URGE NUMEROUS CIVIC REFORMS

Matters of Vital Interest to Community Advanced by Council of Women

REPORTS OF AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

At Session Tuesday Protest Is Made Against Practice of Selling Liquor at Fall Fair

The third and fourth sessions of the annual meeting of the Local Council of Women of Victoria and Vancouver Island continued throughout Tuesday in the Carnegie Library building.

Business before the council continued with the presentation of the following resolutions, with interesting addresses, and discussion.

Resolution V.—Proposed by the executive:

Resolved, that the Local Council of Women protest against the unseemly privilege of granting a license to sell intoxicating liquors on the fair grounds.

In moving this resolution, Mrs. Andrews made the following appeal:

"Having had occasion to spend a good deal of time on the exhibition grounds last autumn, where I was working in the W. C. T. U. rest tent, I saw much of the evils arising from the sale of intoxicating liquors on the grounds there. Men in a more or less state of intoxication came to our tent for tea or coffee, some of them telling us that they had been drinking heavily during the night and were trying to sober up. We had many such experiences, some of them with men quite young.

"When I say that a licensed bar is an evil in any place, I think I am making a statement which few here will venture to deny. How much greater evil is it at a place where large numbers of our people congregate, many of them young men and young women and even boys and girls. Is it not to our shame that almost the first object which met their gaze on enetring the grounds was the large sign conspicuously displayed.—'Wines and Liquors Sold at the Restaurant?"

"The exhibition management must know, if its members have ordinary common sense, that a licensed bar is not needed to supply any natural want of those visiting the fair. Every man, woman and child visiting the grounds could do without it and be the better for doing without it. Why then is such a place allowed?

"Is it simply on account of the few paltry dollars paid for the privilege of selling? Let us hope not, and yet what other object can there be? One is reluctant to believe that the men who manage the exhibition would place a higher value upon a few dollars than upon the morals of the young of our city; that for a trifling consideration they are willing that temptation should be placed in the way of the weak, and our young men and women, boys and girls, be brought in contact with drinking and drunkenness.

"Just who is responsible for this licensed bar on the fair grounds I do not know. I am told that the grounds are outside the city limits and are therefore not under the jurisdiction of our civic authorities. But whoever is responsible let us enter an emphatic protest against its continuance, and let us make it known that if the management wish our patronage at the exhibition hereafter, there must be no licensed bar there henceforth—no more signs displayed of 'Wines and Liquors sold at the Restaurant.'

"I have much pleasure in moving this resolution."

Mrs. Cooper seconded the resolution with a few earnest words deprecating the argument that such a license was financially desirable. Th object of the fair was to stimulate industry, and healthy competition, and to promote art, and agriculture; all of which objects were most certainly impaired and injured by the use of strong drink.

The discussion showed that it was not usual to allow bars, on such occasions, in Ontario, Nova Scotia, and other enlightened communities, and a recommendation was passed to investigate the matter, and to ascertain, if possible, where the responsibility rests.

The resolution carried.

Purity in the Schools

Resolution VIII, presented by the executive, was taken up next, owing to the presence of Dr. Ernest Hall, who had been invited to speak to the motion.

Resolved, that the Local Council of Women views with approval the initiative taken in the teaching of purity in the schools and recommends that the pupils be regularly instructed in the same.

Mrs. W. Jenkins moved the resolution and introduced Dr. Hall, who said that he had been urged to speak on this subject and that he had accepted as a matter of his conscious duty to the community, rather than as a pleasure; for the difficulties in dealing with it—were obvious. Dr. Hall said he spoke, not only for himself, but for a society lately formed, called the "American Society of Sanitary and Moral Progress," with which are associated many noble names; both lay, and clerical. Courageously and deliberately, the speaker wrought a terrible arraignment against permitted, subsocial, conditions, and the wilful ignorance, and indifference displayed concerning them.

The medical profession, ever on the lookout from the watch towers of human experience, knows well the true secret of that evil which accounts for fifty per cent of the inmates of our asylums, and twenty to fifty per cent of our hospitals; the infernal moloch of sextual immorality that, under a hundred different names, is decimating society, and which more loathsome even than leprosy, is causing, through dissipation and disease, a most fearful "squaring of our accounts" with nature, by degeneration and death! a clearer understanding, he said, must and can come, only through proper instruction, and intelligent exposure. The truth never hurts, it is concealment, and half-truth that hurts, and, when once understood, and fairly expressed, with force, and reason, conditions of health and amendment become possible. But questions of such immense importance can only be handled by what may be suggested as a co-operative system of education—and instruction. The words of that sage, who knew almost as much about human problems as we do today, may be taken equally by ourselves as a criticism, and a warning. "Ye simple ones, how long will ye love simplicity, and fool's hate knowledge." It is possible to be too simple; indeed much of the evil, and the crime in the world may be traced to this initial defect, and then, when young men, aye and young women too, seek a place for repentance, it cannot be found; though they seek it bitterly and with tears. Nature and judgment have then to be reckoned with according to those eternal "laws which may not be broken."

