

THE COUNCIL BACKS OUT.

The Motion to Discharge the Present City Engineers Fails to Pass.

Henry Goward Elected Librarian—Petition Against Hackstand Rejected.

The city council went back on its former decision to discharge the city engineers at its meeting last evening and the matter is in the old position. Henry Goward was elected librarian, there was a big petition against the hackstand, and another from wholesale merchants protesting against the street obstruction crusade received and several other matters of importance considered. All of the board attended.

Hedley Chapman, managing director of the tramway company, accepted the terms of the city in the matter of the replanking of Rock Bay bridge. Referred to the street committee with power to act.

The corporation of Nanaimo politely requested the city officials of Victoria to attend the Queen's birthday celebration at Nanaimo. The invitation was accepted with thanks.

Henry Galloway, janitor of the Victoria West school, claimed the reward of \$50 offered by the city for the arrest and conviction of window breakers, for his connection with the case of the school boy Ferris, convicted in police court on Saturday.

Ald. Humphrey without particular reference to this case objected to the size of the reward.

Ald. Macmillan agreed with him, saying it was an inducement to fraud.

Ald. Hall said he would father a motion to cut the amount down.

The letter was referred to the finance committee to report.

Wm. Jackson reported the removal by corporation laborers of some water pipe laid by him on Carr street, and asking the payment of \$100 for it. Referred to the water committee.

C. T. W. Piper offered to supply wood for the electric light station at \$2.20 per cord. Received and filed.

Secretary McKay, of the Victoria Trades and Labor Council, transmitted a resolution of that body urging upon the city council that the filter beds be constructed by the day labor system. The letter was received and filed without discussion.

The same gentleman transmitted a resolution from the same body urging upon the city council that the filter beds be constructed by the day labor system. The letter was received and filed without discussion.

Ald. Macmillan moved to receive and file and Ald. Macmillan moved in amendment that it be laid on the table to be taken up when the tenders were opened.

Ald. Humphrey did not believe the petition was opportune. He had called for tenders and if they were too high they might throw them out and see what the laboring men could do.

Ald. Macmillan objected to the day labor system on work like this, and regarded it as a dictation from a minority of the citizens. There were men in the city who paid up to \$1000 a year taxes and the majority were satisfied with the contract system.

Ald. Macmillan said it did not matter whether a man paid \$1 or \$1000. They all had a right to petition. He objected to Ald. Macmillan saying that the petitioners were dictating, and said he regarded it as an insult. The citizens had presented a respectful document and the right of petition was as old as the right of self government. He believed the council had sufficient dignity to carefully weigh what the petition set forth.

Ald. Wilson said that on big work he favored the contract system as it brought the best workmen to the front.

Ald. Bragg said he fully endorsed what Ald. Macmillan had said as to the consideration that should be shown the petition. He believed the key to the whole question was the matter of responsibility. It was not so much the workmen as the men directing the work. The trial of the day labor system on electric light matters was not a success. However, he wanted the matter fully investigated and the right system adopted.

Ald. Hall said the plans were drawn and specifications prepared, and it was too late to make a change.

Ald. Macmillan denied that he wanted to insult the workmen.

Ald. Williams said the amendment could not do any harm, and when the ballot was taken the amendment was carried.

R. B. McMicking, city electrician, tendered his resignation on account of press of private business. He expressed regrets at leaving the post, in which he said his relations had always been most pleasant.

Ald. Bragg, in moving for the acceptance of the resignation, paid a nice tribute to the ability of the gentleman. The resignation was accepted.

Water Commissioner Raymur reported that nine men had been put to work digging the drain for the supply pipe at Elk lake under direction of J. Pope, who had orders to discharge any man who did not do his work; that the pipe would be furnished by Thomas Shaw, the lowest tenderer, for \$548, and setting forth that the telephone to the water works was in poor order and that the V. & S. railway offered to string the wire on its poles for \$400 and keep them in order for \$40 per year. The report was received and adopted.

Plans of the streets proposed to be paved with a list of the property to be benefited and an appointment of the cost, were presented by the city engineer and city assessor.

Ald. Macmillan asked that the report be adopted, as they desired to have it published at once to give the property owners a chance to petition against the work.

Ald. Macmillan said he was not prepared to vote on the matter just yet. He wanted the council to settle the question of foundation.

Ald. Macmillan said that the committee and engineer had gone into the matter very carefully and had been advised by an expert of many years that sand would make a very satisfactory foundation. Concrete was too expensive.

Ald. Bragg said that he was prepared to abide by the judgment of the committee and engineer.

Ald. Williams believed a sand foundation would answer and that concrete would be too expensive.

Ald. Macmillan said he was not prepared to vote and advised that they make sure before they proceeded. He did not want to see any temporary work but wanted the best and most permanent that was possible.

Ald. Macmillan said the cost of cement was so great it would simply defeat the proposal.

