

Twice-a-Week Times

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OUR GUESTS.

Victoria extends her heartiest welcome to Canada's most distinguished man, who will reach here this afternoon. Since Sir Wilfrid embarked upon his history-making tour, a little more than a month ago, his progress has been largely of the nature of an extended triumph. Towns and settlements have received him with raptures; multitudes have acclaimed him, but no place has tendered greetings with greater sincerity and admiration than those which Victoria, in the name of all her people, irrespective of politics, race or creed, will extend to him to-day.

Four decades of active public life, forty years of toil in the service of his country, have not impaired in the least those pre-eminent qualities which have made Sir Wilfrid Laurier an outstanding figure in the world. The whole-souled devotion to duty, the lofty ideals, the lovable charm of manner, the polished, inspiring eloquence, have resisted the ravages of time and the stress of political conflict and are as conspicuous to-day as they ever have been in his long and honored career.

In our distinguished guest we welcome the man who fashioned the British Preference and moved Canada, with one stride, into the vanguard of Britain's dominions. We recall the splendid, verve policy which opened the Northwest, added millions to our population and ushered in an era of unparalleled prosperity. We admire the foresight which is giving us the mile national transcontinental system because it is entirely on Canadian soil, and we are soon to see the offspring of an even greater conception—the Canadian Navy. In these achievements we can trace the evolution of our country from relative insignificance into prominence and power, attracting the attention of the whole world.

The guiding hand throughout has been a steady one, unshaken by panic or momentary caprice. Sir Wilfrid's course has been to build for normality. He realized early that the foundation of this country was laid for a future pregnant with illimitable possibilities, and his conception of a national superstructure has been one that will endure for all time. He has often declared his ideal to be the accomplishment of the greatest good for the greatest number, the promotion of happiness and prosperity without regard for racial and social distinctions, and the verdict of posterity will be that success has largely rewarded his efforts to that end.

It is impossible to traverse such a career as his within the contracted limits of a newspaper article. One industrious biographer years ago published two interesting volumes on his life and work, and since then a great deal has been added to his record. His life, however, during the last fourteen years, at least, has been an open book to the people of Canada, who have perused its pages with evident appreciation and who, on four different occasions, have shown their recognition of his work in a manner unmistakable and emphatic.

The party system of government has its defects. It involves political warfare and controversy not devoid of bitterness, but true worth makes its mark upon the public mind, whether it be on the right or left of the speaker, and it is gratifying to observe that many of Sir Wilfrid's strongest admirers are gentlemen who do not wear his political colors. That he may be long spared to labor for the welfare of Canada we know to be the earnest hope of all the people of this country.

We welcome, also, the Minister of Railways and Canals, and our other distinguished guests. We trust that their visit to British Columbia will be pleasant and profitable and that it will enable them to obtain commanding insight into the possibilities and problems of this far western country.

A MEMORABLE EVENT.

When the good ship Princess Charlotte, decked in gala attire, steamed into the harbor of Victoria yesterday afternoon with the Prime Minister of Canada and his party on board, the spectacle presented to the eyes of the distinguished visitors must have been at once gratifying and inspiring. Sir Wilfrid has travelled far and beheld scenes many and various since he took train at the capital of the Dominion, but nowhere, in all his travels, we venture to say, did nature and art in conjunction unfold a fairer and more glowing scene than that of yesterday afternoon and evening in the capital of British Columbia, the most western,

and, as we believe, the most beautiful city of our own loved Canada. We are not an emotional people in the "Last and Best West." Neither are we herd worshippers to the same extent as our more volatile brethren in the East. But we do recognize and acknowledge merit and high purpose in our national leaders, and after the notable manner in which Victorians turned out yesterday afternoon and evening in honor of Canada's First Minister and most notable statesman, whose name is a household word throughout the entire British realm; we trust the reproach of provincialism will no longer lie against us. Larger crowds may have greeted Sir Wilfrid Laurier in one or two of the cities included in his itinerary, but in none could his reception have been more enthusiastic and the hopes expressed for his personal welfare more sincere and kindly.

A matter of more than ordinarily gratifying character to Sir Wilfrid's friends and supporters is the fact that he appears to have undergone the trying ordeal of his tour without experiencing any ill results physically. We do not know that the Prime Minister ever appeared to be in the enjoyment of more robust health. He looks as fit as an athlete trained for a supreme effort. One cannot approach his immediate neighborhood without feeling the subtle influence of his magnetic personality. The old charm of voice and manner which forces the hearer to literally hang upon his words is still there, stronger and more compelling than ever.

