Weekly Colonist.

FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1886.

DECRYING THE PROVINCE.

It was a misfortune for the province when Dr. McInnes, of New Westminster, was appointed senator. Besides other disabilities not necessary now to mention he was a comparative stranger and knew little or nothing of the country he was chosen to represent, first in the commons and second in the senate. His election to the commons was a mistake; his elevation to the senate was a blunder. When he stood first he was charged with gritism; but was elected as an independent. When he reached Ottawa he joined the conservatives and as such was afterwards raised to the senate. In the upper chamber he was an out-and-out supporter of Sir John until the government decided to locate the terminus lower down on Burrard Inlet than Port Moody, then he quickly discovered that the department of railways and canals was rife with corruption and the government unworthy of his confidence or support. Since then Senator McInnes has continually and persistently abused Sir John's government From patriotic motives? Not at all. He was a member of a syndicate that undertook to boom Port Moody. It is said that he invested a large sum of money in town lots there which became valueless when it was announced that the railway would not stop there. He is a disappointed speculator in town lots, and like all disappointed men is as bitter as gall toward those whom he saddles with the responsibility of his failure to boom town lots. Last year he sold off his furniture and left the province in a pet—it was said at the time for good and all. It is certain that he has established himself bag and baggage at the east, and should he ever return to British Columbia it will probably be as a visitor and not as a resident. The last he was scarcely considered at any time; and so far as his being a true representative of the province goes let any one read the extract from his recent remarks in the senate on the address in reply to the speech and judge for himself. We quote from the Globe:

Mr. McInnes of British Columbia (conservative) regretted that he could not agree with the statement in the speech from the throne that the country was prosperous. So far as British Columbia was concerned the commercial depression there was greater than at any time during the past twelve years. So great was it that the councils of Victoria and Nanaimo had taken measures to keep distressed people from starving. There were now eighteen or twenty thousand Chinese in that province, and the government were to blame for that. Had they listened to the representations of British Columbia members and taken measures years ago to check the influx of Chinese, white men would not have been deterred from going to the Pacific province as they were. But in this matter the government had pursued the same policy of delay and neglect which had resulted so disastrously in the northwest. Last year, after the work on the Pacific road was finished, and when no Chinese were coming into the country, they had passed a bill imposing a fine of fifty dollars a head upon each Chinese person landing in the Dominion. It was like locking the stable door after the horse had been stolen. The bill was no use whatever, because British Columbia was already overcrowded with Chinese, and no more were coming. The haste shown in the completion of the Canadian Pacific railway had had induced contractors to utilise Chinese labor, and encouraged these people to flock into Canada. He believed that had the government acted properly toward the northwest settlers there would have been no rebellion.

Senator McInnes ought to have rested and been thankful with the reflection that he will draw a comfortable salary for life for the privilege of representing himself in the senate. It was surely an ungracious and ungrateful act in him to assail and misrepresent the province to which he owes his position and the means whereby he lives. As far as the senator's value to the country as a representative extends, it has always been regarded as of a negative character; but in common decency if he has soured towards the country to which he owes so much he should have refrained from expressing an opinion which the length of time he has been a non-resident unfits him to form. There is no public man in British Columbia who has done less to advance the province than Dr. McInnes; and he is now making an effort to do all the harm he can. Suspicion here points to the Senator as the author of the injudicious statements respecting the Canadian Pacific road that appeared in a recent American newspaper, and we must remark that there is reason to believe that the suspicion is well founded. Dr. McInnes was not allowed to retire unanswered. Senator Macdonald was on hand to refute the statements of the disappointed land speculator and gave an entirely different aspect to the condition of things here.

Mr. Macdonald said he was astonished to hear the statement of the last speaker. He had just come from British Columbia, and he could state from actual knowledge that trade was never in a better condition. Some mills were going day and night, and the only depression, if any existed, was at the Nanaimo coal mines.

The address was then passed.

"VANCOUVER."

The adoption of the above name for the new Burrard Inlet town is calculated to lead to endless confusion. Washington territory has a town of the same name and Vancouver Island is a stumbling block in the way of parties addressing letters to Vancouver. Surely there are enough names from which a more appropriate selection might be made without adopting one so apt to be confounded with old-established places. If it is not too late to make a change it is hoped that it will be effected.

HIGH LICENSE.

