

SONGHEES RESERVE MATTER DISCUSSED

AT PUBLIC MEETING IN WESTERN SUBURB

Resolution Was Passed Urging the City Council to Take the Initiative—Obstructions to the Arm.

One of the best meetings under the auspices of the Victoria West Municipal Council Association took place Thursday at Semple's hall. Not a moment of the two hours and a quarter session was wasted, and the speeches were short, sharp and crisp. In opening the meeting the president, L. Tait, referred to the accumulation of subject matter and the advisability of being in evidence when the appropriations from the school board and council were prepared, which would be in the course of the next few days. He regretted that a short notice and disagreeable evening would prevent many from attending, but hoped the best consideration of those present would be given to the programmes of the evening.

The following petition, which was presented to the council by the residents of Victoria, was endorsed by the association, it having been found impossible to canvass the residents of Victoria West for signatures at the present time. This communication follows: To the Mayor and Council of the City of Victoria:—We, the undersigned citizens and ratepayers of this city, beg to draw your attention to the condition of the Victoria Arm. Crowded as it is with boats, it is contemplated, we are informed, to erect additional sawmills above Point Ellice bridge. We understand that the Dominion government have promised not to grant any lease of the Victoria Arm without the consent of your honorable body. We ask you to consider the position the Arm occupies with reference to the city. It is justly considered, both for recreation and beauty, as a most valuable adjunct, and it is a great attraction to the numerous visitors who are endeavoring to attract to our city. As a place for recreation it fills a want that many other cities are without, giving to our citizens an opportunity to enjoy their health and recreation. The floating logs and booms are not only dangerous to navigation, but are a nuisance to the land owners by blocking up their water frontage. The granting of franchises will tend to destroy the enjoyment of one of the best assets the city possesses, and we do not think that one individual should have the privilege of interfering with the enjoyment of the Victoria Arm.

We trust, therefore, that you will keep the Arm free from obstructions detrimental to the citizens at large. Victoria, B. C., January, 1905. Trustee Boggs being called upon to give the meeting information in school matters showed that the present proposed new building. It would require a sum of \$20,000 for building, \$5,000 for heating, plumbing and architect's fees, and about \$5,000 for the site, making a total of \$30,000. It was proposed that the old buildings and site would revert to the city from the government, and should if sold net at least \$2,500. The building would be a plain serviceable brick one, and would overlook the Victoria Arm. It was proposed to take the location to the exclusive use of Chinese pupils. The new building would contain a room more than the present contains in Victoria West. A very favorable site for the school comprising about one and a half acres, and adjoining the proposed park, could be thought to be secured, and would cost in the neighborhood of \$5,000.

A number of interrogations followed, and dissatisfaction was expressed that while the building when erected would meet with present requirements no provision was made for future increases. Rev. Mr. MacRae held that by asking for a \$30,000 by-law they might defeat the very object they sought to attain. It would be well to have a building that could be added to without spoiling the general appearance.

It was decided to leave the question of schools and site in the hands of Messrs. Hinds, Mable and MacRae, who were deputed to interview the school board, Mayor and aldermen.

Water discriminations were again brought to the surface, and it was urged that the council place this section on an footing with the balance of the city by either arranging for a reduction by the Esquimalt Waterworks Company or refund to the amount of discrimination. The condition of streets and sidewalks, particularly Dalton street, was brought up, and it was resolved that these matters be left in the hands of Messrs. Tait, Redding and Gold, who would choose a favorable evening for inviting the North Ward representatives to a tramp through the district.

Rev. Mr. MacRae wanted some information on street lines, which brought up the question of Songhees reserve, which is held to be responsible for this and the Craighower road question. It was deemed by those present that conditions which give excuse to the city for curtailing improvements to streets and sidewalks could not long exist, and that building operations to be retarded in this section owing to the non-settlement of question. This was left in abeyance, pending the consideration of other pressing matters.

The Songhees reserved question was then taken up. It was pointed out that the terms of settlement from the Dominion government were plain and acceptable, and removable by the city council. Action upon these terms could be commenced by the provincial government or corporation; as a settlement had not been brought about, and some three years wasted, it was manifest that something had happened. The city council, it was claimed, appeared to be the only source of relief now, seeing that all efforts to get the Indians removed had failed. Parliament then adjourned until next Friday evening.

THE M. S. DOLLAR SEIZED BY JAPS

This meeting recognizes the urgent necessity of the city council taking the initiative in bringing about a final settlement of the Indian reserve question by accepting the proposals laid down by the Dominion government. We urge upon the representatives of North Ward the passing of a resolution by the municipal council notifying the Dominion and Provincial governments that the city is prepared to arrange a satisfactory basis of settlement with the Indians for the removal and to meet with the representatives of both governments to arrange the disposition of this estate and necessary legislation confirming the same.

