TAXES FOR THE CITY

Committee of Fifty Suggest Revenue From the Large Commercial Institutions.

Posts to Pay Compensation for Their Nuisance—Personal Property and Income Rates.

At the last meeting of the Committee of Fifty the sub-committee on taxation presented the following interesting report:

To the Citizens' General Committee of Fifty:

Gentlemen,—Your sub-committee on revenue and taxation have in reply to their enquiries been favored with correspondence and municipal reports of the cities of Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto, Hamilton, Montreal, Halifax and St. John, N. B., and expect shortly to receive further information from various British municipalities, with whom they have corresponded, all of which will be gladly placed at your disposal. As the result of our deliberations we beg to report as follows (Mr. John Taylor alone dissenting):

First—That steps be taken to obtain from the provincial government the collection of personal property and income taxes, said taxes to become part and parcel of the city revenue.

Second—That an increased revenue could be advantageously obtained by the readjustment of liquor licenses now in force.

Third—That variety theatres and music halls pay a license of $500 per annum in place of $100 as at present.

Fourth—That gas companies and electric light companies pay a license of $1,000 per annum in place of $100 as at present.

Fifth—That telephone companies pay an annual license or tax of $2 on each instrument installed, used or rented within the city limits.

Sixth—That marine, life and guarantee insurance companies should pay annual license.

Seventh—That private banks, that is, institutions or companies receiving money on deposit and allowing interest thereon, pay a license.

Eighth—That private clubs, where liquor is dispense, pay a license.

Ninth—That the license at present paid by breweries be increased.

Tenth—That a license be imposed on each of the following professions: Doctors, lawyers, dentists, engineers and architects.

Eleventh—That a license of $2 per annum be charged for each bicycle owned and used within the city limits, and that license tags be furnished by the city and attached to each bicycle. Proceeds of this tax to be expended in the construction and maintenance of bicycle paths within the city.

Twelfth—That general retail traders pay the following licenses: When annual sales do not exceed $20,000, $10 per annum; when exceeding $20.000 and not over $40,000, $25 per annum; when exceeding $40,000 and not over $60,000, $50 per annum; when exceeding $60,000 and over, $100 per annum.

Pedlars' license same as now in force ($40), each pedlar to receive a license badge and wear same when occupied in peddling. That fakirs and quack medicine vendors pay a higher license than now in force.

Thirteenth—That permission be obtained to collect a special tax of a given amount on each pole now standing, or in future erected by any tramway or other company, in or on the streets within the city limits; said tax to be determined and calculated in proportion to the net earnings of said company.

Fourteenth—That a more practical system should be adopted in the collection of the present revenue and road and dog taxes, i.e., each person liable to pay said taxes should be duly served with a notice demanding payment on or before a given date; in default summary steps should be promptly taken. In taking the provincial voters' list for a guide it is estimated that more than one-half of the taxes due to the city from these sources remain annually uncollected.

Fifteenth—That we strongly recommend the city to take early steps to borrow sufficient funds necessary to actively prosecute the permanent improvement of the principal streets of the city under the Local Improvement By-Law, the funds to be borrowed on the credit of the city as a whole; properties fronting on said permanent improvements to be taxed as to two-thirds of the cost, payable in ten annual instalments, leaving the city responsible for the remaining one-third.

Respectfully submitted,

SIDNEY J. PITTS,
Chairman.
SIMON LEISER.
W. J. PENDRAY,
H. M. GRAHAME,
Secretary.

NEED OF A MINT.

Citizens' Committee Show How It Would Promote Trade in British Columbia.

The sub-committee on the proposal for the establishment of a mint in this city presented the following report at the last meeting of the Committee of Fifty:

Gentlemen,—Your sub-committee, appointed for the purpose of enquiring into the advisability of the establishment of a mint in the city of Victoria, after looking into the question as carefully as circumstances would permit, desire to report as follows:

1. That there should be established in British Columbia a mint for the purchase of the vast quantities of gold which undoubtedly will be brought out from the gold fields of the Yukon country and from different parts of the province during the season of 1899 and following years.

2. That by the establishment of such an institution such facilities would be offered to the miner to dispose of his gold that would eventually result in the great bulk of the precious metal which is mined in Canada being disposed of in Canada, instead of being taken out of the country to be sold in other lands, as it has been in the past.

3. That from enquiries your committee has made it has been ascertained that gold dust to the value of $300,000 was purchased by one bank during the summer of 1898 from miners who were induced to sell it in Victoria, and that in nearly every instance where a miner has sold his gold in the city he has spent some of the proceeds with our merchants in purchasing goods, and in some cases has finally decided to make this city his home.

4. That in the opinion of this committee the place for the establishment of such a mint is the city of Victoria, for the following reasons amongst others:

(a.) It is the capital of the province.

(b.) It is in most cases the first and last port of call in Canada for all ocean-going boats leaving the United States for the gold fields.

(c.) It is in many instances the only port of call in Canada for American vessels returning by way of the West Coast or ocean route from the gold fields.

