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FRIDAY WILL BE POLLING DAY

BY-LAWS COME BEFORE PROPERTY OWNERS

Voting is to Take Place at the Market Building From 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

To-morrow the property owners of the city will be called upon to decide whether the three by-laws shall come into force. These represent a total sum of $141,000. It is proposed to borrow the money for local improvements, as follows: $100,000 will be devoted towards the extension of the sewerage system of the city; $30,000 will be applied to the erection of a new school building in Victoria West; and $11,000 will be used in adding to the electric lighting plant.

These are necessarily brought in as three separate by-laws and will be voted upon separately upon their respective merits.

The Sewer Loan Guarantee by-law represents an annual charge of $4,655, extending over 50 years. The amount is primarily charged and secured upon the frontage rents and sewer connection rentals collected under the Sewers by-law.

The money so raised cannot be applied to any other use except that of extending the sewer system.

The $30,000 by-law for school purposes aims at the erection of an adequate building in Victoria West. For years this question has been before the public. The present school house has been condemned as unfit for the purposes to which it is devoted. It is said to be unsanitary and is also too small to meet the present needs. In the hope of getting a new building, the old one for years has been repaired from time to time, only to meet the absolute demands.

The board of school trustees realized that the work could no longer be delayed, and have this year asked the council to submit the by-law as an absolute necessity. The residents of Victoria West are deeply interested in this, but they ask the city as a whole to lend its aid in voting for the erection of a school to take the place of one which it is acknowledged on all sides has outlived its usefulness. The annual charge represented is $1,920, extending over 25 years' time. On the present assessment this represents a rate of one-ninth of a mill on the dollar.

The third by-law is for the purpose of borrowing $11,000 for electric lighting purposes. Councils for several years past have been petitioned time and time again for additional street lights. These of late have had to be refused on the ground that the civic plant was taxed to its fullest capacity. With the growth of the city it has been deemed advisable to enlarge the plant, and thus permit of additional lights being put on the streets. This by-law requires the borrowing of $11,000, and represents an annual charge for interest and sinking fund of $1,355, extending over 10 years.

In order to carry each of the by-laws must be endorsed by the property owners of the city. Of the total vote cast three-fifths must be in favor or they will be defeated.

The polls are to be open from 8 o'clock in the forenoon to 4 in the afternoon. The vote will be taken at the market buildings, with W. W. Northcott as returning officer. The different wards will vote in separate rooms in the building. These have been alloted as follows: Room 9 for the North Ward; room 7 for the Central Ward, and Room 1 for the South Ward.

NEW STEAMERS.

Details of Vessels for Pacific Coast Company Will Be Completed Shortly.

Officers of the Pacific Coast Company expect that within the next two weeks all the minor details connected with the acceptance of the plans for the two new steamers which the company is to build for operation between Victoria and San Francisco will be completed and the plans submitted to builders on the Pacific and Atlantic coasts for bids on construction.

These steamers are to be much larger than those now being operated on the Victoria-San Francisco run, and will geratly resemble the steamers now being operated by the Pacific Mail Company between San Francisco and Honolulu.

According to the Seattle Post-Intelligencer the specifications call for a single screw, steel craft, 405½ feet over all, with a length between perdendiculars of 387.10½ feet. The craft will have a dead weight capacity of 2,936 tons. The plans call for watertight floor subdivisions and water ballast tanks, a partial shade deck and a complete shelter deck.

The main deck will be of steel with no covering execept in the way of refrigerator space, and the lower deck will also be of steel without covering. On the shade deck will be located the pilot house, captain and officers' rooms and 32 staterooms

The steamers will be provided with accommodations for 294 first-class passengers and 105 second-class male and 36 second-class female passengers. Accommodations will also be provided for a crew of 107. On the shelter deck will be the offices of the purser and freight clerk, the bar, second cabin, lounging room, smoking room, social hall, two toilets and 58 staterooms for first-class passengers.

Everything about the passenger department of the steamers will be first-class, and all the latest modern conveniences so far as bakery and other features of the steward's department will be employed in the construction.

In their freight handling facilities also the steamers will be up to date in every respect. There will be four cargo hatches and eight cargo ports, four on a side. Eight vertical winches, operated by steam and of the latest pattern, will be installed to handle the cargo.

