

BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

Protracted Meeting of the City Fathers—Direct Communication With Westminster.

The Filter Bed Improvements—Report of Experts—Other Important Business.

The city council did not get through their meeting last night till after eleven o'clock. All the members were present except Ald. Tarks.

A letter signed by J. J. Nickson, Westminster, desired the council to give the Westminster delegation their co-operation. The letter stated that the bridge would greatly benefit the farming lands of the south shore as far as Chilliwack and bring them within easy reach of Westminster and Vancouver. For the purpose of bringing Victoria within easy reach of the Mainland Westminster had agreed to accept the proposition of a company which had offered to build a railway from Westminster to Garry Point and put on a first-class ferry to connect with the Victoria & Sidney railway at Sidney, making the trip from Westminster to Victoria in 3 1/2 hours and as soon as business warranted the extra expense the time would be reduced to 2 1/2 hours. The bridge would not entail any expense on the part of the city and would be a great benefit to the city guaranteed the traffic and tolls to cover interest and sinking fund and the cost of maintenance would be paid by the two railways running over it.

Ald. Williams wanted to know whether letting the water in would not cover any defects there might be in the front wall. He would like the report laid on the table till the matter could be further looked into.

Ald. Wilson did not think either Mr. Bell or Mr. Wilmot would recommend that the water be let in if the front wall were not perfect; so that the council need not be uneasy about that point.

Ald. Partridge's motion was carried. Another letter from "G. Campbell" was brought up, but was laid on the table without being read. Ald. Wilson remarked that Campbell was worse than the "Scotch" and was only anxious to get his letters published.

The finance committee recommended that the telephones in the private residences of the following be discontinued: Chief of police, sergeant of police, police magistrates, city engineer, pound keeper, Mrs. Jameson, superintendent of electric light, sanitary officer, street inspector. This was carried.

The same committee recommended that the veterinary surgeon be asked to do all the city veterinary work at the price for which he was attending the fire department horses. This was referred to the fire warden and street committee.

The recommendation of the finance committee that no clothing or boots be furnished the city employees except to the police was carried, as was also the recommendation that the city engineer be called to his certificates for street work on February 13 and 29, which were too inclement for effective work.

The contract for horse feed was awarded to R. Baker & Son, and the motion to affix the seal of the city to the contract of C. J. King for street watering, and of Haynes & Bell for the sidewalk in front of the market, was carried.

The Mayor called attention to the fact that though the statute provided that officers handling city moneys should give bonds, there were only two who had done so. He had called the attention of the council to the same matter, but nothing had been done. The finance committee will report on this subject at next meeting.

Ald. Williams' motion to call for a report on the position of the road and dog tax collector was carried and Ald. Glover's by-law to amend the Ross Bay cemetery by-law was put through the three readings.

THE TAX ON MINERALS.

Delegates From the Mining Districts Form a Committee to Interview the Governor.

They Consider That Taxing Net Returns One Per Cent. Would Be Fair.

At a meeting of all the delegates from the mining districts of the province now represented in Victoria, held at the Grand Hotel on Friday last, with Mr. Byron N. White in the chair and Mr. J. L. Retallack acting as secretary, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

1. Be it Resolved, That to accommodate the members of the executive government and to facilitate the purpose of our delegation, Byron N. White, Col. Turner and J. L. Retallack be and are hereby selected to form a committee for the purpose of waiting upon the governor at such times as may be convenient to the executive, for the purpose of representing the views of the whole body of delegates, and for such purposes are hereby invested with full powers to that effect.

2. That whereas, on the basis of a 2 per cent. taxation, the main point at issue (with exception of the methods of collecting the tax) is as to what shall be considered net returns, be it therefore resolved that it is the sense of this meeting, if the tax be levied on a 2 per cent. basis on net returns, such net returns shall be the amount realized after all freights, duties, smelting charges and other expenses have been deducted, and the cost of mining should be determined by the affidavit of the producer or such other evidence as the government may require.

