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City's Water Bill Has Been Dropped

W. J. Taylor, K. C., Would Not Consent to Amendments Which Were Proposed to Be Made to It This Morning

(From Monday's Daily.) The private bills committee met this morning again and considered the Victoria Water Works Act. The result of the deliberation was that the city decided that in view of the fact that the session was so near a close that it would endanger the bill to proceed with the attempt to get water for power purposes. The chairman, A. E. McPhillips, on opening, called attention to an editorial in the Times. He said that while he felt that the press had an important duty to perform, he took exception, however, to the editorial in which reference was made to himself. According to the rules of the House he was entitled to take part in all matters with which he was not interested in a pecuniary way. He had no connection with this legislation. The decision of the committee had been reached by the committee as a whole. He as chairman had not been called upon to exercise his rights yet, whatever might be done by him later. As a ratepayer he had an interest in the city. He did not propose to be coerced or intimidated. He approved of the sections of the bill passed upon by the committee. He did not agree with the power clause proposed, which was very struck out. The mayor and aldermen had no mandate from the people to come and ask for this. W. J. Taylor, K. C., for the city, pointed out that while the committee had attempted to adopt the provisions of the Ontario Act in safeguarding the interests of the companies by the municipality being forced to make an offer of purchase of the existing company's works, the interests of the municipality were not looked to. A reference to the Ontario Act in full showed that the onerous sections as far as the municipality was concerned while other sections which tended to make these less onerous were not proposed to be incorporated. If the whole of the powers of the Ontario Act were incorporated the city would be agreeable to it. The chairman ruled that this question had been discussed of old and did not come up now without a resolution to another effect. Stuart Henderson said that he had pressed for the provisions of the Ontario Act. Mr. Garden had pressed for it being made as Vancouver and others had supported this. The chairman said there was no division of opinion in taking the vote. E. V. Bodwell, K. C., thought this could all be dealt with next year. He was prepared to go into the whole matter, however, and showed that the committee was right in its stand that the chairman said that he would rule against re-opening the subject unless a motion were passed authorizing the re-opening of it. H. E. Thompson thought the power section clauses were not as important as the question of getting water for the city. He thought the power question would require careful consideration. With respect to the hydro power commission, Mr. Bodwell said that this was a government commission, which was given the whole of the matter and the whole matter and appropriate and turn it over to the municipalities. He argued that to go into the subject would require the taking of evidence on the company's investment. If it were done properly it would take a lot of time. The matter should stand over until next session. Mr. Thompson said that the city of Victoria knew the situation and it was for the city to say what was to be done. If the city was prepared to take the risk of the bill getting through the House it should have the right to do so. The chairman said that he did not believe the mayor and council of Victoria came before the committee with a mandate from the people to ask for power privileges. He by-law had been submitted for that purpose. Mr. Thompson did not agree with what he felt the mayor and council were acting according to what he thought was the best interest of the city. It was for the council to decide whether this subject should be discussed. Mr. Henderson agreed with Mr. Thompson. Mr. McPhillips, the chairman, however, objected that the council had no mandate from the people to move as they had. Mr. Taylor thought this was a burning question. It was not wise to postpone action. The chairman said in absence of a formal motion he ruled the opening of the question out of order. Mr. Thompson moved that the mayor of Victoria be heard on the subject. After consultation with the city barrister the mayor returned, and Mr. Taylor asked if according to the rules the power clauses might be moved as an amendment to the bill in the House. The chairman said this could be done,

Oil Factory Gutted

Spontaneous Combustion Cause of Big Blaze at Gloucester, Mass.

Gloucester, Mass., March 2.—Swarthchild & Bornstein's oilcloth factory, situated in the rear of 232-236 Main street, was burned yesterday, together with a stock of manufactured goods. The total loss is estimated at \$40,000 and is nearly covered by insurance. It is supposed that the fire resulted from spontaneous combustion.

Sawmill to Resume at North Vancouver

Additional Plant Will Be Installed—Busy Season Anticipated.

