

THE FIRST MEETING

The Council Holds its First Meeting - Standing Committee Appointed.

Mayor Redfern Delivers His Inaugural Address - Work for the Council.

There was a large audience of electors to greet the new mayor and aldermen when they took their seats for the first time at the council board.

The minutes of the late council were taken and read and Mayor Redfern read the following address:

Gentlemen: In submitting the following remarks for your consideration I do so in the full conviction that the adoption and carrying out of such a policy as that therein outlined would result in materially improving the condition of the municipality, and add to the comfort and convenience of its citizens, and I trust we shall, during our term of office, work harmoniously together to carry out whatever policy may be decided upon in our endeavor to satisfy fully the administrative affairs of this city and to advance its best interests.

The great necessity for better roads and sidewalks especially in the business portion of the city being very great and the municipal council having no funds for their improvement, other than the current revenue, the strictest economy should be observed in every direction of the public service in order that a sum as possible may be available for carrying on such work, and it will be for you to consider whether it will be better to continue the present system of macadamizing and concrete gutters, or to substitute some other form of pavement.

Whenever a street is made by the council the property owners should be required to bear a portion of the expense by constructing permanent sidewalks at their own cost.

If money were borrowed for the principal business streets, the whole of the amount available out of the revenue for street purposes could be spent in improving the streets outside those limits.

A considerable economy could probably be effected and better results produced in street cleaning by the use of a street sweeper than by the present system of sweeping with hand brooms.

The extension of the sewerage system is of vital importance to the health of the city, and as it would be desirable to raise money by loan for that purpose at present, and no money can be spared from the revenue, I would recommend that a by-law be prepared under the power given in section 110, clause 50, Municipal Clauses Act, for charging a reasonable rent for the use of sewers, and all money received from such rent should be for sewer extension and for no other purpose.

The condition of the waterworks at the lake and the best method to be adopted for bringing them to completion are matters that require the most careful and careful consideration and although under ordinary circumstances it may not be necessary to have a water works committee, I have considered it advisable in this case to appoint a special committee to assist the mayor and the water commissioner in dealing with the matter.

The Point Ellice bridge disaster and its results will also require careful consideration, and I would earnestly recommend to the municipal council the desirability of endeavoring to ascertain whether without prejudice to the city's rights a reasonable compromise can be arranged with those who have suffered loss and injury through that disaster.

Should any such arrangement be effected it would have to be ratified by the legislature for power to carry it into effect.

To guard as far as possible against the recurrence of such a disaster, I would recommend the passing of a by-law defining the duties of the city engineer, more particularly with the view of placing all the bridges in the city in his charge and making him responsible for their safety.

Any feasible scheme for harbor improvement or for giving to Victoria better communication with the coast cities and the mining districts should receive the favorable consideration of the council and I would, I am sure, receive at your hands all possible encouragement and aid that could be given with due regard to the interests of the city.

Application should be made to the legislature for power to make an appropriation for a house for the admiral on the station, and also for power to exempt active members of the militia from payment of road and revenue taxes.

A home for aged and indigent women is much needed, and the want could probably be best supplied by the addition of a wing to the old men's home, and would not entail a very serious charge upon the revenue.

A small appropriation for band concerts once a week during the summer months in the public park would be greatly appreciated by the citizens, and the council will, I hope, give the subject favorable consideration.

I would recommend that application be made to the government to transfer the person in property tax to the city as suggested by ex-Mayor Beaven in his address to the electors.

The estimates will be prepared and laid before you at an early date as possible.

AN ENGLISH VIEW

A Prominent Mining Paper Speaks of British Columbia's Mineral Wealth.

Smelter and Customs House Returns Furnish Indisputable Evidence.

London, Eng., Mining Journal.—The present year has been an eventful one for British Columbia, both as regards the rapid development of the Kootenay district, and the advent of the British speculator; and, moreover, it is now recognized in England that this province contains large ore bodies, some of established value, and others in which the prospects are sufficiently good to warrant the bestowal of some attention.

It was but a short time ago that British Columbia was believed to contain only some old placer diggings in out of the way districts, which were too inaccessible to be worth the attention of British capital.

But it is true that it is less easily reached than its southern rival, which lies between the Canadian Pacific and the Northern Pacific railway systems, and is easily reached from either.

The chief camps in the Kootenay district have been examined this year by men whose opinions carry weight in financial circles, and recently the reports of the majority of the larger companies have been issued to the public through the columns of the financial press, and the account they have to give is most encouraging.

The mining industry in this portion of the province is quite in its infancy, and it is early yet to prophesy, but although it is hardly likely to reach the vast dimensions that the inhabitants of Rossland would fondly have us believe, it is more than probable that for many years to come it will support an increasing number of miners and will open the door for the remunerative investment of many millions of capital.

In the Nicola district alone this industry has assumed respectable dimensions in the space of two years; there are upwards of 100 power drills in use, a large quantity of costly machinery has been purchased, and very large orders are now being sent to the States for the smelters to be erected in the district, and railway communication is becoming more extended every day.

Although the sub-division of the Kootenay into the Nicola and the Kootenay, which has been paid to this province by British investors, it contains but a small portion of the wealth of West Kootenay.

In the Nicola there are true fissure veins of considerable extent, containing argenteous galena of a very high grade. The value of every ton shipped from these mines averages \$90, and several shipping mines possess ore of which the value is \$200 per ton.

The Nicola Star and the Galena Farm are most valuable silver bonanzas; and, in spite of the depreciation in the value of silver, the workings of these and several neighboring silver properties are greater than has been hitherto shown by the pyrrhic mines of Rossland.

The latter attention is being concentrated to the front, and large investments were made this summer by English companies, who have obtained at a very reasonable figure claims that will probably prove of great value to the province in the next twelve months.

In the Nelson district some valuable discoveries of gold-bearing ores have been made this year, and the result of these findings will prove the value of the district in the mining properties of Kootenay. A very fair idea of the progress of development can be obtained by watching the smelter and custom house returns, which are published weekly in the Victoria Standard, and in this way English investors will be able to gather reliable information, which will stand them in good stead in the future.

The result of the examination of all the hydraulic companies operating in Cariboo has not yet been announced, but sufficient is known to prove that the output of gold shows a marked increase on that of the past ten years. Three or four large companies have made the upper waters of the Fraser and its tributaries their scene of operations this summer, and but little can be expected from them this year in the way of results, but from the very large amount of hydraulic machinery that has gone up to the Quesnelle and Horsefly country this autumn, it may be reasonably expected that a much larger quantity of gold dust will be obtained next year than at any time subsequent to 1885.

The question of gold dredges has exercised the minds of several prominent miners in the Cariboo district during the past two seasons, and in spite of a higher state of perfection, gold dredges have been brought to a higher state of perfection, a large quantity of gold may be obtained from the Fraser and its tributaries, but at present the quantity of gold obtained from this source is not large.

A check strike of free milling gold was discovered this summer near Lillooet, in the Cariboo district, and picked specimens of this ore were recently exhibited in this country chiefly for immigration purposes. These specimens were undoubtedly very rich, but the region in which these ores were found is practically unexplored, and it does not yet appear

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The interview was of an informal character and was upon that account all the more important, since each spoke with-out that reserve which is necessary when one knows that his words are going to be used officially.

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