

Twice-a-Week Times

Published every Tuesday and Friday by THE TIMES PRINTING & PUBLISHING CO. LIMITED. JOHN NELSON, Managing Director. SUBSCRIPTION RATE. By mail (exclusive of city) \$1.00 per annum. DISPLAY RATES. Per inch, per month \$2.50. CLASSIFIED RATES. One cent a word in lines. No advertisement less than 10 cents. NOTE—A special rate is quoted where an advertisement is carried in both Daily and Twice-a-Week.

D. C. ELECTRIC WORK IN VANCOUVER.

The following are the particulars of the work and extensions of the British Columbia Electric Railway Company in the city of Vancouver since the execution of the agreement between that city and the company in 1900:

The Lake Huntzen water power development, necessary for the securing of additional power to handle the increased area of operation. This work cost \$2,000,000.

The North Vancouver service, amounting to five miles in that flourishing young city opposite Vancouver on the north shore of Burrard Inlet. This cost \$250,000.

The Lulu Island Railway and the Eburne and Westminster connection, opening up a fine agricultural section. The total cost of these two was \$300,000.

Installation of light and power system at Ladners. This cost \$50,000.

Double-tracking and relocating on the New Westminster line, some twelve miles in all. Cost, \$500,000.

The Chilliwack line, 62 miles in length and traversing a magnificent agricultural country. This line, which is still under construction, has now reached Cloverdale, and will be at Abbotsford before the end of the year. The cost is \$2,000,000.

South Vancouver tramway extension from five to six miles. Cost, \$100,000.

Burnaby tramway extension, about five miles. This cost \$100,000.

Hastings tramway extension, about five miles. This cost \$100,000.

In addition to this, there is the item of new trackage, contained within the city limits of Vancouver itself, and which amounts to \$500,000.

Here, then, is the enormous total of \$5,950,000 expended in opening up and providing with adequate transportation facilities the city of Vancouver and the country directly tributary to it. And this large sum has been expended by the British Columbia Electric Railway Company in the short space of a little more than eight years which has elapsed since the agreement between the city and the company was entered into in 1900.

The greater part of this five million dollars was absorbed by labor. This was a direct benefit to the city of Vancouver. The increase in population was correspondingly great, while the augmentation of property values is almost beyond computation. There is no question that the extension of the tramway system has been one of the chief agencies in the growth of Vancouver. Why should we in Victoria, from motives which will not endure before reason, oppose the expansion in this city and neighborhood?

CONFUSION AND MISCONCEPTION

There is considerable confusion of mind amongst men whom one might expect to be capable of mental orderliness in regard to the purport of the by-laws. The Times was asked this morning what the rate of taxation might be in the event of the two by-laws being carried. The process of the questioner's reasoning was probably as follows: The passage of nearly every by-law which has been before the people for the past couple of years has been followed by an increase of taxation, ergo, the passage of two more by-laws must necessarily mean further additions to taxation. Our questioner had reference to the general rate and to the special rates of taxation applied for local improvement purposes. He was either incapable of discriminating between the by-laws now under discussion and their purport or he had not taken the trouble to inform himself as to the meaning of the said by-laws. Yet he had made up his mind to vote against them, basing his opposition upon the false assumption, drawn from recent experience, that there is necessarily a connection between by-laws and taxation.

There may be others in a similar condition of mental fog, for whose information it may be well to state that if the adoption of the agreement with the tramway company means anything at all it means a reduction of taxation. Electric light has practically superseded all other forms of illumination in Victoria as elsewhere. The rates charged consumers for that light are part of our ordinary household expenses, just as much so as the charges for water. If the by-law passes there will be substantial reductions in the cost of electric light and power. If it be defeated the company will be under no obligation to give reductions. It has what amounts to a practical monopoly in the business of supplying electric light and power. Whether that monopoly be benevolent or despotic is not to the point. It is the fact that there is no other concern in a position to compete with it, and under existing conditions no capital could possibly be secured for such an undertaking. The

passage of the water by-law might effect a change in such conditions. But in the meantime we must take the conditions as they exist. The adoption of the agreement will mean, consequently, a substantial reduction instead of an increase in taxation, in return for which the city gives nothing except an undertaking not to go into the business of supplying light and power to citizens without first making the company an offer for its plant, and in the event of such offer not proving satisfactory, taking over the business as a going concern upon terms to be fixed by arbitration. There is nothing unreasonable in such a proposition in our opinion. If there is a "catch" hidden in it anywhere, a trap set by "capital" for the feet of the unwary whose only capital is their labor, the snare is not easy to discern.

