

Twice-a-Week Times

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THE WATER QUESTION.

Some interesting facts, known only to those familiar with the history of Victoria for the past thirty-five years, were brought out at the meeting held in the City Hall last evening, Mr. W. J. Taylor, the city barrister, in a particularly succinct yet comprehensive speech, reviewed the legislation passed for the purpose of securing to the city of Victoria a supply of water adequate for all possible requirements of the future. He demonstrated to the satisfaction of the great majority of those present by citations from the act of the Esquimalt Water Works Company that it was the evident intention of the legislature that nothing in the provisions of that act should interfere with the act of 1873 empowering the city to take any water within a radius of five miles of the corporation and applying such water to the purposes of the citizens of Victoria. Mr. Taylor also dealt with the legal complications arising from the interpretation placed upon the Esquimalt Company's act by representatives of that company and by the courts, resulting in the tangle under which the hands of various councils have been tied, until to-day a crisis has arisen necessitating summary treatment.

Mr. McPhillips, the chairman of the Private Bills Committee of the Legislature, through whose action a deadlock has ensued which may prove very embarrassing, to put the matter in an amicable light as possible, was also present and was invited to justify the course he had pursued. The member for the Islands was, we think, somewhat disingenuous in his remarks. He claimed he had not violated the independence of parliament act inasmuch as he had no direct pecuniary interest in the British Columbia Electric Railway Company although admitting that he is the solicitor of that company, in which statement he was no doubt technically correct, but he was heavily questioned; that he acted "according to his lights," although some factious persons may say his lights are sadly in need of a trimming; and that, in any event, as one of the largest ratepayers in the city of Victoria he did not believe in public ownership and operation of "public utilities." In support of his final proposition Mr. McPhillips said Mayor Dunne of the city of Chicago had brought an expert from Scotland to investigate and report upon the subject of municipal ownership and operation of "public utilities." That was not a correct statement, Mr. Drysdale, superintendent of the Glasgow street railway system, a system which is owned and operated by the corporation of the Scottish metropolis with conspicuous success, was brought out by Mayor Dunne for the purpose of studying the tramway systems of Chicago and reporting whether it would be feasible to unite them and operate them as a municipal undertaking. Mr. Drysdale's report was adverse, not because municipal operation in itself is not a practical nor desirable, but because he found the conditions in Chicago altogether different from the circumstances in well-governed cities. Municipality Chicago is under the thumb of political bosses. It is governed by either Republicans or Democrats as the political case may be, and under such a system if the street railways were taken over by the city they would become merely a spoke in the wheels of the party machine. Mr. Drysdale pointed this out quite frankly and stated his belief that under such conditions municipal operation of the transportation system could never be a success from a business point of view. He was not asked to, and did not, submit a report condemning municipal ownership and operation of "public utilities." We grant that there is no immediate prospect of Victoria taking over the street railway system. Indeed we believe it would be a mistake to attempt any such thing. But if the city brings water from Sooke Lake, something which at present seems to be inevitable, and at no distant date, it will have the means of generating a considerable amount of electric power with the water at its command before that water reaches the reservoir in which it will be stored for domestic purposes. The demand for electric power for various purposes is steadily increasing. Can Mr. McPhillips give any logical reason for a committee of the legislature saying that such power should be permitted to run to waste; that the city should not use it for lighting the streets or for any other legitimate purpose such as furnishing power to any industries requiring it? We do not question the honesty of the intentions or the disinterestedness of the motives of the chairman of the committee for a moment. The trouble with Mr. McPhillips appears to be that he cannot out-

his narrow legal mind from the petty technical grooves in which it is accustomed to run. Other legal gentlemen addressed the meeting. Mr. Luxton frankly spoke in defence of the Esquimalt Water Works Company. He made no apology for his position, and the audience, hostile though it was, appreciated thoroughly the admirable self-control he displayed under somewhat trying circumstances. Mr. Bodwell gave the city some valuable legal advice, for which, we presume, no bill will be rendered, and pleaded for fair play for the tramway company.

