

LOCAL CEMENT FOR THE STREETS

HOME INDUSTRIES RECEIVE SUPPORT

City Council Decides in Favor of Tod Creek Product.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

The tender for cement for city work was awarded to R. P. Rithet & Co., agents for the Vancouver brand, made at Tod Creek. Tenders were called for and while there seemed to be little difference in price between the local product and that imported from England most of the members of the council felt like encouraging the home industry.

The report on the prices from the city engineer and purchasing agent showed the following prices: R. P. Rithet & Co., lowest price, \$2.51 per barrel; Robert Ward & Co., lowest price, \$2.55 per barrel; Bostock & Co., \$2.51 1/2 per barrel delivered at Smith's Hill and \$2.41 1/2 per barrel delivered elsewhere in the city. There were various other features with respect to the return of bags and barrels and other details. The report stated that while Bostock & Co.'s tender is the lowest, it is difficult to see how it can be accepted as the tender must be brought from the Old Country and would delay the work of construction for from eight to ten weeks in the very best season of the year. The report further stated that it is more economical to have the cement delivered in sacks than in barrels, especially when a mixer is used.

Ald. Stewart said he did not see that they could do anything else than accept the offer of R. P. Rithet & Co. He would like to call the attention of the local producers to the low prices charged for English cement. He thought they should get the local product or none of the cement. He, however, would like to have a clause put in to allow the council to use a certain amount of English cement to carry on a test on a few streets.

Ald. Ross thought the tenders were practically the same. He did not believe in going back on an old firm like Ward & Co. He would like to see the contract divided.

Ald. Henderson agreed with this. The prices of the English cement were quite as good as the local.

Ald. Turner was in favor of home industry. When the price was the same he would have no difference in quality the local industry should be encouraged.

Ald. Raymond agreed with Ald. Turner. Not only did a local industry get the benefit of the contract, but the carrying trade, the steamship and other residents of the city got the benefit.

Ald. Henderson thought that the city should take steps to prevent being held up by the local company. If the local company could not supply on notice, the city should be able to go somewhere else and charge it to the company.

Ald. Fullerton wanted to see the contract divided. It would be safer to have a division of the supply after last year's shortage.

Ald. Mable thought there had been a lot made out of the shortage of last year. It had been made too much of.

The motion to have the contract awarded to Rithet & Co., at the lowest tender, was carried on the following vote:

Ayes—Aldermen Henderson, Mable, McKewen, Stewart, Turner and Raymond.

Nays—Aldermen Fullerton, Ross, Bishop and Humber.

ST. DAVID'S DAY.

Supper and Social Entertainment at the Sir William Wallace Hall on March 1st.

At a committee meeting held at the residence of A. P. F. 572 Michigan street, on Monday, it was decided to celebrate St. David's day by having a supper and social entertainment at the Sir William Wallace hall, on Monday evening, March 1st. Tickets at 10c.

Ladies to be able to participate in the evening's enjoyment, Mr. Ringshaw, corner of Yates and Broad streets, will be the caterer.

Tickets can be had from A. Perch, watchmaker, Douglas street, or any member of the committee, also at the Hub cigar store, Government street. The supper will be laid at 8 p.m. sharp.

M. J. Morgan and his wife, of the musical portion of the entertainment, and Dr. O. M. Jones has kindly consented to preside.

MUCH FREIGHT COMING.

Steamer Keemun Bringing 1,000 Tons From Liverpool Alone, Besides Oriental Goods.

Blue Funnel liner Keemun, which is due to arrive here from Liverpool, the Orient on Saturday or Sunday next, is bringing a large amount of cargo to this port, including one thousand tons from Liverpool besides the usual freight which will have from Hongkong and other Chinese ports.

Among the freight is a consignment of 112 steel plates for the B. C. Marine Railway Company, weighing 63 tons, and 3,000 boxes of tin plate for Plindley, Durand & Co. for use in making the big run, a large quantity of tin plate will be used here.

The bones of an average man's skeleton weigh 20 pounds. Those of a woman are probably 6 pounds lighter.

CHAIRMAN OF THE RAILROAD COMMISSION

Hon. J. P. Mabee Admirably Fitted by Ability and Legal Training for Position.

The fact that a list of nearly sixty complaints and applications, comprising many intricate questions between railroad and patron, between the rights of corporations and the rights of citizens, were disposed of in less than one week by the Dominion board of railway commissioners here, is due, as is generally admitted by those who have had opportunity of knowing, to the decisiveness, capability and fair-mindedness of the chairman, the Hon. J. P. Mabee, says the Winnipeg Free Press. The session just closed was Hon. Mr. Mabee's second visit to Winnipeg as chairman of the railway commission. He was here with the board for a little over a week in September, but at that time Winnipeg had nothing like the opportunity to size up the man and his methods that it had this time. The results are all in favor of the brilliant jurist.

