CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Inaugural Meeting of 1908 Council—Standing Committees Struck—Statement as to City's Standing in Relation to Bank—Ald Manuel's Claim for Damages Turned Down—Change in Method of Paying Accounts—Decision to Appoint Permanent Auditor.

(From Tuesday's Bulletin.)

The inaugural meeting of the city council for 1908 was held Monday evening. There were no absentees, and when the meeting was called to order at 8.10 o'clock and the button touched by which the civic machine y for the year of grace 1908 set in motion, the mayor and aldermen, who were sworn in by Commissioner Kinnaird, assumed their desks around the council board in this order:

Mayor McDougall.

O

Ald. Bellamy. Ald. Manson.
O O
Ald. Armstrong. Ald. Lee.
O O
Ald. McInnis. Ald. Gariepy.
O O
Ald. Fraser. Ald. Anderson.
O O

The meeting was an important one. The work was not merely of a routine character. It embraced questions of considerable size. It was a business-like meeting and was well conducted by Mayor McDougall. He directed the consideration of the business with the skill of a much more experienced municipal administrator. His inaugural address intimated in a general way the policy of the council during the present year. It was a model of lucidity. The Mayor was responsible for eleciting the first definite statement of the city's financial standing in relation to its bankers, given to the public within a year.

The proceedings were opened by the inaugural address of the Mayor.

"We are gathered here tonight," he said, "to assume and take over the management of the affairs of the city for the present year: we have been honored by the ratepayers of Edmonton in having been selected to carry on this work—we now have the confidence of the people and I hope that our management of the city's business and the efforts which we shall put forth, endeavoring to further advance the interests of the city, will meet with such approval as shall enable us to retain that confidence throughout the year.

"We have assumed a grave responsibility and I hope that you fully realize the importance of the duties devolving upon us, and will ever bear in mind the fact that public office is a public trust, and that you will at all times give every matter that comes before you in your official capacity your very best attention and most careful consideration, endeavoring in every instance to do what, in your judgment, is for the best interest of the city.

"For some little time I know the work will be somewhat strange and unfamiliar to us, but I hope that you will endeavor, as soon as possible, to make yourselves thoroughly acquainted with the city charter, as well as with every department of the city's affairs—by frequent personal visits and inspections. By thus familiarizing yourselves with the charter and the city's several undertakings and works, your opinion and advice will be doubly valuable.

"I understand that copies of the charter—as amended to date—are being printed, and as soon as they are I shall see that each member of the council is supplied with one.

A Leavening Trio.

"We have reason to congratulate ourselves in having three members of the old council sitting with us this year as their past experience and advice should prove valuable to us in our deliberations.

"You, gentlemen, are the legislative body and the commissioners are your servants, prepared at all times to carry out your instructions and report progress to you from time to time, as well as to submit recommendations which they—on account of their being in closer touch with the city's affairs—may deem advisable, but as you share the responsibility of the work done by the commissioners, it is your duty to satisfy yourselves that their work is well done. I am confident that the commissioners will appreciate and will not resent your visits of enquiry and inspection.

Amendments to Charter.

"I understand that the past council have given notice that some amendments to the city charter would be asked for at the coming session of the legislature. These amendments will, no doubt, be submitted to you for your consideration. There may be other amendments found desirable, which it will be your duty to attend to at the earliest possible moment, as the legislature sits on the 16th inst., and as notice of further amendments must be given, there is no time to be lost.

"The charter says that the commissioners of the city shall annually submit to the council at its first meeting after the annual election, recommendations and estimates for expenditures, which in their opinion should be made by the city during the current year. It has been found impossible to do this in the past, and it cannot be done at this meeting. It will, however, be done as soon as possible.

"On account of the large amount of money received and paid out by the city and with the view and desirability of keeping the books of the several departments audited up to date, I am convinced that the time has arrived when the city should have a permanent auditor.

To Investigate Book-keeping.

"I intend to look carefully into the manner in which the different utilities of the city are managed and how the books are kept, with the view of separating them more distinctly, if possible, so that the best results can be obtained, and I will endeavor to have them so conducted that a statement from each or any of the revenue producing utilities can be submitted to you at the beginning of any month, showing exactly what is being done.

"I am satisfied that it would be in the best interests of the city, if in future all important works, as well as the purchase of a large portion of the supplies required by the city, were let by tender.

