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SEALERS' COMPENSATION.

Premier McBride has promised to press upon the Ottawa government the claims of the Victoria sealers for compensation in consequence of the stoppage of pelagic sealing after this year. The treaty prohibiting pelagic sealing for fifteen years will go into effect on the 15th Dec., provided it has been ratified by the four nations, Great Britain, Russia, United States and Japan, parties thereto. Canada will receive a percentage of the skins taken on the seal rookeries, and when the herds have increased the number of skins received will be large. Under the treaty the United States will advance to Canada \$200,000, which is being paid on account of the sealers whose business will be terminated by the treaty. From the fund thus created the sealers' claims will be paid. After the treaty has been made operative all that the sealers will have to do will be to show what compensation they are fairly entitled to, and that they can easily do. In fact, the amount was stated to the late government and was practically approved. It is no longer a question of bartering, or political pressure. Our sealers were consenting parties to the treaty, on the understanding that they would receive compensation, and the treaty was agreed to by Canada with the knowledge that the Canadian sealers had to be afterwards dealt with. The most that Mr. McBride or Mr. Barnard can do, after the treaty has become effective, is to see that the present government carry out the policy of its predecessor and give the Victoria sealers full compensation. The question must be dealt with at the coming session, when a sum sufficient to dispose of all claims should be voted.

VICTORIA'S FINANCIAL POSITION.

There is no room to doubt that the spirit of progress which is manifest in Victoria by the vast expenditure upon public improvements and the rapid transformation of the city from a backwoods town to the character of a small metropolis is the pride of every citizen. The paving contract alone, which is said to be the largest ever put forward on the American continent, is the wonder of admiring visitors, while the improved street lighting and other advances in providing public utilities at once redeem the city from the discredit of the lethargy of the last quarter of a century. The last three or four years mark an era in the history of the city, and, by leaps and bounds, she is now coming to be one of the most desirable residential as well as commercial centres on the continent. The readiness with which the ratepayers have authorized the expenditure of vast sums for public utilities such as the Sooke water system and the paving work alone stamp them as men determined to catch up with the procession and stand in a position creditable to the capital city of the province.

The Times is not, therefore, lacking in due appreciation of these bewildering evidences of progress when it asks whether—in view of the additional large sums that are being asked for under the new by-laws—the city has become intoxicated with this spirit of progress. Little by little, or rather much by much—the indebtedness of the city is piling up, and one needs to be no pessimist to foresee that the vast sums that are already voted for improvements now being carried out, when added to the sum it is proposed to spend in the early future, must result in a taxable liability that should be well studied before it is undertaken.

The total indebtedness of the city on January 1 of this year was \$5,385,000, but this sum is exclusive of the paying contracts now being carried out, and which amount to \$1,500,000. The city has also in prospect the construction of the Sooke Lake water scheme, an imperative necessity unless substituted by some other almost equally expensive plan. The estimated cost of this work is \$1,500,000, though no scheme is to be undertaken until ratified by the ratepayers. It is safe to say that this scheme will cost the city within the next ten years little less than \$3,000,000, and though the system is expected to pay for itself by reason of increasing population the sum is not one to give the taxpayer a comfortable feeling, in anticipation of the levies that will follow its construction.

The immediately new expenditures that are being advocated may be tabulated in the following manner:

New High School	\$245,000
Recreation area	210,000
Songhees park	80,000
Public library	15,000
Total	\$550,000

The Dallas road seawall, costing \$140,000, and the Ross Bay seawall, esti-

mated to cost \$69,000, are not included in this catalogue, but we may place the recent undertakings of the city for the work of necessary and proposed public improvements at \$3,540,000, provided the ratepayers authorize the expenditure of the sums to be voted on next week, and this enormous sum does not include the proposed civic centre, which will cost anywhere from \$100,000 to \$200,000.