What may be described as the "functional" part of Sir Wilfrid's program, being his every attention will be given this evening to more serious and more important matters. Some of our contemporaries, particularly in the neighboring city of Vancouver, seem inclined to impute bad faith to the Prime Minister because he has not adhered to an alleged promise that his tour was to be of a purely non-political or non-partisan character. Surely the critics are somewhat illogical and unreasonable in their criticisms. It is true that the Ministers have come west for the purpose of feeling the pulse of public opinion and discovering by personal investigation the pressing public requirements of New Canada in the era of unexampled progress upon which it has entered. Yet it is inevitable that the leader of a political party who is also the leader of a government must in his public discourses touch upon matters upon which there must be differences of opinion. The people of the country are not of one mind in regard to the tariff, for example, although there are indications that in the West they are all but unanimous upon this point. So we cannot promise that at the public meeting to be held in the horse show building at the exhibition grounds this evening the discussion will be confined to non-contentious, non-political questions. But we do hold that all persons interested in the government of Canada—and that ought to include all adults in the community—should make a point of hearing what the speakers have to say. All may not agree with the arguments or conclusions of the visitors, but all who can ought to attend if only for the purpose of weighing the statements made against their own personal opinions. And we can give a guarantee that the more who go east for information will be turned every eye.

The city council last evening adopted the report of the fire wardens opposing the proposition made by the municipality of Oak Bay that the city join in the erection and maintenance of a fire hall somewhere near the eastern limits of the city.

It has been decided that the building by-law of the city shall be amended so that hereafter roofs of all buildings constructed within the fire limits shall be built in such manner that the shingles shall be laid in mortar, or over asbestos paper, to minimize the danger from roof fires.

Building permits have been issued to James Mogy for a dwelling to be erected on Street street, to cost \$1,860; to Mrs. Fred Galley, dwelling on Topaz avenue, to cost \$2,500; to C. F. Hendrickson, stable on Bridge street, to cost \$100; to H. Whitwell, dwelling on Southgate street, to cost \$2,500.

Instructions were given to Bandmaster Rogers, of the Fifth Regiment, at Monday evening's meeting of the city council to give a band concert at Beacon Hill next Sunday. Owing to the fact that the appropriations for band concerts have been exhausted, the council is driven to the necessity of making emergency arrangements to fill out the season.

It is likely that M. Hutcheson, city electrical superintendent, will shortly be named as mechanical superintendent, this step being rendered necessary should the fact be that the city possesses a good deal of machinery which requires the supervision of a competent official. Mr. Hutcheson is recognized as one of the most expert mechanical engineers in the city.

The police commissioners at their last meeting determined that it is unwise to alter the by-law providing for the hitching of horses left standing on the business streets of the city, and so notified the city council at the meeting held Monday night. It will be recalled that J. A. Aikman, who had a client who was convicted on the charge of leaving his horses unhitched, suggested that the provisions of the by-law were too drastic and that they be amended. The city council referred the matter to the police commissioners, and the latter have now given their answer.

MANY DEPUTATIONS WAIT ON SIR WILFRID TO-DAY

(Continued from page 1)

back to the progress and prosperity of the city. It greatly restricts the available harbor frontage, already too small, for the needs of the port. It is required a site for railway terminals. The land is needed for the expansion of business; it is almost wholly unimproved; it depreciates the value of adjacent property and it is a constant menace to the health of the community.

The Board is aware that your colleagues, the Minister of the Interior and the Minister of Marine, are well-advised as to the facts of the case and the urgent need of some remedy being provided, and that they are in the light of these facts, and the present reference to the subject is made only because the speedy opening of the reservation to public use is a matter of such great importance to the Board that it ought to lose no opportunity of pressing it upon the consideration of the government.

The Board respectfully presents for your consideration a large area of excellent agricultural land and fisheries of exceptional value. These resources are sufficient to sustain a population of several millions of people. The harbors on the ocean front of Vancouver Island, including Victoria, Esquimalt and those on Barkley, Nootka and Quatsino Sounds are exceptionally good. The approach to the harbors from the sea is exceedingly favorable, especially because the 100-fathom line, which lies at a distance of from 20 miles to 10 miles from the coast is an intangible guide to mariners. The approach to these harbors is not rendered perilous by outlying islands, rocks or reefs, but is free from open shoals. Each of these harbors can be reached by lines of railway.

