

JUST RESORT TO CONTRACT WORK

STREETS COMMITTEE TO MAKE RECOMMENDATION

Important Departure Decided on at Friday Evening's Meeting

If any considerable progress is to be made this season with the immense amount of local improvement work to be done by the corporation it will be necessary to resort very largely to the contract system instead of that of day labor. This point was made very clear at Friday's meeting of the streets committee of the City Council, and after full consideration of the situation instructions were issued to the engineer to call for tenders for less than two months than five miles of concrete walks—sidewalks being the work of the most pressing character just now. This will be in the nature of an experimental order, and it will be shown that concrete sidewalks can be laid at a lower cost than by day labor, it is almost certain that the latter system will be abandoned entirely.

The question came up for discussion a letter being read from J. Turner, McIntosh and George Crane, residents of McBride avenue, protesting against the excessive estimated cost of the proposed cement walks. By the day labor system the cost would be 24 per cent more, and they had an informed that by contract the price would be done for 23 per cent more. They could not understand why they should be asked to pay the excessive cost and requested that the work be done by contract. There was a rock on the street, McBride avenue from Quadra street to Bay street. Ald. Raymond thought it strange that there should be such a difference in the cost between day labor and contract, and he thought it most unfair that ratepayers should be compelled to pay more than was necessary. He inquired of the city engineer how much day labor work was planned for the present season.

Mr. Bryson answered that there were about thirty-nine streets to be dealt with. Ald. Raymond thereupon suggested that the city engineer be instructed to call for tenders for laying five miles of concrete sidewalks. This would mean that the city would find out the comparative cost of the day labor and contract system. He felt that when citizens drew attention to matters of this kind it was time for the engineer to take up and do something to remedy the situation.

Ald. Bammerman remarked that there was certainly more street improvement work ordered already than could be got through with the present year, less the contract system be resorted to. Ald. Sargison strongly favored having a certain amount of work done by contract and reminded the board that at had been his attitude from the start.

Ald. Raymond was on the point of saying that tenders be called for when Mayor Morley pointed out that they ought not to rush things with undue haste. They must give the engineer a chance. They would not let contracts in odd pieces, but in the continuous run if possible. This would allow the contractor doing the work to prosper, and result in a saving to the city.

Replying to a question, Mr. Bryson did he thought it would be possible to let contracts for five miles in one ward. But it was not material what he said. Ald. Raymond could not see the force in the mayor's argument. He did not believe the contractor would object to doing the work in whatever quantity might be required, and in whatever locality might be specified.

Ald. Humber made a spirited attempt to have the engineer instructed to draw the specifications in calling for tenders that the contractor would be bound down to all details of construction.

Mr. Bryson advised that the better way would be to call for tenders in bulk. Ald. Ross—Well, let's get on with the work and have no more of this monkey business. Mayor Morley protested against the engineer meet his views in respect to the manner in which the specifications would be drawn.

Ald. Humber—I suppose you mean what I say is nonsense. Mayor Morley—No, you are. (Laughter.) The resolution moved by Ald. Raymond, and seconded by Ald. Raymond, that tenders be called for not less than nor more than three miles of sidewalk, was finally carried.

Victoria TWICE-A-WEEK Times.

VOLUME 38. VICTORIA, B. C., FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 1910. NO. 22

CHINESE ARE AGGRESSIVE

NOW ACTIVE ON THE BORDERS OF INDIA

Propose to Send Representative to the Court of Nepal

(Times Leased Wire.) Calcutta, March 24.—In the news of Chinese aggression from Tibet against the British protectorates of Nepal and Bhutan, British officials in India see a start already in the direction of Chinese nibbling at British territory in Northern India. The development is regarded as alarming, and communications are being exchanged between here and the India office in London.

Nepal and Bhutan, which actually align Tibet, are states which from the British rule in India, have been permitted to remain nominally independent, though under British suzerainty. Their relations with the British are excellent, and the latter are not only bound, but are anxious to guard them against pressure from any other government.

Over Nepal, however, China as well as Britain, has always claimed suzerainty. The Chinese never having seemed to it in the past, the dispute between the two powers is a recent development. The Nepalese government was in the habit of sending an embassy to Peking at stated intervals, and the Chinese pretended to consider this an acknowledgment of suzerainty, while the Nepalese regarded it as merely a complimentary visit.

