

DR. DUNCAN'S DEFENCE

He Replies Before the Board of Health to Charges Against Him.

The Public Health Was Not in the Least Endangered by His Action.

Sitting as a board of health the city council yesterday opened the investigation into the charges against Dr. George H. Duncan, medical health officer, of improperly allowing a suspect and guard Heathorn of the isolation hospital to come into town on election day, the former to vote and the latter to act as a scrutineer. There was some little discussion as to whether the representatives of the press should be allowed to be present, Ald. Partridge being of the opinion that health matters should never be discussed in public, while Ald. Humphrey thought it was better to allow the reporters to remain as they were certain to get the news of the meeting in any event. Finally the question was put to the vote and the aldermen tied, Ald. Partridge, Williams, Tarks and Cameron being in favor of the presence of the reporters while Ald. Macmillan, Marchant, Humphrey and Glover took the opposite view. The reporters remained as the Mayor gave his casting vote to that effect.

The Mayor opened the proceedings by asking Dr. Duncan what he had to say to the charges that had been made against him.

Dr. Duncan replied that the charge was certainly a very serious one, being practically that he had allowed an infected person to leave the isolation hospital and mingle with people in the city. This charge simply meant that he had been guilty of a criminal action, for anyone who would knowingly endanger the public health acted criminally. He had been the city health officer since 1892, and as the council knew had always acted on the principle of stamping out the first appearance of any infectious disease, and if he found that anyone was likely to be the means of spreading an infectious disease, that person had always been promptly isolated. At the isolation hospital the patient did not come in contact with the infection. His quarters were quite separate from the others, and his duty was to see that no infection was carried out of the hospital.

With these preliminary remarks Dr. Duncan took up the particular cases about which the complaint had been made. He would say that it was quite safe, if a man who was a suspect was reliable man to allow him to go into liberty after a thorough fumigation and change of clothes, provided he reported every day to the doctor. That was the method followed in England. He had sent two suspects to the isolation hospital on the Saturday preceding the election, and one patient who it was thought might be suffering from an infectious disease. He had informed the Mayor of the case and though he (Dr. Duncan) had been of opinion that it was sufficient to fumigate the suspects and to have them report to him every day as a precaution, the Mayor had taken a different view and had told him not to allow the men to leave the hospital. The suspects were entirely separate from the patient and were in a building that was perfectly pure and free of any infection. One of these, whom he considered a perfectly trustworthy man who would not fail in his promise to report to the doctor, had asked on election day to be allowed to vote. As there was not the slightest indication of disease and the man was thoroughly fumigated he (Dr. Duncan) had on the impulse of the moment allowed him to go down to the polling station and vote. Certainly Dr. Duncan considered he owed the Mayor an apology for foregoing his directions, and if he had stopped to consider he would have done differently. He had, however, acted under an impulse knowing full well there was not the slightest danger of spreading any infection. He denied that he had any political motive in allowing the man to go, and it was a contemptible thing for anyone to say that he had, for he did not in the least know how the man intended to vote.

As to Heathorn's case. He was acting as caretaker of the grounds, and was in any way exposed to infection. Heathorn had a chance of earning \$5 by acting as scrutineer, he obtained permission to go on his condition that he left a substitute in his place.

In reply to Ald. Macmillan's question whether he contended that there was not any danger in letting the men out, Dr. Duncan replied that there was none.

A discussion arising as to the medical health officer's powers under the health law relating to the isolation of patients, as to suspects was placed at the discretion of the medical health officer. At the same time he (the Mayor) had told Dr. Duncan to take no chances, and he was sorry the doctor had apparently forgotten what was said to him.

Dr. Duncan pointed out that Dr. Davie, in a letter he produced, stated that the public had not been subjected to any risk by allowing the suspect out of the hospital. A confirmatory letter from Dr. J. D. Helmcken was also produced, and Dr. Duncan said that standard medical works bore out the same view.

Ald. Humphrey pronounced Dr. Davie's letter "all bosh," after the very strict regulations he had himself carried out when the city suffered from a small-pox epidemic some years ago.

Dr. Duncan held that the present case was very different. In an epidemic, unless the suspects were all kept together it would be impossible for a doctor to see each one every day. In ordinary times when there was a case of infectious disease, if a suspect were a reliable man he might be trusted to report each day during the period of incubation.

