Twice-a-Week Times

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THE FIRE.

The Times joins in the general expressions of sympathy which are being tendered the proprietors and workmen of the Victoria Machinery Depot as a result of the disastrous fire on Saturday night. The establishment was just in the midst of a very prosperous and busy season, and the loss to the owners, to the employees and to the city at large will be quite serious. But Mr. C. J. V. Spratt doubtless expressed the spirit of all concerned when he announced in the very midst of the conflagration that reconstruction of the great works so speedily destroyed will be commenced immediately. We hope the manly fortitude and buoyant optimism displayed in the announcement of the President of the Company may be realized in a more complete establishment in the course of a very few months. In the meantime doubtless means will be found of carrying out the contracts the firm had in hand.

The destruction of the Depot has of course been followed by the usual complaints of inefficiency on the part of the fire department and of defects in the fire fighting apparatus. There seems to be no question that the pressure of water in the mains was weak and that one of the fire engines was in a lamentable state of decrepitude. Whether the Waterous engine has passed beyond the stage when repairs would be like putting new wine into old bottles is a matter which only experts can determine. But it is apparent that the fact that money has been voted for the purchase of new appliances should not affect the question of maintaining such apparatus as we have in the best possible condition in the meantime. The work of the brigade has of course come in for the usual criticism. That is something we now naturally expect after every fire of serious magnitude. There is talk of an investigation. But what is the use of holding an investigation unless there is body in control with the courage to act upon the facts brought out? We are continually holding inquiries in Victoria—and forgetting all about our experiences until something occurs to remind the public that there is something lacking in our system of fighting fire, if we are to accept the pronouncements of people who profess to know.

One would think to read some of the opinions expressed that Victoria is the only city on the continent in which destructive fires occur. Of course this is not so. At the same time there are few cities in which the natural facilities for overcoming fires are so abundant. The reform most necessary is regeneration of the water works system. And that is a plant of conspicuously slow growth.

THE DEADLOCK.

The Ottawa opposition, which has deliberately and of set purpose created a constitutional crisis in Canada, is at least candid. It admits that in the event of its being returned to power at some time in the indefinite future, the example of irresponsibility it has given might be turned against it. But, we are informed, one of the first things the Borden government, or whatever the name of the administration may be, will do is to pass a closure measure taking the power of obstruction completely out of the hands of the minority. In the meantime the opposition is sufficiently unscrupulous and lustful of office to take the fullest advantage of an illegitimate weapon. As the Toronto Star points out in an exceedingly fair diagnosis of the situation, while the difficulty on its face is due to a dispute over the Manitoba franchise, there are indications that a broader issue may be raised. An Ottawa dispatch to the Toronto World, a Conservative newspaper which does not unreservedly approve of the tactics of its party, says the opposition if dogged and determined:

"If some kind of a truce or settlement is patched up between the two forces on any one question, say on the proposed election law for Manitoba, and a slice of the estimates are put through, it will be only a day or two when another issue will be launched by the opposition, another deadlock brought into line, and another situation created."

The Star then points out that dogged resistance to any particular measure may be justified on the ground that the opposition honestly believes that the measure is unjust or against the public interest. Persistent obstruction of all measures is a very different matter, and the course of the opposition during the present session lends itself to the belief that the policy has been deliberately adopted. It looks as if they are continually seeking excuses for obstruction. As to the Manitoba franchise, it was introduced by Mr. Aylesworth in a moderate and well reasoned speech. In the course of the debate Sir Wilfrid Laurier expressed his willingness to modify it in any way that would afford perfect safeguards for impartiality. But this attitude seems only to have strengthened the obstinacy of the opposition. Its attitude seems to be "If you remove one objection we will raise another. If you abandon this measure altogether we will obstruct the next.