(d.) The office of an assistant receiver-general of Canada is located in Victoria, being the only one west of Winnipeg.

(e.) There is now—the property of the Dominion government—suitable premises for the purposes of a mint in the old post office building.

5. That owing to the city of Victoria being the last and only port of call in Canada for many of the vessels returning with gold from the North, it is obviously the best point for diverting the stream of gold from going out of Canada.

6. That resolutions of the provincial legislature and of the British Columbia board of trade and a report of the finance committee of the city council of Victoria, all in favor of the establishment of a mint in this province, have been already forwarded to Ottawa.

7. That this committee considers that it is of the greatest importance to the welfare of the province, and to the city of Victoria in particular, that this matter should be dealt with by the proper authorities as quickly as possible, so that in case it is favorably considered, and the establishment of such an institution assured, steps may be taken to properly advertise the fact throughout the gold producing districts of the North in time for the output of the season of 1899.

Dated at Victoria this 28th day of December, 1898.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

H. A. MUNN, Chairman.
W. H. LANGLEY, Secretary.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES.

His Subserviency to Mr. Martin the Chief Fact Against Him in the Campaign.

The Rossland Record has the following to say regarding Mr. Hume's chances of re-election:

"Hon. J. Fred. Hume, minister of mines, candidate for re-election in the Nelson riding, is being weighed in the balance, and is liable to be found wanting, on account of the action of his party in passing the alien placer act. The Ashcroft Journal says no one could be elected in the Cassiar district who would favor such legislation, and the fact whether or not such a person can be elected in the Nelson riding will be demonstrated on the 14th of this month.

"A miner, who is a Canadian, by the way, came in from Nelson and Ymir last evening and says there is a fight being made against Mr. Hume's re-election because he favored the passage of the alien mining act, and that he hopes and believes Hume will be defeated. He says further that Mr. Farwell, Mr. Hume's opponent, is very much opposed to such legislation, and that is what miners, prospectors and mining men generally want in a member of the legislature. He goes further and claims what is to the interest of the mining people is undoubtedly to the interest of the merchant and other business men, and that many of them will lay down their political and personal preference and vote for the candidate who holds the right views upon this important question."

The Nelson Daily Miner says of Mr. Hume and his candidacy:

"The election will soon be on. Mr. Farwell's canvass is most encouraging, and fairly complete. But few remain who are apparently still hesitating between the candidates. The Miner, which has no interests but those of Kootenay and the province, is strongly impressed with the conviction that the Nelson riding would make a great mistake in electing Mr. Hume. Not that Mr. Hume is personally in any way objectionable, but because we would be committing ourselves to the dangerous course pursued by those in whose hands Mr. Hume is but potter's clay.

"Mr. Martin, who dominates the cabinet, learning nothing from experience, is endeavoring to rule with that offensive assumption of superiority which wore out the patience of his Manitoba friends and drove him from the political life of that province. While running his race nothing will be permitted to interfere with his progress. Customs, precedents, the constitution itself, must be made to bend to his will. The success of such a man can only be secured by revolution dangerously approximating to anarchy. It should be the duty of every elector to aid in destroying an influence that it and always has been distinctly bad.

"But in this riding we have also to consider our material interests. Mr. Hume is the putative father, but Mr. Martin is the real one, of regulations and legislation calculated to very seriously prejudice the mining interests of Kootenay. The man who would permit himself to be used for such purpose cannot be a fit representative of the miners of Nelson riding. Should we elect Mr. Hume we may expect at the next session to see the alien placer legislation supplemented by an alien quartz legislation. To-day we exclude Canadians from the Atlin country, to-morrow we will exclude them from the Kootenay. That will mean a sudden collapse of mining development in this country. It will mean the supplishment of much capital.

"Do the electors think this would be a good thing for Kootenay's mining industry? And a blow at mining is a blow at every industry and interest in the country, for all depend on its development. This is too serious a matter to be made the plaything of sentiment, and as practical citizens working for our own as well as the country's good we should consider it our bounden duty to elect Mr. Farwell, an abler man than his opponent, and whose election would be accepted as a protest against mischievous and dangerous legislation."

THAT CRY OF "WOLF."

Was Just a Plain Dog and Hungry That Caused the Alarm.

"Being interested to some extent in Alaska, Atlin and the Yukon country, I am much distressed," said a just-returned Klondike investor yesterday, "lest that fearful story of Klondikers being attacked by wolves may cause our American friends to abandon all hope of entering a country so filled with terrors and difficulties, they having already shown great nervousness over the Martin exclusion bill.

"According to the story, the men had to beat the wolves off with clubs. It is evident then that a person facing this fearful journey must first of all provide himself with a stout club, which will add considerably to the weight of his outfit. A large number of these clubs will be required probably, and our enterprising Americans ought to prepare themselves for the heavy demand. Or is it possible that there wolves may have been secretly trained by the N.W.M.P. to scare the Americans out of the country in the event of the Martin exclusion bill failing to do so?