In round numbers we believe there are 64 houses licensed to retail liquor within the corporate limits of Victoria. These pay $100 half-yearly for the privilege, the annual contribution to the civic funds from that source being about $12,800. Suppose retail licenses were $500 per annum, the income from that source would then be $32,000—a sum sufficient to meet many of the wants of the municipality. It would put the civic treasury on its feet, so to speak, and make the construction and repair of streets and sidewalks a comparatively easy matter. The present revenue is large; but a great portion of it is swallowed up in the necessary expenses of government. The police and fire department require about one-fourth of the whole to maintain them, while many necessary works have to be delayed indefinitely or abandoned altogether. At this moment an agitation is in progress for prohibition. The agitation is growing and increasing daily, and any man who should shut his eyes to its influence would be a very silly person indeed. Another party are agitating for high license, and between the two we decide in favor of those who believe that the latter is the best because it is the most practical. It is a thing within the power of the legislature to grant and the municipalities to adopt. The other is hedged about with all sorts of difficulties, and obstacles, unforeseen now, would interpose to prevent its successful working. When Miss White was here we took the same ground—much to that excellent lady's disappointment—and there has since occurred nothing that is calculated to shake our confidence in the scheme. We look upon it as the only reasonable and natural solution of the vexed liquor question. A short time ago *The Colonist* gave some statistics of the working of high licenses at Chicago. We have since come across the official figures of the result. These differ somewhat from those previously given; but the results are the same. It appears from the returns that before the adoption of the $500 license in Chicago the revenue derived from saloons was seldom over $200,000. For instance, in 1882 it was $195,490 and there were 3,919 saloons. Chicago had become a by-word for its profligacy and drunkenness. In 1885, under high license the revenue was $1,721,474, and the number of saloons 3,075. Chicago has recovered to a great extent from the blight which threatened to be her ruin. Suppose prohibition had been tried instead of high license. Chicago would be as badly off as before 1883, and might be worse. It would be less likely to succeed in Chicago. This is not all. New York made a report as to revenue derived from its licenses. In the largest city in the country the paltry sum of $102,367.50 was collected. The number of saloons, dives, restaurants, bars, etc., where liquor is sold is enormous. The publication of these statistics has created the liveliest interest in the United States, and a strong popular movement in favor of high license is making hopeful progress. Temperance reformers have instituted a series of meetings in New York city, and have drawn an elaborate bill for the regulation of the liquor traffic, the main feature of which is a graded system of high license. It provides for an excise board in each city, village and town in the state, the members of which shall hold no other office, who may grant licenses and exercise a sort of supervisory control over the excise system of the municipality in which they are chosen. The license fees are to go to the treasuries of the cities, villages and towns where they are collected, a portion of the proceeds in each case to be paid into the county treasury for the support of paupers. The fees for licenses are graded as follows:

For a license of the first class in cities of more than 300,000 inhabitants, not less than	$1,000
In all other cities, towns and villages, not less than	500
For a license of the second class, in cities of more than 300,000 inhabitants, not less than	500
In all other cities, towns or villages, not less than	250

High license is an experiment, but a successful experiment, where it has been tried longest and most vigorously enforced. But, like other experiments in invention, in business and in legislation, perfection was not reached at the first effort In every state adopting a high license system successive amendments to the laws for that purpose have been necessary to render them practicable and to simplify their operations.

THE DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS.

The debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne was opened by Mr. Everett, the new member for St. John city and county, New Brunswick. He claimed the usual indulgence of the house on account of his youthfulness as a member, but certainly did not seem to require it, as he rattled along for an hour in good style. Mr. Ward, the new member for East Durham, seconded the address. His effort was not as successful as the mover's; but he will have abundant opportunities to improve, as he is said to be the youngest but one member in the house. Mr. Blake followed in one of the worst speeches he ever delivered. It pretended to be humorous, but the wit was very far-fetched. Not finding anything in the speech he could cavil at, he contented himself with baiting Sir John on the recent cabinet changes. The newly-appointed ministers took the thing in good part, especially Hon. Mr. Thompson, the new minister of justice. Much interest was felt in this gentleman's appearance, as he is quite a stranger to the federal parliament. He has the appearance of being a fighter, and Mr. Blake may find he has tackled the wrong customer before the session terminates. Sir John made an effective reply, in the course of which he gave the opposition leader a sound drubbing for his unstatesmanlike observations. The debate finished that evening, and all the paragraphs in the address were passed.

TWO FEATHERS IN THE GOVERNMENT'S CAP.

When the debate on the address in the senate was in progress Senator Scott, the leader of the opposition, had the manliness to affirm that his views with regard to the C. P. R. had been considerably modified during the past year. He acknowledged that the objections urged against the rapid construction of the railway were not sound, that the policy which had been adopted was the right one, and he believed the railway had a bright future before it. This outspoken opinion by a leading member of the opposition goes a long way to palliate the contumely heaped on the government for their enterprising policy with regard to the great transcontinental railway. Another feather in their cap, it is openly stated, will be the return within the next few weeks by the C. P. R. Company of the $20,000,000 borrowed last year from the government. The road, so far, has exceeded the fondest expectations of its promoters, its stock has gone up, and the company is on such a financial basis that it does not require the borrowed money, and will return it. This will be news which cannot but rejoice the heart of every true Canadian.

THE BOLTERS.

There is considerable talk about the lobbies respecting "the bolters," as the recalcitrant bleus who took up the Riel cry are called. A latest calculation places their number at twenty one; but it is thought before they have an opportunity of placing themselves on record that there will be defections from their ranks. Everybody expected that they would move an amendment to the address; but Mr. Blake advised them not to do so, as he was not going to touch the question until all the papers were brought down, and seemingly they have taken his advice.