Health Department Investigation.

"There is a very necessary and important department that now is costing the city a very large amount of money, which I think demands your careful consideration, and that is the medical and scavenging department. If you can offer any suggestion or make any recommendation for carrying on the work in any way which will lessen the expense and at the same time maintain a high standard of efficiency, you will be doing the city a valuable service.

"The assessor, I understand, has already commenced the preparation of the assessment roll for the current year. In making the assessment it is of the utmost importance, and it will establish confidence that will have the effect of strengthening our credit if care is taken to have the land only assessed at its fair, actual value, as provided for by the charter. At the present time some businesses are licensed and some are taxed. It might be found advisable to look into this matter at an early date, and if any change is considered desirable it should be made before the assessor gets on too far with his work. According to the charter, the assessment roll must be completed by the 30th day of April in each year.

"In future elections there should be at least four polling divisions in the city, and this matter should be looked into and decided upon by you.

"It is to be hoped that some satisfactory arrangement can be arrived at, at an early date, with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company regarding their entrance into the city.

As to Public Works.

"Regarding the public works to be carried on by the city this year, it is not likely that any new undertakings of any magnitude will be entered into. It will probably be found that there will be quite enough to do, considering the state of the money market, to carry to completion the works begun and the contracts entered into by last year's council, such as the extension of the electric light and power plant and the waterworks system, incinerator, sewerage on McDonald's Flats, septic tanks, street paving, the completion of the telephone system and possibly a market building.

"Unless money gets cheaper and more plentiful it is not likely that much will be done this year in connection with the building of the street railway, other than laying the rails that have been purchased, as the paving of the streets progresses.

"One of the first things that you will have to attend to will be to pass the necessary money by-laws and submit some of them to the burgesses for their approval, for raising the $850,000.00, being the estimated amount required to pay off the obligations of the city in connection with the work done, the supplies purchased and for the purpose of carrying to completion the obligations entered into by last year's council.

Offer for Debentures.

"There has already been one definite and very good offer of 95 received for the purchase of £50,000 worth of the proposed issue of debentures, bearing interest at 5 per cent. This offer was coupled with a request for an option at the same price for the balance till the 30th April, and if the option was taken up the city would be out the interest during the tenure of the option. The offer was made on the condition that no further issue would be placed on the market for nine months. Two other enquiries from responsible London brokers have also been received, both of whom are prepared to make an offer for the whole issue as soon as they can get the particulars of the proposed issue. The offer that was received was considered at an informal meeting of the old council, at which I was present, and it was not considered advisable to accept it on account of the conditions attached.

"I was informed by the finance commissioner that they had not yet been able to complete the calculations of the different amounts required for the several issues, and as some of the by-laws had yet to be submitted to the burgesses for the endorsation, they would probably not be ready to deliver the debentures before the middle of February. It is not likely that if a sale were effected that the city could get the money before the debentures were finally passed and printed and ready for delivery.

"It is, however, very gratifying to know that the prospects look so favorable for the sale of our debentures and at a fairly satisfactory price. It certainly speaks well for Edmonton and shows beyond doubt that we are becoming favorably known abroad, that our credit is looked upon as good by the leading financiers in the great money centre of the world, and shows a confidence in the future of Edmonton which confirms the opinions of our own people and should be exceedingly gratifying to our citizens.

"We, however, must not jeopardize our credit by drawing too heavily upon it.

Council a Strong One.

"In conclusion, let me say that you are looked upon as a strong council, as men capable in every respect to satisfactory handle the affairs of the city and all matters that may come before you during the year. The best of results, therefore, are expected from your administration, and I look forward with the utmost confidence and feel certain that the duties with which you have been entrusted will be dealt with by you faithfully, impartially and to the best of your ability, with an eye singly to the best interests of our city.

"I hope that our relations with each other during the year will be of the most cordial kind. I shall at all time be glad to consult with you on matters pertaining to the welfare of the city, and I shall expect valuable assistance and advice from you, which will greatly help me to satisfactorily fulfil my responsible duties."

Suspended Regular Order.

To permit of the striking of the standing committees, the regular order of business was suspended. After the mayor's address was delivered and the minutes of the final meeting of the 1907 council were read. The council then resolved itself into committee of the whole.