Two steel constructed coal bunkers, a refrigerating plant, up to date electric light installation, a complete system of electric call bells, mechanical repeating telegraph for communication between bridge and engine room are other features of the proposed steamers.

The engines will be triple expansion condensing, 5,000-horse power affairs, capable of developing a speed of nearly 15 knots an hour. They will be supplied with power from eight Scotch marine boilers, fitted for nautral draught and constructed for a working pressure of 165 pounds.

TRAP OPERATIONS ARE EXPANDING

ANOTHER FIRM STARTS CURING INDUSTRY

New Kind of Trap Introduced Down the Straits—Straits Are Full of Salmon.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

In street parlance the salmon trap business of Vancouver Island is beginning to hum. It has already shown signs of that expansion which all Victorians, having the welfare of the city at heart, had confidently expected. In the early spring an enterprising resident of Portland came along and in a small way started in to salt salmon for the German market. He located on Findley, Durham and Brodie's wharf, in the inner harbor, and with upwards of a dozen men has been quietly but energetically treating the fish as they are received from the Straits. He has been working for the German market, the salmon he salts being placed in large barrels weighing when full probably 500 pounds. At present he has a carload ready for shipment, and a second well advanced. He has been handling the spring salmon exclusively.

The sockeye he does not treat, but the demand for the one has given an incentive for other branches of the industry, and at present Findlay, Durham & Brodie are fitting up in the opposite of the same shed, used by the Portland man, tables, troughs, etc., with which to clean and salt the sockeye. The firm, as is well known, own a trap at Otter Point, which was only completed last week, and the surplus catch in this, over and above that which the Deas Island cannery on the Fraser may require, will be brought in here as well as any small lifts which may be made at the trap, and which will be considered too small for forwarding to the river. It is understood the company will market the finished product in New Zealand and Australia.

The offal from the fish is at present being sold to Chinamen, and is carried into the country to be there placed on the land, while that from the cannery gives employment to the steamer McKinley, which makes daily trips from Port Angeles for the purpose of getting it. In the little city across the water it is used in the guano works, which were recently established there. These works are not alone a boom to Victoria in the respect mentioned, but give employment to local coopers as well; it was only yesterday that the McKinley was in with a scow in tow for a big load of empty barrels. Her captain when asked why he did not go elsewhere for these, said it was more convenient to come to Victoria.

Mention has previously been made of the employment which the traps furnish for tugboats. The fleet of these small craft has increased until now it numbers about a dozen vessels, several of them being owned in Victoria. All have to come into port to clear at the customs if for no other reason. Findley, Durham & Brodie have the Burrard and Kildonan; the Capital City Canning & Packing Company the Squid and Butte; Messrs. Todd & Munsie the Sadie and Clansman; the B. C. Packers' Association the Mystery, Reliance and a third vessel; the Anglo B. C. Company the Phoenix and another boat, and McCrae, of Vancouver, the Trader and Belfast.

The McCrae trap has only recently been put in. It was made on the ground just beyond the Marine hospital last week by two experts in the business, and was taken down the Straits on Saturday and planted off the Jordon river. This trap differs from all others in use, in that it has no piling connected, the netting anchored instead. It is on the principle of the trap used for catching cod on the Atlantic coast, and consists of two enclosures, with an entrance from the inner to the outer. Leading from the shore is a straight line of netting, and to this is attached the meshes mentioned. Should the trap prove successful piles may to a great extent be dispensed with, as the latter are expensive, and owing to the roughness of the water in the vicinity have to be replaced every spring.

Manager Leary, of the Capital City Canning & Packing Company's traps, was in the city this morning and made an interesting statement to a Times man about the run down the Straits. He said that four years ago there had set in at Otter Point a big run of sockeyes, and trap operators are watching for recurrence of that run about the same day. The Straits, he added, are now full of salmon. They can be seen in great numbers from the decks of the steamers, but have not set in close along the shore to the extent desired, but a good sign was the presence of the whales, sharks and other large varieties seen. They have a tendency to drive the salmon to shallow water. The prevalence of a south wind would also have a good effect, so that the trap men are looking forward to have their meshes filled before long. Mr. Leary says that the 13 traps located on the coast have a capacity of one million fish. With a big run inshore these traps should be found full almost every lift. A few days ago one of Messrs. Todd & Munsie's traps at Otter Point was discovered full, while the others contained a comparative few. This indicates that history is repeating itself, that the big run of fish observed in the same place four years ago is coming along in just the same manner this year.

