

AUDIT TO BE MADE OF BOOKS

COUNCIL DECIDED UPON THAT COURSE

Routine Matters Disposed of at Last Evening's Meeting of Mayor and Aldermen.

An audit of the city books was authorized in a resolution passed by the council at last night's meeting. At first the suggestion was vigorously opposed by several of the aldermen who considered such a course would be a slight on City Auditor Raymur.

The Mayor raised the question of the validity of such a motion, and read a letter from the city auditor, whom he had written to on the subject. The letter stated that an audit of the city accounts would take two months; that it would cost in the neighborhood of \$750 and \$1,000, and that the council could not authorize such a step because they had no funds to meet it.

Ald. Weston inquired if it did not seem too much of a slap in the face for Mr. Raymur.

In reply Ald. Fell stated that it would be as much for the protection of the council, who were responsible for all expenditures and for the safeguard of the incoming auditor.

"The city auditor should make no demur," argued Ald. Fell, "for it will be a proof of his honesty. The Mayor Morley ventured the statement that he knew very determined efforts had been made at the latter end of last year to have an audit of the books, but it had been turned down. 'I would suggest, however,' he said, 'that we refer it to the favorable consideration of the incoming council.'"

Ald. Fell, who introduced the motion, explained his reasons for wishing an audit of the books. He remarked that the most sensible time for such a thing was when everybody expected it.

"I'll undertake to say," he announced, "that the city cash has never been counted. There have been some expenditures made that were never authorized. Now what we want to know is was the city's money properly spent and was it authorized? There are some people, however, who seem anxious to pass off this motion," he concluded.

"Do you mean to reflect on me?" interrupted the Mayor.

"Not unless the cap fits you," was the answer. "But it is impossible for me to attend on the nights selected by this committee. I asked the chairman to change the day so I could attend, but he would not."

The resolution relative to the going on with work on Government street paving was introduced by Ald. Henderson, and the by-law was put through its various stages.

Authority was given to begin construction on permanent sidewalks under the local improvement plan on parts of Douglas, Langley, Broughton, Gordon and Courtney streets; to lay a permanent sidewalk of cement on the east side of Government street and the Dallas road; also to construct a permanent sidewalk with gutter on the north side of Simcoe street, from Menzies street to Beacon Hill park, and on the south side of the said street from Menzies street to Government street, to grade and macadamize the said street from Menzies street to Beacon Hill park.

The resolution relative to the change in the by-law, which will come before the electorate at the municipal election, passed its first reading.

The by-law provides for \$54,000, which includes the plant, but not the cost of maintenance. Council devoted considerable discussion to the advantages of this destructor, but it eventually turned out that whoever was responsible for the estimate of maintenance had made a glaring mistake. The time limit for the payment of money and stipulated in the by-law at 50 years, but this was amended to 25.

The by-law was sent back to have the sum necessary for maintenance properly stated.

A letter was received from A. T. Goward, local manager of the B. C. Electric Railway Company, with respect to the proposed change in the car line to Spring Ridge. It read as follows: "Dear Sirs,—In reference to the question that has been up between us in reference to the change in location of track, Spring Ridge. As already pointed out, our company has made arrangements to purchase half an acre of block 54, and our idea is to extend the present track along Caledonia avenue, then across this half acre, making con-

DR. FAGAN DEMANDS AN EXPLANATION

He Has Taken Exception to Statements Alleged to be Made by Mayor.

The question whether or not the dump on James Bay flats constitutes a menace to public welfare will be thrashed out at a conference Dr. J. C. Fagan, secretary of the provincial board of health, will hold with the local board of health this evening.

This arrangement was arrived at last night after a lively interchange of views between Mayor Morley and Dr. Fagan. Immediately after the council convened his Worship called upon Dr. Fagan to state his objections to the decision of the city board. He replied that he was surprised at the extraordinary action which the city had taken. Further, that in his communication he had solicited a conference, and that he did not expect to be asked for explanations, as the reply reserved him at.

"If you wish it," declared the doctor, "I will go into the matter fully."

"His Worship retorted: 'The council cannot give its time if it entails a lengthy discussion.'"

Ald. Henderson suggested that it was a matter for the city board of health to deal with.

