Endorsed By Ratepayers

Mayor's Veto of Bridge Contract Enthusiastically Approved At Mass Meeting.

The "Solid Six" Accorded Warm But Far From Gratifying Reception.

One of the largest meetings ever gathered within the walls of the city hall was held last night to discuss the Point Ellice bridge contract. There were several ladies present, who listened to the proceedings with marked attention. A majority of the audience evidently attended with the idea of having all the amusement possible, and sarcastic remarks, hisses, cheers and catcalls were frequent. It seemed manifest from early in the evening that the meeting was strongly in favor of the Mayor's action in vetoing the awarding of the bridge contract, and although the representatives of the "solid six" were listened to with commendable patience, it was easy to see that their explanations fell far short of satisfying those present as to the wisdom or justice of their course.

A resolution approving the Mayor's veto was carried by an overwhelming majority.

Mayor Hayward said he deemed it his duty, as mayor, to take the chair. Later on he would take occasion to address the meeting, and would then ask some other gentleman to preside. The meeting had been called, in accordance with a resolution of the council, to discuss the Point Ellice bridge contract. He suggested that a secretary be appointed.

Mr. G. A. Stewart Potts was unanimously chosen secretary.

Ex-Mayor Redfern moved that speakers be limited to 15 minutes.

Ald. Yates moved in amendment that the aldermen who undertook to explain the plans should be given half an hour and the other speakers 20 minutes.

Mr. Redfern withdrew his motion and Mr. Yates' proposal was defeated.

Mr. McCandless moved that the six aldermen be given an hour and a half, and that the Mayor and the other four aldermen be given one hour. This was carried.

Ald. Brydon was the first speaker. He went into a lengthy explanation of the bridge plans. He said he would show them that, contrary to statements which had been freely made, there were plans and specifications prepared by the city. He first pointed out the original tracings from which the blue prints shown to tenderers had been made. He read from the specifications to show that the proposals laid down therein were as full and specific as was necessary. The Puget Sound Bridge & Dredging company had agreed to purchase all supplies in Victoria and employ local labor. The specifications were based on data supplied by Theodore Cooper, one of the first bridge engineers in America. The work was to be completed in four months from the day of beginning. Without reflecting on the ability of Mr. Topp, who had proved himself a most competent man (applause) he pointed out that it was usual and a great advantage to the city to have tenderers submit their own ideas, so that the city might have the advantage of the latest improvements. The book of instructions issued by the Hamilton Bridge company was referred to to show the principal points on which they required information to enable them to tender for a bridge. The bridge, according to the specification, was called for to carry a continuous string of 30 ton electric cars, and a passenger load of 100 pounds per square foot, all this in addition to the dead weight of flooring, etc.

Mr. Brydon continued to read extracts from the specifications, to show that no detail of construction had been overlooked. The plans submitted by the P. S. B. & D. Co., conformed with the specifications. A great deal had been said about keeping the money at home. Of the whole cost $35,000 for steel must go to Pittsburg, the balance, about $55,000, would be spent in Victoria for labor and material.

The Mayor—Where are the profits? (Laughter.)

Mr. Brydon—I don't know anything about profits. I'm not working for any corporation but for Victoria. (Applause.)

He compared the accepted tender with that of the Albion Iron Works which provided for wooden flooring, and was for $147,000.

The speaker was frequently interrupted, and he said he could easily understand the attitude of the audience towards him. They had been misinformed by the city press. No newspaper man had taken the trouble to go into the question with the city engineer. He doubted if the Mayor had taken that trouble.

The Mayor—You will find that out presently. (Laughter.)

The speaker then indignantly denied the insinuation that the aldermen had been bribed or in anyway influenced in awarding the contract.

A Voice—What about the Hamilton tender?

It was received too late. It was mailed too late, and the motion that it be not opened was passed without a dissenting voice.

The Mayor—That is not correct.

Ald. Kinsman—That is not true.

The speaker concluded by declaring that he had served the city honestly and faithfully.

George Jeeves attempted to address the meeting, but was loudly interrupted. He pointed out, when silence was restored, that the contract called for stone abutments, but that the P. S. B. & D. Co. were putting in concrete.

Ald. Beckwith wished to explain the real facts to the people. His action and that of his colleagues had been conscientious, and honest. Could the city afford to be without the bridge any longer? All were unanimous in a desire to have a bridge that would afford proper traffic accommodation between the city and Esquimalt. The Street Railway company's manager had told him that they would have to discontinue the service if the old bridge was allowed to remain there. Four tenders had been received. The Montreal company required nine months, the Cleveland company would not finish before next August, the Albion Iron Works could not specify a time, while the P. S. B. & D. Co. undertook to complete the work in four months. He thought it deplorable that international ill-feeling should be engendered by this affair.