This is an attitude which affects not the Manitoba franchise alone, not this ministry alone, nor this parliament alone, continues our Toronto contemporary, but strikes at the very root of popular government. If an opposition composed of only one-third of the members of the House of Commons, can by deliberate obstruction prevent not only the enactment of laws but the voting of the supplies necessary to carry on the government of the country, we have a condition, not of popular government, but of anarchy. Suppose that Mr. Borden at some future time were called upon to form a government, he would be faced by the same difficulty, for the Liberals would be more or less than human if they did not practice similar tactics. They could not tamely submit to allow majority rule to prevail only when the majority is Conservative. Suppose that Mr. Borden had an overwhelming majority in the House and in the country, anarchy would still prevail, for a Liberal opposition numbering one-third or even one-fourth of the House of Commons could repeat the obstructive tactics of to-day.

More than forty years ago a series of deadlocks brought government in Canada to a standstill, and the difficulty was solved only by the large statesmanship which brought about confederation. But the deadlocks of the early sixties were due to causes that were natural, and in a sense unavoidable. The two parties were so evenly divided that it was impossible for either to command a working majority. But the tactics now practiced at Ottawa, if persisted in, would render government impossible no matter how large the majority. Dissolution after dissolution would take place. One election might result in an overwhelming majority for the Liberals, and the next an overwhelming majority for the Conservatives. But no dissolution, no election, no popular or parliamentary majority would break a deadlock created by the determination of an opposition to render government impossible. Toward this condition the tactics of the opposition at Ottawa inevitably tend. Into this course Mr. Borden is being driven by the obstinacy and factiousness of a section of his followers. He is not increasing his reputation for statesmanship. He is making himself an impossibility as the head of a government, and he is putting Sir Wilfrid Laurier into the position not of a party leader, but of a defender of the constitution of Canada, of popular government, of law and order. The end is not difficult to see. The common sense and moderation of the country will not submit either to anarchy or to tyranny, and the confidence of the country will be accorded to those who are defending, not to those who are assailing, the safeguards of ordered liberty.

IMPERIAL BANK STATEMENT.

President D. R. Wilkie, of the Imperial Bank of Canada, is an acknowledged authority on business in all its ramifications. Mr. Wilkie's annual reviews are read with interest as constituting reliable forecasts of the prospects of Canada, from a purely business point of view, for the term under consideration. When the President of the Imperial Bank issues a word of warning or of advice, it is time to to take in a reef or to clap on more sail as the case may be. Under such a competent head, the public naturally expects the Imperial Bank to continue in prosperity, whether the times be dull or the conditions buoyant. This most prosperous of Canadian financial institutions has been doing business for thirty-three years, going forward with the advance of Canada. The thirty-third report of the president is quite as satisfactory as usual. The profits for the year have been nearly three-quarters of a million dollars. In addition to the handsome profits earned, the shareholders have the satisfaction of knowing that their business has been conducted upon safe, conservative, albeit profitable, lines. With assets of nearly forty-four millions of dollars, representing available securities, it is apparent that the shareholders have abundant reason to be satisfied with the management and to look forward with confidence to the bank's maintaining its position as one of the soundest, most profitable, and most enterprising among the banks of Canada, acknowledged to be models of their kind.

LIBERAL CANDIDATE IN KOOTENAY.

The Liberals of Kootenay have selected Mr. Smith Curtis to succeed Mr. W. H. Galliher, M. P., as their representative in the Dominion House of Commons. Either Mr. G. O. Buchanan of Mr. F. J. Deane, who also permitted their names to go before the convention, held yesterday, could have carried the constituency, being well known, able and popular men. But the choice fell upon Mr. Curtis by a vote of the majority, and his election was made unanimous. The candidate is one of the best known and most generally trusted of all the men with political aspirations in the interior of the province. The labor element in Kootenay is strong, and it regards Mr. Curtis as a politician absolutely without guile. The candidate is a man of very progressive ideas, he is a splendid speaker, the tongue of the slanderer cannot utter a syllable against his private character, his sympathies are broad and deep, he stands for a square deal now as he has done ever since he appeared in public in the province, and there is not the slightest doubt that he will be returned triumphant as a supporter of the government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier at the general elections.

LIBERAL WINS IN ONTARIO

Toronto, Ont., June 8.—Uncertainty surrounds the volume of the vote throughout the province. The Conservative vote in Toronto will be fully up to the average, but split. Reports received here from New Ontario indicate the return of Liberals in Rainy River district and Nipissing. In Hamilton the election of Col. Hendrie is assured, while the chances of Allan Studholm, who sat in the last legislature as a labor candidate, are said to be even with those of J. J. Scott, Conservative candidate.