His Worship, in introducing the subject of the standing committees offered for consideration a proposal to establish a new standing committee, a general committee, a committee to which matters of general interest should be referred.

Alderman Gariepy suggested that a standing committee on public works should be added to the other permanent committees. This was advisable in order to obviate the necessity of referring matters to the commissioners to secure data. He suggested also that this year the finance committee should be an active committee. In former years the financial work of the city devolved entirely upon the commissioners. It was neither fair to the council nor to the commissioners that the responsibility of financing the city should be placed on the shoulders of the commissioners. He further advised that three standing committees of last year, namely, the new industries, trade and commerce and railway and transportation committees should be combined, the committee to be known as the railways and commerce committee. He pointed out that under the charter provision was made for a standing committee on assessment, a committee that was non est last year. This committee was one under whose supervision the work of the assessor was conducted.

He moved that there be six standing committees, finance, public works, by-laws, assessment, general and railways and commerce; that each committee be composed of three members, and that the mayor select the members.

Personnel of Committees.

This the mayor proceeded to do and as a result of his deliberations he announced the personnel of the committees as follows:

Finance—Ald. Bellamy, chairman; Aldermen McInnis, Lee and Gariepy.

Public works—Ald. Manson, chairman; Aldermen Anderson, Fraser and McInnis.

Bylaws—Ald. Gariepy, chairman; Aldermen Manson, Bellamy and Armstrong.

Assessment—Ald. McInnis, chairman; Aldermen Armstrong, Bellamy and Lee.

Special—Ald. Armstrong, chairman; Aldermen Anderson, Manson and Fraser.

Railways and commerce—Ald. Lee, chairman; Aldermen Gariepy, Armstrong and Fraser.

The committee rose and adopted the committees as named by the mayor.

Must Go First to Council.

Alderman Gariepy relieved himself of another idea. Last year the matter of giving out information to the press in advance of its submission to the council was left to the discretion of the mayor. He believed this had not worked out well, and he suggested that the reports of the commissioners should not be issued to the press before being submitted to council. This idea seemed to meet with general favor.

Owe School Board $50,000.

It was in connection with a communication from Boyle & Parlee, solicitor for the public school board, that a statement of the city's standing with the bank was obtained. The solicitors for the board wrote formally demanding that the amount due to the board from the city raised by school taxes be immediately paid.

"What explanation is there for this not having been paid?" the mayor asked Commissioner Kinnaird.

Commissioner Kinnaird explained that the demand of the public school board had not been met by reason of the fact that some $90,000 taxes remained unpaid at the end of the year. He stated the demand would be paid when the city secured a loan of $75,000 from the Imperial Bank, which had already been arranged.

"How much do we owe the school board?" asked the mayor.

"Originally $50,000 to the public school board and $5,750 to the separate school board, part of both of which have been paid," replied the commissioner.

"What do we now owe the bank?"

Two hundred thousand dollars. We have arranged to borrow $255,000 more from the bank, $75,000 immediately on the security of unpaid taxes, and $180,000 on the strength of next year's taxes, which amount may be used from time to time during the year."

The letter from the school board was fyled on the understanding that the amount due should be immediately paid.

Will Cost City $35,500.

A letter from Wm. Whyte, vice-president and general manager of the C.P.R., placed the prospect of securing a traffic deck on the high level bridge to be constructed over the Saskatchewan in a more favorable light. This was the letter.

"With respect to traffic attachment to our railway bridge at Edmonton, I have heard from Mr. Drinkwater, who has had several interviews at Ottawa with the Minister or the Interior and Dr. McIntyre on this matter, and I believe that the best that the government will likely do will be to assist to the extent of 15 per cent., but they do this looking at it as a railway structure only.

"The bridge, with the attachment, if I remember rightly, was to amount to something like $1,000,000. Deducting the cost of this traffic attachment, which would be in the neighborhood of $270,000, would leave the cost of the railway structure $730,000, 15 per cent. upon which would be $109,500. The Government of Alberta to give $100,000 would leave $69,500 to be contributed by the municipalities of Edmonton and Strathcona. It is imperative that this matter should be decided at once, as we may need to go on with the work either as a railway bridge or with the traffic attachment at any time."