R. Hall, M. P. P.—None of that talk.

Ald Beckwith, continuing, said that all were at liberty to hold the opinion that the work should be done by Canadians, but if United States contractors were asked to tender they should be treated fairly. He had acted all through the affair to the best of his ability and honestly, in the interest of the city, and not for any private company. The Colonist had stated that there had been no proper plans prepared. He emphatically denied this. Mr. Topp had drawn up plans and specifications under instructions from the Mayor and council.

The Mayor—No, no.

Ald. Beckwith—I say yes. The tenders received were made on those plans and specifications.

The Mayor—No.

Ald. Beckwith—I say, emphatically, yes.

The speaker then outlined the history of bridge negotiations between the tramway company and the city. The company had agreed to contribute 25 per cent. of the cost of the bridge up to $80,000, and they had conferred with and assisted the council in coming to a decision. Some property owners above the bridge had demanded a swing, which would have cost an additional $25,000. A plan was submitted to the Dominion government and approved. Then plans and specifications were prepared and tenders called for. During the next few months there were a number of editorials in the Colonist about the bridge, to read which one would think the council had given the matter no consideration. They had though, very carefully considered it, and they decided that a 34 foot bridge was what was needed. He believed the Albion Iron Works tender for a wider bridge was a prearranged affair with the Colonist which had been endeavoring to educate public opinion up to the point of a 50 foot bridge. (Decisive applause.)

He then undertook to read the Times account of the proceedings of the meeting at which the tenders were opened, the chairman insisting that the speaker should read the report in full instead of only the portions which suited himself. Finally he read a paragraph in which the Mayor had stated that it would be a grave mistake to throw out the Hamilton company's tender. (Applause.)

The Mayor had made the astounding statement that there were no plans.

The Mayor—I say so now.

Ald. Beckwith. If there were no competitive plans what was the use of opening the Hamilton or any tender.

There were many interruptions at this point, several in the audience hurling questions at Ald. Beckwith, and the chairman, for a time vainly, tried to restore order.

Ald. Beckwith read from the rules of order in an attempt to prove that the Mayor had supported the motion rejecting the Hamilton tender tacitly by refraining from voting.

Regarding the veto, the speaker said there was nothing to show that the city had lost by the council's not opening the Eastern tender, and that the Mayor had vetoed an act to which he was himself a party.

Cries of, "Shut up." "Sit down."

Instead of vetoing the contract the Mayor should have called a meeting and explained matters to the people. He proceeded to insinuate that the Mayor had used the city funds too freely and was greeted with hisses—Several bills had been presented to the finance committee during the year which had been contracted by the Mayor, and which the committee had not passed. One of these was a bill from the Colonist for printing in connection with the Loan by-laws. He concluded by another attack on the editor of the Colonist.

Mr. Alex. Wilson asked if Mr. Seabrook had complained of the specifications to Mr. Topp.

Ald. Beckwith—Mr. Topp told Mr. Seabrook that he would require the services of an engineer if he wished to tender.

Mr. Wilson—Why didn't the council have proper plans and specifications prepared in the first place? (Applause.)

Ald. Beckwith endeavored to reply amid an uproar, one voice shouting above the din if he didn't travel on the street railway on a pass.

Ald. Yates was next called upon. He began by complimenting the Times on an editorial paragraph in regard to the meeting, which he read.

A Voice—Did you write that? (Laughter.)

The spirit of forbearance expressed in that paragraph was the spirit in which he approached his subject, and which pervaded "the solid six." Ald. Brydon had explained the plans and Ald. Beckwith explained other matters, he would tell them why the Hamilton tender had not been opened. The tenders were to be opened on the 11th. The company telegraphed that they had mailed their tender on the 6th.

The council thought it could arrive here in time. Inquiry at the post office elicited the fact that if the letter was mailed on the morning of the 6th it would reach here on the 11th but if in the afternoon it would not arrive till the 12th. These facts were laid before the council, and they determined to abide by the letter of the law, and open only such tenders as were received in time. When the tenders were opened the Albion Iron Works presented a supplementary tender, and they might as well have opened that as the Hamilton one which arrived too late.

Mr. Yates then went on to argue that the Mayor's veto was not absolute, but might be appealed from. The aldermen had withheld their right to carry the resolution granting the contract over the Mayor's veto, they took the course of calling a public meeting so that the people might understand the situation thoroughly. They were anxious that the validity of the veto should be left to the decision of a judge of the Supreme court. If the Mayor was right, a tremendous power was vested in him which might work to the damage of the city, and it was most important that the question should be settled once for all. (Applause.)