Mr. Mable thought that it would be unwise to enter further into the question. It was no use stirring up the rumpus that had been made. Mr. Gold did not agree with the last speaker. This was one of the old questions, and appeared impossible of settlement. They had better keep on driving at it until something was accomplished. Mr. Hinds thought the only way to have a grievance disposed of was to keep it in view. If left to drop at the present time it would do more harm than good. A practical completion would be given the whole question that would remove it from settlement for an indefinite period. Rev. Mr. MacRae could see no reason why the question should not be effected. The resolution could do no harm, and he would therefore support it.

Phil. R. Smith, in moving the resolution, stated that it was a pity to carry to a point of laying the onus and letting the matter drop. If the association were in earnest in appointing him on the committee with the members of the board of trade and city council, and wanted to see the question finally disposed of, they could not help supporting the resolution. He had done his part faithfully. If any other solution of this matter were possible he was willing to meet it. Several other speakers spoke on the matter, after which the question was put and carried unanimously. Owing to the late hour nothing was done with the Rock Bay bridge question. In discussing ways and means, it was decided to call the annual meeting previous to the passage of the by-law for the school. The co-operation of the ladies will be enlisted, and a musical programme prepared. The meeting then adjourned.

MOCK PARLIAMENT.

Debate on Speech From Throne Continued Friday Night at Y. M. C. A. Rooms.

On Friday the second session of the Y. M. C. A. mock parliament took place, there being a full attendance of members. Speaker D. W. Higgins took the chair promptly at 8 o'clock, and the debate on the speech from the Throne, which was commenced last Friday evening, was continued. The principal speakers were John Campbell, minister of education and finance; John Brown, the popular member for Nainaimo, and Messrs. Ewers, Olmest, Ashton, McCandless, Ritchie and Premier Nelson. After the latter's remarks the motion was put and the King's speech was read. The first speech was given by Mr. Campbell, who went into the government's policy in detail, commending every measure to be introduced in the strongest possible terms. He dealt particularly with the proposed to compile and publish school books, providing the children with them at cost. He contended that the present histories and geographies contained much matter that was of little use for a school. This was the matter going to be eliminated, and the geography, history, etc., included in one volume. Member for Westminster: "Why it will be a regular encyclopedia." (Laughter.)

Continuing, Mr. Campbell returned to the benefits to be derived from the establishment of hatcheries, the imposition of a royalty tax of 1 cent per fish on those of a school of fishes. This was a school of mines for British Columbia. He thought that the government's announcement that those important undertakings were to receive attention should prove a source of gratification to all members of the House. (Applause.)

A vigorous attack on the government's policy was made by Mr. Ashton, a member of the opposition. E. Ewers, member for Ymir, confined himself to the necessity of a school of mines. This was of special importance to his constituents. Under present conditions young men were forced to seek an education abroad. He gave the government his unqualified support on this and other measures to be introduced during the session.

E. Clement, of North Victoria, confined himself almost entirely to the fishing question, and Messrs. McCandless and Ritchie followed with scathing criticisms of the policy outlined in the King's speech.

The Premier brought the debate to a close with an able address. Analyzing the speech of H. P. Pullen he attempted to prove that in endeavoring to secure the government the former had overstepped the mark. This was especially so in his allusion to His Majesty's war vessels, recently stationed at Esquimalt, as "old hulks." Continuing, the speaker in supporting his attitude regarding fisheries, spoke of the Fraser fishermen as "foils and dummies." This brought the leader of the opposition to his feet. He protested against this reference to the poor but honest fishermen of the Fraser. He was upheld by Speaker Higgins.

Concluding, the Premier promised that a railway policy would be submitted during the session. Next evening then given by H. F. Pullen of his intention to introduce the following resolution at the next session: Whereas the government during the recent election made certain specific pledges to the electors regarding railway development in this province; and whereas this subject has been completely ignored in the King's speech; Therefore be it resolved, That in the opinion of this House the government has failed to live up to its obligations of dealing with the great problems of the House and of unworthy poor confidence of the House and of the electorate.

Premier Nelson will move as follows: That an humble address be presented to the Federal government asking it to make good its promise to the British Columbia government to prevent the withdrawal of His Majesty's fleet from Esquimalt, as required by the terms of Dalton. Parliament then adjourned until next Friday evening.

THE M. S. DOLLAR SEIZED BY JAPS

CARRYING PROVISIONS FOR VLADIVOSTOCK

The Vessel Is Registered at This Port—She Was Formerly Called the Arab.