Ald. Wilson was opposed to the sand foundation. There had already been too much cheap work here. What was worth doing at all was worth doing well. In Toronto they had laid wood on sand and had to take it up again. He did not believe the people would be willing to stand the expense at present, but he would support the concrete plan.

Ald. Williams believed the province had the very best wood possible.

Ald. Cameron said he was doubtful about sand and favored concrete.

Ald. Bragg suggested that the council have a statement of the relative cost of the two kinds of work.

Ald. Macmillan offered to withdraw the reports for further consultation.

Ald. Macmillan moved to amend to make the foundation of concrete and a new set of plans be prepared, and Ald. Wilson seconded the motion.

Ald. Partridge said that Ald. Macmillan should have the right to withdraw the reports, and it was agreed.

City Assessor Northcott reported that the assessment roll was complete, and that the total valuation of land was \$13,153,850 and improvements \$1,825,285. Total, \$14,979,135. Received and filed.

Purchasing Agent Northcott reported that no one had tendered on the 500 feet of hose for the street committee and asked for instructions.

Ald. Humphrey said that they had better go back and adopt the report of the committee and purchase the hose directly.

Ald. Macmillan said the council had evidently run against a monopoly and had better keep it down at once.

Ald. Williams believed the wording of the advertisement shut out certain local merchants, who would have tendered.

It was decided to direct the city purchasing agent to buy the hose without further ado.

Sanitary Officer Conlin reported that there were many complaints as to the state of box drains and other nuisances of a similar nature, and stated that if he was given three men and a cart he would attempt a general clean throughout the city.

Ald. Bragg commended the idea and moved that the letter be referred to the sewerage committee to be acted on and Ald. Macmillan and Hall supported him.

Ald. Cameron believed the subject was one for the street committee. The question of finances entered into it and it would have to be determined which department should pay it.

Ald. Bragg said a stream of green fluid ran by the side of South road and was a menace to health.

Ald. Humphrey proposed that it be left over. The street committee wanted hose for that very purpose and had intended shortly to put nearly all its men on just such work.

Ald. Macmillan believed the money should come out of the health funds but that the work should be left to the street committee.

Ald. Bragg accepted the suggestion and the letter went to the street committee.

Librarian McGregor presented the following letter:

In view of the very creditable discussion with regard to the appointment of my successor, and with a view to the restoring of harmony to your councils, I beg leave to make a proposition. It is in regard to the additional hour a day. Let that be from 9 to 10 a.m. and perhaps better, from 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. I assure the council that these hours will be much more acceptable to the general public than the hours proposed by the library committee.

The council declined to accept the advice offered.

Tenders for the completion of the electric light circuit were opened and referred to the committee to examine and award to the lowest tenderer.

The wardens of St. John's church wrote offering to give the city the strip of land held by the church and in dispute with the city as to ownership, providing the taxes which the church is in arrears be remitted.

Ald. Humphrey moved that the church wardens be notified that the city did not want to buy any land, and Ald. Macmillan seconded the motion.

There was objection to the wording of the motion, and Ald. Humphrey said the city already owned the land.

Ald. Cameron said that that was a matter which depended on the circumstances.

Ald. Williams moved to refer to the city engineer, and the amendment was carried.

A petition, signed by nearly 150 citizens, mostly merchants, headed by Spratt & Macaulay, asking for the removal of the hack stand from Government street, was presented and read. It pointed out the objections to the stand which it said among other things blocked regular traffic, and asked that the hacks be moved to the cross streets.

Ald. Williams moved to refer to the street committee, but Ald. Macmillan's amendment, that a select committee be appointed to prepare a by-law covering what was asked for in the petition was carried.

Thomas Barle & Co., and about thirty

other prominent firms, petitioned protesting against the police crusade on street obstructions. The petitioners asserted that the three hours given by the police in which to remove goods from the sidewalk was insufficient to permit them to carry on their business properly, and they asked that lower Yates and Wharf streets be exempted.

Ald. Cameron said the police had not used proper discretion, and he did not believe the law should be construed to interfere with merchants. It was, he thought, designed more to remove permanent obstructions and not to injure business men who cleared the street every evening.

Ald. Partridge said if the police had been discreet the petition would never have come in.

The mayor believed the matter could be avoided in the special orders to the police.

Ald. Williams pointed out that in other cities merchants were not interfered with.

Ald. Humphrey said it was particularly a hardship on fruit dealers.

Ald. Macmillan thought the iron works had been put to a lot of needless expense.

Ald. Wilson believed that in many instances the law did very well and while he wanted no injustice done he wanted it enforced.

The matter was left to the police commissioners to see that justice is properly executed and the streets kept clear.

Reports from the finance committee appropriating \$601.60 out of general revenue, \$2490.50 out of the water works loan, and \$50 for special educational purposes were passed.

Ald. Cameron said the committee was given authority to make certain changes in the fence near the Old Men's Home.