Senator Templeman then took the chair and Mayor Hayward addressed the meeting.

The point which he wished to make was that there had been no competition and the proof of it was that none of the tenders conformed to the plans made by Mr. Topp. The plan shown them by Ald. Brydon and lettered "City Design No. 2," which Mr. Brydon had told them was a copy of the tracing, was in fact prepared that afternoon in the city engineer's office by an employee of the P. S. B. & D. Co. (Laughter.) Pointing next to the tracings the Mayor called attention to the fact that no foundations of any kind were shown.

At a meeting of the bridges, sewers and streets committee it was resolved that tenders be called for on specified plans and others on designs furnished by the tenderers. He had compared the specification with Theodore Cooper's formulas, and discovered that there was no provision in them for a foundation, nothing to show the character of the material required, or the height of piers or dimensions. No tenderer could find out what was required or expected, it might be stone, pipe iron or boiler plate. No abutments, no sidewalks and no filling were shown on the city engineer's plans. The plan of the superstructure was equally unsatisfactory. All that the tenderers could do was to make plans for themselves and tender accordingly, and it was impossible that there should be any competition. There was no flooring, no hand rail, nothing as to quality of the tramway track. He was willing to take his portion of the blame, if a mistake had been made. Mr. Topp should have asked the council to allow him to get assistance and have proper plans prepared. It could not be expected of Mr. Topp that he should be a bridge expert.

He pointed out a plan of the swing span of Eburne bridge, furnished to tenderers, from which any intelligent mechanic could tender. Faucy two men in Toronto attempting to figure out a tender on the meagre information which Ald. Brydon and the rest of the "solid six" said was quite sufficient! They would be obliged to make plans of their own. The city had had one experience of that kind in the old Point Ellice bridge, which was built by the San Francisco Bridge company, on plans of their own, and it had no desire for a repetition of it.

His Worship continued in a humorous strain to describe the probable action of tenderers at a distance who might combine to furnish pretty designs which would prove to be shoddy and costly when put in practical use. There was absolutely nothing before them to show that the P. S. B. & D. Co.'s tender was not $10,000 or $20,000 too high.

He vetoed the resolution of council in the best interests of the city and to the best of his judgment, and he left the people to endorse his action at the elections next month. (Prolonged applause.)

Senator Macdonald wished to know what the Mayor proposed to do to get over the difficulty. It was very desirable that the bridge should be built without further delay and by home industry. Perhaps the meeting would express an opinion as to what should be done.

The Mayor replied that he had proposed that the council reconsider the whole matter, have new and specific plans prepared and call for new tenders; but his proposal had been rejected by the gentlemen calling themselves the "solid six."

Mr. Fowler, president of the P. S. B. & D. Co., asked leave to say a few words. He said he wished to make certain explanations. He had blushed on hearing himself and his company alluded to as Yankees. He was an American and all in the room were Americans. One of his ancestors had been knighted in the field of battle by Richard Coeur d'Lion. His chief engineer and most of his foremen were Canadians or Englishmen. He heard yesterday that their plans had been seized by the customs authorities. It was for that reason that he had made the plan posted up on the wall. He hoped the meeting would not blame Mr. Topp for giving them the use of his office; it was a matter of courtesy, only one of many which they had received from the city engineer.

He held that from Mr. Topp's plan and specification any engineer could tender for the bridge. As to the foundation, Mr. Topp was perfectly right in not specifying the foundations, for a great many things had to be considered in that connection. Suppose granite were specified, it might turn out that the foundation would cost more than the whole sum voted for the bridge, and so with other material, it was all a question of natural conditions. His company had intended to give the city the best bridge possible for the money, and he regretted that there had been any unpleasantness. He thanked the meeting for their attention and took his seat amid applause.

Ald. Cameron said it had been suggested that a motion should be put to approve the Mayor's action. If such was the desire, he suggested that it be put at once, before the audience began to disperse.

Mr. Richard Hall, M. P. P., came forward and Ald. Brydon at the same moment claimed the privilege of replying. This the meeting vociferously declined to permit, and Mr. Brydon was forced to retire.

Mr. Hall was received with cheers. He requested Senator Templeman to take the chair and he then moved:

"That the action of the Mayor in vetoing the resolution of a majority of the council in awarding the contract for the Point Ellice bridge to the P. S. B. & D. Co. be sustained by the voters of Victoria here assembled."

He considered the action of the council as unbusinesslike and unpatriotic. He had no feeling against the P. S. B. & D. Co. as foreigners, he was a Yankee born himself, and proud of the fact. It was in his opinion the Hamilton Bridge company that had been unfairly treated. He did not agree with those who claimed that the bridge must be replaced at once. There was ample time to call for new tenders and meantime the centre span could be braced and strengthened.

