

SERIOUS DEFECTS EXIST

Ald. Bragg Presents a Report on the Electrical Plant—The Mistakes Made.

The Aldermen Have But Little Hope for Street Paving This Year.

The members of the city council called Ald. Humphrey "mayor" for an hour last night, as he was called on to preside over the meeting...

Thomas Earle, M.P., wrote acknowledging the letter from Mayor Teague in a William Head. Received and filed.

A. W. Vowell, Indian superintendent, wrote saying he had taken action in the matter of clearing the thistles off the Songhees Indian reserve. Received and filed.

B. W. Pearce wrote asking that the portion of Cadboro Bay road donated by him be repaired and that the tramway poles be moved back. He also asked that his letter in regard to other instructions be taken up. Referred to the street committee.

F. J. Alexander, compiler of the Western Empire, published by the Northern Pacific Railway Co., wrote submitting an advertising proposition. Referred to the printing committee.

Thomas Storey wrote offering to furnish the pipe necessary to connect his property on Pandora street with the sewer if the city would dig the trenches. Ald. Cameron moved that Mr. Storey be told that the law required him to connect with the sewer himself.

Ald. Macmillan said that he had already informed Mr. Storey of the fact. Mr. Storey understood that in the former work connections were made by the city free of charge and did not know the property owners would have to pay for it.

Ald. Bragg said he did not wonder people misunderstood matters. One part of the loan was used on connections and now the committee had changed the method.

Ald. Macmillan said that the money used by the commissioners on connections was improperly spent. The money was borrowed for sewerage construction and not to be loaned out. In not following the plan used at the time the McBean contract was completed the commission last year had departed from a good precedent.

Ald. Cameron's motion was seconded by Ald. Macmillan and carried. The William Hamilton Manufacturing Co. wrote saying the test of the plant would have to be delayed for several days. Received and filed.

The Victoria-Phoenix Brewing Co. wrote again asking for a reduction in rates. Referred to the water commissioner.

Ald. Bragg presented the following report signed by himself as chairman of the electric light committee:

Gentlemen—As chairman of the electric light committee I feel that I ought to myself and the citizens to put myself on record in pointing out what I consider very serious defects in our new plant, which defects—the present electric light committee have been powerless to remedy for the reason that the work was so far advanced when we took office as in certain ways to be practically completed. The first thing I wish to point out is the fact that the engine and dynamo room is totally unsuitable; besides being too small the floor is of light wood with no proper foundation for the dynamos to rest upon, two of them being directly over the condenser pit, thus causing that excessive vibration when the engine is running full speed which has already resulted in one of the dynamos being damaged on the night of the full speed trial. By the present arrangement the shaft turns the wrong way round for the proper conveyance of the engine power by the dynamo belts, which will cause slips and consequently flickering of the lights. The remedy for this state of affairs is to extend the engine room another thirty feet along the water front and placing the dynamos at the same distance on the other side of the shaft as they are now. This can be done at a cost of \$2,400, and as the rock blasted out would be utilized to fill up in front, the wharf extension along that distance could be easily and cheaply made. Heavier concrete floor to be removed than would be necessary to enable a smooth concrete floor to be spread, continuous with that on which the shaft bearers stand, and upon which there would be no possibility of any of that excessive vibration which is at present so detrimental to the dynamos. The space at present taken up by the dynamos and belts can be used for storage, testing the engineer and dynamo tender following being able to get about the shafting and dynamos (an impossibility under the present arrangement). It is to be regretted that after the expenditure of such a sum of money to improve our lighting department that it is so far from what it ought to be and what the ratepayers had a right to expect. But it is a fact that has to be faced and I should be wanting in my duty to the ratepayers and council if I were not to point out these defects at this time so that they may be publicly known and properly discussed. Another class of defects and which will gradually have to be remedied is the replacing of the present defective lamp arms of the "frame" pattern, which are gradually collapsing during each gale of wind, by others of a more substantial character. The lamps now are contracted for by the council of 1894 also are of a cheap kind, roughly put together and of the single carbon

type, that will not burn through a long winter night. These will give constant trouble and be a source of endless complaint from the inhabitants of the district in which they are placed; although they may be carefully looked after they will be liable to stick and leave the streets in darkness when least expected. These will, I am sure, have to be replaced by others of a more reliable pattern in the near future. The above, together with the removal of old posts, and such like matters, are what I consider necessary to the due completion of and placing the electric lighting department on a proper and satisfactory basis, and I am sure I am only doing my duty in bringing the subject forward in this manner at this time.