AN OREGON COAST MYSTERY.

The Captain and Crew of a Schooner Supposed to have been Murdered by Pirates.

The mystery surrounding the loss of the deep sea fishing schooner Carrie B. Lake and the drowning of her captain, mate and cook, has been further intensified by subsequent developments and the actions of the survivors. It is known that two men were saved and that they told a sad story of the wreck and the suffering both endured. The story of one of them is especially remembered. When he was found on the beach by the life-saving crew, he said he had battled with the waves for eight or ten hours, and had as last resort cut his own throat with a pocket knife in order to end his sufferings in the cold breakers. Just as he made the gash he touched bottom and waded ashore exhausted and bleeding, where he was found. The other man was found clinging to the wreck and taken off. Since the rescue of the two men they have both disappeared, and their whereabouts are unknown. Developments have taken place at the scene of the wreck that give rise to the supposition that the two men were the murderers of those who were lost, and that they deliberately wrecked the schooner after robbing their victims and casting them into the sea. It is known that the Chinese cook had considerable money on his person, and the others had a little. The position of the schooner on the sand and the fact that she ran ashore in good weather is strong proof that her wreck was planned and carried out. The mysterious disappearance of the two survivors gives color to the theory, and it is very likely an investigation will be set on foot to sift the matter to the bottom. It is now asserted that the story of the would be suicide was made up out of whole-cloth. A physician believes that the wound on the man's neck was made in a scuffle, and that he got it from one of the victims. The finding of three bodies without legs or arms at the Quinaint reservation last week lends color to the story that Captain Exon and his two men were murdered, dismembered and then thrown overboard far out to sea, although it was not possible to identify the remains of three memberless and headless trunks. Will the mystery ever be solved?—*Vindicator.*

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FOURTH PARLIAMENT.

FOURTH SESSION.

WEDNESDAY, March 10, 1886.

Speaker took the chair at 2 p. m. Prayers by Rev. Mr. Percival.

PRIVILEGE.

Mr. McLeese said he had been misunderstood in the report of his remarks on the Esquimalt railway bill. What he had said was that when the two railway bills to connect New Westminster with Washington territory were before the house the principal opposition came from the island members and that one of the arguments adduced against the bills was that if the roads were built the traffic would go direct to New Westminster to the detriment of Victoria. Now mark the difference. When the bill for a railroad on the island was brought before the house he believed the majority of the mainland members would support it.

PETITIONS.

Mr. Semlin presented a petition from F. A. Rice and others from Granite creek.

A petition from E. V. Bodwell and 187 others, praying that the sale of spirituous liquors in the province be prohibited between the hours of 6 p. m. on Saturday and 7 a. m. on the following Sunday morning, was received.

MINERAL BILL.

A bill entitled an act to amend the mineral act, 1884, introduced by Mr. Cowan, was read a first time. Second reading on Friday next.

PRIVILEGE.

Mr. Cunningham, in reference to the petition read, said that last year similar petitions had been thrown out on the ground that the power to deal with liquor licenses rested with the municipalities. This had since appeared not to be the case, and he would like to hear what the government had to say.

The Speaker said the hon. member would have to give notice of a question to that effect.

FINDLAY CREEK LEASE.

Mr. Galbraith moved the second reading of an act granting a lease of a portion of the bed of Findlay creek for mining purposes. The term of the lease asked for was twenty-five years, and the creek had been abandoned for ordinary mining purposes for the last fourteen or fifteen years. The land continuous thereto was not all available for hydraulic mining, and to work it would require that water should be brought from very high benches, which would entail considerable expense. The promoters were not entirely unknown in the district. They had already invested largely and intended to stop in the country. If the franchise were given, the company intended to carry out the work with as little delay as possible, and proposed to pay for the privilege $200 a year, and also to expend $2,000 during the first two years, and not less than $10,000 during the next three years, and $5,000 during every five years thereafter in a manner subject to the approval of the gold commissioner.

Seconded by Mr. Orr.

Mr. Cowan called the attention of the house to clause 5, which only required $2,000 to be expended in the first two years. He thought some specified expenditure should be made for the years separately. As the clause stood, it gave the appearance of a lease to be held simply for speculation.

Mr. Wilson favored the second reading of the bill, but took a similar view to that of the last speaker, deeming that some modification should be made as mentioned.

Mr. Allen favored the second reading.

Mr. Pooley liked the tone of the bill with the exception that there was nothing in it to bind them to go to any expense for two years. He had the impression that it was so valuable they should commence expenditure simultaneously with the granting of it. He should move this amendment in committee.

Hon. Mr. Smithe was favorably disposed to the general tenor of the bill, though there were several material amendments that should be made in committee. The undertaking apparently promised well, and the bill came before the house in a very creditable shape indeed.

