

The Civic Parliament

Much Business Disposed of at Last Night's Meeting of the Aldermen.

Street Work to Be Proceeded With—The Garbage Removal Problem.

Barbers Want Sunday Closing Enforced—Castings Contract Awarded.

It may be allowable for a spectator of the proceedings of the city council last evening to say that it seems as though the electors of Victoria have succeeded better this year than they have for some time past in selecting a council of business men who waste little time in unnecessary talk and who eschew unseemly "bickering." That is if last night's meeting may be taken as an example. Everything, from the reading of the minutes to the motion for an adjournment, went like clockwork and a vast amount of business was put through.

But so business-like was the meeting that it afforded little or no excitement for a handful of free and independent electors who were attracted to the scene, and it was not long before they stole away, apparently satisfied to leave the discharge of the city's business to their duly elected representatives. Time was, and not so long ago, when all this was different, and one could confidently rely upon a couple of hours' entertainment in the council chamber on Monday evenings equal to that afforded by some travelling shows which charged for admission. The improvement is all in favor of the city though, and last evening the aldermen showed a laudable desire to put business through in business-like shape, as refreshing as it was expeditious.

At 10:15 the council adjourned until 10 o'clock this morning for the purpose of considering at the earliest possible moment the estimates, not yet decided upon. His worship the mayor presided last evening, and there was a full attendance of the members eligible to sit at the board. Ald. Langley's case not yet having been decided by the Full Court, the end chair to the right of the mayor was empty. The clerk read the minutes of the last meeting of the council held during the week, which were adopted without amendment, and the council proceeded to the consideration of Communications.

Mr. Thornton Fell reminded the council of his application of August 27, for an extension of the sewer on Cadboro Bay road, in reply to which he was informed that at the time there were no funds available for the purpose. He strongly recommended that the sewer be extended along Cook street to the junction of Yates street and Cadboro Bay road, and took the opportunity afforded by the opening of a new year to remind the council that those who improve their premises are entitled to some consideration. As an alternative Mr. Fell suggested that the school street sewer might be extended as far as Moss street, adding that it seemed a strange thing that although his petition could obtain connection with the sewer he could not.

Ald. Stewart moved that the letter be referred to the city engineer for report. Ald. Humphrey expressing it as his opinion that the school street sewer is already a long way above Moss street.

Ald. Stewart's motion carried unanimously. That Minn.

Mr. C. C. Moody informed the council that he has some information regarding the establishment of a mill in Canada, and that if the council would appoint a committee for the purpose he would be pleased to place that information at their disposal.

Ald. Stewart wanted to know who Mr. Moody was, and Ald. Humphrey moved that the letter be received and filed.

Ald. Williams objected to this summary disposal of the communication, saying there was no reason because certain aldermen had a dislike to this gentleman.

The mayor (interrupting), "Alderman Williams, Alderman Williams, you have no grounds for saying that. Those remarks are quite out of order, there was nothing said to warrant them at all."

Ald. Williams ventured the opinion that he was able to form an opinion in regard to the matter from what had taken place at former meetings as any one else, and he moved that a committee be appointed to take advantage of Mr. Moody's offer. This was seconded by Ald. Kinsman, but Ald. Hayward had a simpler method to suggest, and that was that Mr. Moody be asked to furnish information to the council. This commended itself to Ald. Williams, who thereupon withdrew his motion in favor of Ald. Hayward's proposition.

Ald. Humphrey was quite satisfied with this mode of procedure, avowing that Ald. Williams's remark could not apply to him, as he did not know who Mr. Moody is. The proposition was accepted, Mr. Moody's letter filed, and he will be asked to favor the council with the information he has in regard to the mill. During the discussion some of the aldermen seemed to hint that Mr. Moody had hit upon something which he was making a great secret of and would not divulge except under exceptional circumstances, but this was explained as being an erroneous assumption. Mr. Moody's knowledge being available, without any secrecy being made of it.

Fire Insurance Agents. Mr. J. G. Elliott, secretary of the Board of Fire Underwriters, courteously acknowledged the receipt of a communication from the council, copies of which had been supplied to the various agents in the city for transmission to their respective head offices.

Money on Instalment. Mr. G. W. McCain had addressed a request to the council to pay to Mr. Sidney Shore the sum of \$400 on his contract

for fire apparatus, but his worship asked that it was intended for the city treasurer, and to that official the letter went.

