Getting Down To Business

The First Meeting of the Newly Elected Board of Aldermen.

Mayor Outlines the Work Proposed for the Ensuing Year.

The initial session of the council of 1902 was held last night, and while it developed no particular manifestation of state ceremony, which to the lay mind might have been expected on the inauguration of a third term; still in address of His Worship to the faithful members elected to serve as aldermen, might be taken as a mild form of a speech from the throne. So with passing of time and the growth of Imperial ideas in a few years, it may be proper form for the Mayor to enter the council chamber accompanied by his staff and headed by the caretakers, a la Black Rod, bearing the seal of office.

There are five new faces at the board, or rather four, as Ald. McCandless has already made a name for himself as a capable guardian of civic affairs, having represented the North ward some few years ago. Facing the Mayor's chair from the right the councillors are seated as follows:

Ald. Kinsman, Williams, Cameron, Yates, McCandless, Grahame, Worthington, Vincent and Barnard, the first four being all that remains of the council of 1901.

The clerk having read the certificate of the election of the mayor and aldermen, His Worship decided to offer the following remarks:

To the Municipal Council of the City of Victoria:

Gentlemen,—Before referring to some of the matters which the council will be called upon to consider during the year, I desire now formally and sincerely to express my thanks to the electors for returning me a third time as Mayor, and for the signal honor they have conferred upon me in electing me to that position for the last two years by acclamation.

I desire also to extend my congratulations to the other members of the council, upon the large number of votes polled to secure their election. This is a mark of favor and confidence on the part of the ratepayers, which is very gratifying, and especially to those who served the city in last year's Board and in the councils of preceding years.

It is pleasing to note that our young business and professional men are taking an increasing interest in civic affairs, and that some of them have been returned as aldermen and trustees at the recent election. Their energy will find full scope for exercise in the problems which await solution.

Turning now to the duties before us, I need hardly say that among the first matters demanding out most careful and earnest attention, are those relating to the public works, for which a large sum of money was voted by the ratepayers last year. The reclamation of the James Bay mud flats and the construction of the cause way there, has proceeded most satisfactorily to its present stage, and there are good reasons for believing that with the valuable assistance of the new hydraulic government dredge, kindly placed at our disposal for three months by the Department of Public Works at Ottawa, not only will the work originally contemplated be fully completed, but that the retaining wall, including, perhaps a modified Pardeberg Gate, may be continued to the foot of Menzies street.

POINT ELLICE BRIDGE.

As to the Point Ellice bridge, by a resolution passed by the late council, all questions relative to the work were referred to a committee of the whole council, and as a result, correspondence has been opened up with many well known bridge experts as to the preparation of detailed plans and the cost of supervising. Considerable support has been given in the public press and elsewhere to the suggestion that the original idea of constructing a steel bridge should be abandoned in favor of a stone structure. The points urged in favor of stone are its safety and durability and the small cost of maintenance, and much may be said in its favor. Situated at a point of great natural attractiveness, at the junction between the inner harbor and the pleasure waterway beyond, and visible from all points, it is highly desirable that a structure there should not only accommodate safely every kind of traffic, but should present a pleasing picture to the eye, and a stone bridge would do this better than any other. The fact that it is almost certain that when the Indian reserve question is settled, the portion lying north of Esquimalt road, will revert to the city, for use as a public park, has a material bearing on the question, as in that event the artistic features of a stone bridge would form a desirable adjunct to the park. Besides which, this is the only point in the harbor where a bridge can be erected without a draw, because of the fact that such a bridge existed there previous to 1892; and further, all the material required in the construction of a stone structure could be procured in or near Victoria. Against all this is the increased cost. The city engineer has been requested to report upon this phase of the question, and we shall know at an early date whether it is possible and desirable to entertain the proposal.

PAVING.

The paving of Government street has been provided for, and will be commenced as soon as the weather permits.

SEWERAGE.

I do not propose to now refer to all the subjects likely to occupy our attention, but among the most important to deal with during the year, the first on the list is undoubtedly the extension of the sewerage system. This necessary work, on account of its cost, bristles with difficulties. But the scheme propounded during the recent election campaign, viz: to appropriate the revenue derived from sewer rental to the payment of interest and sinking fund for a new loan for this purpose, commends itself as providing some relief, without additional taxation.

The consideration of the necessary amendments to the Municipal Clauses Act, many of which occupied our attention last year, should be again dealt with as soon as possible.

