

## The Civic Parliament

Routine Business Occupies the Attention of the Board of Aldermen.

Postmaster General To Be Asked for Permission to Display Mineral Exhibits.

The City Council at its regular meeting last night dealt with several matters of interest to the public, a summary of which is a summary of all that was done. In the first place it was decided to ask permission from the Dominion government to place a case of mineral exhibits obtained from the mines of Vancouver Island in the lobby of the post office, for the purpose of advertising the mineral resources of this portion of the province. The by-law not to ask the Dominion government to charter the Islander to transport the mails between Victoria and the cities of the Sound in the place of the last City of Kingston, it was decided to refer the application received for permission to erect a grand stand at Beacon Hill for use during the fireworks display, to the park committee; the by-law authorizing the street car company to carry 60 passengers in a car over the bridges of the city instead of 30, as at present, was rushed through all its stages and passed, and it was decided, on the recommendation of a special committee appointed for the purpose, not to change the track on Fort street from the side to the centre of the street.

There was a full board present. His Worship the Mayor presiding, and the meeting commenced at 8.15, with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting, which were duly adopted.

Communications were received from the cities of Seattle, Vancouver, Portland, Oregon, Port Angeles and Roseland, courteously thanking the council for the invitation to attend the celebration and accepting the same.

Arthur J. Ford, of Vancouver, agent for the Septic tank system of sewage disposal, called the attention of the council to the advantages of the system, which has recently been approved by the cities of Manchester, Leeds and Morecambe in England. He offered to give the city any further information required, and Ald. Humphrey moved that the letter be laid on the table for future consideration. The motion carried.

Wanting Water. S. Blake again applied for the extension of the city water to his property. It will be remembered that last week the city engineer reported that the cost would be \$670, and it was decided by the council that the cost was altogether disproportionate to the benefit to be derived, and Mr. Blake was so informed. He now asked the favor of a temporary connection, even at a half-inch or three-quarter inch pipe, the cost of which was willing to defray. He mentioned that some of his neighbors enjoy the privilege of city water even though further away than he from the mains, and made the point that his present supply of water has been fouled by the seepage of sewage from the Belmont street pond. Ald. Stewart moved that the matter be referred to the water commissioner for report, but Ald. Brydon thought the matter had been referred back and for long enough. A report was received on the matter last week.

The Mayor: "Yes, and the cost was \$570."

Ald. Humphrey: "That was exclusive of pipe."

Ald. Brydon thought that nevertheless something should be done. If Mr. Blake could not have the permanent service he might have the half or three-quarter inch pipe; it would not cost very much.

The Mayor pointed out that there was considerable difference between this proposal and the previous one. The water commissioner in reporting on such applications has always to consider that the extension will become a portion of the permanent service. If the parties are willing to defray the cost of making the connection then there could be no objection to this connection of a temporary nature being given, but the engineer cannot make connections ordinarily, which after the extension of the permanent system will be useless.

Ald. Stewart agreed with the Mayor. If the connection now proposed with the small pipe could be done for \$50 it would be all right.

Ald. Humphrey moved that if the connection thus proposed could be made for \$50, and Mr. Blake is willing to defray the cost that the matter be referred to the water commissioner with power to act. He was abused and ridiculous, however, to say that the present water supply was contaminated from the Belmont street pond.

Ald. Brydon wanted to deny that it was ridiculous, and was reminded by his worship that it was not of much use to prolong a discussion of that nature, and he had already expressed his opinion in two little speeches. The motion carried.

From Ocean to Ocean. The Dominion Publishing Company forwarded the council some complimentary press notices on their recently published work, "Canada from Ocean to Ocean," and "fished" for another from the council. The mayor said that the work certainly was a credit to the publisher, and he thought the space given to Victoria was very good, both in quantity and quality, the write-up being the best he had ever read. Ald. Cameron thereupon moved that the letter be received and filed, and the mayor authorized to reply thereto. Carried.

Sidewalk Rebate. Heisterman & Co. applied for the usual rebate for the construction of permanent sidewalk in front of city lot 1609, the property of Miss Arabella Smith, occupied by Hall, Goepel & Co., and on motion of Ald. Humphrey and Williams the matter was referred to the city engineer for report.

Garbally Road. George Edward Smith applied for the expenditure of a small amount of

money for the grading of Garbally road. He asked for it as a taxpayer in the city for twenty years, and to enable him to rent some property which, with the road in its present condition, he can find no tenants for. He complained that money had been expended on other streets which did not belong to the city, which would have been better expended on Garbally road.