The communication was referred to the committee on railways and commerce, with instructions to interview representatives of the Strathcona city council and to report on the question. It was stated that Strathcona city council was preparing to submit a by-law to raise $25,000 toward the erection of the traffic deck of the bridge. This would leave $35,500 for the city of Edmonton to provide.

Cormack & MacKie, solicitors for J. Fraser, 25 Grierson street, wrote protesting against the business assessment of their client to the amount of $35, claiming that he was not taxable as a business. An application was made for a refund. The matter was referred to the commissioners for report.

The secretary of Westward Ho! Chapter of the Daughters of the Empire wrote stating that the chapter of the Daughters of the Empire did not approve of the operation of the ambulance presented by that chapter to the city, by any private person, preferring it should remain in the hands of the city until the city was in a position to operate it free of charge. The letter was fyled.

W. C. McNeill, St. John, N.B., wrote asking for the city's price on a £50,000 block of the proposed $850,000 issue of debentures, and for an option until April on the remainder. The matter was referred to the commissioners with instructions to state no option would be given.

A Clash of Authority.

The claim of ex-Ald. Manuel for $1,283 damages resulting from the collapse of a warehouse on Sixteenth street, owned by him, alleged to have been caused by the city's neglect to provide for the draining of water in that vicinity, which undermined the foundations of the building, not only developed the fact that Alderman Manuel intended to go to the courts to secure a settlement of his claim, but also that there had been a conflict of authority between Commissioner Pace and Engineer Keeley.

The special committee to which the claim was referred reported through Chairman Manson that on the facts as presented by City Engineer Keeley the committee recommended the claim be not considered. The committee gave it as their opinion that if there was damage done as result of water undermining the foundations of the building, the responsibility rested with the C.N.R., who caused the blockade of water by the construction of a spur line in that vicinity.

Reports were received from Commissioner Pace, City Engineer Keeley and City Solicitor Bown. Commissioner Pace informed the council that on the request of Alderman Manuel he had visited the water blockade complained of, and decided that it could be drained from around the building by the installation of a small quantity of pipe. He gave instruction to Superintendent of Stores Hilliam to do the work. He subsequently learned to his surprise the order had been countermanded by City Engineer Keeley.

City Engineer Keeley besides stating the city was in no way responsible for the collapse of the building, referred to countermanding Commissioner Pace's order, explaining he was not aware the work was of immediate importance. He suggested that a recurrence of such a misunderstanding would be obviated by Commissioner Pace issuing orders for work through him. As to the cause of the collapse of the building the engineer stated that the warehouse was erected in the winter on marshy ground and on insecure footings. Furthermore, it was overloaded on one side. These conditions might have caused the collapse despite the water.

City Solicitor Bown advised that if anyone was responsible for the accumulation of water at the point in question it was the C. N. R. who had built a spur line over the street here and had blocked the natural course of the water outlet. Under the Railway act the railway company was responsible for damages resulting from such conditions. He advised the claim be not paid.

Ex-Ald. Manuel was granted permission to address the council. He said he submitted only that it had cost him to place the building in the shape it was before it collapsed. He was advised by his solicitors the city was responsible and he was prepared to spend $1,283 more to get his just claim. The facts as stated by Engineer Keeley, he declared to be false. He, however, said that the council could do nothing but adopt the report of the committee in view of the opinions submitted by the city officials. If he were a member of the council he would certainly vote to adopt the report.

"As ex-Ald. Manuel says," said Ald. Bellamy, "there is nothing for us to do but to adopt the report. But from the two reports presented by Commissioner Pace and Engineer Keeley an unfortunate condition of affairs is shown. It shows that the commissioner ordered a drain to be installed, an order which was subsequently countermanded by City Engineer Keeley. Why was this done? I cannot say that the installation of this drain at once would have prevented a collapse of the building. Still the unfortunate conditions existed that there was a clash of authority."

The question was further discussed but no heads were imperilled and Commissioner Pace and City Engineer Keeley breathed more freely.

Change in Paying Accounts.