Mr. Galbraith, in reply to the objection made by the hon. member for Cariboo (Mr. Cowan) said he was perfectly satisfied that the promoters of the bill would accede to any reasonable requirement. The bill then passed, its second reading, and was considered in committee of the whole, Mr. Helgesen in the chair.

There was considerable discussion as to the wish of the promoters to sell water from their ditches at a rate not to exceed 20 cents an inch, several members claiming that it would virtually create a water monopoly. Mr. Galbraith said there were 7 inches of water in the creek in the dry season, not on the sweeping charges made, and in cases of witnesses it was generally to persons who only had a single transaction at customs. The preponderance of evidence was in Mr. Mingaye's favor, excepting as to incivility. The charges against Mr. Bowell were trifling, and absolutely amounted to nothing.

Landry's motion, which comes up tomorrow, that the house feels its duty to express deep regret that the sentence of death passed upon Riel was allowed to be carried into effect, places the opposition in a sad plight and will be supported by the Quebec bolters. If Blake's following declines to aid them all hope of a grit-bleu coalition is at an end.

Mr. Charles enquired the number of settlers supposed to have settled in Manitoba and the northwest during the year 1885. The minister of agriculture replied 7,940.

Hon. Mr. Thompson, the new minister of justice, introduced an act to regulate the transfer of land in the northwest territories. He briefly explained the Torrens system as in operation in Manitoba.

Mr. McCarthy seeks to amend the consolidated railway act, so that railway companies may be compelled to give compensation not only for lands taken, but obtaining land that may be injuriously affected.

Mr. Cameron (Huron) enquired the number of the white, Indian and half-breed population in the northwest territories by the latest census. He was answered that there were 23,344 whites, 20,170 Indians, and 4,846 half-breeds.

Sir Richard Cartwright enquired what amount had been paid from the first of July, 1885, to the first of March, 1886, on account of the recent rebellion in the northwest, or of claims arising therefrom, and was informed that the amount was $2,321,695.

Distress in London.

LONDON, March 2.—The severity of the weather is increasing the distress among the unemployed. Thousands are actually starving, and thousands more are barely existing on the scant doles of charity. The women and children, who find it impossible to obtain work in the large factories, are the greatest sufferers. Missionaries and agents of charitable societies in the East End describe awful scenes of destitution. Families are found huddled together in cellars and attics without food or fire, nearly naked, almost every article of clothing having been pledged to the pawnbroker. Great indignation is felt at the incompetency of the lord Mayor, who appears to be unable to distribute the Mansion house fund, which at present amounts to over $300,000. The poor who apply to him are repulsed, and 75 cents is the largest amount he has yet given in any one case. Hunger is a great breeder of riots, and if some measures are not speedily adopted to check the distress the hungry dwellers of the East End will fight like raving rats for existence. Prince Kropotkine has come here to live, hoping that his Socialistic propaganda will find fruitful soil. There is danger ahead, and the Right Hon. Hugh Childers is proving a veritable dodo in face of the danger.

BOTH DROWNED.—Last Saturday evening while a seven year old son of Mr. Fred Parker was playing on the Tacoma mill company's wharf, he in some manner fell into the bay. His brother, a brave little fellow about nine years old, jumped in after him; but as he could not swim much they were both drowned.

EVENING SESSION.

House went into committee on the Victoria & Saanich railway bill, Mr. Dingwall in the chair.

An amendment to clause 11 was added giving the company power to acquire charter and operate steamers and other vessels in connection with the line. After a most lengthy debate, which want of space compells us to exclude, all but a few clauses of the bill were passed with amendments. Among the most important of these were the reducing of the time limit of the guarantee deposit of $10,000 to sixty days, and the stipulation that if within that time such deposit was not duly made the bill should become null and void.

The committee rose and reported, asking leave to sit again.

A bill to amend the municipalities act amendment act, introduced by Mr. Orr, was read a first time, and house adjourned at midnight until 2 p. m. to-day (Thursday).

Municipal Council.

WEDNESDAY, March 10, 1886.

The regular meeting of the city council was held last evening at 8.

Present—His worship Mayor Fell and a full board.

The minutes of last regular and adjourned meetings were read and adopted.

MAYOR'S VOTE.

Coun. Higgins said he wished to refer to a question that came before the council last meeting, and one that if not remedied now might cause some unpleasantness with his worship. It was with reference to the mayor having a vote as a councillor. He would like to hear the opinion received from the city barrister, and if that was adverse to the position he had taken he would drop further opposition.

The opinion submitted by Mr. E. Johnson, city barrister, was then read, which stated that the mayor had a right to vote as a councillor, and also in the case of a tie a second or casting vote.

Coun. Higgins said that after that opinion he would withdraw all further opposition, and hoped that the mayor would vote on all and every question.

The opinion was received and filed.

CIVIC CONTRACTS.

