

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

A Move to Reconsider the Yates Street Fire Hall is Too Late.

Tramway Company Write in Regard to the Bridge and Douglas Street Line.

Though once or twice last night there seemed to threaten a lively time at the weekly city council meeting, it quieted down again happily, and the work was polished off in good shape.

The chief interest centred in Ald. Phillips' motion, by which it was sought to retain the Yates street fire hall, instead of carrying out the intention of selling the property.

It came too late, however, for the rules put an extinguisher on the motion, and the alderman could not get a second to his appeal from the mayor's ruling.

Word was received from the department of marine and fisheries to the effect that it was impossible for the marine boiler inspector act as municipal boiler inspector, it being necessary to go to a department officer to do outside work.

From the tramway company came the following letter in response to the letter from the city on the Douglas street line:

Gentlemen,—Re: Senate Bill extension, in reply to letter received from city solicitor, dated 10th December, 1913.

Our present terms in the northern limit of Douglas street are not in accordance with the agreement with the city of 1888 states that the cars shall run, which schedule is again amended and altered in the Victoria Electric Railway & Lighting Co. act, 1894.

A. T. GOWARD, Manager, Victoria Branch.

In response to aldermanic inquiries, Mr. C. Dubois, Mason, city solicitor, said that his opinion was that the city had power to force the company to run the cars on the Douglas street line.

Mr. Taylor was of the same opinion. The council, however, had not yet given the authority to their legal advisers to take proceedings.

Ald. MacGregor remarked that all that aldermen who represented that section had to do now, if they were so anxious to have the matter faced, was to bring up a resolution and face the music.

Ald. George wanted the matter carefully thought out, but said that he was not afraid to take action, as Ald. MacGregor he thought meant to insinuate.

The Local Council of Women enclosed the resolution passed at their meeting in favour of a tramway extension.

Ald. Williams moved that the city solicitor be asked to frame such a by-law, and Ald. Phillips seconding it, the motion was carried.

Next came another tramway letter, this time on the bridge question. It read:

Gentlemen,—Victoria, Dec. 19, 1908. Resolutions passed by the city council on December 2, re James Bay and Rock Bay bridges, are hereby acknowledged, and regret that the council did not see its way clear to grant us an extension of the exemption from taxation in consideration of the bridge.

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THE ONE-MAN GOVERNMENT.

Sir: When His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor sent for Mr. Semlin to understand that that gentleman would form a government and that he would be at the head of his cabinet, but facts which have come to light most strongly point to the belief that the government consisted of one man only, and that the other members of the cabinet are mere "heads of departments." When Mr. Semlin was sent for, he summoned certain gentlemen to his office, and among them was the late Joseph Martin, who, as reported in the press at the outset, compelled Mr. Semlin to appoint a majority of Liberals to his cabinet, and for some reason which is a profound mystery he (Semlin) had to give way, and Mr. Carter-Cotton, rather than Jose the office he had so long coveted, also gave a very reluctant consent, and the appointments were made. It is not surprising that Mr. Semlin, as he returned to his home, his face wreathed in smiles and rubbing his hands with glee, saying to himself: "I have won. I have won."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE YUKON TRADE. WHERE DO WE STAND?

Sir—Have we accepted the decision of the Senate of Canada as disposing of this question finally and for all time? Have we done all that can be done and gone to sleep, allowing matters to take their course, the course that will turn over to the United States the best part of the Yukon trade in commerce and transportation?

A year ago when the Klondike boom was at its height the subject was very much in the mind of the people. The great Klondike boom had been down to a business basis, as we give up every effort to try and secure and hold what naturally belongs to Canada? Are we to shut our mouths and hide our pens in order that we may not be taken in by the speculators? The rich man's table are being distributed in Canada?

Whether we may be Liberals or Conservatives, we are all interested in the commerce of Canada. We regret that the scheme for an all-Canadian route to the Yukon from a sea port on the British Columbia seaboard to Teslin lake was not consummated.

Without discussing the general principles involved in the Mackenzie & Mann contract for a railway from Genora to Teslin lake, all who have studied the matter must admit that the project of a road would have formed an important link in an all-Canadian route, and that its completion to Port Simpson would have made the trade of the Canadian Yukon entirely tributary to Canada, while the traffic to and from the American Yukon would also have passed over this road.

The concessions to have been granted in the Mackenzie & Mann contract would have made the building of the road without any cost to Canada. The proposed concessions were of very doubtful value, but they were granted in return for the country which considered the intrinsic value of the charter as worth a part apart from the right to build and operate the railway as in itself a profitable investment.

That gold mining cannot stand except on the basis of a profitable investment, is a fact which is evidenced by the fact that the Mackenzie & Mann contract provided that they would be granted certain concessions, but they had to discover the gold or the silver before they could be granted the concessions. The Mackenzie & Mann contract provided that they would be granted certain concessions, but they had to discover the gold or the silver before they could be granted the concessions.

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TOAST TO RECIPROCITY

Senator Fairbanks Pokes Fun at Canadian Commissioners at Their Banquet.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier Speaks Prettily of Courtesies Received at Washington.

By Associated Press.

Washington, Dec. 19.—A banquet was given to-night by the Canadian high commissioners, who are about to leave for home to spend the holidays, as a return courtesy for the many attentions they have been the recipients of during their stay here.

The affair took place in the banquet room of the Sherman hotel, which had been appropriately decorated with American, British and Canadian flags.

Just as the gathering was about to break up, Lord Herschell proposed in toast the health of the Queen and the President of the United States.

Senator Fairbanks proposed a toast to the health of the Canadian high commissioners and to the total and absolute reciprocity which the Canadians so much desire.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in responding to the toast, echoed the Senator's sentiments, and expressed the hope that when the Canadians returned they would accomplish reciprocity, not only in words but in deeds.

Among the guests were Sir Julian Pauncefote, Chief Justice Fuller, Secretary Hay, Senators Fairbanks, Faulkner, and others.

The toast was received with