Ald. Manson submitted the report of the finance committee, recommending that accounts amounting to $16,942.69 be paid if found to be correctly certified. The accounts were itemized as follows:—

Bank of Commerce	$ 1,153.15
Bremner Elec. Co.	2.00
Blowey, Henry Co.	8.00
Douglas Co.	47,057
Can. Nor. Ry. Co.	31.37
C. P. R. Co.	88.73
Can. Westinghouse Co. Ltd	500.64
City of Edmonton	753.01
W. H. Clark & Co.	58.14
Cushing Bros.	30.33
J. F. Cumming	1.00
W. H. Cooper	42.12
City assessor	206.21
Cash acct., paysheet wages	217.35
Cash acct., paysheet wages	236.25
Cash acct., paysheet wages	107.40
Cash acct., paysheet wages	1,507.10
Dominion Express Co.	1.60
Edmonton Tent and Mattress company	9.65
Edmonton Lumber Co.	261.14
Edmonton Exp. and Trans. Co	.50
Emery, Newell & Bolton	877.08
D. R. Fraser & Co.	236.71
W. A. Griesbach	500.00
J. F. Harbottle	76.00
Hamilton & Son	13.00
D. Higman	33.75
W. C. Ibbotson	13.95
Imperial bank	1,537.60
Imperial bank	693.52
Journal Co. Ltd.	20.70
E. A. Kemp & Sons	5.20
May, Sharp Cone. Co.	136.89
Bank of Montreal	1,800.00
Molsons bank	375.00
J. M. Manuel Co.	20.00
Monthly paysheet	110.00
Monthly paysheet	50.00
K. W. MacKenzie	7.30
Northern Elec. Co.	57.50
W. Peters	4.50
Prov. Govt., public works	1.25
F. J. Proctor	10.00
Robertson Safe Co.	29.75
Ross Bros.	23.15
Revillon Bros	151.07
St. Elmo hotel	52.80
Standard Plumbing Co.	30.00
J. B. Shearer, V.S.	19.00
Stromberg Carlson Co.	69.95
Smyth Lumber Co.	28.09
St. Joachim's R. C. S. school	49.35
Thom & Webb	63.95
Union bank	4,332.16
	$16,943.69

The Mayor's Query.

"Do you personally certify to the correctness of each individual account?" asked the mayor of Ald. Manson.

"No. That is not possible. I merely go over them as they are submitted to me, and recommend they be paid if properly certified and found to be correct by the heads of the various departments."

"That means the council has no table on the accounts?"

"Practically."

Ald. Manson then suggested an improvement on the present method of passing accounts. He advised that the finance committee inform itself definitely as to the correctness of each account before submitting it to council. In this way the council would not be dependent on the heads of the department. He moved that the accounts as presented be not paid until they had been authorized by the finance committee and that in future all accounts must be in the hands of the finance committee not later than the Saturday previous to the regular meeting of council on Tuesday.

Weighing of Coal.

Ald. Gariepy introduced the question of compelling coal dealers to weigh all coal on the city scales before delivering to purchasers. He advised that this matter be considered at once and moved to refer it to the committee on bylaws and special legislation for report and with instructions to bring down a bylaw making the official weighing of coal compulsory.

"This is a matter which should be given immediate attention," said Ald. Bellamy.

A bylaw authorizing the borrowing of $255,000 from the Imperial Bank, at 5 per cent. per annum, for current expenditures during the present financial year.

A Promise Fulfilled.

The mayor's pre-election promise to have a permanent city auditor appointed was introduced and the decision reached to make the appointment. Applications for the position will be called for at once. Ald. Gariepy introduced the subject. The mayor reiterated the opinion he expressed during his campaign that a permanent auditor was essential.

"It is very important," said Ald. Armstrong, "that a concise and complete audit of the city's finances be presented to the people of the city at the earliest possible moment."

Ald. Bellamy introduced the question of securing an amendment to the city's charter to provide for tenants' franchise. This amendment will be secured at the same time as amendments granting the city a radial railway charter, and power to fix the assessment of manufacturers are exploited for before the legislature. Ald. Gariepy drew the council's attention to the fact that the loss of the case brought against the city by Secord & York, on the smallpox quarantine, necessitated an amendment to the Health act to obviate the possibility of the city being again mulcted with costs in such an action.

In reference to the fixing of assessment of manufacturers, Ald. Gariepy moved this question to the new committee on bylaws. Ald. McInnis, speaking to this motion, said he considered manufacturers who were employers of labor, should not be compelled to pay on an inflated assessment of property. He favored fixing the assessment for ten years.