The Times has no squeamish desire to call a halt in the matter of expenditure for dearth of public utilities. Should the population continue to increase at its present or recent rate the burden must not become an uncomfortable one, but we do not belong to the school of economists who urge that all this work can be undertaken and carried out without increasing the present rate of taxation. Such increase may be desirable, and we are among the last to advise undue retrenchment in any matter of public improvement, but the present city council will certainly hold the palm in its record for finding ways in which to recommend expenditures of the money of the ratepayers. Perhaps the future generation will praise them, perhaps it will censure them, but it is the ratepayer who votes now who will give fixity to the future conditions. It might not be unwise to hint that it is always possible to undertake new expenditures, but it is not always easy to lift the dead horses of the recalcitrant past.

DEMONSTRATION FARM.

A novel method of demonstrating the possibilities of land culture comes to us from the state of California, where a plan is under consideration in Tehama county to establish within easy distance of the city of Red Bluff a demonstration farm of moderate proportions. The purpose is to have within easy access a modern farm intensively cultivated and planted to a variety of products in order that the best proof of Sacramento Valley soil productivity may be easily available to intending settlers visiting California. It is proposed to locate the farm as near the municipality as possible, place it in charge of a competent agriculturist, and have him conduct it as though it were his own property. The products of the model farm will be grown, harvested and marketed in like manner as those of all farms of the Sacramento Valley. A complete record of cost of production, sales and profits will be kept for inspection of all who may be interested. It is calculated by the promoters of this demonstration farm enterprise that the effort will not only make outdoor cultivation of success in intensive cultivation in the Sacramento Valley; but it will be of great value in its educational features for all who desire to profit by observation of intensive cultivation along scientific lines.

Such demonstration farms might, we think, profitably be established at several points in British Columbia. Not only does the project promise to pay its own way, but such farms would be of more real value to intending settlers than tomes of advertising literature supported with statistics of production.

MR. MCBRIDE'S INTEGRITY.

The ministerial press of the province has informed the public that tomorrow Hon. Richard McBride and Hon. W. J. Bowser will leave for Ottawa to urge the claims of the premier and his colleagues upon the federal government for a series of good things they will demand in behalf of the province. It is unfortunate that events have so coincided that a vote of the ratepayers of Victoria is to be taken in the premier's absence upon a matter which involves, not alone the sum of \$30,000 of the ratepayers' money, but the political honor and integrity of the premier. The Times refers to the by-law to be submitted for the purchase of twelve acres of the Songhees Reserve for park purposes.

There can be no doubt that, under the terms upon which the Dominion government entered into agreement with the provincial government respecting the disposal of the Songhees Reserve, and the extinction of the rights of the Indians in that reserve, forty-three acres of that reserve, together with waterfront and wharfage rights already belong to the city of Victoria. The long-standing difficulty in the way of the acquisition of the Songhees Reserve was removed by the provincial government by the passing of an Order-in-Council ceding forty-three acres to Victoria city and the federal government accepted the terms of the province contingent upon this condition being carried out. That the Times is not speaking without authority in this matter is shown by a memorandum of the provincial executive bearing date of May 27 in 1909, which minute we reproduce as follows:

"Approved June 3rd, 1909, to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

"The undersigned has the honor to report for the consideration of the Council.

"That a communication has been received from the Department of Indian Affairs of Canada requesting the Province of British Columbia to conclude an arrangement providing for the disposition of the Songhees Indian Reserve at Victoria by the Department of Indian Affairs upon the terms and

conditions outlined during the discussion of the matter with the Department of Indian Affairs in September, 1908.

"That by Order-in-Council approved January 24th, 1907, an agreement between the corporation of the City of Victoria and the Government of British Columbia was approved in consideration of certain covenants, the Government of British Columbia agreed to grant and surrender to the corporation of the City of Victoria all and every the reversionary interest and all other right, title, interest, claim and demand of the Government of British Columbia in and out of two parcels of land embraced in the said Songhees Reserve, viz: the twenty-five acres, more or less, lying to the north of the Esquimalt road for park and school purposes only, and eighteen acres, more or less, lying to the south of the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway for terminal railway and wharf purposes, and in aid of existing as well as other railroad companies seeking access to the City of Victoria.

