

## MUNICIPAL MATTERS.

A Glance at the Year's Civic Administration—Work Done by the Various Departments.

Satisfactory Forebodings Throughout the Service—Foresight shown for the Future.

The Treasurer's Report Not Yet Finished; but will be Ready Almost Immediately.

The following are summaries of the reports of the different branches of the municipal service, as submitted at the meeting of the City Council, last Friday night.

## BY-LAWS ADOPTED.

The City clerk's report shows that during the year 50 by-laws were passed, three having been held 52 regular, 16 special, and 5 adjourned meetings of the council.

## POLICE COURT.

The Police Court report shows a total of 1,078 charges made, 119 Chinese, 29 of which were dismissed; 148 Indians of whom 130 were convicted; and 811 all other persons, 590 of whom were committed, 24 sent for trial and 197 discharged. The largest number of offences were made during August and October, the figures being 138, March, 109, November 99; June 82, 10, 187, 87. Thirty Indians were charged with being in possession of intoxicants, of whom 24 were committed; 103 being convicted of drunkenness. Among the Chinese there were 119 charges laid, 35 for infractions of the city by-laws; 37 for gambling; 10 for vagrancy; 4 of supplying intoxicants to Indians; 9 of larceny; 3 of perjury; 4 for fighting and 4 for creating a disturbance. The offenders of all other nationalities numbered 811, of whom 197 were discharged, 24 committed for trial, and 590 convicted. Among the charges laid were the following: drunkenness 298, infractions of city by-laws 164, larceny 46, vagrancy 42, assault 35, unclean mind 35, supplying intoxicants to Indians 16, assault with intent to do bodily harm 3, burglary 7, desertions from H.M. navy 12, infractions of Customs Act 1, carrying concealed weapons 6, cruelty to animals 1, fighting 8, infractions of Merchants' Shipping Act 6, obtaining money under false pretences 7, refusing to support family 3, threatening language 6, insulting language 9.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT.

The Police committee, in submitting the report of the Chief of Police, said: "We, your police committee, beg leave to present to the board the accompanying report of the Superintendent of Police, with statements of matters for the past year. We have examined the same, and have much pleasure in recommending the suggestions contained therein, and feel a satisfaction that the order maintained in the city during the year has been of that character which goes to show that our citizens are a law-abiding people." Superintendent Sheppard's report shows the police force to be composed of one Superintendent, one sergeant and 12 constables, all uniformed men; and being detailed for duty in the lockup, leaving 10 for patrol duty. During the year three constables were added to the strength of the force, but no removals were made, all the old members still remaining. The condition of the force is very fair, comparatively few complaints having been made against constables for neglect of duty, all of a trivial nature, for which a reprimand has been sufficient. The clothing of the men is in good condition, and their barracks accommodated comfortably and convenient. The lock-up accommodation has also been much improved by the addition of the female ward. Crimes of a very serious nature are spoken of as being of rare occurrence, and in the case of murder, one by a Chinaman, the other by a white man, the murderer was promptly brought to justice. The number of convictions for breaches of the city by-laws greatly exceeds those of last year. It is remarked with satisfaction that there have never been any riots in the city, and with the large concourse of people in and around the city during the 24th of May celebrations, it was not found necessary to make one single arrest. The chief significantly observes: "Taking into consideration the great increase in the population of the city, the large number of men employed on public works and the amount of traffic from the various Sound cities, and from all parts of the Dominion of Canada, I consider the percentage of crime committed in the city of Victoria will compare favorably with that of any other city in the Dominion or elsewhere, a fact which speaks well for the general efficiency of the department considering the smallness of the force compared with many other cities of the Dominion." The chief recommends the appointment of a second sergeant, several minor sanitary improvements, and urges, in the event of the extension of the city limits, that the police force be considerably enlarged, together with the obtaining of an ambulance wagon for the conveyance of prisoners from the suburbs to the city lockup.

## ROSS BAY CEMETERY.

The City clerk, in presenting the statistics of burials in Ross Bay cemetery, notes a decrease of 16 males but an increase of 47 females, making the total increase of burials 31. The total 286 was made up of 166 males and 120 females, among whom were 35 Chinese (males), 4 Indians, 102 natives of Canada, 12 of British Columbia, 55 of England; 16 of the United States; 14 of Scotland; 13 of Ireland and 15 of Germany. There were 13 still born children, 49 under twelve months old; 15 up to five years, 49 between twenty and forty years, 44 between forty and sixty and 32 between sixty and seventy, while two men and a woman were over eighty.