Ald. Partridge said that he was sorry to move that the report be accepted. It showed a disgraceful state of affairs over a big expenditure. He moved that the report be published at the current advertising rates.

Ald. McLellan was not out to have the report published as far as it reflected on the old council. He was inclined to think that the chairman was getting behind the report and was looking to the future. He was in a bad place and it was a very clever move. There were many things done after the new council came in.

Ald. Williams disagreed with Ald. McLellan. The lamps and brackets had been purchased and the floor was being laid. The new committee should not be blamed for anything it did not do. He heartily agreed with the report, and would second Ald. Partridge's motion.

Ald. Cameron wondered why only the chairman signed the report, and opposed the idea of paying for publication.

Ald. Macmillan moved in amendment that the report be received and filed.

Ald. Bragg defended the report and said it should be published. The people were entitled to the fullest information. The report was a true statement of the present situation. The floor could not under present conditions be made solid, and as to the lights and brackets everybody knew they were purchased last year.

Ald. Macmillan disagreed with the statement that a solid wooden floor could be put in. He pressed the motion to table it. He could see no good in abusing the old council.

Ald. Humphrey—That is right. The report says a lot about the old committee but does not mention any of the mistakes of the present council.

Ald. Williams was on his feet in an instant and asked the chairman to name a single mistake made by the committee.

The chairman said one mistake was in ordering the contractor to put in a wooden foundation for the line shafting. He was present at committee meeting and heard the contractor offer to put in either wood or concrete and on January 28 the committee ordered wood.

Ald. Williams disclaimed the blame. The committee was in doubt, but by a vote of the council and the advice of the engineer decided on wood.

Ald. Macmillan asked if Ald. Williams was not a member of the council.

The matter was dropped and on division the amendment to file was carried.

The water commissioner recommended that a 4-inch water main be laid on Quebec street between Montreal and Menzies and another on Montreal street between Simcoe street and Dallas street, to cost \$635. Received and adopted.

Assessor W. W. Northcott reported recommending that Ah Hing be paid \$100 instead of \$100 for the damages done to his garden on Cormorant street. Received and adopted.

Applications for the post of engineer at the electric light station were referred to the committee to report.

The cemetery committee recommended that the city engineer be directed to survey the addition to the cemetery on the west side. Received and adopted.

The electric light committee reported recommending the purchase of the horse offered by Mr. Lawrence for \$100 and asking for an appropriation of \$300 for several needed improvements. Received and filed.

The finance committee reported recommending the appropriation of \$481 out of the general revenue.

Ald. Macmillan objected to the size of the drug-bills at the Old Men's Home.

The report was after a slight discussion adopted, as was another appropriation of \$2,500 from the sewerage loan. The amount included the Payne judgment.

The street committee reported recommending that A. J. Bechtel be paid \$500 for the strip of his land occupied by the Rock Bay bridge and also that the property owners who are occupying a section of the street be ordered to move. Received and filed.

Ald. Williams asked if there was any intention to start on street paving. The sewer work was being started nicely.

Ald. McLellan said it was easy to start sewer work with money in the bank. Any new loan by-law would be howled down right now. The scheme was a pet one of his, but he feared it would fail.

Ald. Williams said he believed the by-law should be brought down anyhow. The alderman also brought up the Beacon Hill powder magazine.

Ald. Macmillan wanted to know if anything was being done in re Johnson street ravine, and Ald. Cameron said the estimates of the cost had already been made.

WHEAT GOES UP.

A Wild Rush on the Chicago Corn Exchange. Chicago, July 24.—Wheat went up with a wild rush to-day, selling five cents higher than yesterday, at 12 1/2, caused by the light movement of winter wheat and higher foreign markets.

THE CHURCH MURDERS.

A Man Claiming to be the Murderer Surrenders Himself. Santa Cruz, Cal., July 24.—W. F. Barrett surrendered himself to the sheriff of Santa Cruz as the murderer of Blanche Lamont and Miss Williams. He tells a straight story.

