

SUSPENSION IS
AT ONCE REMOVED

(Continued from page 1.)

"That Mr. Smith now finds himself in a position which is to be much regretted, is due solely to his refusal to, under any circumstances, vacate a position for which he has been from the first wholly unfitted. In favor of some position in which he might still do honorable service at a generous salary, and to his having weakly allowed himself to be made use of by Mr. Greig and other ill-advised persons for political purposes against the mayor of the city.

"If any further proof of my contention is still necessary to convince the aldermen of their too recent duty, I would refer them to this last, but not least development, the Dallas road sea wall, of which the original estimate of the engineer's department was \$74,000. On account of the engineer's error, it was referred to the provincial government engineer, who amended the plans and estimates to \$90,000. The present estimated cost of completing the work is \$135,500, necessitating a further by-law for the raising of an additional \$45,000 to complete the work.

"The responsibility of further retaining Mr. Smith's services now rests with the aldermen of the council. Alderman Langley moved to leave to introduce his by-law to appoint a superintendent of construction before the consideration of the mayor's letter, as the means of affording a solution of an unpleasant and difficult problem. He hoped the discussion would be carried on without the personal equation weighing, and that the council would take up the by-law.

Alderman W. F. Fullerton did not object if it was not to be used to draw a red herring across the trail, and so prevent the council securing their object, and he challenged the alderman with a change of front on this matter, must prevent the mayor from side-tracking the motion. (Hear, hear.) He thereupon formally moved a resolution reinstating the engineer, and cancelling the mayor's suspension.

Alderman Ross seconded. Alderman Langley moved in amendment, which Alderman Peden seconded, that the communication of the mayor (with reference to the engineer's suspension) should be laid on the table and taken up with his motion to introduce a by-law relating the matter, and that all communications from the mayor and city engineer to the council should also be discussed.

The amendment was carried on a show of hands, and the council then sent themselves back for the long debate.

Alderman Langley, in asking leave to introduce the by-law, said the council must put away two factors which might bias their judgment, first, hostility to the chair, and second, sentiment for the city engineer. After asking for a calm view in approaching the subject, he traversed the story of Mr. Smith's appointment, and declared that the salary offered was such as to tempt the man they needed. Mr. Smith was a man of strictest integrity, and painstaking qualities, but the task for which he had set himself was too big for him. There was an assistant engineer in the estimates for an assistant engineer, whom Mr. Smith had apparently not thought it necessary to appoint. The alderman passed on to contrast the position of the responsible engineers on the railways with the superintendent of construction, and his reform was to divide the department so that Mr. Smith should have charge of all engineering detail, and the superintendent of construction, of the construction of the work, to take action on the engineer's work and be responsible to the council for the construction going on in the city. Mr. Smith had shown lack of executive ability (interrupting Alderman Humber), but as to Mr. Astley, he was not impressed with him, nor was he committed to his appointment in any way should the position be created. Mr. Smith had been interested in his work here, and had met with all kinds of difficulties. (Applause from the public.)

The council then went into committee of the whole in order to discuss the charges against the engineer and the counter communications, and Alderman Okell rose to continue the debate.

At the outset the alderman said the engineer had been done a very grave injustice, and tactics had been resorted to throughout to bring the council to a frame of mind that the engineer was not competent. (Applause.) Taking up the mayor's charges he proceeded to deal with them serially. The alderman contained therein that this was not true. With that curious double meaning which the mayor could give to words, anyone could read into the comments the delicate insinuation that it was not the mayor who was responsible for faults, but the aldermen. "He produces to this council," said the speaker, "a private letter from one head of a department when he knew the position between the engineer and the council was amicably settled. Was this the proper method to pursue? The remarks, if they looked to the council, were rather advice than stripes. The whole object had been to make strife, and this the mayor had succeeded in doing.

Taking the charges in order, he passed comments on them from time to time, defending the sewerage plans prepared by Mr. Smith, and showing that the engineer could not force the gas company to deposit plans in opening up streets, for the simple reason that the council had practically no control over them, although within a month of his taking up his appointment Mr. Smith had drawn the attention of Mr. Gowdard to the question of the thickness of the concrete base on Quadra street corner. In defence, Alderman Okell declaring that the engineer's explanation was quite true, and it was grossly unfair in dealing with the street work to introduce other streets which had been done before Mr. Smith came here. The mayor ought to come down and shake hands with the engineer, and apologize for his remarks about the cost of inspection. It had been shown that his state-

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ment of \$7,000 a month ought to have been \$2,000.

The last paragraph about petty mistakes truly expressed the condition of affairs, for after all he would leave the council to judge if the allegations were not petty. (Hear, hear.) "I maintain," he said, "that his worship has not done his duty to the citizens of Victoria." He had set the officials at one another for political capital, and has at almost every council meeting brought up matters in which he blamed the engineer. His worship had played an underhand game from the time Mr. Smith came to the town.