Now that China is established in Tibet, however, notice has been received from Nepal that the Chinese are demanding a more specific admission that the state is a Chinese dependency, and arrangements for the maintenance of the Nepalese government are being demanded according to Chinese wishes. The Nepalese government is resisting. As yet no physical pressure has been brought to bear upon it, but it is looked for at any time, and when it is attempted, Britain will be compelled to interfere.

Following immediately upon the heels of trouble in Nepal came news from Butan that Chinese, who call themselves traders, but who are armed and disciplined like soldiers, have undertaken to cross the border of that state. They were turned back, but the Butanez government looks for an invasion in stronger force, and wants instructions from Britain as to the course to pursue.

FOUND DROWNED.

(Special to the Times.) Nanapan, Ont., March 24.—The body of R. F. Rapley, a traveller of Montreal who disappeared mysteriously from the Campbell house here last fall, was found yesterday in the Nanapan river.

WILL RUSH RAILWAY WORK.

Brandon, Man., March 24.—John Bradley, a well known Brandon contractor, has been awarded the contract for building the new C. P. R. line from Craven, north of Regina, to Craven. This is the biggest single contract let by the Empire this year. The road will be 119 miles in length, running around the south of Long Lake, thence northwards. Contractor Bradley will employ 800 teams and 500 men on the job, which will be rushed to completion.

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SOME CHANGES CONTEMPLATED

AFFECTING THE OFFICE OF WATER COMMISSIONER

Probable That New City Engineer Will Be Placed in Charge of the Department

(From Thursday's Daily.) It is hinted by those who ought to be in a position to know that Mayor Murray of a number of other members of the city council have intimated that certain staff changes at the city hall are in contemplation in consequence of the situation relative to the Smith's Hill reservoir. The fact that by a majority vote the board had turned down the proposal to hold an investigation into the circumstances of the construction of the reservoir is said to have led to a decision to take action in the direction of appealing public opinion by altering the status of those persons in the employ of the city who are regularly supposed to have been responsible for the faulty construction of the work.

The Times has ascertained from excellent authority that an intimation to this effect has been conveyed to the water commissioner, James L. Raymur. It is not improbable that Thos. Donovan, foreman in charge of construction at the reservoir, will be asked to tender his resignation. This contemplated action on the part of the city council may possibly be affected if the petition of the ratepayers for the appointment of a royal commission is granted, but in the interim there is little doubt that the present intention of a number of the members of the council is along these lines.

FOREIGN SECRETARY ON TARIFF REFORM

London, March 24.—Speaking at a free trade demonstration yesterday, Foreign Secretary Grey said he dreaded the prospect of an increase in wages as much as home politics. It meant more duties within the Empire and if the duties which were imposed raised prices there would be an over-riding demand that the colonial tariffs here should have a say in colonial tariffs and that would be the greatest danger they could have to Imperial unity.

ARMY LEAGUE DEMANDS REFORM

PRESENTS PROGRAMME TO GREEK ASSEMBLY

King George May Resign if the Organization is Not Dissolved

(Times Leased Wire.) Rome, March 24.—Crown Prince Constantine of Greece, is authority for the statement that the next three weeks will decide whether his father, King George, is to retain or abdicate the Hellenic throne. "Everything," said the prince, "depends on whether the Greek national assembly succeeds in carrying out the Army League's orders and the league dissolves." It is understood that the league has no intention of dissolving unless the assembly does things which the league leaders believe will render further maintenance of the organization no longer necessary. It is doubtful whether the assembly can get through the league's programme before the end of the session. So there is a strong indication that the king will abdicate as he stated that he will not attempt to rule Greece under the direction of the league.

Among the things which the league has demanded are: Changes in the election laws by which it is hoped to secure a more representative assembly; purchase of all large landowners' holdings in Thessaly and the redistribution of the lands among the peasant farmers; the creation of a minister of agriculture; the dismissal of all the higher officials in the civil service in favor of men more competent to handle the national affairs. Prince Constantine is not likely to return to Greece until it is definitely decided what step his father will take, or the Army League is dissolved, as he is personally unpopular among the officers of the army and it is feared that he would be exposed to danger among them.

RAILWAY FIREMEN STRIKE AVERTED

COMPANIES AGREE TO MAKE CONCESSIONS

Agreement Providing for Settlement of Disputes is Signed

(Times Leased Wire.) Chicago, March 24.—An agreement providing for the settlement of all disputes between the Brotherhood of Firemen and the western railroads was signed early to-day after a protracted conference which lasted nearly all night. The signing of the agreement averts for the present all danger of a general strike of firemen and yardmen of the roads.