James Bay Bridge. Mr. Edward Mallandaine submitted a plan for a bridge across James Bay in the following terms: "I have the honor to lay before you a plan for James Bay bridge, with arches, and an alternative plan for a permanent way or embankment in case the latter be preferred. The reasons that may be urged for the former are a pleasing appearance, superior to the solid surface of dead wall of the plain character of the latter. Also, that the arches of the former could be utilized at a future date for bonded warehouses, etc., with a continuous wharf in front, meanwhile the east wall shown, can be left out. I will add that the arches are brick pointed on completion, I shall be happy to furnish further information at an interview. The cost would be estimated by a well known contractor from my quantities.

Bridge, forty feet wide . . . \$ 84,000
Bridges, seventy feet wide . . . 114,611
Deduct east wall in both cases . . . 5,000
Permanent way or embankment, seventy feet wide . . . 134,007

His worship informed the aldermen that the plans referred to were in the hands of the city engineer for inspection, and on motion Ald. Stewart the letter was laid on the table.

Poplar Trees Barred. Mrs. W. Spring applied for permission to plant shade trees in front of her property on Belleville street, comprising a number of poplar trees, and Ald. Stewart's letter was laid on the table.

His worship pointed out that a similar privilege had been granted to Mr. Pen-dray, and Ald. Williams moved that the permission asked for by Mrs. Spring be granted.

Ald. Humphrey had no objection to granting the request, but was strongly of the opinion that poplar trees should be prohibited.

Ald. Stewart agreed, and moved that the proviso be included in the motion.

Ald. Brydon cited a case where a gentleman had been granted permission to plant what was a veritable hedge about eight feet high and quite thick. He thought there should be some condition insisted upon as to the distance the shade trees must be apart.

Ald. Beckwith thought there should be some way of regulating the matter, too. Everyone was agreed upon the desirability of erecting shade trees on the streets but the council should be satisfied as to the kind of trees to be planted, and the distance they are to be apart.

There should be some general rule adopted in this regard, and he rather favored laying the communication on the table until some regulation could be arrived at.

Ald. Williams thought if they postponed the matter until they made such regulations it would be too late to plant the trees.

Ald. Humphrey thought Ald. Beckwith's was a good plan. Maple trees, in his opinion, should be at least forty or fifty feet apart. Then the trees as they grew would come together. There should certainly be some regulation.

The mayor thought it would be too late if the council waited until they had made the regulations. He thought the matter might better be left to Mrs. Spring.

Ald. Beckwith disclaimed any intention of thwarting the granting of the desired permission, and finally the motion was passed that Mrs. Spring be allowed to plant the shade trees, provided that poplars are not selected.

Piles to Sell. Mr. G. Barrie informed the council that if they needed to purchase piles for wharf extension, etc., he had some he would be glad to supply, and Ald. Stewart pointed out that when such articles are needed advertisements are always inserted in the papers to that effect.

Ald. Humphrey moved that the letter be received and filed, and the writer advised to keep his eye open for the appearance of the city's advertisements in the daily papers. Carried.

A Drainage Nuisance. Water Commissioner Rayner called the attention of the council to the condition of a box drain at the corner of Yates street and Cadboro Bay road, which on examination had been found to be rotten and which, with the advent of warm weather, will be found to be an intolerable nuisance.

On motion of Ald. Stewart the letter was referred to the city engineer for report.

More Drains, Etc. The city engineer sent in a long report regarding work on drains and sidewalks, which was considered clause by clause.

The report continued that in connection with this work it would be necessary to deal with the drain from the house of Mr. T. H. Matthews. This could be brought out on North Clatham street, which would require a box drain from the catch basin, a distance of 500 feet; estimated cost, \$106.

Ald. Stewart referred to the pond mentioned as "a bone of contention," and he was in favor of the work being done.

Ald. Humphrey thought some of the work might be done and some left. The pond has a natural outlet on Pembroke street, is now running over, and all that is necessary is to cut a ditch. He questioned whether if the work were done as suggested by the engineer, Mr. B. W. Pearce would do the necessary work.

Ald. MacGregor said the council were doing a thing which was expected to pay him for it. City Engineer Wilmot sent a letter to the council admitting that Mr. Mason had done the work, but that

as recommended by the engineer be proceeded with.

