

## VIEW TAKEN BY PARKS BOARD

### WITH RELATION TO SOME ALDERMEN'S STAND

#### A Member of the Body Explains What Has Been Done and Obstacles Encountered.

(From Wednesday's Daily.)

The unexpected, and almost unexpected feeling which has arisen between certain members of the council and the public parks board has been very much in evidence at the last meetings of the respective bodies. Throughout the city it is felt that this is unfortunate as each can do its work to the best advantage only through the co-operation of the other.

At the meeting of the city council on Monday night a number of complaints were made. Ald. Hall declared specifically that the parks board was recklessly extravagant and inferentially he and Ald. Mable charged that unless the council kept a watchful eye over them the park commissioners would spend their purses as they pleased. Ald. Cameron and Ald. Mable charged that the parks board was subservient to the council and suggested that its by-laws be amended accordingly.

The Mayor claimed to be on record as being opposed to anyone spending money who was not directly responsible to the council and pointed out that the present Parks by-law did not give that control. Ald. Henderson criticized the board for sending its resolution providing for boulevard work to the city engineer for action before it came before the council. It is a fair deduction that the members of the council mentioned, together with Ald. Cameron, chairman of the finance committee, have little enthusiasm for the new governing body of the city's public places.

On the other hand the park commissioners are outspoken in their opinion of the way in which they are being treated. "If the present council," said one of them to-day, "continues to make the unfair, uncalled for, and unwarranted remarks reported in the press as taking place at Monday's meeting, they will speedily establish a unique reputation for peevishness and pin-pricking criticism, scarcely worthy of their position."

"Last year," he continued, "although it was midsummer before the board was constituted, there was the heartiest and most generous co-operation between the board and the council. At the moment the new Mayor and council took office, however, they, or some of them, seemed to regard the board as an object of distrust and suspicion, or, as Ald. Hall put it, the council might as well be a body of men who know nothing about how to spend money."

"What does Ald. Hall mean by his charges of extravagance, and undue favoritism in the expenditures on Beacon Hill? Last year the authorized vote for Beacon Hill was \$3,240 of which the board spent \$4,226.08. For the George park, \$230 was appropriated, which not a dollar was spent. For North Ward park, \$1,250 was authorized of which for reasons which can be stated later only \$220.25 was spent. Do these bear out Ald. Hall's charge of extravagance?"

"Clearly his strictures do not apply to last year's business. But what is the case this year? The sum of \$20,000 would have been a moderate one for work which the board is expected to do this year. Yet because of the fact that the demands on the council were heavy they asked for only about \$12,000. If this was an extravagant demand why was the motion adopting that estimate, and ordering its transmission to the council, favored by Ald. Cameron, who is now joining in this hue and cry against the board? And if the charge of non-responsibility on the part of the board is to apply, how do these aldermen explain the fact that of the four members present at the park board when these estimates were decided upon, two (Mayor Hall and Ald. Cameron) were members of the council and the other two (Ald. Cameron and Ald. Henderson) were acting chairmen, had the casting vote."

"The suggestion that the park board will not do justice to North Ward park looks very much like a convenient tool for cover by the men really responsible for the delay in getting started there. The chairman of the board, after waiting long for the completion of the estimates, applied for an interim appropriation for just such work as that now demanding attention in the North Ward. Finally \$500 was passed and work commenced at once. Last year, for obvious reasons, considering that the board assumed office only in June, it was inadvisable to do much to the new playground. But if, as should have been done, the unexpended balance due the board for that work had remained to its credit, the work of preparing that park for this year could have been completed ere now. This balance was absorbed by the council."

"Like the boulevarding work the North Ward Park work has been hung up awaiting the completion of the unexpended estimates at the same time of year when every dollar spent would do more good than two spent later on in the year. As a matter of fact the only tie in stock in the city which the board has been trying to get hold of is now gone and there will be further delay in consequence. The work of the board, if it is to be done efficiently, must be done at the seasons, and not hampered by the childish petulance so much in evidence on Monday night."

"As to the work of boulevarding the delay in this connection is sufficient expiating before, has been further accentuated by the complaint of Ald. Henderson and others that the board's motion relative to new boulevarding work should have gone first to them and then to the engineer instead of being sent direct to the engineer as was done. As far as can be gathered from the press reports this plan is not sufficiently slow and circuitous to suit

him, and Ald. Henderson wants to penalize the board by following a plan which will put back the date of getting to work still further, although the best season for planting is now at hand.