It is quite feasible to connect these ports by an unbroken line of railway with the continental railway systems of Canada, and the board respectfully suggests that the cost of such a connection would not be out of proportion to the benefits to be derived therefrom by Vancouver Island and the Dominion generally.

If the necessary bridges were built across the railways connecting the central British Columbia to Yellow Head Pass, assuming that the route surveyed by H. P. Bell for the provincial government in 1895, for the purpose of a non-contentious, non-political question. But we do hold that all persons interested in the government of Canada—and that ought to include all adults in the community—should make a point of hearing what the speakers have to say. All may not agree with the arguments or conclusions of the visitors, but all who can ought to attend if only for the purpose of weighing the statements made against their own personal opinions. And we can give a guarantee that the more who go east for information will be turned every eye.

The board desires to mention that the harbors on the ocean front of Vancouver Island are free from the disadvantages necessarily incident upon the approach to ports along the continental shore by reason of the more or less tortuous channels by which the latter must be reached, and the obstruction of the course by mist, fog, snow or smoke. An important factor in this connection is the increasing amount of ocean-going steamships, and the rapidly increasing tonnage engaged in the coastwise traffic in these channels.

The board respectfully represents that as the greatest timber area in the Transcontinental railway from Winnipeg to Montreal, including the construction of the Quebec bridge, and the proposed Hudson Bay railway, have been adopted as matters of government policy, so the connection of the true western ocean frontier of the Dominion with the continental railway systems might also be adopted as such, and would in point of fact be necessary for the completeness of the transportation policy of your administration.

The board desires to draw your attention to the fact that the point at which connection between the Island and the Mainland would be made is within the greatest timber area in Canada, and that a line of railway from the Vancouver Island ports to some point where it would meet the rails of the Canadian Pacific, the Grand Trunk Pacific and the Canadian Northern, or of one or more of these railways, would cheapen the cost of the delivery of manufactured timber by those railways into the Prairie provinces; also that by leading to the establishment of sawmills in the very heart of the timbered area, it would reduce the cost of the people by saving the expense of towage of logs to mills at other points and the loss attendant thereupon, which amounts to a considerable percentage away for reducing in any way the standard of comfort obtained by the Canadian workers.

With a view to bringing their ideas and wishes on this subject to your notice, the board respectfully requests you to be instructed to submit the following and to recommend same to your favorable consideration, viz.: Respecting the admission of Hindus or such of the inhabitants of the provinces, comprising India, as are British subjects, the Trades and Labor Councils of the Dominion, based on an agreement with the Imperial government, affords a reasonable and sufficient protection against any undue number of such tribes flocking to our shores, and that faithful application of the regulation now in force is all that is required under existing conditions.

Respecting the immigration of Chinese, it is felt and candidly admitted that the regulation now in force and governing same under an agreement with the Imperial government of Japan and your government is a sufficient check on arrivals from that source. That the said regulation provided always that same is to be applied to the immigration of Chinese by the respective government parties thereto, is a satisfactory settlement of a grave and serious question.

Respecting the immigration of Chinese; Several years ago when in response to the unanimous demand of the workers of this province the head tax was, by an act of parliament, increased from one hundred dollars to the present amount of five hundred dollars. The result was an effective check on the immigration of these people. The deputation is informed that the credit of introducing into parliament the legislation necessary to effect the said increase belongs to yourself, and desires to convey to you the appreciation of the working people of this city, of your response to their just demands on that occasion.

But since that date many new conditions have developed, bringing in their train new demands, which must be dealt with as they arise. The depreciation in the value of gold, which with its nominal value fixed, is expressed in the increase in the price of the necessities and commodities of life, has reduced the potency of the five hundred dollar head tax on Chinese as a bar against their immigration, proof of which can be found in the increasing number of arrivals from that country, who are readily paying the once prohibitive tax of five hundred dollars. In the light of these facts, the conclusion has been arrived at that the present head tax is inadequate and the deputation strongly urges the advisability of your government adopting one of the following alternative propositions as a necessary measure to meet a question requiring immediate attention, namely—total exclusion of all Chinese except those who are engaged in agriculture in the head tax, bringing same up to a thousand dollars per head.