"And to recommend that with a view of expediting the removal of the said lands, the said reversionary interest of the Province of British Columbia in the said reserve be sold, the proceeds of the sale of the said lands, by the department of Indian Affairs for Canada, after deducting therefrom the amounts necessary for the new reserve to be established and the removal and rehabilitation of the said lands, be used to serve and upon the further conditions that the reversionary interest of the Province of British Columbia in such funds shall be dealt with and settled in respect thereto in the same manner and for the same period of time as if the lands in the said Songhees Reserve had remained unsold, and upon the further condition that the reversionary interest of the Province of British Columbia shall be recognised with respect to such lands as may be purchased for the Songhees Indians out of the proceeds of the sale of the lands embraced in the said Songhees Reserve, and that a certified copy of this minute if approved be forwarded to the Honorable Frank Oliver, Minister of the Interior.

"Dated the 27th day of May, 1909.

"(Signed) F. J. FULTON,

"Chief Commissioner of Lands.

"Approved this 27th day of May, 1909.

"(Signed) F. CARTER COTTON,

"Presiding Member of the Executive Council."

Here is the record of a straight bargain entered into between the provincial and federal governments, the provisions of which are incorporated in the minutes of the federal executive dealing with this matter in final settlement of rights between the Songhees Indians and the governments of both the province and the Dominion.

It is impossible to stifle curiosity as to why these cast iron terms of settlement are abandoned by the premier and a fraction of less than one-third of this land is now offered to the city for the sum of \$30,000. The Times has asked the mayor and the city council to explain the method of reasoning by which the by-law asking for the expenditure of this large sum is considered necessary. In his letter to the Times last week the mayor covertly expressed a hope that the government might re-consider its attitude toward the city on this question, and, if we rightly infer the meaning of the mayor's letter, it implies that the city is not being fairly dealt with by the government. In fewer words, it leaves us all susceptible to the uncomfortable reflection that the premier—who is lauded by his paid organs as a man of his word—has violated a secret compact, one upon the representations upon which he secured a settlement with the federal government.

The premier certainly made a strong plea for the election of his candidates in 1907 by promising Mayor Morley to issue an interview reaffirming that this land had been ceded to the city: two years later he reaffirmed the same assertion in a memorandum to the Dominion Government over the signature of the provincial secretary and under the seal of the governor. Are we to infer that both the city and the federal authorities have been basely deceived? The approval of the by-law will amount to the relinquishment of any claim the city may have on this land and take the matter out of the court. Are we to conclude that, because a would-be political boss in Victoria has been confirmed in authority to act as salesman for the lands and other concessions on this reserve, the city council has been induced to enter into a scheme to defraud the city out of \$30,000 and an equity in the remaining thirty-one acres of this land?

We do not suggest that the commission on the sale of this land to the city should be shared with anyone but the city who handle Premier McBride's corruption funds, but we do say, with some emphasis, that it is not the duty of the mayor nor that of the council to inveigle the ratepayers into the payment of a considerable sum for lands in which they already have an undoubted equity nor to add and abet the use of taxpayers' money for McBride campaign purposes. These civic fathers are elected to protect the ratepayers of the city, not to assist in the process of robbery and spoliation.

Unless the premier and the city council can show the electors very clearly the process of reasoning by

which they have arrived at some justification for asking the ratepayers to vote this money, we think there can be but one conclusion respecting the whole proposed transaction and every one connected with it. What that conclusion should be we are quite prepared to leave every elector to arrive at for himself, complacent in the confidence that his powers of deduction will not lead him far astray.

The by-law is not to be voted on until Wednesday, November 8, according to a reading notice published in the Colonist, although the official notice calling the electors together to vote on Thursday, November 2, is still standing. To this pretty ploy have our civic affairs been conducted in the capital of the province.