Then came the Jubilee Hospital drainage. The engineer recommended that a 15-inch pipe be laid through the grounds to take the place of the present open ditch, a distance of 1,500 feet, and that 1,450 feet of a box drain on Cadboro Bay road be replaced by a box drain, 12 by 20 inches; estimated cost, \$440.

Ald. Humphrey moved that this work also be done. The drain had been a nuisance to everyone in the neighborhood and if it was important it be made good.

Ald. Williams didn't like the idea of the box drain and wanted to know if the cost was not some way of avoiding that feature.

The mayor thought the council were hardly in a position to lay a pipe drain a distance of 1,450 feet just yet, and Ald. Williams moved that the work be done, and box drains were always nuisances, Ald. Humphrey stated that he had obtained the figures for such a pipe drain; seventy-five cents a foot for 18-inch pipe, or over \$1,000 per mile.

Ald. Humphrey's motion authorizing the work carried.

A surface drain on Edmonton road was the next piece of work dealt with, the engineer stating that the surface of the road at an estimated cost of \$110, and it would also be necessary to renew a portion of the box drain on the same road, which would sum up to \$40.

Ald. Williams moved that the surface be done, and Ald. Stewart pointed out that there was a report from the committee recommending the same thing. It was rather difficult, however, to make a good deal on the quantity of rock met with. The work will be done.

Sidewalks. The same report from the engineer recommended the construction of a new sidewalk on the north side of Fort street, east of Cook, a distance of 225 feet; at an estimated cost of \$85.

His worship wished the council to decide whether they would have a plank or a cinder walk.

Ald. Humphrey expressed the opinion that a portion should be gravelled or cindered, but the other portion, on the grade, would have to be plank.

Ald. MacGregor said there was a great deal of dissatisfaction in regard to the manner in which the cinder sidewalks were put down. It may have been the wrong kind of cinder had been used, but they have not given satisfaction. He thought the property owners on the street should be consulted as to which kind of walk they wished.

There was certain evidence to have the work done with some regard to uniformity, especially in the same block. There was a difficulty also in getting first-class quality of cinder just now, too, and there was a possibility of the cinder being of such quality which went up a hill and would have to be plank anyhow.

Ald. Humphrey rather defended gravel walks, or cinder walks for the matter of that, but he thought the work should be done as it was done on Fort street, just above Vancouver, the curb had been put in an inch too high, with the result that the cinders did not come up to the level of the sidewalk.

Ald. Stewart referred to a piece of sidewalk on Quadra street which was already being constructed. One is on the north side, west of Ormonde street; the second is near Stadacona avenue, and the third between Stadacona avenue and Belmont avenue, and the estimated cost is in the neighborhood of \$120.

Move the Houses Back. The city engineer reported on the petition of Mr. G. H. Green and others for a sidewalk on the south side of South road, which he said it is impossible to construct until the houses and fences are moved back to the proper line.

Ald. Brydon suggested that the petition be notified accordingly, and this will be done.

Mr. J. E. Painter had headed a petition asking for the continuation of Pine street, Victoria West, and the engineer reported having the matter under consideration.

The purchase of a suitable cart horse in place of one recently sold was also recommended by the engineer, and the whole report was adopted.

Market Receipts. Market Clerk Johnson reported having received \$56.75 from farmers and gardeners' fees; \$14.50 from the weighing machine, and \$6 for rent, a total of \$77.25, including \$20.65 for the stalls in the market yard.

Did Too Much Work. Mr. Robert Mason had a curious request to make. He had undertaken a contract to place some gravel on a sidewalk on Ida street, did the work and then noticed that on William street there was a curb made and was informed by a resident that he was expected to place gravel there too. He did so and then found he had no authority to do so which the engineer would accept. He was therefore out 25 loads of gravel, and asked the council to order the engineer to pay him for it. City Engineer Wilmot sent a letter to the council admitting that Mr. Mason had done the work, but that

in for use when the engineer's report comes in.

Finally, Ald. Brydon moved that the engineer be asked to report on it and the motion carried. Ald. MacGregor had a little uncertain apparently as to whether he wished to vote, finally on the second show of hands casting in his lot with those who wished, and the matter went through without discussion.

Something Like Advertising. In the customary monthly report of the finance committee there were a number of \$54 for advertisements in the Times, Globe and \$52.50 in the Montreal Star, worthy of note. The advertisements occupied three inches, and the papers were recommended to the attention of the local newspapers—but whether as an example to be emulated or not did not appear.