The opinion of the city barrister on civic contracts was read as follows:

Upon the resolution of the council that I be requested to give an opinion as to whether a member of the council who as an individual or as a member of a joint stock company performs any work for the corporation either by contract or otherwise would be construed as violating his oath of office, I beg to point out that in the declaration made by each member of the council, he declares that he will not have any interest directly or indirectly in any contract or service connected with the corporation, and my answer is therefore in the affirmative. In the Ontario act an exception is made in favor of shareholders in incorporated companies having dealings with the corporation; and this seems to confirm the view I have expressed.

COMMUNICATIONS.

From Redon & Hartnagle asking permission to open the street to connect a drain with the Fort street drain. Granted

From the secretary of the board of trade enclosing a resolution passed by that body, endorsing the proposition made by Mr. Henderson for the purpose of establishing reduction works in this city, and recommending it to the favorable consideration of the council. Referred to the special committee on bonuses.

From Capt. E. H. Fletcher, secretary of the B. C. Rifle Association, asking as to the advisability of sending a team to compete at the Dominion Rifle Association matches at Ottawa, naming $250 as the amount. New Westminster and Nanaimo to contribute proportionate amounts. Referred to finance committee for report.

From ratepayers of Cook street asking for sidewalk on the west side of that street, between Chatham and North Park. Referred to street committee for report.

From W. Jackson asking if an accusation had been recorded against him as health officer, as a wrong impression had gone forth since his non-re-election.

On motion the letter was ordered to be answered, stating that no complaint existed against him in his recent position, as they considered he had always done his duty as health officer.

From ratepayers of Rock Bay avenue asking that the water pipes be extended to that street. Referred to water committee for report.

From residents of Third street, Work estate, asking extension of water pipes along that street. Referred to water committee for report.

From ratepayers of Rock Bay avenue and Bay street asking for sidewalks in those streets and drawing attention to a bad drain. Referred to street committee for report.

From A. Beswick submitting a proposition that the corporation accept 300 yards of gravel at Spring Ridge from his lot, to be removed by May 1st. Referred to street committee for report.

From W. S. Wright, asking permission to use a portion of Yates street for building purposes. Granted.

From Robert Grant, complaining of treatment in reference to Church way, offering to subscribe $100 to that of $50 offered by Mr. Wilson to assist in placing the street in a passable condition. Referred to city surveyor to report cost.

From T. P. McMullen, stating that private electric-dynamo shipped with corporation machinery to make up full cargo was in possession of the corporation, and asking that it be delivered to him, he to pay duties of freight and duty. The request was ordered to be complied with.

From J. Coughlan, asking for permission to remove a building. Granted on usual conditions.

From Rowland Green, enclosing bill for services on police committee for $50. Referred to finance committee for payment.

SANITARY BY-LAW.

On motion of Coun. Higgins the first reading of a by-law to amend the sanitary by-law was carried.

PARK.

On motion of Coun. Barnard, the first reading of a by-law granting the parkkeeper a salary of $45 per month, was carried.

STREET IMPROVEMENTS.

The city surveyor reported the estimated cost of improving Government street, from Finlayson's bridge to Broughton street, would be $7,000; the improving of Yates street, from Wharf to Cook, $4,800; the improvement of Fort street, from Wharf to the city boundary, $5,000.

Laid on table.

STREET COMMITTEE REPORT.

The street committee reported, recommending that a sidewalk be laid on south side of View street, between Quadra and Vancouver, and a four foot longitudinal from Vancouver street to old city boundary. The committee stated that Superior street near the park was being attended to. Received and laid on table.

WATER.

From the water committee, recommending the laying of the pipes on Simcoe street, cost of which would be $340; probable revenue, $114. Received and adopted.

ELECTRIC LIGHT.

From the electric lighting committee, recommending that J. P. McMullen be granted permission to erect poles for the purpose of carrying on a telephonic system.

Report received and adopted.

RULES.

The special committee reported rules for the guidance of the various committees of the council.

To be considered in committee of the whole.

REMOVING STONES.

Coun. Vigelius moved that the resolution ordering the removal of stones from street corners be reconsidered.

Coun. Robertson said his intention was to remove the most objectionable boulders on the streets, as many were dangerous.

Coun. Barnard thought they were all objectionable, as they were dangerous to traffic. The council had ordered the street committee to remove the rocks, and whether he thought otherwise or not the chairman of the street committee should have carried the wish of the council out. It was a reprehensible action on his part.

Coun. Robertson said Coun. Barnard did not know what he was talking about. Everything ordered by the council could not be carried out at once, and there was much work ordered that would not be done for another month or so.

Coun. Grant thought if the majority of the council ordered a thing to be done it should be carried out. In the present case he thought the resolution a little arbitrary.

Coun. Higgins said he was not satisfied with Coun. Robertson's explanation and would move an amendment, one that he was sorry to do, but when he considered that life and limb were every day endangered he felt it his duty to do so. The amendment was as follows: That the mayor be requested to see the work carried out, as the street committee, after twice being requested to do so by the council, took no action in the matter.

Coun. Lipsett seconded the motion.

Coun. Grant thought the resolution out of order, and in any event it should be modified.

