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THE REPORT ADOPTED

Committee of Fifty Meet the Citizens at a Public Meeting This Evening.

The Platform Is Discussed Clause by Clause and Adopted as a Whole.

There was a big public meeting at the city hall last evening to receive the report of the Committee of Fifty, and considerable interest was displayed in the proceedings. Several of the planks of the committee's platform were discussed at length, particularly the one calling for a stricter enforcement of the laws relating to liquor licences, gambling houses and houses of prostitution. The platform was taken up clause by clause and adopted without amendment.

Mayor Redfern, who was voted to the chair, after explaining the object of the meeting, told what had been done by the committee. Sufficient time, he said, had not elapsed to enable the committee to go fully into the many questions, but a general platform had been laid down. One of the subjects was larger powers for the municipality, which all would admit was a necessary change. Other questions had been before the committee, as would be seen by the report, which follows:

To the Citizens of Victoria, in General Meeting Assembled:

Gentlemen,—Your committee to whom was referred the resolution moved by Hon. E. G. Prior, M.P., and seconded by Mr. C. E. Renouf, at the general meeting at the city hall on October 27, 1898, beg to report as follows:

That fourteen names have been added to complete the committee.

That your committee divided itself into ten special committees, allotting to each sub-committee special subjects as follows:

1. Charter and municipal legislation.
2. Mayor, aldermen, their qualifications, terms of office, duties, wards.
3. Improvement to streets and bridges.
4. City debt, consolidation of debt and reduction of city limits.
5. Railway connection and Indian reserve.
6. Revenue and taxation.
7. Internal economy.
8. Water works and sewerage.
9. Special committee on mint.
10. Harbor improvements.

That each sub-committee has diligently applied itself to the task allotted to it.

That final reports have been handed in by the following committees:

On "charter and municipal legislation."

On "city debt and reduction of city area."

And interim reports by the committees on the following:

Improvements to streets and bridges.

Railway and Indian reserve.

Internal economy.

Mayor, aldermen, their qualifications, terms of office, duties, wards.

All of which have appeared in the newspapers and the details of which are known to you.

The other committees have reported progress and asked for further time.

That the date for the election of Mayor and aldermen for the coming year it near at hand.

That it is essential that the board for 1899 should be composed of men who are pledged to establish reforms in municipal government on well defined lines.

That in the limited period which remains between this and the ninth day of January, it is impossible for the committee to reach an intelligent conclusion as to the details of any subject under their consideration.

That from the information already gathered they agree upon the main principles which should be embodied in a progressive platform, and recommend to the citizens the following platform:

1. That fuller and more extensive powers of self-government be granted than are now possessed by the city.
2. That aldermen's functions shall be legislative, and not executive, and that the office shall be honorary.
3. The revision of the ward system.
4. Continuity of office.
5. Efficient officials in charge of all public and departmental work and responsible for the matters under their charge.
6. Paving the streets under an equitable local improvement system.
7. Permanency in all public works.
8. A more rapid extension of the sewerage system.
9. Improvement of our water system. Improved filtration and perfecting its distribution.
10. The consolidation of that portion of the city debt that is practicable and may be found advantageous.
11. To press for a settlement of the Songhees reserve question.
12. To seek for advantageous connections with transcontinental railways.
13. That the city's credit shall only be pledged for permanent works.
14. To levy all rates and taxes fairly and according to the benefits which those taxed derive.
15. Day labor on public works.
16. Candidates for municipal honors to pledge themselves to the better enforcement of the laws relating to liquor licenses, gambling houses and houses of prostitution.
17. That a scheme of harbor improvements be adopted.

And your committee ask that the citizens in general meeting do declare that they will only accord their support to such candidate as do accept this platform, and who pledge themselves to carry it out so far as it lays in their power, during their term of office.

And your committee ask that further time be granted them to discuss and elaborate plans to effectually carry out the suggestions embodied in the various planks of the platform before mentioned.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

CHAS. E. PEDDERN, Chairman.
G. H. BARNARD, Secretary.

Senator Macdonald said he had attended the meeting expecting to hear that something had been done to lift the city out of the condition into which it had fallen during the last few years, but all the committee presented was a skeleton of a report; they have done nothing. This meant that the city must remain where it was for another year. The trouble was that the committee was too large and cumbersome. Taking up the report clause by clause, Senator Macdonald said the council had all the power necessary. All they could not do was to borrow money without the consent of the ratepayers, and he did not think the ratepayers would give them that power. He agreed with the committee that the functions of the aldermen should be legislative and not executive, but he did not understand what was meant by "honorary" aldermen. He likewise agreed with the proposition to pave the streets under the local improvement system, and there were other planks that were very good if they could be carried out.