"In order to relieve the minds of my American friends, I will tell you the truth about this wolf story, although I do so in fear and trembling, and pray earnestly that my friends in Seattle may not discover the truth teller. I shall surely be shot, like the poor wolf, on my next visit to that bombastic little town, if discovered.

"Some time since a person let several of his Mackenzie river dogs loose below Big Salmon river, as he was unable to get food for them, and they having evidently fared badly since desired to make friends with a party of American Klondikers on their way out. No doubt the poor Canadian dogs thought that as the Americans were carrying large sacks of gold out of their own dear Canada, they would at least treat them to a meal when they camped.

"On this occasion there were three or four dogs. No clubs were used. The dogs did not attack the men. The men got into a neighboring cabin as quickly as possible, and there, borrowing all the available firearms, sallied bravely forth to attack what they regarded as a terrible band of wolves.

"The poor dogs, heartbroken at such a reception, fled. No shot was fired.

"The next day, January 24, at noon, one of the poor misguided creatures, still believing the Americans owed him a meal, came bravely through the snow across the river and approached a large party of men and dog sleighs—three sleighs and nine men, all within three hundred yards.

"Here the poor creature met his fate, and instead of the food he so evidently required he received an American bullet in the leg, and later another in the head. His murderers cut off his tail and passed it off as wolf, but many witnesses have examined the carcase and declare it a dog."

VAN ANDA ORE.

Steamer Clayoquot Brings Down a Shipment for the Tacoma Smelter.

The steamer Clayoquot, Capt. Magnesen, reached Victoria last evening from Texada with 50 tons of copper-gold ore from the Marble Bay mine, consigned to the smelter at Tacoma. Capt. Magnesen reports that the smelter site is being cleared, and there is quite a force of men working on the Van Anda. The Clayoquot sailed at 4 o'clock this morning for Tacoma.

LIPTON SPREADS HIMSELF.

London, Feb. 13.—Sir Thos. Lipton, the challenger for the America's cup, has purchased, it is reported, the magnificent steam yacht Aejusa for £80,000, on which he will entertain a large company during the races for the cup.

WEST COAST MINES,

Eastern Capitalists to Inspect the Iron Properties on Barclay Sound.

Col. Hayes and His Associates Leave on the Queen City on a Visit to Their Mine.

The mines on the West Coast of Vancouver Island are receiving an unusual amount of attention from capitalists at the present time and the prediction so often made last fall that the Island would this summer be a strong rival of Kootenay as a mining district is in a fair way to being realized. Hardly a week passes without news being published of prospectors having bonded or sold their properties to mining operators, who in turn get capital interested in them. Seldom does a steamer leave port for the coast without carrying one or more men going down to inspect mining properties and there is a constant stream on the coach line from Nanaimo to Alberni.

Never, however, have parties gone down who have done and who contemplate doing so much for the coast mines as the gentlemen who left last evening on the steamer Queen City. There were two parties.

Col. Hayes and a party from Portland, who own what is known as Hayes' mine on Alberni Canal, the first mine on the Island to ship ore, went down to have a look over their property.

The other party was composed of Eastern capitalists and men from Port Angeles, who hope to see a blast furnace and all the accompanying industries established in the ambitious little city across the Straits. The party is composed of Mr. W. C. Cronemeyer, known in the East as "the father of the tinplate industry in the United States." A. L. Conner, his mechanical engineer; Dr. Hart and W. C. Soles of McKeesport, Pa., and Col. James S. Coolican and John Cain, the two men who have worked for years to push Port Angeles to the front. They are bound for Barclay Sound to make a personal inspection of the iron properties bonded a few months ago by Mr. William Wilson, Capt. John Irving and other Victorians to Mr. Lauck, who is interested with the gentlemen now here. It will be remembered that at the same time they bonded the properties at Rivers Inlet owned by Mr. Henry Saunders and others and it is probable that upon their return from the coast a trip will be taken to Rivers Inlet.

Mr. Cronemeyer is a German by birth but has spent the greater portion of his life in the United States. He was the first to establish tin plate works in the United States and since doing so has acted as general manager of the Pioneer Works at Demler, Pa. These works have been taken over by the big trust recently formed and when the negotiations were closed Mr. Cronemeyer decided to take a trip West. He said in an interview yesterday that he had about decided to locate somewhere on the Straits, feeling that in the West there were greater opportunities for his sons. Mr. Lauck upon his return East had given such a flatering account of the mines of the West Coast of Vancouver Island that he had decided to see them for himself. There were no settled plans as yet as to what was to be done, but from the reports received it seemed that there was an opening for iron works on the Sound. Of course the first thing to do would be to establish a blast furnace. This would be kept busy supplying the pig material used on the Coast, and if it was a success the other kindred industries such as steel and tin works, would follow in due course.

