saw it.

Projected Improvements

What Needs Doing About the City and What It Will Cost.

Some of the Bigger Charges Which Must Be Met This Year.

There seems to be a general disposition displayed to back up the council in any steps they may take in progressive improvement of the city during the present year. The council, too, seem to share the desire to make the first year of the century one of marked advancement in adding to the substantial assets of the municipality.

In the multifarious projects which have been thrust upon the council, however, some at least seem to have the sign of the great expense which will be entailed. From members of the aldermanic board and from others, the Times has secured the following statement of projected work, and the probable cost of the same.

1. James Bay causeway. According to the city engineer, \$100,000.

2. Point Ellice steel bridge. According to some of the cost of this structure will be \$50,000, while others place it at twice that amount. There is, of course, a probability of the practical project and of the tramway company contributing a portion of the cost, but that is not yet determined.

3. A new High school building. This should be regarded as one of imperative necessity. The cost according to Trustee Belyea would be about \$30,000.

4. Home for the Aged and Infirm. A few evenings ago one of the aldermen stated that this work must be soon undertaken as the present building is insufficient for present needs. It is open to serious objection also because of its location. The probable cost of this structure is set at \$10,000.

5. New water main on Government street. This will have to be laid on the paving of Government street is to be proceeded with next summer, in order to obviate expense in the future. The cost of this is set at \$10,000, also 4-inch main on Fourth street at \$1,750.

6. New fire hall. This will be rendered necessary if the railway ferry scheme is carried through and the market building and headquarters fire brigade building utilized for a railway depot. The cost of this will be \$20,000, of which the railway company agree to contribute \$7,500.

7. Sewer extension. The expense involved in this would be about \$50,000.

8. Additions to electric light plant. Demands are constantly being made for more lights, and without extension of the plant it is impossible to add any further lamps. Cost, \$5,000.

9. Street paving. Blocks with concrete curbs will in all probability be laid on Government street, and possibly on Johnson street next season. The expense will probably be \$20,000 or \$25,000.

10. Permanent sidewalks. These will accompany the permanent street improvement. The cost will be about the same as last year.

11. Expropriation of land for Craigflower road. The cost for this cannot, of course, be even approximated, although it is not expected to be very heavy.

12. Repairs to Agricultural hall. These will have to be effected if the fair is to be held there this year. Cost about \$1,500 or \$2,500.

13. Extension of cemetery. This is for the purpose of putting the three acres adjoining the present lots in shape. Cost, about \$1,000.

14. Increases in salaries. Already the police commissioners have recommended an increase in the salaries of the force of over \$2,000, and the firemen are petitioning for an increase in their wages. The above does not provide for the lifting of the subsidy for the railway ferry, which may not become a charge this year, nor for the payment of \$10,000 this year which will be a fixed charge until the \$200,000 involved by the bridge is paid. The sum of \$250,000 is therefore a reasonable figure at which to place projected improvements for the year 1901.

Only vague reports reach here regarding the events which are transpiring in the vicinity of Carupano. That town is first in the possession of the insurgents and then again occupied by the government forces.

Council in Session

Police Board and Council Do Not Agree on Salaries Being Raised

Premier Dansmuir's Reply to the Board—Clothing Petition For Early Closing Hours.

There was a more than usual business-like swing to the council proceedings last evening, and, although many important routine matters came up for consideration, there was little if any opposition or palaver. Consequently at 10 o'clock an adjournment was taken.

In opening the mayor stated that he had been served with a rule nisi to set aside the Craigflower Road by-law, the same being returnable on the 5th of February. The complainant was Richard Hall, and the attorneys Fell & Gregory.

H. Dallas Helmcken, M. P., wrote suggesting that a public meeting be held for the consideration of a memorial to the board of trustees, and the honor of the writer thought a maternity home would be a suitable monument. The letter was laid on the table for further consideration.

The same writer also suggested that the legislative committee of the city council submit the proposed amendments to the city by-laws and municipal act before the citizens at the earliest possible time. The matter was laid over.

Another letter from the secretary of the board of trade regarding an additional grant for a second edition of the board's report, was filed.

An invitation from the secretary of the memorial committee to the mayor and council was read, asking them to attend the meeting of the memorial committee on Saturday. The invitation was accepted.

R. H. Sterling tendered his resignation as wire inspector, to take effect as soon as possible. The communication was received and referred to the standing committee on electric light for a report.