Mr. Leary said the spring run of salmon was quite up to expectations, and he thought there was no doubt but that the traps would be successful. Of course the sockeye run was only beginning, and it is perhaps a little early to prophesy, but the indications so far were very favorable.

BACK FROM CONVENTION.

Dr. Carter Attended the Medical Meeting Which Was Held at Portland.

Dr. R. H. Carter has returned from a trip to Portland, Ore. His visit to the fair city was timed so as to allow of his attending the convention of medical men from all parts of America, which closed a few days ago.

Dr. Carter says that the reception given the medical fraternity by the city of Portland was of the most cordial character. There were 2,000 doctors present, and in addition a large number of their wives also accompanied them. On one day of the convention the ladies of the party were taken out to see the points of interest about Portland. In order to do this every wheeled conveyance in the city had to be pressed into the service, including all the automobiles, cabs and carriages.

On another day all the medical men and their wives were taken up the Columbia and Willamette rivers. For this service four steamers were chartered. A feature which was duly appreciated by the Eastern visitors was the baking of salmon and the serving of them whole at the dinner given.

The convention was not all devoted to pleasure, however, and Dr. Carter says the benefits were great from hearing discussed the latest methods which found favor with the prominent practitioners from all parts of continent.

Sporting News

BASEBALL.

ANOTHER VICTORY.

In a match played between the Vancouver and Bellingham teams at the Terminal City on Wednesday afternoon the former nine won by a score of 8 to 7. The game extended over 11 innings. Both pitchers were hit freely.

THE FINAL MATCH.

"The Vancouver and Everett teams will play off the tie for the championship of the first half of the season at Seattle within the next few weeks. The date has not yet been definitely decided upon, but the game will be played on a Sunday and a big excursion from here is already being planned by local enthusiasts."—Vancouver News-Advertiser.

SIGNED WITH TACOMA.

Elmer Emerson, the San Jose pitcher who played for the Victoria semi-professional teams for two seasons, has signed with Manager Fisher, of the Tacoma team. His picture appeared in a recent issue of the Tacoma Ledger. Emerson is expected to strengthen the Tacoma nine's pitching staff to a considerable extent.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.

THE PORTLAND TRIP.

It is understood that the Victoria Football Club will reorganize for the ensuing season earlier this fall than heretofore. The object of this is to enable the team to get in some practice previous to the tournament in connection with the Lewis and Clark exposition.

Capt. H. A. Goward states that it has been definitely determined that the local eleven will participate in this competition. The intention is to raise a fund to help to pay expenses by means of an entertainment, which all true lovers of sport will be expected to patronize. Capt. Goward is confident of winning the trophy. He does not intend, however, to allow this feeling to interfere with thorough preparation. The team will be in the best possible shape before it leaves Victoria to meet American exponents of the game.

THE CORINTHIANS.

"All doubt about the visit of the Corinthian Association football team of England has been dispelled by the arrival in New York of G. A. Parker, manager of the famous eleven," says a New York dispatch.

"The team will sail from Liverpool to Quebec on August 3rd, and after a series of games in the chief Canadian cities will play in Chicago, Detroit and St. Louis, Pittsburg, Philadelphia, New York and Boston.

"Mr. Parker has also been in communication with the authorities at Harvard, and it has been proposed that an inter-collegiate team made up of the men from Harvard, Columbia and Haverford Colleges should meet the visitors either in New York or Cambridge.

"The Corinthian eleven is the strongest amateur team of association players that has ever been got together for a tour. Nearly all the players are varsity men, and the eleven includes G. O. Smith, one of the best and most popular players in England. The other men are Wreford-Brown, Rowlandson, Norris, Timmis, Page, Vickers, Morgan, Owen, Lowe, Curwen, Corbet, Harriss, Vassall, Foster and Bryant.

"The New York game has been arranged for September 16th."

THE OAR.

INTERNATIONAL RACES.

