(From Tuesday's Daily Edition.)

Seals Must Still Suffer.

The Cruel Branding Operations to be Continued by the United States.

Collector Milne Protests to the Imperial and Federal Authorities.

There is a likelihood of the celebrated sealing dispute between Great Britain and the United States again coming to the front in an unexpected manner. When the local fleet returned from last season's cruise in Behring Sea, heart-rending stories were told of the cruelty inflicted upon the poor seals on the Pribyloff islands by the branding operations employed by the United States government. Seals caught by a number of the returning sealers bore wounds of a sickening character, Capt. Sieward having captured one poor animal the back of which had been burned so deeply by the branding irons that the spinal bones were visible. The indignation aroused by the circulation of such reports does not seem to have troubled the consciences of those responsible for such dastardly conduct in the least, for in accordance with an official order of the United States government, the branding operations are now to be pursued with renewed vigor.

The secretary of the interior in the Washington government in his annual report, says in regard to the Alaskan seal fisheries:

"Pelagic sealing still continues in Behring sea in spite of the vigilant patrol maintained by the revenue cutters. In order to prove the proprietary rights of the United States in the seals, the branding of them should be continued. Hitherto the branding has been done with inferior apparatus, and consequently is not very effective. Men who are experts in the business should be employed to do this work, and be supplied with the most recent electrical appliances for branding, such as those used by the stockmen on the Western plains of the United States. The North American Commercial Company has under its contract with the government taken about 16,520 seals during the year."

A Colonist reporter yesterday interviewed a number of local sealers and collector of customs A. R. Milne, in regard to the above statement. While none were surprised that a continuation of the cruel branding operations would be insisted upon by the United States government, all were loud in denunciation of such inhuman methods. Collector Milne was no less outspoken than the sealing captains—and there were few men who know more about seals and sealing than that courteous official. In an interview with the Colonist, the collector said he could conceive of but one motive actuating the United States authorities in persisting in their atrocious branding operations among the seal herds—that of desiring to destroy the marketable value of the seals branded. But their operations were in his opinion calculated to have a far more wide-reaching effect, viz: that of driving the seals altogether from northern waters. Seals are known to be easily frightened, and extremely nervous and irritable, and in proof of this statement the collector cited the fact that according to the sealing captains at the conclusion of last season's voyage the large seal herds were found in an entirely new quarter, evidently having been driven from their old haunts since the commencement of the branding operations. Branded seals have also been found on the Japanese coast, which proves conclusively that that animal travels long distances and is in no sense a permanent inhabitant of one locality. Collector Milne also mentioned as an indication that the seals may be expected to leave the Pribyloff islands where the sealing operations are carried, in the fact that when about 15 years ago a company commenced the work of saving the seal oil on one of the islands in the north, the whole herd at once left the locality.

So indignant is Collector Milne at the continuation by the United States government of the barbarous branding operations, he has already made recommendations to the Imperial and Federal authorities on the subject. Under date of November 29 he wrote to the department of marine and fisheries, Ottawa:

"The locality where seals were found most numerous was northwest instead of northeast of the Pribyloff islands, as formerly, but no particular reason was given for this change—only the movement of the food fish, although some assign the reason to the disturbance of the seals on the islands of St. Paul and St. George; and it appeared to them that the seals were looking for new homes on the islands adjacent to the mainland of Alaska. It has also been reported to me that some seals were taken by the sealing vessels which had been branded by the electric machine adapted for that purpose, and which was used on the Pribyloff islands, by authority of the United States government. The observations made to me by many sealers in regard to the appearance of the seals taken, and which had survived the branding operation, were that the wounds made by the brand presented a most inhuman aspect, the sores presenting a most offensive appearance."

Collector Milne also laid a similar statement before Admiral Beaumont and verbally expressed to him his great indignation that such cruel treatment should be permitted to continue by the sanction of a civilized government.

Had the above statement made by the collector not been part of his official communication, it is certain the collector would have used much stronger language. The seal branding as pursued by the United States government is in his opinion and that of the local sealing captains, a disgrace to civilization. It is done but for one purpose—to destroy the skins and harass the Canadians engaged in the industry.

RECENT REVERSES.

Rev. Dr. Campbell Referred to the War in South Africa on Sunday.

