

BRIDGE CONTRACT GOES TO SEATTLE

LIVELY DISCUSSION OVER GIVING AWARD

Council Divided Three to Six on Subject While Mayor Voted With the Minority.

The Puget Sound Bridge & Dredging Co., of Seattle, has been awarded the contract of building the new Point Ellice bridge. Such was the result of the vote taken by the aldermen in regular session last night on the matter of considering the tenders, although it was not until after a heated discussion that the decision was reached.

Before proceeding with the regular business of the meeting the mayor drew attention to a libel on Victoria appearing in the London Daily Express, which had been written by one of the correspondents accompanying the Royal party to this city, and which evidently applied to Vancouver. He was of opinion that the council should not allow the matter to pass unnoticed. The part to which he took objection was as follows:

A less pathetic and more amusing story is related of the Royal trip to Victoria (B. C.), when they travelled across the Gulf of Georgia on H. M. S. Empress of India, of the Canadian Pacific Railway's Oriental fleet.

For a few hours during their short stay the public were permitted to go over the vessel for a hasty glimpse at the suite of state rooms and cabins set apart for the Royal guests. Both the camera friend and the souvenir hunter were ably represented. For, although nothing of any real value was removed, flowers and ferns were dragged piecemeal from vases and bowls to be hoarded up by loyal Victorians in remembrance of the visit.

A thousand and one other methods were observed as a means to the same end. But the "lady" who must really have felt that the afternoon had not been spent in vain was the catering female who climbed on to the Duchess's bed-room and all round lay there while a friend "koked" her.

Communications were next read from the different firms respecting the Point Ellice bridge. J. Buntzen, the general manager of the B. C. Electric Railway, stated that their firm was prepared to accept the tender conditionally that the proposed bridge would have the required weight and the margin of safety.

W. F. Bullen, manager of the Esquimalt Marine Railway, wrote that their firm would like to tender on the proposed structure providing that proper working plans and specifications were prepared. The company recently enlarged their plant, and it was now very completely equipped.

AM. Cooley thought that all had plenty of time to submit their tender. The communication was too late.

The Mayor—What the letter seems to ask for is that detailed specifications be given on which to figure. No such plan had thus far been prepared.

There was a little bit between the mayor and a number of the aldermen on the subject, and the former called on the city engineer to verify his statements. Mr. Topp, in reply to His Worship, said that the specifications do not state what the girders of the structure should be.

Ald. Yates—What does it take 24 pages of manuscript to describe?

Answering the question Mr. Topp said that the standing plans were given, but not the working plans.

Ald. Yates considered if a builder had the weight, size and kind of a structure required he would not know the principal of his business if he had to be informed on all details.

Ald. Cameron took the view that if the council had not supplied all details in connection with the plans issued it would be better to retrace steps taken and call for new tenders.

Ald. Kinsman and Williams were also of this view.

Finally it was decided to lay both communications on the table temporarily until the report of the city engineer bearing on the subject had been reached. This course was also adopted in regard to a third letter on the same matter coming from Thos. Shave, and offering to tender if the specifications and plans were provided.

W. J. Eden wrote asking for information as to the matter of licenses. The letter was referred to the city solicitor for report.

T. M. S. Bain suggested that the name of Chatham street be not changed to Caledonia avenue below Douglas.

Ald. Beckwith thought that there was a good deal in the request and moved that the letter be laid on the table.

In seconding the motion, Ald. Cameron, the chairman of the committee appointed to make certain recommendations on the changing of names of the streets, stated that the committee's report only made suggestions, and he for one thought the new names should be those who had served the city as former members of the board or as former mayors. Any other names he would only be too willing to have received.

The letter was laid on the table.

H. P. Johnston, secretary of the Pet Stock Association, advised the board of a show to be held in January, and asked what financial assistance the council would be prepared to give the event. He referred to the finance committee for report.

The city engineer's report dealing with the Point Ellice bridge was then read, recommending the council to take the course it did as follows.

To His Worship the Mayor and Board of Aldermen—

Gentlemen—In accordance with resolution of November 12th, 1901, I have considered the undetermined subject and beg leave to report as follows:

He tenders of Point Ellice Bridge.

Dealing with the width of the proposed structure, hereinafter referred to as the bridge, I have to report as follows:

Co., some months ago, and which reads as follows: "The Dominion government has authorized the Dominion government to construct a new structure to replace the one now in use, which would be expected by the end of the present year. It was therefore not a matter for deferring."

