

A Short Session

Limited Programme of Business Before the Council Last Evening.

Meeting To Night to Consider the Victoria-Sidney Extension By-Law.

The regular weekly session of the City Council last evening was of short duration, the usual deliberations regarding communications, the receipt of reports and the discussion arising therefrom being consummated with a dispatch and precision that was admirable in consideration of the fact that the meeting was held on the day following New Year's day.

After the usual preliminaries a communication was read from John G. McGee, clerk of the city council, acknowledging a communication and resolution received from the council, asking that a portion of the Songhees reserve be set aside for park purposes.

Market Superintendent E. C. Johnston reported his monthly collections to have amounted to \$121. Received and filed.

W. J. Smith wrote asking that a light be placed at the corner of Montrose and James street. The writer pointed out the danger of allowing the vicinity to remain in utter darkness, as the bad condition of the roads made it possible for some person to sustain a serious injury. Referred to electric light committee.

John O'Connor wrote claiming damages amounting to \$150 sustained on his property on Coburg and Niagara streets. Owing to defective drainage the cellar beneath his house was almost submerged with water. Other property suffering in like manner, hence the claim for damages.

This communication was finally referred to the city solicitor and city engineer, Ald. Humphrey expressing his inability to understand how the communication could constitute a claim for damages as it stood.

William Emery and others wrote calling attention to the defective drain on Shakespeare street. Referred to the city engineer.

The finance committee wrote recommending that the office of Miss A. Thomas, of England, to come to this city and deliver a series of lectures on nursing, be accepted and that the council chamber be placed at her disposal for the purpose.

The mayor was of the opinion that although there was no objection to such lectures being given, when people toured the country giving lectures they should do so at their own expense.

Ald. Beckwith pointed out the benefits that might be derived from such a course of lectures being delivered in this city, and finally, after some further discussion, the report was adopted.

The same committee recommended the payment of accounts amounting to \$270.81, also the payment of accounts amounting to \$1,050. Received, adopted and authorized to be paid.

The city engineer reported regarding the proposed repairs to Rock Bay bridge and estimated the cost, from present plans and specifications at \$1,945, not including a new floor which was, however, immediately required.

Appended to this report was one from the special committee on Rock Bay bridge, recommending that the engineer's report be adopted, any that the improvements consonant with the plans and specifications be carried out, with the exception of bends and spars at the old swing.

In referring to this matter the mayor said that he had just forwarded a communication to Mr. Ry stating the work to be done on the bridge, and asking him to urge the matter on the government.

In reply to a question Ald. Cameron was informed that the tramway company would contribute \$700 toward the expenses incurred in the undertaking.

The mayor, continuing, said that there would be no "filling in" at present. If the council was willing he would authorize the immediate commencement of the work, and a requisition could then be made to the next session of the council. The reports were finally received and adopted, the work to be commenced immediately.

The annual reports then came up for consideration, Ald. Stewart moving that a special committee be appointed to arrange for publication of the council. Ald. Humphrey was of the opinion that a considerable portion of some of the reports could be eliminated from publication, while Ald. Brydon speaking specifically of the fire report said there was absolutely no necessity to "make a spread" over that portion dealing with false alarms.

Ald. Stewart's resolution was finally carried, the special committee, consisting of Ald. Stewart, Kinsman and Humphrey.

The legislative committee then reported as follows: Gentlemen—Your legislative committee having considered the undermentioned subject beg to report, and recommend as follows:

Municipal Act. Be the "Municipal Clauses Act" and amending acts: That the provincial government be requested to cause the "Municipal Clauses Act" to be amended as follows:

Vacant Lots. Sec. 50, sub-sec. 115. Vacant Lots—Amend sub-section 115 of section 50 of the "Municipal Clauses Act" by making every vacant lot fronting on a sewer liable to the payment of a sum not exceeding the minimum rental levied on buildings in the same street.

Street Sprinkling. Sec. 50, sub-sec. 120. Add a new sub-section (to be numbered 170) to section 50 of the "Municipal Clauses Act" giving municipalities power to pass by-laws: For imposing a special rate not exceeding three cents per foot frontage per month upon the occupiers of all stores

Lodges and the Doctors

The Action of the Medical Association Causes a Difficulty.