Ald. Cameron moved that the matter be referred to the city engineer. Ald. Williams asked the mayor if the sum of \$50 had not been appropriated last year? His worship said \$50 would not go very far towards doing the necessary work and on Ald. Williams receiving the assurance that it was the intention to add something thereto he seconded the motion, and it carried.

C. C. Moody, addressed another letter to the council. As soon as the name was mentioned, Ald. Stewart moved that the letter be taken as read, and that being carried, the council proceeded to receive and file the communication, although Ald. Kinsman suggested the possibility that there might be some useful information contained in it.

Press Men Coming. The secretary of the committee of the Western Canadian Press Association, Mr. J. C. Cromie, informed the council that the association was intending to hold a convention at Victoria, being the objective point this year, and that it was expected the party would arrive here about June 22nd. Mr. Cromie suggested that anything in the way of the city might be visited, and that the city could do them a favor, and on motion of Ald. Stewart the letter was referred to the mayor and finance committee.

An Offensive Drain. On Esquimalt street was the subject of a communication from Mr. Charles Oscar, who asked that a box drain be substituted. To the city engineer for report.

Delayed Brass Goods. Water Commissioner J. L. Raymur advised the council that he had received the brass goods ordered from Messrs. J. H. Warner & Co., 34 days after the date specified in the contract, and informing them that the officials had been compelled to purchase some goods to the amount of \$50 owing to the delay in receiving these. He also reminded the council that the contract had been awarded to Warner & Co. for a sum of \$185 in excess of the figure at which Messrs. Boyd & Co. had offered to supply them, because they undertook to deliver the goods at a certain date, which Messrs. Boyd & Co. would not bind themselves to. Messrs. Warner & Co. had subsequently obtained the goods from Messrs. Boyd & Co. and the goods had not been delivered any earlier than Messrs. Boyd & Co. would have undertaken to deliver them for \$185 less money.

Ald. Humphrey suggested that the bill should be paid, the \$185 being deducted. He moved accordingly, believing that if a person undertakes to do something he cannot do it thoroughly obtains an advantage over another person who will not undertake an impossibility, he ought to pay for it. The other firm was honest enough to say they could not deliver the goods at the time mentioned.

Ald. Kinsman thought that if the city had lost the sum mentioned, \$185, by the order not being filled by the time specified, it would be well to deduct that sum and if more than that, or less, deduct it, but asked the mayor if that amount had been lost.

The mayor said the city had lost it simply by awarding the contract to Messrs. Warner at a price which was \$185 higher than Messrs. Boyd's, from whom the goods could have been obtained just as soon.

Ald. Beckwith maintained that the council should have no stock in Messrs. Warner's undertaking, knowing very well the goods could not be obtained in the time they mentioned. They had not a dollar's worth of the goods on hand at the time.

Ald. Stewart followed, and Ald. Brydon moved that the matter be referred to the water commissioner to report as to the loss sustained by the delay and to the city solicitor for an opinion upon the legal aspect of the case.

Carried.

The City Bridges. Local Manager Goward of the Electric Tramway Co., had noticed in the published reports of the council meeting that the city engineer had reported the city bridges safe for tramcar traffic. He asked if the company would now be allowed to run their cars with 60 passengers over the bridges instead of its satisfactory test. Received and engine accepted.

Finance Committee. Accounts to the amount of \$6,137.15 were recommended for payment out of current revenue, and \$750 for the completion of the Market Fire Hall. Ordered paid.

Sewerage and Plumbing Inspector. Several applications for the position of plumbing and sanitary inspector, were received and laid over to be referred to the city engineer and medical health officer, who will be asked to select a few, any one of whom they will be satisfied to see elected. Ald. Hayward suggested that ten be chosen for selection, so that the aldermen could vote for one each.

Mineral Specimens. Ald. Williams made quite a speech in moving his resolution asking permission from the postmaster general to place a show case containing specimens of ore from Vancouver Island in the lobby of the post office lobby. Ald. Stewart said the postmaster general always refused permission to display advertisements in post offices, but as the aldermen agreed it would do no harm to ask permission, the motion carried.

The Sound Boat. Ald. Williams's motion asking the Dominion government to charter the Islander to convey the mails between Victoria and the cities of the Sound, was defeated, only the mover and second, Ald. Williams and Kinsman, voting for it.