Considerable discussion followed. Ald. Cameron believing that the arguments opposed to the amendment were not convincing. There was not a plant in Victoria, a very short time ago, for the raising of the bridge, but such work could not be done here, and the industry was a great benefit to the city. Moran Bros., big plant in Seattle started in just the same way. It would not be long before this western country would require many bridges, and why not foster home industry now. He opposed the awarding of the contract to the Seattle firm on the grounds that the tender had not been accepted in competition with others.

Ald. Yates then explained his position at some length in the matter of the width of the bridge; one advantage to be derived will be that in having the bridge paved for the tramway track. He spoke in favour of the council having been in favour of building, and wished to emphasize the fact that a more honest lot of men than in the council could not be found. In the matter of the instructions which had been passed he asked whether it had been accepted when they had an article in the Colonist written by the solicitor for the Albion Iron Works.

The amendment was finally put and lost. Ald. Kinsman, Williams and Cameron and the mayor alone voting for it. The mayor stated that the reason he took the stand he did was that the tender of the Puget Sound Company was not submitted in competition. On Saturday he had taken the trouble to visit the lands and works department and inspect plans for a bridge to be built on the site. He had been so complete that five minutes after they were all in the contract was awarded. The tenders ranged from six and a fraction to twelve cents a pound on the weight. A great saving had therefore been effected as a result of competition.

After some further cross-firing the original motion carried on the same vote as the amendment was lost.

Ald. Brydon remarked in passing that so far as building was concerned no member of the council, so far as he knew, had ever been guilty of the charge.

The city assessor gave notice that no objection for the widening of Johnson street has been made, although the time for such a petition had expired. The report was adopted, and the city assessor was instructed to frame the by-law necessary for the carrying out of the work.

Mr. Brooks—You say you examined all the children. Did you? Witness—Yes, I didn't look in the baby's throat. Mr. Brooks—Did you know it was suffering from diphtheria? Witness—Yes, Mr. Brooks—How can you tell without looking in the child's throat? Witness—I can sometimes tell by the child's appearance.

Mr. Brooks—How did you account for the recovery of the other children who had no medical aid? Witness—All cases are not equally fatal.

Mr. Brooks—Did you ever know a patient die after tracheotomy had been performed? Witness—I think it is possible.

Mr. Brooks—How then can you be sure the child would have recovered had she had medical attendance? Dr. Fagan gave similar testimony to that of the preceding witness in regard to the condition of the children and their chances of recovery.

Cross-examined by the accused, Dr. Fagan said the percentage of recoveries where anti-toxin was used was over 90 per cent. Mr. Brooks then read from a medical work to show that it was only about 78 per cent. It was evident doctors differed.

The witness replied that the death rate varied with the virulence of the epidemic. Dr. Frank Hall described the post mortem he held on the child. He gave a very clear account of the condition of the different organs, describing why he believed it died of suffocation induced by the diphtheria.

He described the treatment employed for diphtheria, by which life was prolonged. Cross-examined by the accused, Dr. Hall said they usually opened three of the 16 or 20 rings of the trachea in performing tracheotomy. He had never seen any one choke after this operation.

He believed in the choking usually took part about the neck, and he had believed there was little danger of strangulation. The accused asked the witness if doctors did not disagree often in diagnosis and treatment. The witness replied that they rarely disagreed.

The accused then asked if a doctor made a mistake in diagnosis must he not necessarily prescribe improperly. The witness replied that when any doubt existed the patient must be treated symptomatically.

The accused then asked for the Crown, and the accused said he had no witnesses to call. He then addressed the Court. He asked that a question be reserved as to whether or not medical aid is a necessary part of life.

His Lordship—That is the whole question I have to consider here. I don't reserve the question, but you have the right to object to the ruling.

Regarding this case the prisoner said he felt it was a matter of conviction on his part, and what he wanted to know was whether he had committed an offence against the state by preaching the doctrines of Christ and praying through the city. He believed the common law of England allowed every man to follow the dictates of his own conscience. He had pursued his ministry with added light, and had not endeavored to thrust his opinions down other people's throats.

If he was to be prosecuted he wanted to know if other ministers of other creeds were to be prosecuted. For instance, the Baptists broke the ice in winter and immersed their candidates. These might catch cold and die. Were they or such a case to be prosecuted? If not, he asked if he was to be prosecuted because a person had died who had accepted his views of Divine Healing.

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Dr. Hart, in his evidence, said the Rogers child he was called to see was a strong, nourished child, and in his opinion could have been saved had he received medical treatment. His life undoubtedly would have been prolonged. He instanced a number of cases where children were apparently dead but were restored by employing tracheotomy, and in other ways.

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