THE EDMONTON BULLETIN

(SEMI-WEEKLY.)

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DUNCAN MARSHALL,
Manager.

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MATTERS MUNICIPAL.

The present municipal campaign is perhaps more lacking in first-rate issues than any for some years. Similarity rather than diversity characterizes the platforms of candidates, mayoral and aldermanic. Where differences occur they arise mostly over secondary questions and in methods of attaining purposes generally admitted desirable. On the main lines of civic policy there is singular agreement. Whatever may be the disadvantages of such a situation it has also a compensating consideration. That there are few issues of outstanding importance is testimony to the excellent administration of civic affairs we have had during the year. Had that administration been other than good the issues arising from it alone must have established lines of cleavage. Had it been unprogressive the problems left untouched must have offered ample ground for policy making. Had it been over-progressive the financial consequences must have engendered dissatisfaction and provided grounds for conflict. That distinctive policies are conspicuously scarce, admittedly scarce, is the best proof that the management of the year has been singularly free from error and has combined the proper initiative with shrewd caution. In this the citizens may unite in mutual congratulation.

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That distinctive policies are scarce means that necessarily the issue will be decided on personal rather than public grounds. With no large questions before them the ratepayers will vote according to their personal preferences for the candidates. Under such condition it is fortunate that the candidates are of a character to bear the test of personal comparison and scrutiny. Were it otherwise the campaign could hardly be prevented degenerating into one of recrimination, alike unprofitable and undignified. Both the mayoralty candidates are men of undoubted probity, of business experience and of long and honorable records at the council board. The other four retiring aldermen have the advantage of equally unquestionable records and of having been members of the highly efficient administration of the present year. The new men are personally worthy the places they aspire to occupy. A campaign which must be decided by personal preference largely is thus saved the danger of becoming a wholesale slang-whanging contest, which with less worthy candidates it must have become.

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A statement of Mayor McDougall that we shall have to enlarge the city power plant again next year revives the old question of whether it is possible and profitable to build to the future instead of struggling merely to keep abreast of the demand as we seem to have been doing for the past few years. To do even this has in the circumstances been no small task, but the matter is a proper one for consideration whether we could not better install a plant sufficient for some years in advance. It does not follow, of course, that a large plant installed ahead of needs is always an economy. There is such a thing as going too far in advance. A large plant costs much money, and the wastage of wear and tear is necessarily larger than in a small one. On the other hand there are means of economy in the installation of a large plant over the successive installation of small ones. Which method leaves the balance on the right side of the account is in the first place a matter for investigation by the commissioners and by those charged with the operation of the plants, familiar with the details of the needs present and prospective, and with the comparative costs of the two methods of supplying them. Such investigation would be a very proper matter for early attention, before preparations for next season's work have to be begun.

The question of the city water supply is akin and offers opportunity for similar procedure. That the present intake must be abandoned sooner rather than later is admitted. The problem for solution is whether the pumping plant should be established farther up the river or the water brought down to the present plant by aqueduct or pipe line. This is a matter on which expert advice is primarily necessary. The commissioners and the officials of the department might with profit undertake an investigation and prepare estimates of the comparative costs. Without these nothing can be done intelligently, and something must be done pretty soon. On or point there should be agreement—we should have an efficient filtration system, temporary or permanent, in operation next summer.

A proposal has been made to put the police and the fire brigade under control of a special commission. There seems to be no very apparent need of such arrangement. The fire brigade is understood to be in a highly efficient condition under the present management. If so this is evidence that we had better leave the management alone. If the police force has been less satisfactorily managed the remedy for this may be found in the experience of the fire brigade. If the fire brigade is efficient the credit is in the largest measure due to the chief. If the police force has not been efficient the fault must be placed with the personnel rather than the system of its management. With the right man in charge of the force there will be efficiency. With the wrong man in actual charge there is nothing inherent in a commission to save us from the consequences. In time the force may become large enough and the problems before it numerous enough to demand the constant supervision and time of a special commissioner. At present it is not publicly apparent that that time has come. For the present the management of both these bodies might with propriety be put under the special care of the mayor of the city. The protection of life and property and the preservation of the peace are surely duties that appertain naturally to the office of the chief magistrate.