3. That whereas undoubtedly grave difficulties exist in properly estimating costs of mining, (which under different circumstances vary to such an extent as to render fixed charges impracticable) and whereas whilst the miners of this province (as well as natives) are willing and ready to bear their full share of taxation necessary to carry on the business of this province, still it is felt not only by the delegates here present, but by the majority of the miners in the mining districts, who are entirely dependent on the mining industry, that in exacting a tax of 2 per cent. on net returns the mining industry is called on to support more than its equitable share of the burden of taxation; be it therefore resolved that it is the sense of this meeting that a tax of 1 per cent. on smelter returns—which shall include costs of transportation, milling, duty and smelting, but against which no charge for development or mining shall be made—is a fair and equitable tax on the mining industry.

4. That whereas the method of collecting the proposed tax, as outlined in the draft of the bill now before us, will work an excessive hardship on miners, especially on small operators who are unable to employ the clerical staff necessary to carry out the requirements as laid down, and whereas the sub-sections of section 12 of the bill may be justly considered impracticable; be it therefore resolved that our representatives do call the attention of the government to our views on this subject, and our reasons for such views.

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SHIPS AND SHIPPING.

Pacific Mail Steamship "Rio de Janeiro" From San Francisco Long Overdue.

The Sloop Sealer "Fisher Maid" Strikes a Rock and Afterwards Sinks.

A dispatch from San Francisco says: The Pacific Mail Steamship Company's big liner City of Rio Janeiro, which left that port for the Orient on the 6th of last month, should have arrived at Yokohama February 23, yet not a word has been heard from her. She had 156 people on board, all told. Of these four were cabin passengers, and there were in the steerage ten Europeans, ten Japanese and twenty-two Chinese. The crew consisted of thirty white people and seventy-nine Chinese. Following is a list of the passengers: Cabin—J. Fisher, W. T. Sylvester, Lamar Lynard, Mrs. Lamar Lynard, Steerage—A. Boddeley, J. Rosenfeld, sen., J. Rosenfeld, jr., Mrs. Anna Burge and family of three, and G. Gaillard. The list of the steamer's white crew is: W. J. Russell, captain; A. E. Robinson, chief officer; J. H. Matthews, chief engineer; O. K. Treeman, purser; A. K. Tichenor, freight clerk; S. M. Terrill, surgeon; J. C. Johnson, second officer; L. C. Newgard, third officer; J. A. Jensen, carpenter; William Bray, medical watchman; W. J. Palmer, D. C. White, F. Smith, quartermasters; H. McMillan, first assistant engineer; J. E. Handley, second assistant engineer; Charles Smith, third assistant engineer; R. McCabe, J. S. Nardie, John Riley, water tenders; C. C. Reed, John Cavanagh, oilers; A. Burrell, steward; S. Kidd, stewardess; S. Hankin, stewardess; Mrs. J. G. Dorman, stewardess; George Lancashire, butcher; Robert R. Kelly, saloon watchman; J. C. Spencer, steamer watchman; Ng Yo and seventy-nine Chinese. The one theory upon which the company's agents base their hope that the Rio was compelled to pass Yokohama without making her usual stop there. This would not be considered an altogether unusual occurrence. Should this be the case, the vessel could possibly be heard from her until she reaches Hongkong.

The Rio Janeiro is a four-masted, amply provided with sails. She was built in 1875 at Chester, Pa., of steel; is 12,313 tons, and has a true speed of 12 knots. She is the most modern and powerful vessel in the Pacific, and has the reputation of being a fairly fast and staunch vessel. The Rio carried a cargo of general merchandise and bullion valued at \$1,000,000. The most modern machinery and appliances, and has the reputation of being a fairly fast and staunch vessel. The Rio carried a cargo of general merchandise and bullion valued at \$1,000,000. The most modern machinery and appliances, and has the reputation of being a fairly fast and staunch vessel.

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Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U.S. Gov't Report

Royal Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE

ASSESSMENT ON BANKS.

Responsibility for the Tax on Deposits as to Which Information May Be Refused.

That Owners of Personal Property Cannot Be Discovered for Taxation Not Admitted.

