

The Colonist. MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 1896. CHEEKY ALDERMEN.

Some Victoria aldermen, we see, are very impatient of criticism. Though professing to be exceedingly liberal, they abuse like fishwives those who are so audacious as to find fault with the way in which they conduct the affairs of the city.

One would suppose that among the most important duties of the aldermen is the keeping of the city bridges safe and in good repair. As the lives of citizens depend upon their performing this duty faithfully, there can be no imaginable excuse for neglecting it.

It is not to be denied that the Point Ellice bridge, when the awful disaster through which so many lives were sacrificed occurred, was in a disgraceful condition.

It does not profess to know anything about the law of the case, but we do know that the City Council was morally responsible for the condition of that bridge.

The City Council has the oversight of the city's affairs. Its members are bound to see that life and property within its limits are as safe as human care and foresight can make them.

The City Council ought to have known of the condition of that bridge. No matter whose business it is to keep it in repair, as soon as they saw that it was rickety and that its timbers were rotting, they should have had it closed to traffic.

Why did they not exercise it? That is, assuming that there are doubts as to its obligation to keep it in repair. It does, we must say, appear singular for City Councillors who neglected this plain duty to resent the strictures of those who in this matter accuse them of carelessness, incompetency and worse.

It seems to us that the Councillors who are either directly or indirectly responsible for the awful loss of life and for the grief and the sorrow which that loss occasioned, should hang their heads in shame when any allusion is made to it either in public or in private.

It is said that corporations have no souls to be saved or bodies to be kicked. Neither, it appears, have they any shame or any remorse.

If ever a public body deserved to be severely criticized, to be, indeed, unsparingly denounced, it is the City Council of Victoria for their disregard of the public convenience and the utter inability they displayed after the disaster had taken place.

The aldermen say they have not money enough. What had the want of money do to with this bridge business? They were very ready to throw away five thousand dollars and perhaps more on a temporary bridge which, when completed, would be a disgrace to the city.

ceedings, the more so as they are reluctantly forced to the conclusion that the part taken by him in the organization which led to Dr. Jameson's raid was not consistent with his duty as Prime Minister of the colony.

The committee are unable to trace any guilty knowledge to the head office of the Chartered Company in Europe, and record the opinion that Mr. Rhodes was not only without knowledge of Dr. Jameson's intention to move the armed force under his control into the South African Republic at the time, but, when he did become aware of it, did all in his power to prevent it.

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As regards Mr. Rhodes, the committee can come to no other conclusion than that he was thoroughly acquainted with the preparations that led to the raid, and that he directed and controlled the combination which rendered it possible.

MINING MAP COMING.

Details of the Fight Against a Far Out-Numbering Horde of Matabele Warriors.

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THE NORWEGIAN COLONY.

TO THE EDITOR:—In regard to the published letter signed "Colonist" in a local paper of a recent date about the condition of the Norwegian colony at Bella Coola, allow me a few words. In the first place, the letter was not written by a Norwegian colonist, but probably emanated from someone interested in having the new road and wharf built elsewhere than at the government surveyor, Mr. Leach, decided upon.

through me about \$30 or \$35 worth of fruit trees for him and friends not long ago; further, that all able men are earning good wages at the canneries at Rivers Inlet, and as soon as the season is over the government will build a substantial wharf to deep water and finish the road. What more can any man expect from any government?

When Run Down Get BUILT UP. That's our advice to every weakly, sickly, or ailing woman and girl, and there's nothing equal to INDIAN WOMAN'S BALM for purifying the blood, toning up the nerves and building up the health.

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Chicago. A Hundr by

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A cabinet co day, at which The Birmingh Chamberlain, lously consid last night's act on the Irish amendments to ernment oppo paper adds the tention of u country.

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