The Canadian steamship M. S. Dollar, belonging to the Melville S. Dollar Steamship Company, and registered at the port of Victoria, has been seized by the Japanese in the Pacific, east of Hokkaido island, according to a dispatch from Tokyo Saturday. The ship was bound from San Francisco to Vladivostok with a cargo of provisions and forage. It was first stated that she had run ashore near Vladivostok. It has been known that the Japanese have been on the alert for some time for all steamers carrying contraband to the Russians.

The M. S. Dollar sailed from San Francisco with 6,000 tons of hay, oats and barley for the Russians, and it is further stated that great secrecy was observed by the owners and by Harry J. Hart, charterer of the steamer, while she was loading. They were silent about the destination of the ship, and since the news of her seizure have not, it is said, manifested any great alarm. The vessel is heavily insured, and doubtless they have protected themselves against any very heavy risks.

The M. S. Dollar is one of several steamers belonging to the company registered here. She is perhaps better known as the Arab, having been engaged in the coasting trade for a number of years under that name. When the company was organized, a few years ago, a number of the M. S. Dollar is a ship of 2,674 tons register. She is 370 feet long by 46 beam and 20 feet depth of hold. She is fitted with electric light, and in every respect is a modern freighter. She was built at Newcastle.

FERNIE'S TELEPHONES.

City Appeals For Dissolution of Injunction Granted the B. C. Company.

In the Supreme court, Vancouver, on Thursday, Mr. Justice Morrison heard argument on the application of the city of Fernie to quash an injunction granted by His Lordship to the B. C. Telephone Company, restraining the city from interfering with the company erecting poles or doing other work on the streets without the approval of the municipality. L. C. McPhillips, K. C. appeared for the city, and Edgar Bloomfield represented the city of Fernie. Mr. Bloomfield said that the telephone company was working on a provincial charter which gave it the right to erect poles and string wires, subject, however, always to the approval of the municipalities in which the work was to be done.

Mr. McPhillips contended that the words "subject to the approval of the municipalities" simply meant that the company had the right to go on with the erection of poles or other work, only that the municipalities had the right to say in what manner that work should be done, and to quote analogous cases in support of his contention.

His Lordship was of opinion that while the view of counsel was probably what was in the minds of the legislators when the charter was granted, yet he could only construe the word "approval" as meaning with the consent of the municipalities. Had it been otherwise, the terms "by the direction" under the "superintendence" would surely have been used. He pointed out, however, that even if he were to continue the injunction, it would by no means break the deadlock that existed, as it was at best but a temporary expedient, and suggested that the only way to settle the matter satisfactorily would be to have a regular stated trial. If the parties would consent to that, it could be set for February 2nd, when the present injunction expired.

Mr. McPhillips said he was quite ready to consent to that, but Mr. Bloomfield said he was only acting as an agent for the city of Fernie, and he did not know what the municipal authorities might wish to do in the matter.

It was finally decided to set the trial for February 2nd, and should any other complications arise in the meantime to prevent it being heard on that date, arrangements should be made for its postponement in the proper form.

MILITIA GYMNASTICS.

Fifth Regiment Class Started on Thursday Evening at Drill Hall.

On Thursday evening last a scene of unusual animation was presented on the floor of the drill hall. The question of the gymnastics has been taken up seriously, with the prospect of a successful run in all the essential work of general gymnastics. Messrs. Gunner Mitchell has general supervision, with Sergt. Dunn, of Work Point, and Sergt. Clarke, of the Fifth Regiment, as instructors. At the upper end of the hall a temporary ring was formed, which soon became the centre of attraction to a group of tyros, who followed with evident interest the instructions of Sergt. Dunn as he induced the successive candidates into the science of the manly art. It was a long arduous night's work for the instructor, as the last man did not leave the ring till after ten o'clock.

The centre of the floor was occupied by a class in work in parallel bars and tumbling. To round things out there was a row of men swinging clubs to the time set by Master Gunner Mitchell, in which they executed more arduous than science, with the result that clubs and heads came into unwanted contact, much to the amusement of the crowd.

On the whole, however, an excellent beginning was made, with the promise of better things yet to come. Lieut. Booth has made arrangements for instruction in fencing. Altogether the gymnastics side of the regiment should prove one of the most popular of the week. Lifebuoy Soap—Disinfectant—is strongly recommended by the medical profession as a safeguard against infectious diseases.

PREMIER SAYS HE WILL AMEND ACT

GAME OF PROVINCE MUST BE PROTECTED

Estimates Will Include Appropriations for Warden's—Interviewed by a Large Deputation.