Last Sunday evening in the First Presbyterian church, Rev. Dr. Campbell, as a prologue to his sermon, said: "Our hearts are sore and bleeding by the news that flashed through sea and across the continent of reverses and defeats during the last few days at the seat of war. No country or age ever saw braver men than those that constitute Her Majesty's troops at present in South Africa. The courage and bravery of the proverbial 300 Spartans of ancient times exceded not these characteristics in the Black Watch and the Gordon Highlanders, and other regiments now engaged at the front. But why these reverses and defeats, where hundreds are shot down without even a chance to show their mettle? Incompetent generals and superior officers. There is an excuse for being entrapped once by a cunning enemy; but to be led into a trap of ambuscade time and again, and slaughtered like a flock of sheep, shows at least the wretched generalship under which the troops are placed. What we need, apparently, in the British army is officers raised from the ranks, and promoted according to merit, like Col. McDonald, of Omdurman, and Col. Matthias, of Dargai Heights, not officers placed in high position because wealthy, or of noble birth, or of influence, without probably any other trait to commend them to the command of the bravest men the world ever saw. It is surely humiliating to see the flower of our army defeated by farmers, the citizens of a little republic. But this war will purify the British Empire as nothing else would—and ultimately the victory will perch on the standards of our gallant soldiers. We will then cheer the noble victors, and honor the brave vanquished, and with heart and voice sing 'God Save the Queen.'"

LOCAL NEWS.

New Wharf.—The Victoria & Sidney railway company are calling for tenders for a wharf to replace the old one at Sidney. A spur is being run from the main line to the wharf.

License Commissioners.—The meeting of the license commissioners for Esquimalt district, which was to have taken place on the 15th instant, was postponed until Saturday, December 30, at 10 a. m.

Natural History Society.—At the fortnightly meeting last evening the chief feature was an instructive and interesting paper on the Honey Bee, read by Mr. E. Robinson. The generally expressed idea of those present was that the paper is well worthy of publication, and steps to that end will accordingly be taken.

Late F. F. Raitt.—A coroner's jury after hearing the evidence yesterday morning found that F. F. Raitt, who dropped dead on Chatham street on Saturday evening, died from natural causes. The funeral will take place at 2:30 this afternoon from the residence of Mr. M. Baker, 30 Frederick street.

Licenses Renewed.—The license commissioners for North Victoria district have renewed the licenses of F. G. Norris, for the Sidney hotel; A. W. Wright, North Saanich hotel; and Warburton Pike, Point Comfort hotel. They refused a license to Mr. Robinson, of the Mayne Island hotel, who will appeal.

Soldier Married.—At the Victoria West Methodist church Rev. J. P. D. Kirby, Wesleyan chaplain to the troops at Work Point, united in marriage Corp. John Gallagher, of Company 19, R. A., and Miss Louise Ash, of Carbonear, Newfoundland. This is the first marriage in the company since its arrival here.

Borne to the Grave.—The funeral of the late Mrs. David Breckenridge took place yesterday afternoon from the family residence, Cameron street, where Rev. Mr. Speer conducted services. There was a large attendance from Strawberry Vale, as well as the city. The following gentlemen acted as pallbearers: Messrs. W. Allen, Thomas Renfrew, Chas. Clarke, J. R. Westcott, J. Laurie and J. Chapman. Many flowers adorned the casket.

Elected Officers.—Loyal True Blue Lodge, of Sidney, has elected officers as follows: Mrs. Henry Brethour, W. M.; Mrs. William Richardson, D. M.; Henry Brethour, D. S.; J. Critchley, F. S.; J. J. White, Treas.; Mrs. W. R. Armstrong, Chap.; Mrs. S. Brethour, Dis. Officer; Miss Elizabeth Brethour, Conductor. The following committee was appointed: S. Brethour, Julius Brethour, Mrs. Julius Brethour, W. R. Armstrong, J. P., and Andrew Deacon.

A Pioneer's Death.—At the ripe old age of 74 years, Mr. Evan Cadwallader, well known to many Victorians and for 27 years millwright at the Moodyville mills, died on Saturday last at St. Paul's hospital, Vancouver. Deceased came to British Columbia about thirty years ago. He leaves four sons—John, Evan, Robert and Humphrey—all of whom reside in Vancouver, and three daughters—Mrs. Lanwark, who resides in the North; Mrs. Chamuit, living in San Francisco; and Mrs. W. Von Rhein, of Victoria.

Indians Subscribe.—The Indians of Carmanah, Cla-oose and Nitinat have subscribed $17.60 towards the Mansion House fund. Mr. W. P. Daykin, of Carmanah, who forwarded the amount, says in his letter that the Indians fully understand what it is for, and "wish to say they are very sorry for the white people who have lost their husbands and fathers; they are glad to help, and give freely what little they can, for they might be in trouble themselves some time." Mr. Daykin also forwarded $10 on behalf of himself and family; $10 from Mr. and Mrs. Paterson, of Cape Beale; $1 from the store at Clo-oose; and 50 cents from Mrs. Vanslyke.

"BRITANNIA AND DAUGHTERS."

Enjoyable Rendition of the Patriotic Cantata Last Evening.

The choir of the First Presbyterian church last evening scored a distinct success in their rendition of the patriotic cantata "Britannia and Her Daughters." Although in some of the selections the chorus was rather unevenly balanced, the numbers were attacked with that vigor and dash that makes all selections of a patriotic nature provocative of enthusiasm.