All of which is respectfully submitted. CHRISTIAN SVERTZ, Secretary.

The Premier's Reply. The prime minister replied as follows: "I have received and read an advance copy of your petition and wish to congratulate you upon the able and moderate expression of your views. You refer to Chinese immigration, and from your petition you are apparently satisfied with the position as regards Hindu and Japanese immigration. I see that you would have the poll tax of \$500 doubled upon Chinese immigrants. This is a matter upon which I will not now express an opinion, because I intend to deal with it at the meeting to-night. I will say that the government will keep in check Oriental immigration, and the only matter for division is in the method. It has been the rule of the government that outside labor shall not be allowed into the province to degrade the standard of labor, and I agree with you that Anglo-Saxon labor is the best. The rule does not permit any immigration but agricultural.

"Eastern deputations have protested against the importation of skilled mechanics. Of course they can come to the Dominion, but the government does not take steps for their importation in numbers. The government, therefore, owing to the situation, has to attract agriculturists. I find that there is a great demand for white labor, and I fully recognize the importance of keeping it a white country."

Sir Wilfrid, with a few concluding remarks, then dismissed the deputation, greeting them individually as they left.

FENIAN RAID VETERANS. As the veterans of the Fenian Raid times entered the room Sir Wilfrid shook hands with each, asked their names and places of residence at the time of the raid. When all were seated the prime minister said he had not supposed there were so many veterans on the coast. Mr. Wilson remarked there were as many more in Vancouver.

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In presenting these matters for your consideration, the government is confident that they will be considered by you in the same broad spirit as has characterized your treatment of the transportation question in other parts of Canada.

The board has already brought under the attention of the government the importance of constructing a dry dock at Esquimalt sufficiently large to meet the increased requirements of commerce and of the navy. The government has been advised that the present dry dock being insufficient for these vessels.

Appended hereto is a copy of a memorandum which has already been presented to the government on this subject. The board believes that its position in this regard is strengthened of the government to maintain a wide dry dock at Esquimalt, with headquarters at Esquimalt.

Replying to Mr. Wilson, the premier said: "I have carefully read over the document presented to me by your board, but before you resume your seat, Mr. Wilson, let me say that I desire further information on two matters connected with this question, and which the board and the Indian question generally."

After reading the first two paragraphs of the memorial to the deputation, Sir Wilfrid asked the deputation to state the position of the Dominion government was simply the guardian of the Indians, and that the reserves belonged to the province. "Under the present constitution," he asked, "what is the course you want my government to take?"

Mr. Wilson: "We would like to have a settlement of the reserve question. I have already read over the document thrown open and at the same time have the Indians properly protected."

Sir Wilfrid: "But how is that to be done? So far the Indians have, unfortunately, based some of their claims upon the Dominion government."

As no further suggestions were forthcoming, the premier again pointed out the position of the province and the Dominion government, in regard to the Indian reserves.

"The Dominion government," he said, "is the guardian of the Indians, and it is the duty of the Dominion government to protect the crown takes care of the Indians' interests. My government will be pleased to do whatever is possible within the limits of the law, when the city and the provincial government can do anything of a definite nature, we will heartily second it."

LABOR'S REQUESTS. A deputation of the Trades and Labor Council presented the following petition to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, A. E. Sherk reading it: "The following memorial was presented by the council: Right Honorable Sir: This deputation from the Victoria Trades and Labor Council, which through its affiliated trades unions and labor organizations, represents the workers of this community and their interests, desires on their behalf, to extend to you most hearty greetings and a sincere welcome to this magnificent Dominion of our beautiful provincial capital, and to wish you a safe return from your journey through the Dominion back to the federal capital, and to hope that in many years, continue to enjoy perfect health and the goodwill of your fellow citizens."

The deputation is further directed to seek through the favor of this interview, to place before you their views on a question of great importance which affects the welfare of every citizen of this city and province. It is the unanimous opinion of the organized workers represented by this deputation that in order to insure an unquestioned pre-eminence of the Occidental races in this land of great opportunities and promise, that an effectual check must be maintained on immigration to this country of all Asiatic races, and for the purpose of attaining that object the acts, agreements and regulations governing same should, and must be, amended and adjusted from time to time as changed and changing conditions require.