Alderman Okell concluded with quoting Lincoln's dictum "You can fool some of the people all of the time, all the people some of the time, but you can't fool all the people all the time" (laughter and applause), and you, Mr. Mayor, will find that out at the coming election.

In answer to a query from the speaker, the mayor would not admit that on any occasion he had said Mr. Smith was a good engineer and capable for his office. "I stand for what is right and proper, and Mr. Smith has neither received justice or a square deal from you," ended the speaker.

Alderman Peden followed. He took the charges in turn. Differences of opinion must exist between city official, he said, and Victoria was no exception. Mr. Smith had endeavored to bring order out of chaos, and in so much work there must be some mistakes. Who was a better man to appoint to supervise the Ross Bay wall than the man who had drawn the plans? Mr. Case's connection with the Pacific Coast Construction Company had not been allowed to interfere with his duty to the council. The allegations in that connection he termed "unfounded and unjustifiable," and with the mass of work in the department it might be regarded as the solution of Alderman Langley to appoint an engineer of construction.

Alderman Moresby was sarcastic throughout. His worship had been pleased to pit his legal knowledge against that of the speaker, who had been 15 years at the bar. His worship was a jack of all trades and master of none. (Laughter.) Even Alderman Peden, who had of all men, tried to work with the mayor, had come to the conclusion on this matter which they had all reached. Every council had ended as that had. It was impossible to work satisfactorily with Mayor Morley, whose opinions they must take or leave. He for one was not going to leave a good business to sit any more at that council board after the way in which public business was carried on, and he vilified the mayor. As a lawyer he would not like to present a case like the mayor's for the judgment of the jury. Turning to the chair he said: "The whole charges breathe the spirit of vindictiveness." Those charges were one of the most vindictive pieces of literature ever collected, and everyone could see the underhand methods by which they have been collected. The mayor set out to make a case from any material he could get together. (Applause.) For his own part as an alderman the more he had seen of Mr. Smith's work the more satisfied he was with him.

Referring to the introduction of Mr. Astley, he said caustically: "If you went the limit, then you proposed to bring in a man 63 years of age, getting a salary of \$4,000 a year, over Mr. Smith. Was not that true?"

The Mayor—it is not true. Alderman Moresby—Then just tell us the correct facts. The Mayor—it is not my business to do so.

Turning to the audience and speaking to them rather than the aldermen, the speaker observed: "And that is the conduct we get on all occasions from the mayor. This is the kind of harmony he shows." Alderman Bishop came next. They ought rather to praise than to blame the engineer, considering the amount of work that had been done, and it was no part of the mayor's work to make mistakes in the work of an official. He was satisfied that inquiry would show the mayor was wrong. If the mayor was not blinded by prejudice he would see the sympathy of the citizens was with Mr. Smith. The scheme of Alderman Langley, he was afraid was a method of ousting Mr. Smith. What did they want in Victoria with an engineer of construction when the bulk of the department's work was taken up with paving contracts?

Alderman H. M. Fullerton explained at the outset that he came to the council with an open mind, and the mayor had soon taken him in hand to set his mind against Mr. Smith. While not satisfied at first with the work of the department, as time went on he had been more pleased with the engineer, and in his confidence he was the right man in the position.

He instanced the way in which the engineer had stood out for a standard specification for paving and had in this manner saved the city a large sum of money. They ought to remember they had an army of 2,500 men at work

on the streets, and under Mr. Smith they had been able to pay higher wages and get more systematic work done. (Applause.) The mayor had each year been launching big schemes, flying huge balloons and had neglected the details of administration. If the charges advanced by the mayor were true, he ought not to have held that office and permitted matters to go on so. It only required a little working together to put matters on a fair basis among the officials. The mayor's strictures on Mr. Worswick had not been justified. The trouble of the whole matter was that the city had been endeavoring in two years to make up for the sleep of forty, and the mass of work had involved some mistakes. It was remarkable that they had been able to do so much with the disadvantages under which Mr. Smith had acted.

Alderman Ross said the public knew the facts thanks to the newspapers, and, given a chance, Mr. Smith would justify himself.

Alderman Gleason thought from his experience of the council that there had been a number of mistakes made. He was in favor of an engineer of construction being appointed to assist in the management of the department. The aldermen must admit that the condition of Quadra and Courtney streets, and other places, were not what they should be. The department lacked organization, and that would be given by the by-law of Alderman Langley.

Alderman W. F. Fullerton explained that Alderman Gleason had kept his complaints as chairman of the streets committee to himself, instead of bringing them before the council. Whoever was appointed superintendent of construction, unless he was Mayor Morley's nominee, he would be placed in just the same position as Mr. Smith. The mayor wished to dominate the council, which was a one man affair. He wished to play the officials against one another as he liked, but there was one man behind him (pointing to Chief Davis, who smiled), whom even the mayor could do nothing with. (Applause.) He could not stand for Mr. Astley's appointment. So long as the mayor acted squarely he had supported him, but he had alienated every man with whom he had to do during his association in Victoria.