Mr. Cronemeyer and his party came over on a special steamer from Port Angeles yesterday. They were accompanied by Messrs J. C. Atkinson and C. A. Cushing of Boston, Mass., and Joseph Wolf and John Lehman of Portland. Messrs. Atkinson and Cushing are interested in the Port Angeles Eastern Railway Company, a meeting of which was held yesterday morning when Mr. Cushing was elected president. The Port Angeles people say that they are going to have that railway and they think the British Columbia Board of Trade made a great mistake in declining to recommend that a bonus be paid the company to run a ferry to Victoria.

PECULIAR AND PERTINENT.

The palms of the hands and the soles of the feet are composed of cushions of fat, in order that no injury may be done to the muscles and bones underneath by sudden jolts or violent blows.

An "ice-creeper," for wear on the shoes in slippery streets, has been invented by an American lady. It has small steel teeth to pierce the ice as the wearer walks, and can be applied to the sole in 10 seconds.

Temper, says an authority, has immense influence on the tone of the singing voice. An ill-natured of querulous perso nwill invariably have a cat-like quality in the voice, which is perceptible in singing quite as much as in speaking.

Newly formed lakes, canals, etc., often become mysteriously populated with fish. This is believed to be effected by birds which, having been feeding on fish spawn elsewhere, alight on the new waters and drop some of the spawn from their bills.

The policemen of the City of Mexico are being taught English.

Women are employed as letter carriers in several districts of France.

SIX DAY HORROR.

San Francisco, Feb. 13.—To-night 18 men started on their long journey in the great international six-day race at the Mechanic's Pavilion, under the auspices of the American Racing Association of New York and San Francisco.

She Used the Reliable Diamond Dyes.

Results were Satisfactory and Pleasing

For Carpet and Rug Makers Diamond Dyes Mean Success and Profit

Having a Carpet to make and a good deal of coloring to do, I thought I would give the Diamond Dyes a trial. I used them, and they produced most beautiful colors, and I was pleased with the effects in the Carpet. I am a farmer's wife, and after this will use only the Diamond Dyes.

MRS. NELSON WOOD,
Campbellford, Ont.

SCOVILL-WALSH.

W. D. Scovill and Miss Louisa Walsh Married Last Week.

At the Metropolitan Methodist church last Wednesday evening Rev. J. C. Speer united in marriage Mr. W. D. Scovill and Misss Louisa Walsh, daughter of Mr. Isaac Walsh. Misses Sarah Walsh and Sarah Scovill, the latter of Kamloops, attended the bride, and the groom was supported by Mr. James Walsh. The bride was charmingly attired in white. Her bridal veil, extending over the train of her gown, was caught up with orange blossoms. She carried a shower bouquet of lillies of the valley and chrysanthemums, tied with white satin ribbon. Her bridesmaids looked very pretty in blue nun's veiling dresses, carrying bouquets of white flowers.

After the ceremony the bridal party returned to the home of the bride's parents, where a reception awaited them.

The gifts received were as follows:

Mr. and Mrs. D. Spencer, photo. album.
Mr. and Mrs. C. Spencer, chocolate set.
The Ladies' True Blues, sterling silver bread tray.
Men employees of Smith's factory, antique oak sideboard.
Lady employees of Smith's factory, rocking chair.
Mr. and Mrs. M. Baker, silver tea pot.
Mr. and Mrs. Bullen, silver napkin rings.
Mr. and Mrs. Roach, silver biscuit jar.
Mr. and Mrs. J. McKay Smith, of Vancouver, jardiniere.
Miss Alice Scovill, of Kamloops, china dinner set.
Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Walsh, of Vancouver, marble and bronze clock.
Mr. and Mrs. James Brown, of Nanaimo, silver sugar bowl.
Mr. and Mrs. J. Walsh, silver cruet.
Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Smith, hand-painted bureau set.
Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Walsh, silver table and teaspoons.
Miss Clark, silver berry spoon.
Mr. and Mrs. C. Steer, hand-painted berry set.
Mr. and Mrs. John Walsh, hand-painted china tea set.
Miss Steer, silver sugar spoon and butter knife.
Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Brown, 5 o'clock tea table.
Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Grice, lamp.
Mr. and Mrs. Copeland, lamp.
Mr. and Mrs. Smith, water set.
Mr. and Mrs. T. Grice, water set.
Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Grice, lamp.
Miss Telefson, cheese dish.
Mr. and Mrs. McConnell, landscape painting.
Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Ledingham, flower stand.
Mr. and Mrs. Chislette, card receiver.
Bessie and Maudie Ledingham, cake basket.
James Walsh, silver butter dish.
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffs, flower stand.
Sarah Walsh, lemonade set.
Ernest Walsh, glass table set.
Mrs. James Brown, splasher.
Grace Walsh, tea urn.

COPPER AND GOLD.

Boundary Country Destined to Become Very Productive—Mother Lode Property

From the Rossland Miner.

James D. Sword, the well known mining engineer, returned yesterday from an extended trip in the Boundary country. Mr. Sword visited Greenwood, Summit, Deadwood and Wellington.

