

## PROPERTY OWNERS' ANNUAL MEETING

WAS HELD YESTERDAY IN THE CITY HALL

Election of Officers for the Ensuing Year—Many Resolutions Were Passed.

(From Wednesday's Daily.) A well-attended meeting of the members of the Property Owners' Association was held in the city hall yesterday afternoon. The various questions considered during the reading of the annual report were dealt with as they were brought up, the first matter being the referendum, whereon the following resolution was passed:

Whereas the sole object of the referendum is the obtaining of the opinion of the electors on questions affecting the general public welfare;

And whereas such electors have an undoubted right to express their opinions on all questions affecting the general public welfare, and to demand the exercise of this right on petition to the municipal council without needless vexation;

And whereas, by section 50 of the Municipalities Act, sub-section 12, as amended by the statutes of 1906, requires such petition to be signed by one-fifth of the total number of voters on the current list of those entitled to vote at the election, which is in number practically prohibitive;

And whereas the only object of the petition is to initiate the referendum and in no way prejudice the result;

Be it resolved, that this association request the government to amend the section by omitting the words "one-fifth" in the fourth line and substituting "one-twentieth" therefor.

Some discussion took place with regard to the Elections Act and the voters' list. The consensus of opinion was that all persons who sought the advantages of residence in any municipality should be prepared to take their fair share of the cost of the institutions which benefited their interests. It was felt that the suffrage should not be conferred on irresponsible persons, and the following resolution was passed:

Whereas the enlargement of the voters' list, as enacted by Chapter 18 of the statutes of 1906, permits all women to vote who occupy a room in any house;

And whereas this enactment opens the voters' lists to dissolute characters and irresponsible persons;

Be it resolved, that this association request the government to limit the female householders' franchise to persons paying municipal taxes (exclusive of water rate or rent) of not less than two dollars for the current year.

That the meaning of the word household shall be as defined in bill 47, as passed by the municipal committee on March 2nd, 1906.

It was decided to suggest to the council the submission of the following questions to the referendum: "(a) Shall an independent municipal auditor be appointed as provided in the act? (b) Shall the high school be made self-supporting as provided in the act? (c) Shall the indemnity to aldermen be abolished?"

The general feeling of the meeting was that these questions should be decided by the vote of the ratepayers themselves, and the hope was expressed that the council would have the requisite courage to adopt this course.

The water question had been before the board of management for some time, but being of such a far-reaching nature they considered it better to submit the matter to the general annual meeting. A good deal of discussion ensued, and the following resolution was finally decided upon:

Whereas the necessity for the improvement in the supply and distribution of the water for the city of Victoria is of most pressing importance to the welfare of the citizens;

And whereas the question of water supply should be dealt with on the basis of a sound commercial proposition, and the revenue derived therefrom reserved exclusively for the maintenance, up-keep and extension of the system, and the payment of interest and the cost of any loan for waterworks purposes;

And whereas it is impossible for the majority of those entitled to vote on by-laws for the contracting of debts to be made between rival propositions as to which may be in the best interests of the city;

And whereas the membership of this association represents nearly one-third the total assessment value of the city of Victoria;

Be it therefore resolved, that this board suggest, for the consideration of the council, the appointment of a commission of three or more persons, with full power to take evidence on the matter, employ necessary expert assistance, and report their proceedings and recommendations to the Mayor and council in the form of a definite, comprehensive and conclusive scheme.

And that these findings should be laid before those entitled to vote, in the form of a by-law, for their ratification or rejection in the usual way.

That any proposed expenditure at the present time should be limited to such work as can be covered by a sum to be raised as a short loan, of interest and sinking fund on which will be met out of revenue derived from the waterworks themselves.

The question of excessive cost of education was discussed, Senator McDonald and others speaking on the matter, and it was felt this should be determined by the ratepayers themselves on the referendum.

The following officers were then duly elected: F. B. Patterson, chairman; J. A. Sayward, J. A. Kirk, E. Musgrave, J. K. Rebeck, E. B. Marvin, Jas. Forman and Hon. W. J. Macdonald to the board of management; and T. C. Seby, secretary-treasurer.