Arrangements for the N. P. A. A. O. regatta are in progress and the usual formal entries have been received from Nelson, Vancouver and Portland. J. B. A. A. senior and junior fours have been selected and are training assiduously. Under the careful coaching of D. O'Sullivan, the veteran J. B. A. A. oarsman, the James Bay "Big Four" have begun to display a form that promises well for their success in the all-important race for the Pacific Coast championship against the representatives of Nelson, Vancouver and Portland. Charles Kennedy makes a splendid stroke, and with Messrs. Austin, Finlaison and Jesse at his back is confident of rowing the J. B. A. A. "Big Four" to victory. "What are the senior crew's chances of winning this year?" queried a reporter while conversing with a prominent member of the club. "There's no question on that point," was the reply. "The boys pull together beautifully, and we're all confident of holding the Buchanan trophy for another season." The juniors also are practicing, while the rowing committee is busy choosing crews to represent the club in other N. P. A. A. O. events.

The J. B. A. A. annual regatta will take place in connection with the International events. This will necessitate the aquatic meet being extended over two days. As has been announced previously, the races will be held on the Esquimalt course.

Discussing the forthcoming regatta the Nelson News says:

"The Nelson Boat Club has a heavy task ahead. It has undertaken to enter a crew in the exposition regatta at Portland, which begins about the 25th of July, and another crew at the annual regatta of the North Pacific Association of Amateur Oarsmen, which will be held at Victoria in August.

"The benefit to Nelson of representation in both events is obvious. Visitors to Portland from all over the continent will learn that there is in the interior of British Columbia, several hundred miles from salt water, a city called Nelson, with a body of water sufficient for the training of a crew of oarsmen that would do credit to any city on the Coast.

"Participation in the association regatta at Victoria is essential if Nelson is to retain its place on the list. The other members are Victoria, Vancouver and Portland. Next year it will be Nelson's turn to have the regatta at home. Then crews from the three Coast cities will come to Nelson as they did in 1902. Nelson's position in aquatic sports in a league with clubs from other cities, all much more populous and wealthy, is analogous to New Westminster's position in lacrosse. It is generally admitted that the town on the Fraser has received more advertising from its champion lacrosse team than from any other of its institutions."

THE GUN.

The driving park adjoining the exhibition grounds has been leased for a term of five years by the Capital Gun Club. Already steps have been taken to prepare the park for shooting competitions and officials of the association announce that everything will be ready for a practice on Saturday afternoon. Five expert electric pull traps are being installed, and nothing is to be left undone in the effort to give members first-class sport with the least inconvenience and at the smallest possible expense. It is thought that the fact that the traps are within a few minutes' walk of the terminus of the Willows car line will make them very popular among Victoria crack shots. Now that the Capital City club has secured a good location it is intended to increase the membership, which numbers twenty-four, to a hundred or more, and every means will be taken to encourage tyros to go in for the sport on a larger scale than heretofore.

For the past three years the Capital club has been without grounds. Previous to that period its traps were located at the Gorge. They were removed from there owing to the interference of residents of that district. Despite the difficulty that has been experienced in securing a suitable location for traps, members of the club have held together with a faithfulness that is as surprising as it is unusual. Only a few days ago the driving park was suggested, and it was found that the grounds could be leased. The association officials did not allow the grass to grow under their feet in procuring a spot so favorable for the establishment of a trap shooting centre from every standpoint. The deal was closed on Tuesday and this morning workmen are busy placing the traps in position and otherwise preparing the grounds.

It was at a meeting of the Capital club held some evenings ago that the proposition was submitted and, after a discussion, adopted, unanimously. At the same gathering officers were elected for the ensuing year as follows: President, Dr. E. C. Hart; vice-president, D. Young; secretary, C. J. Savage; treasurer, W. N. Lenfesty; captain, H. Borde. Other matters were debated and decided upon. It was agreed that semi-weekly practice shoots would be held after the traps had been put in place on the afternoons of Wednesday and Saturday. The shoot for the Peters' cup will take place some time next month. This trophy is now held by Otto Weller, but it is understood that others are determined to win at the forthcoming competition, so that the present champion must prepare for a close struggle if he wishes to continue to hold that title.

There are now two gun organizations with grounds in the neighborhood of Victoria, namely, the Victoria and Capital clubs. The former has a splendidly equipped club house and an equally modern set of traps at Langford Plains, while the latter has secured headquarters situated a short distance from the Willows. The competition that is expected to develop between these two associations in the effort to secure members should have the effect of bringing the attractions of the sport more directly to the attention of the youth of Victoria than has been the case up to the present. Officials of the Capital club are confident of trebling their membership within a few months. As shooting is a good healthy pastime, the lovers of all sport should wish them success.