A change should be made in the location of the Home for the Aged and Infirm. The present building has outlived its usefulness, is quite unsuitable, will soon be surrounded with graves, and its removal has become a necessity. If funds permit it is highly desirable that additional portions of the water shed contiguous to Elk and Beaver lake should be acquired.

TOURIST ASSOCIATION.

Several enthusiastic meetings having in view the inauguration of an association for the promotion of tourists travel to Victoria and Vancouver Island, have recently been held, and there is no doubt but that a strong society generously supported by the public, will result. In this connection I would advise that the annual grant of the council for advertising purposes should be placed at the disposal of this organization.

AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.

The successful agricultural, mining and industrial exhibit held here last fall, after an interval of several years, necessitated costly repairs and improvements to buildings and grounds, besides additional expenditure in connection with the Royal visit there. The receipts were, I regret to say, not sufficient to meet these unusual demands, and I therefore strongly recommend that this indebtedness be paid at once by the council.

Reference is frequently made in the public press to matters affecting the city's interests upon which the writers are generally imperfectly informed, due doubtless to the fact that it is not known and appreciated that all records, plans, estimates proceedings, etc., of the council are available at the City Hall, and open at all reasonable times for the inspection and information of the ratepayers.

FINANCES.

The estimates of the current year both of the Council and Board of Trustees, will be laid before you in the near future, and in view of the many calls upon our resources, I cannot but express the hope that the Board of School Trustees will heartily co-operate with the Council in the endeavor to maintain a high degree of efficiency in all branches of the civic service, but having due regard to the revenue available for that purpose.

I am not sanguine enough to expect that upon all matters coming before us during the year there will be complete unanimity of opinion. This is not desirable, even if it were possible. What is essential, however, and what I am glad to believe is possessed by all of us, is that we have at heart the best interests of the city. If our united endeavor be to promote its welfare, great and lasting benefit is certain to ensue.

The Mayor then announced that the standing committees for the ensuing year would be as follows:

Acquisition of Indian Reserve—Ald. McCandless, Yates, Cameron.

Cemetery—Ald. Williams, Kinsman, Vincent.

Electric Light—Ald. Kinsman, Vincent Worthington.

Finance—Ald. Cameron, McCandless, Williams.

Fire Wardens—Ald. Grahame, Cameron, Yates.

Home for Aged and Infirm—Ald. Worthington, Grahame, Barnard.

Legislation—Ald. Yates, Barnard, McCandless.

Park—Ald. Barnard, Worthington, Grahame.

Railways—Ald. Vincent, Williams, Kinsman.

Streets, Bridges and Sewers—The mayor and aldermen.

Ald. Cameron, before taking up routine business, asked as to whether the caste of committees was final. It was a question as to whether the whole council should act as a committee on streets. For his part, he did not think that it was advisable, as many trivial matters had to be dealt with, and it was not desirable to convene a large committee.

Ald. Kinsman was of a similar opinion. The matter was left in abeyance.

The report of Returning Officer Northcott re the late election was received and filed.

A. L. McGee, deputy minister of marine and fisheries, Ottawa, wrote in connection with Mr. Sorby's letter to the authorities referring to the Point Ellice bridge, acknowledging the communication of the council. Received and filed.

Mr. Justice Martin asked the attention of the new council to the inadequate water supply to the high levels. He had at an outlay of $250 increased the capacity of his tank at the suggestion of the water commissioner, who had assured him that by so doing the supply of water would be constant. This, however, had not proved the case, as on some days no water ran into the tank at all.

His Worship said that owing to some repairs to the boilers the pumping station on Yates street had been closed down for a few days.

Ald. Yates said that one way of abating the shortage of water would be to stop the waste, which was enormous. An ample supply of meters should be purchased and put in use. In the meantime he would propose that the letter be sent to the water commissioner for a report.

F. C. Malpas wrote calling attention to the fact that he had applied for a new sidewalk, which had been promised sometime ago, but nothing had been done. The streets committee will look into the matter.

James Forman pointed out that there was no drain laid near Cook street, where he was about to build. The engineer will look into this matter.

R. M. Fraser directed attention to a defective drain on Kane street, which overflowed into the cellar of his residence. This, too, went to the city engineer with power to act.

J. M. Freeman again called attention to the impassible state of Angeles street. A report will be furnished in this regard.

F. M. S. Baine wished to have the council consider the matter of change of name of Chatham street, as was promised last year. Received and filed until the matter of re-naming streets can be taken up.

The water commissioner reported that an application had been received from Mr. Rolph for a supply of water on Niagara street, which would cost about $200. The finance committee will investigate the matter.

