

WITH THE ALDERMEN

Many Communications on Various Subjects Dealt With at Last Night's Meeting.

The Engineers' Report on the Condition of the Waterworks at Beaver Lake.

From Tuesday's Daily.

The weekly meeting of the aldermanic board was held yesterday evening at the city hall with his worship the mayor in the chair. There were present Alds. Partridge, McCandless, Kinsman, Hall, Harrison, Vigilius and Wilson.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and adopted the following communication was read from W. B. Searth, deputy minister of agriculture, in reference to the grant for the maintenance of the leper station at Darcy Island.

Sir—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th inst., in reference to a grant in aid of the Darcy Island leper station, and I have to inform you that the minister has decided that he cannot see his way to make any grant. He is at present from home, but on his return I will submit your letter to him.

W. B. SEARTH.

Deputy Minister of Agriculture.

His worship the mayor thought that this was a very strange stand for the minister of agriculture to take; he was of the opinion that the government had always given a grant for the maintenance of this station. The station in the East, he said, was solely maintained by the government, and it looked very much as if they were discriminating against British Columbia in favor of the East. Ald. McCandless was of the opinion that the government was in duty bound to give them a grant for the maintenance of that institution. They should take steps to get it and lose no time in letting the government know that they were not satisfied.

The communication was received and laid on the table.

P. Elworthy, secretary of the board of trade, wrote asking for a subscription from the council to advertise Victoria's situation as an outfitting point for miners leaving for the Klondyke.

The mayor suggested that the letter be referred to the finance committee to report.

Ald. McCandless wanted the matter attended to at once. It would do a great deal of good to the city. Referring to the two other petitions before the finance committee he said that the Board of Trade had given a grant of \$50 to Mr. Lugrin (who was asking for a grant from the council) to assist him in getting out his pamphlet on the Yukon mines, and then asked the council for money to aid them in getting out their annual report. If the council gave anything, Ald. McCandless said, he thought it should go to the business men, as in that case it would do good for the community at large.

The communication was finally referred to the finance committee.

Rear Admiral Palliser, wrote in reference to the proposed residence for him at Esquimalt. He thanked the council for their action and said that he had submitted the proposition to the admiralty for their favorable consideration. This letter was received and filed.

The following report was then read from Mr. L. B. Hamlin, C.E., who was engaged by the council for the examination of the waterworks at Beaver Lake:

To His Worship the Mayor, City of Victoria:

Sir—In accordance with your instructions, I have made a careful examination of the filter beds and reservoirs of the waterworks at Beaver Lake, and have the honor to submit the following short report:

The work which has been constructed by the contractors is seriously defective, especially that in the concrete walls of the filter beds, which, according to contract, should be watertight; they are not so, but, on the contrary, are full of fissures and cracks, and by which the water passes through in small streams. In order to test these defects with greater accuracy, I had the water let into the east filter chamber on last Monday evening and made a second examination of the works on the Tuesday following, when large leakages were plainly developed in the walls at several points—from the east filter chamber, and from the concrete chamber into the west chamber—also in the main wall, which caused the water between the main wall and cofferdam to rise three inches. Heavy leaks showed also through the end wall next to the bank of the reservoir, and a very large leak appeared in the concrete wall of the reservoir, where men are now engaged covering the slope with concrete.

As a matter of fact all the concrete walls are of a very defective construction. The water in the centre filter chamber rose several inches and could be detected boiling up through the sand bed in many places. Had test holes dug through the sand and gravel in west filter chamber, which resulted in showing a large quantity of water in the chamber.

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The report was received and adopted. A petition was received from a number of the employees at Beaver Lake asking

that their railway fare of \$1 per week be paid by the city. Received and filed.

H. B. Aikman and 19 others petitioned the council to repair Garbally road from Douglas to Corbett road. Referred to the street committee for report.

The consideration of the second reading of the \$100,000 by-law was then taken up, and after a short discussion it was laid over for a week.

The wash-house by-law—No. 178—was being presented—was also laid over for a week.

The council then adjourned.

STREET IMPROVEMENT.

How It Is Proposed To Spend the \$100,000 If Endorsed by Citizens.

Mayor Rodden last evening submitted to the council the following statement, prepared by himself and the street committee, as to how it was proposed to spend the \$100,000 for street improvement, which by-law is to be submitted to the ratepayers:

Proposed scheme for street improvement: If the \$100,000 loan by-law be carried:—

Macadamizing concrete gutters—Johnson street from Wharf to Douglas.

Store street from Johnson to R.R. Bridge.

Port street from Wharf to Douglas.

Troun street from Johnson to Douglas.

Courtney street from Wharf to Douglas.

Broughton street from Wharf to Douglas.

Cost of the above about \$20,000.