HEAVY VOTE POLLED IN MONTREAL

French Populace of City Present at Hustings in Large Numbers.

Montreal, June 8.—Voting in the provincial elections is proceeding quietly. The weather is very warm but a large vote is being polled especially in the French sections of the city. A large number of factories closed at noon for the half day in compliance with the new provincial statute, in order to permit the employees to vote. One of the polls in Hochelaga county did not open until 9:30 because the deputy returning officer, Legault, was in a cell waiting trial for being drunk last night. He had the key. He was let off with a three dollar fine, but found another officer installed in his place.

CHIEFS RECORD THEIR VOTES.

Ottawa, Ont., June 8.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier, was one of the early voters in the provincial election in Ottawa east. R. L. Borden, M. P. also voted early.

FULL COURT SITTING OPENED THIS MORNING

Loschiavaio Case Brought Up—Argument Deferred in Walkem Application.

There were a large number of cases up this morning before the Full court but a number of the cases were adjourned because of the constitution of the court. When one of the Vancouver cases was called, Mr. Deacon complained that this was the third adjournment that had taken place in this case owing to the constitution of the court. He thought that some publicity should be given to the fact that there were not enough judges. In the County court the number of judges had been doubled while in the Supreme court they had remained the same. He asked the court if there was not some way of drawing attention to the fact. The chief justice remarked that that was for the counsel to do.

Leave of appeal was given in Rex vs. Walken and the case set for Thursday, unless it is found that another case is proceeding. It was found impossible to proceed at once as Joseph Martin, K. C. is attending the Assizes in the upper country.

The Loschiavaio case is the first on the list and that will be followed by Mason vs. Meston, and Duck vs. Daniel.

Henderson vs. Thompson has been allowed to stand over until the 14th if the court is still sitting at that time. J. A. Macdonald, K. C. cannot get down before that date.

At the opening of the Loschiavaio case Mr. Moresby took a preliminary objection that the matter was still before the magistrate and on that account the appeal was premature. This was discussed for a long time, the chief justice holding that J. A. Aikman had the right to be heard, but the other two judges dissented.

The point was still being argued when the court adjourned at noon.

STEAMBOAT INSPECTOR HAS WIDENED SCOPE

James Thomson, steamboat inspector here, has been made supervising inspector of steamboats for the province of British Columbia and the Yukon territory, the scope of his office being enlarged to give him authority over the assistant inspectors in the above district.

As announced in Thursday's Times, Mr Cullum has been appointed assistant inspector under Mr. Thomson and it is now announced that H. G. Robinson has been appointed assistant inspector in Vancouver, to succeed F. M. Richardson, resigned.

After having a new propellor fitted the steamship Princess Beatrice was launched from the ways at Esquimalt and returned to her berth in the inside harbor yesterday.

ANOTHER BUSY DAY IN POLICE COURT

Magistrate Jay Has a Variety of Cases to Deal With—Three Theft Charges

Magistrate Jay had quite a collection of cases to deal with this morning from common ordinary drunks to theft, assault and neglect of wife cases. In all there were nine cases, the honors for first place being held by the drunks who numbered four. Theft charges come second with three. Six of these cases were heard within an hour and the other three were remanded, two of them until to-morrow and one of them for a week. The two are theft charges and the latter one of non-support brought by a wife.

Of the four drunks two were Hindus who had taken all the frills that were to be had including a ride in the hurry-up wagon. They were each assessed $4. Another drunk who had been able to walk to the police station escaped with a fine of $3, while the fourth had put up $10 bail and as he did not appear this was estreated.

Douglas Matheson, head waiter at Strand cafe, was charged with assault by Mrs. Ada Bertha Dakin. According to the woman's story she had worked there as a waitress but had been taken ill. As soon as she was better she returned to the cafe and was told to go to work in the morning. When she did this next morning Matheson, according to her evidence, ordered her out and when she refused to go until the proprietor appeared, he grabbed her by the arm to shove her out.