While in Deadwood he visited the celebrated Mother Lode, the foremost mine in the camp. The shaft is down to a depth of 200 feet, and a station is being cut at that level. The shaft, which is one of the finest in British Colmbia, has been driven in what is apparently a chute of ore continuous from the surface to its present level. The values of the ore, which are principally copper and gold, are in the neighborhood of $17 per ton. It is the intention of the company to open the property on a laege scale and every requirement in the way of machinery has been purchased with that view. The property is under the management of F. Keffer, mining engineer with Mr. Johns as superintendent. Another, presumably on the same ledge as the Mother Lode, is the Sunset. A crosscut is being driven on this property under the superintendence of Mr. Macfarline, M.E., of Ottawa. The other properties of this camp, namely, the Marguerite and Golconda and others, are undergoing development.

In the Summit camp a good many prospects are being developed. The best developed property, the B. C., was recently purchased by Eastern Canadian capitalists for a large sum. Mr. Sword inspected the upper levels and stated that no other mine in British Columbia with a similar quantity of development work can show such a large quantity of copper ore in sight. The development, as at present shown, has been well carried out. There is one thing noticeable and that is that a property of such promise should have much better mining appliances than those which are now provided. There appears to be an unbroken ore chute of 300 feet in length and the ore is for the most part a clean chalcopyrite. The other properties, which, from surface indication, rank with the B. C., are unfortunately lying idle. These are the Emma and the Rio Dinero.

At the Greenwood camp there is considerable development work in progress. On the Old Ironsides a crosscut is being run to connect with the shaft. The plant on this property is being increased, and the extensive development now in progress will be kept steadily up. On the Knob Hill a force is at work rising on the ore from the face of the tunnel to the surface. A large quantity of ore nas been dumped outside of the tunnel, and, contrary to the usual rule of prospects, the ore dump far exceeds in size the waste.

Messrs. Mann & Mackenzie own among other claims the following properties: Stemwinder, Standard, Brooklyn and Montezuma. These are under the management of Frank Robbins, M.E. The Brooklyn and Stemwinder are now being opened. On the Brooklyn the shaft has attained a depth of 150 feet and the vein is being crosscut on the 150-foot level with most satisfactory results. On the Stemwinder the new shaft has been sunk to a depth of 100 feet, and it is Mr. Robbins' intention to crosscut the vein at a depth of about 150 feet. The ore on both these properties is copper pyrites, carrying good value in gold and a small amount in silver. Both these properties promise to become great mines, and, in Mr. Sword's opinion, Greenwood is certain to become a very large producer of gold-copper ore.

At the Rawhide a tunnel is being driven to tap the vein. Beyond those mentioned no other extensive work is being done other than in the way of assessment work in the Greenwood camp.

In the Wellington camp the Brandon & Golden Crown and the Winnipeg companies are carrying on development on their properties. In the properties of the latter a depth of 300 feet has been attained. Some very rich ore is being taken out of the properties of both companies. The ore in appearance closely resembles the Rossland product.

Business in Greenwood City appears to be very brisk, and there is reason to believe that another boom similar to that experienced in Rossland, will take place there during the coming summer. There is a great deal of travel to and from Greenwood City, and it is remarkable that in a promising town of such size that there should not be better restaurant accommodation.

In conclusion, Mr. Sword expressed himself as being much surprised at the wonderful progress made in the development of this district of mining camps, each of which contain several properties which have the ear-marks of good mines.

The advance in copper, Mr. Sword says, should further stimulate mining in this district, which is destined to become a great producer of that metal. Mr. Sword believes, however, that the sudden rise in copper is due to over speculation rather than to an increased demand.

It is stated that the number of cardholders in the Boston public library—75,000—is greater than that claimed by any other city in the world.

The Syracuse academy of medicine has declared that it shall be a misdemeanor for any fellow of the academy to contract to treat the members of a society.

THE COUNCIL MEETING

Aldermanic Qualification to Be Subject of Investigation by City Solicitor.

Permanent Sidewalk Limits to Be Fixed by By-Law—A New Chemical in Sight.

Aldermanic qualifications were among the principal business considered by the council last evening. This was brought up by a resident who objected to be represented by any man not possessing the requisite cash balance, and stating that he proposed to have damages to the tune of $50 a day out of the goods and chattels of the offending members. As there "were others" supposed to be in the same boat, so to speak, it was resolved to investigate the affairs of all and sundry.

The business on file first dealt with was a letter from Erskine, Wall & Co., protesting that the tender for supplies for the Old Men's Home had not been awarded to the lowest tenderer.

Like Banquo's ghost, the matter of the city engineer's dismissal will not down, as the following letter shows:

His Worship the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, City:

Sir,—As acting counsel for the city in the litigation pending between it and the water works contractors, I deem it my duty to protest against the action of the council in dismissing the engineer, Mr. Wilmot.

This gentleman was the engineer in charge during the critical part of the construction, and by the contract his decision as to matters in difference was to be final, and, of course, no successor can have power in the matter, as the contract is at an end.