Messrs. Lee & Fraser, in a communication, said they thought it advisable while property is at a moderate price, and in consideration of a material appropriation expended on the cemetery last year, that the burying grounds be now extended. They had prepared a plan of a number of lots that could be obtained from them, and recommended that the council consider the matter. The letter was referred to the cemetery committee for report.

C. S. Baxter drew attention to the very unsatisfactory condition of a drain in front of his premises off Cadboro Bay road.

Mr. Beckwith and Ald. Brydon were of opinion that the evil complained of should be remedied without delay, the matter having been previously brought before the board. Referred to the first meeting of the streets, bridges and sewers committee with power to act.

R. E. Gosnell, Premier's secretary, acknowledged the letter from the council asking for the assistance of the government in the reclamation of the city were, on suggestion of Ald. Williams and motion of Ald. Yates, laid over. They were referred to the city engineer or mislanner, while, should the council committees having charge of these matters for report.

The standing committee on finance recommended the payment of monthly accounts totalling \$9,008.11. The report was adopted.

The standing committee on finance also recommended that the work of laying a 12-inch pipe on Government street at a cost of 9,400, and a 4-inch pipe on 6th Street at \$750, be proceeded with. Approved.

From the same source came a report regarding the proposed advance in advertising rates to go into effect this year with the Times and Colonist. The committee suggested that the managers of both papers be asked to reconsider their decision. The report was adopted.

The legislative committee report adopted by the council was as appended.

Gentlemen—Your committee on legislation, being requested to report as to the advisability of taking such steps as may be necessary to provide for an extension of the session of the council to hold office without re-election, beg to report as follows:

Your committee is in favor of the suggested extension and would accordingly recommend that the necessary amendment to the Municipal Elections Act should be obtained at the next session of the provincial legislature so as to enable aldermen of municipalities having a council of nine aldermen to be elected for three years, one-third of the aldermen so elected thereafter retiring annually. Your committee would further recommend that the statute should be so amended as to provide that the above principles of election should not come into force in any municipality until it had received the sanction of the electors of such municipality, such sanction to be obtained at an annual election for mayor and aldermen in such municipality.

Ald. Williams's motion that tenders be invited for the binding of the annual reports, and Ald. Yates's motion for leave to introduce a by-law to be known as the "New Year's Day" by-law, were next dealt with. Both motions were passed, and the by-law was put through its first and second reading, the council afterwards adjourning.

The governors of the New York Stock Exchange have decided to suspend business on Saturday, February 2nd, in respect to the memory of Queen Victoria. He did not think it advisable to attempt all these repairs in one year.

Trustee Brown explained that these repairs were absolutely necessary. However, if Trustee Hall would raise his figure to \$9,000 he would support it.

The latter was obsolete, however, and after some further discussion the amount was allowed to stand at \$5,000. The committee having completed the ordinary estimates, rose and reported. The board adopted the report of the committee.

Completed Estimates

Extraordinary Expenditure of \$30,000 For New High School Buildings Included.

Large Amount of Repairs Required at Various Premises—Itemized List.

The board of school trustees last evening completed their estimates for the ensuing year, amounting to \$37,200. An extraordinary estimate of \$30,000, providing for the erection of a new high school, was also included on motion of Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Drury.

As will be remembered this was included as an extraordinary estimate last year, and was not passed. This is really the first material step toward the institution of new buildings for the high school, and the general opinion of the board last evening was that the ratepayers would willingly pass a by-law providing for its construction and equipment.

The estimates as passed last evening, exclusive of the extraordinary item, were as follows, comparison being made with those of last year:

Janitors	1900.	1001.
Fuel	\$ 3,022 50	\$ 3,250
Light	1,014 70	1,500
Board Expenses	1,099 69	1,100
Printing and Advertising	70 65	150
Postage	535 40	1,750
Supplies	254 41	500
Repairs and Alterations	3,976 52	5,000
Insurance	737 00	200
Miscellaneous	759 43	750
Salaries	41,620 00	43,000
Total	\$53,537 30	\$57,200

The meeting was held in the superintendent's office, all the board, with the exception of Mrs. Wm. Grant, being present. After the usual formalities a communication was read from Beaufort Borge asking that in the event of no appropriation having yet been made for the erection of a school building in Victoria West further consideration of the estimate be postponed until after the public meeting on Tuesday night (tonight). The communication was laid on the table.