Matheson called two waiters, J. Simpson and Wallace Scott, who swore that they had heard Matheson order her out but had not seen him touch the woman although they were there all the time. After these two men had been heard the magistrate dismissed the case without calling upon Mr. Matheson to go into the box on his own account.

Mrs. Dakin also had her husband summoned for non-support, but this case was adjourned at the request of W. C. Moresby, who appeared for the husband. In asking for the adjournment Mr. Moresby said that his prosecution was the most audacious action he had ever known to be taken in the courts. The couple had been married in this city in 1902 and had gone to live at Carmanah, but the woman was not satisfied there and had induced her husband to come back to the city. Since then she had gone down hill. Only last month, however, her husband had paid $60 through Capt. James Gaudin, agent of marine and fisheries, by which department Dakin is employed. Dakin was now employed on a Dominion government vessel and in order to save his position had had to leave the city last evening. He, accordingly, asked for a remand, and in doing so pointed out that Dakin might be gone a month, but that he could always be communicated with. The magistrate remanded the case until next Monday.

John Pratt appeared for the theft of some carpenter tools from William Smith, his particular method having been to borrow the tools and then pawn them.

William Smith, blacksmith, of 755 Pandora avenue, swore that on May 23rd Pratt had come to him and told him he was hungry and that he had a job at carpentering in sight to commence May 27th, but he had no tools. He gave him $1.50 and promised him the loan of the necessary tools. On May 26th he had lent the tools to Pratt. These included two saws, spirit level, an adze, a hammer and a square. Of these all but the two last named were produced in court and were identified by Smith. Proceeding Smith said Pratt had worked for four days and then got drunk and had pawned them and told him when he asked for them that they were in his boss' chest and he would give them to him next morning. When he failed to do so he had complained to the police.

Edwin N. Nathan, clerk in Aaronson's pawn shop, swore to Pratt having pawned the tools there on June 2nd, and John Michael Burns swore to having purchased some other tools from Pratt on June 3rd and had also bought the pawn ticket for Smith's.

The court records showed that Pratt had been up in the police court on June 3rd charged with being drunk. Apparently he got drunk on the money realized from pawning Smith's tools and then sold the pawn ticket to get out of jail.

To the magistrate Pratt said he had come to Seattle from Australia five months ago and seven weeks ago had come to Victoria. He pleaded for another chance but the magistrate gave him three months in jail at hard labor.

Matsuda, versed in the gentle art of jui-jitsu, who has figured in a couple of wrestling matches in this city, was also charged with theft. If the story of the police is correct Matsuda is not a proud wrestler but is willing to get money in any way that he can lay his hands on it. The specific charge against him is that he stole sixteen billiard balls from the poolroom of a countryman named Osawa, who keeps a boarding house on Fisguard street, and pawned them at Aaronson's. He was arrested Saturday evening. When arraigned this morning he pleaded that his lack of knowledge of English rendered it necessary that an interpreter should be secured, and the case was accordingly enlarged until to-morrow.

The other theft case adjourned was that of Michael Haywood, who is charged with stealing ten cases of Hennessey's three star brandy from Rithet's warehouse in January. When Haywood appears to-morrow Barney Martin, who is now serving a sentence in jail for the theft of beer from the Phoenix brewery, will be jointly charged with him with the theft of the brandy.

—W. L. Mackenzie King, deputy minister of labor, who addressed the Canadian Club to-day will leave this afternoon for Nanaimo and then proceed to Vanvouver on his way home. While on the coast Mr. King is looking into the opium question. He looked into the subject in Vancouver and will endeavor to visit some of the factories in the local Chinatown before leaving, so that he can report fully on the subject.

Great Carpet Sale This Week!