A vote of thanks to the retiring officer closed the proceedings.

### TRIAL POSTPONED.

Case Against Joseph Phillips Will Not Be Heard Until March.

(Toronto, Dec. 13.)—Owing to the absence of material witnesses, the trial of Joseph Phillips, president of the defunct York County Loan Company, is held over until March.

Of Chinese edible birds' nests it takes fifty to weigh a pound.

### CANDIDATES NOMINATED.

Harry Shepherd Will Oppose J. H. Hawthornthwaite in Nansaimo.

The Nansaimo Herald says: "A well attended meeting of those opposed to the political actions of Mr. J. H. Hawthornthwaite and to the acts of the McBride government met last night in the Labor party rooms, Victoria Crescent, and unanimously nominated Mr. Harry Shepherd to represent them in the coming provincial election. The meeting was a very enthusiastic one, and was such as augured well for the success of its candidate, whoever the election takes place. Committees were appointed to look after the financial end of the campaign, and plans formed for the carrying on of an energetic campaign."

"At a meeting of the Independent Labor party held at Ladysmith last night, attended by about thirty delegates from that city and the surrounding district, Mr. Hugh Fulton was unanimously nominated as the candidate of the party in the coming provincial elections. John Bickle moved the nomination, which was seconded by Andrew Bryden."

Newcastle district is at present represented by Parker Williams, Socialist.

### SUICIDE OF CAPTAIN.

Is Tired of Life and Swallows the Contents of a Bottle of Laudanum.

F. O. Sodergrin, a retired sea captain, of San Francisco after writing his wife a note telling of his discomfiture, swallowed the contents of a bottle of laudanum and ended his existence.

After purchasing a four ounce vial of laudanum Sodergrin went to the Casanova and leaving orders not to be disturbed until after 8 o'clock, retired.

About 7 o'clock, according to his instructions, a waiter employed at the place, tried to awaken Sodergrin, and on failing to arouse him entered the room and found the man dead, with the empty bottle on the floor by his bedside. Pinned to the bed clothes was a note addressed to Mrs. Laura Sodergrin, 1402 Page street, which read as follows:

"My Dear Wife Laura—When this reaches you I will be no more. This world has been a cruel and cold one to me. It has tricked me in every place till I could stand it no more. Once your husband, but now no more. God bless you, woman."

Little is known of the dead man's past in San Francisco except that for a number of years he was a captain on a coasting vessel.

### BARKENTINE LOST SAILS.

Caught in Gale on Thursday—Crew Were on Short Rations.

Port Townsend, Wn., Dec. 12.—The barkentine Amelia, Capt. Kure, was towed in here this morning, minus sails and in a leaking condition. The vessel is out 36 days from San Francisco for Astoria. Owing to the long voyage the vessel ran out of provisions several days ago, the crew being in a starving condition upon arrival, having been on short rations for some time.

Amelia got the brunt of the gale of last Thursday, during which she lost every stitch of sail. The vessel must be repaired and secure an outfit of new sails before proceeding to Astoria.

### THE REICHSTAG.

Will Be Dissolved If Money to Maintain Force in German South Africa Is Refused.

Berlin, Dec. 12.—Emperor William has authorized Chancellor von Buelow to dissolve the Reichstag and order new elections if the supplementary appropriations asked for by the government are not granted by the House.

The question of the Reichstag appropriating enough money to maintain the present army in German Southwest Africa, the government holds, is equivalent to the question of whether the colonies shall be given or retained. An appeal to the country, if necessary, will be made on that issue, the government's position being that if the present garrison there is reduced from 12,000 to 2,500 men, as the Centre party and Extreme Left contend should be done, the insurgent natives would obtain possession of the colony.

### LETHBRIDGE MINES.

Lethbridge, Alta., Dec. 11.—The mines are once again alive of industry. Men are timbering underground, and the work is being rapidly done. The output is increasing, but is yet under 400 tons. The strikers are returning, and all are being given work as soon as work is available.

### BORN.

STODDART—At Vancouver, on Dec. 5th, the wife of Wm. L. R. Stoddart, of a daughter.

