

Twice-a-Week Times

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THE TIMES AND THE WATER QUESTION.

Mr. Phil. R. Smith is in error in charging that the Times has changed its position on the question of the acquisition by the city of the works of the Esquimalt Water Company. The Times opposed purchasing the property at the figure set by the company. It held that the price asked was exorbitant in the light of the figures submitted by experts as to the amount which had been expended by the company in improving its property. The Times also opposed expropriation by the city under the special act the company had procured from the legislature apparently for the very purpose of covering its case and extorting an unfair, an unreasonable, a ridiculous, sum from the municipality. But the circumstances have been completely changed by later developments. Owing to pressure brought to bear upon the McBride government—and heavy pressure had to be applied in order to do it—it is now possible to expropriate the property of the company upon terms which promise to be fair and reasonable, upon terms bearing at least an approximate relationship to the actual value of the holdings. Our critic has little faith in the possible findings of an arbitration court, apparently. He seems to think there is neither righteousness nor good faith left in the world—that every one is out to "do" somebody else if he can, and that in particular the people in their corporate capacity are fair game for exploiters. We are willing to concede this much to the evident prejudice of our correspondent: that the manner in which the Esquimalt Water Works Company contrived to establish itself in its present position, through transparent connivance with past governments and legislatures, to the prejudice of the prior rights of the city, proves that the persons in charge of that company's affairs were determined to make the most of their opportunities without stopping to give too much consideration to the justice or even the morality of the matter. But, on the other hand, the company claims, and with some show of reason, that the city never appeared to have any faith in the potentialities of the property until it (the company) went ahead and developed it and proved its value. The position of the company is that but for its actions, which it took a chance in prosecuting, the city would never have thought of going to Goldstream for a water supply. These contentions may or may not be justified. But the facts for the people to consider in going to the polls on the 26th are that Goldstream is in the present financial position of the city the best available source of water supply and that that source of supply may be secured on the valuation of an arbitration court upon terms fair to both the people of the municipality and the shareholders.

RACING AND GAMBLING.

Now that the so-called race meeting which has been proceeding in Victoria for the past sixty days is at an end, there are some aspects of the matter which call for very serious consideration on the part of all who have the true interests of the city at heart. The observations the Times has to make upon the subject may be predicated by the statement that there is no intention to question the motives of the Country Club for the part it played in promoting the season of racing or to criticise the conduct of the officials, horsemen and retainers who have made the Willows track their headquarters for the past two months. The members of the Country Club are reputable residents of the city who unquestionably have the city's best interests at heart in whatever they undertake. The horsemen and their retinue, while apparently a people apart (like sailors and gypsies), have been well-conducted and law-abiding while here. Their conduct has been admirable. Whether the absence of disorder be due to a conviction that they had another kind of reputation to live down or to a wholesome regard for the law as administered in this country, as some people suggest, has nothing to do with the case. We judge all persons as we find them. The followers of the racing game leave Victoria with as clean a sheet as any similar number of people of any class could hang up anywhere. But it is the game these people play that calls for consideration now that the gates are closed and the players have departed. Has the sixty days of racing been a good thing for the city? Has it improved our position materially? Has it elevated our status morally? If it has proved materially bene-

ficial, and morally degrading, has the material gain been sufficient to offset the moral demerit? It may be said that morals is a matter for the individual; that it is a question which is no concern of the community. We shall leave that aspect of the matter for more competent minds to deal with, merely remarking that gambling, without which we are told no race meeting can be successfully conducted, is not permitted by the law of the land or by the ordinances of the municipality.

The Times has very pronounced opinions upon the subject of horse racing as it has been conducted at the Willows track. We have already given expression to those opinions. We repeat the opinions we have expressed. The races which have been held at the Willows track have not been bona fide contests, but simply fake events conducted as an excuse for gambling. The promoters of such races confess as much when they say no race meeting in this country can be successful if bookmaking be not permitted. The bookmakers paid all the expenses of the meeting. The inference is self-evident that as the betting element was in absolute control the result of any race, except in case of an accident, was determined by the amount of money wagered on certain horses. Yet outsiders caught the betting fever and to the last cherished the delusion that they could "beat the combination." There always have been, and always will be, dupes who think they can burst the bank at Monte Carlo. The head of that interesting principality derives all his revenues from his gambling establishment, yet he gives his patrons more chances of making an occasional "killing" than do the persons who conduct and pay all the expenses of race meetings on this continent.