The litigation involves the sum of $25,000, as this is the amount claimed by the contractors, and Mr. Wilmot's evidence is indispensable to the city. I believe that if the council were as fully aware as I am of the importance of this evidence they would not have taken the step that they did, but would have strained a point if necessary to retain him in office for that reason if for no other. Perhaps it may not be too presumptuous for me to express the hope that under the circumstances the council will see fit to reconsider their determination or to reappoint Mr. Wilmot upon such terms as may be agreed upon. I may add that the contractors in the suit are challenging Mr. Wilmot's competency, both as engineer and arbitrator, and it is important that the council should not by any act of theirs give color to the position taken by the contractors. I have the honor to be, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

GORDON HUNTER.

This letter was simply filed.

J. G. Tiarks stated that the city clerk examine the records as to the financial qualifications of certain of the aldermen. A notice was also enclosed that Mr. Tiarks had instructed his lawyer to proceed against Ald. Vigelius for his for each vote he had given at the board, he not being duly qualified. The city solicitor will be asked to look into the financial standing of all the aldermen, as well as His Worship.

The secretary of the Committee of Fifty (Mr. G. H. Barnard) returned the draft of alterations proposed in the Municipal Act; also the amendments which the committee thought advisable thereto.

A complaint was made as to the condition of the corner of Johnson street, which will be looked into by the proper official. The poundkeeper informed the council that he had been gored while he was attempting to carry out his duties, and asked that the council provide him with another horse; in answer to which it was decided to do so at the poundkeeper requested.

Andrew Gray wrote asking for the contract for castings, and asking that, as his tender was at the same figure as the successful tenderer, the work be divided. As the tender had already been awarded the letter was filed. The discussion on this matter brought out the fact that in the past the finance committee have been in the habit of "calling in coin" in order to decide between two equal tenders.

The Globe Publishing Company officially notified the board that that paper was now published in the city, and asked that they might have a share of the city's advertising, to which request it was agreed to accede.

John W. Coburn asked the council to enforce the laws with respect to a washhouse on Pioneer street, and also that some unsanitary shacks in the same neighborhood might be given some attention. The proper officers will investigate.

The water commissioner, with respect to a complaint of low pressure on Victoria Crescent, reported that the trouble was a one-inch pipe, which was not large enough, and to remedy this that a larger main would need to be laid, which would cost $3,000. Filed.

The city engineer reported the sidewalk on Cook street between Johnson and Yates was in a dangerous condition. Ordered to be repaired.

Only one set of plans was sent in for the new fire hall at Spring Ridge, and although it was a case of Hobson's choice, still the fire wardens will be asked to report.

The fire wardens reported recommending the purchase of a new chemical to cost $3,100 delivered at Victoria, and that the old manuel engine be sold. This report was adopted.

A special report from the committee on sidewalks was referred back again for amendment, and the finance committee's report on current accounts, amounting to $827, was ordered to take the usual course.

Ald. Brydon moved that applications be received for the position of the city engineer at a salary of $208 per month.

The Mayor stated that the matter was out of order, as no appropriations had been made for an engineer's salary after February 28. While he was averse to hampering the council in this matter, still the law had not been carried out, and he could not receive the motion.

Ald. Humphrey pointed out that at the end of the month the city would have neither engineer nor money to hire a new man. A running fire of criticism on the part of two or three of the aldermen occupied some little time, but the Mayor insisted that the matter should be brought up in a regular way and he had no alternative but to treat the matter as he had. A motion was offered striking out the amount of salary and to have applicants to state what salary they expected, which caused Ald. Hayward to remark that he did not think "that any professional man worth his salt would do business in such a cheap-John manner." The archives of the corporation were delved into by the city clerk during the continuation of the discussion, and the by-law governing the point was brought forth and the clause read to the board. Further investigation, however, showed than another clause in the "old" revenue by-law would allow the matter to be in order. The motion was accordingly put and carried.

The by-law making provisions for the erection of permanent sidewalks in the business portion of the city was introduced and read a first time and will have a second next Monday.. The streets proposed to be modernized are:

6. All that portion of the city which is within the line next hereinafter described shall be known as the "Permanent Sidewalks Limits," namely, commencing at the north end of Wharf street at its intersection with Johnson street; thence running southerly along the westerly street line of Wharf street past the old custom house to the southerly street line of the said street easterly along the southerly street line of the said street in a straight line across Government street to the southerly street line of Humboldt street, and in a straight line along the said southerly street line of Humboldt street to its intersection with the easerly street line of Douglas street; thence running at a right angle northerly in a straight line along the said easterly street line of Douglas street to the northerly street line of Chatham street to the westerly street line of Store street; thence to its intersection with the northerly street line of Johnson street; thence at a right angle westerly in a straight line along the said northerly street line of Johnson street to the said westerly street line of Wharf street aforesaid; thence at a right angle southerly in a straight line along the said westerly street line of Wharf street to the point of commencement.

This being the last business on the list the council adojurned.