Hon. Mr. Mabee is a big man physically and good to look at. He is well-built, a dark complexion, dark hair, untouched as yet by gray, and he has a strong, kindly face. His voice is clear and resonant, the hot-air bubbles of thoughts which invariably are to be heard, it lends extra force to their delivery. The impression the man leaves with a casual acquaintance is one of power, purpose, and a capacity equal to whatever task offers, large or small.

He is quick to grasp a situation, a point or a problem as the case may be. From coast to coast he travels and he meets some clever lawyers. To him they are all alike. Try as they may they cannot cloud the issue nor throw sand in the chairman's eyes. He gets the basic principle by the shortest route and the hot-air bubbles of the shrewdest legal counsel with the sharp points of wit and clear-mindedness. He is kindly, fair, stern in condemnation, but always ready to hear the complaint of the weakest applicant for justice. He shows a dislike for red tape methods. His nature is against it. He is a man quick to make up his mind when all the facts are in on both sides, and to render his ruling. He sees the fact that for the last few years the great railroad companies have, figuratively, walked over the private citizen, bulldozed municipalities and had their own way generally.

One of the complaints he has received is that the complainants he is no less just to the railroads.

A significant relative to the sitting of the commission here is this: although expressions of admiration for Chairman Mabee's excellent handling of business, his despatch and fairness were often heard, there was not one complaint or objection of a complaint and even those against whom he had rendered decisions maintained for him respect and sincere regard.

Hon. Mr. Mabee is a young man. He is now but 50 years of age. He was born November 1859, at Port Ravan, Ont. He was educated in Toronto, where he still makes his home, and was called to the bar in 1883. He practised at Lowell, Ont., for two years, and in St. Catharines for sixteen years. He returned to Toronto in January, 1905, and became a member of the firm of Beatty, Blackstock & Co. In the same year he was raised to the bench in the division of the high court of Ontario. He was chairman of the Canadian branch of the international waterways commission from January, 1905, to November, 1908. In March of last year he received his appointment to succeed the late Hon. A. C. Eklund as chairman of the railway commission.

Besides being an able jurist Mr. Mabee is a good sportsman, a keen angler and a lover of clean out-of-door sport of all kinds.

JURY TAMPERING IN PITTSBURG GRAFT TRIAL

Warrants Issued for Arrests of Ten Persons—Others Implicated.

Pittsburg, Pa., Feb. 15.—From statements made to-day by District Attorney Wm. A. Blakeley and Chief of County Detectives George H. Waggoner, it is believed that additional arrests for alleged jury tampering will be made before the first of the municipal graft trials begins here to-morrow morning. Warrants have already been issued for ten persons, two of whom were arrested on Saturday night. The other men implicated have fled, it is said, or are in hiding.

Evidence is in the possession of the district attorney which, according to that official, shows that a complete plot was formed to thwart justice in the graft proceedings.

EX-BANK CLERK'S FORGERY.

Toronto, Ont., Feb. 16.—Alex. McMichael, of Plincher Creek, Alberta, formerly a bank clerk, was sentenced to six months in the penitentiary for forgery. He had forged the name of a bank clerk here to a cheque which he got cashed.

REV. A. CAMPBELL DEAD.

Toronto, Ont., Feb. 16.—Rev. Alex. Campbell, retired Methodist minister, died at his residence on Simcoe street yesterday of heart failure, aged 77 years. He has filled a number of pulpits in Ontario and Quebec during his ministry.

SNOW BLOCKADE IN COLORADO.

Denver, Colo., Feb. 16.—The first Denver & Rio Grande train from Denver to enter this city in eight days arrived at 2 o'clock this morning, the long snow blockade at Cumburn Hill being broken yesterday afternoon. It is not probable that the blockade in Amias canyon will be broken for several days.

WATER BOARD FOR DISTRICT

PROPOSITION IN LINE WITH BRITISH PRACTICE

Councillor Oliver, of Oak Bay, Puts Forward New Plan.