Premier McBride has promised to introduce measures at the forthcoming session of the provincial legislature providing for a more stringent enforcement of the provisions of the Game Act. This gratifying announcement was made in the course of an interview on Thursday between representatives of the Victoria and Vancouver Fish and Game Societies and the government. Addresses were delivered by H. Abbott and F. M. Chaldecott, from the Mainland, and E. Musgrave on behalf of the Island association. J. H. Hawthornthwaite, M. P. P., also spoke in favor of most of the recommendations submitted by the delegation.

It was in response to these overtures that Premier McBride assured those present that an appropriation would be included in the estimates for the appointment of wardens. All the members of the cabinet were in attendance. The respective delegations were comprised as follows: Victoria—W. H. Pooly, J. H. Abbott, H. Abbott, R. Kerr Houlgate, F. C. Hope, D. C. MacGregor, F. M. Chaldecott, A. W. Cooper and Mr. Houston. After the usual introductions, Mr. Abbott, of Vancouver, outlined the action Mainland sportsmen recommended in order to bring about a more general observance of the terms of the Game Act. He did not wish any radical departure from the present condition of affairs because it wasn't necessary. If the nucleus of a fish and game department was formed by the appointment of wardens it would have the desired result. The suggestion of the Vancouver association was that a head warden be selected to have jurisdiction over the whole province and three deputy wardens to take charge of the enforcement of the Game Act on the island and the Mainland.

AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

Juryman Express Gratitude For Use of Y. M. C. A. Gymnasium on Saturday Evening.

On Saturday evening members of the juryman hearing the case of Crown vs. Wong On and Wong Goo, visited the Y. M. C. A. gymnasium, attended by Sheriff Richards. That apartment had been set aside for their exclusive use and over an hour was spent in the enjoyment of athletic exercise, games, etc. Parallel and horizontal bars and other apparatus were utilized. Afterwards an exciting basketball match was indulged in.

On reaching the Dominion hotel they drafted the following acknowledgment and forwarded it to the secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association: January 30th, 1905.

To the Board of Directors of the Young Men's Christian Association, City of Victoria:—We, the undersigned juryman, beg to express our appreciation for the kindness shown by the directors of the Young Men's Christian Association in placing the gymnasium at our disposal during our stay in the city. We were enabled to continue our stay in the city and to provide instruction and recreation for the young men of the city. Sincerely yours, Geo. H. Wolfe, Wm. Peden, D. T. Jones, John Cameron, W. O. Wallace, H. G. Blinney, A. Brockhurst, Fred. Waller, Royland Lubb, Ernest W. Whittington.

SENIOR NAVAL OFFICER.

Records of Pacific Station Will Be Transferred to Commander of Shearwater.

The Admiralty have ordered Commodore J. B. C. Goodrich, M. V. O., commanding the Pacific Squadron, to relinquish his duties at Esquimalt on March 1st and to return to England with his staff and domestics, when the charter will be granted, yet he could only construe the word "approval" as meaning with the consent of the municipalities. Had it been otherwise, the terms "by the direction" under the "superintendence" would surely have been used. He pointed out, however, that even if he were to continue the injunction, it would by no means break the deadlock that existed, as it was at best but a temporary expedient, and suggested that the only way to settle the matter satisfactorily would be to have a regular stated trial. If the parties would consent to that, it could be set for February 2nd, when the present injunction expired.

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REGIMENTAL ORDERS.

Lieut.-Col. Hall, commanding the Fifth Regiment, has issued the following orders: The following man, having been attested, will be taken on the strength from the date hereafter mentioned and will assume the regimental number assigned his name: No. 154, Gr. Walter H. Keating, January 18th.

The following man, having been passed by the adjutant, are posted to No. 4 Company: No. 152, Gr. Wm. Geo. Thorne; No. 154, Gr. Walter H. Keating, January 18th. Paragraph 3, Regimental Order No. 2, promotions in B company, should read: To be Co. Sergt.-Major-Acting Co. Sergt.-Major R. Lorimer, June 6th, 1904; to be Acting Sergeant-Major, D. S. Ross, G. Ross, G. R. Butler, January 21st, 1905; to be Bombardiers—Gr. J. T. Wilson, Gr. Rochfort, January 21st, 1905.

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Advertisement for Baby's Own Tablets, Cures Coughs, Croup, Bronchitis, Large Bottles \$1.00, Medium 50c, Trial Size 25c.

TAKES FAVORABLE VIEW OF RUSSIAN SITUATION

Finance Minister Says General Strike Is Improbable—No Decision Regarding Scheme for Reforms.