The legislative committee, consisting of Trustees Brown, Hall and Jay, were authorized to draw up some desired amendments to sections 36, 37 and 38 of the Educational Act, referring to finances, on the suggestion of the superintendent, who pointed out that the sections were not quite clear. Arrangements were also instituted for a children's memorial service, to be held on Friday afternoon, in probably the Metropolitan Methodist and St. Andrew's Presbyterian churches.

The estimates were dealt with by the board in committee of the whole. The all important question of teachers' salaries occasioned considerable discussion. The estimate this year for this department exceeds the amount now expended by \$1,380. Out of this amount there will be \$780 for increase, and the remainder will be for an additional teacher.

In this connection the superintendent pointed out that he foresees the appointment of a new teacher for some of the schools at the Kingston street school at \$1,200, and that the amount of the high school vacate the present buildings, more teachers will be necessary. At any rate another teacher is now required at the Central school. Without any action on the part of the board the superintendent explained that the amount expended in salaries was now \$41,620.

Trustee Brown warned the board against appropriating an insufficient amount for this purpose, but Trustee Belyea gave the assurance that the \$780 would be more than sufficient to allow for increase in salaries.

Trustee Drury advocated a leveling in the matter of salaries. There were teachers doing as good work as others who were receiving higher salaries, and the trustee did not consider this just. Trustee Belyea suggested that of the additional amount voted, \$300 be for the salary of a new teacher. He suggested that the amount \$42,500, which was first considered, be reduced to \$43,000, and this would allow an extra of \$780 for increase.

Trustee Brown favored dealing with the matter of salaries at once. He was told that this could not be discussed publicly, and the trustee then moved that it be considered behind closed doors. This course was not adopted, and finally, after some further discussion, the teachers' salaries item was allowed to stand at \$43,000.

In regard to the item for repairs and alterations, Trustee Brown did not consider the amount appropriated sufficient. Already \$1,050 had been expended in repairs.

In reply to Trustee Jay, Trustee Brown gave a brief outline of the repairs absolutely necessary in the various schools, Hillside avenue, North Ward, Rock Bay, South Park, Kingston street, Spring Ridge and Boys' Central schools, all requiring repairs, some of which were fairly extensive, the trustee enumerating what each institution required in this respect. As to the High school, Trustee Brown pointed out that in the event of a new building not being erected, the present premises will have to be completely remodeled. The roof was in a deplorable condition. In fact the speaker said that the amount suggested, \$4,000, would not cover the expenditure required. He favored increasing the amount up to \$8,000, and moved to this effect.

Trustee Hall moved in amendment that the amount be \$5,000. He cautioned the board against asking too much, if they contemplated the erection of a High school. He did not think it advisable to attempt all these repairs in one year.

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then came up, and the board prepared to wrestle with it. The amount of \$30,000 for a new High school was passed with little discussion, Trustee Brown pointing out that a new building was absolutely necessary. He believed that the ratepayers would willingly grant the amount. He thought an excellent building could be erected for that sum—one of about eight rooms, containing accommodation for 200 to 250 students. It could be so constructed that additional apartments could be erected if time and pressure on accommodation rendered it necessary. He pointed out that they already had splendid grounds.

The question of a new school for Victoria West was also introduced. Trustee Brown being of the opinion that \$15,000 would be sufficient for the purpose.

Trustee Hall wanted a new school for Victoria West, explaining that a site might be secured on the Indian reserve.

Trustee Drury also believed a new Victoria West school was required, owing to the present insufficient accommodation.

Trustee Belyea believed that if \$30,000 was asked for a High school and \$15,000 for a new Victoria West school at one time the ratepayers would grant neither. He thought a High school was wanted by the people, but opined that next year would be time enough for the Victoria West school. By then the Indian reserve question will probably be settled and a site can be secured on it. At the present time where could the board get their site?

Finally, after some further discussion, it was decided not to include an estimate for a new Victoria West school this year. On motion of Trustee Brown the buildings and grounds committee were authorized to interview the governments in an endeavor to secure a site on the Indian reserve on which to erect a new school next year.

On motion of Dr. Hall it was decided to remove the telephones from the schools.

The board then gently intimated to the scribes present that they preferred to

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H. B. MCHERR