KINCAID—At Revelstoke, on Dec. 3rd, the wife of A. E. Kincaid, of a son.

GENEST—At Nelson, on Dec. 4th, the wife of H. L. Genest, of a son.

MANGNALL—At Nelson, on Dec. 3rd, the wife of B. Mangnall, of a son.

PETTINGELL—On the 10th inst., to the wife of B. C. Pettingell, Jr., a daughter.

### MARRIED.

MILLER-CORBIN—At Vancouver, on Dec. 11th, by Rev. R. J. Wilson, Robert Miller and Miss May Etta Corbin.

DOUGLAS-MILLS—At Vancouver, on Dec. 5th, by Rev. Mr. Sanford, Captain John P. Douglas and Miss Margaret P. Douglas.

WORKMAN-ROSS—At New Westminster, on Dec. 5th, by Rev. J. S. Henderson, Dr. W. Workman and Miss Lorne Ross.

### DIED.

SHANDLEY—At the residence of Mr. Peter Shandley, No. 71 Menzies street, on the 13th instant, Elizabeth, the beloved wife of Harold Shandley, a native of Liverpool, England, aged 24 years.

DIER—At her residence, 4 Fernwood road, on December 12th, Ellen, beloved wife of W. A. Dier, and daughter of the late Hiram Dier, St. Thomas, Ontario, aged 55 years.

WHILSON—On the 8th inst., at "Englehurst," St. Charles street, Thomas S. Wilson, aged 82 years.

MADAM—At Vancouver, on Dec. 7th, John Y. Madam, aged 61 years.

BRAITHWAITE—At Vancouver, on Dec. 8th, Mrs. J. E. Braithwaite, aged 83 years.

## WILL ENFORCE SEPARATION LAW

FRENCH AUTHORITIES ARE READY TO ACT

M. Robin Has Filed Application For Permission to Hold Religious Services in Churches.

Paris, Dec. 12.—The day of grace granted to local churches in the execution of the law providing for the separation of church and state postpones until to-morrow the measures for its enforcement. The delay, however, has only served to increase the excitement caused by the expulsion yesterday of Mgr. Motagnini, secretary of the Papal nuncio at Paris.

It has been decided immediately to take over the buildings belonging to the ecclesiastics, stop the pensions of the clergy, compel aspirants to the priesthood to fulfill their military obligations, and, if necessary, treat the clergy as subjects of a foreign power. This constitutes a sufficient demonstration of the spirit with which the government intends to meet resistance.

The reception of Premier Clemenceau's speech in the Chamber of Deputies last night also shows that he has parliament at his back. Nevertheless M. Clemenceau was very careful to say that there still was time for the Catholics to conform with the law.

That the rank and file of the Liberal Catholics disapprove of the intransigent attitude of the authorities at Rome, is evidenced by the fact that the editor of the Renaissance, Felix Robin, has fled with Prefect of Police Lepine an application under the Public Meetings law of 1881, for permission to hold religious meetings in all the churches. This affords the single ray of hope in the situation.

The Figaro to-day says that Cardinal Richier, archbishop of Paris, at first declined to approve of M. Robin's action, but that later he changed his mind. This application, if accepted, no matter whether it is approved by the clergy, will legalize the holding of religious service, and render unnecessary any proceedings against parish priests or vicars to-morrow.

It turns out that the papers seized at the Papal nuncio yesterday placed in the government's hands important evidence which may prove embarrassing to the Vatican. It open war issues. They include diplomatic records, covering the correspondence before the rupture with the Vatican, recent instructions from Cardinal Merry Del Val, the Papal secretary of state, a mass of letters from prelates all over the world, and letters in the handwriting of deputies of the Right party. M. Jaures, the Socialist leader, asserts in his paper that the seized documents prove the existence of a conspiracy.

The clergy of Paris issued special appeals to-night to their parishioners to be present at the churches to-morrow at the first mass celebrated outside the pale of the law. The government, however, purposes to proceed gently. The services will not be broken up but policemen will be in attendance to note infractions of the law. The chief danger of disorders in Paris lies in the possible invasion of churches by rowdies and free thinkers. Reserves of gendarmes will be stationed to-morrow at various points throughout the city to guard against trouble on this score.