The sanitary officer reported that a building on Douglas street, near Fisguard, was in a most unsanitary condition and should be torn down. The usual course would be adopted in dealing with this matter, as is usual in such cases.

Ald. Yates called attention to the stable on Fort street below Langley. This building had been condemned by the sanitary officer. The same course will be followed in this case, a meeting being held with the owners and agents.

TENDERS.

Tenders were then read for the printing and binding of the corporation reports for the year 1901, as follows:

T. R. Cusack, 94 cents per page; Banfield & Jewell, 85 cents per page; H. McDowell, $1 per page. The award went to the lowest tenderer.

REPORTS.

The finance committee recommended the payment of $50 towards the Islander relief fund, which was ordered paid. The same committee presented a voucher for $87 from the board of school trustees. Orders paid.

WOOD SAWING.

His Worship then called on Ald. Yates to proceed with the wood-sawing by-law. That alderman stated as this was a new council, the matter had better be taken up anew. In any event, he would ask time to consult with the city solicitor.

This exhausting the business of the meeting, the council adjourned.

FOUND DROWNED.

Body of Twelve-Year-Old Son of Mr. F. L. Henry Found in Victoria Arm.

The 12-year-old son of Mr. F. L. Henry, of Amelia street, was found drowned yesterday. His body was found held fast in the mud at the foot of Pleasant street, not many yards from the boat house, which lies just south of the swimming baths, and not far from Point Ellice bridge. The young boy was last seen on December 28, when he had taken his father's lunch to the Sayward mills, where his father is engaged as a teamster. He and a small sister had gone together with the lunch, and after the girl went home, and the boy remained behind. He did not return home that night and the parents reported to the police that he was missing. They feared that he might have shipped on one of the sealing schooners as cabin boy, and inquiries were made, but without finding news of the missing boy. Since then no trace was found of him until yesterday afternoon about 3 o'clock, when some boys playing near the scene saw his dead body standing upright with the legs fast in the mud, the tide having gone out. At high tide there was about seven feet of water over the spot. The boys telephoned to the police and Constables J. Woods and W. Harper went over and dragged the body from the mud, in which it was tightly held. When the body was removed to the morgue it was seen that a blow had been received by the dead boy on the centre of the forehead, in what manner none can tell. In all probability he had struck himself in falling or his body had been washed against some hard substance when in the water. An inquest will be held this afternoon at 2 o'clock.

WEST DURHAM.

Beith's Majority in Recount Is Twelve.

Bowmanville, Ont., Jan. 20.—The official recount before the returning officer in West Durham made Beith's majority 12.

PAPER BURNED OUT.

Sherbrooke Examiner Gets a Bad Scorching.

Sherbrooke, Que., Jan. 20.—The office of the Sherbrooke Examiner was badly gutted by fire this morning. The loss is $3,000. Wilson's piano warerooms overhead were badly damaged by smoke and water.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE COURTS

Another Adjournment in the Mandamus Case—City Council Sworn In.

In chambers yesterday morning Mr. Justice Martin disposed of the following applications:

British Columbia Corporation v. Bullock—In two actions of this style of cause, R. H. Pooley applied for and obtained a final order for foreclosure.

Holden v. Vaudall—L. Crease applied for leave to sell certain lands situated in Revelstoke and for an order for the appointment of a receiver until time of sale. Order granted appointing receiver and for leave to sell property subject to incumbrances.

Bank of B. N. A. v. Robert Ward & Co.—Application for particulars and examination for discovery. Stands over until today. H. B. Robertson for plaintiff and R. H. Pooley for defendant.

Newton v. Escoline—On consent of both parties the application herein stands over until today. T. M. Miller for the plaintiff and A. C. White for defendant.

Haynes et al v. Wilson—J. P. Walls, for the plaintiff, applied for an order to take accounts herein, which was granted on consent of H. B. Robertson, solicitor for the defendant.

Garesche v. Bowman—J. M. Bradburn applied for and obtained an order to take accounts herein.

Macaulay v. Victoria Yukon Trading Co.—L. O'Brien, for the plaintiff, applied for leave to amend writ of summons herein, which was granted on the consent of J. H. Lawson, jr., solicitor for the defendant company.

Re H. E. Hall, deceased—H. B. Robertson applied for the issue of letters of administration to brother of deceased, which was granted subject to a bond being filed in the usual amount, for security. The estate is valued at $1,200.