Addressing himself to the Mayor, Dr. Fagan then said: "You don't seem to realize the position. The city board of health have never consulted the provincial board in anything pertaining to the sanitary condition of the city. In regard to the dump we are in a position to permit or condemn it, and our experience is far greater than the municipal board; yet we are ignored."

"It took the city a week to reply to my letter," he continued, "whereas the question could have been discussed the last meeting of the city board of health. And consequently I have had to alter my plans regarding leaving the city."

Ald. Fullerton asked that a special meeting of the health board be held this evening to discuss the question with Dr. Fagan.

Then Dr. Fagan took up another matter with the Mayor. He opened the passage of arms by demanding an explanation from Mayor Morley concerning certain alleged charges.

"You have taken upon yourself to throw out some vague charges against me in my capacity as secretary of the provincial board of health. Now what do you mean?" announced the doctor, "I don't think this is a matter to come up at a council meeting," replied the Mayor.

"I insist on knowing what you mean," retorted Dr. Fagan, and publicly within the next few days.

"I shall have several questions to ask pretty shortly," was the reply. "And, 'I shall answer them as I see fit.'"

LIBERAL VICTORY IN CENTRE YORK

Ottawa, Dec. 24.—The latest returns from Centre York gives D. G. MacLean a majority of 19. Campbell's majority at the last election was 76, not 124 as reported in the Parliamentary Guide.

INDICTING A BOOK.

Even in Russia it does not often happen that a charge is brought against a book, and not against the author or publishers thereof. Yet a case of this kind was brought before the Warsaw courts the other day. The charge was laid against a work by a certain Gustave Baumfeld as being of a nature "likely to arouse its readers to revolutionary actions." The dock was perfectly empty, and evidence was given by the police, who had confiscated the book. The verdict was pronounced against the book, and amounted to an order that it should be burned.

The explanation of this peculiar incident is that the book in question was discovered by the police whilst still in the printer's hands, and that, as it had not yet been published, neither the author nor the publishers were held responsible for its revolutionary tendencies. All the blame was laid on the book, of which every sheet has now been destroyed.

PAPAL GREETINGS.

Rome, Dec. 24.—The Pope was present in the sacred college to-day for the exchange of Christmas greetings with the cardinals.

CONNECTING ISLANDS BY TELEPHONE

Tug Petrel Returns to Port After Laying Cables—Several Miles Established

After completing the laying of the Dominion government telephone cables between Union Bay and Dennon Island, Horby and Denman Islands and Beaver Point, Salt Spring Island and Pender Island, the public works tug Petrel returned to port this morning towing the scow which was utilized for the purpose.

In all, several miles of sea cable were laid, and the work of establishing telephonic communication to the points mentioned is now a comparatively easy matter.

The new line, which will be opened at the end of the month, will connect with stations at Beaver Point, Salt Spring Island and Browning Harbor and Hope Bay, on Pender Island. The work has been carried out with commendable dispatch, and the Petrel, aided by propitious weather conditions, experienced little difficulty in sinking the cables.

WINDING UP OF YEAR'S BUSINESS

OAK BAY COUNCIL HELD ITS MEETING

Boat Club Asks for Privileges on Waterfront—Arranging for Election.

If suitable arrangements can be made the polling for the Oak Bay municipality will take place in a shed on the premises of Mr. Richards, alongside his new store at the corner of Monto-ry avenue and Oak Bay avenue. The clerk was instructed at last night's meeting of the Oak Bay council, to try to make arrangements to that end in order to make it convenient for everyone to turn out to vote.

A public meeting of the electors will take place early in January at a date to be set when the council holds its last meeting on January 6th. At that meeting the public accounts will be read and the members of the old council will give a general account of their stewardship.

The voter's list is being prepared by the clerk and copies will be printed and posted at convenient places in each ward for the voters to be able to examine it before the court of revision sits on the 11th of January. The revision list will be held on the 15th, nomination on the 18th.

Councillor Henderson has given notice of a motion to the effect that the council shall purchase the property at the Old Men's Home for which negotiations were opened some time ago.

The councillor does not state for what purpose the property would be used if purchased. He will probably explain the matter when the motion comes up at the next meeting.

Frederick and Mary Pauline were, asking the council to open the road to their property and that of a number of others who have been using what they call an alley for a long time, and which is now blocked up with beach wood. This was referred to the roads committee for report.

It was arranged that the council should meet on the new municipal grounds on Friday morning at 8:30 for the purpose of selecting a suitable spot on which to build the new municipal hall and stables.