The indications are against anything which might be dignified by the name of a religious war as the prompt expulsion from France of Mgr. Motagnini, secretary of Papal nuncio here, since the recall of the nuncio, coupled with threats to expel recalcitrant clergymen from France, has had a sobering influence. The militant Catholics are in a hopeless minority and the masses are either indifferent or, except in a few isolated instances, inclined to side with the government.

There was a riotous demonstration at Nancy to-day when a bishop was moving out of his residence. A crowd of two thousand accompanied the officials to the residence, hooting them constantly. The bishop will be prosecuted on the charge of assaulting a policeman because he laid his hand upon a policeman's shoulder while he was leaving his residence.

### INSTRUCTIONS TO CLERGY.

Rome, Dec. 12.—The Vatican authorities denounce the action of the French government in having Mgr. Motagnini accompanied to the frontier by police, as being "an odious action, showing a desire to inflict humiliation on those who, because of their weakness, cannot retaliate."

It is believed that even now, notwithstanding the gravity of the situation, France would not find it difficult to conciliate the Vatican if negotiations were opened. Meanwhile all the Vatican forces have been mobilized to take part in the campaign. Even Father Wernz, the general of the Jesuits, has joined the belligerents.

The last instructions sent to the French clergy are, in substance, that they are to look upon the situation from its worst aspect and organize private religious services.

Thousands of telegrams have been sent from Freemasons, anti-clericals and others to French officials, congratulating them on their energetic attitude. On the other hand, the Vatican authorities have received thousands of telegrams of sympathy and encouragement from bishops, Catholic clubs and Protestant Catholics, Italians and foreigners.

—Yesterday morning Dr. Fagan received a small pill box from Enderby filled with cotton batting. This batting had been rubbed on the throat of a person suspected of being infected with diphtheria, and was sent to Dr. Fagan for examination. After the usual preparation a slide charged from the batting was placed under a microscope, and the physician had little difficulty in detecting the presence of the deadly germs. A wire was immediately dispatched to Enderby ordering the isolation of the patient.

## Local News.

—The clearings of the banks for the week ending December 11th show that the record of the city's business is keeping up to the high average. They were \$1,113,144.

—Yasuke Kawasaki, a Japanese merchant of Vancouver, received during the past week a Canadian patent on a device for the manufacture of the wafer biscuits known as "senbe" by the Japanese.

—The children of the various city schools will take their Christmas gifts to their respective schools at 10.30 on Saturday next. These gifts will afterwards be sent to the officers of the Friendly Help Society for distribution among the poor people of the city.

—A recital was given by the junior pupils of Miss S. F. Smith, assisted by the seniors on Saturday afternoon, December 9th. About forty took part. The studio was decorated by the pupils with ivy and bunting. Of course as usual the pupils enjoyed the Christmas tree and refreshments.

—The death of Mrs. W. A. Dier took place Wednesday. She was 55 years of age and was the daughter of Hiram Dier, of St. Thomas, Ont. Her husband, W. A. Dier, is a well-known mining broker. The funeral will take place from the residence, Fernwood road, at 2 o'clock on Friday.

—On Tuesday in the Institute hall a benediction was pronounced for the Seaman's Institute, a local mission which is doing good work on the waterfront in charge of J. S. Bailey. A very good programme, arranged by Miss Erhardt, assisted by Miss Shelly, was given and enjoyed by a fairly large gathering.

—A. P. McKeen, the seaman who was drowned in the Cowitz river on December 3rd while heroically endeavoring to save the life of a fellow-sailor, was the son of W. M. McKeen, Springvale. He had an adventurous career as a sailor, and was among the survivors of the ill-fated steamers Islander and Cliallam, having narrow escapes from death on both occasions.

—On Sunday last 35,000,000 gallons of water flowed over the main weir at Lavender swamp in the Highland district. Detailed returns for the last week are not to hand, but, although there has been little rain, a considerable amount of water has been recorded. Since October 21st sufficient water has been recorded at the main weir to supply the city for a whole year.

