

THE EDMONTON BULLETIN

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DUNCAN MARSHALL,
Manager.

MONDAY, JUNE 3, 1907.

WELL ADVISED.

The aldermen were well advised in declining to vote themselves salaries for their services to the city. That these services detract the time and attention of the alderman from his own business is quite true. But if the deduction be great the city could not make full restitution without burdening the taxpayer; if it be not great then to make restitution would only be to rob the position of the honor which attaches to voluntary service in the public interest. More than this, the aldermen themselves determine very largely how much of their time and attention is occupied in civic business. The commissioner system of city government was adopted for the explicit purpose of relieving the council entirely of routine executive work. By so doing it was believed that the demands upon the time of the aldermen would be comparatively small and that the ablest business men of the city would find it possible to accept seats at the council board without seriously interfering with the conduct of their private concerns. The experience of the city has provided no good reason to suppose the plan was a mistaken one, though the aldermen have not always appeared willing to take full advantage of it and have persisted in sitting up nights to do work which the commissioners are paid to do. Under such circumstances it could not be otherwise than the aldermen should find his attention to civic matters working material harm to his private business. But if the commissioners are permitted to do what they are paid to do it will be some considerable time before the volume of civic business will make such inroads on the time and attention of the aldermen that it will be necessary to indemnify them for the damages to their private businesses.

POSTAL RATES ON BRITISH PAPERS.

A reader writes The Bulletin for particulars of the new postal arrangement between Canada and Great Britain, averring that the local prices of British papers have been increased in consequence of "increased postal charges." So far from the postal rates on British publications being increased the rates were very materially decreased on publications imported in bulk and remain unchanged on packages weighing two ounces or less. The only purpose for which the postal arrangements were altered was that the rates might be reduced, and the reduction affected amounts to 25 per cent. of the former charges. On no class of publications were the rates increased.

For the information of those who may be particularly interested, we reproduce below the statement made in the House of Commons by the Postmaster General on April 15th. The same statement was made the same day by the British Postmaster General in the Imperial Parliament.

The following arrangement has been made between His Majesty's Postmaster General, Mr. Sydney Buxton, and the Postmaster General of Canada, and will come into force on May 1, 1907.

At present the rate of British newspapers, magazines and trade journals going to Canada is that fixed by the Postal Union convention, viz.: Half penny per two ounces, which is roughly equivalent to 4d. or eight cents, per pound. At this rate and under existing conditions the articles in question are unable to obtain a footing in Canada, with the consequence that the volume of newspapers, magazines, etc., circulated in Canada is very inconsiderable.

"This state of affairs is unfavorable to the growth of close sympathy and common sentiment between Canada and the mother country, and is, at the same time, prejudicial to the mutual trade and material interests of both countries."

"With a common desire of providing and encouraging in regard to these matters, freer and more mutually profitable intercourse between the United Kingdom and Canada, His Majesty's Postmaster General and the Postmaster General of Can-

ada have agreed to the following:

"The postage from the United Kingdom to Canada, on registered newspapers and on bona-fide magazines and trade journals (published at regular intervals of not more than one month) is to be reduced at the rate of a penny per pound, two cents on each package, the charges on packets not exceeding two ounces, remaining at a half-penny. The present limit of weight of five pounds for a packet will be maintained, and certain administrative regulations will be laid down by the British Post office."

"This special reduction will place Great Britain in the future in at least as favorable a postal position towards Canada in regard to the articles in question as that occupied by any other country. The reduction is based on a consideration of the very special and peculiar position, geographically and otherwise, occupied by Canada, and is granted also in consideration of the fact that the Dominion Postmaster General undertakes to carry free of ocean transit charges all British newspapers, magazines and trade journals sent from the United Kingdom to Canada by vessels under contract with the Canadian Government, thus relieving the British Postoffice of the cost of such transit charges on the articles in question (approximately, 21-3d., 41-3 cents a pound).

"The arrangement will remain in force for a period of four years, unless previously modified or concluded by mutual agreement."

THE GAS PROPOSITIONS.

On Monday the ratepayers are to vote on two gas propositions. That gas would be a boon to the city is not denied by any one. The prices charged for electric light are high, coal oil by the time it reaches Edmonton costs a good deal, and artificial gas would furnish a fairly cheap as well as an excellent light. In connection with these franchises there are a few things which fight be considered:

1.—The city needs gas.
2.—Artificial gas can and will be made if the bylaw is carried. Natural gas can only be discovered and the company has been four years at work now and may be four more with the same results.
3.—The artificial gas franchise is not a monopoly.