In reply to Ald. Humphrey, who said there was a report that the sanitary inspector had been sent off to Metchosh on a wild goose chase after a mythical leper, to prevent the official from voting, Dr. Duncan showed and Ald. Glover and Williams bore him out, that Mr. Chipchase had had plenty of time to vote before he left town.

Another matter was the charge that caretaker Shaw of the isolation hospital

had purposely been sent to act as nurse to the patient at the isolation hospital, so that he might be prevented from voting.

This Dr. Duncan denied as a contemptible falsehood. Shaw, being an experienced man and having been caretaker for some years and thoroughly familiar with isolation and disinfection, having also as his duty the nursing of any male patient that might be sent to the hospital, was the proper person to put in charge of the patient; besides, he had never expressed any desire to be relieved from nursing to vote.

Ald. Marchant used his authority as medical health officer to have an old, feeble-minded man taken from the Old Men's Home to vote.

This Dr. Duncan also denied emphatically.

As Ald. Humphrey desired to bring Mr. Chipchase as a witness, the inquiry was adjourned till Monday at 11 o'clock.

THE CITY.

Six new companies to do mining business in the province have their certificates of incorporation published in the official gazette this week.

The South Saanich farmers held their annual picnic on Dominion Day with a large attendance from all parts of the district and plenty of good sport.

ALLAN STEPHENSON of Quesselle Forks has been appointed a clerk in the Government agent's office at that place and William V. Bowron at Barkerville.

In the B.C. Gazette of yesterday are published the sanitary regulations of the Provincial Board of Health approved by an order-in-council dated June 30. These regulations are passed under authority of the health act and of the health act amendment act, 1893.

The collections of inland revenue for Victoria, division No. 37, during June totalled \$18,185.70, divided under the following heads: Spirits, \$10,936.90; malt, \$2,233.69; tobacco, \$2,094.13; cigars, \$738.60; methylated spirits, \$73.07; and inspection of petroleum, \$59.25.

The ladies of St. James', as in former years, made a genuine success of their annual strawberry festival yesterday; the children's table perhaps doing the best. Mr. Langton was the successful competitor for painting the best butter-dish, and a very pleasant time was spent generally by those who attended the entertainment.

MR. CHARLES HOGG, section foreman of the E. & N. railway, and Miss Maria Dougan were united in marriage on Dominion Day at the home of the bride's parents, South Cowichan. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Dr. Campbell, of Victoria, the Misses Jones and Blythe supporting the bride and Mr. John Thompson the groom.

OWING to the lateness of the season and the depth of snow in the mountains preventing many holders of mining claims on the higher ranges from performing assessment work, an order-in-council has been passed making it lawful for the gold commissioners to extend the time for a period of sixty days, to date from July 17, for the completion of assessment work on such mineral claims as the gold commissioners have good cause to believe are at this time inaccessible in consequence of the depth of snow which covers the claims.

REV. CANON BEANLANDS and Mr. John Kinsman officiated at the weighing of the big block of soap and the examination of the guesses as to its weight to fix the ownership of the Cleveland well bicycle offered as a present to his patrons by Mr. Sam. Reid, the clothier. The "cake" was found to weigh 1,740 lbs.—the exact weight claimed by the holders of tickets 3,569, 4,616, 2,781, 3,653, 4,484, 2,042 and 2,670. The holders of these tickets are requested to meet at 8 o'clock this evening at Mr. Reid's residence, where some plan will be decided upon as to picking the winner. Holders of coupons are requested not to destroy them as each one presented prior to August 1 entitles the holder to a special purchase of 10 per cent. on every cash purchase he may make.

FIFTEEN carloads of merry excursionists took advantage of the arrangements for their conveyance to picturesque Goldstream on Dominion day by the Sunday schools of the First Presbyterian and St. Andrew's Presbyterian churches, who held their annual outing on the charming grounds so well known to Victorians. There were some usual games and sports for the young folk, and the majority of the picnicers were well satisfied to spend the day in the enjoyment of walks through the woods, to be followed by a dainty basket supper. Superintendents John Meston and W. Allen of the two schools were in large measure responsible for the very satisfactory arrangements, the perfection of which was admitted by all the many guests of the occasion.