NINETEEN COMMITMENTS.

Charges on Which the Robertsons, Snider and Rosson Must Stand Their Trial.

Nineteen commitments went out to the provincial gaol yesterday with William and Stuart Robertson, George Rosson and Wilfred C. Snider, who are now awaiting trial on a series of charges of housebreaking and being in possession of stolen property. William Robertson has the largest number of commitments against him, viz., eight, as follows: Breaking and entering Mr. D. Spencer's stable and stealing three rugs; being in possession of a purse stolen from the residence of Mr. Hazzard; being in possession of property stolen from the residence of Mrs. Tway; breaking and entering the residence of Mr. F. F. Raitt; being in possession of the rugs stolen from Mr. Spencer, the shoes stolen from Mr. James Maynard, and the guns stolen from Mr. Ch. Pichon; and breaking and entering the residence of Mr. F. J. Hall.

Against Rosson there are three commitments—breaking and entering the residences of Messrs. Irving Kirkpatrick, F. F. Raitt and F. J. Hall, and being in possession of property stolen from Messrs. James Maynard and Ch. Pichon.

Snider has four charges to answer to—breaking and entering the stable of Mr. D. Spencer and the residences of Messrs. Raitt and Hall, and being in possession of property stolen from Mr. Hazzard.

There are but two charges against Stuart M. Robertson—being in possession of property stolen from Messrs. Hazzard and Pichon.

Since the beginning of November the value of property stolen, as reported to the police, was about $450, including cash. The value of the property recovered around the Robertson cabin and in the possession of the four accused, is close on $400, so that the police have done fairly well. Of the amount not recovered $40 was in cash. During the time mentioned attempts were made to enter various premises, but there was nothing to connect the men with them. There were also a number of robberies in the district, on which the provincial police are working.

STORM SIGNALLING.

System for Weather Forecasting as It Is Worked in Canada.

Mr. Napier Denison, of the Dominion meteorological station at Victoria, gave a most interesting illustrated lecture on "Weather Forecasting and Storm Warnings," at a meeting of the Natural History Society on Monday evening. The movements of the higher atmospheres were portrayed and explained, and then by means of lantern views demonstrations were given of how weather forecasting was done at the head office at Toronto. The lecturer explained that twice a day—at 8 a. m. and 8 p. m.—weather reports are received by wire from 31 observatories in the Dominion and Newfoundland. Then these are sent on to Washington, and in return 100 similar reports, covering the whole of the United States, are received. Mr. Denison next explained the different kinds of storm and the different belts in which they travel. These are notedly their erratic travels, or at least before crossing the continent, and their coming heralded by storm signals. In conclusion Mr. Denison dwelt on local atmospheric changes, his lecture thus growing the more interesting as it proceeded, and in describing some of the Pacific coast storms mentioned that a month or so ago, when there was a heavy snowfall. Much difficulty is experienced in predicting these storms, as they float in from the Pacific with little or no warning, and it has been found that a new instrument is required to forecast. One of these is now in use in Toronto, and it is intended to secure one for Victoria harbor, which will indicate abnormal changes on the water level, it being found that these often precede storms.

In these energetic go-ahead days we are continually hearing of some new and ridiculous way of making money, but the following method is, perhaps, as ingenious as any previously devised: A little boy entered the surgery the other day when the village doctor was in attendance, and marching up to him, whispered, cautiously: "Please, sir, mother sent me to say as how Lizzie's got the scarlatina awful bad, and please, mother wants to know how much you'll give her to spread it over the village!"

A GATHERING OF SHIPS

Vessels From Many Points of the Compass Bunch at the Outer Wharves.

Steamer Willapa Returns From the North—Sealers on the California Coast.

The steamship Aorangi, outward bound for Australia; the Walla Walla in from San Farncisco; the City of Seattle outward bound for Alaskan ports and the Olympia, of the Northern Pacific fleet, just in from China and Japan, made up the very formidable fleet at the outer wharves on Sunday. The Aorangi got away at midnight after a long detention on account of the non-arrival of the European mails. These were transferred to the ship on arrivel of the Charmer, which also lined up at the wharves in order to make the necessary connection. The Aorangi's cargo has already been noted. She was obliged to leave behind 150 tons of lime, which she had no room for and which will now be sent on to Honolulu by the next steamer. The City of Seattle also left some cargo behind, consisting of 13 head of mules. These with 80 others were brought here for identification and will be shipped North when there is demand for them. A most important part of the steamer's cargo were 65 tons of miners' outfits going through to Dawson. It was 1 o'clock when she sailed and it was 9 p.m. when the Olympia berthed. She had left Yokohama on January 27, just three days after the Empress. She brought no saloon passengers, but 21 Japanese and 57 Chinese for Victoria and 17 Chinese and 5 Japanese for Tacoma. Her cargo was a very large one, the most valuable part of it being 480 bales of silk for New York. The Walla Walla arrived at 9:30. She landed here 66 tons of freight and 20 passengers.