That is what is called "the sport of kings," a game which is bound to be attractive to all men "with red blood in their veins." It is argued that the people are not compelled to bet—the deduction being that if they are bound to make ducks and drakes of their hard-earned money and fools of themselves, the municipality might as well make something out of their weakness. If that be the principle which should govern attitude to games of chance, why not carry it to its logical conclusion, throw the town wide open, and collect revenue from the "banks." We are quite sure the city council would have little difficulty in disposing of all the privileges. Then the speculatively inclined would pay the bulk of the taxes and men of sound common sense, impatient of temptation, would be eased of their intolerable burdens.

PENDING REVOLUTION IN BUSINESS SECTIONS.

The other day an article appeared in the Times outlining many important pending changes in the business houses of Government street, Victoria. There may be a significance in the fitting of the several firms much greater than appears upon the surface. Reference has frequently been made to the fact that while there has been a very substantial increase in the population of the city within the past five years, the residential section having grown at a rate unparalleled in our municipal history, there has been practically no change in the business areas. It is apparent that such conditions cannot continue. In course of time the balance between the consuming and the supplying elements of the population must be adjusted. In considering this aspect of municipal life, allowance must also be made for the growth of population in the suburbs and in the districts which are unquestionably tributary to the city. One has but to journey through the surrounding country from Oak Bay to Sidney and northward along the line of the E. & N. Railway, noting the manner in which the land has been cleared up and brought under cultivation, the orchards which have been planted, the number of houses which have been erected, and the general scenes of activity, to realize how great has been the progress in a business sense within the last four or five years.

Observation therefore confirms the conviction that very shortly there must be a distinctly forward movement in the business section of Victoria. Conditions warrant it, and at the opportune time the era of business expansion will assuredly begin. There are indications of further pending changes already. One leading musical house of Vancouver has made arrangements to open out in business on Government street, as the Times has noted. The representatives of other and still more important concerns have had their agents here "spying out the land." One of these has a Canadian reputation in the field of which it has made a specialty, women's and children's wearing apparel. We might be more specific with regard to the intentions of another company which has been a pioneer in the commercial field of Canada, which already owns valuable property on our leading business street. But we have gathered sufficient data to convince the most pessimistic that before the lapse of many months there will be signs of great business expansion in the city of Victoria.

THE WATER QUESTION.

Mr. A. J. Morley has discovered several technical flaws in the by-law now

before the people for the expropriation of the works of the Esquimalt Water Company. Our correspondent says the by-law may be set aside by the courts and that all the money appropriated for the acquisition of the property may be used up in the process of expropriation. On the other hand it is claimed that if the city undertakes to enter the property of the company for the purpose of digging a hole through the mountains to Sooke Lake it is sure to be confronted with an injunction against trespass. So it appears that whichever way the city turns in quest of a better and more abundant supply of water it is sure to find itself face to face with vexatious and costly legal proceedings. The only thing we can do, apparently, is go ahead and see what turns up. The necessity for water will soon be imperative, judging from the present level of Elk Lake. Furthermore, if all the money nominated in the by-law should be eaten up in the expropriation proceedings, why should the Esquimalt Water Works Company take action to have the decree of expropriation set aside? It will be getting all it could ever expect to get for its property. Mr. Morley is, and has been for some time, but not always, a strong advocate of the Sooke Lake scheme. But the people of Victoria have gained a better understanding of the conditions surrounding that proposition than they had at the time the plebiscite was taken at a municipal election. They know it will cost at least eleven hundred thousand dollars to deliver five million gallons of water per day of twenty-four hours at the city boundaries, and that twelve million for very little more; that in expropriating the works at Goldstream the revenue from water consumption will be largely increased by adding Victoria West and all the district surrounding it as well as the power used by the tramway company as factors contributing heavily to the city treasury. If Mr. Morley were anxious that all the facts should be laid frankly before the people, he might tell us how much he thinks it would cost to deliver twelve million gallons of water from Sooke Lake, whether it is possible to generate and sell power from the waters of Sooke Lake, and what the difference in the revenue would be should we go to Sooke Lake instead of to Goldstream for a municipal water supply. The latter is an important point considering the present status of the city's credit.