—The slander action mentioned in Tuesday's Times as being Hodgson vs. Pelraon, should have read Pelraon vs. Hodgson. The plaintiff was awarded \$1,000 damages and costs. In giving judgment His Lordship came to the conclusion that defendant had been ordered done by the planning in charged, and that in repeating them in the witness box he had also shown malice.

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—The deputy minister of mines, R. Tormie, has in his possession a lump of a metallic substance which he has reason to believe is iron pyrites. Through it runs a vein of quartz, and the lump is globular in shape. It was discovered on Spanish creek, Cariboo, and the deputy minister intends having it assayed.

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—The membership contest at the Y. M. C. A. is proving exciting, inasmuch as this is the last week of the contest, which closes punctually at 10 o'clock on Saturday night, when the winning side will be declared, and will be entitled to the director's oyster supper, and also the honor of R. W. Clark's trophy for bringing in the most number of individual members during the month. The whole membership is divided into four sides with color distinctions, white, red, green and blue, captained respectively by Messrs. Whyte, Mason, Margison and Barton. The whites lead at present with reds and greens close second and third. On Saturday night the reduced rates of membership discontinued, and the regular rates go into force. During this week those whose membership has expired a month if renewed at once will be counted in the contest.

### THE HALIBUT INDUSTRY.

Old Country Fishermen Coming Out on Steam Trawler.

The Vancouver Daily Province prints the following: "That English capital will soon be invested in the halibut industry on the British Columbia coast is now an assured fact, and it is also certain they will erect a plant in Vancouver and operate their vessels from this port."

"W. V. Wetley has gone to England, where he will report on the halibut industry on this coast to a large English firm, by whom he was sent to Vancouver to investigate."

"Mr. Wetley will recommend the use of trawlers. He states they can easily be used to the best advantage in these waters, the same as on the fishing banks on the Atlantic. He will return to Vancouver from England on a steam trawler with an experienced crew of English fishermen who are accustomed to fishing halibut by trawl."

—At a meeting of the license commissioners held in the city hall yesterday afternoon, at which the mayor and Commissioners Davey and Phillips were present, the following transfers were granted: To William S. D. Smith, from Emma Davies; Victoria hotel, to James G. Frank, from W. H. Milligan; Wilson hotel, to Samuel McEneaney, from W. H. Meldrum; Occidental hotel, to

George Lund, from Elizabeth Gogo. Notice was given that at the next meeting applications would be made to transfer the King Edward hotel license from Marion Paterson to A. L. Hamilton.

—You cannot possibly make any mistake insuring in a company which earns the highest percentage of profits, has the lowest expense rate, pays all profits to policyholders, and has the lowest premium rates of all the old Canadian companies. The Mutual Life of Canada, A. B. McNellie, special agent; R. L. Drury, manager, 34 Broad street.

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—The board of school trustees held a special meeting, in Secretary Eaton's office on Tuesday afternoon to consider the tenders submitted for the work of connecting the Hillside school to the city's main sewer. This work has been ordered done by the planning in charged, and will be commenced immediately. The contract for the carpenter work and the cement and paving jobs was awarded to C. A. McGregor, the lowest bidder.

—The deputy minister of mines, R. Tormie, has in his possession a lump of a metallic substance which he has reason to believe is iron pyrites. Through it runs a vein of quartz, and the lump is globular in shape. It was discovered on Spanish creek, Cariboo, and the deputy minister intends having it assayed.

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—The membership contest at the Y. M. C. A. is proving exciting, inasmuch as this is the last week of the contest, which closes punctually at 10 o'clock on Saturday night, when the winning side will be declared, and will be entitled to the director's oyster supper, and also the honor of R. W. Clark's trophy for bringing in the most number of individual members during the month. The whole membership is divided into four sides with color distinctions, white, red, green and blue, captained respectively by Messrs. Whyte, Mason, Margison and Barton. The whites lead at present with reds and greens close second and third. On Saturday night the reduced rates of membership discontinued, and the regular rates go into force. During this week those whose membership has expired a month if renewed at once will be counted in the contest.

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