Mr. Alex. Wilson seconded the resolution. He felt convinced that the Mayor had acted in the best interests of the city, and he strongly approved the proposal that competitive plans be prepared and new tenders be invited.

Ald. Kinsman wished to explain his position.—(Cries—You're all right.)—He contradicted the statement of Ald. Brydon that the resolution which threw out the Hamilton tender was carried unanimously. He and Ald. Cameron had voted against it. He was fully in accord with the Mayor in the action which His Worship had taken.

Ald. Cameron was again called upon. He only wished to say that he had supported the action of the Mayor and he had opposed the awarding of the contract to the P. S. B. & D. Co. consistently all through. He had no antipathy against that firm or any other United States institution, but he reminded those present that at a large meeting held about a year ago a resolution had been unanimously adopted that the work on Point Ellice bridge should be done by home labor, and by day work. If the council had acted on that resolution they would not have given the contract to a foreign company. Even as it was he believed they should have added the saving clause, "the lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted," that would have saved them from being forced into accepting the only tender which had been considered.

Ald. Stewart said he wished to say that the engineer had secured all the available information and summarized it in the plans and specifications. The foundations were to have been built by day labor under the supervision of the city engineer. He paid a very high compliment to Mr. Topp's ability. He taxed the Mayor with only finding out all these faults within the last two weeks.

"Well," said Ald. Stewart, "what a nice lot of fools we must be."

Voices—"You are! you are!"

He insisted that the plans gave every facility for competition. If it was his own money he was spending he would do exactly what he had done. (Derisive cheers.)

Senator Templeman then put the resolution, which was carried by an immense majority, in the show of hands not over a dozen being raised against it.

The meeting then adjourned.

CAN THIS BE TRUE?

U. S. S. Illinois Not the Most Powerful, Finest and Most Perfect Vessel Afloat.

A New Orleans despatch in the San Francisco Chronicle says:

Defects in certain portions of the machinery of the battleship Illinois, the flower of the American navy, have been discovered since her arrival in this port that may develop into a round navy sensation. It looks that way tonight. Just how serious the defects may be or how far the official complaints have advanced cannot be learned, because none of the officials of the man-of-war will discuss the matter, as may be expected. The arrival here today of James Rowbottom, superintendent of the mechanical department of the Newport News Steamship & Dry Dock company, has let the cat out of the bag, and those in authority do not deny that Rowbottom has come in response to an official summons to examine the defects and see what can be done.

The breaks have occurred in the big cylinder flanges on both sides of the engine. They have been found full of cracks, which experts say are a most serious defect, and should never have occurred, even after years upon the sea. How far the cracking of the cylinder flanges has extended is not known. It may be even more serious than believed at this time,

and that is that this monster batleship Illinois, which was sent out as the model and finest specimen of the American navy, must go back to the shipbuilding plant at Newport News, and have certain parts of her machinery made over. The government will not stand for any defects. It also appears certain that the navy department will appoint a board of three naval engineers to come to New Orleans at once and investigate the whole matter.

MANITOBA CROPS.

Winnipeg, Dec. 11.—The provincial department of agriculture has issued a bulletin compiled from returns received from its regular correspondents up to December 1st, dealing with the past season's crops and dairy products. The summary reads as follows:

Product.	Total Yield Bushels.	Acres. in Crop.	Average. Yield.
Wheat	50,502,085	2,011,083	25.1
Oats	27,796,888	689,051	40.3
Barley	6,526,155	191,000	24.2
Flax	266,420	20,976	12.7
Rye	62,261	2,707	23
Peas	16,349	879	18.6
Potatoes	4,797,433	24,423	196
Roots	2,925,362	10,214	286

Butter.	Pounds.	Value.
Dairy	2,748,000	$395,440 82
Creamery	2,460,650	442,425 87
Cheese, factory	1,039,392	88,448 32

Live stock in province—Horses, 142,080; cattle, 263,163; sheep, 22,960; pigs, 94,680.

Women's Work For Hospital

Semi-Annual Meeting of Women's Auxilliary Held on Tuesday.

Report From the Secretary In Connection With the Ball.

There was a large and representative gathering at the regular meeting of the Women's Auxiliary, Provincial Royal Jubilee Hospital, which took place on Tuesday. Those present were: Mrs. A. J. Smith, Mrs. Rocke Robertson, Mrs. C. E. Redfern, Mrs. Gerhard Tiarks, Mrs. Fleet Robertson, Mrs. Charles Rhode, Mrs. Albert Griffiths, Mrs. C. J. Spratt, Mrs. Foster Barham, Mrs. W. Broderick, Mrs. C. S. Baxter, Mrs. Stadthagen, Mrs. Thomas Lee, Mrs. W. Dalby, Mrs. Machin, Mrs. Hasell, Miss Georgina Potts and Miss Amy Angus.