A return presented to the legislature yesterday contains the following judgment rendered on 11th January, 1896, by Mr. S. Perry Mills, sitting as a court of revision, on the appeal of the Bank of British Columbia against the provincial assessment. The grounds of appeal were that the personal property was improperly assessed, and that the income was assessed in excess of the actual amount, and the judgment was as follows:

Be assessment of income and personal property of the Bank of British Columbia (provincial). The appellant, the Bank of British Columbia, appeals from the assessment made by the provincial assessor, Mr. Cornelius Booth, viz., income \$150,000; personal property \$767,517.85.

Mr. W. C. Ward appeared on behalf of the bank. The evidence adduced showed that the gross income of the bank derived from all sources except exempt from taxation by law was \$70,383.62, but it does not appear from the declaration made by Mr. Ward before the assessor that the true value of all the property of the bank is \$150,000. It will therefore be necessary to produce further evidence before the matter can be properly adjusted. With regard to the assessment of personal property, the declaration of Mr. Ward states "that the true value of all the personal property assessable against the said bank is \$4,487,523.27, and that the said bank is indebted on account of such personal property in the sum of \$5,833,612.31, and that the true amount for which the said Bank of British Columbia is liable to be rated and assessed in respect of personal property is nil."

In the absence of any evidence to the contrary, the appeal of the bank must be allowed. The bank, at the request of the assessor, produced a statement to the court, wherein it appears that "deposits on current account and at interest" amount to \$4,906,120.31. It appears to me that this amount comes within the statutory definition of "personal estate" and "personal property," and as such is taxable subject to any lawful exemption.

Mr. Ward refuses to give the court any information whereby it can direct the assessor to assess the deposits, and he claims, moreover, that the bank has some kind of a privilege, and cannot be compelled to disclose the names of the depositors for the purposes of taxation. Mr. Ward also contends that the court should confine itself to the two points raised by the bank.

In my opinion the bank cannot claim any such privilege as against the provincial assessor. With regard to the second objection, the act gives the court power to "increase the assessment or change it by assessing the right person," etc.

To say that the owners of personal property cannot be discovered for the purposes of taxation appears to me contrary to the spirit and express wording of the assessment act, which declares (section 3): "All land and personal property, and income in the province of British Columbia shall be liable to taxation, subject to the following exemptions, that is to say," etc. I cannot find in the exemptions that money of a citizen, deposited in a bank, is free from taxation. Personal property cannot be assessed without inquisitorial process of some kind and it is the duty of the assessor to see that the crown is not defrauded by persons concealing the knowledge of taxable property, which a taxpayer may think cannot be discovered. If the bank claims the privilege of concealing the names of its depositors, and amount of deposits respectively, such amount of deposits I think can be assessed and taxed in the name of the bank as agent or trustee for the depositors; and if the bank persists in refusing to disclose the names of such depositors I shall have no other alternative than to assess the bank as agent or trustee under the act.

Until the necessary information is obtained the assessment cannot be adjusted by the court. It is not for me to point out the precise steps that should be taken by the assessor, but it would appear that he can obtain further information from the bank or its representative by taking the necessary proceedings.

In the meantime this appeal will stand adjourned until the 15th day of January, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

In the course of last Sunday evening's service at the First Presbyterian church, the pastor, Rev. Dr. Campbell, announced that the twentieth anniversary of the reopening of the church will be observed next Lord's day, when Rev. Dr. Reid—who reopened the church—will occupy the pulpit at both services.

The remains of the late Mrs. Catherine Viegas were interred in Ross Bay cemetery yesterday morning, the funeral taking place from 151 Quadra street, and later from the R. C. cathedral. At the latter place Rev. Father Nicolay celebrated high mass with musical accompaniment. The pallbearers of the funeral were Wm. R. B. Commiskey, M. Bantty, T. Geiger, T. Smith, and Wm. Grimm.

It is not to be wondered at that Ayer's Pills are in such universal demand for the cure of constipation, biliousness or any other complaint which a laxative, these pills are unsurpassed. They are sugar-coated, easy to take, and every dose is effective.

HORRIBLE BARBARITIES.

The Revolution in Korea Shows How Little Fitted for Self-Government the Country Is.

Cannibalism Indulged in by the People of Seoul—A Refugee From Korea now in America.