From the Victoria public library there were loaned during June 1,081 books, 839 of these to ladies and 822 to gentlemen. The maximum number issued in one day was 122 and the average number 64. Eleven ladies and 14 gentlemen have become members of the library, making a total of 25 for the month. There have been added to the library: "Rhymes of Royalty," by S. Blewett; "Noctes Ambrosianae," by Christopher North; "On Liberty," by J. S. Mill; "Heads and Tails—Stories and Stories of Pete," by Grace Greenwood; and "The Statistical Year Book of Canada," from the Agricultural department, Ottawa.

On Monday last the council sanctioned the purchase of new books to the amount of \$150, the list and order for which were sent off to London on the following day.

On Wednesday evening last Dr. T. J. Jones, of this city, met with a very serious accident by falling down the hatchway of the steamer Maude shortly before that steamer started for the West Coast. Dr. Jones and Mr. Losse were intending to make a trip to Alberni by the Maude to do some prospecting. After they had walked over the hatchway the cover was removed to lower some freight and as there was no light to show the way Dr. Jones fell. He was not seriously hurt, but he broke his nose, his right arm and was otherwise injured. Dr. Hainington was called in and had Dr. Jones removed to his home, where he was reported to be doing as well as might be expected, though what may be the extent of the internal injuries it is yet impossible to say. It is a curious fact that just before leaving for the boat yesterday Dr. Jones took out an accident policy for \$3,000.

The annual meeting of the W.C.T.U. took place yesterday, and after the reading of the reports of the secretary and treasurer, the election of officers took place with the following results: President, Mrs. Gordon Grant (re-elected); vice-president, Mrs. C. Jenkins (re-elected); corresponding secretary, Mrs. G. Grant (re-elected); Mrs. W. L. Grant (re-elected). It was decided to give up the weekly meetings during the month of July. The public annual meeting is fixed for Wednesday, July 9, at 8 o'clock in the hall at the corner of the city hall, when the prizes will be presented to those who were successful in the public school competition for essays on "The benefits of total abstinence."

A PARTY consisting of Messrs. M. C. Moore, ex-governor of the State of Washington; W. D. Tyler, of the Huntley railway, Tacoma; C. C. Dalton, Illinois; W. E. Allen, of the Huntley railway, Tacoma; C. W. Howard, of Newman & Howard, Whatcom; C. A. Phelps, of the Oceanic Canning Co., Richardson, Wash.; and Mr. T. E. Gardner, of Ladner's, came over from Friday Harbor, B.C., on the steamer San Juan, Messrs. Moore and Gardner were counsel for defendants in McNeill & Phelps and the Oceanic Canning Co. which has just been tried at Friday Harbor and in the British Columbia people were very interested. The case was to decide the priority of location of certain fish traps erected by canners at Friday Harbor and resulted in favor of the defendants.

The latest advices relative to the catches of the Victoria fleet in Japanese waters are contained in letters to R. P. Rihet & Co. by the just arrived Empress of China. Here are the figures: Tuna, 237; Elese, 683; Ida Etsa, 642; Fortuna, 477; Allie L. Aigun, 200; Brina, 342; Sadie Turpel, 560; Mary Taylor, 761; F. M. Smith, 602; Aurora, 325; Rattler, 611; Silver Fleecy, 361; M. L. Morris, 446; Jane Gray, 400; Alton, 490; Diana, 700; E. B. Marvin, 750; Geneva, 309; Jane Gray, 400; Alton, 490; Ocean Belle, 550; Director (early), 700; Mermaid, 1,000; A. E. Paint, 700; Mermaid, 900; Pioneer, 700; Arista, 900; Mascot (early), 300; Golden Fleecy, 600; Anacanda, 90; Pointer, 300; Willard Ainsworth, 560; Borealis, 300; Vera (early), 250.

SOME ten or twelve days ago a number of bad boys entered Captain Rudin's laden cherry tree, and in the process of breaking it all to pieces and doing fruit depredations. Subsequently they robbed four other trees of all their fruit. Captain Rudin in order to put a stop to this kind of thing had several trees cut down and on her remonstrance they opened out upon her with volleys of the wildest abuse, one of them saying "You got ahead of us by cutting down our trees." The Captain says that he sees no remedy for him but to cut down all his trees, and if he is compelled to do so shall look to the city for compensation. He pays his taxes, and is entitled to protection. He will have or seek some other remedy.