North Vancouver, Feb. 28.—The sawmill built and operated last season by the western corporation, and which has been closed down since Christmas, will shortly begin operations under new management. The company will be known as the Diplock-Wright Lumber Company. Prospects for a busy season are assuring, and it is stated that it is the intention of the new company to run the mill to fill the orders on hand, besides cutting lath, shingles and ties. The capacity of the mill is 30,000 feet of lumber per day, 40,000 lath, 25,000 shingles and 100,000 ties per day. Two up-to-date power houses are being constructed, which will enable the mill to provide all kinds of building material. Electricity is the power used, three motors, with a combined unit of 312 horse power, meeting the demands in and around the mill, while donkey engines are employed in hauling in the logs. About forty men will be employed, and, as in the past, the mill will find lodgings in the company's camp.

Dodged Bullets of Desperadoes

Attempted Hold-up of Winnipeg Bank Led to Exciting Scenes.

Winnipeg, March 2.—Three men made a desperate attempt to hold up the staff of the Union Bank branch, Logan avenue, on Saturday night, while Manager Hax and F. W. Sussex, teller, were at work. Two men walked in and pointing revolvers at their heads ordered their hands to be thrown up. "Not on your life," said Hax, and ducked. Sussex was slower and got a bullet in the arm. The burglars then began a fusillade of shots at the men below the counter, the while shouting for the cash box. After attempting to force their way into the interior they disappeared, joining a third man outside. There are no clues to the whereabouts of the desperadoes.

Mail Robberies in Winnipeg

Mysterious Disappearances of Money Continues to Mysterify Officials.

Winnipeg, Man., March 2.—A series of mysterious mail robberies, covering a period of two and a half months, is being investigated by the officials of the Winnipeg post office and the postal department. It has leaked out that a great deal of the registered mail leaving Winnipeg for London, England, since the middle of December, has been tampered with and considerable money extracted. In spite of every precaution employed to ensure the safe transmission of registered mail, some person has been able to get access to the sealed vouchers without leaving any clue by which his identity might be revealed, and the officials are naturally mystified.

Revelstoke Bridge

Heavy Crop of Casualties Attend Erection of Structure. Revelstoke, Feb. 28.—The new bridge over the Columbia at Revelstoke is producing a heavy crop of fatalities and casualties. Two more accidents occurred last week. W. McElroy fell a distance of 20 feet from the lower chords of the bridge on to a mass of old lumber, inflicting severe injuries to his body. W. Jackson also sustained nasty wounds about the body by falling from the bridge on Thursday afternoon. Both men are in the hospital.

Thirteen Killed by Avalanche

Buried Swiss Hotel While Guests Dined

Sinister Rumbblings Prelude Tragedy—Children's Efforts to Save Lives.

Berne, Switzerland, March 2.—An avalanche descended yesterday near the village of Copperstein during an enormous atmospheric pressure and demolished the hotel at the mouth of the Loetschental tunnel, killing 13 persons and injuring 15 others. The occupants of the hotel, numbering 30, were surprised while seated at table by sinister rumbblings. Almost immediately two children rushed in the dining-room and screamed: "An avalanche, an avalanche." Both children were killed along with many of those they had sought to save. Among others killed was an American engineer named Mervart, who was installing American machinery in the tunnel. There were no tourists there. The tunnel works were not damaged.

Cobalt Ore for B. C. Smelters

(Special to The Times.) Toronto, March 2.—I understand that shipments of low grade Cobalt ore are likely to be sent to British Columbia smelters," said Mr. E. L. Englehart, chairman of the T. & N. O. railway commission today. "The object is, of course, to mix it with British Columbia ore, a necessary process, and one which would be an advantage to the British Columbia people."

\$500,000 Damage

New York, March 2.—Fire on Saturday destroyed the New York City Railway car barns in the block between Ninety-sixth and Ninety-seventh streets, First and Second avenues. Three hundred odd street cars were burned. The loss was estimated at more than half a million dollars. Green Root, jr., president of the railway company, declared he believed the fire to be incendiary.

Serum Will Cure Scarlet Fever

Hypodermic Injections are Uniformly Successful in New York Epidemic.

New York, March 2.—Hypodermic injections of a serum similar to that used in the treatment of diphtheria are being successfully employed in scarlet fever cases in this city, according to physicians in hospitals in the east side, where the disease is unusually prevalent now. The last report of the board of health showed 777 cases, more than twice as many as on December 1st, and the great majority of them in districts which include mostly the foreign element. Dr. Hy. F. Robinson, of the post graduate hospital, said yesterday in commenting on this treatment, that although little used in this country, it is not new by any means, having been employed with gratifying results both in Germany and France. Experiments with it here are stated to have been almost uniformly successful.