The papers received from the Orient by the Empress of India yesterday relate in detail the exciting incidents in connection with the recent revolution in Korea, since which the king has remained under the protection of the Russian embassy, the government of the kingdom being gradually brought into the hands of politicians entirely under Russian control and hostile to the Japanese. Russian troops continue to patrol the streets of the Korean capital and report, and it is evident to the majority of residents in the East that the Bear has come to Korea to stay—at least to remain so long as it is necessary in order to bring the hermit kingdom absolutely and entirely under Russian domination. From scraps of information given by the Japanese press the conclusion is drawn that the mysterious passenger to this port by the steamer Victoria only a few days ago was not a brother of the Korean king, as his fellow passengers proudly proclaimed, but the former minister of war of Korea, Cho Heul Yun, who alone escaped when the ministry was overthrown and a few hours after put to death. Cho sought safety in flight, hiding himself on the steamer Soyo Maru, at Chemulpo, and with Japanese assistance ultimately finding his way on board the Northern Pacific liner bound for America. He is said to be well provided with money, but no one here knows where he has gone to or what part of America he proposes making his abode. In connection with the uprising against the Japanese on the 11th February, the Japanese papers publish the following:

On the morning of February 10 someone secretly notified the King that the Japanese had concocted a plot in concert with certain outlaws, in which they had arranged to repeat the outrages of October 8. The King's life being in danger it was suggested that he should apply to some foreign legation for protection. This was the cause of his going to the Russian legation. On the night of February 10 the Minister of War paid a visit to the royal palace and gave orders for stricter vigilance to be kept at all the entrance gates. The King and Crown Prince made use of sedan chairs in effecting their escape. Shortly after they went to the Russian legation a party of men, apparently Russian sailors, appeared at the police bureau, seized An Kwan and So Ko Bun, (two police inspectors) and conducted them to the legation. There they were ordered by Li Han Shin, Yi Yun Yong and Yi Wan Yong to arrest Kim Hong Chip and other persons. The King was then taken to the Russian legation, where he was placed in a large room. The Russian legation, attended by Li Han Shin, Yi Yun Yong and Yi Wan Yong. No one, not even the ministers of state, were allowed to approach the King without retaining permission from the three persons above referred to. On the morning of the 11th Kim Hong Chip, Yu Ki Chun and Kim Yoo Sik were at the Cabinet office. They were dismayed on hearing of the disturbance and were consulting at once the best course to be taken when a number of policemen entered the office and on the authority of the royal order placed them in sedan chairs and started off with them. On the way they repeatedly asked where they were being taken to. Their answer was always the same: "Wherever it suits us to take you." Their destination was the police bureau. En route thither Yu Ki Chun and Kim Yoo Sik escaped, and their present whereabouts is unknown. Chung Hei Ha, minister of agriculture, commerce and industry, was also arrested. The two ministers, Kim and Chung, were immediately incarcerated in cells. In about half an hour An Kwan and So Ko Bun (the two police inspectors) delivered to the Premier and the Minister of Agriculture, Commerce and Industry, notice of dismissal from their offices. They were then dragged out of their cells into the yard by the policemen, and conducted to the entrance of the gates of the police bureau. Here they had their hands tied high up on their backs. Then a policeman began hacking at their necks with a sword. Chung Hei Ha's head was nearly severed from his body. Kim Hong Chip's gas extended from the neck several inches into the shoulder. Life was not yet extinct, however, so they were stabbed with a sword in the throat. Then they were given five or six more cuts. So Ko Bun ordered the policemen to tie the ropes on their hands and feet and drag the bodies through the streets. Thus fastened the bodies were dragged to the most prosperous part of the town, being beaten on the way with clubs and stones. The populace proceeded to crush in the heads, disembowel the corpses and eat of the flesh. The bodies were finally left for the disposal of the public. The police put the following placard over the heads: "These are the heads of Kim Hong Chip and Chung Hei Ha, two great traitors. They are put up for public inspection with a warning to the populace that all other traitors will be similarly dealt with. Any person arresting any accomplice of these traitors is requested to bring him to the police affairs bureau."

Yi Yun Yong, Supt. General of Police.

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