

W.D. SPENCER, LTD.

Prices

CURTAINS

Wear

season, being in many means complete, the WINDOW DISPLAY

T, seven-eighths length, fitted back with wide double breasted, green and cuffs, sleeves and special

JAMES in grey and white fitting hip coat, stitched sleeves with cuffs trimmed white stitched silk, lined in grey taffeta, 16-gored special price

for Spring and Summer. Lead. Materials are Visit DEPT. E., and

Yoke made of fine pin blouse made of all over Price

transparent yoke of Valouise made of fine embroidered with ornaments ad back

LOUSE, yoke trimmed lace insertion, three-lace

Slips

"Buying" has collected a few descriptions:

RED MUSLIN, white lightweight suitable for ladies

very fine lawn with esses, special effects, 50c

Lace Cur-Reg. Val.

handy design in value

large Oriental pattern, Tomor

net heavy extra good, Oriental narrow's

of the Newest

by Tracy; The Spoil-Sea; Made in His by Antonio Fogazzaro; The Lost Leader, by Zarish; The Lone by Stevenson; Gabriel

ur homes with new garment at House Painting, ges. Consult

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VOL. XLVIII. NO. 25.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY WILL RECEIVE ASSISTANCE

Important Statements Made by Ministers at Meeting of Central Farmers' Institute—Representative Gathering of Agriculturists

What promises to be a most successful and useful gathering of agriculturists, the Ninth Annual Convention of the Central Farmers' Institute in British Columbia, is now in session in the Department of Agriculture.

The morning session was devoted to a address from the Premier and Minister of Agriculture, both being received with great attention and punctuated with liberal applause.

It was proposed, he continued, at the coming session of the legislature to make a move towards bringing under conditions of improvement. This would bring more land under cultivation there and material progress in the development of the interior.

In connection with this matter also, I may mention the steps that have been taken for the prevention of forest fires. A start has been made already. Altogether about 15,000 acres have been set aside for the purpose.

There was another resolution passed at this year's meeting which had been carefully considered, the request to set aside forest lands as a reserve for the foundation of a game preserve.

"At my convention last year, there were a number of resolutions passed, to all of which we have given careful attention. The first dealt with cheaper stumping. The first asked the government to take steps to deal with it in a practical manner.

"Following now to the second, and a most important resolution, it was pointed out that the importance of keeping up the road standard now obtained was respectfully requested. Agricultural Department to appoint one or more practical men to give demonstration in the planting and care of trees. I can only say that we have done our best to carry it into effect.

The "grey beards" present to purchase homes in Victoria. The first business taken up was the annual report of the superintendent, J. R. Anderson. It dealt with the business activities of the institute.

On motion of W. J. Brandt, this report was referred to the committee on resolutions. The resolution carried for a speaker there next session was on motion, referred to the committee.

The next matter taken up was the question of the institute from the secretaries of local institutes. A resolution asking that the institute should be organized in every section of the province, and would be more so when the reports of the department of agriculture were received.

The superintendent said it was most difficult to secure satisfactory returns for the past couple of years with great accuracy, although the work was troublesome, they had been secured.

Arthur H. Peatt, in support of the desire of the gun clubs, moved that a license of \$3 be imposed for every gun carried by a person not a member of the club.

W. J. Phillips, of Kelowna, supported the amount of water should be left to the government engineers to decide.

The mover said on the other side this spraying was in great favor. It was the only use of the sprayers in certain districts. Power sprayers were used only where the sprayers were maintained without injuring grain.

A. H. Peatt, of Metchoish, who seconded the motion, said that mustard had destroyed many acres of grain and vegetables.

J. N. Evans said this matter was an experiment, it was known to be effective. Spraying had been proved long time ago, and it was unnecessary to know that mustard was a pest that the municipalities were rather a duty for the municipalities they had established.

V. D. Curry, of Kamloops, said such a proposal was like the happenings in San Francisco. He said that he would not help themselves while someone was willing to help them. He would not pull the weeds out of the fields for the farmers. (Laughter.)

V. D. Curry, of Kamloops, supported the resolution that the institute should be organized in every section of the province, and would be more so when the reports of the department of agriculture were received.