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Another proposal is to place the street railway under a special commission. To this there are objections. The commission must consist either of men who know nothing about street railway management or of men who are expert and experienced street railway managers. A commission of the latter would cost more than we can pay and more than there is any necessity of paying. A commission of the former would be at this time more of a nuisance and expense than a benefit. Under present conditions best of all street railway commissions is a commission of one, composed of an experienced street railway man, called by whatever title may be thought suitable, but discharging the functions of a general manager. By whatever name he might be called his business should be to run the street railway system as the manager would run such system for a private company, answerable to the city council as the board of directors. If or when the increase of business and the multiplication of duties makes a special board of paid directors necessary a committee of the council could easily be selected, with a nominal salary to reward them for their additional services. But the essential thing is to have a competent man in actual and active charge, clothed with ample powers and freed from unnecessary interference. Such man will cost money, but the more the better so long as he earns it.

GATHERING WAY.

London despatches indicate that the cheap cable question is now before the British public as a real, if not a very definite proposition. What concrete proposal will embody the question remains to be seen, but it is tolerably certain now that in some form or other it must come early before the Parliaments of the Old Land and the Dominion. One of the hopeful signs of the times is the anxiety of the cable companies to prove cheaper service impossible—or at least to persuade us that it is impossible. This anxiety is their recognition that the movement is gathering way and has already become formidable enough to require discouragement. The alarm of the monopolists is evidence of how much the public stand to gain by breaking up the monopoly.

LOWER RATES: MORE BUSINESS.

The expected is happening in the results of the reduced postage on drop letters. The rate was cut recently from two cents to one and though a temporary fall in revenue resulted, the volume of business is showing rapid and steady increase. To offset the reduction the number of letters handled must be doubled. This has already been done in one city and the general advance is assurance that the mark will be reached everywhere in comparatively short time. Quebec city and Edmonton have already doubled the number of drop letters sent. When the business generally reaches this point the revenue of the department will be what it was before, but the public will have double the service for the money. This accords thoroughly with the history of postal reductions. Though the individual saving is trifling the rule has been found good in both Britain and Canada that the revenue lost temporarily by reduction is more than made up by the encouragement it gives to business. Theoretically the man who wants to write a letter will not be deterred from doing so becaus the postage is three cents instead of two, or two cents instead of one. But practically it has been proven that Canadians do write more letters with two cent postage than they did under the three cent rate—enough more to yield a far larger revenue to the department than under the higher rate. Similarly they are sending more drop letters under the one cent rate than under the two, enough more to guarantee an equal revenue when the new rate has been long enough in force to make its influence fully felt. The moral seems to be that it is only a question of time until we have one cent postage in Canada.

THE AWAKENING OF CHINA.

"The awakening of China" has been a common enough phrase for many years. The signs of the "awakening" however have been so few and far between that practical men have paid little attention, regarding the expression as a prophecy of some remote event with which the world of their day and generation would have nothing to do.

Things have been changing of late, however, and men are turning thoughts not a little mixed with apprehension toward the Orient. Frequently, perhaps usually, the motive behind the thought is a religious one, but not always so, nor necessarily so; for the problem involves considerations which must weigh with every patriotic citizen of a western nation and which ought to weigh with every man patriotic or other who values the form or essence of western civilization.

The Emperor of China commands the allegiance of one-third the people of the world. They are a people of ancient and wonderful civilization, a people of admitted mental aptitude and physical adaptability, a people of economic efficiency. Add to this that the Chinese people occupy a country no larger than Europe, that despite its wonderful fertility and resourcefulness they are already overtaxing its capabilities of support and have flocked abroad in such numbers that foreign countries have erected barriers against taxation against them in pure self defence. Here are surely all the latent elements of a "world power," and of a power which in the necessity of things must concern itself with the world's affairs for the all-sufficient reason that its people must find room to live somewhere beyond its own borders.