Dr. Hall concluded by expressing a hope that the whole evil would some day be regulated, and placed under the supervision of the board of health and education. Meanwhile, he urged, with much dignity and feeling, a proper investigation, and adoption of such means as would secure the instruction, the protection and the moral and physical health of the future generations.

A cordial vote of thanks was tendered to Dr. Hall and passed unanimously. The Rev. G. K. B. Adams also spoke forcibly upon this subject. Miss Crease further suggested that more mother's clubs be formed to further the object of more general and intelligent home instruction among the young.

The Social Evil

Resolutions VI and VII were next submitted, dealing with unhappy social problems—as follows:

Whereas illegal traffic is carried on in procuring women for immoral purposes,

Resolved, that the Local Council of Women interview the provincial authorities with a view to securing a strict enforcement of the laws regarding the same.

In view of the acknowledged social evil in the city,

Resolved, that the Local Council of Women be asked to consider what steps can be taken to help our unhappy sisters.

These resolutions were spoken to with deep Christian feeling by several ladies present, many interesting and helpful suggestions were made and the sense of the meeting was one of heartfelt sympathy and desire to help, wherever help could reach, with regard to resolution VI, an amendment was suggested to invite very careful police inspection of steamships running between neighboring ports and Victoria.

Affiliated Societies

The reports of general affiliated societies were next received as follows:

W. C. T. U., Mrs. Andrews; Home for Aged and Infirm Women, Mrs. Gould; Victoria Musical Society, Mrs. Hermann Robertson; Ladies' Guild, Methodist church, Mrs. Whittier; Ladies' Aid, Centennial church, Mrs. Bone; Ladies Aid, First Presbyterian church, Mrs. Wood; Ladies' Aid, Emmanuel Baptist church, Mrs. Andrews; Woomen's Missionary Society, Metropolitan Methodist church, Miss Spencer; Baxter Hive, L. O. T. M., Mrs. Dickson; Christian Aid Society of Duncans, Mrs. Whidden.

A letter of sympathy was moved unanimously to Mrs. Gordon Grant and Mrs. W. McNeal, who were prevented from being present by sickness. Telegrams were received from the New Westminster Local Council of Women, with greetings, and from Mrs. McLagan the provincial secretary, regretting her inability to attend.

The Rev. Dr. Campbell addressed the meeting and while he congratulated the council on the scope and variety of its undertakings, he gave a timely warning not to attempt too much collateral work at the expense of its more dignified and graver missions and of its "central energy."

Sanitary Inspection

The remaining resolutions were then presented as follows:

Resolution IX.—Proposed by the executive:

Whereas, in other places women, as sanitary inspectors, have proved most competent and satisfactory, and believing that increased efficiency would be secured thereby,

Resolved, that the Local Council of Women call the attention of the civic authorities to this matter with a view to the additional appointment of a woman.

Mrs. Justin Gilbert, speaking to this resolution said that she thought the channel open to women in this regard lay in a more thorough inspection of ventilation and sanitary conditions in factories and workrooms and poor localities. Carried.

Proprietary Medicines

Resolution X.—Proposed by the executive:

Resolved, that a petition be presented to the legislative assembly of the province of British Columbia praying,

(1) That every container of a proprietary medicine be labeled so as to show the nature and quantity of the various ingredients of which the medicine is composed.

(2) That every medicine designated as poison in the Pharmacy Act be labeled "poison."

(3) That every container of a proprietary medicine, one ingredient of which is alcohol, shall be labeled so as to show the quantity of alcohol.

Mrs. W. Grant, made an earnest plea, against the indiscriminate use of alcohol and for the entire boycott of all such patent medicines as did not bear a label stating the contents and proportions of the ingredients. She cited such eminent authorities as Lord Lister and Sir Victor Horsley, men of vast professional experience and undoubted integrity, as declaring against the medical value of alcohol, and gave some terrible statistics showing that many of the most popular of patent medicines contained something like 50 per cent of alcohol, or that would be considered by the medical faculty, a poisonous allowance of morphine.