"Yet clause 22 of the board by-laws seems to leave no doubt that the course complained of was the proper one. It provides that:

"The board shall from time to time, by resolution determine and recommend to the council the policy of the board, and the council shall, by resolution, approve or disapprove the same, and the board shall, by resolution, undertake any such resolution it shall be the duty of the city engineer and city assessor to make report upon the proposed work as a work of local improvement in all respects and with the like incidents and formalities as if the said resolution of the board were a resolution of council to undertake a work of local improvement, and the council shall consider such report and may thereupon pass all necessary local improvement by-laws."

"Is not this the very procedure the board has followed?"

"Take, too, the conflict of authority over Park road. After consultation with the council and its officers last year the board adopted a policy of having the cement walks laid flush with the street line, thus keeping the boulevard portion in one strip. This was consistently followed till it was found that some property owners on the road objected. This letter of objection was referred to the board by the city council and it was agreed that the board should visit the street and decide in a formal manner. This decision finally being that the board address to its policy, the matter was carried to the council which revoked the board's action, and practically informed them they had nothing to do with it. One of the chief reasons, I may say for instituting such a board as ours was that it would be more or less continuous in personnel and policy and hence the work of beautifying the city and any settled policy in connection therewith would not be nullified by the action of important voters in the manner mentioned."

"The same is true of trees. Last fall the city engineer submitted a list of trees which obstructed the work of laying sidewalks or boulevards and Ald. Henderson moved that the letter be referred to a committee of which he was a member to examine these locations and order the removal of the trees should they see fit to do so. Yet the same alderman, who at the time declared that the board had no jurisdiction over trees which interfered with street work."

"As a matter of fact the answer to all the criticism which has been offered was made by Ald. Fullerton the other night. The parks board was created to do certain work. It was created by the city council and to ensure the best results it was given an untidy clothed it with powers which up to that time were vested in itself. If it now chooses to repeal its action and revoke those powers it can alter the by-laws accordingly, and it may be able to obtain a board which will undertake to carry on the work with authority which will be permissive only. But the council cannot by simple declaration state that it will exercise certain authority with which it has already parted."

"Notwithstanding the attitude of certain members of the council, the members of the board can justly feel gratified with the progress they have already made. They are just as disinterested as the aldermen; they give their services gratuitously; they undertook a work which the council had regarded of prime importance in making Victoria the City Beautiful, and they are ready to give their energies and time to that night's obligation, and they are not to be criticized if they make mistakes, but they do not expect to be attacked for things of which they are not guilty, nor do they propose to make any carry the odium and blame for which rests properly on other shoulders."

### ALBERNI MINER DIES SUDDENLY

#### J. J. Shaw Was Well Known Figure on Island—Movements at Townsite.

(Special Correspondence.)

Alberni, April 7.—J. J. Shaw, a well known mining man, died very suddenly on the 3rd inst. The deceased at different times worked various small mining properties on the Alberni Canal. Recently the American company, by whom he was employed, had taken a bond on the Deane claims close to the "Happy John" group, and Mr. Shaw had been in charge of the development work.

Accompanied by M. Commerford and another man he started in a row boat. On the way deceased complained of feeling unwell and the party went ashore at Hiwachi. After obtaining a drink of water deceased staggered and fell, and shortly after breathed his last. His companions brought the body to Alberni. No inquest was held. The deceased was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and the lodge of which he was a member made all necessary arrangements for the funeral, which took place from the Presbyterian church on Sunday at 3 p.m.

**Boys Farming Property.**

George W. Grant, J. P. of Ucluelet, and James Fraser, of the same place, have purchased two five acre blocks on the Compton farm, subdivided for sale by J. R. Motion, at a price of \$50 per acre.

**Motoring Season Opens.**

The motor car season has again commenced. The Thompson car from Nanaimo has been several times over the road, and G. Clarke brought his Red 16 water cooled staggered and is prepared to make frequent trips. They report the roads as being in good condition.

tion for motoring. Dr. J. A. Pybus has also imported a run-about car for his own use.

**To Feed Inhabitants.**

J. Redford, butcher, arrived in town on Saturday with a car load of fat cattle which he had brought over the road from Nanaimo. The animals appeared tired with their long walk, but in fine condition.

**Other Deaths.**

Painting is the order of the day in Alberni. W. Ash having made contracts which will keep his staff busy for several weeks. A little expenditure in this line would greatly enhance the general appearance of the town.