4.—Artificial gas makes an excellent and economical fuel for kitchen ranges in summer.

5.—The city is not prepared to go into the gas business at present and probably will not be in a position to attempt it for years, so if the people want cheaper light they can be certain of having it only by endorsing the artificial gas bylaw on Monday.

6.—The argument that an artificial gas plant would injure the city electric light plant goes to prove that gas would be cheaper light, and by the way if artificial gas would injure the lighting plant what would the discovery of natural gas do to it?

7.—It is well that some of the advocates of the Natural Gas company take the trouble to announce their principles of municipal ownership, otherwise these principles would remain unidentified.

8.—The exclusive natural gas franchise fixes the price of natural gas at over three times its price in Medicine Hat, the price of artificial gas is fixed so low relatively as in any town in Canada.

9.—Electric energy is costing some users in the city over \$30 per horse power per year. With artificial gas power can be secured in Edmonton for \$30 per horse power per year, the commissioners' report to the contrary notwithstanding.

10.—The artificial gas franchise has been surrounded by almost every possible safeguard. The people are protected in it.

11.—The work of laying pipes for the artificial gas plant will be started at once, while the streets are torn up for other purposes. Those for natural gas will be laid—when they discover the gas.

12.—The Natural Gas company is a monopoly. Are you opposed to monopoly, or are you a municipal ownership man in principle and a supporter of monopoly in practice?

These are some of the things the electors should consider when they vote on Monday, and upon the result of the vote depends whether or not this city has to have an efficient and certain gas service at once, something that is very necessary to the development of Edmonton.

A WORTHY CAUSE.

The ratepayers vote on Monday on a bylaw authorizing a grant of \$50,000 to the city hospital. In the event of the grant being given the city will be represented by their Directors on the

hospital board, and after the necessary amendment of the charter is secured the entire board of Directors will be elected by the ratepayers as aldermen and school trustees are now elected. This provides that the money of the city shall be spent under the supervision of the city's representatives. That Edmonton needs increased hospital accommodation requires no proof beyond the fact that the three hospitals now in existence are usually crowded to the limit of efficient handling. That our needs in this respect will increase very rapidly in the immediate future is also assured. In some way or other these requirements must be provided and provided mainly at the city's expense. Whether through the medium of voluntary contribution or through the regular channel of the city treasury the ratepayer of the city must in the long run bear the burden of providing hospital accommodation. The advantages of doing so through the regular channels are that all citizens bear their proportion of the burden and that the institution is placed on a surer foot than if dependent altogether on voluntary donations. The present arrangement does not propose to abolish the opportunity for private donations by instituting municipal support. The grant proposed amounts to only one-third the cost of the new hospital building, and in completing this sum and providing for the maintenance of the institution there will be ample opportunity for the exercise of charity. Meantime the assistance from the city is badly needed and well deserved.

Twenty-four Years Ago

From the Old Fyfe of The Bulletin, of twenty-four years ago.

A map of the proposed new mail route to Edmonton shows it leaving the railroad line at or near the Blackfoot crossing and coming to Edmonton via Tail Creek.

A marble tablet in memory of Rev. George Macdougall, founder of the mission at this place, is now on the way in from Bow River. It will be erected in the mission church here.

Steps are being taken to organize a joint stock company for the purpose of establishing and running a Conservative weekly newspaper in Edmonton. W. S. Robertson, W. McLeod, W. Beatty, G. A. Simpson, and J. Coleman, are mentioned as being among the promoters.

There are now 47 townships surveyed into sections in this immediate vicinity, including nearly all from township 52 to 57 in ranges from 19 to 27 west of the 4th Meridian. The northern part of the Beaver hills, which is included in this block, is not surveyed yet, but this work is proceeding under G. A. Simpson, and will be completed shortly.

The authorities here do not seem to be aware of any means by which foreign-born residents of the northwest can become naturalized. A number of the old, as well as the new, settlers of this district are natives of the United States, France, Germany, who have taken up their residence and intend to remain here. The fact of their not being British subjects has not interfered with their interests in any way up to the present time. It is only when they desire to procure their homestead patents or to vote that the necessity of naturalization appears. As no patents have been granted yet, there is no necessity for naturalization on that account, but the late election has awakened all to the desirability of having a vote.

If any means exists at the present time by which naturalization can be effected, it should be brought to the front, and if such does not exist, something should be done by which these men could become British subjects in name and in fact.

CURRENT COMMENT.