FROM NORTHERN B. C. PORTS.

A very tedious trip to the officers of the ship was completed yesterday by the steamer Willapa, which got in from Northern British Columbia ports at 2 in the morning. The weather was stormy on the return voyage and for this reason no call could be made at Fort Rupert, where Mr. Nagar, the postmaster at Quatsino, who it will be remembered was robbed of considerable in postage stamps, and money was to be picked up together with Mrs. Nagar. News was obtained at Metlakahtla of the death from inflammatory rheumatism of James Brown, a well known cannery man, whose funeral took place on the 7th instant. At Port Simpson Mr. Singlehurst and party were making preparations to go up the Skeena to commence work on some very promising quartz claims in that locality. A force of men are at work putting the steamers Strathcona and Caledonia in condition for the coming season, one of the steamers being intended for the Skeena river and the other for Stikine river service.

To Take Their Choice.—This morning at 11 o'clock the Robertsons, Rosson and Snider will appear before a judge of the Supreme Court and be given an opportunity to state whether they will take a speedy trial or wait for the spring assizes.

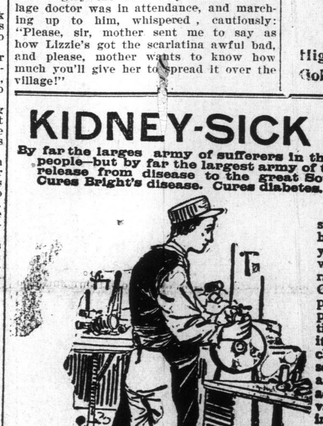
A PURE GRAPE CREAM OF TARTAR POWDER

DR. PRICE'S CREAM BAKING POWDER

Awarded Highest Honors, World's Fair Gold Medal, Midwinter Fair

KIDNEY-SICK PEOPLE!

By far the larges army of sufferers in the world are the kidney-sick people—but by far the largest army of the cured ones attribute the release from disease to the great South American Kidney Cure. Cures Bright's disease. Cures diabetes. Cures all bladder ailments.



Kidney diseases are the most insidious of all diseases common to humanity; within the past few years medical science has made wonderful strides in coping with its ravages. South American Kidney Cure has proved rich in healing power, and every day testimony is piled up for its great curative qualities. Where kidney disease exists it is generally indicated by certain changes in the urine, such as mucus, sediment, albumen, brick dust, acid and blood—pain is not necessarily an accompaniment, which only aggravates the insidious nature of it. Testing and experimenting has disclosed the fact that the passing through these organs of the solid particles in the ordinary course of circulation do in a remarkably short while clog up, grind out and impair them so that the functions of these organs are not performed and disease lays hold on the patient with a ruthless hand. Kidney diseases require a solvent—South American Kidney Cure is a solvent—it is a kidney specific—claims to be no more—it has been tested by eminent medical authorities on kidney diseases, and proved and testified to by them as the surest and safest cure for all diseases of the kidneys and bladder. It's a purifier—a healer—a health builder—efficacious alike to man or woman.

Good News from the North Country.—A young machinist in a large manufacturing concern in Northern Ontario, fell a victim to the dropsical form of kidney disease. Atmospheric changes in following his daily trade compelled him to quit by the physician from whom he had been receiving treatment. He visited Toronto and consulted an eminent authority on kidney diseases. The doctor sent him home with no hopeful word of cheer, but with a prescription, which he was privately to the young man's physician, that it was only a matter of time with him until death would claim another kidney victim. When he began to realize for himself that his case was serious he took his case in his own hands, determined to fight for his life. He experimented with many so-called cures without relief. South American Kidney Cure was brought to his notice, and like everything else, he tried it—to his astonishment he began to feel better under its use. He continued to gain strength—he took six bottles—and to-day that same young man can be found at that same lathe, working for that same concern, hale and hearty as the first day he went there. He gives all the credit to South American Kidney Cure.

SOUTH AMERICAN NERVINE—Is a nerve healer. Cures indigestion and all stomach troubles which are forerunners of nervous collapses.

SOUTH AMERICAN RHEUMATIC CURE—Has lifted men off a bed of pain after a few days' use, who have not been free from suffering for years.

DR. AGNEW'S OINTMENT cures blind, bleeding, itching or ulcerating piles in from three to five nights. 35 cts.

FOR SALE BY DEAN & HISCOCKS AND HALL & CO.

FORTY-SECOND Y

OUTLOOK FOR C

Eastern Extension Com Rights That Will Em the Amer

New York Promoter Wh It Would Fare Best Charge.

By Associated Press.

New York, Feb. 16.—James ser, president of the Pacific C New York, returned to this from a trip of several mont in the Far East, where he vestigating the possibility o tion of an American trans-P In an interview Mr. Scrymse the Eastern Cable Co., an A poration, by reason of ves has a monopoly, so far a cables are concerned, of the cific coast and Pacific island ed by Spain or formerly un isdiction of that country, un 1940. He was of the opin American cable company o States government could