

Tuesday, January 30th, 1906

THE TIMES

ALBERTA

W. LACEY AMY, Editor and Proprietor.

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The Council at Work

Again at the last Council meeting the Aldermen handled some important matters, and showed their anxiety to make improvements where needed.

The matter of most vital importance to the city was the appointment of a public scavenger. This was a necessity and was commented upon some weeks ago as such by The Times. The disposal of the garbage is the most difficult part of the system to allow for. Mr. Penhale properly objected to the dumping of this on the nuisance ground. This is not a solution of the garbage question at all. The danger from the nuisance ground is only less great than when the garbage is allowed to repose in the back yards. The installation of an incinerator seems the only practical relief, unless the public scavenger is to handle nothing but dry waste.

The recommendation that the city pay half and the landlord half does not seem to The Times as satisfactory as the payment by the city of all up to a certain amount of garbage, and by the proprietor of a over that amount. For instance, if the ordinary citizen would supply a barrel of garbage, let that amount be the maximum, after that a charge. This would mean, quite settled rate per barrel could be levied on all. The men who use the scavenger for five barrels would pay for four.

The matter of the commission-ship was handled with wisdom. Medicine Hat is not large enough to employ a paid commissioner whose work is confined to that. THE TIMES thinks there is not another case in existence where a city of this size employs a commissioner. A competent assistant to the city engineer should enable the latter to do the work.

Much criticism has come upon the Council for their secret discussion of the applications for Secretary-Treasurer. Nothing but praise has come for the wise selection, but the citizens have a right to know the names of the applicants. That the Council had only the best of motives is evident from their selection, but it is so easy to introduce these discussions in private that it is well to consider the matter at the start.

Our Winter Wheat

The Government's report on the winter wheat of Alberta places Medicine Hat district in a most unfavorable position. The raising of winter wheat has not been extensive here out the experiments have shown how suitable the country was for it. Next year as announced exclusively in The Times a few weeks ago, there will be hundreds of acres producing the glit edge wheat, that every farmer dreams of.

The official report gives an average for Alberta of 21.09 bushels of winter wheat to the acre. But the average for this district reached 20.13 bushels or twenty-five per cent above the average. Only one district (on the C. and E. line) exceeded it, and another on the same line reached the same average, as Medicine Hat.

It will be well to watch the reports of the winter wheat crops for 1909. It will be a revelation in winter wheat.

climate in Alberta and that in the West.

Sleighb is a necessity in the city. For almost a week at the time of writing, it has been warm enough for a light overcoat only and for the middle of the day no one thought of wearing an overcoat.

The writer has lived for twelve years where the Toronto World is printed and is in a position to judge of the climate of the two places. Without a doubt Medicine Hat has a more pleasant climate.

School Trustees White spoke of temporary school buildings as an eyesore. That aesthetic, old-rose summer kitchen behind the Toronto Street school is an example.

School Trustees Fatt voiced the sentiment of every taxpayer in the city when he said that the school trustees should have no right to pass money bylaws without submitting the matter to the people. Even the City Council, which is selected to handle much larger questions than the school board meets, cannot do this. It would be obviously wrong that the school board should saddle a burden of \$40,000 on the people without giving them a chance to say so or nay. The law should be changed. The school board, instead of going to have a vote of the people before passing the high school bylaw.

A coal strike is expected to commence in Alberta and B. C. on April 1st. Considerable consternation is felt in every town in the West except Medicine Hat. It would not do this city directly if every coal mine in the West shut down.

Fernie is having a big row about the relief funds. The new mayor is demanding that the people pay back the money, and the latter, naturally, are objecting to it. They demand an account of all expenditure and information as to what will be done with the returned money.

It has been rumored that Aylesworth will be given another office and that F. G. Robinson of Toronto will succeed him. Robinson has run unsuccessfully twice in Toronto. Were the city not so strongly Conservative he would easily be elected. He is one of the most popular lawyers in Toronto. During the past five years he has deserved his popularity. A successful young criminal lawyer where criminal lawyers make a lot of money, and where their standing must be high, he was unable to stand the strain a dozen years ago. But he took hold of himself in time and is now an honor to his profession and to himself. He would not be an unworthy successor to Aylesworth.

Borden is again the unanimous choice of the party. There has yet to be heard a breath of suspicion in connection with his character. His strength has developed rapidly, and in spite of the rumors spread by the Liberals concerning his replacement the Conservatives have made their own selection of an honorable, strong, clever man.

The News sees fit to criticize the Council and the City Solicitor most severely for not allowing it a five cent rate on gas. It claims that it fulfills all the requirements in connection with the bylaw, and is especially severe on the Solicitor's finding that a newspaper is not a manufacturer.

This question of whether a newspaper is a manufacturer or not is as old as time almost. All newspapers claim that they are (The Times among the rest) but the legal authorities have almost uniformly agreed that they are not. The Solicitor's finding need not be his own opinion nor even his wish, but he is paid to examine the legal and of Council business, and could make no other finding. For this he deserves no criticism, and all the content of the local newspapers will not affect the

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precedents quoted one idea.

But the News makes too much of the meaning of the bylaw. Under the meaning of the bylaw a manufacturer must have \$20,000 invested in his business. This is not a business.

also, as nothing else is under consideration. The News had not \$20,000 in its business nor anything like it. Building, plant and all are assessed for \$25,000 but not a quarter of the building (in value) is occupied by The News plant, and the rest might be a building a mile away, as far as it concerns the newspaper business.

The bylaw needs changing, and it does not seem out of reason that newspapers should have the five cent rate without complying with the special manufacturers' requirements. Both papers expect the greater part of their charges to be coming to the city.

for which they receive nothing from the city. This does not seem right. The city would be nothing without the papers. Every city official is paid for his time, but the newspapers spend time and money for the city and for nothing else and receive no recompense. Every issue they devote columns to what brings them no direct returns. Surely it would not be amiss for the Council to recognize this effort and expenditure in some such way as cheaper gas. It would mean, as Mr. Forster says, only \$50 a year or less to each paper, but it would show that the Council recognizes the advertising it receives free.

DEMANDS OF LIQUOR MEN

Edmonton, Jan. 10.-A deputation representative of the liquor interests of the province waited on the government this morning to urge renewed liquor legislation. Special display was shown towards the ten-hour closing law which has been in operation throughout the province since July. A request was made that the licensing act be amended to extend the hour of closing bars to eleven o'clock.

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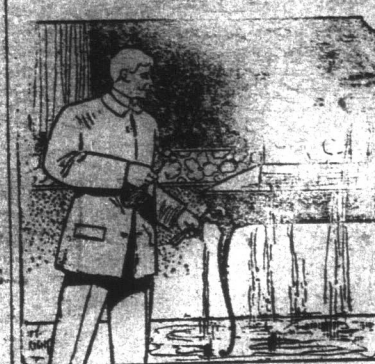
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