The motion was carried by a large majority. The discussion was a very long one, and it was agreed that the institute should be organized in every section of the province.

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VICTORIA, B.C., FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 1907.

SPECULATION IN LAND BY DOMINION OFFICIALS

Action of Immigration Commissioner Smith Criticized in Commons

Premier's Trip May Be Delayed

Cannery and Fishermen Talk With Ministers—Question of Canadian Labels on Canned Fish

Ottawa, March 6.—A flagrant case of violation of public duty was given to the house by Mr. Northrup, member for East Hastings.

A year or two ago prominent Vermonter with means went out to the island and bought a tract of land, through J. Obed Smith, commissioner of immigration at Winnipeg. Mr. Smith, under the name of J. Obed Smith, was made aware of the quantity of land, and when the purchasers came to investigate their holdings they found they were over 7,000 acres short of the quantity they had ostensibly purchased.

The discussion was crystallized into an amendment by Mr. Boyce, of West Algonia, which called for the dismissal of officials of the department who used official information to promote their private gain.

The mover of the resolution, in support of the desire of the gun clubs, moved that a license of \$3 be imposed for every gun carried by a person not a member of the club.

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NO SUNDAY CARS

Toronto, March 6.—Premier Whitney has decided not to allow Sunday cars to operate in Toronto, as is done at present.

A CONDUCTOR KILLED

Winnipeg, March 6.—Conductor W. J. Welch of Winnipeg was killed near Mather, in southern Manitoba, yesterday, being hurled from a snow-blow while working last night on the Lyleton branch. His wife is at present visiting friends on the Pacific Coast.

INTERNATIONAL GOLF

London, March 6.—It was announced at a meeting of the council of the Ladies' Golf Union here today that an international match would be arranged between British players and the American women golfers who are competing for the championship meeting to be held at Newcastle, county Down, Ireland, in May.

MAKING FAST RUN

Winnipeg, March 6.—The Overseas Limited Canadian Pacific train from the Pacific Coast, passed through the city at noon today. It is stated that the train will endeavor to establish a record on the run across the continent. The regular time for arrival here was 3 o'clock this afternoon. The train left the city at 12:40 p. m., and is expected to reach the Atlantic coast by 5 o'clock of Wednesday.

PRAIRIE CATTLE LOSSES

Lethbridge, Alta., March 6.—H. A. McMillen, C. P. R. stock inspector, was in the city last night with a report that he is counting and taking descriptions of the cattle in the province. He stated that he had found in the first forty miles he found a percentage of the number of cattle that drifted across the railway. In the rest of the province the country was most fortunate compared with points north and east.

PROTECT FISHING GROUNDS

St. Petersburg, March 6.—In order to prevent the Japanese from encroaching on the sparsely-guarded Siberian littoral during the fishing season, commencing in April, Russia has agreed to send to the Pacific coast several small cruisers now in the Black sea. They will pass through the Dardanelles and then to the coast of Turkey. The treaty negotiations between Russia and Japan are still hanging fire, but it is expected that some parliamentary developments before entering into a definite agreement.

WYKE COMMISSIONERS ARE HERE FROM SUMAS

Will Endeavor to Secure Government Aid Towards Big Land Scheme

The five members of the board of dyking commissioners of the municipality of Sumas arrived in the city, and are now registered at the Drayton, awaiting the opening of the house. Mr. Aylesworth is the engineer of the Sumas Dyking and Development company, a corporation organized for the purpose of redeeming thirty-five thousand acres of the richest farming land on the Fraser river.

The commissioners are in the city for the purpose of petitioning the government to assist the Dyking and Development company in its work of redemption. To carry the work out without the assistance of the government would mean a heavy taxation on the farmers of the neighborhood, and the government is to be asked to grant towards the undertaking an amount equal to the average given towards other state-aided dyking systems of the Fraser valley.

The land which it is proposed to save from the clutches of the Fraser river is high and is thus rendered unfit for anything but the grazing of cattle at certain seasons of the year. The soil is enormously rich, and once it has been dyked and drained will be without peer in the province. A large part of it, no less than 10,000 acres, is covered permanently by a shallow body of water, known as Sumas lake, one of the finest paradises for the huntsman in this province. This will be entirely drained and turned into agricultural land. This lake bottom will become the property of the company.