In the meantime we can tell our correspondent what will happen should he and others who share his views succeed in defeating the expropriation by-law either at the polls or by raising technical points in the courts. The city will be eventually forced to do the very thing the Esquimalt Water Works Company has had in view from the first day of its corporate existence: to buy water by the gallon from the company. The city's extremity will prove the company's opportunity.

SOME OTHER WATER QUESTIONS.

It is a sure sign that the good or evil genius who watches over our civic affairs has important business on his hands when Mr. A. J. Morley and Mr. Phil. R. Smith simultaneously take up their facile pens and write letters to the newspapers. Mr. Smith asks the Times a number of questions in his interesting communication, most of which we confess our inability to answer. But the point of the questions is obvious. It is to suggest that the particular portion of the Esquimalt Water Works Company's property situated in Victoria West, which of course will be acquired by the city if expropriation takes place, is of little value—that it will all have to be renewed in the near future in order to meet the requirements of water consumers of the western section of the city. Obviously, it would be impossible for a newspaper, or any other institution or person lacking authority, to find out the things Mr. Smith wants to know. But an expropriation tribunal would not be under any such disabilities. It would proceed upon the authority conferred upon it by the legislature. It would have access to all the books, documents and property of the company. By a careful examination of such books, documents and property it would be in a position to estimate approximately at least the actual value of the company's property, and, we have no doubt, being sworn to deal fairly and honorably by both parties to the proceedings, it would not place a value on the water works system existing in Victoria West which could not be justified. That assumption clears away the greater part of the cloud of dust Mr. Smith raises in his letter.

Our correspondent in the last paragraph of his communication, inquires whether the water collected by the Esquimalt Water Works Company rises from springs or is gathered from the clouds. The question indicates an obsession in the mind of Mr. Smith which is not uncommon in the minds of other persons. A great number of people seem to entertain the idea that there is water of an inferior quality which comes from the "windows of heaven," and water of a very superior quality which ascends from some mysterious caverns in the bowels of the earth. As a matter of fact all water fit for human consumption that is not con-

densed by mechanical processes falls from the clouds. There may be springs fed from distant natural reservoirs, but such basins are supplied by the clouds in the first instance. So that the value of a system of water works anywhere depends not upon springs having their origin in the bowels of the earth, but upon the known extent of the watershed and the estimated average annual precipitation of rain over that watershed. It is no disparagement of the Goldstream system to suggest that it is fed by the clouds, and not by springs. The waters of Sooke Lake are also gathered from the surrounding mountains.

AN INFLUENCE FOR PEACE.

The Imperial Defence Conference has reached a complete and satisfactory understanding in regard to a naval and military programme for the whole of the Empire. None of the details have been made public. They will probably be manifest only in process of elaboration. But it is announced that the plan involves, on its military side, a great homogeneous imperial army, uniformly trained and equipped, which will probably in proportions equal the forces of the German army. There will be a system of regular exchange of officers, "as to insure uniformity of organization and training." The naval defence organization will doubtless be analogous in its nature to the military side of the programme. We shall doubtless have an outline of it within a short time, and it will be awaited with a considerable degree of interest in this maritime section of Canada. We believe it is well not only for the British Empire, but for the world at large, that a complete and harmonious agreement has been reached by the defence committee. It will prove a great influence for the maintenance of peace. The idea that the Mother Country is an isolated part of a great, cumbersome and unwieldy imperial fabric, weak and impracticable because of its very extent and magnitude, will now be completely dispelled. All nations must now realize that it is no longer a United Kingdom, but a United Empire of illimitable wealth and resources, which must be reckoned with in the disposition of affairs of international moment. It is not at all likely that the actual strength of the structure will ever be put to a serious test. With every year that passes, marking an access to the forces and sentiments of civilization, the idea of war becomes more repugnant to the popular mind and statesmen become more sensitive to their responsibilities. Nations cannot be set against nations at the word of command, as if they were mere puppets on the whim of a female monarch anxious to add to the splendor of the baubles she wears upon her head. In the words of the colored preacher, "the world do move." And yet there is room, and may be opportunities, for the exercise of an influence for peace which will not be lessened by knowledge that it possesses the power to maintain its position, and also to enforce its will if necessary.