Mr. Thompson, who was the only representative of the city in the Legislative assembly, is a member of the Private Bills Committee, recited the efforts of the minority on the committee to prevent the emancipation of the bill. He also promised to do all in his power to carry out the behests of the meeting. Mr. D. R. Ker, who has all along displayed a deep interest in the efforts of the city to solve the water problem, made a short speech, which was perhaps the most important contribution of the evening. In moving the resolution which was presented to the government to-day, he read extracts from the speeches delivered in the legislature at the time the Esquimalt Water Works Company's bill was before the House which proved clearly the intention of the members to fully protect the interests of the city in all water areas within a radius of twenty miles. Those who followed the debates of that time will remember that Messrs. Beaven and Milne, then representatives of Victoria, strenuously opposed the bill of the Esquimalt Water Works Company. It was in consequence of this opposition that such men as Messrs. Davis, Turner, Yarnon, and even Mr. Dooley, we believe, announced that under no circumstances would the demands of the Esquimalt Company receive their support unless the interests of the city were fully protected. Whether owing to the compliance of the gentlemen named or to deceit practised upon them by the legal representatives of the company, there is some doubt now as to the nature of the protection the interests of Victoria received. But there is no doubt whatever respecting the intentions of the legislature, if the gentlemen mentioned spoke honestly. The meeting last night decided to ask the present legislature to confirm the intentions of the former legislature. It is the duty of the government to do that without hesitation. As Ald. Hall said last night, the case is more urgent than our citizens realize. Elk Lake is lower than it has been at any stage in its history at this season of the year. Victoria requires an additional supply of water and the influences which are at work to prevent us from getting it except upon conditions attempted to be imposed by interested parties must be met by more powerful influences.

WHICH IS THE FLOPPER? It is not at all surprising that a journalistic, Canadian coat of arms is an open, outstretched hand cannot understand the position of the Times upon certain public questions of importance. We are accused of describing the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company as an "undesirable class" and of "holding them up to the hatred and scorn of the whole community." This is indeed a terrible indictment. But it is not all. The Liberal party stands against the enormity of our statements, which imply condemnation of the whole party from Sir Wilfrid Laurier down. Well, well. To what terrible depths we have indeed descended. What is the sum of our offence? Where are those "chastely Liberals" to be found? Has the organ of Toryism really become panic-stricken lest a worse thing befall the Liberal party or is it fearful at the prospect of evil befalling the great, loyal, patriotic, incorruptible party of which it journalistic ally and its friend Premier McBride politically are true representatives? Now if our contemporary will just take time to consult the records, after it has recovered from the spasms which rendered it irresponsible for the time being for its utterances, it will find that the Times has committed none of the outrages with which it is charged. When the Colonist was denouncing the Grand Trunk Pacific bill as a most outrageous and corrupt measure and as especially unjust to British Columbia, we were endeavoring to point out that it was the most important project from every point of view that had been laid before the country since Confederation. We tried to make specially prominent the feature that the line was going to be built without a cent of cost to the province and the fact that it would open up to settlement again for a vast area of land in British Columbia, a vast new area at present next to inaccessible. But none of these appeals affected the attitude of our contemporary. It remained obdurate, and insisted that the government which purposed perpetrating such an outrage upon British Columbia, robbing our people for the benefit of the east, should be defeated. The government was sustained by a great majority. The Grand Trunk Pacific scheme was handsomely endorsed. It will be completed by the time appointed. And it will remain for ages an enduring monument to the faith of Sir Wilfrid Laurier in the resources of the northern sections of Canada and convincing evidence of the enterprise and business sagacity of the officers of the company.

So that it is not the Times which has

urled one a change of opinion. The revision of judgment has taken place another quarter, and it occasions no surprise. The public is becoming accustomed to these sudden lapses. A journal which invariably takes the side of corporations and the interests of corporations and citizens of Victoria, which upholds the claims of corporations when it is as clear as day that the legislature intended the claims of the said corporations should be subject to the prior and just claims of the city, such a journal could hardly be expected to support the interests of the people under any circumstances.