There is more than a figure-of-speech relationship between the letter of Mayor Griesbach and "natural gas." And volume is not the only similarity between the two.

Ontario meteorological offices claim there was a winter like this sixty-five years ago. We doubt it, but we are going to prepare for 1972 all the same.

"Wine, women and graft," Fowler visited Calgary this week. The Herald assured its readers next day that he spent only three hours in town and that after dark. They doubtless breathed easier then.

Calgary News: "A short time ago 'the mayor of Edmonton stated that unless he was paid \$5,000 he could not afford to accept the position of 'mayor for another term.' Edmonton hasn't closed with the offer."

A contemporary remarks truthfully that "Today in the province of Alberta the crops of all kinds show excellent growth, the weather is magnificent and the people are in splendid fettle; also the cattle on a thousand hills are fattening for the market of the world." This does not, however, entitle Toronto papers to say that Alberta "people" rank midway between cereals and "critters."

CHINESE MISSIONARY. New York, May 31.—American missionaries stationed in the Chinese province of Kwang-Tung, where the standard of rebellion against the Chinese ministry has been raised, are believed by the Presbyterian board of foreign missions to have suffered no injury thus far from the outbreak. The destruction of the German mission stationed at Linchow by a Chinese mob, the Rev. Dr. Arthur Brown, secretary of the Presbyterian board, said to-day probably occurred not in the Linchow where the Presbyterian missionaries are stationed, but in another city of the same name several hundred miles away and near the coast. He said that the Presbyterians would have called if there had been any trouble at their station.

Concerning the rebellion the Rev. Mr. Brown said: "A new movement of stupendous proportion is now taking place in China. It is, on the whole, peaceful, and not directed against the missionaries or other foreigners. It is political and economic rather than religious, and is due in part to the Japanese Russian war which deeply stirred the Asiatics."

This movement is being directed by Chinamen who are opposed to violence, as they learned by bitter experience in the Boxer movement in 1900 that the Chinese were not competent to engage with white men in warfare. But despite the wishes of the conservative leaders there are occasional outbreaks, and the appearance of mob violence from time to time is indicative of the restlessness of the people.

There are in Kwang Tung, Presbyterian mission stations at Linchow and Kwang-Hau on the north, and at Canton, Shek-Lung and Young Kong in the south."

Shortage of the rice crop, increased taxation, and the Manchur dynasty

are the causes ascribed for the uprising by the Rev. Dr. Frank D. Gamewell of the Methodist board of missions. "There are in the whole empire, about 4,000,000 Manchus," said Dr. Gamewell. "But they control over 400,000,000 Chinese. Now, the cry of the governed against the governing classes is 'China for the Chinese,' and it is annually gaining in strength. South of the Yang-Tze river the anti-dynasty party is at its best, and is constantly fostered by many secret societies. It is not primarily an anti-foreign movement, but it is a menace to all foreigners, and especially to the missionaries, because of the mob spirit that may be engendered by it at any time."

The Southeastern Alberta Teachers' Association meets at Medicine Hat on Friday, June 7th. A splendid program has been prepared.

Stony Plain, May 28, 1907. Will W. J. Kennaugh be kind enough to take away his horse which strayed on my place about May 15, 1907, as I cannot keep it out of my crop.

PHILIP BARON.

STRAYED OR STOLEN—Four fox hounds, one female black and white, spotted head, leather strap round neck, one female orange and tan, and 2 males, orange and tan. \$5 reward for the former and \$1 each for others. Geo. Ramseler, Riviere Qui Barre.

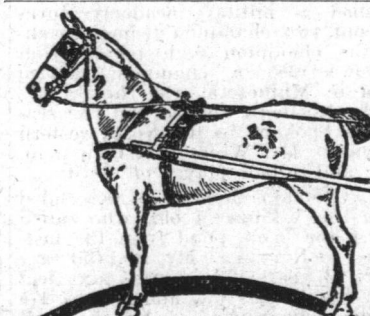
LOST—Monday last, from the farm of J. A. Lockerie, Norwood, a bay horse, about 1050 lbs., branded J. R. or J. B. on left hip. \$10 reward for return.

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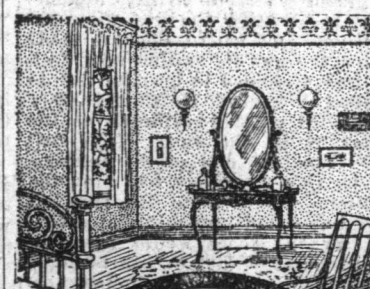
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