Retaliatory Action Probable on the Part of the Societies.

On Saturday next there will be a meeting of representatives of the different fraternal organizations of the city in the A.O.U.W. Hall, to take into consideration the problem which confronts the lodges of secret societies on account of the action of the Medical Association in refusing to allow any longer adhere to the arrangement which has existed between some of their members and some of the lodges in regard to the treatment of lodge members. It is recognized by the members of all the organizations which have been working under this arrangement that something must be done, and that at once, to meet this step on the part of the medical profession.

What action will be taken of course remains to be seen. There are some lodges who have never been enthusiastic in regard to this portion of the benefit which is conferred upon those who unite with the different fraternal organizations, while there are others who regard the maintenance of this provision as necessary for the very existence of their organization. The doctors, on the other hand, are practically unanimous in condemning the system, although it is alleged in some quarters that several who enjoyed a large lodge practice were by no means anxious to see it interfered with, but were in a measure coerced by the majority of the members of the association.

The crisis which has resulted is by no means an unimportant one in the organizations affected. The lodge doctor is a growth of Old Country fraternal society work and it is held by medical men that it has resulted there in the greatest possible injury to the profession.

In introduction in this country was viewed with such alarm by the medical men of Canada that they succeeded in securing the passage of an act in the province of Quebec which rendered such an arrangement unlawful. In Ontario, where the lodge practice was by no means so prevalent, the medical men of that province are more faithful readers of the public prints, such a step was of course impossible, for the Patron of Industry agitation which swept over the province a few years ago aimed, among other things, at a great curtailment of the privileges of the medical profession.

The societies which at present are affected by the "doctor and medicine" difficulty are the Ancient Order of Foresters, Canadian and Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Sons of England and St. George's, the Orange Order, the Eagles and a number of ladies' auxiliary organizations. The total lodge membership affected by the change would probably be very nearly two thousand. The present arrangement is a payment on behalf of the lodge of seventy-five cents per capita to the lodge doctor. In return for this he attends to all lodge patients, furnishing them with medical attendance and medicine free of personal charge.

This small fee is regarded by lodge members as a retaining fee and although apparently small, is when taken in conjunction with the comparatively light sick rate among the members, not so slight as may at first sight appear. For instance, in the Victoria & Sidney about seven hundred members and one doctor performed lodge medical duties for all of these. At seventy-five cents per capita this amounts from one lodge to \$525 a year. While this would be a mere trifle for attendance and medicine for seven hundred patients, it must be taken into consideration that only about two per cent of the membership of any lodge of male members is usually upon the sick list. This would mean that only fourteen of the hundred members of the organization required treatment during the year, and for fourteen patients, the sum of \$525 (not bed debts) is by no means inconsiderable.

Of course the percentage of "advices" patients is always much larger than that where consultation is had under the ordinary terms. This is one of the reasons, indeed, which medical men urge for refusing to be retained by any lodge. They say that immediately they are secured as lodge doctors they are furnished with a body of men whose only aim for seeking the services of the doctor seems to be that they can secure advice free. The doctor quickly learns to discriminate between these cases which usually require this attention. The "dead-beat" usually goes off quite satisfied that he has got ahead of the doctor and the lodge, with a bottle of peppermint and water or some equally sturdy concoction in his pocket, which he is warned to be very careful in measuring. Still, such men become more or less of a burden on the medical gentleman who is so unfortunate as to fall into his clutches.

While two per cent is a reasonable proportion of those who become patients and candidates for the services of the lodge doctor there is always a certain proportion of chronic who after the first month or two require very little attention, or even medicine. These form a considerable portion of the doctor's two per cent, while there are always some lodge members who in the case of serious illness prefer their family physician and employ him, even although they are entitled to the services of their lodge physician free.

In the case of at least one of the orders affected, something has been done toward providing a lodge physician, or the constitution of the organization must be changed. It is one of the features upon which this particular organization appeals for membership, and if a local doctor cannot be obtained to undertake the work the Grand Lodge will be obliged to provide one.