At the meeting of the Oak Bay council on Monday Councillor Oliver put forth a new view of the water question as it affects Victoria and the surrounding districts. Councillor Oliver while in the old days was not idle apparently, but went fully into the question of water administration there. He has returned with the fullest information on the subject, and copies of the statutes and regulations have been brought back by him. Councillor Oliver proposes to ask the government to adopt the system in vogue in England, where a board of control takes authority over a whole district and appoints a body on matters over which they consider themselves possessed of supreme authority and unbridled power, thus constituting themselves arbitrary governors of Beacon Hill (and Cedar Hill) parks contrary to the deed of trust of your petitioners maintains that the city by-law 315 is unlawful in so far as it relates to Beacon Hill (and Cedar Hill) parks. Your petitioner maintains that the board of park commissioners do not report to your honorable body on matters over which they consider themselves possessed of supreme authority and unbridled power, thus constituting themselves arbitrary governors of Beacon Hill (and Cedar Hill) parks. Your petitioner maintains that the board of park commissioners do not report to your honorable body on matters over which they consider themselves possessed of supreme authority and unbridled power, thus constituting themselves arbitrary governors of Beacon Hill (and Cedar Hill) parks.

Your petitioner therefore respectfully demands that the board of park commissioners be dissolved, and that the duties of the park commissioners be transferred to the city by-law 315 is unlawful in so far as it relates to Beacon Hill (and Cedar Hill) parks. Your petitioner maintains that the board of park commissioners do not report to your honorable body on matters over which they consider themselves possessed of supreme authority and unbridled power, thus constituting themselves arbitrary governors of Beacon Hill (and Cedar Hill) parks.

The obligations and duties of the trustees of Beacon Hill and Cedar Hill parks, are legally and compulsorily imposed on the office of the mayor and council of the city of Victoria, and are continuous in their nature and cannot be renounced by a city by-law.

Your petitioner humbly and respectfully submits that the mayor and council co-trustees have not any inherent power to divest of themselves of their duties and responsibilities of the office and cannot by self-will and self-made by-laws deprive themselves of, avoid or evade or transfer them.

The transfer of the duties and obligations of the trustees of Beacon Hill and Cedar Hill parks to the board of park commissioners by a by-law is an unwarrantable and unlawful attempt to avoid and evade the duties of the mayor and council in addition to the fact that it is a distinct and grievous breach of trust.

Your petitioner therefore humbly prays that your honorable body will accede to the prayer of the petition (marked No. 1) and further erase from the by-law the portions relating to Beacon Hill (and Cedar Hill) parks.

And your petitioner will ever pray, etc.

J. S. HELMCKEN.

One of the Public.

Victoria, B. C., Feb. 15th, 1909.

To the Honorable the Mayor and Council of the City of Victoria:

Since my petition to your honorable body, dated January 21st, 1909, a small, modish club-house about 30 x 50, has been unlawfully erected in Beacon Hill park.

Your petitioner therefore prays that your honorable body will at once exercise its duty and order the removal of the building to be immediately removed from Beacon Hill park, and your petitioner will ever pray, etc.

P. S.—Petitioner has good reason to believe that the land on which the club house rests is a portion of the park set aside by statute for the game of cricket. A club house is not mentioned in the resolution No. 3, and further, the game of "bowling" is not mentioned in section 4 of the by-law 521.

Ald. Stewart did not see that the bowling green would do any harm, it was an innocent game. The park was open to football players, etc. He felt the letter should be laid on the table and he informed that the council did not intend to take any further steps.

Ald. Raymond feared that other clubs might ask to put up buildings, and the park would soon be covered. He did not know where it might end.

Ald. McKewen did not know who gave permission for this.

Ald. Turner said the parks board as it had under the most valuable building in the park for the club to build a small structure. It was doing no harm. If it did they could be ordered to move. Until there was some objectionable feature it would be absurd to stop the building.

Ald. McKewen said he did not say there was any harm being done. The only thing was it might be a dangerous precedent to establish.

Ald. Fullerton said that a thousand applications were made for pavilions it would not hurt to allow them.

The motion to lay the letter on the table was carried.

WINNIPEG'S MEANEST MAN.

Winnipeg, Man., Feb. 16.—Charles Parker, who on January 2nd broke into the jewelry store of Charles F. Sterling & Co., and stole four gold watches and a few days ago threw a brick through a window of Robinson & Co.'s department store and got away with three gold watches which were on display on bonspiel tables was yesterday sentenced to seven years in the Manitoba penitentiary.

Platinum is obtained principally from the Ural mountains and California. Its pure state, it is a soft white metal, much resembling silver. It melts only at a very high temperature, does not oxidize when exposed to the atmosphere and is not affected by the strongest acids.

DISPUTES POWERS OF PARKS BOARD

Hon. J. S. Helmcken on Constitutional Question Respecting Beacon Hill.