The many friends of J. R. McLaren are pleased to see him about again, though still an invalid after his sharp attack of illness.

The authorities have definitely shut down on Indians cutting logs for sale to sawmills either on Indian reserves or on government lands, and some dissatisfaction exists among the aborigines in consequence.

### SUING DOCTORS.

Father Says Operation Killed His Child Through Non-Sterilization of Instruments.

St. Catharines, April 8.—Dr. McCoy, of this city, and Dr. Duggan, of Niagara Falls, are being sued for damages by Father O'Donnell, of Niagara Falls, who claims that the doctors failed to sterilize their instruments before operating caused the death of his child.

### AMERICAN FLEET IS TO BE INVITED HERE

#### Council Would Like American Battleships Here for Victoria Day.

The Victoria city council will extend, through the usual channels, an invitation to the American battleship fleet to visit this port on its forthcoming call at the Sound. It is possible about Victoria Day, May 24th, the big holiday event, the American fleet will be in the city. The council of the city at its meeting last evening by Ald. Hall, and a resolution was passed to take the necessary steps in connection with the matter was carried unanimously.

Mayor Hall, while the subject was up, announced that he had taken the matter up a month ago, but had been assured by Consul Smith that it would not be possible for the fleet to come here on May 24th, but it would call later.

In introducing the subject, Ald. Hall said in view of the fact that the United States battleship fleet would be in near-by waters about the time of Victoria Day, he thought that it would be a good thing to invite them to visit Victoria to take part in the city's annual celebration. Vancouver had already taken action in the matter of the fleet visiting that city, and had presented an invitation through the Premier of the Dominion. This was a slick thing of the Vancouver council to attempt to secure the honor of sailing the fleet while the Dominion government paid the piper. The city should do the same thing, and it was the duty of the city council to take the proper American authorities to ask the fleet to visit this city to take part in the celebration here of the Empire Day. The fleet, which will arrive as Canadians as a whole, had always showed a willingness to join in any celebration of the people on the other side of the line, and he thought that the American officials would be only too willing to make the fleet to participate in the celebration here next month.

Mayor Hall explained that he had taken the matter up with Consul Smith about a month ago, and had been told that it would not be possible for the fleet to arrive here by that date. The provincial government, he knew, had been asked to take the matter up and had already invited the fleet to visit both Victoria and Vancouver. Ald. Norman said that he was extremely pleased that the city council had taken the matter up, and he hoped that the subject up. According to his information, gleaned from the newspapers, the fleet would leave San Francisco for the Sound on May 22nd, and so would arrive in lots of time, for as Victoria Day fell on Sunday this year, it would be celebrated on Monday, May 25th.

A resolution moved by Ald. Hall, seconded by Ald. Mable, was then moved, asking the Mayor to take the proper steps to invite the fleet to visit this city. This was passed unanimously.

### THE COUNTY COURT.

Two Cases Were Disposed of by Judge Lampan To-day.

Two cases were disposed of this morning in the county court by Judge Lampan. The first of these was a suit brought by Dixi Ross & Co., the grocers, to recover the amount of an account, \$28.40 from Phil J. Smith, of the Victoria Printing and Publishing Company. The account was admitted, but a counter claim was put in which the judge refused to allow, judgment being given for the plaintiff with costs. George Morphy appeared for the plaintiff and Sidney Child for the defendant.

The second case was that of Fell & Co. vs. Dumbleton to recover the amount of an outstanding account. The judge refused to allow this as the collection was barred by the statute of limitation, it having been due over six years. Judgment was accordingly given for the defendant. Sidney Child for the plaintiff and the defendant appeared in person.

This afternoon Gray vs. B. C. Marine Railway Company is down for hearing in the County court.

### BOARD OF TRADE.

Council of That Body Held a Meeting This Morning.

At a short meeting of the council of the Board of Trade held this morning the business of mail deliveries to the city and the need of repairs to city streets were brought up.

On the first matter the council found there were complaints that the deliveries as at present were unsatisfactory. A letter was read from the city engineer, who was made at nine o'clock, but have gradually been delayed until 11 a.m., and in one case until 2.30 p.m. Box sorting was also complained of.

It was decided that the matter be taken up with Postmaster Shakespeare and the Hon. William Templeman.

It was decided in the matter of street repairs that the question be laid over until the quarterly meeting to be held on Friday, in order that members of the board could have an opportunity to state their views. The council field that very heavy expenditure must be made promptly to practically re-make the streets.