## REPORT OF THE SANITARY OFFICER.

Sanitary Officer Bailey remarks that a marked improvement is noticeable during the twelve months in the sanitary condi-

tion of the city, the inhabitants taking a greater interest in conforming with the sanitary by-law, while much more has been done by proprietors to render their premises healthy. Every possible precaution has been taken to prevent sewage passing through the Johnson street ravine. The streets as a whole are being kept in fair condition, but the officer recommends a larger sum than has hitherto been appropriated for sanitary purposes. It has not been necessary to serve more than seven summonses for nuisances. The box drains laid during the year were:

Yates street w	1.9.05
Johnson street w	5.3.04
James street w	4.6.61
Total	11.9.70

Over two miles of box drains in length.

## HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT.

The Health Officer, Dr. G. L. Milne, notes with gratification that although the winter season has been a marked degree, there have been only 24 more interments this year than last, while a larger proportion of the mortality was due to drowning and other accidents. The number of funerals monthly to the Dominion statistical office at Ottawa, was:

January	30
February	19
March	31
April	31
May	32
June	32
July	32
August	32
September	32
October	32
November	32
December	32
Total	326

The death rate is much lower than that of any former year in which statistics have been kept, and taking the population at 22,500, the rate is about 12 deaths per 1,000. Among the more prominent causes of death were the following: Pneumonia and bronchitis, 33; phthisis, 32; diseases of heart and blood vessels, 29; diarrhoeal affections, 18; paralysis, 17; premature birth, 15; diphtheria and other diseases of the bowels, 11; dropsy, 11; accidents, 11; suicide, 2; murdered, 2. Dr. Milne remarks that he has already reported upon the practice of exhuming dead bodies in the cemetery, which no doubt will in a short time be more under the control of the city authorities than at present. The medical officer specially emphasizes the unfitness for drinking purposes of the water from the taps in the cemetery which comes from a well within it. With respect to the condition of James Bay flats, which are in many cases being used as a dumping ground for refuse, the hope is expressed that during the ensuing year steps will be taken to have this locality made less objectionable.

## CEMETERY COMMITTEE.

The report of the Cemetery committee refers to the absolute necessity which exists for an enlargement of the cemetery, by procuring additional ground, in consequence of which, a by-law having been authorized by the ratepayers, some six acres of the Fairfield Farm estate were purchased at \$2,000 per acre, the right to purchase a further four and a half acres at the same price, within three years having been secured on the payment of interest at 2 1/2 per cent. Five hundred dollars were spent in erecting fences, gates and other works. The applications of the Oddfellows and Masons for space were granted to the extent of one acre, and the application of the applicants from the Ancient Order of United Workmen is at present under consideration. From want of means the work of clearing the ground, completing the fencing, surveying plots, constructing walks and drives and erecting a mortuary chapel has been deferred; but the committee will take up these matters and, with the consent of the ratepayers, obtain at least \$10,000, so that the remaining portion of the ground may be paid for and the cemetery made a credit to the city of Victoria.

## SEWERAGE COMMITTEE.

The report of the Sewerage Committee states that nine plans for the proposed new sewerage system were received, two from England, two from New York, three from Ontario and two from British Columbia, that of Mr. Mon, being examined by Mr. Rudolph Hing. Having been adopted, Messrs. Turner, Earle and Teague were appointed as commissioners. Seven tenders for the work were received in reply to the advertisement published by the city, the work being awarded to Mr. Alexander McBeath, for \$249,704.44. After referring to the steps taken to secure the necessary rights of way, the report goes on to say that it was determined that house connections should be made with the sewers at the water works and constructed, these connections to be carried up to the street line for each lot or building, thus obviating the necessity of breaking up the streets in future.

## PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Dr. McGregor, public librarian, reports an increase of over 800 volumes, worth at least \$900, making in all 6,000 volumes in the library. During the year 26,568 books have been given out, 11,983 to ladies and 14,585 to gentlemen. The average daily lending has been 100, and as many as 180 in a single day. About eighty new members have joined each month—973 for the year, 375 ladies and 678 gentlemen; the total membership being 1,970. Over \$100 worth of catalogues have been sold. Reference is made to the removal to the new commodious rooms in City hall, the work of the year has neither equalled nor exceeded in many larger cities, either on the coast or in the east. Two months ago an assistant to the librarian was appointed, so that the lending library can be kept open the whole day and every day.