The secretary's report was called for and read, as follows:

Madam President and Ladies: I beg to lay before you today a statement of the receipts and expenditures in connection with the late ball and children's Cinderella. After all expenses are paid there remains a balance at your disposal amounting to $620, which I trust will meet with your approval. I think there are special reasons for congratulation over this result, considering that numerous friends were unable to attend this year, either through illness, absence or other good and sufficient reasons. It is indeed a happiness to find that, though the personal presence of each absentee is regretted and missed, the public support is so generous, that the event does not suffer financially in consequence.

Thanks are due to the following ladies for undertaking to sell tickets: Mrs. A. J. Smith, Mrs. Rocke Robertson, Mrs. (Col.) Grant, Mrs. C. Rhodes, Mrs. H. D. Helmcken, Mrs. A. Griffiths, Mrs. Broderick, Mrs. Gore, Mrs. R. Jones, Mrs. G. Courtney, Mrs. Hasell, Miss P. S. H. Pemberton, Miss Walbran, Miss Prior, Miss McMicking, Miss Amy Angus, Miss Nellie Lugrin, Miss Verna Heisterman, Miss Storey, Miss Dolly Sehl, Miss Jessie Wolley, Miss Annie Harvey and Miss Hattie Ross; also to Messrs. Redfern, Challoner & Mitchell, the Victoria Book & Stationery company, Hibben, and Fletcher, for similar assistance; to the ball committee and to the Daughters of Pity, for help in the decorations, and to the latter society for a donation of two dozen plants, afterwards presented to the hospital; to Mrs. Burton, the Misses Pemberton, Prior, Bickford-Wilson and Vernon, for beautifully arranged corners; to the following ladies, who volunteered service in the supper room: Mrs. C. S. Baxter, Mrs. M. J. Appleby, Mrs. Sedjewick, Mrs. Hicks, Mrs. Hayes, Mrs. Hasell and the Misses Collins, Becker, Brooker, Austin Hiscock Sylvester, Gilchrist, Mawdsly, Sherwood, Woodrowe and Love; to Miss Gladys Green and Miss Daisy Langley, for service at the refreshment buffet, and to Mrs. Blackmore, for kindly attending to the tea and coffee on both evenings; and to Mr. Cuyler Holland, Mr. H. D. Helmcken, Mr. Joshua Davies, Dr. Llewllyn Jones, Dr. Hermann Robertson, Dr. P. B. Handyside, R. N., Dr. E. S. Hasell, Mr. C. H. Arundell, Mr. Henry Dalby, Mr. Phil. Austin and Mr. K. Wollaston, for general assistance and help on the occasion. Donations in cash were gratefully received from Mrs. (Col.) Grant, Mrs. Henry Croft, Mrs. Dunsmuir, Mrs. Prior, Mrs. Henderson, Mrs. R. E. Brett and Mrs. Heisterman.

Further contributions towards the supper are acknowledged, with many thanks, from Mrs. Henry Clay, Mrs. M. R. Smith, Mrs. Schilling, Mrs. Davies, the London & Vancouver bakery, Mr. Hartnagle, Messrs. Thorpe & Morley, Cold Storage, Messrs. Erskine, Wall & Co., Rithet & Co., Stemler & Earle, Hudson Bay Co., Wilson Bros., Pither & Leiser, Simon Leiser, Fell & Co., Stewart & Co., Mr. Rogers and the New England bakery; also to the latter for cooking the large donation of poultry sent in by the ladies of Metchosin; to Mr. Herbert Kent, for piano; to Messrs. Weiler, for the loan of rugs and mirrors; to Mrs. E. G. Tilton, for completely refurnishing the lights throughout the hall with her shades; to the Electric Light company and Mr. Hinton for discount to the decoration committee; city, for the loan of numerous lanterns; and to Messrs. Campbell and Morison, for toilet articles. Thanks are also due to Commander Garnous Williams, H. M. S. Warspite, for kindly arranging for the loan of flags, and the assistance of Mr. Vince and bluejackets, who most ably accomplished the work of draping the main hall.

In connection with the children's Cinderella, Most grateful thanks are due to Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Kent, Mrs. Dickinson and Mrs. Milton Douglas, for materially assisting in the pleasure of the children, and in securing for them a successful entertainment.

With regard to the general work of the society, I beg to say that the ambulatory chair, donated by Mr. Homfreys, has at last arrived, and will be in use at the hospital immediately. In connection with the freight and duty for the same, I have a very kind letter from Mr. Baxter, in which he remits to this society $4.25 on the the cost of these.