The terms of the agreement were not announced by any of the parties, but it is believed that the companies have promised to concede to the men the greater part of their demands. It is understood that the firemen's demand for an increase in wages of 12 1/2 per cent, will be arbitrated under the provisions of the Erdman Act. The system of seniority for the promotion of firemen will be established within sixty days, according to intimations of persons reputedly familiar with the terms of the compromise. This practically amounts to a victory for the employees on this mooted point.

MOUNT ETNA IS AGAIN IN ERUPTION

Several Towns Threatened With Destruction—Inhabitants Are Fleeing

(Times Leased Wire.) Naples, March 24.—Mount Etna is again in eruption. The flow of lava has increased to an alarming extent. The towns of Rinazzi, Borello Bell Passa and San Leo are threatened with destruction. Fresh craters have opened since the volcano became active Tuesday. The main eruption still continues to centre about the new crater at Volta St. Giacomo, which lies between Castello and Albanelli. The inhabitants of towns surrounding the volcano are fleeing to points of safety. The damage already done is immense, and it is feared that recurring earthquakes will cause additional damage.

NATIONAL LABOR PARTY PROPOSED

Alliance Between American Federation and Farmers' Union

(Times Leased Wire.) Washington, D. C., March 24.—Officials of the American Federation of Labor, the executive council of which is in session at Washington, are planning the formation of a national labor party. It is understood that an alliance with the Farmers' Union is being planned by the two organizations, which it is hoped will be consummated by the first of June.

When the Farmers' Union meets in convention at St. Louis in May, President Samuel Gompers, of the American Federation, probably will address the convention in connection with the proposed alliance. According to figures submitted by a member of the executive committee, the Farmers' Union has a membership of 4,000,000 men, and the federation a membership of 3,000,000, while other labor organizations not affiliated with the federation have a total membership exceeding 1,000,000. It is proposed to join all these organizations into one political party, which would be along the lines laid down by a similar party in England.

LAND FOR SETTLERS.

London, March 24.—It is understood that in reference to the sale of 200,000 acres of land by the Western Canada Land Company, the area has been purchased by two Canadians with the object of retarding to settlers. The price paid equals that wherewith the company purchased its 200,000 acres a few years ago. The profits of the British American Land Company last year were £25,440.

MINING LAWS.

(Special to the Times.) Ottawa, March 24.—The Dominion government has decided to make a general codification of the laws of Canada in regard to mining, and yesterday the Commons appointed a sub-committee to begin the work. The laws are said to be very confusing owing to the large number of amendments in recent years.



TWO SOULS WITH BUT A SINGLE FEAR

RAILWAY COMES IN FOR CENSURE

VERDICT AT INQUIRY INTO AVALANCHE

Trains Should Not Have Been Placed on Siding at Wellington

(Times Leased Wire.) Seattle, Wash., March 24.—That the Great Northern railway was largely to blame for the destruction of two trains in the Wellington avalanche, is the only interpretation made here to-day of the coroner's jury report returned last night. Though declaring at the start that "the death of eighty-eight or more persons in the avalanche March 1st was caused by an agency beyond human control," the verdict further on should have been a large part of the blame on the Great Northern.

CONVICTION QUASHED.

(Special to the Times.) Toronto, March 24.—Judge Morsorn yesterday quashed the police court conviction of Robert J. Henderson, an osteopath, for practicing medicine without registering. Judge Morsorn scored the Ontario Medical Council detectives and found that rubbing, the osteopath treatment, is not medical treatment.

FEAR RESULTS OF TARIFF WAR

BUSINESSMEN OF EASTERN STATES ALARMED

Secretary of State Knox Urged to Use His Influence to Settle Question

(Times Leased Wire.) Washington, D. C., March 24.—Headed by Representative Alexander, of Buffalo, a large delegation of business men, representing the white pine interests, the grain interests and nearly all the manufacturing concerns from Duluth to the Atlantic seaboard, which operate plants near the Canadian border, are attempting to-day to prevent the United States from engaging in a tariff war with Canada. In an address before Secretary of State Knox yesterday, Alexander pointed out that trade amounting to \$200,000,000 yearly was involved. Other members of the delegation made strong appeals to Knox to use his influence to avert the threatened war. Among those who spoke were Governor George H. Prouty, of Vermont, who said that New England interests would be adversely affected by the application of the maximum tariff to Canadian products. L. P. Graves, a lumber dealer, stated that American builders were compelled to look to Canada for their supplies of white pine lumber, which is essential to the building industry in the United States.