Col. Prior told of how the movement for better government had been started, and how well the committees had worked, holding frequent meetings and discussing many subjects. He moved that the report be taken up seriatim.

Mr. C. E. Renouf thought that the committee should be congratulated on not having tried to do in two months what should take four or five months. He seconded the motion to take the report up seriatim. Mr. Renouf then moved that Clause 1 be adopted, explaining that what was aimed at was to secure for the council as complete control of the city as the legislature has of the province, only limiting their borrowing power.

Mr. Alex. Wilson held that the council had sufficient power, stating that they controlled all departments of the city.

Mr. Renouf pointed out that the council had control of neither the police nor the licensed houses, which were managed by commissioners.

Mr. J. S. Yates asked whether it was proposed to secure greater powers through a special charter or by the amendment of the general act.

Mr. Renouf said the committee preferred a new general act for the whole province, giving all the cities fuller powers.

Mr. Yates—And every town would be asking for conflicting amendments to it.

Mr. William Marchant explained that he did not favor a special charter, but considered that all the cities should have the same powers. Then it would cost $5,000 to get a special charter. If a perfect charter could be obtained it might be preferable, but otherwise all the cities should be governed by the same act. The council should have unlimited power of taxation. Could anybody be satisfied with the present method of managing the police force of the city? The people were taxed to keep up the force, but they had not a word to say as to how they should be managed. The mayor, it was true, was one of the commissioners, but he was only a minority of the commissioners, the other two being unrepresentative. The same was true of the licensing commissioners. In that respect the council should have more power.

Clause 1 was adopted.

When Clause 2 was put, Mr. Marchant moved that the latter part of the clause be struck out. He saw no reason why aldermen should give their services for nothing.

Dr. Hannington was of opinion that the aldermen should not be paid. In former years aldermen served without pay.

Sheriff McMillan said he had served on the council without pay, and he did not consider that it had done him any harm. Men who seek an office should give their services gratuitously.

Mr. Edward Lewis wanted the aldermen paid, as without pay workingmen could not aspire to the office, they being unable to give their time for nothing.

Mr. N. Shakespeare had served on the council for four years without pay, and he was as poor as any man now in the council. There were no better men in the council since salaries had been fixed for aldermen. Men aspired to the position now simply for the $400. Better men would come out if there was no pay. The mayor should receive something, as he was expected to entertain visitors.

Mr. Alex. Wilson contended that only men who were asked to represent the city should be paid. Those who asked themselves should not be paid. Men who had acted on the council without pay had found it a good school, and some of them were now holding higher positions. He would move as an amendment to the amendment that only those asked to stand for aldermen be paid. There was no seconder to the amendment to the amendment.

Ald. Kinsman contended that aldermen should be paid. There was much more work for aldermen now than there was a few years ago. He did not seek the office, and if re-elected he would expect his pay.

Mr. Walter Morris read definitions of the words executive and legislative, and contended if the aldermen's powers were to be legislative it would not take much time, and perhaps men could be found to give their time without pay.

Mr. Marchant's amendment was lost, and the original clause was passed.

Sections 3, 4 and 5 passed without discussion.

On Section 6 Mayor Redfern said he considered a fair local improvement system was one such as that under which Fort street was to be paved. The city pays one-third of the cost, and the property owners on either side the other two-thirds.

Mr. Alex. Wilson did not think the system an equitable one. The property owners on the streets to be improved paid two-thirds of the cost and also had to pay their share of the other third.

Clauses 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 were passed without discussion.

On clause 14 Mr. Renouf said what was meant was that residents of those portions of the city which could not benefit by the sewerage system should not be called upon to pay the interest and sinking fund on the sewerage loan.

The clause was passed, as was also clause 15 and then came the discussion of the evening on clause 16, "Candidates for municipal honors to pledge themselves to the better enforcement of the laws relating to liquor licenses, gambling houses and houses of ill-fame."

Mr. Alex. Wilson—The laws should be enforced.

A Voice—But the council has no power in the matter.

Mr. Wilson—A public meeting should be called and if the council and commissioners will not act men should be put in their positions who will act. The present condition of the city and the apathy of the police force was a disgrace. Burglars are at work every night and the laws are being broken in other ways. He contended that if the saloons were forced to close at 10 o'clock at night there would be far less crime in the city. Chatham street was a cancer on the city, far worse than bad water or bad sewerage. The officials were entirely to blame. The council shifted the responsibility to the commisisoners and the commissioners shifted it back to the council. It was when the evil struck home, when it entered a man's family, that it made him move.