If the "awakening" is primarily the business of China it is secondarily the business of the rest of the world and an item of pretty important business at that. Heretofore the western nations have avoided rather than attacked the problem. Their attitude might be summed up fairly as one of hope that the slumber of the giant would be prolonged. There are reasons to think that this hope cannot much longer be indulged, and that the problem must be faced squarely and either solved or left to solve itself.

The victory of Japan, whatever else it may have done, roused the Chinese nation to a half-wakefulness, perhaps more. It afforded them the spectacle of an Oriental power triumphing over a western power, with western arms and methods of war. If Japan with forty millions of people could accomplish so much, what might not China with 500 millions accomplish? So no doubt thought the Chinese themselves, and so the western world is beginning to wonder today.

The results of this partial awakening were apparent quickly. Newspapers sprang into being like mushrooms in the cities of China, many of them supposedly under Japanese direction. Then came an Imperial edict opening the way for general education, thus putting the people within reach of this new medium of thought exchange. Then came army reorganization on a scale which will give China in three years more an army of five hundred thousand men armed with European weapons and trained by the officers who drove Russia out of Korea.

The stirring of national consciousness reflected in this requires only organization to become tremendously effective. That organization China seems likely to get quickly. The new regent has given ample evidence that he intends to rule. If his early performances are any measure of his strength of character no man knows what figure China will cut in the world's affairs when he has replaced the "squeezing" process by efficient governmental machinery and has blazed the trail his 500 million subjects are to follow.

The present situation seems to be that the giant has awakened, is pulling himself together, taking stock of the surroundings and making up his mind what is to be done. It must do something for his people are increasing and the home land can no longer support them. Once his mind is made up and his people have been welded into an organized body the mastery of Asia north of the Himalayas is no longer a matter for argument. And with the largest continent in the world peopled and dominated by Chinese, perhaps ruled by the court at Peking, where would the security of Europe lie? Emperor William has been ridiculed for alluding to the "yellow peril." Perhaps he only carried his reasoning to its legitimate conclusion in the thorough German fashion, and couched his conviction in language offensive to the people of the Orient.

Already many of the western nations have been forced in self-defence to erect barriers against the admission of Chinese. Let it not be imagined that China does not see or does not feel the implied slight in this. Neither let us delude ourselves with the notion that China, if she remains the China of today, will either forget or forgive. If she did either she would have learned but poorly the ways of her teachers.

The western nations she seems so apt to imitate. We shall get better than we give if some day China does not face us squarely and say that if Chinese cannot go abroad neither can foreigners enter China. This might not be so objectionable a dictum but it is coupled with the circumstance that China's people must go abroad. This is no plea for the admission of Chinese; it is merely an uncompromising statement of fact.

From the Occidental standpoint there seems only two ways of removing the peril of China being still China when she comes into her own. Either we must educate the Chinese people along the lines of western civilization—or something better—or we must break up China. The "solidarity of China" is a plank in the avowed platforms of most of the foreign policies of western nations. But a "solid China" means in twenty-five years a China instinct with new-found national consciousness, remembering and resenting the insults which have been heaped upon her; a China moreover "solid" in the recognition that she must find room abroad for her children or make it; and a China amply equipped and disciplined to avenge her insults and make room for her surplus people. The way of hope lies in instilling the principles which underlie our western civilization into the men who seem so ready to copy its forms and to profit by its material accomplishments. If we do so we may have only to meet them in the field of industrial warfare; but on one field or other the western world must one day meet them.

A "DIVIDED HOUSE."

Disregarding theories, it should be apparent to western people of all shades of fiscal opinion that the interest of the West in the tariff is in getting less tariff rather than more, and that the way to get less tariff is to back the men and the party who stand for tariff reduction as against tariff increase.

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We have between the Lakes and the Mountains three provinces comprising an agricultural country practically this and nothing more nor less than this. Whatever else they may become they are today a farming country. Whatever other resources they have or may be found to possess, the first and greatest and the one known to be possessed, is the soil and climate to produce farm products of unexcelled quality and in practically unlimited quantity. The development of this resource is the first and foremost duty of the hour. It is the business on which men are concentrating their attention, into which they are putting their money and to which they are devoting their brains and brawn.