What Other People Think

To the Editor.—As the annual exhibition is near at hand, I would like to suggest that the management take some steps towards protecting the fruit exhibits. I have seen exhibited about a dozen different varieties of fruit, and at least one-half had disappeared on the second and third day, while other exhibits were treated in a like manner, there being no protection whatever. Can you, Mr. Editor, inform me whose duty it is to fill out the prize cards, and why they are never filled out, but appear blank to be filled out by the owner of the exhibits? If we are to have exhibits of fruit or display it surely is worth protecting, and it is only proper that the prize cards should be filled in before being placed on the different exhibits. EXHIBITOR. Victoria, B. C., Aug. 14th, 1909.

DON'T THINK WE CAN.

To the Editor.—As you appear to be in touch with the gentlemen instrumental in placing the by-law for acquiring the holdings of the Esquimalt Water Works Company before the people, you will kindly obtain for me the following information: 1. What is the gross yearly revenue of the Esquimalt Water Co.? 2. The gross expenditure? 3. Net income? 4. The capacity of the works in water and water power? 5. No. of house connections at present served by the company? 6. No. of houses not served by the company, but entitled to such service? 7. What year was the present system of redistribution laid down? 8. What is the percentage of old piping and meters that could be used in a new system of redistribution? 9. The approximate cost of an up-to-date redistribution of piping based upon the probable requirements of the next ten years? 10. Are the reservoirs of the company fed by springs or are they not holes dependent entirely upon the rainfall? PHIL R. SMITH.

ESQUIMALT WATERWORKS EXPROPRIATION BY-LAW.

To the Editor.—Section 15 of the Municipal Clauses Act enacts that "No by-law shall be submitted to the electors which gives or purports to give effect to an expenditure, but each by-law must be for a distinct purpose, and every by-law must be voted upon separately." Further strengthened by subsection 1 of section 81, relating especially to by-laws for the borrowing of money upon security of water or other rates, which calls for "The amount of the debt and the object for which it is intended to be created." The by-law to be submitted on the 26th of August to authorize the expropriation of the Esquimalt Co.'s holdings and for the cost of the necessary headworks and pipe line to conduct the water to the city, it is clearly obvious that two dis-

The Latest Effects and Shapes in New Fall Millinery. OUR SHOWING of new fall outing hats which is to be seen in our millinery department, second floor, is indeed varied, large hats again trimmed with ribbons and wings being the leading features, a great many being turned up sharply on one side, while the predominating shades of the season seem to be catawba, artichoke or sage green of a delicate and attractive shade, while the materials of these new outing hats seem to be all felts. Prices ranging from \$5.75 to \$7.50. NEW FALL SAILOR STYLES in felts and patent covering at prices from \$2.50 to \$4.75.

Special Clearance of Corsets Tuesday. Regular Values \$4.00 to \$12.50 for \$2.50. TUESDAY we mean to make a clearance of all odd lines and sizes. These include Bon Ton, Royal Worcester, P. D. and D. & A. Corsets. Every pair of corsets included is made of the very finest quality material, in brocaded silks, satin, coutel and batiste, bound with No. 1 quality whalebone, eagle bone and flexible steel. You need not be afraid of not being able to procure a perfect fit. This is one of the main features of our corset department. Our expert corsetiere makes it a hobby to see that you leave perfectly satisfied. The sizes run from 18 to 30. Regularly sold at from \$4.00 to \$12.50. Your choice on Tuesday for \$2.50.