Lodge men say that the action of the Medical Association renders necessary

on their part a federation of the different societies to protect their interests and to watch the legislation which is introduced for the benefit of the medical profession.

It is also proposed that two or three medical men be secured to undertake the work of the lodges, and of the families of lodge members, and that the patient may thereby have a choice of physicians, or in case of extreme need, might have the services of all.

WEATHER IN THE NORTH.

The following is the weather report from points between Bennett and Dawson, government telegraph line:

December 25th.

Hootaniqua—Cloudy, calm, light snow falling.

Selwyn—Fifteen below.

La Barge—Partly calm, not so cold.

Five Fingers—Clear, calm, 20 below.

White Horse—Partly cloudy, calm and cold.

Cariboo—Clear, calm and cold.

Dawson—Clear, calm, 34 below.

Selkirk—Cloudy and calm, 20 below.

Ogilvie—Cloudy and calm, 40 below.

Big Salmon—Cloudy and cold.

Bennett—Cloudy, north wind, light snow, 2 above.

December 26th.

Cariboo—Clear, calm, cold.

La Barge—Partly cloudy, cold.

Big Salmon—Cloudy, calm, cold.

White Horse—Part cloudy, calm and cold.

Hootaniqua—Part cloudy, calm and cold.

Ogilvie—Cloudy, calm, cold.

Dawson—Clear, 40 below.

Selwyn—Clear, calm, 45 below.

Selkirk—Clear, calm, 35 below.

Five Fingers—Clear, calm, 35 below.

Bennett—Clear, calm, 20 below.

DUNSMUIR-WALLACE.

Oakland Gossip About a Wedding in Which Victorians Are Interested.

Oakland Saturday Night publishes weekly a gossip letter from "Rixie" and the following excerpt from the latest issue received at the Times office will be read with interest by readers of the Times. After referring to Miss Juliet Tompkins' literary career in New York "Rixie" says:

"And speaking of the Tompkins family reminds me of Southern Farm, which used to be their family home, and which is henceforth to be the home, as hospital, and the residence of California. Mr. Dunsmuir. The location of Southern Farm, near San Leandro, as a country seat could hardly be better, and the many fine improvements going on there will make it one of the most interesting suburban residences in California. Mr. Dunsmuir is having a magnificent mansion constructed on the home site. Wells have been sunk and a large engine is being put in position to do the pumping and run the dynamos for the incandescent lights, of which there will be many hundred.

It will not be ready for occupancy for some time yet, as delay in getting the material, and the rainy weather, has made progress on the work very difficult.

"When finished, the residence and the grounds surrounding it will be one of the most beautiful and attractive on this side of the bay, and in their beautiful home Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Dunsmuir hope to entertain their friends with characteristic generosity. And now, perhaps, the Dunsmuir's are to be our neighbors, a friendly reference to their special romance might be in order.

"Mr. and Mrs. Dunsmuir have only recently announced their marriage, though it has been a matter of many years' standing, and the circumstances connected with the incarceration. Popular opinion in Sydney is favorable to the claim that Creswell is really Tichborne, and some members of the commission are strongly of the same belief.

The report of Drs. Ecklaun and Devlin, who were deputed to examine William Creswell with a view of deciding whether he bore marks known to have been on the body of Sir Roger Tichborne, has been presented to the parliament of New South Wales. Twenty-two physical marks of the real Roger Tichborne were enumerated for the benefit of the examining physicians, and these two doctors found that Creswell possessed practically all of these marks and characteristics.

There are only two circumstances in which Creswell fails to correspond with the evidence of the doctors to signs which are admitted to be borne by the missing Tichborne. One of these is that there are no marks as of bleeding cuts on Creswell's ankles. But the examining physicians point out that such marks might easily have been obliterated on the legs after long years. The other and apparently the more serious discrepancy is that while Tichborne was five feet eight and a half inches in height, Creswell is five feet six and three-quarter inches, but the physicians say Creswell is now old and withered. The shrunken height would be a natural result of senility, and probably fifteen years ago Creswell may have been five feet eight and a half inches in height. The tattoo marks which existed on Tichborne do not exist on Creswell, but there is a wound in the exact locality which might be that of cautery directed to the extinction of tattooing. The medical experts say that so many marks of similarity could hardly be put down to coincidence. The investigation was incomplete when the Aorang sailed from Sydney, December 15.