## WATER COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

Water Commissioner Summerfield gives the details of the mains, hydrants and services, as already published in THE COLONIST. During the last three years 133 miles of main pipe were laid, and 54 miles of 16-in. ch main from the lake. The city has 100 hydrants, with a total of 2,234 service pipes, and 136 meters. The Commissioner strongly recommends that the 24-inch main be brought to the

city and the old 12 inch pipe laid along Government street from the Fountain to James Bay Bridge, also from the end of the 16-inch main to the Jewish cemetery for the high level supply. He urges the construction of a dam across the mouth of Elk Lake, and the water brought thence direct to the present filter beds, thus cutting off all the swamps and raising the surface of Elk Lake. He advises the adoption of a fixed tariff of water rates for the entire city, and that the whole of the Water Works revenue be devoted to Water Works purposes.

## HAUL COMMITTEE.

The report details the improvements that have been effected, which have been done by contract wherever practicable. The committee recommend the filling of the blank space on Cormorant street with the police station, the building to be erected on the corner of that street and hall clock is expected to be delivered and set up in April. The total expenditure of the Haul committee amounted to \$35,686.73, of which the addition to the city hall cost \$30,753.69; the fire hall and police barracks and asphalt road \$4,937.18, female prison ward, fences, etc., \$905.86.

## ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE.

The assessment committee announce that they did not consider it advisable to disturb the values of the different properties for the year 1890, on account of its having been done in 1889. Except acreage property as which were subdivided into building lots, and also all new buildings that were erected in 1889. These increased the roll nearly half a million dollars. It is recommended in view of the great progress of the city that there should be a re-valuation this year. The number of visitors has been to the city, 3, of the assessment law and the purchase of a first-class chemical engine. They endorse the suggestions made by the chief engineer, pay their tribute to the fidelity and efficiency of the bridge, and support their petition for an increase of salary the men being, at the present time, paid less than the department on the Pacific coast. Chief Engineer Deasy, in his report, gives a list of members and officers composing the brigade, together with a record of fires and alarms. An attempt was made to drill the scholars of the fire brigade, but the authorities take little interest in the endeavor to check fires in a building where so many helpless children congregate daily. The hose still remains up there in an open shed, where the children play, and every effort has been made to have the hose properly stored, but for its safe keeping, in default of which its removal is recommended. The Chief again refers to the unprotected condition of the wharves, warehouses, shipping and Government property along the water front, and Mr. Bennett had addressed a letter on the subject to Messrs. Prior and Earle, M.P.s., suggesting that pumps be placed on the Dominion steamer Princess to throw at least four streams. The small fire loss is attributed in a great measure to the Gamewell fire alarm system. To prevent damage to the alarm system it is recommended that brackets be placed on all poles and insulated wire should take the place of bare wire. The extension of the limits demands, it is urged, more houses, apparatus and firemen, as should alarms come in from outside boxes, it should be arranged to have the centre or business portion of the city protected. The Chief, consequently, asks for three new fire stations: one in the vicinity of Moss and Fort streets; one near the junction of Douglas and Government streets, and one in Victoria West. Mr. Bennett has also suggested that the city should have a fire engine and old hand reels should be required, and it will be necessary to extend the alarm system. The purchase of a combined hose wagon and chemical engine is absolutely necessary for the business portion of the city. Two steam engines are in good condition, but the Chief suggests that the city should have hand engines and old hand reels should be required, and it will be necessary to extend the alarm system. The purchase of a combined hose wagon and chemical engine is absolutely necessary for the business portion of the city. Two steam engines are in good condition, but the Chief suggests that the city should have hand engines and old hand reels should be required, and it will be necessary to extend the alarm system.