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As a matter of business therefore western people stand to oppose whatever promises to prevent or retard this primary interest of the development of agriculture. This a high tariff would do by the admission of its advocates and the teachings of its history. Whatever may be its results in an old country languishing for a new impetus, its effects on the development of a new country do not require argument. It tends to increase and does increase the price of commodities and articles which the struggling settler must have to live and from which he cannot afford to pay a dollar more than necessary. A high tariff in Canada could possible mean for us nothing different than a new tax on the man who is struggling to make a farm out of a wilderness—with the usual and unavoidable injury to every man and every interest dependent on his speedy and certain success.

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High tariff offers the western farmer nothing in the way of protection. No competitors are "dumping" goods in his market and none can. Be that market large or small it is secured to him as absolutely as though surrounded by a triple-plated Dingley bill or a Chinese wall. From only one country could competition come, and the United States are wrestling with the problem of where to get farm products rather than where to get rid of them. What market is here belongs to our farmers beyond peradventure for all time. They need no defensive tariff, ask for none and could get no benefit from one however high.

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Advocates of high tariff claim that the system spoon feeds manufacturing industries into abnormal development, thereby enlarging the home demand for farm products. The same critics declare the Laurier government stole the tariff policy of their predecessors and have continued protection in essence, form and substance. If so then protection as an industry developer in Western Canada has been a consistent, a thorough and a stupendous failure. If we have had protection and if protection develops factories where are the factories? The bald fact stands apparent to every man that the West has no industries to speak of, never has had and never has had the prospect of them under any tariff—certainly never under the high tariff of our critical friends. If then we have been living under protection, protection to us has been a snare and a delusion, a disappointment and a trap, has violated every promise of its advocates and sacrificed every claim to future favor.

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But there is a positive side to the case, too. If we stand to gain nothing from higher tariff, others do, and they stand to gain it at our expense. What is the position of the western farmer today? On one side stand the lumberman and the fruit-grower of British Columbia, calling lustily for a duty on their products; on the other stand the manufacturers of the eastern provinces demanding more duty on their wares. To what end? To the end that the prairie people may be prevented buying what they need in their business where they can buy it cheapest or get the best value for their money; to the end that we may be forced to take the goods they offer us at artificial prices made possible by high tariff.

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This surely makes clear enough the interest of the western people in the tariff question. They cannot leave the tariff alone, for the tariff will not leave them alone. To ignore it means that the men who hope to make it an instrument for their injury will have no opposition in doing so. To display an uncertain attitude toward it is simply to advertise their indifference of whether it is so used or not. To permit a divided opinion to be attributed to them is simply to hand over their case to the interests on the other side.

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To those who recognize the paramount importance of the tariff on the development and progress of the West the results of the recent elections in the prairie provinces must be discouraging. Likewise they must be correspondingly cheering to the gentlemen who intend besieging the Government again for a boost in the duty. Manitoba returned 8 members of the high tariff party to 2 low tariff men. Alberta elected 3 high tariff members to 4 supporters of the low tariff government. Neither Manitoba nor Alberta want high protection. The electors who voted for opposition candidates did not do so, in the vast majority of cases, at any rate, because they were members of the high tariff party. But where will these members stand at Ottawa? On which side will their voices be heard and their votes cast? Where will they be counted by the party leaders and by the interests clamoring for tariff increase? We need be under no delusion. The opposition members from Alberta and Manitoba will stand in parliament and before the public as witnesses that their supporters want higher tariff.

What then will be the Government's position when the "interests" beseech them for more tariff and point to the opposition members from Manitoba and Alberta as proof that the West is agreeable? Governments are elected to carry out the will of the people as expressed at the polls. What reply can be made to the claim that eleven twenty-sevenths of the western constituencies want high tariff? The Government may not accede to the demands; but if not the fault will not be with the western ridings which returned members of the Haman's gallows party. And if they do so there can be no kick coming from those quarters. They would be merely getting what they asked for.

CURRENT COMMENT.