The regular meeting of council was set down for Tuesday evening of each week, and at the suggestion of the mayor it was decided the council should melt each Moonday evening in committee, when the various committees to whom matters have been referred, may discuss them and prepare their reports. This idea appealed to both old and new members. It will have the effect of keeping the business of the council right up to date.

The council adjourned at 11.15 o'clock.

C.P.R. Enlarging Sheds.

Owen Sound, Jan. 8.—The C.P.R. will add 200 feet to their shed room here during the winter, thereby facilitating the handling of the additional freight which it is expected the five steamers which are expected to trade from that port next season, will carry.

DIED.

SHAW—At Edmonton at the residence of J. F. McMillan, 335 Fraser ave., Neil Shaw. Funeral takes place from residence at 4 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 9th.

DIED.

ABBOTT—At Edmonton, Jan. 8th, '08, Alice Dorothy Eline Abbott, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Abbott, aged 3 years, 9 months, 16 days. Funeral leaves the family residence, 526 Namayo, on Thursday, Jan. 9th, at 2.30 p.m.

FRANCE ACTING IN THE BEST OF FAITH

Government Declares it Has no Desire to See War Between Japan and the United States—Much Exercised Over Reports.

Paris, Jan. 8—The French government is considerably exercised over the reports cabled to some American newspapers last week in which it is represented as secretly desirous of a war between Japan and the United States and the destruction of the American fleet, with the ultimate object of witnessing the internationalization of the Panama canal.

The Associated Press was authorized to declare today that nothing could be farther from the truth. France is the sincere friend of both countries, and she is extremely desirous of seeing the present diculty satisfactorily settled.

"Franace, as long ago as last spring, made a tender of her good offices in case she could be of service.

"You can say, moreover," the informant of the Associated Press said, "that France is entirely optimistic regarding the outcome. It seems to us that in the settlement of the immigration question the fact that Great Britain, Japan's ally, has the same problem to solve, should make it easier for America to reach a satisfactory adjustment, and probably if America and Great Britain act in unison along parallel lines the question would reach an early solution."

On the other hand, a growing nervousness regarding the outcome is to be seen in diplomatic circles here. A representative of one of the great powers said today to the Associated Press in this connection: "While I am optimistic regarding the immigration question unless there should be a recurrence of unfortunate attacks upon Japanese in California, I am distinctly pessimistic concerning the settlement of the ultimate issue, that of commercial supremacy in the Pacific. America stands for the open door; she has stood quietly by while Japan proceeded to monopolize Korea and Manchuria. When she seeks to enter China, as she will, America must halt or abandon the doctrine of the open door, which has been the keystone of her policy in the Far East.

Neither Ready for War.

Paris, Jan. 8—The newspapers here continue to give much space to the American-Japanese situation and comment upon the latest developments.

They print the alleged interview with Viscount Aoki, the retiring ambassador of Japan to the United States from San Francisco and take this as a text on which to base long articles. Viscount Aoki's denial of the interview has not yet been published here. Lacking this denial, the Journal des Desbats thinks that in his interview Aoki has placed his finger on the real danger point.

"Japan refuses to admit that anywhere on the globe the Japanese are socially inferior to any other people," says the paper.

"Japan claims to have won the absolute right to be treated as a great power everywhere and under all circumstances."

In the opinion of the Eclaire, if the two governments accede to the sentiments of the people and the logical necessities of the situation, a conflict would appear imminent.

"But Japan is without money and America is not ready," it adds, "consequently doubtless we will see the both nations champ at their bits a while longer."

The Gaulois believes that friendly and tactful powers at Washington will prevent a break. It fears only that the American people may become excited.

LINE NEARING REGINA.

Canadian Northern Telegraph Construction Proceeding Rapidly.

Regina, Sask., Jan. 8—Within a few days now Regina will have an alternative telegraph system to that afforded by the C. P. R. The C. N. R. telegraph construction gang has already got to the junction of the new branch with the Arcola line, with two wires that it is stretching, and arrangements are now being made with the city to allow of the lines being brought through east of the C. N. R. baggage and express office, where the temporary telegraph office will be located. Mr. H. McCoonkey, superintendent of construction and maintenance of telegraphs for the C. N. R., Winnipeg, is in charge of the work, which he hopes to see successfully completed by the end of the week.

Carpenter Falls Dead in Church.