THE B. C. PERMANENT CO. The financial stringency of which we hear so much may have affected business in the United States and Great Britain to a considerable extent and business in Eastern Canada to a less extent, but surely it cannot have seriously affected British Columbia. There is no particular evidence of it in the annual statements of our distinctively provincial financial institutions. We have before us the report of the British Columbia Permanent Loan & Savings Company, which was read at the tenth annual meeting of the shareholders. Mr. Longlois, the president of the company, read the statement and pointed out the satisfaction he felt with its contents. The capital stock of the company is now four hundred thousand dollars, an increase of one hundred thousand dollars during the year. In the same period the reserve fund was increased by fifty thousand dollars, and is now two hundred thousand dollars, or 50 per cent. of the total paid up capital. The total assets of the concern is now a considerable amount in excess of two millions of dollars, and more than four-fifths of this is out in first mortgage bonds. On the whole the statement is one of the most satisfactory the company has yet been able to present. It is in a prosperous condition, and is meeting the requirements of a large number of people in the construction of homes.

A society has been formed in New York for the Prevention of Unnecessary Noises. Mark Twain is president. The society will first apply itself to reforms in the vicinity of hospitals, but it is hoped that the work will eventually extend to the British Columbia legislature.

REASON FOR DISMISSAL. Car Conductors Alleged to Have Carried Passengers Free. Toronto, March 4.—The reason that seventeen street car conductors were dismissed was because the company claimed that they had not returned all the fares paid by the passengers and because some of the conductors carried fares in their pockets. The conductors are marked for dismissal on similar grounds. Inspectors have been travelling on cars and keeping watch.

Magistrate Suspended. Woodstock Constables Dismissed as Result of Gross Irregularities in Courts. Toronto, Ont., March 4.—The attorney general has suspended Magistrate Woodcock of North York and dismissed two constables as a result of Judge Wincheater's investigation. The Woodcock constables are marked for dismissal on similar grounds. Inspectors have been travelling on cars and keeping watch.

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Tortured by Indigestion. DR. WILLIAMS' PINK PILLS CURED AFTER DOCTORS HAD FAILED. Mrs. T. J. Jobin, 388 King Street, Quebec, wife of the circulation manager of L'Evenement, is one of the best known and most estimable ladies in the city, and her statement that Dr. Williams' Pink Pills cured her of a very severe attack of indigestion will bring hope to similar sufferers. Mrs. Jobin says: "About a year ago I was afflicted with indigestion which had an alarming effect upon my health. Day by day my strength grew less, I suffered from terrible headaches, dizziness, palpitation of the heart and sleeplessness. I was in this condition for about six months. I consulted two doctors and although I followed their treatment carefully it did not help me in the least. Last October, seeing that instead of regaining my health I was growing worse, I decided to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. After I had taken the second box there was a change for the better, and after taking the pills for a month longer the trouble entirely disappeared, and I am again enjoying the best of health. I have so much confidence in Dr. Williams' Pink Pills that I always keep them in the house and take them occasionally as a safeguard."

Just as surely as Dr. Williams' Pink Pills cured Mrs. Jobin's indigestion they can cure all the other ailments which come from bad blood. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills actually make new red blood. This is the only thing that can cure all the other ailments which come from bad blood. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills actually make new red blood. This is the only thing that can cure all the other ailments which come from bad blood. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills actually make new red blood. This is the only thing that can cure all the other ailments which come from bad blood. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills actually make new red blood. This is the only thing that can cure all the other ailments which come from bad blood.

JEWESS ATTEMPTS SUICIDE. Winnipeg, March 4.—Sophia Brown, a pretty young Jewess, had a quarrel with her husband, drank carbolic acid. She is in a precarious state. Her husband had left for Hirsch, Sask.

WATER QUESTION. DISCUSSED. STRONG RESOLUTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED. Meeting Last Night Call on Government to Confirm City's Rights.