The regular business of the council having been completed, the petition was presented by the clerk signed by 49 property holders in the municipality and headed by John Virtue asking for certain privileges for a boating club which it is proposed to launch. The performing a public act at a particular time, the mere omission to perform such act at such time does not prevent individuals affected from obtaining redress by petitioning the council to perform same, notwithstanding expiration of the time fixed by the statute for such performance."

The order of Mr. Justice Irving fixing the date for the trial of the boat house sitting of the court of revision was also read. Application was made to Mr. Justice Irving yesterday morning by the city solicitors and the order was made.

Ald. Fell wanted to know why the delay occurred and who had been instructed to bring the matter before the courts.

Mayor Morley informed the council that there had been an oversight in regard to advertising in the papers. It had not been advertised until Wednesday night, and as only three days for publication. The city barrister, Mr. Taylor, had been asked for advice upon the matter and he had suggested an application to the courts.

"What about our own solicitor?" inquired Ald. Fell.

City Solicitor Mann explained that he had not been consulted on the matter until after Mr. Taylor's opinion had been secured.

His Worship then made reference to various reports which had received evidence in some quarters to the effect that the delay was a ruse to delay the objection being made against certain names on the lists. He wished to give an unqualified denial to such reports.

Ald. Fullerton also declared that no member of the court of revision had attempted to block the proceedings.

Ald. Hanna then remarked: "Then the medal goes to Ald. Fullerton, as he seems to have had charge of the matter."

REVISION COURT TO BE POSTPONED

Application Made to Mr. Justice Irving, Who Fixed Date as January 3rd.

The earliest date at which the court of revision on the civic voters' list can sit is January 3rd. This fact was brought before the city council last night in a letter from the city barrister. The court should have opened last Saturday, but neglect to advertise the sitting for five full days in a local newspaper according to the Municipal Elections Act is responsible for the delay.

The letter was as follows: "Dear Sir: Regarding the sitting of the court of revision, in view of the omission to advertise the sitting of the court for five consecutive days prior to the day appointed for sitting, namely 21st inst., it will be necessary to give fresh notices, namely, ten days' notice of the sitting to be posted on the usual bulletin board at the city hall and five days' advertisement in some city newspaper, in order to comply with the time limits of ten days and five days, the earliest date on which the court may sit will be January 3rd."

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"The principal upon which the matter proceeded to-day was the old one that where a statute imposes a duty on a public body to perform a public act at a particular time, the mere omission to perform such act at such time does not prevent individuals affected from obtaining redress by petitioning the council to perform same, notwithstanding expiration of the time fixed by the statute for such performance."

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7,000 OUT OF WORK.

Chicago, Dec. 24.—The South Chicago plant of the Illinois Steel Company, employing 7,000 men will be shut down until after the holidays.

DRUGS

"OUR ASSORTMENT of Ladies' Handbags was never more complete. We have the very latest styles in genuine Horn Back Alligator, Fox Bear, Pheasant, etc. A Christmas gift appreciated by any lady. Ask us to show them to you."

GYRUS H. BOWES

CHEMIST. GOVERNMENT ST. Near Yates St.

NEW IMMIGRATION RULE IN FORCE

White or Yellow Landing on Pacific Seaboard During Winter Months Must Have \$50

Ottawa, Dec. 24.—Oriental immigration will not trouble British Columbia for the winter season. The department has decided to apply the same regulations to the Pacific as are now applied to the Atlantic. That is to say, no immigrant, whether foreign or British, white or yellow, can land on the Pacific coast unless he has fifty dollars in his possession to maintain him. This regulation will remain in force up to February. After February the money which each person will require to have will be \$25.

ENLARGED FIELD.

Consul Smith Will Have Charge of All Vancouver Island Consular Work.

On January 1st United States Consul Smith will commence his eleventh year of office in Victoria and will, for the first time since assuming the local consulate, have full control of the consular work on Vancouver Island.

The Cumberland consulate office, in charge of Geo. W. Clifton, was formerly under the control of Colonel Edwin Dudley. United States consuls in the North Pacific are now applied to the Atlantic. That is to say, no immigrant, whether foreign or British, white or yellow, can land on the Pacific coast unless he has fifty dollars in his possession to maintain him. This regulation will remain in force up to February. After February the money which each person will require to have will be \$25.