Fall's Newest Creations in Ladies' Costumes. There seems no limit to the skill of the style artists these days judging from these new fall suits which we have just opened up. The coats for this season are of extreme length, being from 42 to 45 inches long, the style being semi-tight and very smart, plain tailor made. The skirts this year are mostly finished with deep yoke and pleated in the new meroenage effect, this being the novel feature of the season. The materials consist of beautifully finished chiffron broadcloths, French cords and shadow stripe effects, in bronze, green, blues and greys, while the prices range from \$30 to \$65. DAVID SPENCER, LTD.

MAYOR HALL DENIES RACING LEASE EXISTS

Country Club, He Says, Cannot Claim Use of the Willows. Mayor Hall contradicts the claim which has been put forth that the Country Club has a five-year lease of the Willows track. His worship says that there is no agreement to bear out any such construction, and he is not at all inclined to allow the track for such a purpose again. There is in the agreement with the Country Club a stipulation that if the track is to be let for racing purposes the Country Club shall have the first right to accept the terms. This, however, does not specify that the club shall have the grounds or that the grounds shall be used for racing purposes.

WOMAN STRANGLED. Found Dead in Her Room in New York—Diamond Rings and Money Stolen.

New York, Aug. 16.—The police of this city are confronted with a new murder mystery to-day which promises to develop many interesting facts, following the discovery of Madalla Vaccio, strangled to death with a roary. The body was found in a room on the fourth floor of a tenement building, which the woman owned. Robbery evidently was the motive for the crime, as a fortune in diamonds and other precious stones had been torn from her fingers. More than one hundred dollars in small bills was scattered about the floor. A bullet hole showed that she had been shot after she was strangled and the position of the body shows that she died while struggling to retain her money.

THE MARRYING PARSON.

Death of Dr. Whittier, Who Married Five Thousand Couples. After marrying his 5,000th couple, according to his own computation, Dr. E. S. Whittier died recently at Youngstown, Ohio.

THE GOVERNOR'S MEDALS.

To the Editor.—The superintendent of education came to Revelstoke last fall with a letter from Premier McBride and from Dr. Young, the minister of education, stating that he would represent them at the provincial school trustees convention. The gist of his address was an explanation about the distribution of the Governor-General's bronze medals. He said they were given to the places that sent up the most pupils at the High school entrance examinations, coupled with the assurance that there was no favoritism in their distribution. That being so, will you please find out why the medal that had been taken away from Cumberland last year with three pupils passed up was given back this year with four pupils passed up?

THE GOVERNOR'S MEDALS.

This year Summerland passed up 9 pupils, Pentstemon 8, North Vancouver 8, Collingwood 8, Duncan 7, Matsqui 7, New Denver 7, Ladner 6, Cranbrook 6, Clinton 6, Burnaby West 6, Salmon Arm 6, Maple Ridge 5, Enderby 5, Sardis 5, Princeton 4, Pender 4, Otter 4, Midway 4, Esquimalt 4, Sea Island 4, Mission City 4, and the head pupil there got 83 marks, being the highest taken in the province on the rural questions, yet none of these got a medal. The pupil at Cumberland to whom the medal is to be given is a daughter of Mr. Mounce, of Grant & Mounce, and Mr. Grant is the provincial Conservative member there. It looks like favoritism in the face of these facts.

THE GOVERNOR'S MEDALS.

We were Golden with 7 pupils passed up in head pupil 87 marks, given a medal in preference to Summerland with 3 head pupil 77 marks; or to Collingwood with 8 head pupil 87; or to North Vancouver with 8 head pupil 72; or to Pentstemon with 8 head pupil 87 marks? Why was Golden with 7 pupils passed up on the rural or essay examination given a medal in preference to Collingwood or North Vancouver that passed up 8 pupils each on the urban or difficult examination? The head pupil at each of these

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS NOT TO BE EXTENDED

Superintendent of Education Replies to Trustee Board on Subject. Dr. Alexander Robinson, superintendent of education, has informed the board of school trustees that owing to the fact that the summer has not been excessively hot the school holidays will not be extended this year. Dr. Robinson, however, is prepared to discuss with the members of the school board the whole matter of school holidays and hear the members regarding suggested changes in the present arrangements.