FIVE YEARS IN PRISON.

The Sentence Passed on Blythe for the Abduction of Belle Rockwood.

The Prisoner Receives a Severe Verbal Castigation From Chief Justice.

In the speedy trials court this morning Robert Carlyle Blythe was sentenced by Chief Justice Davie to five years in the penitentiary at hard labor for the abduction on the 10th of July of Belle Rockwood, Port Hadlock, Jefferson county, in the State of Washington.

At the opening of the case Mr. A. G. Smith, who appeared for the crown, called as the first witness the girl Belle Rockwood, an unusually attractive looking girl with large blue eyes. It is in the preliminary hearing. She said she was 15 years and 9 months old. She produced several of the letters written her by the accused since he had been in Victoria; the last one she received before coming here contained a \$10 note to pay her passage, and in it the prisoner gave her very minute instructions as to what to wear, what name to give and many other little details calculated to throw likely observers off the scent. The accused had a man with four children, but he addressed the letter "My dearest, my only hope in this world," and amongst other directions was this one, "don't on any account talk to anyone on the way over, because your sweet face once seen is never to be forgotten. I have it engraved on my heart."

Eugene Rockwood, a carpenter of Port Hadlock, and father of the girl, was also called.

The prisoner was undefended, and at the close of the case some discussion took place as to the jurisdiction of the court to try the case and his lordship adjourned the court until 12 o'clock in order to look into the authorities cited. The following is the section of the code:

"Every one is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to five years' imprisonment who unlawfully takes or causes to be taken away any unmarried girl, being under the age of 16 years, out of the possession and against the will of her father or mother, or any other person having the lawful care or charge of her. It is immaterial whether the girl is taken with her own consent or at her own suggestion or not. It is immaterial whether or not the offender believed the girl to be of or above the age of 16."

The girl's father, who was called, returned, and addressing the prisoner said that the only doubt he had about the case was not as to the guilt of the prisoner, nor as to the merit of the punishment, but as to whether the courts of British Columbia had any right to deal with the case. Any doubts he had had he was glad to say had been removed both by the facts and by the authorities cited.

Continuing to address the prisoner he said: "You brought the girl here, but the abduction never took place until she landed here and you gave her the chance to return. You might have receded from your wrong intention, but you chose to take her away and the abduction took place here and the court here has jurisdiction. I feel that because of your feature. You were living at Port Hadlock with your wife and children, and in one of your letters you said you had to leave there at once as you were accused of a most horrible crime, and as a fugitive from justice you came to Canada. You also said you were about to get a divorce, which was not true. After you left you wrote letter after letter breathing not love but criminal sensuality, and you induced the girl to come here to her father's home, and you begged her to put on long dresses to make her look older. Yours is a crime aimed at by the laws of all nations. The family circle must be protected from such a one, who are nothing more than flend's dressed in human shape. There is no reason that your sentence should be any less than the full term the law allows, and you are sentenced to five years in the penitentiary."

It seems that the people on the Esquimalt road with whom the accused and the girl stayed are holding the girl's things for Blythe's board bill, and Mr. Smith, at the conclusion of the case, mentioned this fact to his lordship, who said of course he had no jurisdiction in the matter, but an intimation might be the effect of restoring the goods to the girl. The required intimation was given and no doubt Belle Rockwood is in possession of her belongings.

THE A.O.U.W.

Grand Master Budlong Visiting the Various City Lodges. Grand Master Budlong, of the A. O. U. W., accompanied by Grand Recorder McIlmoy, G. F. J. E. Church and P. G. M. Captain Warren, paid an official visit to Western Star lodge, Victoria West. The grand officers were given a reception with which they were highly pleased. Grand Master Workman Budlong gave the members some sound advice, pointing out that although insurance was an important factor in the A. O. U. W., the most important was the fraternal feature, and everything should be done to encourage this. The lodges should pay fraternal visits and Workmen should meet with each other and become better acquainted.

This evening the grand master workman will visit Hop lodge, Degree of Honor, tomorrow evening Victoria lodge No. 1, and on Thursday evening the various city lodges will join in giving him a reception. On Friday evening he will visit Vancouver and Sullivan lodges of Victoria, which hold a joint meeting. He has already visited the mainland lodges and will early in August visit the Nanaimo lodges.