The platform had been enlarged especially for the event, and seats erected for the chorus, while above in graceful folds hung flags and streamers indicative of the vast length and breadth of the British Empire. The part of Britannia was throughout ably sustained by Miss Munsie, while that of Canada was well taken by Miss Scowcroft, her rendition of "The Bird That Leaves the Parent Nest" being especially enjoyable. Glorious India was well represented by Miss Gilchrist, and South Africa, at present all important, by Miss F. Fraser. Britain's possessions beneath the Southern Cross, Australia and New Zealand, were represented by Misses L. Baker and Fields.

The entire cantata was rendered in costume, some of the attendants being particularly appropriately dressed.

An innovation during the evening was the rendition of the old melody, "Listen to the Mocking Bird," in the native tongue by an original descendant of the famous Oneida warrior, "Chief Rocking Horse," attired in all the glory of the primitive costume. All the performers acquitted themselves in a meritorious manner, reflecting considerable credit on the training received by them from the choir leader and director, Mr. J. G. Brown. Throughout the evening Mrs. Lewis Hall acceptably acted in the capacity of accompanist.

Preceding the cantata was a physical drill executed with much precision by the Boys' Brigade.

Victoria West Wide-Awake.

Is First In Line in the Discussion of the Approaching Municipal Elections.

Meeting Opposes Mayor Redfern and Endorses Ald. Beckwith and Bryden

As was anticipated, the meeting of the electors of Victoria West held in Semple's hall last evening for the purpose of organizing for the approaching municipal elections, resulted in the citizens of that wide-awake section of the city determining upon making Victoria West grievances an issue in the approaching contest. Candidates for aldermanic honors, not only in the North Ward, but also in the South and Central wards, will be required to accept a platform agreeable to Victoria West if they wish support from those whom the residents of that section are able to influence. A vote expressing confidence in Aldermen Beckwith and Brydon was carried unanimously, as also was one pledging the electors to oppose the candidature of Mayor Redfern.

Owing to the inadequate manner in which the meeting had been advertised, the attendance was smaller than would otherwise have been the case.

Mr. Beaumont, Boggs acted as chairman. In opening Mr. Boggs stated that the object of the meeting was to hear the report of the committee appointed to confer with Attorney-General Henderson in connection with the Craigflower road matter, and the mayor and aldermen in regard to affairs generally affecting Victoria West. Mr. Boggs explained briefly the result of these conferences. The committee had impressed upon the local government the necessity of gazetting the Craigflower road as crown land, and there is a likelihood of this being done. The meeting, however, the chairman explained, was mainly for the purpose of considering what steps should be taken by the residents of Victoria West in connection with the approaching municipal elections. He thought it was the duty of Victoria West citizens to stand together in the support or opposition of candidates.

Thomas Redding moved and Mr. Fawcett seconded the following resolution:

"That in the opinion of this meeting we have full confidence in Aldermen Beckwith and Brydon; that our interests will be safeguarded by them and a fair share of civic moneys be spent where most needed in this section; and we pledge them our support and influence."

C. W. Jenkinson thought the resolution should be supported. They should stick to those who had stuck to Victoria West. The aldermen mentioned had done their best for Victoria West. Any candidates coming forward should be asked to meet the wishes of the citizens of that section—a section of the city which was improving very rapidly, and speedily increasing in population and importance. Both the aldermen mentioned had safeguarded their interests to the best of their ability, and should be supported.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. Jenkinson then moved and Mr. Thomas Gold seconded the following resolution:

"That a committee be appointed to canvass the candidates for aldermanic honors in the Centre and South wards in our interests, and recommend nominations at our next meeting."

Mr. Jenkinson, in support of the resolution, felt that while it was apparent that special attention should be given to the North ward, the other wards should also be looked after, and a committee be appointed for that purpose. Some voters in Victoria West have votes in all the wards, and considerable influence could no doubt be exercised if the matter was gone about properly. Mr. Fawcett also spoke briefly in support of the resolution, which was carried without a dissenting voice. A committee consisting of J. Coigdarippe, C. W. Jenkinson, Percy Brown, Thomas Fawcett, Thomas Gold, Capt. Gaudin and Beaumont Boggs was then appointed in accordance with the resolution, the committee to meet at the call of the chair.

A brief discussion ensued in regard to the recent appropriations for street repairs decided upon at the last special meeting of the council.

Mr. Frank Hinds then moved the following resolution:

"Whereas during the past year Mr. Charles E. Redfern, acting in his capacity as mayor of the city, has most persistently opposed the wishes of a very large majority of the ratepayers of Victoria West, entailing on them an expenditure of $800, and much annoyance, in their effort to maintain right of thoroughfare over Craigflower road: Resolved, that this meeting strongly opposes his candidature."

Malcolm Dunnett seconded the resolution, which was received with loud applause and unanimously carried.

The question of what action should be taken in regard to the election of school trustee was brought up by Chairman Boggs, but it was decided to leave the matter in the hands of the committee appointed earlier in the evening, to report on.