Mr. J. C. Jamieson contended that clause 16 was unnecessary, clauses 1 and 5 being sufficient. Some people were simply washing dirty linen that did not belong to the city. A lot of stuff had been written that was without foundation.

A Voice—It is true.

Mr. Jamieson—Well, perhaps you know better than me. However, I am sorry to see that Mr. Wilson thinks so little of the town in which he has lived for so long.

Mr. Charles Hayward, chairman of the board of school trustees, said he had a word to say about a statement published in the Times to the effect that seven boys attending the public schools had been ruined. He had grave doubts of the truthfulness of that statement, but the trustees had, however, taken the matter up and would sift it to the bottom. He had asked the editor of the Times for his authority, but he declined to give it, admitting, however, that his information was second hand. That libel on the school children of the city should not have been published on such information. If such cases exist those who know of it should assist the school board in their investigation.

Mr. Shakespeare considered the clause a reasonable one. All it asked was that the law should be carried out. Other laws are carried out; why should not these? Gambling was broadcast, and young men had been ruined in gambling houses of the city. The clause should be endorsed by every man in the house. He had nothing to say against men in the liquor business as long as they kept the law. Men who did not observe the law deserved no consideration from the authorities. Houses of prostitution had existed and will exist, but the evil was getting beyond bounds and it was time it was checked.

Mr. Walter Morris desired to second Mr. Shakespeare's speech. If the authorities of the city had been faithful there would have been no need of such a clause. Saloon keepers who did not observe the law should be prosecuted. His heart ached when he saw the boys who had been ruined in the gambling hells. As to the social evil, it must and shall be checked.

Rev. J. C. Speer spoke of the splendid position of the city and thought all should work for the betterment of it. He had knowledge of men who had come here to establish themselves in business, and had decided to do otherwise after learning of the moral condition of the city. It was true that the city swarmed with prostitutes and gambling was carried on openly and no apparent effort was made to stop it. He believed there were laws to put these things down. What was wanted were men to enforce the laws. The committee had done a grand work and he was glad to see that the citizens were prepared to stand by them.

Rev. Dr. Lucas, the temperance lecturer, said a great deal rested on the people of Victoria to set an example to the other cities of the Coast in the matter under discussion.

The clause was then passed, as were the succeeding ones, and after adopting the report of the committee as a whole, the meeting adjourned.

TWINS BORN AT SEA.

Two Little Girls Added to Iranian's List on the Trip From Hongkong.

A passage of unusual interest to Capt. Watt, of the four-masted British schooner Iranian, now in the Royal Roads, was completed yesterday when the ship dropped anchor 65 days out from Hongkong. Seven days ago when the vessel was several hundred miles off the Cape twin daughters were born to Mrs. Watt. The voyage of the Iranian was very tempestuous. Although coming in the same direction as the missing ship Celtic Bard, Capt. Watt saw nothing of that vessel. He saw the vessel leave Hongkong now 99 days ago and considered then that she was too lightly ballasted. The Celtic Bard had previously been taking very heavy ballast and owing to complaint made of this by her owners it is understood the captain reduced her stiffening. Those on the Iranian, however, think there is little hope of her ever turning up. The Iranian is here seeking.

THE HALL MINES.

Statement of the Year's Results to 30th September—Dividends Paid.

Colonial Goldfields Gazette, Dec. 10.