HUDSON BAY DIRECTORATE.

(Special to the Times.) London, March 24.—It is stated here that representatives of New York interests and a European bank will shortly be added to the directorate of the Hudson's Bay Company.

DISTRESSED SEAMEN.

(Special to the Times.) London, March 24.—The departmental committee on distressed seamen report that in cases in Canada and Australia there has been a generous disposition shown to cooperate with Great Britain in the repatriation of such men.

FIFTEEN SAILORS LOSE THEIR LIVES

Hamburg, March 24.—Fifteen men perished to-day with the Norwegian steamer Dixi, which foundered off Cuxhaven. All those who were drowned were members of the crew. None escaped.

MAN ELECTROCUTED.

(Special to the Times.) Wolland, March 24.—Wm. Barnes, 30 years old, was electrocuted by a live wire at the Ontario Steel works.

DECLARE CANNON RULE MUST END

MORE TROUBLE IN U. S. HOUSE PREDICTED

"Insurgents" Will Fight if the Speaker Controls New Committee

(Times Leased Wire.) Washington, D. C., March 24.—The regulars and "insurgents" to-day officially ratified the nominees of the Republican caucus for the rules committee, but each side is prepared to throw bricks if the "other side" makes any hostile move. The "insurgents" declare that they made no effort to get places on the committee because they wanted harmony, and feared that any move on their part would mean a fight. The regulars declare they are seeking harmony, and they believe the Republican party will get together and stay together, at least until after the fall election. There may be more wrangling, however. Representative Butler thinks there is at least one fight still to come. Butler is a staunch regular.

G. T. P. HEAD OFFICES HERE

ELABORATE OFFICES AND DOCKS PLANNED

Victoria Will Likely Be Headquarters for Coasting Service

Victoria is to be the headquarters for the Grand Trunk Pacific steamers on this coast, according to advices received on Thursday. That accounts for the fact that the company is so anxious to have elaborate docks and office buildings at this place. There was talk of making Vancouver the central point of the system, but it has been found impossible to find suitable dockage facilities, and Victoria is a much more central and suitable point. In Vancouver the greater part of the water frontage is held by the C. P. R. The Hastings mill property, beyond the Evans, Coleman & Evans wharf, is said to be controlled by the Great Northern railway, and it is thought the G. T. P. may use it. It is also understood that the old Albion Iron Works dock has been sold, the purchasers being unknown. These docks are not, however, in a very central position, and at the best the accommodation would be limited. In Victoria, on the other hand, the company has a splendid central site, the best in the port, and they are making elaborate preparations for building a dock and offices which will put in "the shade anything at present here."

ELABORATE OFFICES AND DOCKS PLANNED

The company is not yet in a position to give out definitely the plans for the new buildings, as they have not been finally considered, but it is stated on good authority that they will be fine brick buildings about 300 feet long, allowing room for a sixty-foot roadway at the side. The rock is being blasted to a depth of 20 feet below Wharf street, and this will be utilized for wharfage purposes as well as the warehouses which will be built on the docks. The offices will be on a level with the street, and will be utilized as the head offices for the whole steamship system on the coast. The steamers will be repaired here, the crews will be engaged or paid off, and the warehouses will be used for distributing purposes.

WHAT THESE MOVEMENTS MEAN TO VICTORIA

What these movements mean to Victoria can hardly be guessed. When it is considered that this is only one of the improvements to be made on the waterfront, and that the Canadian Northern as well as other companies have to be accommodated, it is clear that great things are in sight. It means that Victoria is being recognized as the most central shipping port in British Columbia. She holds the strategic position, and is now only coming into her own which has been withheld from her so long, partly owing to the apathy of her citizens, and partly through the aggressiveness of other cities which have seized the opportunities which presented themselves.

DISAPPROVE ALDRICH-PAYNE TARIFF

Eastern and Western Republican Editors Opposed to Recent Bill

(Times Leased Wire.) Chicago, March 24.—The Chicago Tribune to-day prints the result of a poll it has taken of the various newspaper editors of the country showing that the East as well as the West opposes the Aldrich-Payne tariff bill and Speaker Cannon. Republican editors were called on to express their views. The result of the poll in Illinois recently printed shows majority of the party editors in Cannon's own state were against him.

LOCKING TO CANADA.

(Special to the Times.) London, March 24.—The extra Allan liner Gramscian sailed yesterday for Canada with 1,650 passengers. The multitude of clamoring immigrants is so great that the Allan line had to remove furniture in its Liverpool office to make room for them.