Macadamizing concrete gutters—Humboldt street from Government to Park Road.

Fort street from Douglas to Jubilee Hospital.

Yates street from Douglas to Cadboro Bay Road.

Douglas street from Humboldt street to Fountain.

Government street from Johnson street to Fountain.

Store street from R.R. Bridge to City limits.

Gorge Road from Douglas street to City limits.

Cost of above about \$55,000.

Permanent sidewalks in business part of the city—\$25,000.

Macadamizing certain streets and concrete gutters to same—\$20,000.

Macadamizing certain streets with concrete gutters—\$5,000.

Permanent sidewalks—\$5,000.

The above is submitted for the consideration of the aldermen as a general outline of a scheme for street improvement, details of which would of course be subject to modification if it should be deemed advisable.

Victoria, B. C., July 30th, 1897.

L. B. HAMLIN, C.E.

Ald. Harrison and Partridge thought that all these reports were a waste of money. After hearing the report read the aldermen were no wiser than they were before.

Ald. Wilson said that the report told the aldermen what they ought to do. It was necessary in case of litigation that outside experts should report on the works.

Ald. McCandless waxed sarcastic. The aldermen, he said, should discharge their engineers and go on and finish the work themselves.

The report was laid on the table.

The joint report of L. B. Hamlin, C.E., and City Engineer Wilson, referring to the work to be done at Beaver Lake, was then read and laid on the table. The report was as follows:

July 31, 1897.

To His Worship the Mayor.

Sir—As a result of the recent test of the filter beds at Beaver Lake, we have arrived at the conclusion, after several consultations, that the following is the method to be adopted for the purpose of making the filter beds sufficiently tight to be workable, viz: Fill in with clay puddle in front of the main dam wall. Remove all the filtering material, examine the walls and concrete floor, and have all visible fissures stopped with cement. Before replacing the filtering material have the water turned into each filter bed alternately, and also apply any other test that may be considered necessary. I have made a careful examination of the filter beds and reservoirs of the waterworks at Beaver Lake, and have the honor to submit the following short report:

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As a matter of fact all the concrete walls are of a very defective construction. The water in the centre filter chamber rose several inches and could be detected boiling up through the sand bed in many places. Had test holes dug through the sand and gravel in west filter chamber, which resulted in showing a large quantity of water in the chamber.

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July 31, 1897.

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SOME GOOD ADVICE

Miners Should Not Head for Dawson City. But Look for New Ground.

Capt. Carroll Says the Stickeen Route Is the Best Way to the Mines.

From Wednesday's Daily.

There are few men in the city better posted on travelling through the mining districts of the north than Mr. F. Page, clerk of the police court. He gained much experience in the mining camps of Minnesota, Canada and the Stickeen, where he spent a number of years, and by keeping in touch with the miners of those districts, who, since he left them, have worked further north. Mr. Page's advice to intending prospectors is to wait until spring and go in by the Stickeen river. Telegraph creek and Teslin lake route. There is more than one reason for this.

In the first place, it will be by far the easier route when the trail has been put in proper shape, but the main reason is that there is a good country to prospect while the men are working their way north. Lots of gold has been taken out of the Hootalinqua river and the other streams above the village, Nick Silver, an old Cassiar miner, has been working there for several years, and when here last year told Mr. Page that he had struck a good thing in the Hootalinqua. This is what is taking the old miners in by the Stickeen route. They, unlike those who have had no experience, know that it is no use going to Klondyke. Everything in that vicinity has been staked off long ago, and there will be no work for all who are going in.

The miners will look for new grounds, and no doubt this fall will bring news of more big strikes, for the Cassiar mines were deserted last spring and the men from the far northern portions of British Columbia and the Northwest Territories ever since.

Mr. Page does not say so himself, but it would not take much to induce him to start and go to the Klondyke, despite the hardships he endured in the north in early days.

Still another endorsement of the Stickeen route comes from Captain James Macmillan, of the steamer Queen, who is en route with a party of prospectors to the north. He says that this route will be the best thus far projected.

Messrs. Driskin, Wall & Co. have received two letters relating to the Yukon, which go to show that the people across the line are coming to a better appreciation of the facts. A resident of Sidney, Wash., has asked them for information as to boats, etc., on the Stickeen river. Captain Carroll, a tributary of Fort-McKee creek. Samples shown by the handfull illustrate this. Part of the purchase price of one of Mr. Moffat's claims was paid to him in Eldorado gold, or yet another distinct color.