## BIG SHUFFLE IN BRITISH CABINET

### "WINSTON" MAY BECOME SECRETARY OF WAR

#### R. B. Haldane Is Named for Lord High Chancellorship.

London, April 8.—It is officially announced that King Edward will leave Biarritz on April 15th in order to hold a private council in London on the 16th. The new ministers probably will be named at this time. Mr. Asquith, the new premier, was able to submit a list of his main appointments to his Majesty this morning. Mr. Asquith is expected in London tomorrow, when he will complete his ministry.

The latest information in well informed circles points to the strong possibility of the retirement of Lord Lansdowne, lord high chancellor, who, it is known that Mr. Asquith, in the estimation of Mr. Asquith, and the appointment of R. B. Haldane, who has been asked for the post of secretary of state for war, to this post, with the peerage attached. It is known that Mr. Haldane is ready to leave the war office. He would have liked to have become chancellor of the exchequer, but it is apparent that David Lloyd-George, president of the board of trade, has the keys to that office in his pocket.

In the event of Mr. Haldane going to the Upper House, Winston Churchill, under secretary of the colonial office, will most likely get the war office, which would be much more congenial to him than the board of trade.

### C. P. R. Wanted to Bring in Japs

(Special to the Times.)

Ottawa, April 8.—In committee on Hon. F. Oliver's bill directing immigrants come direct, which was strongly supported by British Columbia members, Hon. R. Lemieux said that Japan was keeping the arrangements he had made with her. The C. P. R. had asked for 100 Japs into British Columbia, but Japan had refused passports unless Canada was agreeable. Canada was not. They did not come (Cheers.)

### COMPLAIN OF DELAY IN SIDEWALK WORK

#### Councillors Discuss City Engineer's Department—Parks Board Relations.

(From Wednesday's Daily.)

The expedition or lack of expedition with which the engineer's department handles applications for public improvements proved a subject of debate at last night's meeting of the city council. Several of the aldermen could not understand why some petitions had been held up for a year or more, while the engineer was able to report within the week on other work which the parks board desired to have taken up. Incidentally the relation of the parks board and engineering department came in for some discussion as well.

None of the matter could be understood by the city council, and the engineer's department was held up for a year or more, while the engineer was able to report within the week on other work which the parks board desired to have taken up. Incidentally the relation of the parks board and engineering department came in for some discussion as well.

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it absolutely legal it should go through the council in the usual way, the same as other local improvement works. Otherwise the work would be done contrary to the provisions of the local improvement by-law.

City Solicitor Mann said that such matters should come from the parks board direct to the council, and go the same as other local improvement works.

Ald. Cameron wanted to know how it was that the engineer could handle the recommendations of the parks board with such dispatch while he could not get the council's work through his hands. There were people in James Bay who had petitioned last year for much needed sidewalks, but the engineer had not yet reported on them to the council. There was one such case of which he had personal knowledge, in which no estimate of the cost had yet been submitted to the council by the engineer. These reports on the other hand had been placed in the engineer's hand only a week or ten days ago.

The mayor read from the parks board by-laws and said that according to these all boulevard work undertaken by the parks board should come before the council on recommendation of the parks board, and then go through in the usual way.

Ald. Norman said that he would like to see some reports on sidewalk construction and other works come out of the city engineer's department. When the parks board had petitioned for the sidewalks, the engineer had not reported on them to the council. There was one such case of which he had personal knowledge, in which no estimate of the cost had yet been submitted to the council by the engineer. These reports on the other hand had been placed in the engineer's hand only a week or ten days ago.

Mayor Hall explained that the city works department was now tied up in the matter of sidewalks construction owing to the shortage of sand. This was due to the action of the council in cancelling the deal that had been made for sand and calling for tenders. This had delayed all work on sidewalks three weeks this year.

It was finally decided that the city engineer's report on the sidewalks in question be brought up in council next meeting by the streets, bridges and sewers committee.

### RESCUE DROWNING SWEDDES.

Vancouver Yachtsman in Gulse of Life Saver Near Deep Cove.

Vancouver, April 7.—W. J. Taaffe, the well known local motor yachtsman, was instrumental in saving the lives of two Swedes near Deep Cove on Sunday afternoon. With his son, Frank, Mr. Taaffe went up the north arm in his motor boat Gypsy, and the boy went ashore in the dinghy to look for a site for their summer camp on a place of recently acquired property.