Souris, Man., Jan. 7.—Jas. McKay, foreman carpenter on the work of erecting the new Methodist church here, dropped dead in the building while at work. He was working on the stairway when he threw down his hammer and walked over to a fellow workman. "I've lost my mitts and my hands are cold," said McKay, and then he fell forward, dying almost instantaneously. The doctors state that death was due to a clot in the brain. The remains have been sent to Linwood, Ont., in response to a wire from relatives. Not much more than a year ago a nephew, R. J. McKay, of Stoughton, Sask., was found dead in his bed.

Badminton Hotel.

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SYNOPSIS OF CANADIAN NORTH-WEST HOMESTEAD REGULATIONS.

Any even numbered section of Dominion Lands in Manitoba or the North-West Provinces, excepting 8 and 26, not reserved, may be homesteaded by any person the sole head of a family, or male over 18 years of age, to the extent of one-quarter section, of 160 acres, more or less.

Application for homestead entry must be made in person by the applicant at a Dominion Lands Agency or a sub-agency. Entry by proxy may however, be made at an agency on certain conditions by the father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister of an intending homesteader.

An application for entry or cancellation made personally at any Sub-agent's office may be wired to the Agent by the Sub-Agent, at the expense of the applicant, and if the land applied for is vacant on receipt of the telegram such application is to have priority and the land will be held until the necessary papers to complete the transaction are received by mail.

In case of "personation" or fraud the applicant will forfeit all priority of claim or if entry has been granted it will be summarily cancelled.

An application for cancellation must be made in person. The applicant must be eligible for homestead entry, tion will be received from an individual until that application has been disposed of.

Where an entry is cancelled subsequent to institution for cancellation proceedings, the applicant for cancellation will be entitled to prior right of entry.

Application for cancellation must state in what particulars the homesteader is in default.

A homesteader whose entry is not the subject of cancellation proceedings, may, subject to the approval of Department, relinquish it in favour of father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister, if eligible, but to no one else, on filing declaration of abandonment.

Duties.—A settler is required to perform the conditions under one of the following plans:—

(1) At least six months' residence upon and cultivation of the land in each year during the term of three years.

(2) A homesteader may, if he so desires, perform the required residence duties by living on farming land owned solely by him, not less than eighty (80 acres in extent, in the vicinity of his homestead. Joint ownership in

(3) If the father (or mother, if the land will not meet his requirement, father is deceased) of a homesteader has permanent residence on farming land owned solely by him, not less than eighty (80) acres in extent, in the vicinity of the homestead, or upon a homestead entered for by him in the vicinity, such homesteader may perform his own residence duties by living with the father (or mother).

(4) The term vicinity in the two preceding paragraphs is defined as meaning not more than nine miles in a direct line, exclusive of the width of road allowances crossed in the measurement.

(5) A homesteader intending to perform his residence duties in accordance with the above while living with parents or on farming land owned by himself must notify the Agent for the district of such intention.

Before making application for patent the settler must give six months' notice in writing to the Commissioner of Dominion Lands at Ottawa, or his intention to do so.

SYNOPSIS OF CANADIAN NORTH-WEST MINING REGULATIONS.

Coal.—Coal mining rights may be leased for a period of twenty-one years at an annual rental of $1 per acre. Not more than 2,560 acres shall be leased to one individual or company. A royalty at the rate of five cents per ton shall be collected on the merchantable coal mined.

Quartz.—A person eighteen years of age, or over, having discovered mineral in place, may locate a claim 1,500 x 1,500 feet.

The fee for recording a claim is $5.

At least $100 must be expended on the claim each year or paid to the mining recorder in lieu thereof. When $500 has been expended or paid, the locator may, upon having a survey made, and upon complying with other requirements, purchase the land at $1 per acre.

The patent provides for the payment of a royalty of 2 12 per cent. on the sale.

Placer mining claims generally are 100 feet square; entry fee $5, renewable yearly.

An applicant may obtain two leases to dredge for gold of five miles each for a term of twenty years, renewable at the discretion of the Minister of the Interior.

The lease shall have a dredge in operation within one season from the date of the lease for each five miles. Rental $10 per annum for each mile of river leased. Royalty at the rate of 2 1-2 per cent. collected on the output after it exceeds $10,000.

W. W. CORY,
Deputy of the Minister of the Interior

N.B.—Unauthorized publication of this advertisement will not be paid for.