The report of the directors of the Hall Mines, Limited (British Columbia), for the year ending September 30 last, to be submitted to the general meeting to be held in London on Thursday next, states that the balance sheet shows a gross profit amounting to £28,862, which, together with £48 brought forward from 1897, makes a sum of £28,910. Out of this amount the directors have already (on April 21 last) appropriated the sum of £12,500 to the payment of an interim dividend of 5 per cent., being 1s. per share on the ordinary shares, and £1,750 to the payment of a dividend of 7 per cent. on the preference shares. After deducting these two amounts there remains a balance of £14,660, from which the board have thought it advisable to write off the sum of £6,052 for depreciation of building, plant and machinery, and £7,362 for the cost of prospecting work at the company's mine prior to October 1, 1897, and on a copper claim since abandoned, leaving a balance of £1,246 to be carried forward to the credit of the account for the current year. Although the result of the year's business is disappointing in view of the expectations entertained at the date of the last general meeting, the board have reason to believe from indications shown by the development work which has been in progress for some time past, and from the report of the mine superintendent, as also from the report of Mr. John E. Hardman, president of the Canadian Mining Institute, a mining engineer of high repute in Canada, who has recently, by the board's direction, inspected the company's property, that the output from the mine will shortly be increased in quantity and value, although temporarily diminished during the last few months. Mr. Hardman's report will be found to fully confirm the confident opinion that the board have all along felt in the management of the company's property and in its economical working, and they are glad to say that after a thorough examination of the mine, Mr. Hardman is able to express a very high opinion of its prospects, the only exception that he makes being that the development is too much behind, and consequently the cost of work done has been higher than it need be if the mine were more fully opened out. Hitherto, as the shareholders are aware, the object of the board has been to so work the mine that it should be practically self-supporting—that is to say, that development and output should be carried on concurrently, and so long as the ore continued of a fairly high grade that course was possible, the yield being sufficient to meet the working expenses and pay dividend, but the loss of connection with the richer deposits in the mineral zone, temporary only though it is believed to be, has for the present made the continuance of that plan impracticable and rendered it necessary to take the course which Mr. Hardman recommends—namely, to make the output for the time being subservient to a more extensive development of the mine. To do this, however, more capital is needed, and in order to provide this the board have decided to issue first mortgage debentures to the amount of £50,000, bearing interest at 6 per cent. Particulars of this issue are forwarded to the shareholders. The insufficiency of copper in the ore in the new south ore body has been a disappointment, but the board have reason to expect that in the property called the "True Blue" mineral claim, situated at Kaslo, which is at the head of Kootenay lake, and within easy reach of the company's smelting works, they have secured a property carrying a high percentage of copper, which will serve as a useful flux to the Silver King ore. Owing to the difficulty of keeping up a full supply of ore from the mine while there was so much development work going on, the large blast furnace was in blast for 261 days only, but its working continues to give great satisfaction. The second reverberatory furnace and roasting oven, which were in course of construction at the date of the last meeting, were completed in January, and the refining works have continued to give satisfaction. With a view to still further economize the cost of tramming ore from the mine to the smelter, the board have adopted improvements which, when the mine is more extensively developed and a full and continuous supply of ore obtainable, will reduce the cost to about 25 cents per ton, as against the present cost of 44 cents. In accordance with the wishes of the shareholders, as expressed at the last general meeting, the board, with the valuable assistance of Mr. George Freeman, obtained an official quotation for the shares, which are now regularly quoted on the official list of the stock exchange. In pursuance also of the wishes of the shareholders, an appendix attached to the balance sheet gives details of the various items which are summarized in the accounts.

INTERESTING SESSION

Police Commissioners Discuss the City's Moral Conditions and Other Subjects.

Series of Resolutions Conveying Instructions to the Chief of Police.

There was a rather interesting meeting of the board of police commisisoners yesterday; perhaps not more interesting than any other meeting of the board, but as to that none but police commissioners can speak, as until yesterday the press have been excluded from the meetings. A representative of the Colonist presented himself to the mayor shortly before the meeting was called to order and learned that His Worship had no objections to the press being represented. The other commissioners took the same view of the question and consequently the proceeding are given to the public.

The minutes of the last meeting first came up and the reading of them disclosed the fact that Attorney-General Martin had also had a little mix-up with the police commissioners in which he had come out second best. It appears that Mr. Martin wrote to the chief of police on some subject in connection with the assizes—just what the minutes did not disclose and the commissioners did not think it advisable to give the press details of what took place at previous meetings. The chief answered the communication and then the clerk of the commission was instructed to write Mr. Martin suggesting that in future when having any suggestions to make in regard to police matters, he refer to the commissioners and not to the chief. The commissioners also endorsed the answer that had been sent to Mr. Martin by the chief.

Yesterday a reply was received from Mr. Martin in which he said that in future he would adopt the suggestion of the commissioners and write to them instead of to the chief. At the same time he did not consider the chief's answer a satisfactory one.

Before the minutes were adopted Commissioner Hall wished it recorded that he did not altogether agree with the letter sent to Mr. Martin and also that he, like Mr. Martin, did not consider the chief's reply to the attorney-general satisfactory.

It was pointed out that it was then too late to record the vote on the question, and the minutes were adopted.

Then came a letter that caused a ripple of mirth to go around the board. It was from James Harbuckle, who had "heard that the position of chief of police would shortly be vacant," and "thought the position would suit him." The letter was received and filed, the writer to be informed that at present there was no vacancy.

Mayor Redfern had previously stated that the meeting had been called at the suggestion of Commissioner Hall and he intimated that now was his time to bring up his business.