Another gasoline launch put into the cove and anchored some distance out, and its three occupants started to go ashore in their dinghy. The craft was overloaded with three men in it, and upset. Mr. Taaffe heard yells for help and at once slid his dinghy into the water and went to the rescue, accompanied by his son. One of the men struck out for the launch and managed to reach it, but the others could not swim and clung desperately to their dinghy. One was just letting go when Mr. Taaffe grabbed him. The boat was too small to take in the men, so with the worst out one half-way over the stern and the other clinging to the side, they were towed to the launch. Arriving there Mr. Taaffe found that the third man was unable to pull himself aboard. The other two had to be hauled up with ropes.

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plans provide for a "sag" of the cables, for it would be impossible to hold them absolutely tight, even if they were put up that way. The drop is, of course, most marked in the centre, where the floor of the bridge will be 66 feet below the level of a straight line between the towers. Even then the cables are one hundred and fifty feet above high water mark—well out of the way of the tops of the masts of the largest steamers.

The tower on the north side is fifty feet in diameter at its base. A passenger elevator will be operated inside the tower. Apparently great pains have been taken in the anchoring of the higher tower, for cables connecting with those forming the bridge are shown as running for a thousand feet further into the north, and are to be anchored in the rock of the high ground beyond the Capilano flats.

The bridge will of course be directly in the view of every person who comes to the city by steamer.

### GAME PRESERVE FOR VANCOUVER ISLAND

#### No Decision Has Been Reached Towards Setting Aside One.

Some time ago the Fish and Game Club in Victoria petitioned the provincial government to set aside a section of land on Vancouver Island for purposes of a public park and sanctuary for game of all kinds. Following this, the government obtained power from the legislature to do so, but since the proposition nothing has been heard about the matter. It seems as if the scheme is to be shelved for another period until the people again speak.

There have been whispers from time to time that something is to be done, but the whisper has died down. Now the government has decided to send Game Warden Williams to the Kootenays to select a suitable place in that locality. There is no doubt that this is a wise step to pursue. There have been a number of recommendations made, and none of them agree. When the report is received from the warden the government will have to choose between the various suggestions. The five opinion on the subject upon which they can act.

There seems to be a somewhat similar difficulty on the island. The warden has recommended three places, but when asked to do so by the government. Sportsmen and others have made numbers of other recommendations, and the result would be that nothing is done.

Not only are sportsmen and naturalists interested in this move but there are many who like to see the timber preserved in some natural park where future generations may get a glimpse of the veteran trees which now fill our forests. In California the immense redwoods were very near being all destroyed, and the result would have been a loss to the whole world; but recently a private person has come to the rescue and presented a large tract to the United States government in that state for the use of the people for ever. This ensures that the big trees will not be cut down. There is great danger that on this island the big trees will all fall beneath the axe of the lumberman. They have Stanley park in Vancouver, and it seems a pity that there is no similar area on the island that can be preserved. It is now impossible to obtain this anywhere within easy reach of the city of Victoria, but there are other tracts, and transportation is every day becoming easier.

### MONETARY STATUS OF NORTH VANCOUVER

#### New City Discusses Estimates —By-Laws to Raise \$25,000.

North Vancouver, April 7.—The subject of the city's finances came up at last night's meeting of the North Vancouver council.

During the past week a rumor has been circulating to the effect that the city was \$25,000 "in the hole" and Ald. Mable last evening called attention to this.

"I would like to say that the council knows nothing of such a deficiency," he declared, "and what gave rise to the rumor in my opinion is the fact that some time ago the city issued debentures and gave a 10 per cent discount and it is this discount which probably has been mistakenly regarded as a deficiency. The discount given in this way amounts to between \$20,000 and \$25,000."

Afterwards the council went into committee of the whole to discuss the estimates, and these include a money by-law to raise \$15,000, which partly covers the discount loss.

Ald. Mable also brought up a by-law to enable the city of North Vancouver to raise by way of loan the sum of \$10,000 for the purpose of paying off the city proportion of the debenture debt of the corporation of the district of North Vancouver incurred prior to the incorporation of the city. In connection with this it is interesting to note that the whole rateable property in North Vancouver according to the last assessment roll is valued at \$2,877,380, while the present debenture debt is \$162,200.

### OF WORLD-WIDE FAME.

Dr. Koch Resting in America After Thirty Years' Arduous Scientific Labor.

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