LACROSSE.

CAPTAIN HAS RESIGNED.

A general meeting of the Victoria club will likely be held in the near future. The majority of members want such a gathering called in order that various matters in reference to the personnel of the team may be considered. W. West, who has acted as captain since the opening of the season, announces that he has submitted his resignation. Asked for reasons, Mr. West stated that there were so many details requiring attention that it was impossible for him to give them the required consideration. He intended to retire because, in his opinion, there were players on the twelve much better able to fill the position. He did not want anyone to infer that his withdrawal from the captaincy would mean an abatement in his interest in the team's welfare. He would continue to attend practice regularly and assist in every possible manner.

It may be mentioned in this connection that a strong effort is being made to increase the strength and effectiveness of the team's home. As has been stated previously in these columns, Saturday's game against Seattle showed the necessity of a faster and more reliable attack. F. White, one of the cleverest stick handlers of the province, has been requested to commence training, and, as far as can be gathered, has given his consent. He, therefore, will occupy a place on the home in the next league game and should prove a valuable acquisition. With Mr. White and one or two other changes this part of the twelve would be wonderfully improved and able to deliver a well directed blow against the strongest defence. All interested in the team's success should co-operate in the effort to bring about a reorganization that will enable it to encounter the stalwarts of Westminster with even chances of victory.

ATHLETICS.

J. B. A. A. MEET.

The field meet to be held on the 26th of August, under the auspices of the James Bay Athletic Association, promises to be of more than usual interest. In addition to the usual flat races there will be a relay contest between teams representing Vancouver, Nanaimo and local clubs. Relay competitions have recently become very popular among athletic organizations of the Northwest, and the J. B. A. A. boys have been in training for some weeks in preparation for the event. It will be remembered that on the last occasion relay teams from the Victoria and Vancouver clubs met, the latter succeeded in winning out by a narrow margin. The Victorians are determined that this shall not be repeated, and, judging by the appearance of their team on paper—Messrs. Pettingell, Christopher, Deckster and Mellor—the Bays will turn the tables at the next meet. R. Hobbis, of the James Bay Athletic Association, is in charge of the arrangements.

A conference between the members of the Chicago Team Owners' Association and the teamsters' joint council at Chicago resulted in an agreement by the team owners that union employees would not be compelled to deliver goods to non-union houses. Any such deliveries that the team owners are called on to make will hereafter be made in wagons driven by the owners.

Enraged because Mrs. Nettie Mott, of Seattle refused to marry him, Paul Dion, a sawyer of Portland, Tuesday called at her house, and when she opened the door shot her, and then stabbed himself in the throat. Both will recover.

Miss Elizabeth Huelster, Miss G. Stern and Miss Elsie Martens, of St. Paul, Minn., are among the tourists at the Dominion. They intend spending a couple of days here in order to take in all points of attraction. Their tour has already included the principal points of the Western states, and before returning East they intend visiting other sections of British Columbia.

THE BY-LAWS.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

To-morrow between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. the ratepayers of the city will have the opportunity of expressing their collective opinion upon three by-laws, two of which involve matters of considerable importance. We presume there will be but little opposition to the passage of the sewers extension by-law. That measure will involve no increase of taxation. A fund has already been created which will meet the liabilities proposed to be incurred. The rejection of the by-law would not relieve a single ratepayer from a cent of taxation. This being so, and the completion of the work of sewering the city being of prime importance to the people, it is presumed there will be no opposition to the measure.