We have already shown, we believe, and others better qualified have also demonstrated—that the adoption of Goldstream as a source of water supply is less likely to be followed by an increase of water rates than the adoption of Sooke Lake. If the city appropriates the works of the Esquimalt Water Works Company, its sources of revenue from water will be largely increased, while the possibilities of revenue expansion will also be greatly enlarged. There are no such possibilities inherent in the Sooke Lake scheme. But of course if the merits of a proposition are to be considered entirely from the point of view of its capacity to absorb labor, as our correspondent, Mr. Billings, argues, then all the advantages are in favor of Sooke Lake. Yet the thought may possibly arise in the minds of persons who have the future of the city deeply at heart that there are limits to the borrowing powers of this as of other municipalities. We cannot go on borrowing indefinitely for no other purpose than finding employment for labor.

Unless the finished work of labor be revenue-producing in some form in process of time we shall have to call a halt in this matter of borrowing money. The idea has occurred to us, as it has also occurred to many others, that the city has perhaps plenty of legitimate work on its hands at the present time, being prosecuted upon borrowed money, without undertaking other work, irrespective of its merits from a practical point of view, solely because it will furnish employment for labor. This is a matter of vital importance to every person; he who works for man or non-producer (and there are few of the latter class here) who has chosen Victoria as his home and therefore has a deep interest in the future prosperity as well as in the present status of the city.

We cannot go to Sooke Lake for water without adding materially to the water rates. It is a matter of considerable doubt as to whether the state of our finances will permit of our going to Sooke Lake for some time. There should therefore be no hesitation on the part of any person in voting for the by-laws.

A PECULIAR COMBINATION. Many, various and curious are the reasons given by persons resident in this city, and presumably interested in the progress of the city, for opposing the two by-laws which will be adopted or rejected on Thursday next. On the one hand we have the opposition of Major Dupont and of Senator Macdonald to the water by-law upon the ground that the measure proposed amounts practically to confiscation of property. On the other hand we have Mr. Billings, who writes a letter to the Times to-day, inquiring where the graft comes in in connection with the proposition and suggesting that by the election of the right kind of members to the legislature the monopoly of the Esquimalt Water Works Company in Victoria West and all the territory round about in the matter of water supply may be lifted. The spectacle of two classes of the community, the one deeply jealous of the rights of property and vitally concerned for the interests of capital and the other representative of the privileges accorded property and capital and caring only for the well-being of labor marching arm in arm to the poll and casting their ballots into the same box in the belief that in killing the water by-law they are accomplishing a common end will furnish a curious and interesting illustration of the vagaries of the human mind.

It is of course a hopeless task to attempt to convert either of these constitutionally antagonistic elements from what we believe to be errors of judgment. All we can hope to do is to accomplish their defeat by enlisting the active support of business men and workmen of broader views. In a letter published in this issue of the Times Mr. Herbert Kent cites instances of what has been accomplished in other cities by the extension of tramway systems, the great agencies of this country in the development of rural districts and building up cities. We sincerely trust the views of the elements represented by Mr. Kent will prevail.

Germany has lately furnished an argument which effectually settles all disagreements as to who pays the duty, the exporter or the importer, the producer or the consumer. Most people are aware that in consequence of the growing burden of the Kaiser's navy, which his majesty hopes will continue to grow until it dominates the waters on the earth, taxation in the Fatherland was lately materially increased.

Among the numerous articles upon which additional taxation was imposed was matches. It is said that as soon as the thrifty housewives of Berlin heard of the prospective increase they straightway began to lay in heavy stores of this modern necessity in every household. The visible supply soon became exhausted. But a very impressive object lesson on the relations of the consumer to the taxpayer has been given not only to the people of Germany, the class directly interested, but to the people of all the world, who in these days of the "new thought" in taxation are directly interested. Taxation increases prices to the extent of the tax applied, it sometimes does more than that. By eliminating competition it enables the producer to raise prices beyond the power of the consumer to buy. Then he has either to go without the articles he would ordinarily use or substitute something for them. In the case of Germany the tax on beef has compelled large numbers of people to become eaters of horse flesh.

A citizen of Syracuse, New York, says the Toronto Globe, writes to one of the Journals of that city that for six dollars he bought two seats to hear Dickens read in 1853 and sold them for ten dollars. He adds: "It is difficult for Americans of the present day to realize how we felt about Dickens forty years ago. There is no literary character now living who could produce anything like the impression upon the public mind and heart which was produced by Dickens' stories when they appeared, and it is doubtful whether there are any international figures either in literature or in politics who could attract to-day the affectionate admiration and curiosity which brought that audience together in 1853."