The Chairman spoke of the advisability of the electors reserving pledges to candidates until after the next meeting, which observation seemed to meet with the approval of those present.

After deciding that the committee of citizens which has labored so long on matters affecting the interests of that section should exist until after the civic elections, the meeting adjourned.

LODGE PHYSICIANS.

Victoria Association of Doctors Decide to No Longer Act in That Capacity.

One of the chief questions which has been agitating physicians and secret society men since the doctors formed a local association was as to whether the men of medicine would carry out their avowed intention of no longer acting as lodge physicians. In a city with so many secret societies as Victoria it was found that the system of having lodge doctors materially interfered with the practice of the medical men. A meeting of the association was held last evening, and each member agreed to no longer act as lodge physician. To offset this action, which has been expected for some weeks, the different societies, it is said, are considering the advisability of inviting two doctors to come here to undertake the lodge work. It is claimed that the positions would be remunerative ones.

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POWERS OF EUROPE.

Powers of Europe, Britain notes
Joy expressed by some of you
That she's had some reverses,
Which in war is nothing new;
But as all her history shows
Only serves to urge her on
Till her conquest is complete
And her final victory's won.
Yes, her Continental consict
Saw reverses not a few;
Yet all that was well retrieved
By a glorious Waterloo.
So again will victory come,
As her foes will shortly see,
When great hosts from Britain's shore
And every loyal colony
Join in a triumphant march,
Before which Boer shall melt away,
And Britain, as in days of yore,
Her power invincible display.
Then as now our British soldier,
No poor conscript forced from home,
But a willing warrior brave,
Ready for whate'er may come;
Noble, patriotic and true soldier,
In thought and action is at one
With his country's earnest longing,
With the chief that leads him on.
Go ye back to Roman legions,
Greeks and Saracens of old;
Reckon up their deeds of daring,
As in ancient story told.
And then see our British soldier,
See him on the battle field;
See what he can do and dare—
Fight and die, but never yield:
Never yield unless commander
Sounds "retreat" to save his men.
And though order is obeyed,
Eager still to try it again.

Powers of Europe, as you know this,
Think of what it means to you,
If you rouse the British Lion,
And his wrath you risk anew!
If you aid Great Britain's foes,
If you dare to interfere,
You will know the price you pay
When your navies disappear.
But though strong and well prepared
Everywhere to hold her own,
Peace Great Britain will maintain,
If she is but left alone.
Let alone to conquer Boers;
Make them own her rightful sway;
And then "dark continent" will see
Dawning on a brighter day.
Yes, in Afric she will do what in India
she has done;
In Egypt also and where'er
Her reconstructing work is known.
Why, then, should she be opposed;
Why our Gallic neighbor's hate?
Do they think their raving can
Affect or change a task so great?
But if it could accomplish this,
Strange what's plain they cannot see,
They would postpone a noble work,
And be the Boer's worst enemy.

G. S.

South Saanich, December 16, 1899.

That Hacking Cough is a warning not to be lightly treated. Pyny-Pectoral cures with absolute certainty all recent coughs and colds. Take it in time. Manufactured by the Proprietors of Perry Davis' Pain-Killer.

UBIQUITY OF THE BLUEJACKET.

General Handiness and Utility Never More Apparent Than in Present Campaign.

From the Canadian Military Gazette.

It has long been taken as an accepted fact by their own people that the British jack-tar can always be counted on to turn up at "the right time at the right place," but it is doubtful indeed if at any time since the Crimea and Indian Mutiny the sterling worth of the sailors has been so demonstrated and so fully appreciated by the army as in the initial stages of the campaign now well under way in South Africa. The presence of the naval guns at Ladysmith is universally admitted to have been one of the chief factors in insuring the continued success of our garrison throughout the wearying and tedious investment, while the help rendered the First Division in its bloody actions at Belmont, Graspan and Modder River by the Naval Brigade is best testified by its heavy losses in officers and men. The general handiness and utility of the British sailorman was, however, we believe, never exemplified to better advantage than in the fitting out of the detachment which went to Gen. White's assistance at Ladysmith on October 20 and 21. The Army and Navy Gazette states that Capt. Percy Scott, R. N., had suggested to the admiral in command that all the long 12-pounders in the squadron, to the number of 36, should be sent ashore to help defend the frontier until the troops arrived from England. With the help of an assistant engineer and a lieutenant of the Terrible, a carriage for land service was designed, parts made and built both of wood and metal, and the first gun mounted in position on travelling carriage in less than 48 hours. Tests were then made, the gun fired, and everything found all right. Other 4.7-inch guns were similarly mounted, and, as is well known, the guns arrived at Ladysmith just in the nick of time, and have rendered invaluable service in holding off Sir George White's besiegers.

Happy indeed the army that has such a sister service as the Royal Navy, with its officers and men who can not only fight ships, but serve ashore in almost any capacity, and who can design, construct or adapt means to make their services of the very highest value upon the very shortest notice.