The proposal to erect a new school building in Victoria West has been attacked by the advocates of municipal retrenchment. The residents of the western suburb claim with reason that they have not been altogether fairly treated under the partnership agreement. They derive no benefit from the municipal water works system. They have various grievances, possibly of a minor character, which are brought forward with unfailing regularity at the season of our annual municipal elections. Even if a slight addition to the general taxation were involved in the proposition which will be voted upon to-morrow, it is claimed that would not constitute any sound reason for the rejection by the ratepayers of the by-law. But we are assured by those competent to pronounce an opinion that the construction of a new school in Victoria West would be a matter of sound economy. The school population at the present time is distributed through three buildings which are far from suitable for the purposes to which they are applied. There are no playgrounds worthy of the name for the scholars. The cost of maintenance is out of proportion to the value of the structures. Above all, the rooms in which the work of education is carried on are not worthy of a city of the pretensions of the capital of British Columbia; under the new economic dispensation upon which we are just entering Victoria West seems destined to become the most important section of the municipality, and if it be not imperative now that a new building shall be erected it will be impossible to postpone the undertaking beyond another year. Therefore, in justice to the locality and for the credit of the city as a whole, apart altogether from sound principles of economy, the by-law should pass.

A WORD FROM SATAN.

Our kind neighbor the Colonist apparently has no opinions it dare venture to express upon the subject of the libel suit the Premier of British Columbia has instituted against the Times. And so it ventures to give to its readers the views of its truculent contemporary the New Westminster Columbian, a newspaper which, if its comments upon the actions of public men were not beneath contempt, would have sheaves of libel actions to defend. We do not propose to be led into a discussion of the merits of the case Hon. Richard McBride has against the Times. All we have to say at this juncture is that we agree with the Nelson News, that, with a general election not far distant, the publication of all the facts regarding the Fernie ballot box scandal would be in the public interest. If the facts can be brought out in no other way than through the instrumentality of the courts, the Times will not begrudge the cost.

While for business reasons it is evident that the sympathies of the Colonist are with the Premier in the suit he has instituted against the Times, and while our contemporary is capable of the mean spiritedness of attempting to prejudice the mind of the public in an action before the courts, we should like to be informed—and doubtless the aforesaid public would also be interested in the information—whether the Colonist has again recanted or whether the opinion of the McBride government it expressed on Saturday, April 8th, is still its opinion. On the morning in question the Colonist said:

"It is the general expectation that with to-day's sitting, the 1905 session of the provincial legislature will terminate with an unusual suddenness, and with results and accomplishments in the form of legislation added to the statute book that will not by any means approximate the expectations of the country at the opening of parliament. It had been hoped that a clean-cut and progressive policy would be enunciated and developed, the natural working out of which would be a stimulus given to industry in its varied branches, the encouragement of population, and an impetus to legitimate provincial growth. With all the world looking to Western Canada, the occasion seemed ripe for accomplishments. But the dying days of the session find few of the roseate hopes destined to realization. The promised railway policy has ended in barren debating, behind the closed doors of the caucus, of the various proposals advanced by those companies which sought co-operation of the government in the carrying out of their construction projects. The Assessment Act has, it is true, been amended in a measure to correct some of the manifest injustices demonstrated in its working during the last recess; and the Finance Minister has been able to show an economical conduct of the general routine business of the province and in his estimates to indicate a consistent disposition on the part of the administration to curtail expenditure in every possible manner. This, however, does not meet the demands of a province aiming to be progressive, and whose natural resources and opportunities, with wise legislative assistance, assuredly destine it for greatness. Instead of assisting natural progress born of individual enterprise, the legislation added to the statute book during the present session has, indeed, a recognized tendency in a contrary direction, as for example in the bill of the member for Nanaimo city further limiting the employment of underground workers in the collieries, out of which it is greatly feared there must come suspension on this Island of one of its most important industries. In consenting to the passage of this measure, as in reluctance to present a straightcut railway programme, the government of the day will be condemned by many of independent minds in politics for fatal devotion to the shibboleth of expediency. If were infinitely better, these critics will contend, to go down to defeat upon the issue of a tangible policy for the betterment of provincial conditions, than to live by grace of acquiescence in ill-considered and even distinctly harmful and dangerous laws. The session ends with the government of Hon. Mr. McBride still in the saddle, but its results have weakened instead of strengthening the ministry in the eyes of the people. The electorate will recognize and accentuate the undeniable fact that it is highly dangerous for any government to seek to carry on with so variable and insufficient a majority as to make recourse to the support of a party, divergent from its own, a first necessity of existence in power. Hon. Mr. McBride and his ministry it appears to many would have better proven their recognition of their duties to British Columbia had they set their political course and held to it even in the face of defeat through devotion to a decisive and consistent Conservative policy recognizing and based upon the conditions and necessities of the province as it is to-day."