ROBT. LOWE, R. N. R. DIED YESTERDAY

Marine Engineer, After Active Life in Pacific Oriental Service, Takes Last Journey

(From Thursday's Daily.)

Robert Lowe, R. N. R., one of the best known engineers in the Pacific service, and who was chief engineer on the steamer Parthia when that P. R. boat made the first Pacific trip between Canada and the Orient, died yesterday at his residence, 2334 Graham street, at the age of 61 years. It is forty years ago since the late Mr. Lowe went to the China coast first. There he was engaged on the Great Eastern, and the Canadian Northern Pacific close down, and this will accentuate the difficulties of living.

The B. C. Employment and Statistical Bureau has been asked to take up Premier McBride's challenge to the employers of this province to abolish Oriental labor, made at the Trafalgar Day demonstration, and circulate the employers to this effect, but it is not expected the outcome will have any real effect, for whatever the Trades and Labor Council, under whom they act, might do, they are not likely to do so.

Before joining his sons in Victoria some months ago the late Mr. Lowe, in severing his connection with the Japanese mercantile marine service, was decorated by the Emperor of Japan and made a member of the order of the Rising Sun and the order of the Sacred Treasure. He also won several medals.

He leaves a widow and one daughter, Mrs. Alice Lowe, his son, Robert Lowe, of Maysmith & Lowe, in Victoria, and has two daughters in England, one son, Alan Lowe at Kamloops and another son, Donald Lowe, at Alberni.

The funeral will take place from the family residence on Graham street on Saturday at 2:30 p. m.

HINDU IMMIGRATION.

To the Editor: Will you kindly allow me further space on this subject? The cry is not being raised of populating British Columbia with Hindus. We have them amongst us, and they have proved every way to be good citizens, and yet they are denied the justice of home life. Your correspondent, John Nelson, compares them to natives of Zululand, Basutoland and other colonies in British Africa. These people whom he mentions are not to be compared to the Hindus for learning, etc. I would like to ask your correspondent if he has read any Hindu literature?

There is no one more wishful than I am to see the countless thousands of poor people of Great Britain transferred to Canada's vast stretches of fertile lands, but this can only be done by the co-operation of the various governments.

I believe that in this great country there is room for the Hindus who are here, and those of their relatives and friends who come to us with out in any way affecting the welfare of the white races.

I should like to see our government bring in a minimum wage law, to protect the workers in every way to the cost of living, and by bringing in a law of this kind no corporation would be able to take advantage of any of our workers.

I have no brief for any corporation, my only desire being to see justice done to all British subjects. Are we looking forward to a world-wide British Empire, strong in every way? If we are, we cannot afford to ignore the 300,000,000 of India, to say nothing of the millions in all the smaller British dependencies the world over. Are we not glad to have the help of our Indian regiments when needed in time of trouble? It was the Sikh regiments that saved India for the British Empire. It was the Sikh regiments, more than anything else, that helped to turn the tide in the Boer war. Yet these are the men to whom we refuse to give common justice, and allow them among other things the privilege of home life.

I have been a life-long Liberal, and one of the reasons why I voted on the other side at the recent election was on account of the attitude of the late government at Ottawa toward the Hindus. I trust our present government will do differently.

The educated people of India, no matter whether they are Mohammedans, Brahmans, Parsees, etc., are well-placed in the British Empire, in the same way that Canada and the other Dominions have done and are doing.

The Canadian Pacific railway is reaching out for the trade of India in putting out on a line of steamers to Calcutta. Are we going to help stop this business, or are we going to be on the side of those who matter what shade of politics, who are doing their best to bring all parts of the Empire together?

ROBERT WM. CLARK.