## FIRE WARDENS' REPORT.

The Fire Wardens announce that the small fire loss during the year is a pleasant subject for congratulation, the record showing 86 fires with a loss estimated at \$10,796, the principal damage having been caused by water used in suppression. This, they think, might be to a very great extent obviated by the purchase of a first-class chemical engine. They endorse the suggestions made by the chief engineer, pay their tribute to the fidelity and efficiency of the bridge, and support their petition for an increase of salary the men being, at the present time, paid less than the department on the Pacific coast. Chief Engineer Deasy, in his report, gives a list of members and officers composing the brigade, together with a record of fires and alarms. An attempt was made to drill the scholars of the fire brigade, but the authorities take little interest in the endeavor to check fires in a building where so many helpless children congregate daily. The hose still remains up there in an open shed, where the children play, and every effort has been made to have the hose properly stored, but for its safe keeping, in default of which its removal is recommended. The Chief again refers to the unprotected condition of the wharves, warehouses, shipping and Government property along the water front, and Mr. Bennett had addressed a letter on the subject to Messrs. Prior and Earle, M.P.s., suggesting that pumps be placed on the Dominion steamer Princess to throw at least four streams. The small fire loss is attributed in a great measure to the Gamewell fire alarm system. To prevent damage to the alarm system it is recommended that brackets be placed on all poles and insulated wire should take the place of bare wire. The extension of the limits demands, it is urged, more houses, apparatus and firemen, as should alarms come in from outside boxes, it should be arranged to have the centre or business portion of the city protected. The Chief, consequently, asks for three new fire stations: one in the vicinity of Moss and Fort streets; one near the junction of Douglas and Government streets, and one in Victoria West. Mr. Bennett has also suggested that the city should have a fire engine and old hand reels should be required, and it will be necessary to extend the alarm system. The purchase of a combined hose wagon and chemical engine is absolutely necessary for the business portion of the city. Two steam engines are in good condition, but the Chief suggests that the city should have hand engines and old hand reels should be required, and it will be necessary to extend the alarm system.

## SPECIAL MARKET COMMITTEE.

The Special Market Committee report the purchase of a site on Cormorant and Fungate streets, at a cost of \$42,000, which they consider cheap. They have also accepted Mr. Teague's plans for the new market building.

## SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

Mr. Northcott referring to the different buildings which the city has put up during the year, viz: the addition to City Hall, the fire station, the new market building, the Fire Hall and Police barracks, as well as the furnishing of the different offices throughout, says they have all been done in accordance with the plans and specifications. The committee on electric light and street lighting reported that the year has been a successful one in the realization of the pressing need of a widely extended service, such as would create an expenditure quite beyond the scope of the ordinary yearly revenue. It is stated that the capacity of the plant is greatly overrated, while in view of the extension of the city, the limits a large number of additional lights will be required immediately. The cost of maintenance was \$5,558.93, including \$4,648.25 for wages and \$2,131.50 for fuel. As for the future the committee is of opinion that the demand made for organized upon a broad basis having ample facilities and with a view to permanency. They believe this object can best be secured through a consolidation and centralization of the lighting interests under corporation control, and recommend negotiation for the purchase of all interests in the Victoria Gas Co. and the Victoria Electric Co., having in view the establishment of permanent works of such magnitude as will prove adequate for the need of street and commercial lighting purposes for a large number of years to come. The committee also recommends that the city should have a fire engine and old hand reels should be required, and it will be necessary to extend the alarm system. The purchase of a combined hose wagon and chemical engine is absolutely necessary for the business portion of the city. Two steam engines are in good condition, but the Chief suggests that the city should have hand engines and old hand reels should be required, and it will be necessary to extend the alarm system.

## STREET COMMITTEE.

The street committee submitted statements showing the work performed during the year. The contracts on hand at the close of 1889 and completed in 1890 amounted to \$12,039.92. The work performed by contract during the year amounted to \$1,974.50, the contract for concreting the piles under the draw of Rock Bay bridge is on hand, but is not yet completed. The box drains laid during the year were Johnson street ward 5,304 feet; Yates street 1,906 feet; James Bay 4,761 feet. The rock broken by hand amounted to 1,974 yards; the rock taken out by steam drill on Johnson street ward 3,000 yards, and the rock broken by crusher 3,322 yards. In Johnson street ward 658 feet of four-foot sidewalk were laid by contract, 3,351 feet six feet, 1,313 feet of eight feet, 668 feet of ten feet and 100 feet of twelve feet. In James Bay ward, 1,316 feet of four feet, 797 feet of six feet, and 32 feet of eight feet. In Yates street ward, 128 feet of twelve feet. The city carpenter laid 5,044 feet of sidewalk, of various widths. In Johnson street ward, 2,760 feet of sidewalk, and 980 feet of sidewalk in James Bay ward. Sidewalks were repaired in Johnson street ward, to the extent of 6,034 feet; Yates street ward, 5,981 feet; James Bay ward, 2,461 feet. Some 30 streets were macadamized during the year. It is recommended that the work of grading and widening Pandora street be resumed at an early date, also that the work on Blanchard street be completed and that Burdett avenue be graded from Churchway to Quadra street. The grading of Chatham street, Spring Ridge, has been prosecuted, but a difficulty has arisen because the Stafford estate has refused to allow their fences to be removed and to give the land re-