Commissioner Hall said he had prepared a series of resolutions, the first of which was as follows:

"1. That the chief of police be notified that the laws against prostitution and gambling must be rigidly enforced.

"2. That the chief of police be instructed to immediately communicate clause 1 hereof to the police under his control and notify them to govern themselves accordingly.

"3. That the chief of police be required one week from to-day to report fully to this board the steps which shall have been taken in compliance herewith."

To Commissioner Hall it seemed peculiar that the chief of police required any special instructions from the commissioners for it was clearly his duty to enforce the laws as they appeared in the statute. But he had spoken to the chief about the subject and he had replied, "Well, if those are your views, I will consult the mayor and ask him to call a meeting," showing that he expected to receive special instructions from the board.

Mayor Redfern said the police had always had instructions to strictly enforce the laws against gambling.

Commissioner Helmcken—As to prostitution, that is a thing that cannot be dealt with any way. What do you mean by prostitution?

Mr. Hall—The code deals very clearly with it. It provides a penalty for keepers and inmates of bawdy houses. If the law is carried out the wrong will right itself.

Dr. Helmcken—All prostitution is not carried on in bawdy houses.

Mayor Redfern declared himself as being strongly in favor of enforcing some restrictions against bawdy houses, but in a seaport town like Victoria, where there was a large floating population of miners and sailors it was not wise to enforce the law too rigidly.

Dr. Helmcken—Why, if you close those houses, it would not be safe for girls to go around the city.

Mayor Redfern—Not because of any danger from our own people, but from outsiders, who come here.

Mr. Hall then read the section of the criminal code prohibiting gambling.

Mayor Redfern—That would not include whist, cribbage or such games.

Dr. Helmcken—The late Chief Justice Begbie decided that where there was no bank there was no gambling.

Mr. Hall—The code has been changed since then. The amendment includes mixed games of chance and skill.

Mr. Hall—Possibly the law does not include whist or cribbage, but that makes no difference to the resolution. All I ask is that the law be enforced.

Mayor Redfern—The law against gambling should be enforced and restrictions placed on the houses of prostitution, but all the women should not be driven out. A worse evil would follow. There would be a number of houses of assignation and baby farms.

Dr. Helmcken—Exactly.

Mr. Hall—There are laws against such houses also.

Mayor Redfern—But it is hard to find them.

Dr. Helmcken contended that there were not so many houses of prostitution in the city as had been alleged. The chief had been told so long as the houses were properly conducted not to interfere with them. There was a necessity for such women and he for one would sooner see them here than see the lunatic asylums crowded with young men. He as a medical man could say that if those houses were closed there would be trouble for the young girls of the city. Not only among the uneducated classes, but among all classes. There were at present girls and he knew it, who attended church every Sunday who were no better in spirit than the women who some people want driven out of the city. It was safer to have the bawdy houses, properly restricted. In a seaport town it was necessary to relax the law a little.

Mayor Redfern suggested that Mr. Hall separate the resolution, dealing first with the gambling and then with the bawdy houses.

Mr. Hall said the discussion had clearly shown that the police were not to blame for the non-enforcement of the laws. Dr. Helmcken had said that the chief had been told that so long as the houses were not disorderly they were not to be interfered with. The commissioners had therefore been standing between the law and the enforcement of the law. The Municipal act places the responsibility for the enforcement of the laws on the municipality and although the commissioners might not be municipal officers in the full sense of the words, the mayor was the chief magistrate of the city.

Mayor Redfern said that just showed what a contradiction the Municipal act was. It throws the burden of the enforcement of the laws on the municipality and at the same time provides for the appointment of commissioners over whom the municipality has no control.

Mr. Hall contended that it was the duty of the commissioners to see that the police did their duty and it was the duty of the police to enforce the laws. According to the chief of police there were over a hundred persons in the city who were violating a section of the criminal code. The commissioners had said to the chief of police "the law must be set aside." He could sanction no such stand. The Doctor had described a sad state of affairs as existing in the city, a condition existing despite these houses, which he considered a remedy. What he thought a remedy was no remedy at all. The conditions would not be as bad if the housese were done away with. Young men were led into immoral ways by the facilities afforded by these houses. His views were expressed in the resolution and he felt that he had done his duty. In the interest of the city and of law and order the resolution should be passed.

Mayor Redfern said the resolution should be modified. They could not look at this matter in its strict legal sense; they had to look at it from the view of men of the world. No attempt was made to enforce such a law in Great Britain and on the continent of Europe they had gone so far as to license such houses. Far wiser men than they had thought the matter out and had come to the conclusion that it could not be stopped. The conditions were better with the houses. They should be properly regulated but not driven out.