In the matter of the Constitution Act and amending acts and of the Provincial Elections Act and amending acts, and in re A. Campbell Reddie—Gordon Hunter, K.C., moved for a rule absolute herein for the issue of a writ of mandamus compelling the Deputy Provincial Secretary to issue a writ for the election of a member to represent Victoria city in the legislative assembly, and Deputy-Attorney-General MacLean, on behalf of A. Campbell Reddie, showed cause. Mr. MacLean read an affidavit of A. Campbell Reddie as follows:

"1. I am the deputy provincial secretary for the province of British Columbia.

"2. The only warrant or document of any kind which I have received from the Hon. J. P. Booth, the speaker of the legislative assembly of British Columbia, respecting the holding of an election of a member for the electoral district of Victoria city in place of the Hon. John Herbert Turner, who, on or about the third day of September, 1901, resigned his seat in said assembly, is one of which the following is a copy:

"Sir: In accordance with section 57 of the Constitution Act, chapter 47, Revised Statutes of British Columbia and amending acts, I hereby address this, my warrant, to you to issue a writ for the election of a new member to represent the constituency of Victoria city electoral district, in the place of John Herbert Turner, who has vacated his seat.

"I am, sir, your obedient servant,
J. P. BOOTH,
"Speaker."

"To the Deputy Provincial Secretary.

"3. The document, a copy of which is set out in the preceding paragraph, is not under seal.

"4. There is no person holding the office of returning officer for the electoral district of Victoria City."

Mr. Hunter asked that the original warrant or document referred to in Mr. Reddie's affidavit be produced for ocular inspection by the court, and also requested an adjournment inasmuch as he had not been served with a copy of said affidavit. It was finally agreed by counsel to have an adjournment until tomorrow morning.

The Full court was again occupied all yesterday in hearing argument of the appeal in Jones v. D'Avignon, which was before this court nearly all last week. It will, in all probability, be three or four days before this case is disposed of.

In the action of Moi Chung v. Snider, the defendant was yesterday examined before the registrar for discovery. W. H. Langley appeared for the plaintiff and A. C. Anderson for defendant.

Jeff Nibby, a half-breed, who was brought to the city on the last trip of the Tees, will appear before Mr. Justice Walkem today at 10 o'clock, for election. He is charged with having stolen the sum of $237 from Gunn Gnk, his uncle, about the 1st of November last. On the preliminary hearing the accused admitted having stolen the sum of $130. When arrested the sum of $100 was found on him.

At the court house yesterday morning His Worship Mayor Hayward and the new council of the city of Victoria, together with the newly-elected school trustees, were sworn in by Mr. Justice Walkem. City Clerk Dowler introduced His Worship the Mayor and the aldermen-elect, and Secretary Eaton of the school board introduced the new school trustees. At the conclusion of the administering of the respective oaths, His Lordship handed Mayor Hayward the official seal and tendered him congratulations on receiving it for the third consecutive time, and expressed a hope that he would render a good account of his stewardship. He also congratulated the members of the new council and school board.

MR. LEY'S MEETING.

Speeches Made at A. O. U. W. Hall on Railway Question.

A meeting was held at A. O. U. W. hall last night to discuss politics as "men saw things"—as Mr. Ley, the convener of the meeting put it. Mr. Bragg was chairman and Messrs. Ley and Haskins spoke. Mr. Ley expressed his disapproval of Mr. Bodwell and his doings, and Mr. Haskins spoke favoring the candidature of Mr. Barnard, advising all present to cast their ballots in his favor, and also in regard to the V., V. & E. railway which he classed as "The most unrighteous hold-up people ever witnessed."

Mr. Ley was not in favor of lawyers, and of the nine in the house, he thought one for attorney-general was sufficient. (He had gone to hear Mr. Bodwell speak at the Victoria theatre and after reading a dodger circulated in his interests, he expected much, but was disappointed. Or (Mr. Bodwell he said his utterances now regarding the V., V & E. were different from those of heretofore. He had told the people the government could not build the road, and now he said that Jim Hill could. There were two Jims, "Messrs. Hill and Dunsmuir" the latter deserved credit for what he had done for the province, the former deserved condemnation for what he had taken from Canada. (He favored government ownership of railways. (Applause.)