Woman is Victim of Sad Accident

Miss Mary Hirst of Nanaimo Killed on Her Doorstep.

Nanaimo, March 2.—Miss Mary Hirst, aged 50, a member of one of the oldest pioneer families in this city, was found dead this morning at her doorstep. She is a heavy woman, and falling off the steps last night, striking on her head, was instantly killed.

Financial Suicide

Alex. Ross at One Time Was One of Canada's Crack Rifle Shots.

(Special to The Times.) Winnipeg, March 2.—Alex. Ross, a well known merchant tailor, shot himself in the mouth to-day, dying instantly. Financial troubles are said to have been the cause. He had been residing here for 25 years. At one time he was one of the best rifle shots in Canada.

Evangelists Prove Disappointment

But State They Will Rescue 1,000 Souls During Stay in Calgary.

Calgary, Alb., March 2.—Messrs. Glae and Hatch, two evangelists of Boston, opened their services yesterday in the local church and followers of the evangelical services say they proved a great disappointment after the work of the famous Crossley and Hunter. Gule shut out the sensational features which his hearers were looking for to-day, and state that they will have a thousand souls in that time.

Holt Liners for Prince Rupert

Big Freighters May Include New Townsite as Port of Call.

The blue-funnel liner Ningchow, now in port, brings word that there is a persistent rumor in England, ports that the line is to include a new town on the British Columbia coast. While nothing definite is known, there seems to be a feeling that when Prince Rupert opens up and railroad construction is in full swing the cargo for that point from the United Kingdom will find the route in making calls there. The quantity of supplies which will go in through Prince Rupert would mean a tremendous rush at Vancouver, and to save handling English consignments twice it is suggested the blue-funnel boats should go direct there from the Orient, and then come down to Vancouver and Victoria. Starting with the Ningchow, the vessels of the line will in future call at Comox. This was the sailing point for these ships formerly, but for the past year or two they have bunkered at Tacoma. Sound coal, however, is not so good enough for them, and they will return to the old custom.

John Jardine's Death

Vancouver, Feb. 28.—The coroner's jury in the case of John Jardine, of Great Falls, Mont., found dead in his room at the Commercial hotel, brought in a verdict of death from Bright's disease and hemorrhage of the brain.

Lynchings Result of Bad Whiskey

Booker Washington on Abolition of Bars and Race Question.

New York, March 2.—Before the largest audience that ever assembled at the People's Forum, Booker T. Washington, in New Rochelle, yesterday delivered an address on the race question, in which he expressed his gratification at the progress made by the temperance cause in the South, and declared that the abolition of the bar-room was a blessing to the negro, second only to the abolition of slavery. Two-thirds of the mob lynchings and burnings at the stake, he said, were the result of bad whiskey getting into the stomachs of bad black men and bad white men.

Italian Ran Amuck

Toronto, Feb. 28.—Amadeo Cannoli, an Italian laborer, 19 years old, last night stabbed his stepmother in the arm and back, and his father, Michel Cannoli, in the hand, and then tried to escape. He was captured by the police and lodged in the Agnes street station. His stepmother and father were taken to an hospital. Their wounds are not considered serious.

G. T. P. Must Push Work on This Coast

The Building of Transcontinental Line Will Mean a Rapid Development in This Province Opening Up a Great Area.

(From Monday's Daily.) The announcement made that the G. T. P. is to begin construction of the line from the Pacific terminus will be regarded with delight by all in the province. The wisdom of the Dominion government in providing for another transcontinental line of railway will from now on be very evident in this province. The G. T. P. has shown wonderful activity in pressing the work of construction. From Winnipeg to Edmonton the line is being built with a rapidity which has seldom if ever been excelled by any company. Already the company has let the contract from Edmonton into the Yellow Head Pass. The contract is ready to be let from Prince Rupert for 100 miles of the line and from time to time this will be added to. This section of work will be among the most expensive on the whole line, costing over \$5,000,000. Heavy rock which will be encountered along part of the Skeena river, which will run into hundreds of thousands of dollars. The days of construction will be busy ones on the whole Pacific coast is the common opinion held by all. The coasting trade will develop by leaps and bounds and companies already in the field have not been slow to see this. The C. P. R., the Union Steamship Company, the Boscowitz Company and others have realized that the opening of the north will mean increased demands upon their carrying trade. To cope with this they have provided increased means of transportation and will be prepared to share in the general prosperity which must come to the coasting companies. At Prince Rupert the G. T. P. has a model harbor. The good offices of the Canadian hydrographic service have been employed there for over two years past charting the water of the harbor itself and the approaches to it. As a result the waters are easily accessible to shipping. Mariners on approaching Prince Rupert are now enabled to take a line upon fixed points in the harbor at a distance of fifteen miles from the entrance, and by steering a straight course can enter to within a few thousand feet of the company's wharves. The water throughout the whole of that distance is of ample depth to accommodate the largest vessels afloat. In the harbor itself the company has commodious wharves, excellent north of San Francisco. That the new city at Prince Rupert will excel in rapidity of growth any place on the Pacific coast is readily conceded. The completion of the railway from the east to that point couples Prince Rupert up with a system of railways in Eastern Canada and the United States by the Grand Trunk and auxiliary lines. It taps the richest parts of the wheat bearing fields of the prairies, and will be an important outlet for the coast.