LABOR SITUATION IN VICTORIA TO-DAY

Number of Salesmen and Clerks Out of Employment—Plenty of Manual Labor

The labor situation in Victoria is not any easier than it was two weeks ago, when reference was made to the lack of employment among the classes of men in this city who are unfit for heavy street labor. The employment agencies have received many applications of various kinds from men of the salesmen type who wish to get located here, and are giving accounts which have been received of British Columbia, and the Island especially, and by the milder climatic conditions.

Of this labor there is a surplus, and the prospects of improvement are small, with the men willing to undertake each other, and when few businesses requiring clerks and salesmen are opening.

The casual laborer is looking to the various schemes, which have been presented, such as the breakwater proposal, the Uplands farm development and the parliament buildings extension, and similar projected works to carry on after the street paving contracts terminate, while among organized labor there has been considerable dissatisfaction with the terms of employment. There has been trouble with the contractors for some of the largest works in the city, notably the withdrawal of the carpenters from a building now in course of construction, and their return in a brief space to have an hour out of their day's labor. There will be a flood of men in from the country when the construction work at Powell and Jordan Rivers, and the Canadian Northern Pacific close down, and this will accentuate the difficulties of living.

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JUDGMENT GIVEN IN CANADIAN CASES

Three Appeals Allowed by Judicial Committee of Privy Council

London, Nov. 2.—Judgment was given by the judicial committee of the Privy Council to-day in the following cases: Grand Trunk Pacific Railway vs. Rex, heard July 21; Grand Trunk Pacific Railway vs. Empire avenue landowners at Fort William, Ont., heard July 26, and Rex vs. Lovitt and others, heard July 27.

Details of the three cases are as follows:

1. Question as to the true construction of two agreements between the parties entered into for the purpose of raising capital for the construction of the appellants' railway.

2. Whether certain landowners on a street along which appellants' railway runs are entitled to compensation under the Railway Act—jurisdiction of the board of railway commissioners.

3. Whether succession duty is payable in New Brunswick upon money deposited in a bank there by a testator domiciled in Nova Scotia.

IMPRISONED FOR THEFT.

Golden, Nov. 1.—Six months' imprisonment in the provincial gaol at Kamloops was the sentence imposed upon Thomas Smith by the stipendiary magistrate here. The accused has been practicing a systematic theft of blankets, moccasins, sweaters, mitts, and other articles from the store of Charles A. Warren. A similar charge was preferred against Herbert Smith, but was "not proven." The latter, however, pleaded guilty to a charge of being drunk and was ordered to pay a heavy fine.

WEEKLY WEATHER REPORT.

Victoria Meteorological Office.

25th to 31st October, 1911.

Victoria.—Total amount of bright sunshine, 34 hours; rain, a trace; highest temperature, 60° on 25th; lowest, 33.5 on 26th.

Vancouver.—Rain, 31 inch; total amount of bright sunshine, 46 hours and 36 minutes; highest temperature, 56 on 25th; lowest, 34 on 26th, 26th and 29th.

New Westminster.—Rain, 42 inch; highest temperature, 58 on 25th; lowest, 33 on 26th.

Kamloops.—No rain; highest temperature, 52 on 25th; lowest, 20 on 26th; total amount of bright sunshine, 51 hours.

Barkerville.—No rain; highest temperature, 42 on 26th, 28th and 29th; lowest, 26 on 26th and 31st.

Rupert.—No rain; highest temperature, 48 on 27th; lowest, 22 on 28th.

Atlin.—No rain; highest temperature, 36 on 31st; lowest, 16 on 31st.

Barrow.—No rain; highest temperature, 26 on 26th; lowest, 4 below zero.