MOTHER'S FAVORITE.

Dr. Chase's Syrup of Linseed and Turpentine is mother's favorite remedy for croup, bronchitis, asthma, coughs, colds and sore throat. It has by far the largest sale of any remedy for coughs and colds. It is pleasant to the taste, prompt in action and is an absolute safeguard against consumption and pneumonia. 25 cents a bottle. Family size 00 cents.

TRICKERY IN POLITICS.

From the Toronto Mail and Empire.

One good thing about the defeat of Greenway is the punishment it administers to a section of the band of conspirators who raised a religious question for their own political ends. When Mr. Greenway was hard pressed some years ago, he went to a French constituency in which there was a bye-election and urged the return of a supporter on the ground that he was a friend of separate schools. Then, after he had gained further strength in the assembly, he calculated that it would pay him to abolish the schools, and he abolished them accordingly. Messrs. Laurier and Sifton now appeared on the scene. Between these two politicians and Mr. Greenway a bargain was struck, under which Greenway was to refuse any redress, while Laurier was to clamor for it in Quebec and to agitate there against the then Dominion government for not according relief. By Greenway and Sifton all advances for a modification of the system were refused. By Laurier the race cry was raised in Quebec. It is known that the correspondence from Ottawa to Winnipeg on the subject was transmitted to Laurier, and all the refusals to modify the law in the slightest degree which came from Greenway and Sifton were written on an understanding with Laurier, who saw them and approved of them before they were sent to Ottawa. During the period the Lord Strathcona and Mr. Dickey were at Winnipeg endeavoring to secure some measure of relief, the private communications made by those gentlemen to Mr. Sifton were conveyed to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who agreed to the negative replies that were given. In the election of 1896 the Laurier candidates ran in English-speaking constituencies, pledging themselves that no action should be taken. On the other hand, the candidates in Quebec promised that action would be taken, and that if Greenway did not take it Laurier would pass a coercive law. After the victory gained by this two-faced policy, Laurier and Sifton met at Ottawa. It was then agreed that the school law should not be changed, but among the conditions were a promise by Sir Wilfrid Laurier to secure a knighthood for Mr. Greenway, and a pledge that Mr. Sifton should have the handling of the department of the interior. Greenway changed his law in such a way as to enable him to relax the regulations. Sifton entered the interior department, with results which we all know too well. And Laurier posed as the great peace-maker. He declared in his speeches that he had found the Dominion rent and torn with dissensions which the Conservatives had created—an untruth, for he had created them himself; but that, by the exercise of tremendous statesmanship—the buying of Mr. Sifton and Mr. Greenway—he had brought harmony and happiness to his country. The entire business was a conspiracy to produce and maintain illfeeling for political purposes, and to quiet it down afterwards on the basis of plunder. The western end of the compact is paying the penalty for its cunning; it only remains for the people to unite and give the federal conspirators the punishment they too deserve.

WOUNDS HEAL SOON.

Boers' New Weapon Not So Effective as Martini-Henri Rifles—Weather Favorable for the Sick.

London, Dec. 19.—The war is already yielding interesting results in the study of wounds inflicted by the various projectiles in use on both sides. The Lancet's correspondent at Cape Town, sends an important report, in which he says of the wounded there:

"A majority of the cases result from Mauser bullets with a few from Martini-Henrys, and the difference is extremely marked. The Mauser does not inflict so severe a wound, and the crushing power is distinctly less. In most cases it is difficult to determine the aperature of entry and that of exit from the appearance of the wound, both apertures in nearly all cases being identical in size. Of all cases being identical in size. Of course I am referring to wounds of fleshy nature where the bullet traverses the muscular structures only. In the case of perforation, grooving or tunnelling of bones, the aperture of exit is much enlarged.

"It is simply surprising to note how quickly and readily these wounds heal. In a great number of cases the ordinary field dressing is quite sufficient to bring about complete healing, and the smaller calibre rifle and the consequent size of the bullet tell most favorably. In fact, instead, as with the Martini-Henry or Remington bullet, of a wound resulting through which one can thread a large-sized drainage tube, the tissues are so little disturbed that they close immediately after the missile has passed, and the healing begins at once. In nearly all cases they are as aseptic as can be wished. There are a few cases of shell wounds, and these naturally are more severe, the laceration of muscle and other soft tissues and the splintering of bone being the chief characteristics.

"The weather keeps rather cool in the morning and after sunset, and the men coming from Natal brace up wonderfully after a few days in the hospital here. The climate is exceptionally good for wounds. In fact, they heal in such a marvellous manner that unless a man is struck in a vital part, the probabilities are that he will be fit for fighting again in a few weeks, a fact which will be forcibly impressed upon the Boers before we are done with them. I cannot help thinking that if they had any experience with the wounds caused by their new rifles, they would discard them in favor of their old friend, the Martini-Henry."

City Council And Trustees.