$1.00 and $1.25 Brussels Carpet for 65c

We are going to clear Thirty Rolls finest grade English Body Brussels Carpet, in about twenty different patterns, comprising two and three toned and combination colorings in fawns, greens, reds, blues and orientals, with five-eight border, and some with three-quarter stair to match. Regular per yard, $1, $1.25.
CARPET WEEK PRICE **65c**

$17.50 Brussels Squares for $11.90

Fifteen Brussels Squares, best quality material, in some splendid patterns, about fifteen different designs in the lot, covering a large variety of floral and conventional patterns in the very best colorings, comprising greens, blues, reds and fawns. The squares are one of the best bargains, size 9 x 9. Regular $17.50.
CARPET WEEK PRICE **$11.90**

$1.40 to $1.85 Brussels Carpet, $1.00

Forty-five different designs in BEST GRADE ENGLISH BODY BRUSSELS CARPET, beautiful colorings, in two and three toned effects in greens, blues, reds and fawns, and combination colorings, in conventional, floral and oriental patterns. No difficulty in selecting from this large assortment a design and color suitable for any room, with 5-8 border and some with 3-4 stair to match. Regular, per yard, $1.40 to $1.85.
CARPET WEEK PRICE **$1.00**

$16.50 Tapestry Squares for $12.00

Fifty Balmoral Tapestry Squares in chintz, floral and oriental designs, on grounds of fawn, red, blue and green, very durable squares for living room, dining room or bedroom, in three sizes as follows:

9 x 12, reg. $21.
CARPET SALE PRICE ... **$15.75**

9 x 10-6, reg. $18.50.
CARPET SALE PRICE ... **$14.00**

9 x 9, reg. $16.50.
CARPET SALE PRICE ... **$12.00**

Axminster Carpet Squares at Reductions

Our entire stock of Axminster Carpet Squares to clear at most substantial reductions off regular prices. These squares are all new this season. Beautiful parlor and dining designs in every required tone and shade, ranging in sizes from 10 ft. 6 in. x 13 ft. 6 in. to 7 ft. 6 in. x 9 ft. 0 in. Reg. $75 to $21. CARPET WEEK PRICE, $63.75 to ... **$17.75**

$2.00 Axminster Carpets for $1.25

Twenty to twenty-five distinct designs in finest grade Axminster Carpet, a large range of well blended colorings, in greens, blues, reds and fawns, in patterns of floral, scroll, conventional and oriental effects. Quantities of each pattern large enough to cover double parlors, dining room and hall, with 5-8 border to match. Regular, per yard, $2.00.
CARPET WEEK PRICE **$1.25**

$21.00 Velvet Squares for $13.50

THIRTY WILTON VELVET SQUARES, beautiful drawing room designs, rich floral patterns in soft green and fawns, all woven in one piece. Three different sizes.

Size 9 ft. 0 in. x 12 ft. 0 in. Regular $27.50. CARPET WEEK PRICE .**$18.50**

Size 9 ft. 0 in. x 10 ft. 6 in. Regular $24.50. CARPET WEEK PRICE ..**$15.75**

Size 9 ft. 0 in. x 9 ft. 0 in. Regular $21.00. CARPET WEEK PRICE ..**$13.50**

DAVID SPENCER, LTD.

Local News

(From Friday's Daily.)

—It was B. S. Heistermann and not H. G. S. Heistermann who was fined in the police court yesterday for driving an automobile at a greater rate of speed than ten miles an hour. H. G. S. Heistermann, however, appeared in court for his brother, and this fact led to the error.

—The death occurred last evening at the family residence, 735 Belton avenue, of Maude Elizabeth, the beloved wife of William H. McDonald. The deceased was 33 years of age and a native of Bryson, Quebec. She leaves to mourn her loss, besides her husband, her father and mother, one sister, Miss T. T. Thomson, two brothers, William W. Thomson, and Lionel E. Thompson, who reside in this city. The time of the funeral has not yet been set, awaiting the arrival from the east of her mother.

—In connection with the proposed building of a twelve-roomed hotel at Ganges harbor by William Gatt, formerly of Duncans, petitions for and against the issue of a license for the same have been received by Superintendent Hussey, of the provincial police, from the residents of Ganges harbor. Superintendent Hussey is giving the matter his consideration and says the petitions will be dealt with in the usual course of issuing the semi-annual hotel licenses. Residents are about equally divided on the question.

(From Saturday's Daily.)

—Chief of Police Langley left yesterday for a short visit to Seattle. In his absence Sergt. Redgraves is acting chief.