The change will mean that vessels will be cleared at Nanaimo, where the local consular office is situated. The change, the work being done through the agents of the Nanaimo consulates.

Great praise was given to Mr. Smith, the local consular officer, when he visited the city. Mr. Murphy stated that the Victoria consulate was the best in the Dominion and paid tribute to the efficiency of the consul and his assistant.

ENGLISH SINGERS TO VISIT.

Great Aggregation of Talent to Be Brought Here by Dr. C. A. E. Harris.

The greatest gathering of renowned singers that Canada has ever known will be seen in this country next autumn, according to the plan now being outlined in the shires of England.

Dr. Charles A. E. Harris, formerly director of the McGill University conservatory of music, has been in England for some months and has extended invitations to leading musical organizations to send delegations to visit the Dominion. The plan is an extensive one, and to bring the various parts of Canada one of the Allan Steamships will be chartered. Sailings from Glasgow on October 24th next, something over a fortnight will be spent in this country, during which time the people of the leading cities of the coast will have an opportunity to hear the talented musicians and singers of the Old Land.

The following cablegram has been received by His Excellency the Governor-General from the Sheffield Musical Organizations of the North of England: "To His Excellency Earl Grey, Governor-General of Canada: 'Lord Mayor of Sheffield and three hundred members of the Sheffield Musical Union, assembled, send respectful greetings to Your Excellency and accept Dr. Harris' invitation to visit Canada next October and sing for kinemen beyond the seas.'"

SUSPENDED SENTENCE.

O'Brien and Vernon Found Guilty of Breaching Cargo on Princess May.

John Edward Vernon and William O'Brien were this morning allowed out on suspended sentence by Judge Lampman, the crown counsel, George Morphy, acquiescing in the judgment. They were allowed out on their own recognisances to come up for judgment when called upon.

The case was tried yesterday and the accused were found guilty, but as they have already been in prison for six weeks, and they have previously borne the best of characters, it was thought by the judge that no good purpose would be served by keeping the men in prison. They were given a warning, and a statement was made by the judge that in any other cases should come before him of a similar nature he would deal very severely with them. The law makes the offence of cargo breaching a very serious offence, the extreme penalty being 14 years with hard labor.

In the evidence yesterday, which was very similar to that given in the police court, everything pointed to the men having taken the liquor, although no one saw the deed done. Mr. Alkman appeared for the defence.

ARREST MADE IN TRUNK MYSTERY

MYSTERIOUS NEW YORK TRAGEDY REVIVED

Grim Story of Murdered Armenian Priest—Sarkasian Tells of Discovering Body.

New York, Dec. 21.—Paul Sarkasian, in whose room in West Thirteenth street the body of Father Kaspar Vattorian, the murdered Armenian priest, was found on May 26th last, was arrested last night.

Sarkasian returned to the United States five days ago from Marselles, to which city he fled after the murder. He was later arrested there, but as no objection looking to his extradition was taken was released.

Recently he told the police he was told at the United States consulate at Marselles that he could safely return to the United States.

At Father Vattorian was murdered presumably for the money he carried, though some found a connection between his death and the political ideas he had promulgated. The body was placed in a trunk and left in a furnished room occupied by Sarkasian and John Morrodian.

Sarkasian, who is 23 years of age, last night denied complicity in the murder. He said that he was employed in a restaurant at the time. On the night of May 22nd he went to his room and there found the trunk containing the priest's body. It had been brought to the room after he had left that morning. He found a key and opened the trunk, recognized the body of the priest. It was still warm.

He remained in the room all night, but Morrodian did not return. The next day, fearing that suspicion would be directed towards him, he left for Montreal. From there he sailed for Europe. While in Montreal Sarkasian said he communicated with his brother-in-law, Manoghazarian, at 40 Grande street, Providence, R. I., who sent him \$120.

SPEED OF WIRELESS.

With the consent of Mr. Marconi, the London press correspondents at Clifton, the Irish station for the transmission of Atlantic wireless messages, and at Port Morien (Glouce Bay), the Nova Scotia station, have been conducting a series of tests to ascertain the actual speed of wireless transmission. Monday afternoon, December 23rd, the tests were held at Clifton, and 4 p. m. in London.