Angeles Ferry By-law Disappears and Chilliwack Comes to the Front.

New Position for Chief Sheppard—the Schools Christmas Vacation.

Both the city council and the board of public school trustees held protracted meetings yesterday evening at the city hall, the session of the former body lasting until the stroke of 11—to be continued to-morrow evening at the usual hour; and the educational board completing its labors for the evening but a quarter of an hour earlier. The council session was of very considerable interest, the business including the endorsement of various public works to the limit of the available funds; the appointment of Mr. H. W. Sheppard as assistant police court prosecutor and Chinook interpreter, upon his retirement from the office of chief of police; the killing of the Port Angeles ferry by-law, by the rising of committee without report; and the introductory skirmish upon what is generally known as the Chilliwack railway scheme, although the by-law in connection is termed the Victoria & Sidney Extension by-law. The business of the trustee board was chiefly in relation to the closing exercises at the various public schools, which are set for Friday forenoon, the North Ward, however, having a programme for the afternoon, and the High school classes also assembling after the formal dismissal, for the presentation of the Governor-General's medals. The only other interesting item of school board business was in connection with the relative advantages of the vertical system of penmanship, with regard to which the city superintendent was requested to present a report.

Although but fifteen minutes' grace is allowed the aldermanic board by the rules, in the matter of meetings, the hands of the clock pointed to 8:22 last evening when the mayor and members of the council took their places; and it was 8:35 when the minutes had been duly disposed of.

First in the order of communications came a letter from Hon. J. S. Helmcken, M. D., withdrawing—as he no longer considers—his offer, with respect to the draining of Beacon Hill park through that portion of his property known as the McTavish estate; this communication going upon the file.

Next a protest was received from George de Wolf, against the paving of Broad street, which went pro forma, the city assessor, although it was understood to be insufficient to deter the work; and a complaint of the unequal distribution of city work, from W. G. Eden—which was promptly ordered filed.

City Clerk Dowler reported the receipt and reference to the engineer's department during the week of communications in regard to drainage and sidewalk improvements, from E. E. Blackwood, William A. Franklin and E. Holmes—the clerk's formal report also going upon file.

The recommendation from the city solicitors that Mr. H. M. Grahame be paid $12 for damage done to an unfreezed window on Government street through negligence of corporation workmen, was adopted without debate; as was also a report from the city engineer and the solicitors, in conjunction, advising that, as the Albion Iron Works Co. had repudiated responsibility for the sidewalk adjacent to their manufactory, the council resume possession of the area in question, and replace the walk.

In response to a request from the council, Fire Chief Deasy reported that it would cost (roughly) $354 to place a fire alarm box on Alpha street. He noted incidentally that the nearest hydrant to Alpha street was at present 3,000 feet distant, and stated that in his opinion a sufficient fire service required protection for the locality—an alarm would be of little advantage without water.

This report was placed on file; while an estimate from City Electrician Hutchison of the cost of giving electric light to the Jubilee hospital side gate and to Sayward avenue—$110 in the former case and $115 in the latter—was adopted, despite the vigorous protest of Ald. Brydon, Humphrey, Cameron and Beckwith that a decision should not be made without reference to the committee.

Ald. Humphrey maintained in this connection that the light at the Jubilee hospital side gate had not been formally applied for; that the proper position for a light in this locality was at the corner of Edmonton road, opposite the isolation hospital; and that to grant the light at the hospital gate, over the heads of the committee, would be to insult that body, in all of which observations Ald. Brydon concurred.

For the granting of the hospital board's request, the Mayor, Ald. Stewart and MacGregor spoke briefly but to effect—the light being granted by a vote of 6 to 4. There was no opposition to the light on Sayward avenue, which had been approved by the committee, and it was unanimously ordered.

In taking leave of the subject, Ald. Williams directed attention to the necessity for a light on the Gorge road, near the city boundary.

Ald. Brydon suggested that the council order this, too, and the light asked for on Johnson street—the council seeming to care nothing for the views of the committee.

There being no estimates on the cost of installing these lights, the mayor ruled that such a suggestion could not be entertained.

Reports from the city engineer were next taken into consideration, the council finding itself with $1,734 available, and ordering the carrying out of the following works:

Surfacing Street, between Douglas and Blanchard, at a total estimated cost of $710.00, surface draining not included.

Constructing box drain on Fourth street, at a cost of $99.

Constructing gravel sidewalk with wooden curb on Belcher street, between Vancouver and Cook, at an estimated cost of $60.

Constructing plank sidewalk on Cadboro Bay Road, west of Pemberton Road, at an estimated cost of $174.

Repairing streets in the Work Estate locality, at an estimated cost of $150.

Constructing a pipe drain on Cook street, to take the place of the present box drain, and which can be used as a sewer if necessary, at an estimated cost of $145.

Constructing a sidewalk on Terrace avenue, at an estimated cost of $24.

Constructing a sidewalk on Bellot street, from Cook street easterly, at an estimated cost of $29.