SWIMMING CONTESTS AT THE GORGE PARK

Winners in Various Competitions on Saturday Afternoon. The annual swimming competitions held under the direction of Ian St. Clair were held on Saturday afternoon at the Gorge park. The large crowd which was present had an excellent opportunity to witness the races as the diving float was brought in near the shore. A number of the school trustees were present and acted as officials. After the races were over the prizes were distributed to the winners by Mrs. Jenkins from the band stand in the park. Following are the winners in the competitions.

Best stroke, boys under 16 years—1, G. Smith; 2, N. Clay; 3, R. McCalmum.

Best stroke, girls under 16 years—1, Miss D. Hays; 2, Miss M. Davis; 3, Miss V. Davis.

50 yard race, boys under 16 years—1, N. Clay; 2, J. Cameron; 3, C. Falkner.

50 yard race, girls under 16 years—1, Miss D. Hays; 2, Miss M. Davis; 3, Miss C. Townsend.

25 yard race, boys under 12 years—1, G. Smith; 2, C. Blanchard; 3, Bronston.

Diving, boys under 16 years—1, R. Ledingham; 2, D. Hamburg; 3, J. Cameron.

Diving, girls under 16 years—1, Miss D. Hays; 2, Miss V. Davis; 3, Miss W. Neat.

Long plunge, boys under 16 years—1, D. Hamburg; 2, J. Cameron; 3, N. Clay.

Greasy pole—1, R. Ledingham; 2, C. Falkner; 3, Simpson.

Life-saving, boys under 16 years—1, Lowell and Clay; 2, Humber and Ledingham.

Life-saving, girls under 16 years—1, Misses Townsend and Davis; 2, Miss Davis and Hays.

LAST DAY RA DARTTOWN IS THE Fantastic a Beat

Victoria's first six-day session Saturday lows with the anti concluding Derby, over a who was won Carpenter, agon Darktown Der excitement, and feature of the were colored a saddling room chicken was st and awarded t the second racing of carrots, tables. The b Lang Syne." at the meeting with The race of was the mile a starters—Silver ney Oldfield an test of the prev ney Oldfield a decision went to meeting Saturd The defeat of ver Knight left the mouths of that followed week was a pla pared to the fr pressed out brought Silver turn with but s field and Fan tions in the rear tined, 11:25. Goldway got le or Coburn desi were surprised went to the fr a lead that the overtake him, race won in the raced Barney place. The two mil under a good r only win of the at times look leader, but fail at the finish of the fence the could not mak The rest of the fields, being ab of the meeting (surprise); Laur loose the mile Quality Street race. Archibald w jockey cup w week, by Miss Judges' stand, tions were exci ficials and dire went home and for the last t The result of follows: First race—Two-year-olds, Horse and Joel Quality Street, Lady Elizabeth Binocular, Cob Mr. Hose, Calli Domithilda, Ga Time, 1:01 2-3. Second race—Cob yards. Selling upward. Value Horse and Joel Footloose, Cob Col. Bronston, Lazell, Archibald Mike Hennessy Chaplet, Callah Peggy O'Neal, Dr. White, W. Margaret Ran (109) Time, 1:48 2-5. Third race—Tory, being ab first 150. Horse and Joel Laura Clay, Co Belle of Inroqui Cheers, Archibald Sam McGibben (107) Nollie Racine, I Escalante, Keog Time, 1:15 2-5. Fourth race—C The D. R. Ker olds and upward Horse and Joel Silver Knight, I Fantastic, Cobu Barney Oldfield, Goldway, Gaug Time, 1:56 4-5. Fifth race—Fr Fraser Handica upward. Value Horse and Joel Calinda, Callah Belle Kinney, I Redondo, Brook Father Stroff (108) Emma G. Vos Vards, G. Harwood, Eliz. Harwood, Time, 1:02. Sixth race—T Smart Selling upward. Horse and Joel Benvolio, Arch Flavieng, Mat Sir Angus, Le My Bouquet, Sr Wesley, K Jacombo, Gaug Time, 3:37 2-5. Seventh race—Vards Time, 1:45 2-5. Four-year-olds first 1150. Horse and Joel Long Ball, Ca Marwood, Joh Mechant, Port