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your days on earth and benefiting you both mentally and physically, but that it may also be the means of strengthening your hands in the performance of your duties to the glorious Dominion over which you have the honor to so ably preside.

We have the honor to remain, Sir, Your obedient servants and defenders, W. M. Wilson, president, 1131 Johnson street; H. A. Treen, secretary, 631 View street; John Franks, J. D. Brantley, J. Shrapnell, W. Handley, W. Gerrie, J. N. Jones, George Tite, George Black, W. Davis, Isaac Sumner, Thomas Williams, S. Cressel, C. H. Winckler, J. M. Gamble, R. H. Jameson, W. E. James, T. Luscombe, J. F. Beck, A. D. Dupont, J. C. Sproule, C. Brown, J. Fagard, Mcintosh, C. O'Brien, E. Martin, J. Dilworth.

Something Will Be Done. Sir Wilfrid who himself wears the Fenian Raid medal, in replying, said: "I had no idea so many veterans who fought to repel the indefensible attack on the provinces of Ontario and Quebec were in the west. To my knowledge, arms, who have brought the question up, I will say it is not easy of solution. After the South African war it was thought advisable that the returned soldiers should be rewarded. During '66 to '70, at the time of the Fenian Raid, the government of Sir John A. Macdonald was in office and dealt with the question."

"You state that some were killed and some were injured. The Government took care of the widows and the injured at the time and we are still paying some of the pensions, although they are as the years go on, becoming fewer. The re-opening of the question is one of difficulty. We have had it under consideration some months, and without making any promises I can say that something may be done."

"There are 25,000 veterans. I am myself, although there was no necessity for me to appear upon the field of battle, as, at the time we were ready to start, word arrived that the raid was over."

"As the question was settled forty years ago it is very difficult to re-open it, but it is apparently not settled as you would like it. I will make it my duty, certainly, to have your petition called to the attention of the Governor-General."

The deputation, after a few of its members had again approached the Prime Minister, withdrew.

RAINBOW SAILS FOR ESQUIMALT CRUISER INSPECTED BY ADMIRAL KINGSMILL

Lord Strathcona Presents Plate to the Officers of Canada's Warship.

(Special to the Times.) London, Aug. 18.—Admiral Kingsmill inspected the Canadian cruiser Rainbow, which sails from Portsmouth to-day on her long journey to Esquimalt. She is the first British warship in many years that has left port without a "Grog Tub." Practically all the crew are totalitarians but liberal messing arrangements have been made for them. Lord Strathcona has presented plate to the officers.

New Westminster, Aug. 17.—Considerable interest was shown in the meeting of the New Westminster city council, when the last installment of the report of the auditor (W. B. Cotsworth) was read. A large portion of the hall was filled by an expectant assemblage of citizens, and by the time the meeting commenced all sitting, a great number of the audience were on their feet to consider the report at a special meeting to be convened by the mayor.

The members present were Mayor Lee and Aldermen Johnson, Gray, Bryson, Smith, Gilly and Welch, and as they filed in they were received with rounds of applause.

It is important to give full weight to the fact that the financial troubles now being dealt with are far more caused by the system in vogue than by individual interests. The system of turning over city lots at accumulating profits is developing the city's difficulties. It is necessary to revert to W. Peacock's purchase of 3,142 for \$55 and its reversion to then Mayor Keary to demonstrate the loss then inflicted on the city by your present loose and unsatisfactory system which was left to the city by the late Mayor Keary.

"To avoid taking up too much of your valuable time, Sir, with words and knowing your thorough knowledge and touch with every detail in the history of our country, we have prepared the following short address, or memorial, which will suffice to lay the matter fully before you."

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"We feel, Sir, that our services at that most critical and strenuous period in the history of our glorious Dominion should merit the very highest commendation and appreciation of all those in authority and presiding over the destinies of our young and at the time, defenceless country, when there were none of Her Majesty's regular line regiments at hand so that her name appears on the tax sale book as getting the deed for the ex-mayor."

"I submit that it was improper for the mayor to buy that lot under those circumstances for \$75, when it should have reverted to the city, which would have recovered the \$58.35 by land sale, as paragraph 242 indicates should have been done."