Tram Traffic on Bridges. The by-law of which notice had been given by the mayor, amending the street cars regulation by-law, so as to allow 60 passengers to be carried over the city bridges, was introduced and read a first and second time, committed, read a third time and finally passed. Ald. Cameron being alone in his opinion that the council was assuming a responsibility of too great a character.

Ald. Humphrey suggested that the city

was green, stagnant water in the open drain. Ald. Hayward moved that the "off" in his figures and in any case, if Ald. Hayward had such a drain in front of his place in such shape that children might fall into it he would change his opinion.

Ald. Beckwith suggested that if the box drain be not laid the present open one be roofed in, but the motion to do the work was carried.

Loan Consolidation. Returning Officer Northcott notified the council of the result of the poll on the "Debtenture" consolidation by-law, which was carried. The letter was received and filed, and at a later stage of the proceedings the by-law was reconsidered and finally passed.

A Grand Stand. James Wilby and W. H. Handley petitioned the council for permission to erect a grand stand on Beacon Hill for the convenience of spectators of the fireworks display. They were willing to build same subject to the approval of the buildings inspector and would not charge more than 25 cents for a seat.

The mayor vented the opinion that this would be no objection to the request being granted.

Ald. Williams, apparently utterly oblivious to the fact that the petitioners expressly stated they were willing to erect a grand stand on Beacon Hill, addressed quite a little speech to the council on that point. He thought, "Mr. Mayor, it was very desirable that the safety of those who use the grand stand should be visited, and that the city should be responsible for the safety of those who use the grand stand. Then there was considerable discussion upon the point whether the stand could be erected in such a position as would not obstruct the view of the general public, and Ald. Brydon moved the matter be referred to the park committee for report. As this would delay the matter until May 22nd it was frowned down. The same alderman sapiently suggested that the builders of the grand stand might not remove it when it was done with and also asked whether the city might not want to erect one themselves.

Ald. Stewart opposed the idea of granting the request. It might inconvenience hundreds, and "inconvenience thousands."

Ald. MacGregor thought it would be a great convenience, and use park committee could be trusted to choose the site. Ald. Williams wanted the matter referred to the park committee for report. The park committee consists of Ald. Kinsman, Humphrey and MacGregor.

Drainage and Graveling. The special committee appointed to report thereupon, recommended that a 100-foot box drain be laid on the south side of Pine street, 200 feet on the north side of Belmont avenue, that Pine street and Belmont avenue be covered with gravel and the open drains cleaned out.

Ald. MacGregor wanted an estimate of the cost of graveling. He didn't want it done if the gravel had to be hauled a long distance.

Ald. Humphrey said there was no intention of hauling gravel to Spruce Ridge. He wanted an estimate. His worship favored that course, too, but the report was ultimately adopted. Ald. Kinsman saying the gravel can be obtained and it will cost about \$40.

Port Street Track. The special committee appointed to report on this subject submitted the result of their deliberations as follows:

"That we have carefully enquired into the matter of the proposal to remove the tramway track from the side to the centre of the street, and that your committee find that the cost involved in the change, both to the Tramway Company and the city, is so great that your committee are unable to recommend that the same be removed from the proposed change would justify such an expenditure, and have therefore to recommend that the position of the track on the said street remain as it is at present."

(Signed) WM. HUMPHREY, JOHN KINSMAN, A. STEWART, Committee.

Report adopted.

The Champion Chemical. The chief of the fire department reported the receipt of the new chemical fire extinguishers, and its satisfactory test. Received and engine accepted.

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Ald. Humphrey suggested that the city

engineer be instructed to report on Point. Ald. Williams and the mayor said he would give that official the necessary instructions to do so.

Sewerage Connection. Ald. Cameron wanted to know what was being done about the by-law providing for the making of sewerage connections under the local improvement plan, and referred to the cases of citizens being continually brought into court. The mayor and acting city solicitor explained that the by-law is prepared but the preparation of the necessary schedules, setting forth the properties to be included is a matter of time. No time will be lost in completing it.

Complaints. Ald. MacGregor: Unnecessary delay in erection of new fire hall. Ald. Beckwith: Delay in proceeding with work of construction of permanent sewerage system. Ald. Brydon: Placing wooden instead of cast iron supports for proposed roof at the filtered water reservoir.

And the Council rose at ten o'clock.

QUALIFYING AS ASSAYERS. Examinations Held This Week Under the Amending Act of Last Session.