Hon. J. S. Helmcken takes exception to the powers delegated to the parks board in administering the Beacon Hill and Cedar Hill parks, which were handed over to the council. He refers in a letter written to the city council Monday that the council cannot delegate any powers it has in administering these parks. The city council will take no action in the complaint about the Bowling. Mr. Helmcken sent the following letters to the council:

Victoria, B. C., Feb. 8. The Honorable the Mayor and Council of the City of Victoria, Trustees of Beacon Hill Parks:

Gentlemen: On the 22nd of January, ult., your petitioner, the undersigned, sent to your honorable body the petition (marked No. 1). Your honorable body has not yet taken any action on the petition, and I have not yet received the communication (marked No. 2).

Your petitioner has learned from good authority that the board of park commissioners do not report to your honorable body on matters over which they consider themselves possessed of supreme authority and unbridled power, thus constituting themselves arbitrary governors of Beacon Hill (and Cedar Hill) parks.

Your petitioner therefore respectfully demands that the board of park commissioners be dissolved, and that the duties of the park commissioners be transferred to the city by-law 315 is unlawful in so far as it relates to Beacon Hill (and Cedar Hill) parks.

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NO GRAVEL FROM SPRING RIDGE

RESIDENTS PROTEST AGAINST BUNKERS

Strong Delegation From That District Aims Its Grievances.

Residents of Spring Ridge are again in arms metaphorically speaking against a threatened invasion of that district by John Haggerty and by the Lineham Sand & Gravel Company. Before the council sat in open session Monday a strong delegation from Spring Ridge waited upon the members in the committee room and presented their view on the question.

Later in the evening in the council chamber the subject of Mr. Haggerty's contract with the city to get gravel from Spring Ridge was refused.

Occasion was taken while the delegation was present to urge the settlement of the whole Spring Ridge nuisance by adopting a scheme of general improvement.

The location of the pound was also objected to. J. Brown acted as the introducer of the delegation. He objected to the bunkers on Gladstone avenue. A great deal of damage had already been done there.

Ex-Ald. Gleason outlined the objections. The crossing proposed to be put in would be a menace in the district, and would tend to lessen the value of property there. The residents were opposed to it. The deputation he said objected also to the city entering into any contract with one taking material from Spring Ridge.

From the council said he had sent a communication to the council, which was as follows:

To His Worship the Mayor and Board of Aldermen:

Dear Sirs,—I have acquired some property at the corner of Vine street and Fernwood road, which is contiguous to the site where the Lineham Sand & Gravel Company propose building a railway siding and erecting bunkers. It was my intention to make some improvements upon this property, directly the local improvement work contemplated by your honorable body upon Fernwood was completed.

Permit me to point out that the erection of bunkers adjoining this property would materially affect its value, and retard the permanent improvement, not only of this property, but of the whole district.

Fernwood road bids fair to become one of the best-frequented streets of the city, commencing as it does, at Dunsmuir Castle, and running clear down to Oaklands. It is, therefore, very desirable that good residences with pleasant gardens surrounding them should be erected rather than houses of a poorer description. I would, therefore, respectfully ask you not to accede to the request made by the company—that is to say, to instruct the building inspector not to issue the permit for the building of the bunkers nor to permit the use of the street for a railway siding.

Permit me also to point out that the sand pit nuisance has been a chronic grievance to the residents of Spring Ridge for many years past, and successive councils have endeavored to grapple with it. There are many difficulties connected with this question which you cannot avoid or solve, but much of the grievances complained of could be greatly minimized at the present time.

I would, therefore, ask the city council to:

First—Decline at once to allow the Lineham Sand & Gravel Company to erect bunkers, or to build a railway siding.

Second—To appoint a small committee of your body, with the city engineer and street superintendent should meet a committee of the property owners for the purpose of trying to remove some of the grievances complained of. If you readily do this and notify me of your action, I will make necessary arrangements for such a meeting.

Your obedient servant,

W. MARCHANT.

He also represented the Emmanuel Baptist church also in protesting against it in the following resolution:

To the Mayor and City Council:

Gentlemen: At a special meeting convened by the trustees of the Emmanuel Baptist church, the proposals made by the Lineham Gravel Co., to erect bunkers upon adjacent property to our church, were carefully considered, and the following resolution was passed.

"Resolved, that we strongly protest against the erection of bunkers on the property named, and would respectfully request the city council not to grant the desired permission."

In support of the resolution we would point out that we are the owners in trust of the most valuable building in the immediate vicinity, the value of a building and ground being about \$16,000; that we erected the building as a church and school before there had been much sand and gravel taken from the sand pits and we have borne the burden without complaint the steady but gradual disfigurement of the surrounding property in the hope that some general measure looking to the restoration of the district would be proceeded with in good time.