Owing to the exhaustion of the available funds, the following items were "laid over":

Repairing Delta and Gamma streets—in which connection the city engineer notes: "The streets in question are in very bad condition, but owing to the wet weather they could not be improved to advantage."

Improving Catts street, at an estimated cost of $100.

Stone-surfacing Pandora street, at an estimated cost (without bringing to grade) of $500; or (with bringing to grade) of $760. On this point the city engineer had noted: "It will be necessary to blast more more rock on Johnson street before this work could be completed."

The special committee on Rock Bay bridge repairs presented their report, as follows:

"After due consideration of the urgent and necessary improvements of Rock Bay bridge, we have the honor to report and recommend as follows: That the proposed improvements and repairs upon the above bridge be carried out in accordance with the plans, etc., on file in the office of the city engineer; and in view of the fact that the present floor requires immediate renewal (which cannot be done until after the improvements are completed) the engineer go at once with the said plans to interview Mr. Joseph R. Coy, C.E., in order to explain all particulars in regard to the matter; and further in regard to the driving of extra piles and renewal of flooring, that the government be asked to act at once, as otherwise it may be necessary to close the bridge to vehicular traffic."

This was adopted without debate, as was also a report from the finance committee, providing for the payment of sundry weekly accounts to the amount of $6,061.41—which sum is inclusive of $72.50 for the special services of City Solicitor Bradburn in connection with the police commission inquiry; and $126.25 to the stenographer, F. C. Jones, for his attendance on that occasion.

A second report from the same committee covered $1,183, and was also adopted.

The motion of which the Mayor had given notice, providing for the employment of Mr. H. W. Sheppard as assistant police court prosecutor and Chinook interpreter at a salary of $900 per annum on his retirement from the office of chief of police, was fathered by Ald. Hayward and Stewart, and duly presented.

Explaining his recommendation in this regard, which was really a recommendation from the police commission, Mayor Redfern stated that in the past Chief Sheppard had assumed the duties of police court prosecutor and Chinook interpreter without charge to the city, although the customary fee to interpreters was $2.50 per case. He—and the other commissioners—was inclined to believe that the time of the Chief might perhaps be employed to greater advantage to the city than in conducting trivial police court cases; while a reference to the accounts for the past year showed that in the capacity of Chinook interpreter Mr. Sheppard had saved the city $240 in fees alone. The retiring chief had certainly shown marked ability in conducting the ordinary cases of the police court, and in view of his long service—unchallenged during 23 years past until the recent occasion precedent to his resignation, when he had erred more through good nature and kindness than aught else—it seemed not unreasonable to suggest that he be provided for in some such way as contemplated by the resolution—particularly as it meant only an expenditure of $350 per year, aside from the average earned fees as interpreter. The proposed change would give the new chief enlarged scope for his other and more important duties, and he believed would work well for the city.

Ald. Humphrey declared his intention of voting against the resolution, not because he objected to an old servant of the city being provided for, nor yet because he was averse to the amount—but because he could not endorse the creation of new positions at the present time—while he would not object to the office being given on a fee basis.

Very much the same ground was taken by Ald. Cameron, who regarded it as establishing a bad precedent, particularly as the council was itself on the eve of retirement. He thought that the new chief and new council should have something to say in this matter, and would vote accordingly.

Ald. Williams regretted that the police commissioners had not arranged to have Mr. Sheppard retained as a gaoler or in some similar capacity, in addition to that of police court prosecutor and Chinook interpreter, the salary being thereby distributed. He could not agree with the proposal in the form in which it was offered.

Ald. Hayward concurred with the resolution, and thought that the matter of long and generally efficient service should have due weight. The police commissioners had raised the salary of the new chief to $125—indeed, public opinion would have endorsed the action if they had made it $150 per month; and he did not think that the public would have any complaint to offer if the appointment of Mr. Sheppard to be assistant police court prosecutor and interpreter at $600, was made as proposed.

Ald. Kinsman also supported the motion, with a compliment to Chief Sheppard for having given the best average service to the city of all the occupants of the office.

The resolution passed on a vote of 7 to 3, the Mayor with Ald. Kinsman, Williams, MacGregor, Brydon, Stewart and Hayward voting affirmative; and Ald. Beckwith, Humphrey and Cameron contra.

The formal motions providing for the nomination and election of members of the council and school boards, the dates being named as January 8 and January 11, were assented to without debate, and Messrs. William Dalby, George Glover, T. J. Dearberg and David Spragge being named as deputies of Returning Officer Northcott.