THE RETAIL MARKETS.

Owing mainly to a slight revival in trade, the large prospective returns of the late season, and the increased shipping business in sight, the market for fruit this week has for some considerable time. The crops along the Fraser particularly are said to have never been further advanced in any previous year, than now, nor has the weather been more greater than at present. Around Victoria farmers have most of their hay cut, but as yet none of it has found its way to the market. A new product on sale this week are the California apples, which though not very luscious, are retailing at 8 cents per pound. Gooseberries have dropped to 7 and 7 cents per pound and are in great demand. Strawberries which also have fallen materially in price. In the matter of staples there have been few changes for some weeks. Wheat shows a slight decline, and potatoes being high in the California market, are consequently dearer here. The price of the island growth for say and the supply being on the whole rather unsatisfactory.

DAIRY INSTRUCTION.

Mr. Christian Marker, of the Dominion Dairy Commissioner's staff, who has been at Duncan for the past few weeks assisting in the inauguration of the new Cowichan creamery, arrived in town yesterday on his way to Metchosh, where to-day he gives an address to the Metchosh agricultural society on "Dairy Topics." His intention is to start a course of practical dairy instruction at Duncan next week for the benefit of those who desire to themselves in the most modern methods of making butter. The course will last about three weeks and the creamery plant has been placed at Mr. Marker's disposal during the course of instruction. This includes the care and management of creamery machinery, the handling and separation of milk, ripening of cream, churning and butter making, milk testing, book-keeping etc. Tuition is free and every means will be taken to make the instruction of the greatest practical value from a farmer's standpoint. Those who intend to attend the course should communicate with Mr. Marker at Duncan. The success of the Duncan creamery has already been very marked. The milk of some 250 cows, amounting to 4,500 lbs. is being received daily, and the output of butter is about 180 lbs. a day, which finds a ready market, most of it being sent to Victoria.

Hay Fever and Catarrh Believed in 10 to 20 Minutes.—One short puff of the breath through the Blower, supplied with each bottle of Dr. Jones' Catarrh Remedy, instantly, and permanently cures Catarrh, Hay Fever, colds, Headache, Sore Throat, Tonsillitis and Deafness. Sold by Dr. Deane & Hiscrocks and Hall & Co.

Subscribe for The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

AMONG THE DERVISHES.

Wonderful Experiences of Slatin Pasha—Governor of Darfur—Slave of the Khalifa.

Friend of General Gordon—In the Bloody Heart of the Dark Continent.

The sound of the ombeys—the Sudanese war horn, made from an elephant's tusk—was for four years a challenge to which Slatin, at the head of his brown and black soldiers, cheerfully responded. At that time (during the four years from 1879 to 1883) he was military governor of Darfur, and cleverly held the province for his employer, the Egyptian government. But during the twelve next following years (1883 to 1895) the same potent and melancholy notes gave warning of the expeditions of his own companions, for he was the Dervishes' captive and the Khalifa's servant. Last year he escaped; to-day he is with the Anglo-Egyptian forces advancing up the Nile, first again to penetrate that most outlandish inland, that region of the elephant's tusk war-horn, the bloody heart of the Dark Continent.

Reviewing his life thus far, we first recall the fact that he was a lieutenant in the Austrian army, serving in the regiment of the Emperor's Crown Prince Rudolf, when General Gordon invited him to try his luck in Central Africa. The invitation was accepted, and as soon as his engagements permitted Slatin placed himself at Gordon's disposal.

Evidently the beginning was full of interest, of exhilaration. Gordon himself was an uncommonly attractive man, if not reckless, of a pure and person; moving so rapidly from place to place, wherever his presence was required, that he baffled the combinations of his enemies, yet, when the fight was at its height, finding time to light a cigarette. Stimulated by Gordon's example, upland, 900 miles from the coast, he took his first steps in a career that promised a very great and very quickly earned reward. He was in high spirits. When he had headed a native doctor who had been called in to attend him, squeezed the sufferer's head between his black hands, and to exorcise the headache-devil, spat in his face, Slatin could see the humor of the situation, and he stimulated by his friendship, Slatin took the first steps in a career that promised a very great and very quickly earned reward. He was in high spirits. 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