The amendment to the Bureau of Mines Act, adopted by the Provincial Legislature at the last session, are regarded by those in a position to understand the subject as certain to result in much good, there being a well defined feeling that much harm has resulted to British Columbia's mining industry by the employment of incompetent assayers in making reports on ore. It is recognized the world over that exactness in making such reports is eminently desirable from the points of view of both the owner of the property and of the intending investor, and it has long been felt that there should be a qualifying examination to test the ability of those who presume to announce themselves as competent assayers.

The first examination commenced yesterday and is being continued throughout this week, there being one candidate for the complete course and several who are taking partial courses, having already obtained certificates of proficiency in other portions of the empire. The examining board, consisting of Mr. Robertson, provincial mineralogist, chairman, Mr. Carmichael, provincial assayer, secretary-treasurer, and Mr. W. Pelley-Harvey. The examination covers the following subjects:

(a) Sampling. (b) Qualitative Determination. In ores or furnace products of the following: Copper, iron, nickel, antimony, arsenic and sulphur. (c) Quantitative Determination—Assaying. Bulk—Gold bullion, for gold and silver; Copper bullion, for copper, gold and silver; Lead-copper bullion, for lead, copper, gold and silver. Coal—Determination of moisture, volatile combustible matter, fixed carbon, ash and sulfur. Ores and Furnace Products—Fire assays—Gold, silver and lead, by crucible method; Gold and silver, by scorification method; Wet assays—Copper, by electrochemical, gravimetric, colorimetric and volumetric (cyanide or other improved) methods; Iron, by volumetric and gravimetric methods; Nickel, by electrochemical method. Lead, lime, zinc, sulphur and silica, by approved methods.

Under the act, persons satisfying the examiners that they have passed a course in practical, analytical or assay work in any school of mines in Canada, Great Britain or Ireland, equivalent to the examination required here, will be exempt from the examination, but must pay a fee, which the government has placed at \$15, for a certificate. Other candidates are required to pay a fee of \$10 when entering their names for examination, and \$15 upon the issuance of the certificate.

After March 1, 1901, only those holding certificates will be allowed to practice as assayers in the province.

WHEN HOPE'S GONE. Life's Not Worth the Living, South American Nervine Restores Hope and Perfect Health.

Four years ago Annie Patterson, of Sackville, N. B., had a very severe attack of La Grippe, which left her with a very acute form of stomach trouble. After taking six bottles she was absolutely cured. She says: "I believe it to be the most effective remedy for stomach trouble in the market."

Sold by Dean & Hiscocks and Hall & Co.

THE MERMAID IN PORT. She Returned This Afternoon for More Provisions.

Sailing schooner Mermaid, Captain Le Blanc, returned to port this afternoon. She was bound to the Copper Islands when it occurred to the captain that there might be a shortage of provisions, and she turned back to renew her outfit. She has taken 1,318 skins this season, all of which have been already sent to port. She will probably get away in a few days en route across the Pacific.

Headache. It is often a warning that the liver is torpid or inactive. More serious troubles may follow. For a prompt efficient cure of Headache and all liver troubles, take Hood's Pills.

While they rouse the liver, restore full, regular action of the bowels, do not grip or pain, do not irritate or inflame the internal organs, but have a positive tonic effect. See at all druggists or by mail of O. L. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.

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## Empress Reaches Port

Brings News of the Brutal Murder of a British Herald at Kowloon.

Barque Atlantis Abandoned—Other News of the Far East.

R. M. S. Empress of India arrived at the quarantine station early this morning with 140 saloon and over 400 Asiatic passengers.

She brings news that the trouble continues in the Kowloon hinterland. A number of Chinese have been killed. Chinese herald sent to Peking Shan open to him; a change in the post proclamations by the British was brutally murdered. While posting his proclamations a crowd of men set upon him and beat him. He was then placed against the wall and fired at, his torso being thrown into the river, and he was subsequently recovered by the troops.

The Kobe Herald says it is reported that an agreement between Japan and China about the question of a Japanese settlement in Foochow has been concluded.

A couple of Chinese junks arrived at Hongkong shortly before the Empress sailed with Capt. Schneider and the crew of the German bark Atlantis, which was abandoned. She left Palawan with timber three months ago, and when 65 days out ran short of provisions and put into Labuan. Foul weather was experienced after leaving that place, and the water began to rise in the barque's hold. At last the junks were met and the crew hailed them and abandoned their ship.

A late issue of the Manila Times says that three small Chinese steamers, all under 50 tons, have been bought by the United States government for use as despatch boats between Manila and Iloilo.