(Mr. Haskins said that the V., V & E. was an unrighteous hold-up and the people should see that their birthright was not sold. He knew Jim Hill, Morgan and many other railway magnates, and was sure these men were not working for Canada, but to sap its riches and carry its minerals across the border. As for Mr. Bodwell, Jim Hill was twisting him around his little finger. Hill couldn't get into Canada and he knew it. (He was trying to steal away the minerals of Kootenay for his smelters across the border. Mr. Haskins was strongly opposed to paper charters, and instanced cases where companies had been formed to secure charters which they had at once turned over to the C. P. R. Mr. Hill never intended to build the V., V. & E. He had all he wants with the 17 miles built to tap the Kettle valley mines, and the contract for this was let years before Mr. Bodwell came to Victoria for a charter. Victoria would long since have been the terminus of the C. P. R. if the people had stuck out for the right terms and not let the C. P. R. stop at Vancouver instead of coming by way of the Yellowhead pass and Seymour Narrows to Esquimalt as intended. He recited figures to disprove Mr. Bodwell's statements regarding the agricultural possibilities, and said that the miner and lumberman should receive the greatest attention, for after the miner had found a mine which paid, the railway soon followed. He was a supporter of Mr. Barnard, and thought that all who had the interests of the province at heart would vote for him.

RECIPROCITY.

Liberals Now Standing Where Conservatives Stood Years Ago.

From Montreal Gazette.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, speaking at the Mulock demonstration at Toronto, after explaining that he "loved" the United States and thought it would be a great good for Canada to have easier access to that country's markets, declared his belief that these same markets could be done without. In 1891 when the McKinley tariff was established, he went on, it cut off our barley trade with the United States. The growers of the Dominion had found the barley trade a profitable one, and they were surprised when the tariff was adopted. They were equal to the occasion, however, and turned their attention to dairying, the making of butter and cheese. They have found as much prosperity in the cheese market as they formerly found in the barley trade with the United States. At the same time that the barley trade was cut off by the McKinley tariff the trade in eggs and poultry was cut off, too. But with the improvements in transportation and with the cold storage system, good markets have been found also for these. On the banks of the Richelieu, the St. Lawrence and Lake St. Peter, there are large tracts of natural meadows which have been producing hay for over one hundred years. This was a drug at one time on the market. It has been truly said, however, that necessity is the mother of invention, and when the South African war broke out there was a demand for that hay, baled in a certain form. We found that way and now we are shipping that hay not only to South Africa but to England as well. Then the Premier concludes: "We can do without the American market, therefore, all along the line. We can do without anything there which we at one time thought indispensable to our prosperity."

It is a long time since so prominent a leader of a political party so emphatically reversed his position on what he had striven to make a great issue of. At the same time the McKinley tariff which Sir Wilfrid Laurier referred to, as described above, was new, his platform was that to attempt to find an outlet in other lands for the barley and eggs and poultry and hay, etc., that had been shut out of the United States market was a mad thing. Our country, it was declared by Sir Wilfrid and those who were working with him, could not be served commercially from the continent to which it belonged. The Liberal party platform, adopted at the national convention at Ottawa in 1893, declared that the period of the old reciprocity treaty—1854-1866—was one of marked prosperity to the British North American colonies; that the then Conservative government had not been sincere in its efforts to secure a new arrangement, and that the first step towards obtaining the end in view was to place a party in power who are sincerely desirous of promoting a treaty, on terms honorable both countries. Such a treaty, it is further declared, would enormously increase the trade and commerce between the two countries, tend to encourage friendly relations between the two peoples, remove causes of irritation and promote those kindly relations between the Empire and Republic which afford the best guarantee for peace and prosperity. The Liberal party was prepared to obtain such a treaty, and to include in its schedules all well considered list of manufactured articles.

Three years after the Liberal party thus put its views on record its leaders were in power, and as far as Canadian action could go, were in a position to act on the lines its representatives had laid down. They have had over five years time in which to bring about the conditions they held to promise so much, commercially and politically; they have met the commissioners of the United States, both at Quebec and Washington. They accomplished nothing; they only showed that in their speeches and resolutions that they over-valued their capacity. Now they are standing where the Conservative statesmen stood ever since 1878, and trying to make the people forget that they ever stood anywhere else. The longer the Laurier government exists, the farther does it get away from what its principles were declared to be when it was a part of the parliamentary opposition, and the more does it proclaim the wisdom and patriotic statesmanship of its Conservative predecessors, who in 1891 saw what the country's situation and its rulers' duty were, and spoke and acted as Sir Wilfrid Laurier has only learned to speak in 1901. Sir Wilfrid Laurier could have got the idea of his Toronto utterances from any of a score of speeches made by Sir John Macdonald between 1878 and his death, or from the speeches of any of Sir John Macdonald's colleagues.

THE VALUE OF VEGETABLES.

From What to Eat.

Tomatoes rouse torpid liver and do the work, ordinarily, of a doctor's prescription.

Lettuce has a soothing, quieting effect upon the nerves and is an insomnia remedy.

Celery is an acknowledged nerve tonic, and is more and more used in medicinal prescriptions.