A message from Port Morien was received and deciphered in Clifton and a reply was sent to Port Morien in two minutes. These figures are supplied by a Clifton correspondent. A Port Morien correspondent, in a message also sent by wireless (and which went from Port Morien to London in a little over an hour), supplements the account of the test by saying:

"Grand success of test. I sent a message to the respondent at Clifton and received a reply in five minutes. Mr. Marconi complains of trouble with the land wires. Everything working splendidly."

The test message referred to was despatched from Port Morien at 11:40 a. m. (3:40 p. m. English time), and, though it reached Clifton in the time above indicated, did not reach London until 4:23 p. m. This would seem to justify Mr. Marconi's complaint of the slowness of the land wires on both sides.

As part from the tests, the Port Morien correspondent sent a news message of seventy-three words relating to the Newfoundland fisheries. Dispatched at 2 p. m. (Greenwich time), it reached Clifton at 2:27 p. m., and London at 3:12 p. m.

NEW YORK XMAS BUSINESS.

New York, Dec. 24.—That the Christmas business this year will be smaller than it was last year is admitted by most dealers in New York. The crowds are larger than the oldest dealer has ever seen, but the people are spending less money.

BURNS VERSUS ROCHE.

London, Dec. 24.—Articles of agreement have been signed for a boxing contest between "Tommy Burns" and Jim Roche, the Irish champion, at Dublin on March 17th, for \$25,000, and a purse of \$7,500.

F. Moore, of the Chemical Works, seen this morning respecting the rumor that they were about to close down, said that they were not at present intending to do so, but they had notified their men that they would probably have to go on half time for a while. One of their principal markets is the Trail and Granby smelters, and if they do not take their product it may be necessary to close for a few weeks. This step, however, they hope it will not be necessary to make. The works are at present producing more than the market demands, and they cannot continue to do this for long.

FRUIT TREES FOR MARKET & PRIVATE GROWERS. ORNAMENTAL TREES, SHRUBS, ETC. POST FREE. G. A. KNIGHT. M'TOLMIE NURSERY, VICTORIA, B.C.

ANGRY M... CH...

Sudden Outbreak bridge—Resta Crowd Dis...

Letbridge, Alb. Dec. 25.—For of the Columbia restaurant wrecked last night an angry mob of nearly 500 persons nearly three hundred persons. The affair took place quite and the windows of the restaurant and Joe Fong's were at the same time. Constabulary men were on duty, but the number of whom promptly cleared the premises and arrested the mob, but not until man or two had been roughly.

WHEN BRITAIN SOUGHT GERMAN

Oversea Possessions See of Foreign Warships That Flying White Ensign

The Berlin correspondent of the Standard sends particulars of an incident at Zanzibar which made a considerable impression on the natives of that island, also along the coast far into the interior.

Some time ago, he writes, the Sultan of Zanzibar left for the soldiers of the imperial army, and for several days he himself was in imminent danger of death, or, at least, of being dethroned. This predicament all bin heaped to the British consulate for assistance.

The vice-consul in charge was to inform the Sultan that the British warship within his miles. However, recognizing the gravity of the case, he telegraphed the captain of the German steamer, then lying off Dar-es-Salaam, capital of German East Africa, to hasten to Zanzibar, and to protect our protectorate, and called to Berlin for German admiralty reference to the Emperor, who immediately sent a cordial reply to the British authorities, as should be given with the least delay.

As the result, the Dussard steamer, which sailed to Zanzibar, and the British government subsequently sent a cordial reply to the Emperor, who immediately sent a cordial reply to the British authorities, as should be given with the least delay.

The whole proceeding, as a respondent, is somewhat far to the greatest naval power world, which was driven to Germany and for several days in a British protectorate, troops in which were common British officer.

The incident that is recognized some prominence by the Standard, and for several days enhanced at the expense of gain, occurred, writes the Pall Mall correspondent, in September, 1906, when the Sultan of Zanzibar's bodyguard mutinied. An appeal was made in vain to the consul-general for assistance was, in fact, no warship in the bay, and the British government had to be rendered by two man non-protected cruisers, the Sardinia and the Scudder. Both of the admiralty are of the particulars of the incident they are also a matter of knowledge in naval circles.

Two views are expressed by naval men with regard to the incident. The one agrees that it was a blow to the greatest naval power world; but the other takes the view that it was a blow to the German empire, which was a blow to the British protectorate, and that it was a blow to the British empire.