Paris, Jan. 29.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Echo de Paris telegraphs an interview he had with Finance Minister Vokosoff, in which the minister declared that the situation was improved, that the admiralty yards are working and that the economic situation in Russia is favorable. A general strike, he said, is improbable. At the Capital. St. Petersburg, Jan. 28.—St. Petersburg has entirely resumed its normal winter appearance. That ordinary routine is in effect and large forces of men are removing the heavy accumulation of snow piled up during the strike.

Responding on behalf of the government, Premier McBride made a brief address. He promised that the estimates would include an appropriation for the wardens suggested, and that nothing would be left undone to provide for the thorough protection of British Columbia's game. His remarks elicited applause. The delegation then withdrew.

BOY SHOT HIMSELF WITH A REVOLVER

COMMITTED SUICIDE SUNDAY EVENING

Left Note Giving Reason For Terrible Deed—Plan Executed With Great Deliberation.

(From Monday's Daily.)

Frederick M. Rogers, the fifteen-year-old son of Charles W. Rogers, the well-known confectioner, destroyed himself last night by sending a bullet through his heart. The deed was committed at the New England hotel, and apparently was attended by a measure of deliberation remarkable in one so young. He seemed to be in the best of spirits when a few minutes of the accomplishment of his fatal purpose, and these was nothing suggestive of despondency in his demeanor, that was visible to his acquaintances throughout the early part of the evening.

Young Rogers appeared at the New England first about seven o'clock, and said he wanted to engage a room. "I want to try sleeping at a hotel for a night," he said, "just to see how it goes." He spoke laughingly, and nothing in his manner indicated that there was anything preying upon his mind. He was given a room, and at once proceeded upstairs. After remaining there for a short time he came down and went out. In fact he went in and out several times, returning at last about half-past nine. He was seen at the restaurant at that time by John M. Langley, chief of police, his brother and several others, with whom Rogers exchanged a few words of conversation as he passed up. Even then nothing in his bearing or what he said conveyed the slightest warning of the impending tragedy, and as he went to his room he waved his hand cheerily and bade the men good night. A few minutes afterwards Harry Willie, who was in charge downstairs, received a telephone message to come up at once. He did so, and quickly returned for the chief with the startling tidings that young Rogers had shot himself. The chief rushed to the right hand on the bed, and found precisely what had occurred. The unfortunate boy was lying on the bed with a bullet hole in his breast. He was on his back, his head supported by a couple of pillows, and the revolver near his right hand on the bed. His boots were off, but with this exception all his clothes were on. He was still breathing, and Dr. Robertson was summoned. All human means, however, were useless. Rogers expired within a minute or two without uttering a word. Chief Langley rang for the patrol wagon, and this arrived in short order, with several constables, who carried the body downstairs and removed it to the morgue.

The report was not heard below, but Mr. Young, who was sleeping on the second floor, was aroused by the shot, and it was he who made the discovery and communicated with Mr. Willie, the chief of police. Rogers had left the door unlocked. Besides the revolver there were found in the room a bottle of alcohol, a piece of rag and a small soapstone. The weapon looked as if it had been carefully cleaned preparatory for the awful purpose to which it was to be devoted. It is believed that the lad overhauled the weapon when he first went to the room. It is a thirty-eight calibre, five chambered revolver, and but one chamber was emptied, the ball apparently passing directly through the heart.

That it was a case of self-destruction there is no doubt in view of a note that was found in the room. It tells the story in a few pathetic words as follows: To Papa and Mama: The reason why I am doing this is because I been so foolish. I am not able to work as much as I did before I got hurt, and I do not want to live. Your loving son, F. M. ROGERS.

Young Rogers had a singular penchant for experimenting with explosives of various kinds, and frequently carried these dangerous articles on his person. It was only a short time ago that he shattered several fingers of his left hand while playing with some explosive, and it was to this accident that he referred in his note. He was born in Victoria, in another month would have been sixteen years of age.

FRAIL LITTLE ONES.

The little ones are frail. Their hold upon life is slight. No symptom that indicates any of the little ailments of childhood should be allowed to pass for a moment without proper attention. The little ailments may soon become a serious one, and then it may be too late to save a precious little life. If Baby's Own Tablets are kept in the house, the danger of serious trouble can be averted, and the minor troubles promptly cured. An occasional Tablet to the well child will prevent illness. The Tablets are absolutely safe and contain no poisonous soothing stuff—they give children healthy sleep, simply because they banish the cause of the trouble. Mrs. F. B. Bishop, Lawrentown, N. S., says: "I have found Baby's Own Tablets just as you represent them—the very best of medicine for young children. You can get the Tablets from druggists or by mail and they cost a box, by writing to Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont."

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An inquest is in progress this afternoon.