The United States post office department has another huge deficit. In part this is attributed to the shrinkage in business caused by money scarcity and business depression. The remainder is the result of the free rural mail delivery system. As an end this is altogether desirable, so desirable that it will probably be maintained even at a loss, but as a money maker it is admittedly and unquestionably a failure for the time at least. Advocates of a Canadian free delivery system naturally enough avoid allusion to the experiences of our neighbor. But the public can hardly be expected to shut their eyes to the fact that a nation of upwards of a hundred million people are dropping money every years to maintain such a system in only the most densely settled portions of a country no larger than Canada and possessing no more natural or industrial obstacles to cheap operation. We have undertaken a half-and-half system in the better settled portions of the country and the experiment across the line is assurance that beyond this we shall not be able to go for many years. Anything like an absolutely free delivery at this time throughout even the well settled portions of Canada would mean ruin, quick and sure, if the history of the United States experiment means anything at all. Our neighbors may be able to sink ten millions a year in bestowing this convenience on the older and wealthier sections of their country, but anything more Canada has to spend on the improvement of postal facilities would be better spent in the extension and development of the system we have in the newer and sparsely settled areas.

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Canada has made more progress in administrative reform in the past year and a half than during the eighteen years of the old regime. The appointment of the commission to investigate conditions in the civil service was in itself as far as the previous government ever ventured in this direction. But the investigation in the present instance was only the beginning. The commission reported and the recommendations of the report were embodied in law and effected by administrative action. As a result we have the civil service placed today on a competitive basis. More, Judge Cassels was commissioned to prosecute the general inquiry of the investigating body into a detailed examination, as a result of which scores of officials have been suspended, with the definite assurance that prosecution awaits them if Judge Cassels' finding condemns them of wrong-doing. Reform has not even waited the judge's report, and the patronage system under which the abuses were practised has been abolished in the marine department and in the public works as well. Meantime the course of the government's critics offers interesting features. Two years ago they were declaring that conditions requiring investigation had arisen only since the present Government came into power, and grew out of the patronage system. This claim was shattered beyond repair. The overwhelming majority of the officials involved in the improper transactions were found to have been appointed by the old government. The patronage system was proven to have existed without a break from Confederation—and from before Confederation back to the good old days of the family compact. Man after man of the involved officials swore that he was engaged by the former Government and that his conduct under that Government was precisely what it has been since. The gist of the matter was that the Government had inherited both the offensive system and most of the offenders from their predecessors. Faced with this, the critics have some way lost interest in the Cassels inquiry of late, and it now appears that any further measure of reform that comes therefrom will come without their assistance and perhaps without even their acknowledgment. As advocates of reform the present Opposition and their newspapers are wanders.

WE ARE THE PEOPLE.

The change in the political complexion of British Columbia is commonly attributed to rancour over the Asiatic immigration question. In some constituencies this may have been the paramount issue, but in one at least the bone of contention was far different, and of far more importance to Alberta. In Yale-Cariboo, if we may judge from exchanges, the issue was not Orientals but a tariff on fruit. This constituency contains the Okanagan district, which with the Kamloops and Ashcroft country is world-famous for fruit production, and for the expansion of this occupation which has been going on during recent years and is now going on. The fruit growers of these districts are waging no war for the exclusion of Chinese and Japanese. Perhaps they rather favor their incoming as it offers a supply of cheap labor for developing the orchards, many of which as yet give no return for expenditure. However this may be the Opposition candidate does not seem to have based his chances of success on the policy of keeping out people from the Orient, but on the more common policy of keeping out fruit from the south. During the past years and perhaps during former years also the prairie dealers have been importing fruit from California and Oregon, to the decided dissatisfaction of the British Columbia growers. In the Yale-Cariboo constituency this dissatisfaction ripened into an issue and one of the decisive issues, Mr. Burrell, himself a fruit-grower, therefore goes to Ottawa to demand a tariff to prevent us buying fruit across the line if we can get it there cheaper or of better quality. We are the people whose scalps he is after, not the Japanese.

RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT AT ISSUE.