The matron thanks the Women's auxiliary for work done by Mrs. Marsh during the past two months, which includes curtains, men's dressing gowns, flannel night gowns and a great deal of repairing, and she asks for two dozen pairs of warm felt slippers, and four dozen ward bags, as soon as possible, and six dozen night dresses, 12 dozen sheets, 12 dozen pillow cases, 12 dozen draw-sheets, as soon as the work committee commence operations after the Christmas holidays. Work has also been received from Mrs. Potts and Mrs. Eric McKay.

In connection with Christmastide, and at the request of Dr. Hasell, I am directed to ask you to postpone the Christmas tree this year until the children's ward is built. This ward will probably provide fitting quarters for an entertainment of the kind, but now the hospital keeps so full that it is impossible to depend upon the use of a ward, and there is no other room of satisfactory dimensions for the purpose. This prohibition, however, need not affect our devoting every possible loving attention to the hospital and its inmates, during the Christmas season, and I am sure that none who are interested in the work there, and who realize how much every kindness is appreciated, will forget to contribute some small token of love and remembrance to those who are so confined that they must keep their Christmastide apart from church and family joys.

I have the pleasure to announce that I have received a check from the secretary of the kermiss committee for $627.30, being the half proceeds of the late kermiss, voted by its promoters towards the furnishing of the children's ward, Provincial Royal Jubilee Hospital.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

M. B. HASELL, Sec.-Treas.

S. DALBY, Ass't Sec.

This report was very fully discussed. The ball accounts were passed and approved unanimously, and the thanks of the executive voted to all those ladies and gentlemen who so ably assisted in making the balls such a brilliant success.

The meeting concurred with the resident medical officer concerning the postponement of a Christmas tree this year, but voted a sum of $25 towards providing Christmas delicacies at the hospital, Mrs. A. J. Smith and Mrs. Dalby being appointed to ascertain and procure whatever would be most acceptable.

The money contributed towards the working fund of the Women's Auxiliary by the lawyers has been devoted to the purchase of a large stock of blankets, amounting in all to $139. This has been done in deference to the wish expressed by these gentlemen, that some definite comfort be procured with their donation.

The work committee decided to reunite and commence operations on the second Friday in the New Year, and to devote Friday afternoons to this purpose until Easter.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The treasurer's report for the first half of the working year, commencing June 30th, 1901:

Working Fund, Women's Auxiliary.

Bal. in bank June 30th	$ 100 16
Membership fees paid at annual meeting	24 00
Membership fees received from Miss Stewart	50 00
Fees paid up to date to Secretary or canvassers	34 00
Per Mrs. Homfrey (special for chair)	50 00
Per Arion Club	146 00
Per Lawyers' Baseball team	117 45
Per Mr. J. H. Turner	51 75
Per Garden Party (special for sterilizer)	200 00
Total	$773 36
Paid by cheque up to date	$349 40
Paid by cash up to date	38 00
Voted Christmas	25 00
Put aside for sterilizer	200 00
	$657 40

RECEIPTS.

Receipts	$773 36
Expenditure	657 40
Balance in hand	$115 96

This account does not include other moneys.

Received and banked, with the special funds for the children's ward and the Queen Victoria memorial ward, all of which will be duly published in the report next spring.

No visiting committees were appointed this month, as it is hoped that many, both of the Women's Auxiliary and of the Daughters of Pity will visit the hospital during the Christmas season, and with hearty good wishes for a happy and blessed Christmas, the meeting adjourned until Tuesday, January 28, 1902.

TICKET OF LEAVE SYSTEM.

It Has Been Found to Work Well in Canada.

During the year ended 30th September, 1901, three sentences of death were commuted to imprisonment for life in Canada. Two of the sentenced were from Dawson City, Yukon Territory, and one from British Columbia.

There were 320 criminal cases in which the prerogative of mercy was exercised during the year.

The form in which the royal clemency was chiefly shown was (1) by means of the ticket of leave system, introduced into our management of criminals by the Ticket of Leave Act of 1899, which empowered the Governor-General to grant a license to penitentiary convicts, and by the act of 1900, which extended the application of the plan to persons imprisoned in any jail or public prison; (2) by pardon in the ordinary way.

Of the 320 persons receiving executive clemency, 135 were penitentiary convicts and 185 were prisoners in other public prisons and reformatories.

Of the 320 prisoners thus relieved from the full term of their imprisonment, 167 were so relieved conditionally by means of tickets of leave, and of the 167 the penitentiaries supplied 104, leaving 63 of the welcome tickets to be distributed among the inmates of the gaols, etc., of the Dominion.