Doctor Fagan also spoke on this subject, saying that, after years of importunity, the Dominion government were about to introduce legislation regulating the evil. The provincial government had also promised supplementary attention. He said that the most popular patent medicines were merely deceptions upon the innocent public, and that the use of them wrought about exactly the same effect and results as does the use of bad whiskey! Children die in incredible numbers, from many so-called "sedatives" and "cough mixtures." Another evil that of "headache" remedies, was productive of more heart disease and sudden deaths than the public is at all aware of. There are numerous statistics to cover these assertions, and the doctor congratulated the council upon having seriously taken up this matter for reform. In reply to a question from the Bishop of Columbia, it was stated that a law does exist, prohibiting the sale of morphine, or the use of it in general prescriptions, but that, like many other evils, "custom" and "privilege" had "snowed it under."

The resolution carried.

Boys and Firearms

Resolution XI.—Proposed by the Mother's Club:

Resolved, that boys under sixteen years of age should not be allowed to carry firearms.

Mrs. Wall moved that this would protect the community against many accidents and also the wanton destruction of bird and animal life. Carried.

Cruelty to Animals

Resolution XII.—Proposed by the executive:

Resolved, that the Local Council of Women protest against the exhibition of unwonted cruelty to animals as practiced at the annual fair and use its influence to prevent a recurrence of the same.

Miss Crease in moving this resolution, stated that to her mind, education was the most important subject for it affected almost everything and that education must be carried out through all community interests and amusements. The agricultural fair is a means of promoting many forms of interest and activity. She protested therefore against such an occasion being used for an exhibition of unnecessary brutality, causing not only much suffering to the animals themselves, but feelings of horror and distress to many who witnessed the same.

Mrs. Toller invited a large attendance at the approaching annual meeting on Friday evening next of the S. P. C. A. when further suggestions for the suppressing of all such cruelty may opportunely be discussed.

The Rev. W. Baugh Allen addressed the meeting in the interests of our poor, dumb friends." He said horsebreaking is a necessity and as such, a "fine art" when carried on as a business—is justifiable as are indeed many operations which are nevertheless not subjects for indecent display, or unmanly sport. In this regard such an exhibition as "broncho-buster" as an attraction at the fair, was greatly to be deplored. The resolution carried.

In this connection it was asked whether the council could enter a protest against the coming "prize fight" announced for February next. It was decided that this question be referred to the regular council meeting in January.

Anti-Tuberculosis Society

Resolution XIII.—Proposed by the Anti-Tuberculosis society:

Resolved, that the Local Council of Women heartily endorse the work of the Anti-Tuberculosis Society and commend it to the affiliated societies for their hearty support and co-operation.

Mrs. Rocke Robertson gave a clear and concise account of the work and aims of this society and of the untiring efforts of Dr. Fagan for the establishment of both sanitarium and maintenance fund for the same. She asked for the united support and help of the Local Council of Women.

Dr. Fagan gave a heartstirring address insisting upon the duty of every individual in this regard, and appealing strongly against indifference and indolence. He begged for a wider personal sympathy, and above all, that a larger number of the active workers among the women of Victoria should attend the regular meetings of the Anti-Tuberculosis Society during the coming year. Such great attention and sympathy were evinced during Dr. Fagan's address, that it may be assumed he will find all he desires in the future.

Grass and Gravel Pits

Resolution XIV.—Proposed by the Victoria Hive, No. 1, Ladies of the Maccabees:

Whereas pedestrians are greatly annoyed by the obnoxious growth of grass and other weeds which are allowed to grow on the streets of the city, and the same so greatly detracts from the appearance of the city to tourists coming in,

Resolved, that the Local Council of Women urge upon the city council the advisability of having the said grass and weeds removed.

Resolution XV.—Proposed by the Mother's Club:

Whereas the gravel pits at Spring Ridge are a source of danger to those living in the neighborhood, especially young children,

Resolved, that the Local Council of Women use its influence to have them protected and thereby prevent the possibility of serious accident.

These resolutions all carried.

Dr. Fagan was accorded a standing vote of thanks.

Final Business

Final business before the meeting included a motion to change the date of the annual meeting to the second Monday in November, a change which was passed with acclamation. The president proposed:

1. A vote of thanks to the mayor and council for the use of the committee rooms of the city hall.
2. To the press for so kindly printing reports, etc.
3. To the library commissioners for the use of the upper room in the public library.
4. To the Lord Bishop of Columbia for conducting and arranging for a special service in the cathedral.
5. To the press secretary for her efficient help.
6. To the room and decorating committee for the trouble they had taken and great help given.
7. To the auditor.
8. And to the fire department for decorations.