Dr. Helmcken—It would not drive them out, but would scatter them around the city.

Mayor Redfern—And the police can better regulate them while they are in the houses.

Mr. Hall explained that the vagrancy clause of the act could be enforced against the women if they scattered around the city. These clauses had never been enforced against prostitutes. There was another view of the question and that was that the commissioners had no right to put their own opinions in place of the laws.

Mayor Redfern—The police were told to proceed against the women whenever there was the slightest disorder.

Mr. Hall—Any bawdy house is a disorderly house according to the code.

Dr. Helmcken—It is hard to prove a house a bawdy house. A number of women living in a block does not make a bawdy house.

Mr. Hall—The police say they can secure the necessary evidence. He had been informed that even officers had been solicited by women on the streets.

Dr. Helmcken—There is very little soliciting in Victoria.

Mr. Hall—There was considerable a short time ago.

Mayor Redfern—That practice should certainly be put a stop to.

Dr. Helmcken said the commissioners had received a lot of anonymous communications but nobody seemed to have the courage to sign a complaint or come before the commissioners and prove what they said.

Mr. Hall—The police have the necessary information.

Mayor Redfern said he frequently received anonymous letters and complaints but when asked for the names of their informants or to make their complaints in writing, the complainants had always declined to comply with the request. All laws were made to be administered with discretion. The law against prostitution might be rigidly enforced in an inland town and yet it could not be enforced in a seaport town.

Mr. Hall—It was enforced in Winnipeg and the women were driven out of town to a little settlement of their own.

Mayor Redfern—Winnipeg is not a seaport town.

Dr. Helmcken—Have you heard of the effect of the enforcement of the law in Winnipeg—girls leaving the town in disgrace?

Mr. Hall—They leave other towns in disgrace.

Dr. Helmcken said he had heard that about a year ago a sermon had been preached in Calvary Baptist church, the preacher telling the young people of the congregation where they could find these houses. That, he considered, was very wrong.

There being no seconder to Mr. Hall's motion, it fell to the ground and the mayor proposed the following in lieu of it, stating that gambling could be dealt with in another resolution:

"That the police be instructed to rigidly enforce the laws against prostitution in every case where a house is disorderly or is made conspicuous in any way whatever and in every case where the inmates of any such house make themselves conspicuous on the streets or in any public place."

The mayor's resolution was carried unanimously, Mr. Hall explaining that although he preferred his own, he would support the mayor's.

Mr. Hall then moved, seconded by Dr. Helmcken, that the chief of police be notified to strictly enforce the law against gambling.

There was no objection to this resolution, but the mayor sent for Chief Sheppard to ask him a few questions in regard to gambling.

The chief said there was no gambling going on in the city so far as he was aware of. Neither were there any lotteries, but there might be one or two chuck-a-luck games in Chinatown. His officers, however, were endeavoring to stop them. There were certainly no banking games being conducted in the city.

Mr. Hall said he had heard that gambling had been carried on in one of the houses recently complained of. It might have been poker.

The chief was then shown the resolution dealing with bawdy houses, which the commissioners had passed. He asked how he was to construe the word "conspicuous." He could hardly summons a woman for dressing gaudily on the street.

It was explained that large numbers on doors, red blinds and soliciting would be considered conspicuous.

Mr. Hall—I have seen women on Chatham street in loose wrappers, talking to men and beckoning to them.

Dr. Helmcken—They may have been friends of theirs.

Chief Sheppard—We have men on Chatham street during the afternoon and at night.

Mayor Redfern said he had passed along Chatham street about 10 o'clock a few evenings ago and he had found it very quiet.

Mr. Hall—If you had gone through there three weeks ago you would not have found it quiet. Constable Wood, who had been placed there had worked a reformation.

At this stage Mr. Hall and the chief commenced to talk at one another as to the work done by Constable Wood and the mayor, having called for order, and there being no further question for the chief to answer, he withdrew.

Mr. Hall moved, seconded by Dr. Helmeken, that the chief of police be instructed to strictly enforce the law which prohibits the supplying of liquor to intoxicated persons.

This motion was passed, although Dr. Helmcken said he did not know who could tell when a man was intoxicated. There was no definition of the phrase "intoxicated person."

Mr. Hall replied that men were convicted every day for drunkenness.

The Sunday closing law next came up for consideration, the police, on motion of Mr. Hall, seconded by Dr. Helmcken, being instructed to strictly enforce that law.

All the commissioners considered it difficult to get a conviction under the law, but they nevertheless thought every effort should be made to enforce it.