Man is flying through the air without the aid of wings, but he is doing it with a considerable degree of uncertainty. He cannot fly independent of the state of the weather, and he is doubtful about carrying anything exceeding in weight a package of letters. The Frenchman who offers a reward to any aviator who will transport his three hundred and fifty pounds, live weight, from a certain point to a given point, is evidently endowed with the saving grace of humor. He is not even taking as infinitesimal chance as the American bookmaker.

What the Imperial Defence Conference has accomplished by its labors hath not yet been officially revealed, but it is evident a programme has been agreed upon. It will be carried out with fidelity by all the interests concerned, beyond doubt, and the result will settle many misgivings that may linger in the minds of the doubting as to the defensive strength of the British Empire.

What Other People Think

To the Editor:—I have read with much interest the different opinions expressed for and against the two by-laws that will come before the people on Thursday. Now, sir, your strong argument in favor of getting the Goldstream water seems to me a relief for Victoria. I have read your company. Some time ago we heard a lot of noise and were treated to a large amount of hot air on the final and unalterable. What I want to know, sir, is this steal, grab, unwise legislation, or whatever name you choose to give it, like the ancient Biblical laws of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be changed, or are the words final and unalterable inserted in this charter? If these words are not in this steal it may be possible in the near future to get some relief for the people instead of continually playing into the hands of monopolies.

Your correspondent who signs himself "Advance Victoria" advises workmen to get out and vote for the water by-law. As I belong to this class I want to ask you, sir, which, in your opinion, would do the most good for the city—merchants and business men generally, a million dollars given to the Esquimalt Water Co. for their works or the same amount spent in construction work to develop Sooke lake water supply, leaving out the fact of the latter being an almost inexhaustible supply?

Another thing some of us would like to know. Why was not the both propositions put before the ratifiers and let the people decide which they wanted? Now, sir, I do not want to be given the credit of brain storms, the latest from New York, but there certainly has been some very funny work done, to say the least, in connection with this Victoria water supply business.

In regard to the B. C. Electric By-Law, you hold up before the people suburban services. I would like to call your attention to the present one that is running to Mount Toimle. Last spring I saw a lot of little boys attending school having to ride home on a big work car with their legs hanging over the sides. This great company refused when asked to put on a passenger car. Why? Because it would not pay. And this is the kind of people we are asked to give a tighter clench on when they are at present.

I am not from Missouri, but you will have to show me. My name is S. BILLINGS.

P. S.—I would like to call workmen's attention to the class of labor employed by this company on our streets when voting on this by-law.

BENEFITS FROM TRAMWAYS.

To the Editor:—As one of the supporters of the by-law authorizing the city of Victoria to enter into an agreement with the B. C. Electric Railway Co., under the terms of which the railway company will be enabled to get the necessary capital to increase their power, reduce lighting and power charges, etc., I wish to give my particular reason for supporting this. I consider the immense advantage the extension of the tramway system to the suburban districts of Victoria to be beyond calculation.

hundreds of Victorians have travelled over this line during the last year or two, but how many, when they see the way in which part of suburban Seattle is now built up, have any conception of what this district looked like when the city was first run out there. I remember distinctly, not more than seven or eight years ago, taking a car ride with a friend out to Green Lake, and could not see why the tramway wanted to go such a long distance out when there was apparently nothing to be done for. In those days the city and one could buy peanuts. After crossing over Lake Union until the car reached its terminus, it travelled through miles of country covered with bushes, trees, etc., with a house every mile or two. In fact at the time I write it was necessary to look for houses.

When in Seattle last month I rode out over the same line and was amazed at the changed conditions. Houses are in evidence on every hand, trees now being conspicuous by their absence; in fact, the whole country surrounding Green Lake is for up. In those days the city and one could buy peanuts. After crossing over Lake Union until the car reached its terminus, it travelled through miles of country covered with bushes, trees, etc., with a house every mile or two. In fact at the time I write it was necessary to look for houses.

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DEFECTIVE WIRES CAUSE BIG FIRE

Property Valued at \$1,500,000 Destroyed at Monterey, Mexico.

Mexico City, Aug. 23.—A fire which threatened to destroy the whole business section of Monterey, on Saturday night and Sunday destroyed property valued at \$1,500,000.

PLANTER ACCUSED OF KIDNAPPING NEGROES

Atlanta, Ga., Aug. 23.—Former State Senator James M. Smith, millionaire planter, and once a candidate for Governor of Georgia, is to-day facing serious charges. He is accused of employing agents to kidnap negroes, who are sent to his big plantation in Oglethorpe county and there held in cages. The charges against Smith were brought to light when Sim Rouse, a negro, who is alleged to be in the employ of Smith, was arraigned on a charge of kidnaping. According to the testimony produced at the hearing the negroes were held on Smith's farm for indefinite periods without pay.

