

CLEAN STREETS ARE NECESSITY

SWEEPING AT NIGHT LIKELY TO BE ADOPTED

Citizens Complain of the Bad Impression Made Upon Visitors.

The necessity for cleaning the streets in the business centre of Victoria was brought to the attention of the city council Monday by complaints from citizens as to the condition of certain parts of the city.

Harry Lomas, of Steltz restaurant, Yates street, wrote to point out that the vicinity of the cab-stand below Government street, was in an untidy looking condition every Sunday on account of the lack of sweeping, and was a subject of unfavorable comment by visitors.

Ald. McKewen remarked that Yates street, as well as others, was more filthy on Sunday than any other day. "We should have the streets thoroughly cleaned after eleven o'clock every night," said Ald. Henderson.

"The sooner we make an effort to do that the better. We have arrived at a stage where we have a number of paved streets which can be kept clean and we should do so," he moved that the city engineer be instructed to start out a cleaning gang at eleven each night.

Ald. Raymond considered that lots of water was the thing, and this would be available as soon as the salt water system was in operation.

Mayor Hall agreed that this was the best method and that men should get out and sweep the streets by two o'clock each morning.

Ald. Henderson pointed out that the city had horse sweepers which would do more work than ten men, and it was absurd not to be using them.

The mayor believed that if Yates and Government streets were treated in this way there would be no need to sprinkle them.

The matter was referred to the streets, bridges and sewers committee.

Street as Stable Yard.

Another complaint received was that Courtney street was being used as a stable yard by a private company, and that on Sunday six large trucks, loaded with manure, had stood on the street all day and all night. This was deplorable property and rendered the street a laughing stock to visitors from other cities.

This complaint was referred to the chief of police for attention.

Street Sprinkling.

Ald. Hummer moved his motion that street sprinkling be done as a work of local improvement, the owners to pay two-thirds of the cost and the city one-third.

Ald. Bishop proposed that the whole cost be borne by the property affected.

Ald. Turner asked if the city could put water on the streets and charge for it as a work of local improvement.

The mayor said it could not be done, but if the owners on a street requested sprinkling, it could be done.

He ruled the motion out of order.

"Why, you told me to put the notice on the board yourself," said Ald. Hummer.

The mayor explained that it was a matter for a by-law and not a resolution. In Ottawa each spring a by-law was passed stating the area that would be sprinkled that year and the owners paid their share. His worship thought a lot of money was wasted on sprinkling, anyway.

"There is a lot of time wasted by those teams when they are not sprinkling," said Ald. Turner. "I have watched them and they are just standing there and wasting time. That is why I objected to paying them by the hour."

Ald. Hummer desired information as to why Rockland avenue could be watered every night while the Gorge road could not get a drop.

The mayor explained that Rockland avenue got its last year because it was in the making, but it would not get any this year.

Local Improvements.

Council ordered the laying of tar macadam pavement and surface drainage on Clarence street and a permanent sidewalk on the north side of Niagara street between Toronto and Clarence streets.

A recommendation to lay permanent sidewalks on both sides of Prior street, from Hillside avenue to King's road, was laid over for a week. Some difference of opinion arose as to the proportion of the cost which should be paid by the people, whether two-thirds, three-fifths, three-fourths or what.

Ald. Turner saw no particular reason for different rates and advised council to come to an early decision as to the proportion which should be charged to the owners, making it the same all over the city for sidewalks, at least.

A request from the men working on the water main at Elk lake for 25c a day additional, to offset the railway fare, was referred to the mayor and water commissioner to be looked into.

The purchasing agent was authorized to purchase for the fire department three horses at \$250 each, and a team for \$650.

The B. C. Electric railway gave notice that after April 25th it would, for the purpose of laying tracks, open the roadway of Catherine street, between Esquimalt road, and Dundas street, making connection with the present track on Head street.

The company also acknowledged the action of council in providing for a loop at the Willows.

The Victoria Development League submitted a copy of the report of the provision of a list of the names of the subscribers, for the information of the council as to the progress of its work and the support which the public is giving to its work.

ORE FROM COBALT.

Toronto, Ont., March 30.—Cobalt ore shipments last week totaled 423 tons.

TACOMA MARU.

New Japanese Liner for Puget Sound Registered at Lloyds.

The supplement to Lloyd's Register, dated March 15th, contains the record of the new Japanese steamer Tacoma Maru, the first of the fleet launched in Japan for the Osaka, Shosen Kaisha Kaisha for service between Puget Sound and the Orient in connection with the Chicago, Milwaukee & Puget Sound railroad, calling here coming and going. The records show that the Tacoma Maru registers 6,000 tons gross and is listed as 100 A1. She was built at Kobe by the Kawasaki Docking Company, Ltd., and the dimensions are: Length, 410 feet; beam, 51.5 feet; depth, 23.6 feet. The vessel is twin-screw, with cylinders 19 1/2, 32 1/2 and 56 inches, and a stroke of 46 inches. The Tacoma Maru is equipped with electric light.