In conversation with a Times representative to-day, Grand Master Budlong said the order was progressing very satisfactorily to British Columbia. Victoria is the banner city, having nearly half the membership in the jurisdiction. The new lodges formed in New Westminster district and other places last year are doing splendidly, with one exception. The membership of the one excepted has fallen off, on account of the damage done to farms by the floods, the sufferers being unable to devote either the time or funds to the order. He hoped, however, now that the trouble was passing, to rebuild the lodge on its old lines. The grand officers last evening paid to Mrs. Cohen the \$2,000 due her on account of her husband's death.

BOARD OF TRADE.

Meeting of Council This Forenoon—The Standing Committee.

There was a full meeting of the council of the board of trade at 11 a.m. to-day, President Ker presiding. The business was mostly of a routine character. The annual report, referred to the council by the board, was referred to a committee (Messrs. Flumerfelt, Templeman and Hall) for revision and correction where needed. The president, vice-president and secretary were appointed to interview the government in connection with the annual report, and the secretary was authorized to call for tenders for printing.

On motion of Mr. Scaife, designs for cover of report will be called for and a prize of \$10 offered for the best. The president named the following standing committees:

Fisheries—M. T. Johnston, J. H. Todd, H. Croft, R. Hall, E. B. Martin. Manufactures—T. B. Hall, G. Leiser, J. L. Forrester, W. J. Pendray, W. Templeman.

Harbor and navigation—R. P. Rither, Captain Irving, B. W. Pearce, R. H. Hall, J. G. Cox. Public works and railways—A. C. Flumerfelt, A. B. Gray, W. H. Ellis, A. L. Belyea, Joseph Hunter.

Finance—W. C. Ward, A. J. C. Galletley, H. F. Heisterman. Mining and property—Joshua Davies, F. B. Pemberton, J. H. Brownlee. Agriculture and forestry—C. E. Renouf, Dr. Milne, P. A. Paulson.

Ex-President Flumerfelt paid a compliment to Secretary Elworthy, and moved, seconded by T. B. Hall, "That this board, in recognition of the efficient services rendered by Secretary Elworthy during the past year, and further to recompense him for the extra services entailed in preparing the annual report, vote him a bonus of \$300." This was carried unanimously. The official question expressed his appreciation of the customary honorarium tendered but none the less, feelingly. He said, "Thanks."

It was agreed that in future council meetings would begin at 10 a.m. sharp, and council adjourned.

WINNIPEG WIRINGS.

Premier Bowell May Visit Regina Next Week. Winnipeg, July 22.—It is said to be probable that Premier Bowell will visit the Territorial exhibition at Regina next week, in which event he would extend his trip to the Pacific.

Barley cutting has commenced in the southwestern portion of the province. The weather is hot and clear to-day, just what is required to ripen the crops.

Before Judge Bain this morning the liquidators of the Commercial Bank passed a number of claims put in by creditors upon which 27 per cent. will at once be paid. An application will be made tomorrow morning for leave to declare another dividend, the payment of which will be made about August 10 if the application is allowed.

Chief Engineer Stewart of the Winnipeg & Great Northern, is still very sanguine about the line. Before he went south yesterday he expressed the opinion that grading will begin in two weeks, and that 120 miles of track will be laid this year.

The special attractions at the Winnipeg exhibition were continued to-day and will finish to-morrow. Most of the stock exhibits have gone west for the Brandon and Regina summer fairs.

Professor Saunders, director of the experimental farm, Ottawa, passed through the city to-day en route to the Pacific coast on a trip of inspection.

Winnipeg, July 23.—The Lake Dauphin correspondent of the Tribune writes that five children were drowned in the lake a week ago. The name of the victims is Beech. The family resided near the shore of Lake Dauphin. On Sunday the children were taken to the lake to have a bath. After playing about for a time the children got in an old boat which was in a very unseaworthy condition. They pushed off from shore and the wind swept the craft out into the lake, and filling rapidly with water, the children were soon struggling with the waves. The eldest boy did his best to save his little sister, but they soon sank out of sight. There was but one girl, the other four being boys.

A farmer named James Taylor was drowned at Gilbert Plains while crossing the Wilson river. All the streams in the north are badly swollen.