Responding to the call of Mayor Hall the citizens of Victoria held a meeting last night in the city hall and unanimously passed the following resolution: and to emphasize the fact that the public were enthusiastic and thoroughly in earnest in their support of the attitude taken by the city council in this matter, it was decided that the resolution should be personally delivered to the mayor and the members of the council by members of last night's meeting. Whereas, in 1873 the city of Victoria obtained a right by statute to take lands or waters from any points within 20 miles of the city for water works purposes; And whereas, in 1882 the Esquimalt Water Works Company obtained a right to take the waters of Goldstream and lands necessary for any water works purposes, subject, however, to the prior rights of the city of Victoria; And whereas, it was expressly provided in the act authorizing the Esquimalt Water Works Company to take the waters of Goldstream that nothing in such act should be construed as in any way limiting or derogating the right of the city under its act of 1873 to take lands or waters from any points within 20 miles of the city for water works purposes; And whereas, in 1882, further act was passed amending the city's act of 1873, but not purporting to limit any of the city's rights; And whereas, it is advisable in the interests of the city that an act should be passed confirming to the city all such rights and declaring that the same may be exercisable to the fullest extent in any case; And whereas, it is to the meaning of such acts, to facilitate the borrowing of money for the purpose of enabling the city to take lands or waters from any points within 20 miles of the city for water works purposes; And whereas, all such acts provided for compensation to the owners of lands or waters affected by the exercise of the powers of the city of 1873; And whereas, for such purposes a private bill was presented to the legislature at its present session; And whereas, the said bill was not passed by the legislature; And whereas, the said bill was not passed by the legislature; And whereas, the said bill was not passed by the legislature;

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SITE CHOSEN FOR NEW CHAIR BUILDINGS. Directors Visited Grounds and Made Final Arrangements. (From Wednesday's Daily.) The directors of the B. C. Agricultural Association went out to the exhibition grounds yesterday morning to look at the two proposed sites for the new buildings. They held a meeting in the afternoon and finally decided as the best location a site lying from 800 to 700 feet west of the old site. The new buildings will be 280 feet long and will eclipse anything of their kind to be found in Canada. Architects have been invited to send in competing designs before the 26th of this month. The work of building will start early in April. The prize list is in course of preparation and is expected to be a record list. J. E. Smart, secretary, kindly gave the Times representative the following figures: Cost of main building, \$12,000. Machinery building, 8,000. New stalls (old ones to be demolished), 5,000. Poultry buildings, 4,000. Restaurant, 4,000. Dairy building, 2,000. Making a total of \$35,000 to be spent.

BROKE HIS NECK. (Special to The Times.) Edmonton, March 4.—Joseph Thompson, contractor, aged 35, fell off a load of coal to-day, breaking his neck.

THE TRIVOLI. PURE FLAVOR—STRENGTH. Has a Taste of Multiple of Finest French Sold in Sealed Lead Packets only At your Grocers. HIGHEST AWARD—ST. LOUIS, 1904.

JUDGMENT GIVEN IN REAL ESTATE CASE. Judge Lampman Gives Reasons for Deciding for Duck & Johnston. The following judgment in the case of Duck and Johnson vs. Daniels was handed down by Judge Lampman yesterday: Duck & Johnston vs. Daniels. Judgment of Lampman, C. J.: The plaintiffs are real estate agents, carrying on business in Victoria, and the defendant is a farmer who, in April last, owned a farm on Carey road, which he wanted to sell for a price of \$15,000, and with that object in view he listed it with a different real estate firm in Victoria before the 13th of April. Up to April 13th the plaintiffs and defendant had had nothing to do with each other, and the defendant had not signed any agreement with the plaintiffs, drove out into the country in company with E. H. Anderson, who was looking for opportunities to buy real estate. The defendant signed up, and as directed by Johnston went to the house and saw defendant. Johnston says they talked about the number of acres of fruit trees, and he was not told, but he saw defendant. Johnston says they talked about the number of acres of fruit trees, and he was not told, but he saw defendant. Johnston says they talked about the number of acres of fruit trees, and he was not told, but he saw defendant.