Those Telephones. In the same report there was an item of \$102.65 for telephones for the month of February and Ald. MacGregor complained that his telephone had not been installed and therefore should not be charged for. Ald. Hayward thought that perhaps Mr. Phillips might have had the use of it. Ald. Beckwith said he thought his telephone should not be charged for either, for it is so often out of order as to be almost useless.

The mayor recommended the aldermen to report the matter to the head office of the telephone company, having always found them ready to remedy any little trouble of that nature.

That Castings Contract. In accordance with a resolution passed by the council the mayor referred back to the board the matter of the contract for the casting of iron pipes, and so at the request of the council and the engineer and city solicitor, and Mr. MacGregor moved accordingly.

Ald. Humphrey thought if the people in the vicinity wanted the street widened they should pay for it. There was a similar case on Johnson street, and the party who has the land fenced in is, of course, anxious to sell it.

The city engineer for report.

Has Land to Sell. Mr. Frank Wells, corner of Fernwood road and Chatham street, informed the council that he had been requested by several ratepayers to remove his fence which fronts two lots and abuts on the street six feet. He expressed willingness to do this if the city would pay him \$25 for the twelve feet they would gain.

The mayor thought that if Mr. Wells's fence is on the street he will have to move it willy nilly, but Ald. Humphrey on the contrary was of the opinion that if previous experience held good the city would have to pay for it.

Ald. MacGregor favored paying for the work. Mr. Mason had headed the gravel at a time when the city's own teams could not do it, and if he saw a curb there he may reasonably have thought he was to put the gravel there. If he had not put enough gravel on Ida street, it would be the fault of the engineer in accepting the work.

The mayor explained that Ald. Beckwith's motion did not involve a refusal to pay for the work, but was merely for the city to see what it could do. What report the engineer could make, but Ald. Beckwith said the letter read was from Mr. Wilmot, and that he did not express any opinion as to the value of the work.

Ald. Stewart said what the council wanted to find out was whether the work is worth \$25, and the mayor explaining that was the intention of Ald. Beckwith's motion, Ald. Stewart expressed his agreement with it.

Ald. Brydon had examined the work and did not think it had been examined at the time it would have been accepted. Mr. Mason had hauled his teams over the curb, and he thought these could hardly be twenty-five loads of gravel there, if there were 45 on Ida street.

Ultimately the matter was referred to Mr. Wilmot's report as to the value of the work done.

Wait Sunday Off. Louis Vigelius and other barbers of the city asked for legislation making Sunday closing of barber shops imperative. They claimed to represent two-thirds of the barbers of Victoria, and had been having to work on Sundays, which meant that their wives, children and sweethearts are denied of the pleasure of their leisure loads' company on the most quiet of days.

The petition reads as follows: "The barbers of this city have tried voluntarily to close the barber shops on Sunday, but cannot come to a unanimous agreement, so the undersigned, representing the majority of the barbers, herewith petition your honorable body to introduce and pass a by-law compelling all barber shops to close and remain closed on Sundays."

"No other class of laborers known have to work on any hours as the barbers. Our hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., and on Saturdays from 7:30 a.m. to 11 p.m., which we consider sufficient without being compelled to get up at 7:30 on Sunday morning and work until noon or 1 p.m."

"There is very little transient trade on Sunday for the simple reason that in all the largest and most important cities of Canada the barber shops close on Sundays—consequently my wife's to our city will be expected to be open on that day."

"There is not a single boat or train that runs regularly between this port and any other that arrives on Sunday forenoon, and as far as the residents of Victoria are concerned, we have heard no complaint from them in regard to closing; in fact, we have canvassed our patrons, and they say: 'By all means close.'"

"The daily routine of a barber's life, coupled with the long hours, is very trying on the young men who embark in the trade, to say nothing of the old timers; and then take into consideration the families of the married portion. They think it very hard that they cannot have the companionship of their husband and father one day in the week."

"In regard to another petition which we understand is being circulated, to close the streets on the Sabbath, we wish it distinctly understood that we have nothing to do with it; all we ask is to have the barber shops closed."

"The barbers are very much in earnest about this bill, and respectfully recommend that your honorable body will not pass it by without careful consideration."

The mayor said two of the petitioners had waited upon him and informed him that all the shops in the city except two joined in the petition, and of those two one proprietor was favorably disposed towards it, although he would not sign. Laid on the table on the understanding that another petition is expected to be received.