The auditor goes on to describe how Mayor Keary got certain property for a price that meant a loss of \$100,000. Further on the auditor calls attention to the alteration of certain pencilled figures and remarks that the practice of leaving the "usual price" uncertain or without the safeguard of

being written in ink left him now without any means of tracing whether the council knew whether the amount referred to was made on the basis of \$1,500 or \$500, neither could it be proved who erased the \$1,500.

"I submit says the auditor in another place, 'that it is the lack of system rather than the men that is to be blamed.' Answering that his object is to end the combination of forces operating detrimentally against the city's permanent welfare, the auditor concludes: 'The great object we most aim at is to prevent such occurrences in the future, and even help those who have erred through not knowing better and to practice higher ideals of citizenship.'"

Continuing the auditor stated that Janitor Hoult was the one of between covering the deal to Sharp in one day for which he received \$1,500. The scene was a public sale and about three years after the sale and about three years after the sale. Please note that both the arrears and the interest on the arrears were paid by the buyer, Thomas Sharp, who has also had within exactly one year to the price of the city received.

Next to the readjusting increase of assessment already proposed it might be advised to consider the effect of the influx of the more developed South Westminister before it develops, but meantime the most beneficial source of revenue might best be gathered through a publicly commissioned efficient assessment commissioner to secure both the increasing population and the revenue. Another highly profitable and highly beneficial source of taxation could be derived by increasing the tax on real estate agents to displace the revenue now derived from the tax on real estate agents who are increasingly to prey upon newly developing cities. The 25-cent charge for the sale of real estate by the real estate agent should be increased to 50 cents, as that rate is charged by the land registry office, Burnaby municipality and the real estate agents themselves. The report concludes with suggestions of reform in the office of the auditor.

Paragraphs of the report were received with applause, and loud applause greeted the conclusion of its reading. The mayor then explained that the resolution of the council last week was that the report should be discussed by the council at that meeting, if they thought fit, and any person who could have the opportunity of addressing the council.

Ald. Johnson moved that the whole of the report be received and laid on the table for discussion, and any citizen who wished to reply to any matter referred to by the auditor be allowed the privilege of doing so. Several long letters were then read, rebutting some of the items in the auditor's report, and stating that the report should be received and the council open to an action at law.

Edward Hoult said he had been accused of doing "graft" under the British flag by Mr. Cotsworth. He had never done anything of the kind in his life. He proceeded to trace his land transactions, explaining that he had never made a bid at any auction since the time of the Fenian Raid. The property was put up at an upset price, when any citizen could buy, and people did buy from Vancouver, Alberta and elsewhere, and any person who saw why a citizen could not also buy.

In reply to Ald. Gray, the auditor read a letter he had sent to the superintendent of works exonerating him from any blame.

Ald. Gray asked whether the auditor said anything about the advisability of making a tax on land and exempting improvements.

"Certainly," replied the auditor, "I suggested that it was advisable to put more on and encourage people to make improvements."

Some further discussion ensued, during which it was suggested that the report should be considered clause by clause, and ultimately it was decided to consider it at a special meeting to be convened by the mayor.

LOCAL NEWS. The break in the long distance telephone cable, which occurred at a point between Shaw and San Juan streets, was repaired on Tuesday.

Fire Chief Thomas Davis will leave the first of next month for Stockton, Cal., where the fire chiefs' convention of the Pacific Coast will be held. The convention will be held at the city of Stockton, and the chief Deputy Fire Chief Stewart will have charge of the local fire department.

Permits have been granted by the clerk of the municipality of Oak Bay to Walter Millington for a story and a half house of six rooms, to be erected on Willows road by Wm. J. Drisdale, and to Ed. Codling for a five-roomed cottage on Bee street, to cost \$1,500.

Over 350 of the recent Vancouver Island book published by the provincial government for the Vancouver Island and Development League and by quantity, the book dealing with Victoria have been distributed among the delegates attending the Methodist conference.

On Monday evening next the owl patrol of Troop "B," Victoria Boy Scouts, will put on a high class entertainment in Christ Church hall, in honor of the first show of its nature held in the city, and it is hoped that it will be patronized by all who wish to help out Baden-Powell's great movement.

The amount of taxes collected by the City of Victoria for the month of July amounted to \$18,000. The amount which was collectable last July amounted to \$18,000. The amount which was collectable last July amounted to \$18,000.

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