A most hearty vote of thanks was further accorded the president for the able and sympathetic manner in which she had conducted the entire proceedings. After the singing of the National Anthem the meeting made final adjournment.

DESERTED BABY SLEEPS IN A TELESCOPE VALISE

Abandoned by Parents It Is Found in Stable in Winnipeg

Winnipeg, Man., Dec. 11.—Snug and warm and soundly sleeping in a telescope valise, a child of six weeks was found in a stable on St. Johns avenue this morning. Every precaution had been taken for the comfort and security of the child. There were plenty of clothes in the valise, which was placed out of the draft, warm bricks kept up the heat, and a hole cut in the top to admit fresh air. There was a bottle of milk where the baby could feed on it, and the deserted infant had evidently gone quietly asleep unconscious that it was not in its own home. The child was well dressed, but none of the clothing had any marks by which it could be identified, and the parentage of the child is a complete mystery.

POLICE CHIEF RESIGNS.

Woodstock, Ont., Dec. 11.—Chief Zeats has resigned from the police force to enter the service of the Grand Trunk railway.

ANONYMOUS CONFESSION.

Police Magistrate Hall has received an anonymous letter, evidently written by some crank, in which the writer says that he is guilty of the crime for which Featherstone is to be hanged this morning. For reasons of his own he does not wish his identity known. He concludes his letter with "Ta! Ta!"

WINDY ON FRASER.

New Westminster, B. C., Dec. 11.—There was another heavy storm last night, which did some damage along the waterfront, and blew down signs and wires in the business section of the city. The electric current was off for two hours.

URGE FURTHER REPORT RE SEYMOUR NARROWS

Council of Board of Trade Names Committee to Prepare Memorial to Government

At a meeting of the council of the Borad of Trade, held Tuesday morning, a special committee was appointed to draw up a resolution for submittal to the Dominion government asking for the appropriation of funds for the purpose of surveying a line from the plains of Alberta to the west coast of Vancouver Island by way of Seymour Narrows. When drafted, this will be presented for approval and forwarded forthwith to the proper authorities at Ottawa.

T. C. Sorby drew attention to the efforts being made towards the improvement of the harbor by the newly-organized Inner Harbor association. He requested that some financial aid be granted. Secretary Elworthy was instructed to reply to the effect that the board was not in a position to act upon the suggestion.

The committee on transportation submitted a report stating that the members were unable to pass an opinion upon the complaint of the Kamloops Board of Trade, that the express rates are excessive. They explained that they had no data as to the rates paid or the charges upon similar products from other parts of the province. This will be communicated by Secretary Elworthy to the Kamloops Board of Trade.

The report of H. P. Bell upon the project for the bridging of Seymour Narrows being dealt with, in the ensuing discussion it was pointed out that it was simply a preliminary estimate based upon information acquired some thirty years ago.

Messrs. Shallcross and Lugrin were appointed a committee to prepare a resolution requesting the Dominion government to vote the necessary funds for an exhaustive exploration and survey of the most feasible railway route from the plains of Alberta to an ocean port on the west coast of Vancouver Island via the Seymour Narrows, these waters to be spanned by a bridge. This will be drafted and submitted at the next general meeting of the Board of Trade to be held on Thursday evening. If endorsed, it will be transmitted to the federal authorities.

Other matters, of minor importance, were considered, after which the meeting adjourned.

ENDORSES REPORT OF FISH COMMISSIONERS

Council of Board of Trade Notifies Ottawa—New Westminster's Attitude

The interim report of the Dominion fisheries commission has received the unqualified endorsement of the council of the Victoria Board of Trade. The question was discussed at yesterday's meeting, when it was agreed that the recommendation for the extension of the close seasons of fishing on the Fraser river from thirty-six to sixty hours, and that prohibiting the sale or exportation of fresh salmon, were in the best interests of the industry. Their adoption, it was claimed, would prevent the extermination of the sockeye salmon and have a beneficial effect upon the business as a whole, as far as British Columbia was concerned. Those present being unanimously of this opinion, Secretary Elworthy was instructed to communicate with Hon. R. L. Brodeur, minister of marine and fisheries, informing him that the attitude assumed by the members of the fisheries commission is approved by the local Board of Trade.

Richard Hall, M.P.P., who is both a member of the commission and of the council of the Board of Trade, in an interview yesterday said some such action was absolutely necessary in order that the sockeye salmon might be preserved. Unless there were more stringent restrictions, such as were suggested, it would not be long before the canneries of British Columbia would find it impossible to operate every year. They would only be able to obtain enough fish to make the business profitable on the occasion of the big run, which took place about once in four years, and, possibly, that too would eventually become so depleted as to make the canneries practically useless. It would be a short-sighted policy, therefore, to allow the fishing to continue as at present, knowing that in the course of time the industry would become a thing of the past. For these reasons he advocated, and the council of the Board of Trade supported, the recommendation for an extension of the weekly close season during the salmon run.