Alderman Humber breathed into his denunciation of his worship a passionate eloquence which was greeted with cheers from the audience. He would leave town if the citizens elected the mayor to office again. He denominated "this man," as he termed his worship in the bitterest language, and even left his chair to address the gathering, for he spoke to the wider field than aldermen, and said the mayor wished to drive the engineer out of his job, for by ruining his professional reputation he brought the engineer to disaster.

The following letter was then read from the engineer:

"Gentlemen: It occurs to me that the ratepayers of the city of Victoria are becoming weary of the controversy that has been so persistently carried on by the mayor in laying charges against the engineer and the engineering department, and my replies thereto, and I wish to point out that if his worship so desires he can take up the whole of his own and the greater part of my time in laying further charges, all of which I candidly believe can be satisfactorily explained if your honorable body considers it in the best interests of the ratepayers for me to do so, and practically neglect the great public work so well under way and requiring the whole of my time in order that your interests shall be fully protected. When we consider that Victoria has undertaken such a large expenditure of public funds, it seems ridiculous that this constant wrangling should retard or in any way jeopardize the faithful performance of the work, and I feel that nothing can be gained by a continuance of the criticisms and explanations thereto, most of which any reasonable-minded person would term 'petty' to say the least.

"I therefore propose to continue to render the citizens of Victoria my best services until such time as the people, whom I look upon as fair and honorable, tell me they are not satisfied with my system of conducting the engineering department. If I fail to give satisfaction, I shall then be ready to seek other employment, but in the meantime I trust that you will see your way clear to render all possible assistance to clear away a great deal of the work before the winter rains set in. It is not pleasant to feel that spies are trailing one almost night and day, and I trust that you will further assist me to maintain the dignity of the profession of which I fortunately or unfortunately at this time enjoy the respect."

The mayor offered no reply, though he had frequently interjected remarks during the speeches.

The committee then rose and reported progress, and Alderman Langley voted for the following motion, which was carried unanimously, after being assured that his by-law would be considered at the next meeting of the council.

"That this committee expresses itself as of the opinion that the suspension of the city engineer is wholly unwarranted and, further, that the engineer be at once reinstated in office."

EXTENDING WATER

MAINS AT NANAIMO

Council Decides to Lay Pipes Outside the City Limits

Nanaimo, Oct. 27.—At the regular meeting of the city council the city engineer submitted the following report on the subject of extension of water mains outside the city limits: "In connection with the extension of water mains outside the city limits from Pine street to Wakelash park, where originally it was proposed to lay a one and a half-inch main the whole distance. It has been requested that a four-inch main be laid to Price's corner, a distance of 1,100 feet from the

city limits on Pine street, and from Price's corner to Wakelash park a one and a half-inch main be laid. The extension for the smaller main to be done by the residents in that section, a distance of 1,800 feet. It has also been requested to have the water supply extended with a one and a half-inch service on Pine street, south to Westworth street, to supply two new houses on the new building estate known as Westmount. The estimated cost is as follows: Pine street to Price's corner, 1,100 feet, four-inch wood pipe, \$380; four-inch steel pipe, \$740; four-inch cast iron pipe, \$890; Price's corner to Wakelash park, 1,800 feet, one and a half-inch galvanized pipe, \$260; Westworth street south to Westmount, 800 feet, one and a half-inch galvanized pipe, \$150."

Mayor Planta reminded the council it had already decided to install an inch pipe, giving a water service to the residents on the Five Acre Lots, but he would advise a four-inch pipe be laid, as the cost of laying would be no more than for a four-inch pipe.

Ald. Wilson raised a strenuous objection to the taxpayers of Nanaimo being taxed to furnish large water mains to the residents outside the city limits. Ald. Bushby remarked he was in favor of the proposal to supply outsiders with water, as he considered the city had water to sell and it was a business proposition.

Ald. Busby moved, seconded by Ald. Fletcher, a four-inch steel water main be constructed from Pine street to Mr. Price's corner on the Five Acre Lots. The motion carried.

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WILL ERECT NEW OFFICES.

Montreal, Oct. 28.—Tenants in the Royal Trust Company's building next to the Bank of Montreal have received notice to leave on May 1. It is announced that the building is to be demolished and that a large ten-story structure is to replace it. The Royal Trust Company and the Bank of Montreal are two closely allied institutions and it is highly probable that a new building will be erected to be devoted solely to the Bank of Montreal and the trust company, both of which are in need of additional accommodation. The price paid for this building by the Royal Trust Company three years ago was \$280,000, but it is said

that \$100,000 a foot or \$1,000,000 could not now purchase the site.

Denver, Colo., Oct. 28.—Denver society occupied boxes last night and saw Frank Gotch, champion wrestler of the world, defeat Jess Westergaard of Denver, in straight falls in an exhibition bout. The Gotch party left last night for Salt Lake.

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