That patriotic American, Mr. Hulen, of Everett, and the no less patriotic Canadian, Mr. McClosky of Vancouver, are engaged in a red hot controversy over the baseball championship. The conflict is vastly more exciting than any flag incident. Mr. McClosky cannot find words in the English language strong enough to express his opinion of Mr. Hulen. At the present writing there is a prospect that if the Everett manager goes to Vancouver the militia may have to be called out to quell the tumult. Then there will surely be international complications. Victoria, we regret to state, for obvious reasons, is not interested in the dispute. If we might be permitted to express an abstract opinion, good-sized "gates" might alleviate the passions of the belligerents.

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The electors of Alberni will surely rejoice when the campaign is over. A. E. McPhillips, K. C., is on the stump. Also Hon. Charles Wilson, K. C., and Hon. Richard McBride, K. C. Hon. R. F. Green is simply working.

MUNICIPAL EXTRAVAGANCE.

To the Editor:—I have waited before troubling you again, to see if anyone would attempt to controvert the views expressed in my letter of the 11th inst. So far the only production has been that of "Canadian." I might very well pass "Canadian's" letter without notice because it principally consists of an attempt to justify the principle of state provided education in British Columbia, the discussion of which general principle I disclaimed as plainly as I could. Not, however, because I have seen the least reason to change my opinions on that point.

As to my charges of extravagance and illegal appropriation, and the instances which I mentioned "Canadian" does not attempt to contradict them. The remainder of his letter, with one exception, consists of the clap-trap which is the usual weapon of one who has no case. The exception is the paragraph in which he apparently puts forward the argument that the expense to the individual ratepayer of maintaining a state provided High school system is so small as to condone the injustice of the misappropriation of his money, illegally or otherwise. Then it follows that if I pick a man's pocket in the street, the fact of his purse being a light one absolves me from criminality. "Canadian" does not notice at all my strictures upon the present system of audit. Yet that, in my opinion, is of all others the point which requires amendment, and for, at least, two reasons.

In the first place an independent audit of public accounts is necessary because as must be patent to every observing person, an entirely different standard of morality exists in the minds of a very large number of persons, in public as distinguished from private affairs.

It is an undoubted fact that many, perhaps most, men who, in what I may term man to man money dealings, act with scrupulous honesty, will not hesitate to do the contrary to a greater or a less degree, where the state is concerned. The second reason is not so comprehensive, but it applies at all events to cases like that of Victoria. The municipal council is largely composed of men who are not large ratepayers. In their private capacity this fact is no reproach whatever to them. When, however, they come to act as dispensers of the people's money, it tends to cause this effect. Their interest in maintaining a large expenditure may be, and often is, greater than their interest as ratepayers in the economical treatment of that money which they have the power of spending. Many of them, for instance, are contractors or in some business or trade, or they have relations or friends who are so, or to whom it is of interest that there should be a number of well-paid offices open to their children. This is, of course, inevitable, and the same would apply in some degree to them whatever class they belonged to. I am only trying to show the necessity of a proper audit. The history of municipal affairs in all countries, shows that in varying degrees these evils are rife. Let us try to see if they are so in Victoria. Fortunately for our purpose we have good evidence on that point. More than twenty years ago there seems to have been discontent about these matters, and in Victoria a commission was appointed by the government to take evidence and make a report. That commission consisted of the late Chief Justice Sir Mathew Begbie and Mr. Justice Drake. Their report states as regards the point in question, that illegal appropriation of municipal funds had been going on for years, and they mentioned many particular instances of this.

They also reported that deliberate perjury had been committed in several cases by councillors, and they gave instances of this fact and mentioned the names of the hon. gentlemen who had so offended.

Whether the perjury has since continued I am not prepared to say, but that the illegal appropriaion has gone on I am very certain. I think it is equally certain that in such a space of time as twenty years, the misapropriation of the ratepayers' money must have amounted to many hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Public opinion seems everywhere a very imperfect check upon this sort of abuse. If an auditor-general was appointed by (say) the Governor-General-in-council, with a liberal salary, and irremovable except for cause shown, as is the case in the United Kingdom and elsewhere, his duty would be to disallow illegal appropriation, and the individual councillors or other official responsible for it would have to repay the money illegally spent, as occurs every year in other places. Such a check hurts no honest man. At present we are simply wasting our money in paying auditors who dare not perform their duty in this respect. Are we going to allow this state of affairs to continue?