let and intake for the trade between America and the Orient. The distance from Prince Rupert to Yokohama is 3,360 miles, which, compared with the 4,335 miles from Vancouver to Yokohama, effects quite a saving in distance and gives the northern terminal many advantages. No one pretends that the building up of a new city at Prince Rupert will deplete the coast cities on the south. On the contrary the new line of railway will make more than enough business for its Pacific terminal. Cities like Victoria and Vancouver in the south will, instead of losing by the building up of Prince Rupert, reap rich harvests in the increasing trade between the points. The G. T. P. is laying out a city prepared to deal with all that the future may have in store for it. Plans are being taken to make it a model in all respects. In visits to the coast, Chas. M. Hays, Frank Morse and other officials of the company took occasion to visit Seattle and other coast cities where lessons could be learned to their advantage with the result that the company is amply prepared to handle the city to the best advantage. By means of landscape artists the best methods will be adopted and due advantage will be taken of the character of the site to provide for terminals, business sections and residential quarters. The harbor itself is ample being able to accommodate all shipping that can possibly come to it. The waters of the Inlet stretch inland for many miles at great depth, affording splendid opportunities for development of the shipping.

As an instance of how trade will flow the construction of the line, it may be cited that the local iron works expect to provide about 40,000 barrels of cement for the company's needs this year. While public men will be called upon to consider the political aspects of the settlement arrived at between the provincial government and the G. T. P., at this time it is satisfactory that a settlement has been reached which will no longer delay construction. The time has come when the G. T. P. is prepared to rush work. It would be disastrous to have the work delayed and for that reason apart from the exact terms upon which the settlement was made it is gratifying to know that the Premier and William Wainwright, of the G. T. P., have come to a settlement of the differences between them. When the second vice-president of the company came to the coast with D'Arcy Tate, the assistant solicitor, he stated that he would not be unreasonable. No man is better qualified than Mr. Wainwright to perform the acting duties which attend to his work, and for that reason a very free hand given him he had by patience and perseverance arrived at a settlement. No one will deny it should be eminently satisfactory to the railway company, and Mr. Wainwright and Mr. Tate are to be congratulated by their company.

Little Boy Met Terrible Fate

Scaled to Death Through Falling Into Exhaust Hole While Playing.

Vancouver, Feb. 28.—A distressing accident occurred early on Thursday evening, when Dan McPhee, a little seven-year-old boy, who was playing with a companion, slipped through a crevice in some boards that covered an exhaust hole at the Pacific lumber mills and was fatally scalded. The hole, into which flows the exhaust of the steam pipes, is very near the offices of the mill and little Dan and his companion were amusing themselves by poking and throwing sticks into the boiling water. Without a moment's warning and almost before a shriek emitted from him, he fell into the water, and was struggling terrifically to save himself from a horrible death. He climbed to the side of the wheel almost exhausted, and the spectators managed to pull him out. He was taken to the General Hospital, but succumbed to his injuries, suffering mortal pain, at 2 o'clock yesterday morning.

Work on V. V. & E.

Two Hundred Men Engaged in Clearing Right of Way.

Princeton, Feb. 28.—Government Agent H. Hunter has returned from Keremeos and Hedley where he had been gathering in the coin for His Majesty's provincial government. He reports work along the V. V. & E. going slowly but steadily ahead, there being at least 200 hundred men at work. Contractor Walsh informed Mr. Hunter that the work of clearing the right-of-way between Hedley and this point would be undertaken at once.

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