quired to widen the street. The Park Committee are strongly urged to macadamize Pandora street, the Street Committee having graded it at a cost of \$6,307.

## OFFICIAL PLAN COMMISSIONER.

Mr. Pemberton on the part of the commissioners appointed under the City of Victoria Official Map Amendment Act of 1889, submitted an account for services of \$450 and reported that plans covering all the streets named in the Act, and showing the position of boundaries had been examined, certified and signed by them and deposited in the Land Registry Office.

## BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Mr. Northcott remarks that the figures which he submits show the prosperity and substantial growth of the city. There were erected during the year 33 frame buildings, costing \$647,000, and 28 separate brick buildings, worth \$453,700. The brick blocks consist of one four stories in height, sixteen of three stories, including two stories and two of one, including 28 stores, 2 churches, 1 station house, 1 separate building, 1 ward there were 120 frame buildings, costing \$319,300; four of brick, \$36,600. In Yates street ward, 72 frame, \$222,200; and 19 brick, \$325,800; Johnson street ward, 119 frame, \$146,700; five brick, \$50,700. In all cases, the brick buildings were put up in accordance with the city by-laws.

The Fire Wardens announce that the small fire loss during the year is a pleasant subject for congratulation, the record showing 86 fires with a loss estimated at \$10,796, the principal damage having been caused by water used in suppression. This, they think, might be to a very great extent obviated by the purchase of a first-class chemical engine. They endorse the suggestions made by the chief engineer, pay their tribute to the fidelity and efficiency of the bridge, and support their petition for an increase of salary the men being, at the present time, paid less than the department on the Pacific coast. Chief Engineer Deasy, in his report, gives a list of members and officers composing the brigade, together with a record of fires and alarms. An attempt was made to drill the scholars of the fire brigade, but the authorities take little interest in the endeavor to check fires in a building where so many helpless children congregate daily. The hose still remains up there in an open shed, where the children play, and every effort has been made to have the hose properly stored, but for its safe keeping, in default of which its removal is recommended. The Chief again refers to the unprotected condition of the wharves, warehouses, shipping and Government property along the water front, and Mr. Bennett had addressed a letter on the subject to Messrs. Prior and Earle, M.P.s., suggesting that pumps be placed on the Dominion steamer Princess to throw at least four streams. The small fire loss is attributed in a great measure to the Gamewell fire alarm system. To prevent damage to the alarm system it is recommended that brackets be placed on all poles and insulated wire should take the place of bare wire. The extension of the limits demands, it is urged, more houses, apparatus and firemen, as should alarms come in from outside boxes, it should be arranged to have the centre or business portion of the city protected. The Chief, consequently, asks for three new fire stations: one in the vicinity of Moss and Fort streets; one near the junction of Douglas and Government streets, and one in Victoria West. Mr. Bennett has also suggested that the city should have a fire engine and old hand reels should be required, and it will be necessary to extend the alarm system. The purchase of a combined hose wagon and chemical engine is absolutely necessary for the business portion of the city. Two steam engines are in good condition, but the Chief suggests that the city should have hand engines and old hand reels should be required, and it will be necessary to extend the alarm system.

Ald. Wilson suggested that the Government be requested to withhold all permits for the removal of the last year's refuse was now within the city limits, and so far as was concerned the corporation could withhold its permission. On motion, the communication was received (the medical health officer to be instructed to refuse his certificate for the removal of the last year's refuse was now within the city limits, and so far as was concerned the corporation could withhold its permission. On motion, the communication was received (the medical health officer to be instructed to refuse his certificate for the removal of the last year's refuse was now within the city limits, and so far as was concerned the corporation could withhold its permission. 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