The electric light committee reported asking for authority to purchase 60 poles and to tell the Hamilton manufacturing company that the poles were not to be used for anything else, and recommending that the engineer be paid by the city during time lost as requested by the Hamilton manufacturing company.

With the report was transmitted the following letter to the committee from D. Cartwright:

I beg hereby to bring to your notice the fact that the pulleys on the "Bail" dynamo, at present in use for the old station, are in a tight state for their proper speed when connected at the new station, and a change will have to be made. The necessary belt is 5000 feet per minute; but the speed of the new engines has been designed to have been proposed; as, in the place, it is much too small; and in the second, it could not be removed from the old boiler as it is abandoned; neither ought it to be placed on the new after the station is in operation, as it might cause a stoppage of the engine, and the pump in case of a break down of the feed pump.

The pulleys on the "Bail" dynamo, which ought to be a readiness when they are removed to the new station, and I would suggest that they be taken in hand as soon as possible. The sizes of two are reduced from 15 to 12 1/4 in. I also beg to point out that the pulley on the old station to the boiler at the new station is an absurdity and ought not to have been proposed; as, in the place, it is much too small; and in the second, it could not be removed from the old boiler as it is abandoned; neither ought it to be placed on the new after the station is in operation, as it might cause a stoppage of the engine, and the pump in case of a break down of the feed pump.

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ready understood and the report was adopted.

William Godfrey, who was taken sick before he could clear the street near his premises and was fined \$7, asked for a remission of the fine. The matter was left to the mayor who will very likely remit the fine.

Ald. Cameron's motion for the court of revision was passed without discussion or division.

Rules were suspended and the election of a librarian was taken up. The first ballot settled it, Henry Goward receiving 6 votes and Henry Jewell 4.

Ald. Macmillan's motion correcting the minutes of the meeting at which the city engineers were discharged was taken up and passed. The aldermen then called up the original motion, altered the time to May 22, and asked the board to again pass it.

Ald. Wilson wanted to know the reason for dismissing Mr. Wilmot. As to the plea of economy he would oppose that feature of it.

Ald. Macmillan said he believed Mr. Wilmot incompetent and instanced his removal from the water commission. He did not properly manage the office. He did not doubt his honesty or integrity for an instant. The council had passed the matter once and could hardly recede.

Ald. Partridge held that sufficient grounds for Mr. Wilmot's removal had not been given, and asserted that the supreme court had upheld Mr. Wilmot.

Ald. Wilson agreed with Ald. Partridge and while he said he did not believe Mr. Wilmot had set up enough he thought this would do him good. The sewerage specifications were prepared by Mr. Mo-

Ald. Macmillan asserted that another instance was Harris' swamp at Spring Ridge where the catch basins were so high the surface drains would not carry the water off.

Ald. Macmillan supported Mr. Wilmot, who, he said, was an honest man and should be retained. He had been sustained by the courts and the alderman would vote to let the assistant go first.

Ald. Macmillan asked the members to examine the supreme court decision.

Ald. Humphrey said he was going to support the motion and would favor giving the place to Mr. Wilmot if no better man applied.

Ald. Cameron held that all of the discussion was unavailing. The council had passed the matter before and should not do so again. He had supported the motion and was going to then. He was of the opinion that a change was necessary.

The motion was lost by 5 to 4, the ayes being Ald. Humphrey, Macmillan, Bragg and Cameron, and the noes being Ald. Partridge, Hall, Williams and Macmillan.

Ald. Macmillan said they had called for applications and more would be heard about the matter. He asked that the names be recorded and when that was done the council adjourned. It was 10:45 o'clock.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS.

Senator Elkins, of West Virginia, Was Here on Sunday.

Victoria was honored Sunday by a short visit from one of the best known American citizens of the generation, Senator Elkins, of West Virginia, known in the political world as "Steve" Elkins. With his family he left Washington on February 24th, in the private car "Bay State" of the Atchafalpa, Topeka & Santa Fe, and travelled as far south as the city of Mexico. He came to Victoria to see the great waterway between here and the head of the Sound. He will rejoin his car at Tacoma and will go east. Senator Elkins is a remarkable man in many respects. He was born in Ohio, educated in Missouri, and served in the army during the civil war. He became heavily interested in the mines and railways in that state, and is several times a millionaire. He is credited with winning that state from the Democracy. He was secretary of war in the Harrison cabinet, and was recently elected to the senate from West Virginia. He spends most of his time in New York city, although the family home is at Elkins, West Virginia. While here last evening he expressed himself as greatly pleased with the city, and expressed the wish that he could have remained longer.

THE RATE WAR.

Steamer Farallon Will Probably be Withdrawn from the Run.

It is probable that the old rates to San Francisco will be resumed after to-day, there being an apparently well-founded rumor going the rounds to the effect that the opposition steamer Farallon is to be taken off