The other five steamers under construction for this service will be similar to the Tacoma Maru and will be registered at Lloyds. The British steamer Strathairn is now en route to Japan from South Africa, via Java, having been chartered for the Puget Sound-Orient service until the new steamers are all ready for service.

Ald. Fullerton suggested to add that applications for the vacancy be invited, to be received up to April 15th, the advertisement stating the salary and the fact that there was a free house.

Ald. Stewart figured out the Monday at that week is a holiday and council will sit on Tuesday the applications ought to be in that day so the council could deal with them in the evening.

This aroused Ald. Fullerton, who, as chairman of the fire wardens, asserted what he considered the rights and privileges of his committee. The applications, he said, and they would appoint the chief, Chief Watson had been appointed by them.

The mayor contradicted this and declared the appointment to be the council's.

Ald. Turner put the pertinent question, why should the council receive this resignation or advertise for a new chief if it had not the power of appointment?

Ald. Stewart recalled that Chief Watson got six votes in council and Sargent, of the Toronto brigade, four, the council making the appointment.

"How is it the council cannot appoint a veterinary surgeon?" asked Ald. Hummer, in reference to a matter before the council a short time ago.

"That is a different thing," explained his worship.

The resignation was accepted and it was decided to advertise for a new chief, at \$125 a month and free quarters, applications to be in by 4 p. m. on April 15th.

The Cow By-Law.

The "cow by-law" was taken up again in committee and put through, and on being reported was finally passed.

On motion of Ald. Turner the prohibition of cattle-driving by any person within the city limits was adopted by a vote of fourteen to four.

"There are lots of these fourteen who are better able to drive cows than a man of forty," he said. "The prohibition of cattle-driving is a work of a competent person is all that you need. The by-law is so badly drawn that a girl under fourteen could drive cows but a boy could not."

Clarke & McKinsey were given permission to move a frame building on Catherine street.

The city solicitor reported, in reference to a matter discussed on Friday night, that the laying of sewer connections to the curb could be charged as a local improvement but not the laying of water connections. He suggested that in opening new streets an arrangement should be made with the owners to have the sewer laid before permanent road work was done.

Shutting Off of Water.

Ald. McKewen entered a complaint regarding the notice given citizens of the turning off of the water service. Some more prominent way of advertising the fact should be adopted.

The mayor explained that this would be done, and something along the line of an advertisement on the front pages of the papers put in.

"There are some people who do not read the papers," Ald. Raymond remarked.

The members of the council were all agreed that the notice now given is quite insufficient and a source of great inconvenience and often suffering to citizens.

Street Works.

The streets, bridges and sewers committee report was adopted, as follows:

Re water. Recommended that no demurrage be charged the Robertson Iron Works contractors for supplying the iron work of the water tower for non-completion of their contract within the specified time.

Recommended that the two ends of the water mains on Foul Bay road be connected, providing F. E. Pennington will implement his verbal offer which was to the following effect, viz.: That should it be found in making said connection that such connection would be through rock for more than half the distance between the said ends, he would pay the extra cost over and above what the making of such connection, for half the distance through rock, would amount to.

Re streets. Re communication from E. White re drainage of Quadra street, north of Topaz avenue. That Mr. White be informed that if this drain is put in it will have to be done as a work of local improvement, and the city will implement his verbal offer which was to the following effect, viz.: That should it be found in making said connection that such connection would be through rock for more than half the distance between the said ends, he would pay the extra cost over and above what the making of such connection, for half the distance through rock, would amount to.

Re fire protection. The question of fire protection was discussed and an assurance was obtained from Mayor H. E. Pennington that a license shall be granted any individual underwriter or underwriters to carry on any kind of insurance business: Provided that associations of individuals be liable for a proportionate part of the whole amount insured by a policy, may be authorized to transact insurance other than life in Canada in like manner and upon the same terms and conditions as insurance companies; such associations to be in all respects subject to the provisions of this act, except that the statements required by this act to be filed in the office of the superintendent shall direct and prescribe.

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LOOKING FOR A NEW FIRE CHIEF

APPLICATIONS MUST BE IN BEFORE APRIL 16

Fire Wardens Think the Power of Appointment is Theirs.

A difference of opinion developed in the city council on Monday as to the power of appointment of the fire chief, whether it lay in the hands of the council or of the fire wardens.

Fire Chief Watson's resignation was read to the council. It was short and to the point. "I beg herewith to tender my resignation as chief of the fire department," he wrote.

Ald. Bishop moved that it be accepted forthwith.

Ald. Fullerton suggested to add that applications for the vacancy be invited, to be received up to April 15th, the advertisement stating the salary and the fact that there was a free house.

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