Mr. Moffat intends going back in the spring, but strongly advises those who have not the fever to wait until the winter is over. They have no conception of the hardships to be endured, and he would be extremely sorry if anything he had said should induce anyone to go at this time of the year. He had little doubt but half of the 4,000 men who are now on their way will not leave Dyea, and that half of the remainder will not get over the thirty miles of mountain climbing to be encountered on the route. They are almost sure to run out of provisions. Mr. Moffat says that it is absolutely necessary to have a complete outfit of clothes and provisions, and from \$200 to \$300 in cash, if one wants to make a trial. But "try not the pass" at this season of the year unless you are well provided for anything.

Mr. Moffat left on June 20th and came out through Alaska, down the Yukon to St. Michaels, and by Steamer to Seattle, arriving here on July 17th. Since then he has visited San Francisco, and will, in a few days, take a trip to Winnipeg, returning to spend the winter here. He is at present staying at the Hotel Douglas, and will, no doubt, be pleased to give engineers any information he can respecting the great Yukon gold districts.

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

The appeal in Patterson vs. the City of Victoria was continued this morning before the Full Court, when Mr. Cassidy finished his part of the argument on behalf of the city. Mr. Davis just before luncheon entered on his side of the story. He commenced by endeavoring to negative Mr. Taylor's proposition that the bridge was so rotten that it was bound to come down anyhow, notwithstanding the hole that City Carpenter Cox bored in beam No. 3. In regard to the life of the bridge he said counsel for the defence had quoted the experts as saying that 10 years was the maximum, and therefore, as this beam had been in 11 years, it must necessarily have been so rotten that the auger hole in it could not affect it. What the expert did say was that 10 years was the average life of timber, and as a matter of fact beam 7, although a little rotten, was not nearly so rotten as beam 3, which the expert said was only held together by the paint thus showing that always the different conditions and surrounding circumstances must be considered.

The learned counsel then asked their Lordships to draw an inference from the evidence that the boring was a negligent act and the cause of the floor beam breaking. These inferences of the jury, the Court was at liberty to find. The jury, it will be remembered, did not find expressly that the boring was a negligent act, but did find that the boring of the hole materially added to the rottenness of the beam.

The testimony by boring he said, was negligent, unusual, improper and altogether wrong. Testing, according to the expert evidence, should never be done by boring, but by tapping or pecking.

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Bonanza river, where another discovery had in the meantime been reported. They arrived there August 18th of last year. At Bonanza they located some claims and built a cabin and then proceeded up the river seven miles further and built another cabin on their Gold Bottom claims. They wintered at Bonanza and continued to prospect their claims, sinking a number of shafts to the bedrock and making drifts across the pay-streaks to determine their extent. In some of the holes and shafts good pay dirt was got, running as high as \$5 to the pan, while the last shaft sunk yielded \$19 to the pan. In this way the winter was passed and they had only prospected their claims. As soon as the weather became warm enough the dirt taken out in the winter was sluiced and panned, the result being that they all did very well. Moffat was too modest to state the exact sum he washed out, but remarked that it was quite sufficient to give him a good start in anything he liked, and he need not go back unless he wished.

In addition to the proceeds of his clean-up this spring, Moffat sold all his other claims for good prices, though he could have got much more by holding on for a month or two. He also sold several lots which he owned at Dawson City, and which, at the time he left, were being snapped up at from \$8,000 to \$4,000 each.

Regarding the weather, he said it was sometimes very cold, and they had to look out for frost bites. Once he was travelling when it was 65 degrees below zero, and their faces were frozen before they were aware of it. In the summer the weather was sometimes extremely hot, the warmest day this year was 90 degrees in the shade. There is a good deal of rain in the summer, and in the early winter lots of snow falls, but on Christmas on for two or three months it is generally clear and cold.

The Indians are a dirty, lazy, improvident lot, even more so than our Stickeen. There is a large Indian village just opposite Dawson City, where they go extensively into salmon fishing, but rarely care enough to last their winter for a few months. When plenty of snow has fallen they leave the rivers and hunt moose. The salmon are the king or queen of the river, but the failure of the run last year caused great distress among the natives.

As to game, it is not so very plentiful, except, perhaps, in the spring. At that time the cow moose are calving, and come to the rivers, so that they can have a safe retreat for themselves and their young when pressed by wolves. At that time the bulls are far away, casting their antlers, and in September they join their families, all of them being in prime condition then. Smaller game is also to be had, but not so plentiful as might be supposed.

As to the gold itself, the richest and largest nuggets are found at bed rock, though in a few places some surface dirt has panned out exceptionally high. At one place Mr. Moffat got pieces worth from 20 cents to 50 cents each from the surface. The pure gold is of various shades of "yellow." Some is greenish, some bright yellow and some a bright red, the last named being obtained only on Miller creek, a tributary of Fort-McKee creek. Samples shown by the handfull illustrate this. Part of the purchase price of one of Mr. Moffat's claims was paid to him in Eldorado gold, or yet another distinct color.

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