Mr. Hall next moved, seconded by Dr. Helmcken, "that the attention of the chief of police be called to the clauses of the rules and regulations for the guidance of the Victoria city police, which require sobriety and diligence on the part of all members of the department and that the chief be required to draw the attention of the members of the force to the same."

Mayor Redfern said he had never known of an officer offending against the rules, but Mr. Hall thought the resolution might do good, so it was passed.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

"SIERRA NEVADA."

The Story of a Strangely Marked Grave in the Cemetery Out at Ross Bay.

"Sierra Nevada!"

In striking, deep-cut letters, the above inscription, on a headstone in Ross Bay cemetery, cannot fail to attract the eye and arouse the interest of visitors.

The words form the key to a most interesting history, through which run stirring incidents of the mad rush for gold to California in '49, and the trials and perils of the Argonauts.

The stone is by no means an imposing one, but it apparently cost considerable.

By a peculiar chain of circumstances Mrs. Walker, of 11 Blanchard street, this city, was enabled to learn the significance of the term, and at the same time unravel an interesting history.

About eleven years ago her attention was attracted to the grave by the bold lettering of "Sierra Nevada!" and also by the peculiar position the inscription held in the stone, unshadowing completely as it did the married name of the deceased.

She thought little more about the matter until a few years ago, when she happened to be in a village called Ontario in Southern California. At this place she became acquainted with an old Argonaut named Dewel, who, upon learning that Mrs. Walker had come from Vancouver Island, said that a daughter of one of his early friends who had been dubbed by the gold seekers "Sierra Nevada" had been married and died on the Island.

The lonely grave with its peculiarly engraved stone was immediately photographed in Mrs. Walker's mind and it was not long before she learned the history of the strangely named girl.

Mr. Dewel is an old gentleman of eighty-eight, but still hale and clear brained. For many years he followed the profession of school teacher in the Eastern States, when comparatively a young man settled in Wisconsin. From this state he headed a party of gold seekers in 1849, mad with a thirst for the precious metal, and after many trials, privations and perils, finally reached the Golden State. The party which he captained was an unusually large one, but dissension broke out among the members, and when California was reached they were scattered all over the country.

His recital of the naming of "Sierra Nevada" and her subsequent history was graphic in the extreme. After relating the story of the trip over the plains and through the mountains, Mr. Dewel said:

"In the motley crew of which I was captain there were many peculiar people. My attention was early in the journey attracted by a young couple who had been married about a year, and who after unsuccessfully ranching in Wisconsin, decided to try their fortunes in the Far West. The young wife was a charming girl, and considerable attention was bestowed on her, owing to the fact that she was about to become a mother. Up to the time we reached the Sierra Nevada range, the party held together pretty well. One exceedingly wild and stormy day we camped high up in the mountains, and here dissension broke out in the camp as to when we should make another start. The matter threatened to become serious for a time as we could decide on nothing, and I had some desperate men to deal with. An incident happened, however, which took our thoughts for a time from the matter in dispute, as news spread through the camp that Mrs. ——— was about to be confined. All thoughts of departure were abandoned at once. The little stranger came into the world on the roughest night I ever experienced. Next day it was decided to name her, and Bill Smith, a big rancher, said: 'Say we call her Sierra Nevada, boys.' We were at this time in that range of mountains. Well, to make a long story short, little Sierra became the pet of the camp. She was in fact a kind of daughter of the regiment. Her father after unsuccessfully mining in California, started north and finally struck British Columbia. I corresponded with him frequently and learned that little Sierra grew up to be a fine handsome girl. The father then went off to the Cariboo mines and left his wife and family in Victoria. Sierra, I understand, eloped when but a mere slip of a girl, but her married life proved happy and uneventful. The last word I received from Mr. D——— was that the girl named under such peculiar conditions had died on the Island."

CHRONIC ECZEMA CURED.

One of the most chronic cases of eczema ever cured is the case of Miss Gracie Ella Aiton, of Hartland, N.B. On a sworn statement Mr. Aiton says: I hereby certify that my daughter Gracie Ella was cured of eczema of long standing by using four boxes of Dr. Chase's Ointment. William Thistle, druggist, of Hartland, also certifies that he sold four cured Gracie Ella.

THE LAKME DOOMED.

Lime Cargo Takes Fire at Outset of Trip From Seattle to San Francisco.

Steamer Takes Refuge at Astoria and Now Lies Burning on the Beach.