With regard to the school question, the branch of municipal matters, we shall have an opportunity of answering that question at the polls on the 21st inst.

If we do not then use the only weapon left us, stoppage of supplies until amendment is made, we condone the past and present disgraceful state of affairs. What must be the effects of public condonation of wrongdoing upon our community. That effect is defined, in words which should be immortal, by the late Mr. Seeley, perhaps the greatest of modern writers on political economy, somewhat as follows: "Wrongdoing and corruption in public affairs on the part of individuals, exists and will exist, to a greater or to a less degree in all countries.

But the most fatal of all signs of decadence in a community is the condonation of such practices in public servants, by the general public. Are there or are there not increasing signs of such condonation here? I am truly grieved to have to say that in my opinion there are. People who have been publicly convicted of wrong doing, go scott free and continue to find employment in places of trust, and cases have occurred lately in which officials, in much higher positions than those in question, appear to me to have deliberately abstained from doing their duty. We have a glaring example, not far off, of the fatal consequences of such a low standard of public morality. Let us try in other matters as well as in that which awaits our decision on Friday, the 21st of July, to put our house in order.

EDWARD MUSGRAVE.

July 18th, 1905.

THE SCHOOL BY-LAW.

To the Editor:—I have read with interest the arguments put forward by Mr. Musgrave for whom I have considerable respect, in regard to the School Loan By-Law. So far as I understand him, he thinks that because of the extravagance on the High school, which the city auditor did not oppose as he should have done, the present and all future by-laws ought to be turned down.

I confess I quite agree with him as to the extravagance and the anomalous position of the city auditor, but it seems to savor more of spleen than logic to say that some 300 children in Victoria West should have their health, present and future, impaired, and the ratepayers' money be wasted on keeping up an old building which must inevitably be removed or fall down in the very near future, and paying rent for outside rooms.

However, as Victoria's 400 will vote solid against the by-law, I fear Victoria West property owners may have the pleasure of paying city taxes another year or two for the benefit of other sections.

In conclusion, let Mr. Musgrave come up for election with his views. He would make an excellent trustee, and I think would get in easily in spite of his antagonism.

X.

SCHOOL BY-LAW.

To the Editor:—Nineteen hundred and twenty dollars per annum provides an up-to-date, convenient and sanitary schoolhouse in Victoria West, accommodating the attendants of West, Baptist Mission and Rock Bay schools. This sum is more than met by the saving in repairs on the three schools mentioned, rent of Baptist Mission and extra teachers required by the scattered conditions.

What are the opponents of this by-law opposing? Surely not increased taxation, for the passage of this by-law lessens the general expenditure.

Reading between the lines, an attack is made upon the principle of free schools, and it is no wonder that adverse comment is raised by those who are wide awake to new conditions. The probable effect upon intending settlers, and, incidentally, land values, is one we cannot afford to lose sight of.

It is strange that the niggardly actions of well-meaning gentlemen in giving this city a bad advertisement has not occurred to them, and it behooves every voter to record his vote in favor of this by-law. This will show intending settlers that Victoria is alive to the advantages of the first requisite—education, and that a small minority are in a fair way to adapt themselves to the evolutions of the 20th century.

PHIL. R. SMITH,
Secretary V. W. M. V. A.

PERSONAL.

Dr. McGill and wife, Miss Harriet McGill, Albert Wisner and wife and their neice, Miss Anna Wisner, are guests at the Driard. The party came from Chicago and are making a tour of the West. They will leave to-night for Portland. They are delighted with Victoria, her natural charms and the delightful climate.

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Mrs. L. H. Clerigh and Miss J. D. Clerigh, of St. Paul, Minn.; Charlotte M. Lard, of Cambridge, Mass.; W. E. Ladd and J. H. Cunningham, jr., of Boston, Mass.; W. F. Langworthy and wife, of Port Arthur, Ont.; and Robt. W. Bullen, of Bellingham, Wash., are among those registered at the Driard hotel.

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Mrs. Arthur Parry and N. E. Furlonger, of Duncans; G. C. Mowat, of Spokane; and A. J. Cook, of Salt Spring Island, are among the guests at the St. Francis hotel.