It is calculated that the whole cost of the undertaking will be \$550,000. The interest on this amount for forty years. The dues for the payment of interest and the sinking fund will range from \$2 to 80 cents an acre a year, according to the nature of the soil.

Many of the farmers of the district are not at all wealthy, and a levy of this kind might in many cases practically spell ruin. If the government can be persuaded to assist this scheme it will mean a cut in the tax about one-third in the levies upon the farmers.

The result of the plea to the government is being looked for with interest by the people of Vancouver and Westminister, as it may have an important effect upon the building of the proposed electric line to Chilliwack.

The dyking commissioners now in the city are Mr. J. Stacey, W. M. Bowman, D. McMillan, E. B. Morgan, and R. Atkinson.

BOSS RUEF'S EFFORTS TO ESCAPE TRIAL

Search for Fugitive Taken Out of Hands of Sheriff O'Neill

MAYOR SCHMITZ RETURNS TO CITY

Charge of Drunkenness Against Judge Hebbard to Be Taken Up by Bar Association

San Francisco, March 6.—Attorney Abraham Ruef, jointly indicted with Mayor Eugene Schmitz on five charges of extorting money from keepers of restaurants, tonight is technically a fugitive from justice, according to Superior Judge Dunne, who late today decided that Sheriff O'Neill had not shown due diligence in producing Ruef for trial, and appointed Coroner Walsh to serve a bench warrant for Ruef's appearance in court. The coroner was ordered to make a return of service tomorrow afternoon.

This was the net result of a day devoted to a fruitless search for Ruef, although none of those interested deny that he is in San Francisco. Ruef procured a writ of error to the supreme court of the United States on Monday.

When court convened this morning, Sheriff O'Neill reported that his search for Ruef was a trial was pending, had been unsuccessful. Others supposed to know the attorney were elsewhere. The trial was postponed, but no information of value could be obtained.

After two adjournments had been taken, Assistant District Attorney Francis Henry presented to Judge Dunne a lengthy affidavit, signed by the police, which recited the alleged facts: That Sheriff O'Neill is a close personal friend of Ruef; that O'Neill is in possession of a police key to Ruef's house at 400 California street; that O'Neill is a member of the Citizens Bastion Hospital, under the charge of a physician and a trained nurse.

Mayor Schmitz arrived today and is expected in court tomorrow. As a result of the charge of intoxication made by Assistant District Attorney Hebbard, who on Monday granted a writ of error to Abraham Schmitz, the police have been called for Friday to consider the charges. Judge Hebbard now at the Clara Bastion Hospital, under the charge of a physician and a trained nurse.

Mayor Schmitz arrived this evening from Vancouver, where he went to see President Roosevelt relative to the admission of Japanese into the country. In response to a question as to whether he would be a candidate for reelection, Mayor Schmitz is quoted as saying in an interview at Los Angeles: "I feel that the wholesale immigration of the Japanese is being detrimental to the work of the people, and I am not in favor of letting down the gates to school. I have come to the conclusion that Japanese have some right to get an education."

CZAR FEELS FRIENDLY TOWARDS PARLIAMENT

Reception of President—Douma Will Petition for Release of Political Prisoners

St. Petersburg, March 6.—Parliament did not meet today, pending the reception of M. Golovin, president of the lower house, by Emperor Nicholas, which took place today. His Majesty declared himself thoroughly satisfied with the situation, and assured the president that he and his ministers were inspired by the best of feelings towards parliament, and hoped that its work with the assistance of the legislative projects which the ministers had prepared, would be beneficial to the country.

The presentation by the lower house of parliament of a unanimous petition for amnesty for all political prisoners except those guilty of actual murder will probably result from a conference of the lower house, the emperor, and an unanimous vote, probably will consent to the separation of the two classes and present an appeal for terrorists as a separate motion. The central committee of the Constitutional Democrats also held a meeting to hear the report of M. Golovin, president of the lower house, and to consider the Socialist protest against the emperor's declaration of goodwill towards parliament created an excellent impression on the central committee.

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