INTERVIEWED MINISTRY ON BEAUTIFYING CITY. Government Has Subject Under Consideration—Personal Property Tax. A delegation representing the city council and citizens of Victoria waited upon the minister for the period of the purpose of urging upon the latter the advisability of remitting to the city a part at least of the personal property tax collected from the city and to do something towards beautifying Victoria. Mayor Hall, Aldermen Henderson, Hall, Cameron, McKewen and G. H. Barnard, R. L. Drury, D. R. Ker and others were present. The city members were all present also. In connection with the beautifying of Victoria the Premier pointed out that it would not be possible to include any thing in its estimates this year for that work. The government had the matter under consideration. It had been brought to the attention of the government by other sources and had been discussed at some length. The matter was still under consideration. H. B. Thomson, one of the city members, alluded to the fact that while there was no vote for the beautifying of Victoria under that name, yet there was about \$50,000 in the estimates which was to be devoted towards Victoria and its beautifying. This amount, there was \$20,000 for the Mill Bay road, \$15,000 for the hospital, \$5,000 for the Old Women's Home, and \$10,000 for the exhibition buildings.

CHILD INJURED. Muriel Grant Run Over by Heavy Truck on Fort Street. (From Wednesday's Daily.) What might have been a much more serious accident occurred yesterday afternoon to Muriel Grant, the ten-year-old daughter of F. W. Grant, of David Spence Company. As she was running home from school, playing tag with her playmates, she dodged to get out of the way of one of them and in doing so she stepped beneath the big dray horse that happened to be passing at the moment. The driver pulled up his team as quickly as possible but not before the hind wheel of the truck had passed over the child's knee. Dr. Jones was called and dressed the wound. The bone was not broken, but whether or not it is splintered is not yet known. Fortunately the dray was not loaded or the accident would have been much more serious. This should prove a warning to children to be more careful in playing on the streets.

"ANARCHISTS" ARRESTED. Chicago, March 4.—Chas. Yanitski, 35 years old and Wm. Stadelweyer, 34 years old, alleged anarchists were arrested to-day in connection with an attempted assassination of Chief of Police Shippy.

INDIAN LANDS AND GOVERNMENT OPPOSITION LEAD ON THE A. He Outlined Position in the House Evenings. On Wednesday evening on the Grand Trunk Pacific agreement was resumed. Mr. Macdonald said: without wasting further time, I am not prepared for the second reading of the bill. The introduction of the statement that he said as far as possible to the other side party political in a manner entirely unparliamentary. I can assure you, on this side, gentleman of great provincialism, we propose to treat it in the same manner. It is a proposition made by the 2,000 acres of land at place is necessary for railway company. It is a true proposition. I believe in giving railway tracts of land for mere possession. I think the true give them sufficient for the purpose and right-of-way of Crown lands of the province. But in regard to position is entirely different. I am not prepared to have the Grand Trunk Pacific purposes on Kaled Island. At that time the owner in fee simple of the land was sold to them as a liquid asset and without criticism and without criticism I do not intend to go back which was the case when the time—without criticism there is this difference the bargain now proposed the province proper Grand Trunk Pacific fourths of the land which party of the province; gain to be ratified by the province. The province of 15,000 acres of land in at the present time, in which it may not for three or four hundred years. The province can presently deal with other a reversionary right not fall in for hundred as the premier very good the value received, which would have no compensation made, if capitalized and extended, but perhaps, not one lands, it would mean a sum which owing to present high rates of interest would estimate, but we amount to a very large sum. Now the question whether it is this, was it rights in this 15,000 acre Kaled Island and the amount that we should expect to receive for it. I am not here to defend government, let me state, as far as the justified. They implied that this government had reversionary rights in lands, and in his letter the premier stated things. No disposition can be made until the government removes the reserve."

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