The 135 subjects for clemency were distributed as under:

St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary	43
Kingston	57
Dorchester	19
Manitoba	7
British Columbia	9

And of the 104 tickets of leave:

St. Vincent got	36
Kingston	44
Dorchester	12
Manitoba	4
British Columbia	8

The remaining 63 tickets of leave were distributed among the inmates of common jails and reformatories, leaving 122 of these inmates to secure clemency in the old fashioned way.

To the end of September, 1901, there had been 444 tickets of leave all granted, the first having been given on November 24th, 1899, 124 from that date to 30th September, 1900, and 320 to September, 1901.

In all, four of these 444 have been forfeited, 1 cancelled, 1 granted for a few days to enable a prisoner to see his dying mother, and 1 refused by the prisoner, who was in a reformatory for the last of the three years of his sentence.

Of the 167 who received tickets of leave, 72 had been imprisoned for larceny, 18 for breaking and entering houses, 6 for horse stealing, 2 for rape, 4 for arson, 4 for wounding, 3 for manslaughter, 4 for forgery, 4 for keeping disorderly houses, 4 for receiving stolen goods, 2 for incest, 2 for perjury, 7 for burglary, 7 for assault, 2 for indecent assault. The other cases may be distributed in the proportion of one to each of the remaining 19 crimes represented. Of the total of 56 kinds of crime with which the criminal statistics of Canada deal, 35 had representatives among those to whom the clemency of the Crown was extended during the year ended 30th September, 1901.

Previous year's statistics show that the prerogative of mercy was employed as follows:

1896	145
1897	165
1898	156
1899	246
1900	306
1901	320

It seems that the ticket of leave system has worked well both in respect to the convicts in penitentiaries and to the prisoners in common jails.

MONROE DOCTRINE.

Germany Unwilling to Allow it to Interfere With Her.

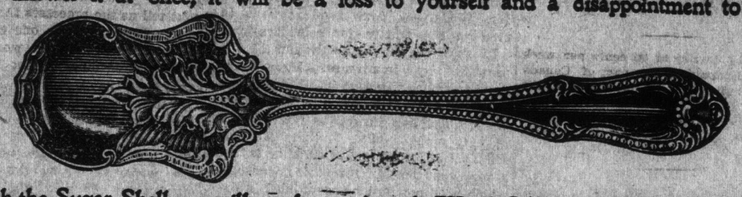
Berlin, Dec. 12.—Some commotion has been caused in the press here by the publication of cablegrams from New York to the effect that Washington considers incorrect the German official view of that passage in President Roosevelt's message containing the definition of the collection of private claims against South American countries by force. Of this question the Zeitung says: "If Germany found it necessary to occupy a Venezuelan port she would not ask Uncle Sams permission to do so."

ANARCHY.

London, Dec. 12.—Sir Edward Clarke, former solicitor-general in addressing the Junior Constitutional club tonight upon anarchism, said that Great Britain's stand against the extradition of political offenders should not prevent her from joining other countries in a conference wih a view of making anarchy an offence against international law.

DEAR MADAM

Send us your name and address on the below request, and we will take pleasure in sending you *free of any charge* this SOLID ARIZONA SILVER SUGAR SHELL. You don't have to buy anything. The gift is unconditional. It is a bid for your everlasting friendship and good will, and if you do not read this advertisement through and answer it at once, it will be a loss to yourself and a disappointment to us.



With the Sugar Shell we will send you 6 packages of Standard Electine Remedies, which we wish you to sell, if you can, at 25 cents each. Then return our money, and we will give you *absolutely free* a Butter Knife and Pickle Fork, same pattern as your Sugar Shell, and also a Set of 6 Full-Size Solid Arizona Silver Teaspoons. If you fail to sell our Medicines, return them to us and retain the Sugar Shell as a gift, it being *free* in any event. Our Solid Arizona Silver Premiums are fast superseding Sterling Silver for Tableware. They always look as well, and wear better; they are the same beautiful metal all the way through and are guaranteed for 50 years. There is nothing else like them except Sterling Silver, and nothing "just as good." Now, please don't throw this paper down and say to yourself, "I'll write to those Electine people to-morrow." This is not an opportunity to put off and forget. Just sign and return the attached request *to-day*, that is all you have to do. The Sugar Shell and Medicines will then be promptly mailed, postpaid. Remember, even if you fail to sell our Goods, you at least have *an Elegant Sugar Shell, worth 75 cents, for simply making the effort.*

Sincerely yours,

ELECTINE MEDICINE CO., Limited, TORONTO, Ontario

REQUEST FOR SUGAR SHELL AND MEDICINES.