—The ladies of First Presbyterian church have decided to hold their annual strawberry social this year on the evening of June 24th. The programme is in the hands of the choir.

—Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Talling arrived on last night's boat from Toronto, and have taken up their residence at 634 Michigan street, Dr. Talling will have charge of the pulpit of St. Andrew's Presbyterian church until Mr. Clay's return.

—His Honor the Lieut.-Governor, Mrs. Dunsmuir and family are enjoying their tour in Europe, according to letters received. While members of the family have gone to southern Europe, Mrs. Dunsmuir is remaining in England.

—Capt. J. E. Gilmour yesterday placed a $5,000 order with Weiler Bros. for the furnishings of his new hotel at Prince Rupert. Capt. Gilmour's hotel is the first to be erected there, with the exception of the G. T. P. house. Capt. and Mrs. Gilmour came to town for the purpose of arranging the furnishing of the hotel, and are at the Dominion.

—The Sidney Brick and Tile Company, which recently completed its works, has now made its first shipment of bricks and will go ahead at its full capacity of 30,000 per day as the demand at the present time is heavy and for some time has been greater than the supply.

—The death occurred yesterday afternoon at the St. Joseph's hospital of Grace Norton, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Norton, Ganges Harbor, B. C. The deceased has been sick for considerable time, suffering from Bright's disease. She was 12 years of age. The remains were forwarded to the family residence on the 2 o'clock train this afternoon.

REAL ESTATE ACTIVITY.

Several Firms Report That Business is Moving all the Time.

Business is being done in real estate. There are a large number of transfers being made in almost every part of the city and the best of the realty firms are doing business. There is not very much cash changing hands but enough to keep things moving.

The Northwest Real Estate Company is one of the firms doing business. During the past week they have sold eleven lots on Mount Tolmie for $4,400; a house and two lots in James Bay district, the price being $6,000; and a house and two acres at Oak Bay, the purchase price being $9,000. These prices show that there is not much decline apparent and that while there is little speculation there is genuine business of the right kind being done all the time.

—The police had a busy time at the fire Saturday evening, Sergt. Carson having a large squad of men under him keeping the crowds back from the dangerous places and assisting generally in every way they could. The force did a particular service in removing a quantity of gasoline and other oil from the store house which was destroyed.

GROWING TOMATOES ON MAYNE ISLAND

Industry is Likely to Become Important One — Fruit Prospects Are Good.

Point Comfort, Mayne Island, and the surrounding district is busily engaged in experimenting with the raising of tomatoes for the local market, and as far as the fruit growers and farmers there have gone at present they have had a considerable amount of success in their new venture.

The pioneer of the new industry is Richard Hall, formerly of James Island, who has erected two glass houses measuring one hundred by thirty feet each for the purpose of raising tomatoes, and his crop this season is now ahead of the time similar planting would give in Jersey, England. Mr. Hall's crop will be ready to gather in three weeks' time, and so far promises well.

E. Maude, of Point Comfort, who is in town, at the Balmoral hotel, says that the new industry is being taken up in the Islands by the farmers, who, following Mr. Hall's example, have purchased seed from him and have planted it in the open air by way of experiment.

From the results to date, Mr. Maude says, the industry will probably spread through the Islands, as there is a good market for the product.

Mr. Hall is using imported seed from Jersey, England, where he was formerly engaged in the same business. He says the climate at the Islands is good for the purpose, and expects to be very successful with this year's crop.

Regarding the season generally, Mr. Maude says there will be good crops of fruit, including strawberries, although the season will be a little late, perhaps two weeks. With the present weather continuing the berries will, he says, be of first-class condition.

There is plenty of water and plenty of grass around Point Comfort this season, and dairymen and fruit growers alike anticipate a good year. Most of the growers are now joining the Fruit Growers' Association, as they look on that body as having their interests at heart.

GREENWICH REACHES ROADS.

Last evening the steamship Greenwich, Capt. Hearns, reached the Royal Roads to await orders, from San Francisco. The trip was an unpleasant one, head winds and a heavy sea being encountered most of the way. The Greenwich, being in ballast, was a target to every gale that blew and she was eight days on the trip.

There are now two sailing vessels and two steamships awaiting charter at this port.