This is an age of commissions and commissioners. There are commissions for investigation and commissions charged with administration. Likewise there are varying degrees of authority conferred upon them. Some hold office and exercise their functions in the same way as other officials, under the direction and supervision of the representative body appointing them. Others are given a security of office by appointment for stated periods or by a provision that they can be discharged only by a two-thirds or three-quarters vote of the representative body. The latter has come to be a generally implied condition of an executive commission, and when such body is advocated the understanding is that it is a body holding office and exercising authority under such protection from the displeasure of the popular representatives, which means from the dissatisfaction of the people.

A movement is mooted in the city at present to place the police force under such body, thus taking the control of the force out of the hands of the men the public choose to manage their affairs for them. The pretext advanced is that the force might be made an instrument of oppression or of manipulation by ambitious and unscrupulous aspirants for mayoral or aldermanic honors. Granted. But what assurance is there that it would not be made the same kind of an instrument or worse, in the hands of a body of men who owed the public nothing and who were beyond the reach of their disapproval? Making men irresponsible and giving them a mortgage on the job does not make them better men. If men in office are susceptible to purchase are they less liable to yield to the temptation if they know they cannot be punished? Under the present system we get the kind of administration we want, be it good or bad. Under irresponsible management we would take what the irresponsibles saw fit to give us, or what they were paid to give us, and we should have to make the best of it whether we liked it or not. It is said a commission of the irremovable variety assures uniformity of administration. Perhaps. But administration may be uniformly rotten, and appointing a man to a sure thing does not necessarily work a reformation in him that assures more honest or more impartial work than if he were liable to be called to account.

Edmonton has one commission now. No member of it has ever been accused of or improperly using the office for his personal profit; but is it likely they would have been less honest if they had been liable to summary dismissal if found dishonest? As a matter of fact and of history by no means remote, the outstanding public objection to the commissioner system in Edmonton has been the irresponsibility of two-thirds of the board. The mayor alone is within immediate reach of the public; and there have been times when the public should have been within reach of the whole outfit.

The cry for commissions is merely a revival of the demand for irresponsible government, an administration which cannot be got at, based on the idea that the people cannot be trusted to govern themselves—that they do not know how to do it, or that they have no right to do it. To this there is the strongest kind of objection. The people pay the taxes; therefore they have the right to say who shall spend them and how and for what. They provide the salaries for the police; therefore they are entitled to say who shall manage the force, and to say they shall no longer do so if they do it improperly or for sinister or ulterior purposes. The people have the right to govern themselves and they know how to govern themselves. Democracy with all its much advertised faults and follies is preferable to the best autocracy yet discovered; and an irresponsible commission is autocracy pure and simple, though not always undefiled.

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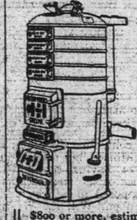

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SESSION OF MARI[NE] ENQUIRY AT H[ALIFAX]

Justice Cassells Hears E[vidence] Business Men Who S[upplied De]partment of Marine [illegible] Shows Officials Were P[illegible] tous Sums of Money.

Monday's Evidenc[illegible]

Halifax, Nov. 30—Justic[illegible] inquiry into the marine [illegible] developed one striking fact [illegible] ing. This was the payment [illegible] Capt. Peter Johnson, then [illegible] the government steamer Lad[illegible] Capt. Johnson says these [illegible] were legitimate and that th[illegible] ment knew about them. In [illegible] noon it was shown that [illegible] supplying hardware to the de[illegible] of marine made a practice of [illegible] ten per cent. above the ord[illegible] tail prices. These firms [illegible] Robertson & Son, and A. [illegible] & Co. Mr. Robertson said [illegible] gave a bribe to any official [illegible] & Co.'s books showed unpaid [illegible] due by G. R. MacNamara, [illegible] storekeeper, the payment [illegible] had "never been asked and [illegible] ceived."

C. C. Longard, of Longard [illegible] was asked to explain entries [illegible] books showing long overdue [illegible] of Jonathan Parsons, agent o[illegible] rine department. One item [illegible] had been unpaid since 1904 [illegible] Longard Brothers had done [illegible] work for him. C. C. Long[illegible] this had been against his ac[illegible] he could not explain it.

W. G. Robertson, of Willi[illegible] ertson & Son, hardware m[illegible] was the first witness called i[illegible] ernoon.