More Drainage Needed. R. Wolfenden and other residents of Niagara street petitioned the council for the extension of a drain to Niagara street, which they would consider a great favor. On motion of Ald. Humphrey the matter was referred to the city engineer for report.

Another petition was received asking for a sidewalk on the south side of Taunton street, and it took the same course. Ald. Humphrey objected to the engineer being asked to report, though, for that official would only give an estimate of the cost, whereas the principal point to be decided was in regard to the desirability of building the walk at all. Ald. Brydon suggested that the engineer be requested to express an opinion thereupon, but Ald. Humphrey thought the aldermen were the best people to decide as to that, being reminded by his worship that there is nothing in the world to prevent an alderman going to look at the place for himself and form an opinion

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Westminster Water Works

Mr. A. McL. Hawks, the Reports on His Investigation.

Some Practical Points Regarding Improvement of the System.

Mr. A. McL. Hawks, consulting engineer, having, by instruction of Council made a thorough examination of the New Westminster works, presented a full and complete report, which was read at last meeting. The report, a concise summary of which, embracing the essential features, is given conveniently divided by the engineer into sections, and is accompanied by a plan of the main line of pipe line; advice concerning a dam at the intake of the water at the reservoir; advisability of building a new reservoir; other desirable improvements and additions.

Examination of Pipe Line. Under this heading Mr. Hawks ("On February 9th, in company with Aldermen Gilly and Peck the chairman of the water committee, accompanied by Ald. Peck, near the lake, to inspect the pipe line. While there the water was observed, the height at twelve noon, being 128.23 feet above datum. Mr. Hawks left at the patrol house to observe readings of the height of water intake well for the next two days.

The pipe line, Mr. Hawks was traversed on February 11, 1899, from the intake of the reservoir to the lake. At no place any air-lock or mud deposit, which the constant flow of water would retard or reduce. No air-lock or mud deposit was observed. The flow of the water was uniform, and the weight of the covering had flattened the steel main. The engineer's directions. Foremen examined all the blow-offs (eight in all) and found them all free from silt and no air in the valves.

Advisability of Constructing a Dam. The advisability of constructing a dam at the intake is one of the most important questions that have arisen in the past. The flow of the water is 1,100,000 gallons per day (Harrison's report), will furnish imperial gallons of water per day of five-foot dam, increasing the 36,000 feet, the discharge will be 1,100,000 gallons per day. The error arose owing to the similarity in the sound of the words used by Ald. Beckwith and those reported in the Times.

Street Work. A report laid over from last year regarding work on various streets was then considered with the following result: Superior street, graveling to the amount of \$200 will be done. Douglas street, above the fountain, an unexpended balance of \$151 will be used. Fort street, the cinder walks between Vancouver and Cook, will have a surface applied at a cost of \$65. Mary street, a balance of \$100 will be expended.

Government street, a concrete gutter will be built at Weller Brothers' new store costing \$91. In connection with the last item Ald. Williams referred to the need of a new gutter in front of the New England and was informed he could not get the money now, while a different report was being discussed. Ald. Williams said he was satisfied to have got the remark in.

The council adjourned at 10:15 to meet again at 10 o'clock in the morning.

PILES CURED WITHOUT THE KNIFE. BY DR. A. B. BEEBE'S OINTMENT. Mr. Geo. Browne, painter, of Woodville, Ont., Victoria Col., says: "For thirteen years I was afflicted with bleeding piles, and the intense agony which I passed through during those years and relief obtained by the use of your ointment, is a fact which I feel bound to give to the world. My physicians would have me cut, but I got the relief I could be cured without the knife. Three boxes of Dr. Chase's Ointment stopped the bleeding and effected a permanent cure."

FREE ART LECTURES. Those desiring free instruction in art should apply to The Canadian Royal Art Union, Limited, 238 and 240 St. James street, Montreal, Canada.

The Art School is maintained in the Mechanics' Institute Building, Montreal, and is absolutely free. Monthly drawings, on the last day of each month, are held at the St. James street office for the distribution of Works of Art.

Taking chances in business matters is bad policy. Taking chances with your health is the next thing to suicide. Don't let a little illness have its own way until it gets stronger than yourself. ABEY'S EFFERVESCENT SALT will do it. It's daily use regulates health—cures and prevents disease. All druggists sell this standard English preparation at 60c a large bottle; trial size, 25c.

Continuing. Mr. Hawks remarks in connection with the flow through