We submit, therefore, that the erection of the proposed bunkers would be a permanent spoliation of the district and that the railway siding would add to the dangers incident to any railway crossing the public streets.

We have over 100 children attending our church and school, whilst similar numbers attend the Presbyterian and Methodist schools. There are about 200 children of tender age attending the Spring Ridge public school, and we submit that the frequent passing of a passenger and freight cars would be an added source of danger to all these children.

We beg, therefore, to humbly request

that you do not entertain the proposals of the company.

Signed on behalf of the trustees, GEO. F. WAITES, Secretary.

The Lineham Company proposed to erect bunkers going further than any other disfigurement. This would be a detriment in itself.

Besides this, there was danger to Sabbath school children and public school pupils if this crossing of the street was allowed. If bunkers were proposed to be erected on Rockland avenue there would be an outcry that would effectively prevent the erection of the bunkers there. There was a large quantity of gravel on the streets that could be removed and would improve the city. This was something that should be dealt with. At a former period there had been a reduction in the assessment owing to the depreciation of values by this disfigurement.

Mayor Hall said the matter would require very grave consideration by the council before anything was done. He did not know that there was any move to do what was feared. He personally had always voted against taking a yard of gravel from Spring Ridge. He was opposed to the erection of any bunkers such as proposed by the Lineham Company. If bunkers were to be built they should be in the business section. He did not think the deputation had anything to say.

Mr. Brown, speaking for the residents, expressed the wish that the council would give some kind of assurance to remedy a disfigurement of the district. The residents would help in every way possible to remove an eyesore. Water lay there all winter until dried up in the summer, when excavations began, and it was a nuisance. His Worship said he thought he could assure them something would be done. He had already asked the city solicitor to look into the matter and see if something could not be done.

The delegation thanked the Mayor and aldermen for the assurances, and the council withdrew to go into regular session.

Thereupon the residents of Spring Ridge went into conference, and as a result of it, later in the evening a resolution was presented to the council complaining of the location of the pound.

The resolution was referred to the health and morals committee, some of the aldermen expressing the wish that the residents could inform the council of the right place for the pound.

At the council meeting a letter from Mr. Haggerty was read. This followed his agreeing to enter into a contract to supply gravel to the city from an area other than Spring Ridge. He stated that since signing the contract with the city he had found that the parcels of land he had taken from the sand and gravel are unwilling to sell to him in such a manner and at such a price as to make it possible for him to buy the land. He therefore offered to supply the material to the city from the Spring Ridge pits, to the satisfaction of the engineer, at the rate of \$1 and \$1.20 per cubic yard in a radius from Spring Ridge to the post office. He would also enter into agreement to cut down and grub Pemberton and North Chatham streets from Chambers street to Fernwood road to a grade which may be given by the city engineer, and he will allow the city 50 cents per cubic yard for every yard suitable for his contract. He would give a satisfactory bond to insure the performance of this agreement. He stated that should the city wish to consume 20,000 yards of gravel it will make a saving of \$4,000 by the above agreement as he was making a difference of 20c per yard between the prices in the original contract made in his latest proposition. Mr. Haggerty stated that the cost of gravel taken from the above streets would probably amount to from \$1500 to \$2,000, which, with the above \$4,000, would amount to a good saving for the city. He pointed out that as a matter of fact the Spring Ridge material would be moved away from there at any rate on some future date to supply private customers.

Ald. Fullerton proposed to inform the writer of the matter and see what he could do. He thought there was something queer when Mr. Haggerty asked \$1.20 a yard. The tender of the B. C. Gravel Company was from \$1 for for 85 cents. It looked as if there was collusion somewhere.

His Worship explained that Mr. Haggerty had been agreeable to take a contract for getting gravel somewhere else. This letter had now come along, and it would be better to cut all new gravel.

Ald. Stewart felt that no more gravel should be taken from Spring Ridge. It was decided to inform Mr. Haggerty his request could not be complied with.

STAMP MILL FOR MORESBY ISLAND

Order for Machinery Has Been Placed in Germany.

Vancouver, Feb. 15.—Recent development of free-milling gold claims in the vicinity of Gold Harbor on the west coast of Moresby Island in the Queen Charlotte group, has proved so satisfactory that the Nuba and Early Bird Mining Companies will jointly install a 20-stamp mill for use in April, 1910.

The order for the plant has been placed in Germany. A new device, ball-bearing in action