The New Westminster Board of Trade is bitterly opposed to the recommendations of the commission. No fewer than three petitions have been forwarded to Ottawa from New Westminster, protesting against the adoption of the report, one from the Board of Trade, one from the Liberal association, and one from the citizens at large. J. C. Brown, a member of the commission from New Westminster, also introduced a minority report protesting against many of the recommendations.

The recommendation over which the people of New Westminster are particularly worked up is that which makes a difference between the close time for fishing in the Fraser river itself, and at the mouth of the river. In the past the weekly close time has been from 6 o'clock on Saturday morning to 6 o'clock on Sunday night, a period of thirty-six hours. In the report of the commission it is recommended that the close time in the river be lengthened from thirty-six hours to sixty hours, while out on the gulf, and around the mouth of the river, fishermen will only have to observe the old hours.

REBATERS FINED.

New York, Dec. 11.—The American Sugar Refining company and the Brooklyn Co-operative company both pleaded guilty to the acceptance of rebates on sugar in the United States court today. Judge Holt fined the Sugar Refining company $80,000 and the Co-operative company $70,000.

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KILLED BY ELECTRIC CAR.

Winnipeg, Dec. 11.—Ira B. Hall, a resident of the Glines block, and caretaker of the Kirkfield track was killed on Main street today while attempting to board an electric car. He was 50 years of age.

ROYAL CITY ALDERMEN.

New Westminster, B. C., Dec. 11.—The municipal election yesterday resulted in the following being chosen aldermen for 1907: J. Jardine, W. Gray, J. Henley, W. Smith, A. Garrett, J. J. Johnston and George Adams. Ald. Shiles, who was among the eight rejected candidates, was only seven votes behind Adams, who was the tail-end of the elected ones. A recount is talked of, and should it be held, it is believed that Shiles will replace Adams. W. H. Keary was elected mayor by acclamation on nomination day.

JAPANESE NOBLEMAN WILL VISIT VICTORIA

Prince Fushimi, Sr, Will Sail From Here in the Spring

Prince Fushimi, Sr., heir to the throne of Japan, will visit Victoria in March, according to advices received from Japan by the Empress of India. The Japanese prince has been ordered by the Emperor, Mutsohito, to journey to England in return for the visit paid to Japan by Prince Arthur of Connaught, to invest the Japanese Emperor with the Order of the Garter. Prince Arthur and his suite proceeded to Japan via the Suez and returned by way of Victoria to London. Prince Fushimi and suite, including a number of prominent army and naval officers, will leave Yokohama on February 2nd, for London via Hongkong and the Suez canal. His way home will lie through Canada, and he will sail from Victoria by one of the Empress liners in March or April. The members of the Prince's suite had not been selected when the Empress of India sailed.

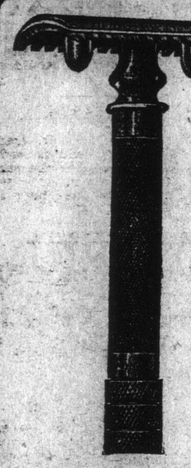
It is also probable that in April next, a Chinese prince, ranking nearly as high as the Japanese royal personage who is to come here, will visit Victoria, coming from Shanghai by one of the Empress steamers en route to the United States and Europe to study naval affairs with a view to adaptation to China's needs. Prince Pu Lun has been commissioned for this mission by the Chinese government in view of a decision recently reached for the establishment at Pekin of a Chinese admiralty to reorganize the Chinese navy. Prince Pu Lun will be accompanied by a number of foreign-educated Chinese students and naval officers chosen from midshipmen and lieutenants of the Pei-yang and Nan-yang squadrons.

PHILLIPS LINGERS.

Toronto, Dec. 11.—Owing to the absence of material witnesses, the trial of Joseph Philips, president of the defunct York County Loan company, is held over till March.

JACKSON WANTS $2000.

New Westminster, B. C., Dec. 11.—Chester Jackson, the fisherman who was arrested and detained in a police cell for nearly a month on a charge of having been implicated in the murder of W. George Gilley two years ago, and who was liberated after extradition proceedings in connection with the arrest of Munn, who was alleged to have been an accomplice, had failed, is about to enter a suit against the city for $2,000 damages for false arrest and imprisonment.



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