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Ship immediately, by mail, *1 Solid Arizona Silver Sugar Shell*, and Six 25-cent Packages of Electine Remedies. I agree to make an earnest effort to sell the Medicines, and return you the money, with the understanding that I am to receive for this service a *Butter Knife* and *Pickle Fork*, same pattern as *Sugar Shell*, and also *Six Full-Size Solid Arizona Silver Teaspoons*. If I fail to sell the Medicine, I will return it to you within 30 days, and retain the *Sugar Shell* as a gift from you.

NAME.....

(Write Name Plainly, "Mrs." or "Miss")

ADDRESS.....

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PLEASE WRITE VERY "VERY" PLAINLY

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Viz: Hotwater Bottles; Fountain Syringes; Air Cushions; etc., are the kind that every careful buyer will naturally select. They are bought to wear. They are sold to wear. They will wear, or, we refund the money.

BOWES,

He Dispenses Prescriptions,

A RENEGADE JERSEYMAN

John Moro, Alias Moore, Fought Against His Countrymen, in South Africa.

Some startling facts were adduced in evidence given before Mr. Armstrong, stipendiary magistrate, at Fernie, in a case in which Paul Valentine was charged with stabbing with intent to do grievous bodily harm to John Moro.

Under cross-examination, the complainant, Moro, made some sensational statements. He was born on the Island of Jersey, in the channel, which is a British possession, so that unless he naturalized in France he is a British subject. He went to South Africa in 1898, and joined the Boer army, and fought for 15 months because, as he said, it was the right side, and he was proud of it. He claimed to have been wounded, and went to Cape Town, where he shipped on board of a troop ship for London, under the name of John Moore. That he is a man of good education, is evidenced by his signature, which is written in an excellent hand on the ship's papers.

Arriving at London he says he gave his ship's book to his cousin, which is a criminal offence, and the cousin shipped on a British ship to Montreal. The signature on the seaman's certificate is no doubt the same as the original, but which Moro denies having made. The inference is that he himself shipped for some sinister motive. He again signs the evidence given in court, the signature being more cramped, which would be natural where one is doing heavy work. His Boer army papers, he says, are in Montreal, in possession of the landlady with whom he boarded. The Free Press telegraphed to the Montreal Herald to endeavor to get them.

His evidence is everything but creditable to the man and it is the plain duty of the authorities to detain him until his history is thoroughly investigated. If he is a foreigner he has a perfect right to take up arms against the British flag, but if it cannot be shown that he has ever naturalized he is a born British subject, and amenable to the laws of treason, besides offences against the British Merchant Navy Act. In his examination Moro refused to admit it on first questioning, but subsequently gave his history in full. He said he fought under Villibois Mareuil, one of the French mercenaries, and claims to be still a French citizen. The presumption is that he was employed by the Boers as a spy or some other capacity in England. After the case was finished Chief of Police Barnes swore out a warrant against Moro on a charge of vagrancy, and in the meantime he is being detained pending instructions from the attorney-general to proceed against him on a charge of treason and forgery.

Valentine was found guilty and sentenced to four months' imprisonment.

CAPTURE OF BOERS.

General Bruce Hamilton Gathers in a Whole Commando.

London, Dec. 11.—Lord Kitchener in a despatch from Standerton, Transvaal Colony, dated Tuesday, December 10, announces that General Bruce Hamilton, after a night march surprised and captured practically the whole of the Boer Bethel commando at Trichards Fontein early that morning. Seven Boers were killed and 131 made prisoners.

SCHOOL BOARD.

Question as to Who Are to Place the Newly Appointed Teachers.

A point was brought up at the meeting of the school trustees last night on which the trustees seemed likely to be divided had they discussed the question. This was a clause in the rules and regulations under the school laws by which the city superintendent was empowered to place teachers appointed to the different positions. Some of the trustees held that the teachers should be placed by them, and the secretary was instructed to write to the Minister of Education for his interpretation of this clause of Article 17.

Applications for the principalship of North Ward school were received from Wm. Winsby and J. A. M. Campbell, now acting principal. With the exception of Mr. Robson, who declined, the recently appointed teachers wrote accepting positions. Miss Spragge was appointed in the stead of Mr. Robson, at $540 a year.

Spring Ridge and North Ward schools invited the trustees to their closing exercises on Friday next. Mr. Balmbridge, a globe trotter, wrote for permission to visit the schools with a view to giving an entertainment.

The finance committee recommended payment of $573.77 for current accounts.

The matter of repairs to the schools during the holidays was referred to the buildings and grounds committee for report.

Mrs. Muggins—My husband talks of nothing but civil service reform.

Mrs. Buggins—Well, it ought to be a good thing. Most of the girls that live out at service are uncivil enough, goodness knows.—Philadelphia Record.