Coun. Robertson said the amendment did not annoy him and he did not care whether it passed or not. If the stones were removed it would cause many enemies, and while he had no objection to the removal of objectionable boulders, he thought many of the stones should remain for protecting the streets.

Coun. Humber thought too much time was wasted in discussing trivial matters. He thought the rocks should be at once removed.

The motion to reconsider the former resolution was put and resulted in a tie:

Ayes—Grant, Smith, Styles, Robertson, Vigelius.

Noes—Mayor Fell, Higgins, Lipsett, Humber, Barnard.

The mayor voted nay on the casting vote, and the resolution was declared lost.

Coun. Smith objected; the mayor had no right to vote in the way he did.

His Worship—Coun. Smith, you are out of order, and I will not allow you to dictate to me in that way when the city barrister has decided that I possess the power, and I intend to exercise it.

FERNWOOD ROAD.

Moved by Coun. Robertson, seconded by Coun. Styles, that tenders be called for the opening of Fernwood road.

After discussion the matter was deferred until the agreement with Mr. Pearse could be read.

MISCELLANEOUS.

His worship reported a conference with the city barrister in reference to the proposed changes in the charter.

On motion the matter was left in the hands of the mayor and city barrister.

On motion of Coun. Barnard the report of the cemetery and park committee was reconsidered.

Coun. Humber reported that the building for the new electric light plant would have to be 40x60 feet, and recommended that a brick building be erected. The difference between a wooden and brick building would not be more than $300.

In answer to Coun. Smith, the chairman of the electric light committee said the building would cost from $1200 to $1500.

On motion of Coun. Vigelius the electric light committee were empowered to call for plans and specifications for a brick building for the plant.

On motion of Couns. Humber and Lipsett, tenders were ordered to be called for the macadamizing of Douglas street from Smith's tavern to the boundary line.

Coun. Grant drew attention to the burnt building on Fort street, and thought the parties should be ordered to at once remove so dangerous a nuisance.

In answer to a question of Coun. Higgins, the city clerk said he had not yet sent communication to the government in reference to night school, but woul do so when instructed by the mayor.

Council adjourned.

THE FEDERAL CAPITAL.

Parliamentary Proceedings in Brief.

OTTAWA, March 4.—In the commons yesterday the Hon. Mr. Thompson created more than a favorable impression in his maiden speech referring to the consolidated railway and northwest land transfer bills and at the close was warmly congratulated by the members. He explained the latter bill proposed four registries for land in the northwest, one each in Assiniboia and Alberta, and two in Saskatchewan. The system introduced is practically the Torrens, with some modifications to meet the necessities of the country.

Sir John, in reply to a question, said the flour supplied to Indians was frequently examined by experts not belonging to the department to test its quality.

It is understood that the report of the Mingaye investigation shows that while the collector was rude and uncivil in cases where incorrectly prepared papers were presented, that in all cases he was strictly within the law. The evidence produced by the board of trade committee did not bear out the sweeping charges made, and

Eastern Canada Mail.

Per Northern Pacific Railway

OTTAWA, March 1.—The Senate has recanted its opinions upon the question of giving publicity to its proceedings. Last session an edict was issued, excluding the press representatives from the galleries during the debates. But this year an arrangement has been made through the Hansard reporters with some Ottawa papers to publish the official reports of the Senate debates at so much per column.

Rev. Father Tabaret, D. D., President of the Ottawa College, died suddenly here yesterday. He appeared to be in excellent health during the early part of the day and at the ten o'clock mass delivered an address to the students of the college. While at dinner he was taken ill and died half an hour afterwards. The doctors pronounced the cause heart disease. Father Tabaret was a native of France and was 58 years old. He was appointed President of the Ottawa College in 1855 in which position he continued until his death. He was also Provincial of the Oblate Order.

KINGSTON, March 1.—The congregation of the Queen-street Church, whose beautiful new edifice was recently destroyed by fire, have decided to rebuild at once. The plans call for expenditure amounting to $15,000.

ST. THOMAS, March 3.—Since yesterday additional facts have been developed concerning the M. C. R., train robberies, which have proved beyond doubt the existence of a regular gang of thieves. On a further search being made an immense quantity of stolen property was discovered hidden in every conceivable place around the houses and barns of the Hegwood and McCarthy families. A lot of perfumery was found hidden in the hollow stumps

LONDON, March 3.—The coroner's jury on the body of Wm. Shripton, shot by Wm. Monko last week, brought in a verdict of justifiable homicide.

NIAGARA, March 3.—A fire occurred this morning on Queen street, the stores of Lynch, Saddler, Webster, general merchant, Fuller, confectioner, Ross, shop and residence, Rogers, tailor, and two others were destroyed. Loss $3,000.

BELLEVILLE, March 3.—The water in the river has subsided three feet since Monday. Business is being resumed in the portion of the district lately flooded.

BRANTFORD, March 3.—John A. Eddy, postmaster at Scotland, Ont., charged with stealing a money letter, was to-day committed for trial.