Many negroes who alleged that they were kidnaped were present at the hearing and testified that when they made any efforts to leave they were put in chains.

After the trial Attorney Moore said: "I propose to prosecute these men to the limit, as it is one of the plainest cases of peonage that I ever have come in contact with. I represent about fifty negroes who worked on the farm, and who now are living in constant dread of being captured and taken back on some slight pretext."

FLAMES DESTROY HOTEL AT DECATUR

Decatur, Miss., Aug. 23.—The Moore hotel and Wells hardware store were destroyed yesterday by a fire that burned more than 12 hours before it was brought under control. The loss is \$1,000,000.

Following the fire the city faced a water famine and it became necessary yesterday afternoon to shut off the supply in the residence districts.

Half a block of buildings were destroyed, the blaze starting in the engine room of the Decatur hotel.

ON TRAIL OF BANDITS.

Officers Pursue Men Who Stole \$1500 from Bank.

Karlstad, Minn., Aug. 23.—Sheriff Anderson, of Kitzon county, and a posse of mounted police from Manitoba to-day are close upon the heels of the bandits who looted the Karstad bank of \$1500 in gold early Thursday morning. When last seen the men were headed north. It is believed their capture is only a matter of a few hours.

KILLED BY TRAIN.

Spokane, Wash., Aug. 23.—F. Kelly, of this city, who drew No. 61 in the Flathead Indian reservation land drawing at Coeur d'Alene last week, was killed under the wheels of a Northern Pacific train here Saturday. It is believed Kelly was aboard a freight train and that he fell from one of the cars. His number in the land drawing entitled him to an excellent quarter section of land.

NEW CIGARETTE BILL.

Olympia, Wash., Aug. 23.—A new cigarette bill passed by both houses Saturday, permits having in one's possession cigarettes or the "makings."

I will be to Your Advantage to illustrate the Many Sterling Values During the Closing Days of Our August Furniture and Housefurnishing Sale

WE INTEND TO MAKE the closing days of this annual event interesting ones by placing on sale the most select stock of furniture that has been our good fortune to show. A new shipment has just arrived, comprising of three carloads of the very newest ideas in Parlor Suites, Bedroom Furniture and Dining Room Needs. These are the selection of our own buyer, who is touring the leading manufacturers of the east, and whose knowledge of western needs places him in a position of not only knowing what to buy but to get furniture at a price that is within the reach of all—a feature which has made this store a place for everybody to furnish their homes with goods of unquestionable quality.

- Rocking Chairs, Worth \$20. To-day \$13.90
5-Piece Parlor Suite, Regular \$85. August Sale \$68
Card Table, Regular \$70, for \$59
China Cabinet, Special August Sale \$17.85
Dinner Wagons, Special August Sale \$17
Drawingroom Suite, Reg. \$160. August Sale \$82.50
Meat Safe, Special August Sale \$5
DAVID SPENCER, LTD.
CAN CATCH SALMON AS WELL AS VOTES
Anglers Have Good Sport at Campbell River—Mining Operations.

DAVID SPENCER, LTD. WILL NOT ALLOW WIRELESS IN CHINA Installed by British Firm regarded as Infringement of Sovereign Rights. CAN CATCH SALMON AS WELL AS VOTES Anglers Have Good Sport at Campbell River—Mining Operations.

FOREST IN THE TOWN OF REPO Flames Co the R (Tim Winnipeg, Grand Forks, Fire has been For two days. The nearby ported to have The fire at the valley town dents of the The forest fighters and a to the scene fire danger zone. Although the touched Grand in that direction is being r fore it reached Timber Coeur d'Alene With more than farms light fires which hours in the C evation, is be room and the exceed \$4,000 rent during t Hartman, so m covered a str miles wide a prising most over" land. Although reported to be camp on a broad & Nav tion will be a forest service Hea From tance and is throughout the cloud of sm tory in the v terrific heat waiting great the woods an busy quechil No deaths reported up to although run hooers' current zone. Report Spokane, W forest fire in reservation of noon accordi from the fire is based of workmen who fighting the con that the con not be confin scattered thro Coeur d'Alene Mill owners fire cause m mountains, b mately eight the choicest sweet and b reach nearly JAPANESE EXPEN Increased Os To be lent for running make money Oeaka Shosh shipping firm was built by as one of wh fleet of steam merchant sea war, when s verted into a her the Osa Oeaka Shosh mosan servit Sakura Mar loss of sever voyage the v carrying a v on the stea ported as co coal daily at knots per ho pections a than antic a formidable Kaisha's st transferred from the 23 majority of tracted. In ka Shosen unable to m the se increased by thousand y