With regard to the Port Angeles ferry connection proposal, Ald. MacGregor moved, in accordance with his posted notice of intention, and with Ald. Williams as seconder:

"Whereas a by-law to provide a subsidy for the establishment of a car ferry and passenger steamboat service between Victoria and Port Angeles was drafted and laid before the board several months ago, at the requisition of 483 ratepayers, representing considerably more than the required amount of taxable real estate; and whereas a majority of the board have persistently refused to accede to the demand of the said ratepayers to place before them a by-law which, if passed, would insure the establishment of the said service, and have further obstructed its passage in altering and mutilating the measure, thereby rendering its provisions so onerous as to place it beyond the powers of the promoters of the scheme to comply with the requirements of the by-law; and whereas the promoters of the scheme decline to accept the by-law in its present form, and have expressed a wish to have it withdrawn: Be it therefore resolved that this board, having declined to meet the request of the petitioning ratepayers that the said by-law be and the same is hereby withdrawn from further consideration by the board."

Ald. Beckwith looked upon this as a remarkable motion for any alderman to offer, and promptly introduced an amendment, stating in effect that whereas the completion of the by-law in question had been delayed from time to time to meet the convenience of the promoters, that the council should resume consideration of the measure, with the Mayor as chairman.

Ald. Kinsman advised that useless motions and discussions should be avoided. The council had business to transact, and his advice was to take th[illegible] unprofitable debate.

Ald. MacGregor distin[illegible] silent vote. He had no[illegible] said, that his motion wou[illegible] yet it was distinctly in [illegible] the record of facts. H[illegible] trace the history of the P[illegible] ject since its inception [illegible] contending that the by-la[illegible] after its many alteration[illegible] cil, was an impossible on[illegible] as had not been asked for [illegible] and in distinct contrast [illegible] clean-cut proposition pres[illegible] at the request of ratepay[illegible] stood, the promoters of [illegible] would have nothing to d[illegible] law at double the amou[illegible] As introducer of the by-l[illegible] he had a perfect right to [illegible]

The Mayor—With conse[illegible] cil.

There would be no diffi[illegible] withdrawal, Ald. MacGr[illegible] —had not the resolution [illegible] edly" drafted.

"Had it not been for th[illegible] justifiable insinuations," [illegible] Beckwith.

Ald. MacGregor retorte[illegible] Bekwith's amendment [illegible] with the insults that gen[illegible] fered to the promoters o[illegible] the occasion of their rece[illegible]

Ald. Beckwith denied a[illegible]

Ald. Hayward asked t[illegible] of the amendment state [illegible] asking for the return of [illegible] committee, now that it w[illegible] stood that it could not be p[illegible] Did the alderman propose [illegible] pentance, and vote to inc[illegible] sidy or remove the object[illegible] tions?

Ald. Williams agreed w[illegible] ward, and accused Ald. [illegible] changing front on the Ang[illegible] He challenged him to expl[illegible] ing of his amendment.

Thus invited, Ald. Bec[illegible] ated any inconsistency, and [illegible] while he had been prepar[illegible] a substantial subsidy for [illegible] connection—he had indeed [illegible] Hayward's motion that th[illegible] fixed at $12,500,—he had o[illegible] conditions of the by-law [illegible] believing them to but insu[illegible] guard the interests of Vic[illegible] torians. He believed that [illegible] drafted, was so insecure [illegible] pany, while living up to th[illegible] obligation sufficiently to se[illegible] sidy, might give a servic[illegible] be of no value to Victoria [illegible] too, that the council had [illegible] declined to put the by-la[illegible] people—indeed his present [illegible] be taken as more in that [illegible] the proposal of the introduc[illegible] gregor, to withdraw it.

The amendment being [illegible] vote was carried—on a 6 [illegible] Mayor with Ald. Cameron [illegible] Brydon, Beckwith and St[illegible] "aye," and Ald. Haywar[illegible] Williams and MacGregor in [illegible]

The by-law being thus ret[illegible] mittee, His Worship inqui[illegible]

"What are you going to [illegible] promoters say they cannot [illegible] this by-law?"

"I move that the committ[illegible] Ald. Stewart.

And this being passed, th[illegible] killed—not withdrawn.

The formal by-law reco[illegible] the Mayor, to provide for [illegible] tion of the loan arranged [illegible] court deposit required for [illegible] versely decided Point Ellice [illegible] age suits, was passed throu[illegible] stages, and carried, the M[illegible] ing that it was merely for [illegible] the sum involved to the ge[illegible] of the year, and its carryi[illegible] time as the settlement of [illegible] claims should be taken up.

At the suggestion of the [illegible] representatives, the by-law [illegible] with a life of not more tha[illegible] although with the option of [illegible] to this date at any time.

"Of course we don't inter[illegible] the Mayor, "that these mat[illegible] allowed to hang all the tim[illegible]

It was a quarter to 11 w[illegible] toria & Sidney Railway E[illegible] law was presented for secon[illegible] Ald. Beckwith, and Ald. H[illegible] gested that so important a [illegible] be reserved for a special [illegible] the council should be fresh [illegible]

Ald. Beckwith thought th[illegible] reading might proceed, an[illegible] come at the committee stag[illegible]

The majority were again[illegible] ever, and the difficulty was t[illegible] an adj