TORONTO, March 3.—Samuel Long, grocer, Teraniey street, while celebrating his fiftieth birthday yesterday, fell down stairs, fracturing his skull.

A Husband & Co., dry goods, Yonge street have assigned. Liabilities, twelve thousand dollars; assets nominally equal.

Gooderham & Worts yesterday paid to the Inland Revenue department $135,000 duty on liquor, and to-day they paid $150,000. Wholesale liquor men and grocery firms are also busy taking stock out of bond.

MONTREAL, March 3.—The storm which has been raging here for some days past has not yet spent itself. All trains are badly behind time and some were cancelled again to-day.

Archbishop Tache passed through here to day on his way to Ottawa on private business connected with the interest of his archdiocese. On being asked if there were any probability of a rising in the spring among the half-breeds or Indians in the Northwest his Grace replied: "I can almost vouch for the fact that there will be nothing unusual in the Northwest in the spring. The half-breeds are becoming more and more contented as the weeks roll on, and if the Government continues to behave well towards them, as is is doing now, they will remain within the bonds of law and order. I feel assured that the Indians will, no more than the Metis, unearth the hatchet.

By a run on the Grand Junction Division of the G. T. R., Mr. Irwin, a commercial traveller, of Toronto, was fatally injured, and several other passengers were seriously hurt.

James Taylor, ex-champion oarsman of England, says he will go through Niagara Rapids in an ordinary scull boat for $1,000, and will ask for no money if he is not successful.

ST. CATHARINES, March 3.—Three cases of insanity have been reported during the past two weeks. Joseph Parker, a shoemaker, who assisted in the arrest of counterfeiters, is now in jail waiting medical examination. Nelson Tyrrell, who murdered his sister-in-law on Monday evening, is insane, and now George Gregory, a young man employed in the saw works, has lost his reason.

FOOLISH FULMER.

How a Wealthy Pennsylvanian was Plucked by Sharpers.

NAZARETH, Pa., Feb. 27.—John Fulmer, one of our wealthiest citizens, was recently done out of $5,000 by three card-monte men, and now he has been worked for $2,000, on an investment, by the sharpers of $500. A stranger appeared and offered him $2,000 for his Bucks county farm. He accepted, and received $500 cash. A few days after a another man came along and wanted to buy the farm. Fulmer said it had been sold a day or two before. Stranger No. 2 finally told Mr. Fulmer he would give him $6,000, and suggested that Mr. Fulmer buy the other man off. A few days after stranger No. 1 appeared with the balance of the money. Mr. Fulmer told him he had a higher bid, and asked that the sale be considered off. But stranger No. 2 w uld not listen to it. However, when Fulmer finally reached $2,000 in his bid to have the sale set a side the stranger accepted, took his $500 purchase money and the $2,000 and left. Mr. Fulmer has been looking for stranger No. 2 and the $6,000 ever since.

Prayed and Shot.

NEW YORK, March 2.—A Wheeling special says: Thomas Cline, while at his home near Perryville, fell in with the 15-year old son of Wm. Lee, a respectable farmer. The two began talking about the progress of a revival meeting in one of the churches, and Lee said that he did not think he could pray to save his life. Cline differed with him, and, drawing a revolver, said he could take his choice between praying and dying. Lee protested, but when the revolver was held between his eyes he prayed. He was then allowed to rise from his knees, when he procured a rifle, and, overtaking Cline, shot him through the body. Cline has died and Lee is in jail awaiting an indictment for murder.

Reply to "Bunch Grass" Re Shuswap and Okanagan Railway.

TO THE EDITOR:—Noticing in *The Colonist* of the 21st Feb. a communication signed "Bunch Grass," bearing upon the proposed Shuswap and Okanagan railway, in which certain questions are asked by the writer, I append the following answers to his queries:

Question (1.)—Did not the heavy yields of wheat cited in the prospectus occur in an extraordinarily successful season rather than an average one?

Answer:—No prospectus has been issued, but I presume "Bunch Grass" refers to Mr. Lumby's letter to the promoters and to the report of Mr. G. A. Keefer, C. E., who last summer examined the proposed line of railway. In Mr. Lumby's letter the yields cited were for the year 1884, the latest available returns obtainable at the time, the crop of 1885 being then unthrashed. It is true the crops of 1884 were very heavy and perhaps above the average, not only in the Spallumcheen-Okanagan country, but almost everywhere throughout the North American continent. On the 500 acres mentioned by Mr. Lumby, the yield averaged 27 bushels of wheat to the acre. In the report of Mr. Hamlin, C. E., the engineer appointed by the Dominion Government to make an exploratory survey of the railway lying between Spallumcheen river and Okanagan lake with a view of ascertaining the feasibility of constructing a canal to connect these waters, dated in 1883, he says: "The past season was a remarkably dry one.... the grain crops of this year were magnificent, both as regards yield and sample, the estimated average of grain to the acre realizing to the large amount of 35 bushels and this, I am informed, is considerably below the usual average." In the report of Mr. Keefer, C. E., this gentleman bases his calculations upon an average yield of 33 bushels to the acre and not upon the return quoted by Mr. Lumby for 1884. During a residence of 22 years I have seen many crops fully equal to and in some cases superior to those of 1884, and the estimate of Mr. Keefer is in my opinion a very fair one.