Roger Charles Tichborne, who disappeared in 1854 and of whom the attempted impersonation by one Thomas Castro, alias Arthur Orton, led to two of the most celebrated and protracted trials ever had in the English courts, was born in Paris in 1829. His father was Sir James Tichborne, an English gentleman of large means, and his mother a French lady of noble descent. Roger was educated first in Paris and later in England to but a limited extent, as he was quite idle.

In February, 1853, he made his mother good-bye in Paris previous to starting on an extended journey, and on March 4 following sailed for Valparaiso. In April, 1854, he sailed in the Bella from Rio de Janeiro for New York, having previous to embarking written a letter showing his intention to retract his stay abroad for two or three years. The Bella was lost at sea and no one on board of her was ever heard of again, though her long

boat was picked up by a passing vessel. The will of Roger Charles Tichborne was proved and his estate was placed in the hands of the executors. His mother believed that he was still alive and after the death of her husband in 1852 advertised extensively over the world for her son. In 1866 Thomas Castro, a butcher living at Wasega, Wassa, Australia, whose real name was Arthur Orton, asserted that he was the lost Roger, having been saved from the wreck of the Bella. After some correspondence with Lady Tichborne he obtained from her a remittance, went to London and was received by her as her son, though repudiated by the rest of the family. She supplied him liberally with money to collect witnesses and information to be used in establishing his identity.

Lady Tichborne died in 1868 and in 1871 the "Claimant" began a suit in ejectment for the recovery of the Tichborne estates, which amounted to some £24,000 yearly. The trial lasted 103 days. He was non-suited and afterwards was arrested and tried on a charge of perjury. The trial lasted 188 days. He was found guilty and sentenced to fourteen years' penal servitude.

Since the sentence of Castro, or Orton, the question as to whether Roger Charles Tichborne was living or dead has seldom been discussed, and the whole matter of his disappearance and alleged reappearance was gradually passing from the minds of the public.

A LABOR AFFILIATION.

American Federation of Labor Organizers Wins Over the Miners of Nanaimo.

(Special to the Times.) Nanaimo, Jan. 2.—The Mine and Mine Laborers' Protective Association of Nanaimo, on Saturday evening decided to cast their lot with the American Federation of Labor. This step was brought about through the efforts of W. G. Armstrong, Pacific Coast organizer for the federation, who came here from Seattle on Thursday last, and did some active missionary work before the meeting was held on Saturday evening. When the meeting was called to order it was found that there was little opposition to the idea of affiliation, and when Mr. Armstrong left for Seattle on Sunday afternoon he carried in his inside pocket the application of the miners for a charter in the American Federation of Labor and the charter fee.

The union here has been in existence for some time, but hitherto it has kept itself aloof from other organizations, and some of the leaders in the association do not look with approval on the new departure. Mr. Armstrong states that other mining camps will be brought into the fold within a short time, and that both employers and employed will be benefited by affiliation.

While here Mr. Armstrong also before the miners the conditions fairs at Carbonado, Washington, committee was appointed by the union to solicit subscriptions from families who were stricken by the explosion.

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An Alleged Tichborne

Claimant Said to Be Confined in a New South Wales Asylum.

A Fresh Chapter in the Remarkable Affair Comes From Australia.

The famous story of the Tichborne claimant has been revived, according to news received in the Australian mail, and the government of New South Wales is so impressed with the probability that an inmate of the Parramatta Insane Asylum, known as William Creswell, may be Sir Roger Tichborne that it has appointed a commission to inquire into the antecedents of Creswell and to investigate the circumstances connected with the incarceration. Popular opinion in Sydney is favorable to the claim that Creswell is really Tichborne, and some members of the commission are strongly of the same belief.

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