Onions are also a tonic for the nerves, but people will be forever prejudiced because of their odor.

Dandelions purify the blood and generally are declared to tone up the system.

Potatoes should be escheved by those who "have a horror of getting fat," as that is one penalty of eating them.

Watercress is a good all-round brace-up for the system.

Spinach has medicinal properties and qualities equal to the most indigo of all blue pills ever made.

Parsnips, it is now contended by scientists, possess almost the same virtues that are claimed for sasaparilla.

Beets are fattening, even a moderately learned man will explain, because of the sugar they contain.

Ordinary lima beans, some one has said, are good to allay thirst, but the same can be said, with equal truth, of a pitcher of water.

Asparagus is efficacious in kidney ailments to an extent that is not yet, perhaps, thoroughly appreciated.

Cucumbers, aside from sunbeam emitting properties known to readers of facetious paragraphs, contain an acid that is helpful in cases of dyspepsia.

MISS STONE.

Report That the Brigands Have at Last Come to Terms.

Constantinople, Jan. 20.—The United States minister, John G. A. Leishman, says the brigands who abducted Miss Ellen M. Stone and Madame Tsilka, on September 3, have agreed to accept the amount of ransom raised by subscription. The place of payment is now the only question unsettled.

BABY'S OWN TABLETS

Babies that are well, sleep well, eat well, act well and play well.
A child that is not lively, rosy-cheeked and constantly playful needs immediate attention or the results may be serious.
Give them Nature's own vegetable remedy, Baby's Own Tablets.

For Diarrhœa,

constipation, colic, fever, indigestion, sleeplessness, and, in fact, all the disorders to which children are subject these tablets have absolutely no equal. They do not act as the so-called soothing medicines do.

They do not have a deadening and stupefying effect, but on the contrary, go right to the seat of the difficulty and by removing it cure the child and prevent a recurrence of the difficulty.

No mother should fail to have these tablets constantly in the house. There is no telling when they may be needed and the failure to have them on hand may mean much suffering, and, perhaps, the loss of a priceless life.

You can find Baby's Own Tablets at the drug store. If you do not, send the price, 25 cents per box, direct to us and we will forward them prepaid.

THE DR. WILLIAMS MEDICINE CO.
BROCKVILLE, ONT.

Liberals At Esquimalt

Mr. George Riley and His Friends Appeal to Voters Pockets.

No One Can Get a Government Job Except Through Riley.

The local Liberal speakers poured their opening fusillade of oratory into the Esquimalt stronghold last evening. The meeting was held in the school house, with Mr. J. S. Annette in the chair. The chairman contended very vigorously in support of the proposition that the Liberals had redeemed all their pledges, and in this respect the contrast was most striking with the utter neglect of the Conservatives when they were in power. He further claimed that the local contracts let by the Fishery department had paved the way for the Imperial government to order the launches, to be used for local defence purposes, to be built here. He felt sure that if Conservatives would attend Liberal meetings, they would be immediately converted. The chairman considered that the Conservatives had been guilty of breach of faith in securing Masonic hall—

A Voice—"We don't want any personalities."

This abrupt reproof somewhat abashed the speaker, but after a long pause, and some laughter, the chairman gathered himself together for further onslaught on the much-abused Conservatives. He commended the Liberals for appointing a farmer Minister of Agriculture, and showed by statistics how the Hon. Sydney Fisher had stimulated the trade in bacon, whereat several eager Zionist disciples of Elder Brooks were seen to leave the hall greatly perturbed and disgusted.