"We find that sales by yo[illegible] department during three ye[illegible] ounted to $55,000, so that th[illegible] and fishery department has [illegible] very large customer," said M[illegible] son.

"Upon the whole, the goods [illegible] your firm to the department h[illegible] disposed of to the department [illegible] ten per cent. above the ordina[illegible] prices."

"I will not deny that," rep[illegible] Robertson.

"Will you deny that it was [illegible] per cent?"

"I will deny that."

"Then you changed the ext[illegible] because you were selling to [illegible] ernment?"

"That is about what it con[illegible]

"You give three months' cr[illegible]

"Yes; and on an average t[illegible] ernment pays its bills withi[illegible] months."

"How can you account for [illegible] ent, Mr. Parsons, passing y[illegible] counts at these excessive price[illegible]

"I cannot account for it. [illegible] not seen Mr. Parsons a dozen [illegible] in twelve years. Our orders c[illegible] the most part because we wore [illegible] patronage list."

Mr. Robertson said the firm h[illegible] extra profits and none of the [illegible] the department got a dolla[illegible] He was not aware that Agent [illegible] signed a certificate that the [illegible] were reasonable.

A. L. Melvin, retail hardwar[illegible] chant, was called. He said [illegible] keeper McNamara had an accou[illegible] him. On the books being pr[illegible] several small bills were found [illegible] for which no account was eve[illegible] ered. The sums were $2.25, $10 [illegible] $30. The witness admitted his [illegible] es were about the usual 10 pe[illegible] above the retail price.

Clarence C. Longard, of L[illegible] Bros., was the next witness.

"During three years your a[illegible] amounted to about $55,000," sai[illegible] son. "Was it all for mechani[illegible] gineering?"

"Yes, that's all we do."

"What is the total amount [illegible] ing against Mr. Parsons, the age[illegible]

"Somewhere in the vicinity of [illegible]

"What is the account for?"

"Putting a hot water boiler [illegible] house five or six years ago an[illegible] plumbing since."

"Has that account of five [illegible] years ago ever been paid?"

"No; it was never paid."

"Did he ask you to do the wo[illegible] him?"

"He did."

The ledger was produced an[illegible] account of Mr. Parsons was a[illegible] up. It was shown that on Janu[illegible] 1904 there had been an account a[illegible] him of a couple of hundred dolla[illegible] yet paid.

"Why did you not get this m[illegible]

"We tried to but failed. I [illegible] strated about it being so long [illegible] due."

"And yet, with this bad accoun[illegible] turned round and did further [illegible] for Mr. Parsons?"

"Yes, and it was against my [illegible]

The evidence of other witness[illegible] be resumed tomorrow.

Tuesday's Evidence.

Halifax, Dec. 1—Judge Ca[illegible] commission brought out some ne[illegible] interesting facts today. The eve[illegible] was gone over again of giving [illegible] of money to Peter Johnson, the [illegible] tain of the steamer Lady Lauri[illegible] services in connection with th[illegible] vaging of the steamers Mount T[illegible] and Hestia. W. S. Davidson, [illegible] was testifying, contended that th[illegible] ments were legitimate, but that n[illegible] ever thought of paying the g[illegible] ment for the use of the steamer [illegible] was always supposed to be free.

In the afternoon, William W[illegible] who some time ago was employ[illegible] the dockyard, but lost his p[illegible] there, came into court with a l[illegible] ten employees of the dockyard, [illegible] he said, had been regularly st[illegible] from the government stores.

Geo. A. Wooten, one of the le[illegible] Liberals of the city, was on the [illegible] for an hour. He told of efforts [illegible] tain orders from the marine d[illegible] ment. It developed that he h[illegible] contract for repairs on the [illegible] Laurier for $670, which he was [illegible] The government declined to pay [illegible] Wooten rendered in connection [illegible] this job of $200 additional. Th[illegible] for the supervision of his own [illegible] four dollars per day for fifty [illegible] He had a dozen other jobs runni[illegible] the same time. Asked what was [illegible] with the extra profit on contracts [illegible] the department, he could not say [illegible]