Capt. John B. Jeffery, who was court-martialed at Iloilo on the charge of pillaging and looting has been discharged.

CHILDREN'S DEMONSTRATION. The Programme of Sports and Drill Movements for the Scholars on the 24th.

The committee having in charge the programme for the children's portion of the Queen's Birthday demonstration, have submitted the following programme, which has been approved by the general committee. The demonstration will commence with the march out, when the children will be massed and the National Anthem will be sung.

Then there will be a competitive drill consisting of column marching, wheeling column and fours right, left and about. Then the sports will be gone through as follows:

1. Boys under seven, 50 yards flat.
2. Girls under seven, 50 yards flat.
3. Hurdle race, under 14, 200 yards.
4. Boys under eight, 50 yards flat.
5. Girls under eight, 50 yards flat.
6. Hurdle race, 14 up, 1 lap.
7. Boys under ten, 75 yards flat.
8. Girls under ten, 75 yards flat.
9. Football match for trophy, 5 min. to side.
10. Bicycle race, boys under 14, 2 laps.
11. Bicycle race, girls under 14, 2 laps.
12. Boys under 12, 100 yards flat.
13. Girls under 12, 100 yards flat.
14. Bicycle race, boys, open, 3 laps.
15. Bicycle race, girls, open, 3 laps.
16. Boys under 14, 1 lap flat.
17. Girls under 14, 1 lap flat.
18. Sack race open, 50 yards.
19. Boys' race, open, 2 laps flat.
20. Three-legged race, 100 yards.
21. Football match, bye.
22. Road jump, open.
23. Hop, step and jump.
24. Standing jump.
25. Pole vaulting.
26. Running high jump.
27. Football contest. Final.

MR. HIGGINS IN KOOTENAY. A Well-known Victorian's Views on the Deadman's Island Wrangle.

Both the Rossland papers publish short but interesting interviews with Ex-Speaker Higgins, who is at present there on a business trip. The Rossland Evening Record of the 11th inst had the following:

Ex-Speaker Higgins, who is in town for a few days, was shown a news dispatch from Vancouver concerning the alleged dissension in the government over the Deadman's Island difficulty.

He said the claim of the Imperial government to the island has given a new and interesting turn to the matter, and he is inclined to think that the Imperial claim will hold good, as the naval and military reserves were made long prior to the confederation, and do not pass with other reserves to the Dominion after the colony of British Columbia joined the Dominion. A misunderstanding between the attorney-general and his colleagues would be most unfortunate; and unless harmony should be soon restored, must result in cabinet changes and those changes might bring about an early dissolution of the house. He added that he did not believe the situation was as acute as the despatch stated. Asked if he thought the election (if held soon) could be carried on eastern party lines, Mr. Higgins said no. He felt sure that British Columbia political issues were sufficiently large and important to engross the attention of our politicians, without importing dominion issues into the contest.

On the following day the Rossland Miner published this:

Ex-Speaker Higgins was asked by a Miner representative yesterday as to the ministerial embroglio which has arisen at Victoria over the Deadman's Island dispute.

Mr. Higgins replied that so far as he had studied the question the island was Imperial property, having been conveyed to the British government and the government of the colony of British Columbia many years before confederation for military and naval purposes. It did not pass to the Dominion government

with the reserves that were made for provincial purposes prior to British Columbia joining the confederation. The erection of a sawmill on the island would mar the natural beauty of the park and, perhaps, make it anything but a desirable place of popular resort. But in this utilitarian age commerce and industry pushed sentiment aside and claimed the choicest and most charming natural retreats as their own.

"What will be the effect upon the political future of the province of a rupture between Martin and Cotton?" Mr. Higgins said that was a difficult question to answer. The minister standing him; been probably exaggerated. A rupture between the ministers would be deplorable. The present government had introduced much legislation that was beneficial, and had done good work—even their opponents could not deny that.

"But suppose Mr. Martin were to go to the governor and tell him that he wanted to dispense with the services of Mr. Martin—what would the governor do?"

Mr. Higgins said that under our constitution act the governor has large powers. Any one of several courses would be open to him. He would probably scold the minister, or he would precipitate a general election. The responsibility of solving the problem would then rest with the country. If the situation is as strained as the newspapers say, starting intelligence may be looked for at any moment. As a supporter of the government, he earnestly hoped that the crisis would be tided over and peaceable relations restored.

Mr. Higgins will remain in Rossland until Monday next.

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