Mr. Gordon Hunter had great pleasure in supporting the candidature of his old friend—George Riley. He had more than the ordinary feelings of friendship towards Mr. Riley, as they both came from the Niagara peninsula. The Conservatives had been entrenched in power by the National Policy. Many industries had been inaugurated in Canada by virtue of that policy, but the net result was the creation of some millionaires at the expense of the people. It was a very convenient thing for Sir John Macdonald to come down to the "Red Parlor" in Toronto and levy an assessment of $25,000 on wealthy manufacturers. He adverted to the infernal protective system in the United States and believed that the conditions there augured political disaster. The Liberal's cardinal doctrine was the ensuring to each man in the community of a fair chance to earn a livelihood. The Conservatives charged that the Liberals had not redeemed their promises. It was unjust to expect the Liberals to work out their policy to its fullest logical outcome in the brief time they had been in power, but they were gradually approximating to free trade. The true economic principle enunciated by the Laurier administration consisted in extracting the least amount of taxes out of the people and allowing all to share fairly in the vast wealth of our resources. In account of the hostility of the United States, Canada had been obliged to reach out for the trade of Great Britain and other countries. Sir Wilfrid Laurier was the first statesman in the history of Canadian affairs. We have had many politicians, of whom Sir John Macdonald was essentially one. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, a gentleman of French extraction, had imbued his countrymen with patriotism, and it ill-became Col. Prior to sneer at the distinguished position attained by the Dominion Premier for enthusiastic loyalty. Mr. Hunter next expatiated on the strong personnel of the present federal ministry, dwelling upon the administrative ability of Blair, Sifton, Tarte and Mulock. Mr. Barnard was supporting Br. Borden, whose speeches had never been read, and who was a mere myth from a political standpoint. The electors should throng to the support of Mr. Riley, an old stalwart in the ranks of the Liberal party. There were oceans of orators down at Ottawa, but what was wanted was a man, who had the time and the energy to work faithfully in the interests of the community. Mr. Barnard was a notorious Conservative and could have no influence in the councils of the government. Mr. Hunter, in closing, urged that it would be a great misfortune if the constituency overlooked the great opportunity afforded it of electing such a true and tried old Liberal as Mr. Riley.

Mr. Riley, the candidate, next took the He wished to embrace the opportunity to platform, and was received with applause. thank Esquimalt District for the support given him at the last election. He would present a true version of the circumstance in connection with the election protest case. Col. Prior had stated many things that were incorrect. He would rather lose an election ten times over than win it by unfair means. During the last contest for the Federal House, Mr. Drury had occasion to call on Mr. Prior in respect to some campaign literature and in the conversation that ensued, Col. Prior had told Mr. Drury that Mr. Drury was not getting a fair deal, as Riley was canvassing for Riley and Prior. Mr. Drury did not lend any credence to it, and Mr. Prior, fearful that Mr. Drury would divulge the subject of their conversation, had attempted to pledge Mr. Drury to secrecy, but Mr. Drury had refused to be so bound. He was not so thin skinned as to object to candidates hiring hacks. It became because Mr. Prior had intrigued to create friction between himself and Mr. Drury that he had determined to avail himself of certain illegal election actions on the part of Col. Prior to unseat him. It was absurd to allege that Colonel Prior had lost his seat through hiring hacks. He had given a man in Metchosen District a sum of money to purchase votes, but afterwards had slept over the matter and brought the money back, handed it to Mr. McDowell and Mr. McDowell then delivered possession of the boodle. He asked his counsel if the case could be withdawn against Mr. Earle, and upon their assurance that there was no hindrance to such action he had given instructions to have the proceedings dropped against Mr. Earle's sake. If they had pressed their charge against Col. Prior, he would have disqualified him, but clemency had been exercised in allowing the Colonel to plead guilty to a trifling offence. Col. Prior had even gone so far as to promise that if he would let him off easy, no opponent would be brought out against the Liberal candidate and that he would even vote for the Liberal candidate.

Mr. Riley, in reciting what he had accomplished for Victoria, said that when he was down in Ottawa on a pleasure trip, he and Senator Templeman had prevailed upon the Ministry to fill up the hole in the harbor, thus saving the city in the neighborhood of $40,000. He, (Mr. Riley), along with Mr. Drury, had the patronage of the constituency. No one in the city could get any government work without the sanction of Mr. Drury and himself. He would see that any work in Esquimalt District would go to a resident of the District. He believed in true fishing, and there was no reason why there should not be ten canneries on the island. He did not propose to discuss Alaskan boundary matters, and other international questions, but would confine himself to fishery, harbor and other practical matters.

Mr. Harry Piper was called upon, but not being prepared to make a speech, limited himself to an expression of confidence in Mr. Riley's fitness for parliament.

Mr. Ellison pointed out that it was the duty of Esquimalt to plump for the Liberal candidate. The progress of the country was very evident to anyone who read the newspapers. The electorate should view the matter from the standpoint of self-interest. Why should not the city of Victoria support a government that holds such a lofty reputation in the old country.

Mr. B. J. Perry would not address his attention to the causes of the great Liberal victory in 1896, but to the effect. He contrasted the increase of foreign trade under the liberal regime of $26,000,000 with the $9,000,000 for a similar period under the Conservatives. When Mr. Barnard had been a representative he had had patronage at his disposal in a steel band in a steel ring so small that no benefit accrued to anyone but Mr. Barnard. Mr. Barnard was no orator, but Mr. Prior had Demosthenic eloquence. What had Mr. Prior done, though? He had secured a Drill Hall and post office as the sum total of his fifteen years of effort. The Conservatives before every election, had promised a right of way over the Indian reservation to a certain gentleman, but that certain gentleman had never secured it from the Conservatives. However, when the Liberals had been returned the right of way had been immediately given. It was an age of materialism and consitnencies did not send men to forward their personal ambition, but to advance the interests of the constituency. He was authorized to announce that Mr. Joseph Martin would support Mr. Riley.