THE CITY MARKET

Pratt's Coal Oil	1.50
Bacon	1.75
Hams (C. C.)	20.00
Bacon (C. C.)	22.00
Hams (American)	22.00
Bacon (American)	22.00
Bacon (long clear)	22.00
Beef, per lb.	10.00
Pork, per lb.	12.00
Mutton, per lb.	12.00
Lamb, hindquarter	15.00
Lamb, forequarter	17.00
Veal, per lb.	10.00
Veal, per lb.	10.00

Fresh Island Eggs	70
Butter, Cowichan	55
Butter, Victoria	55
Butter, Salt Spring	55
Butter, Eastern Townships	55
Lard, per lb.	20
Western Canada Flour Mills	1.90
Purity, per sack	1.90
Purity, per bbl.	1.90
Oatmeal, per sack	1.90
Oatmeal, per bbl.	1.90
Robin Hood, per sack	1.90
Robin Hood, per bbl.	1.90
Vanover Milling Co., White	1.85
Vanover Milling Co., White	1.85
Vanover Milling Co., White	1.85
Vanover Milling Co., White	1.85
Vanover Milling Co., White	1.85

Wheat, per ton	35.00
Wheat, per lb.	20.00
Whole Corn	40.00
Cracked Corn	38.00
Oats	38.00
Crushed Oats	40.00
Roller Oats (B. & K.)	38.00
Roller Oats (B. & K.)	38.00
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Roller Oats (B. & K.)	38.00

Hay (baled), per ton	20.00
Straw, per ton	16.00
Ducks, per lb.	25.00
Geese (Island), per lb.	20.00
Bananas, doz.	35
Grapefruit, each, doz. or 2 for	25
Lemons, doz.	30.00
Oranges, doz.	30.00
Cantaloupes, each	10.00
Peaches, lb.	10.00
Plums, lb.	10.00
Watermelons, lb.	10.00
Apples, lb.	10.00
Grapes, lb.	10.00

Beets, lb.	10.00
Cabbage, lb.	10.00
Onions, lb.	10.00
Turnips, lb.	10.00
Carrots, lb.	10.00
Green Peas, lb.	10.00
Beans, lb.	10.00
Potatoes (Island), lb.	10.00
Potatoes (Island), lb.	10.00
Potatoes (Island), lb.	10.00
Potatoes (Island), lb.	10.00
Potatoes (Island), lb.	10.00

Salmon, Red Spring, lb.	15
Salmon, White Spring, lb.	15
Halibut (local), lb.	15
Halibut (Vancouver), lb.	15
Cod, lb.	10
Herring, lb.	10
Pinnat Haddock, lb.	15
Blowers, lb.	12.50
Shrimps (saline), lb.	25
Shrimps (imported), lb.	25
Crabs (local), lb.	12.50
Crabs (imported), lb.	12.50
Colicahans (saline), lb.	15
Salmon Bellies, lb.	15
Flounders, lb.	10
Sole, lb.	10
Kippers	12.50

Almonds, per lb.	20
Apples (local), per lb.	1.50
Apples, Jonathan	2.25
Bacon	20.00
Bananas	35
Beets, per sack	20.00
Cabbage, per lb.	0.15
Cantaloupes	17.00
Cheese	12.50
Creamery Butter	12.50
Cucumbers (hot-house), per doz.	1.25
Eggs (local)	1.50
Eggs (California)	1.50
Eggs (Eastern)	1.50
Liberty, per lb.	35.00
Green Onions	40
Grapes (Malaga)	2.00
Gr. s. (black)	1.50
Grapes (Tokay)	1.50
Grapefruit, per doz.	5.50
Hams	20
Haddies, per lb.	10
Lard	14
Huckleberries	10
Lemons	5.50
Lettuce, per crate	1.50
Oranges (Naval), case	4.75
Onions (California)	40
Parsley	40
Peasants, "asted"	10
Peaches	90.00
Pears (Bartlett)	1.75
Pomegranates	2.00
Potatoes (local)	30.00
Sweet Potatoes	10
Turnips, per sack	1.00
Walnuts, per lb.	10.00

WHOLESALE MARKET.	
Almonds, per lb20
Apples (local)	1.50@ 2.00
Apples, Jonathan	2.25
Bacon20
Bananas05
Beets, per sack	2.00
Cabbage, per lb.01@ .02
Cheese17@ .18
Chestnuts12
Creamery Butter32