Bishop Langevin is expected home to-morrow. It is understood His Grace leaves for Rome at an early date, presumably to consult with the head of the church on the school question and matters pertaining to the church in general.

Hon. Mr. Daly expects to spend two or three months in the Northwest and British Columbia.

The remains of the late Alexander Smith, provincial immigration agent, have been taken east for interment.

The Battleford Herald reports that a band of land examiners, said to belong to the C. P. R., is operating about fifty miles north of that place.

Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder. Awarded Gold Medal Midwinter Fair, San Francisco.

A COLLISION ON THE SEA

The Norwegian Steamer "Terrier" Collides With the British Schooner Eagle.

Twenty-Four Persons Rescued. Two Men Two Women and One Child Drowned.

New York, July 23.—The Norwegian steamer Terrier arrived here this morning from Demerara, whence she sailed on July 12th. Captain Barge reports that at 8:30 p.m. on the day he left Demerara a schooner was sighted close on his starboard bow. Captain Barge hauled his steamer wheel to port expecting the schooner would drop on her course. This the schooner continued to do for a time, when she suddenly changed her course, running free directly across the Terrier's bows. Before the steamer could be stopped or her headway checked she struck the schooner on the port side about the rigging, sinking her almost immediately. She proved to be the British schooner Eagle of and from the Barbadoes for Demerara. Twenty-four persons were saved and five were lost, consisting of two men, two women and one child. Immediately on the vessels coming together several of the schooner's passengers and crew scrambled on board the Terrier and others were hauled on board by the steamer's crew with the aid of lines. When the collision occurred the schooner's master was one of the first to abandon his vessel and did nothing whatever to assist in saving his passengers or crew. Among the passengers were several women and children. He evidently lost all self control, and paced the steamer's deck sobbing, moaning and wringing his hands, bemoaning the loss of his vessel and her freight. The men on board the schooner also showed the white feather. The steamer's two boats were manned and lowered as quickly as possible, and a vigilant search was kept up for some time in hopes of finding some of the five missing ones clinging to some floating wreckage, but nothing was seen of them. The Terrier returned to Demerara and landed the 24 survivors. A superficial examination was made as to the damage sustained by the steamer and it was found that two bow plates were bent besides some slight damage about the forecastle deck, otherwise no serious damage was sustained.

Verdict of Carelessness and Incompetency in the Smash-up.

St. Catharines, July 24.—The body of a colored man named Hogan was found in the canal. He set fire to Stewart Jones' premises on Saturday night and is supposed to have committed suicide after committing the deed.

Lucan, Ont., July 24.—John Williams, a colored man, was arrested and sent up for trial on a charge of setting fire to Stanley & Wright's grain warehouse. Andrew Patten has positively identified the prisoner as the man he saw setting fire to the place.

Hamilton, July 24.—Four officials in the employ of the customs house here have received notice from Ottawa that their services will be dispensed with, and that they will be superannuated. They are all old employees, but the superannuation came to them as a great surprise. Their names are: A. J. Mackenzie, surveyor and acting collector; R. L. White, chief clerk; W. H. Woodward, clerk; and Herbert Dixon, chief landing waiter.

Quebec, July 24.—The coroner's jury which investigated the cause of the Grand Trunk railway disaster at Craik's road returned a verdict of collision due to carelessness and incompetency of the employees of the company in charge of one of said company's trains, namely, the train driven by Engineer McLeod. The jury recommended the application of the block system to the Grand Trunk and an examination of the employees for color blindness.

Collingwood, July 24.—Robt. Bateman, milk collector for Freeman & Co.'s cheese factory, while driving across the railway track was struck by a train and died four hours afterwards from his injuries.

EDMONDS-WILLIAMS WEDDING. The Fashionable Event of the Season at New Westminster.

New Westminster, July 24.—Wm. H. Edmonds, eldest son of H. V. Edmonds, and Miss Mary Elizabeth Williams, step-daughter of J. J. Jones, were united in Holy Trinity church this morning by Rev. A. Sheldrick. The sister of the bride and the brother of the groom stood up with the happy couple. The affair was the most fashionable event of the season and brought to the city scores of people who are spending the summer at the seaside. The honeymoon will be spent at Hot Springs.