Mr. Henry Bullen spoke briefly and felt that if the Conservatives did their duty they would vote for Mr. Riley. Liberal policy had been just and wise.

Mr. H. Munn thought that the great question of redistribution would be a prominent issue at the ensuing federal session. It would be on the basis of population. We had not enough population to justify our present representation. Mr. Barnard could obtain colonization justice, but Mr. Riley could have the justice tempered with mercy. Mr. Munn felt that the coasting and shipping laws needed amendment. United States hulls could enter our ports on paying 10 per cent on the hull and 2½ per cent on machinery, but Canadian hulls were prohibited from entering United States ports. If there were reciprocity in shipping laws, our shipyards would have more to do. He advocated the building of an all-Canadian railway to Yukon. We were not reaping a tithe of our share of the profits to be obtained from that country. The Yukon railway would remove a long standing grievance between Great Britain and the United States.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the chairman and cheers for the candidate.

Fires And Insurrection

Many Chinese Meet Death in Burning of a Part of Canton.

Northern District Still Has its Troubles of Murder and Convert Massacre.

Steamer Victoria arrived from Yokohama and Oriental ports yesterday afternoon, bringing advices from the Far East to January 7. She had news of a serious fire at Canton, which destroyed over three hundred houses and caused the death of over 80 people, by burning or drowning. The fire started at Honam, on the south side of Canton, on December 13, and before it burned out—futile efforts were made to stay it—many lives had been lost. A party of Europeans who went over the scene after the fire, found at least 80 charred carcases of victims. A number of bodies were recovered from an alley heaped up on each other as though they had been obstructed in their flight when the flames brought death to them. The chief disaster, however, occurred about a pond. It appears that the exit of the unfortunates living near there was cut off. The flames made escape impossible, and nothing remained but for the people to take to the pond to evade the flames. In their rush and consternation some were burned to death, but the majority found death by drowning in the waters of the pond.

From North China further news of insurrection was received. The scene of the latest trouble is at Ping-lu-hien, in Kangsu, where a missionary, whose name was not given, had died of wounds, and a number of converts were killed. The governor of the district had been removed from his post, and the viceroy of Kangsu, together with the governor of Shansi, had been ordered to combine their forces for the purpose of quelling the disturbance. Kangsu is the province where the notorious Tung Fu Siang is residing, and the reports from native sources state that he is at the head of the rebel movement, which is assuming large proportions. A rumor was circulated to the effect that Tung Fu Siang had committed suicide, but native correspondents report that he personally caused this rumor to be circulated, on hearing that the ministers at Pekin had requested that he be decapitated.

The Empress Dowager recently ordered Viceroy Yuan Shih-k'ai to learn the opinions of the ministers at Pekin regarding the Manchurian convention and submit them to her, and in reply the Viceroy has sent a memorial to the throne, the gist of which, as translated by the North China News, is as follows:

"The consequences entailing upon a convention with Russia regarding Manchuria are fraught with serious danger to the empire, as they affect not Russia alone, but also Great Britain, the United States, Germany and Japan to a great degree. If this government then ignore the interests of the other powers and merely try to meet the wishes of a single power like Russia, the former will naturally imitate her example; and how will China then be able possibly to satisfy the inordinate demands of the others in the future? My humble opinion, then, is that the other powers be secretly consulted with and a refusal be sent to Russia. Backed, as we will be, by the moral support of the other powers, it may be, perhaps, that Russia will not dare to act contrary to the wishes of the majority, and will not therefore try to obtain her convention by force. China will not then incur the displeasure of the other friendly powers, while, on the other hand, it will be of incalculable benefit to the empire."

From Korea comes a report that several thousands of Chinese have crossed the Tumen river and made an invasion into Ham-yang-do, in Korea. The local means of resisting the invading insurgents are said to be inadequate.

From Singapore news was received of a tragedy on board the North German Lloyd steamer Prinz Heinrich. Two assistant engineers of the liner quarrelled, while the steamer was en route from Penang to Singapore, over the attentions of one of the lady passengers. Both fought, and after fighting, tried to commit suicide. One died, the other recovered, and at the inquest was charged with culpable homicide, and will be extradited to Germany.