Question 2.—Is it not a matter of historic fact that the Spallumcheen farmers have had their crops wholly or partly ruined during the past few years: (*a*) by drought; (*b*) by frost before the grain had ripened; (*c*) by excessive rain in harvest.

Answer—The fact that new farms are being started every year and the acreage placed under cultivation in the older ones increased, should be a sufficient answer to this question. There have been instances, no doubt, where owing to the difficulty and expense of procuring experienced labor at the time required, the grain has been sown too late, resulting in a portion of the crop being so injured from some of the causes in a, b or c as to necessitate its being converted into pork and bacon.

The seasons vary in every country. I have seen in Oregon whole fields of wheat completely destroyed from one cause or another.

I have no hesitation in asserting that where the ground in the Spallumcheen-Okanagan country has been properly cultivated and seeded in good time, a failure of crops has been almost unknown.

Question 3—Is the wheat produced of such a quality as to permit of its being milled successfully in competition with the harder grain of Thompson river, Cache creek, and, most formidable of all, the Northwest?

Answer—"Bunch Grass" seems to mistake the object of the proposed railway. It is not a matter of competing with any of the places mentioned. We trust there is room and a market for all and shall be glad to see railways constructed before long to facilitate the transportation of the grain grown by the farmers north of Cache creek. His question rather conflicts with that in No. 6, for if flour can be laid down so cheaply in Kamloops, what is the object of shipping wheat from the Northwest? It is in contemplation, I understand, to erect large flouring mills at some convenient point for the supplying of the new city of Vancouver, New Westminster, Nanaimo and Victoria, all of which places now obtain their flour from the American side, and possibly in the future exporting any surplus.

With respect to the quality of the wheat a report from Mr. Chudley, a gentleman of large experience in the Liverpool Corn Exchange and elsewhere, is subjoined:

VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA,
27th February, 1886.

Having carefully examined four bulk samples of wheat handed to me by Mr. M. Lumby, viz:

One of fall wheat from Spallumcheen.
Two " spring " " Okanagan,

My opinion is, the quality of each will compare favorably with any wheat hitherto produced in the north-western provinces of Canada, in fact one of the Okanagan spring samples excels any other for clearness of grain, color, etc., and would undoubtedly be eagerly sought after by millers. Speaking from an active experience of 24 years in the Liverpool corn exchange and English grain markets generally, I have no doubt that when the production exceeds the wants of British Columbia, California and Oregon will find this country a formidable opponent in the quality of her cereal exports.

(Signed) WILLIAM CHUDLEY.

Questions 4 and 5—Assuming the area of available land is correctly estimated, how much of the Okanagan land is it necessary to irrigate, and what are the facilities for supplying water?

Answer—It is not necessary to irrigate any portion of the Okanagan country if the ground is properly cultivated and the seed sown early enough. Splendid crops are raised year after year without irrigation.

With water the most enormous yields are obtained of grain, hay and roots.

The facilities for irrigation are, generally speaking, very good.

Question 6—If, as I am credibly informed, extra flour can be laid down in large quantities from the Northwest as far as Kamloops for $4.50 per barrel, are the farmers in Okanagan and Spallumcheen likely to extend their wheat average beyond its present limits?

Answer—At what price flour *will* be laid down for at Kamloops, it is impossible for any one to state at the present time. It will vary presumably with the price of wheat.

Upon the completion of the C. P. R. the farmers in the Okanagan-Spallumcheen country can raise wheat as cheaply as those in the Northwest and it will no doubt be milled as cheaply, the cost of transportation from the Northwest being, of course, in favor of the former.

Question 7—Would not canal communication, as advocated for years past, be almost equally effective and vastly cheaper?

Answer—The construction of a canal twenty miles in length, as estimated by Mr. Hamlin, C. E., would cost over seventy per cent. of the cost of the railway fifty miles in length, as estimated by Mr. Keefer, C. E.

The canal would be frozen up for some five months in the year, and possibly for two months more be useless from the low water in the Spallumcheen river.

Furthermore, it would be valueless for the shipment of live stock, and be closed at the time most required by the farmers for the transportation of their grain.

Question 8—If the proposed railway is likely to be a paying one, why are its projectors asking for a land grant of large proportions?

Answer—New enterprises of this nature involve the expenditure of large sums of money, together with careful and energetic management, and from the benefits accruing to the country at large, by reason of the enhanced value of property, the increase of population, the development of latent wealth, and the increase of revenue arising therefrom, it has always been conceded that such enterprises should be assisted in every legitimate way to ensure their success. There has scarcely a railway