The steam schooner Lakme, Capt. Hanson, from Seattle for San Francisco with lime, put into Astoria on Monday with her cargo on fire. The Lakme left Seattle on Saturday morning at 5 o'clock. She had considerable general cargo on board, and on her way out of the Sound stopped at Roche harbor and filled her hold with lime. The weather was rough outside, and it is presumed that the hatches leaked and water got into the hold. This fired the lime, and the Lakme raced away for the nearest port, crossing the Columbia river bar during Sunday night. It was at first supposed that the fire could be mastered without serious damage to the vessel, but the following despatch received last night shows a more serious condition of affairs than looked for:

"Astoria, Ore., Dec. 27.—The Lakme was beached to-day. The deck load of lumber was removed and an examination of the vessel made. It was found that many barrels of lime in the forward hold were burning fiercely and it was impossible to remove any of the cargo. The tugs Rescue and Escort and the city fire engine worked all afternoon pumping water into her hold. Despite this there was no abatement of the fire and it is the general belief that the steamer is doomed.

"Another danger which now threatens total destruction of the steamer is that the lime will swell and burst her open. The lower hold of the Lakme is filled with lumber, and strenuous efforts are being made to subdue the fire before it reaches this portion of her cargo."

THE LIPTON COMPANIES.

Agents for the Big Tea and Provision Companies Appointed.

Mr. N. G. Conybear, representing Lipton, Limited, of tea fame and the Thomas J. Lipton Company, dealers in hams, bacons and lard, is in the city in the interests of those firms. He has been away from his home in Chicago for nine weeks covering the district from Lower California to British Columbia, and as a result of his visit the name of Lipton will be as well known on the Pacific Coast as it is in Great Britain and in the Eastern States and provinces. The companies have had representatives on the Coast for some time, but as Mr. Conybear remarks, they have only been doing business in a lukewarm way. Hereafter, competitors will have to look to their laurels, for Lipton's teas and provisions are going to be kept in the mind of the public by every means known to the advertiser.

Mr. Thomas Earle has been appointed agent for British Columbia for Lipton, Limited, the tea company, and Mr. R. H. Jameson for the Thomas J. Lipton Company. The latter company have the packing house in the Union Stock Yards, Chicago. Last season they shipped a quarter of a million pounds of ham and bacon to the Klondike country alone, but they had not been satisfied with even the large share of the business that they now control. In connection with the tea company they are establishing connections in every town of any size in Canada and the United States, and within six months expect to have them complete.

The record of the head of these companies, Sir Thomas Lipton, is too well known for repetition. His latest move to attract attention was his challenge for the America's cup, to carry out which he is now having built at Belfast, Ireland, the yacht Shamrock at a cost of $300,000.

Cure that Cough with Shiloh's Cure. The best Cough Cure. Relieves Croup promptly. One million bottles sold last year. 40 doses for 25 cts. Sold by Cyrus H. Bowes.

SUBSTANTIALLY CORRECT.

Mr. Hayward Replies to the Denials of the Times.

The Times in a leading editorial last evening said:

It is our painful duty to protest once more against the grossly unfair manner in which the Colonist reports public occurrences and statements made by public men at public meetings. That paper in reporting the remarks of Mr. Charles Hayward at the meeting in the city hall last night puts into that gentleman's mouth statements and words which he could not have uttered. For example, the Colonist makes Mr. Hayward say that

"He had asked the editor of the Times for his authority, and the editor had declined to give it, admitting, however, that his information was second-hand."

Mr. Hayward says he never asked the editor of the Times for his authority; Mr. Hayward is a man of sense and would certainly know better than to do anything so crude and absurd. Neither did the editor of the Times "admit" that his "information was second-hand." The Colonist also commits Mr. Hayward to the absurdity of first of all saying he has "grave doubts as to the truthfulness of those statements" (about the seven schoolboys) and in the next breath he admits that "the school trustees have taken the matter up and will sift it to the bottom," thus placing Mr. Hayward in the position of prejudicing and condemning before the evidence is in. Our reporter says he did not hear Mr. Hayward make the remark charged to his account in the Colonist this morning:

"That libel on the school children of the city should not have been published on such information."

Mr. Hayward was seen last evening and stated that the report of his remarks as they appeared in the Colonist was substantially correct. He had not personally seen the editor of the Times, but he had sent Mr. Eaton, the superintendent of schools, to see him, and the editor of the Times had admitted to Mr. Eaton that his information was second-hand.

The Beginning of
HEALTH
25c
The trial size of ABBEY'S EFFERVESCENT SALT is on the market at the above price. It has been so put up to enable everyone to try this wonderful health-giving preparation. Of all druggists. Large bottle 60 cents.