

THE AFFAIRS OF THE CITY.

Vancouver Makes a Surprising Request in Regard to Darcy Island Funds.

Ald. Dwyer Comments on Some Work at Beaver Lake—Pauper Burials.

All of the city council except Ald. Vigelius were at the regular meeting last night. The session was a short one, but considerable business was transacted.

J. H. Gray, chief engineer of the Victoria & Sidney railway, wrote enclosing a conveyance to 9.96 acres of land on the west shore of Elk lake owned by the city and needed by the company and pointing out that the arborization had fixed the price at \$50 per acre. The letter was tabled for future consideration.

J. T. Bethune, secretary of the Liberal association, wrote thanking the mayor and aldermen for the free use of the market hall for the Laurier meeting. Received and filed.

Henry M. Yates, secretary of the board of directors of the Jubilee hospital, called attention to the fact that the hospital was improperly being paid the expense of all pauper funerals in cases of death at the hospital.

Ald. Humphrey said he believed it unjust to have the hospital pay the expense of all pauper funerals. If the city sent a poor patient to the hospital and he died, the city should bury him. He believed, however, that some distinction should be made and that Victoria should not be called on to pay for a man from the interior or from the other side.

The mayor said he thought the letter was general in its reference.

Ald. Humphrey said the city should certainly not be called upon to bury outsiders.

Ald. Styles moved to refer the matter to the cemetery committee for investigation and report, and it was so decided.

J. Stuart Yates called attention to the absolute want of fire protection at Jubilee hospital, and asked the city clerk to confer with the committee of the month.

Mayor Teague said that he had had several conferences with the chief of the fire department on the subject and a plan of the sites of the Jubilee and city isolation hospitals, showing just how the pipes and hydrants were, was being prepared. He suggested that the matter be deferred for a week, and that idea was on motion decided upon.

A letter from the secretary of the Victoria trades and labor council (which has already appeared in the Times) protesting against the principle of the contract system in doing city work, pointing out that it would be in the interests of the city to do the work on Douglas street sewer by the day, and asking that the letter be referred to the sewerage commissioners for consideration, was read.

On motion of Ald. Munn, seconded by Ald. Ledingham, the letter was referred to the sewerage commissioners.

D. Robson, city clerk of New Westminster, wrote inviting the mayor and aldermen to the Westminster fair. The invitation was accepted with thanks.

City Clerk McGuigan, of Vancouver, wrote claiming that the Dominion grant of \$1000 to the support of the lepers at Darcy Island was not for Victoria alone, but for the whole province, asserting that Vancouver had the right of participating in its use and demanding an accounting of the money so far.

He enclosed a vast amount of correspondence between himself and City Clerk Dowler, and himself and the department of agriculture at Ottawa. The earliest of the letters showed clearly that the money was voted to Victoria, but later ones contain some ministerial quibbles to give color to Vancouver's claim.

Ald. Wilson said he believed the claim of Vancouver was most unjust. In 1891 Darcy Island cost Victoria \$1134.36; in 1892 \$994.10 and in 1893 \$577.91, making a total of \$2706.37. In 1892 Vancouver contributed \$364.54 and in 1893 \$190.23, and in the latter year the Dominion government gave \$1000 and the provincial government \$28.20, making the total from all outside sources \$1337.50, so Victoria had just twice as much as everybody else. He believed that viewed from any standpoint it was the duty of the Dominion government to pay for the entire care of the lepers.

Ald. Dwyer said he believed that the details given by Ald. Wilson should be sent to the Vancouver council and that Vancouver should be notified that it would be expected to provide for all of its own lepers after November 1 if it did not pay its share. He moved to that effect.

Ald. Baker seconded the motion and said he believed Victoria had been treated most unfairly.

Ald. Munn said the policy of the Dominion government was about the stupidest thing imaginable. On the Atlantic seaboard the Dominion government maintained a regular lazaretto, which is fully controlled and supported. Here a couple of cities were called upon to provide the expense of the station. It was clearly the duty of the government to care for the lepers, but every effort to have it taken over had failed. He believed that a strongly worded resolution covering the matter should be passed and forwarded to Ottawa.

The motion of Ald. Dwyer was then put and carried.

City Engineer Wilmot submitted a report stating that the work of repairing the receiving beds at Beaver lake would cost \$500 more than was appropriated and that he had stopped the work.

Ald. Dwyer said that from all he could hear there had been a needless expenditure of money in certain ways. For instance, three men had been engaged at a salary of \$4 per day. They had done little more than watch one another, and one of the other men employed on the work had said one of the \$4 a day men had done little beyond reading and smoking. One could have done the work of the three.

Ald. Ledingham asked who had directed the work, and Mayor Teague said the city engineer had.

Ald. Harris urged that there be no further delay and that the work be resumed, and said he was sure that the money would be forthcoming in due time.

Ald. Munn said that while it was very seldom that an expenditure exceeded an estimate, it was a practice that should not be continued for an instant, for it was wrong in principle.

The mayor said it would have been

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The directors also deserve a vote of thanks from the newspaper men whose questions were answered, and wants supplied with invariable courtesy and promptness. Particularly is this so with the general president, Dr. Milne, the secretary, Mr. Renouf, the superintendent, Mr. Lamberton (to whom the public is also debtor for courtesies and attention), and Mr. A. J. Dallin, the untiring assistant secretary, as well as any of the other officials whom it was at times necessary to approach for information.

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