

Twice-a-Week Times

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CIVIC REFORMS.

We are pleased to observe a disposition on the part of the council to take the affairs of the city in hand. They have been gradually working out of hand. This process has been going on for the past few years. We have been passing through an era which could hardly be described as one of extravagance, but it would certainly not be inaccurate to characterize it as a period of indifference or slovenliness in the conduct of municipal affairs. There is a general impression, of which the aldermen must be well aware, that in none of the services, with one exception, have the ratepayers been getting value for money spent. That exception is the fire department under its present head. All the other municipal institutions appear to be becoming top heavy. They have almost reached the tipping over point. These conditions have been met by resort to expedients, promising to meet with the least resistance or to create the minimum of friction—increasing the assessment values and clapping additional mills on the rate of taxation. The people taxed, having no direct means of giving expression to their opinions, have inwardly growled disapproval, and tamely submitted to the imposition. That kind of thing cannot go on indefinitely. At least not without seriously affecting the progress of the city. Every mill added to the rate of taxation increases the cost of living and militates against municipal prospects.

Irresponsible bodies like the police commissioners must be shorn of their powers to make such blanket increases in the police force and in the salaries of its members. We do not take the position that men whose duties are arduous, disagreeable and exacting should not be well paid for their services. But the fact is too evident that in some respects our police officials are attempting to turn the force into a burlesque imitation of the departments of cities having from five to ten times the population of Victoria. They have lost all sense of proportion. And they are asking the ratepayers to bear the cost of their absurd whims and extravagances. It may be said that the council is powerless to impose any check on the fantastic ideas of these unrepresentative commissioners; but it occurs to us that there must be a way of bringing such things to a head, pricking them and drawing off the crazy humors. We know the evil is inherent in the system. But there is an ultimate source of responsibility, and it can be got at.

The time has come for an all-round reorganization of the system of civic administration. If reforms are proven to be impossible under the present system, some other mode of government must be tried. The Times has always maintained that the system which is truly representative of the people and expressive of the popular will is the best and most responsive to all occasions. The conditions here have developed into a test of our faith, however. Perhaps the excuse for this state of affairs may be found in the fact that the system is not representative in a complete sense. We are convinced that unless the present council takes the occasion firmly by the hand and effects a revolution, or paves the way for a revolution, there will arise an irresistible demand for a change in the form of our municipal government.

POLICE COMMISSION SCANDAL.

If the city council of Victoria desires to enter upon any expenditures out of the ordinary a by-law stating the amount of such expenditures and outlining the purposes to which the funds raised are to be applied must be prepared, published and laid before the ratepayers for ratification. None but actual taxpayers are permitted under the Municipal Act to vote on such by-laws.

The Police Commissioners of the city have laid before the city council a scheme calling for a heavy additional charge upon the municipal revenues. The question has been asked, and pertinently we think, what is the personnel of this commission which essays to enforce its views upon the council and taxpayers of the city, and against whose decision we are told there can be no appeal? Is it in its constitutional capacity? Is it in its constitutional capacity? Mr. Morley we know, he is the elected Mayor of the city. Mr. Bishop we also know. He is one of the elected aldermen of the city. But who is Mr. Tall? What are his interests in the city? Is he a taxpayer? Is he even a resident of the city? These are questions which ought to be answered. The people are

entitled to know something about the men who have been selected by the provincial government to administer one of the most important departments of the municipality and to designate the manner in which a very large proportion of the municipal revenue shall be expended.

The recommendations of the police commissioners, if adopted by the city council—and we are told the council cannot do otherwise than adopt them—will involve a considerable additional charge upon current revenue, as we have already pointed out. They cannot be carried out without affecting the efforts of the council in other directions. Improvement works loudly demanded must be postponed or resort must be had to the ever convenient expedient of either increasing taxation or of borrowing money. There are irresponsible persons in this community, as in every other community, who undertake to guide public opinion in such matters. They never hesitate to endorse any proposition involving additional charges upon taxpayers. Their maxim is borrow, borrow, and bother the consequences. Let us be up-to-date, they shout regardless of cost.

It is satisfactory to note, however, that the Victoria City Council of 1910 does not entertain the idea of throwing prudence to the winds. It believes in having an efficient police force, and in paying the members of that force fairly for the services it performs to the public. But it does not countenance extravagance. It realizes that the system under which the police department is administered is out of harmony with the spirit of the times. The time has come for a readjustment of the relations between a body which is irresponsible and the council, which every year is compelled to render an account to the people for the manner in which the municipal revenue is expended. The existing condition of affairs cannot be permitted to continue. Recent events have had the effect of calling public attention to a palpable anomaly. Why the provincial government persists in the maintenance of a system which must be a source of weakness to it politically, passes all human understanding. Why appointments to the police and the licensing boards—positions which carry no visible remuneration—should be accounted plums of much value and so eagerly sought after by political heebers is equally perplexing. But there is no question in regard to the facts and they admit of but one explanation. If the McBride government desires to clear its skirts of responsibility it will grant municipalities the acknowledged rights to self-government in the complete sense of the term.

JOE ON THE WARPATH.

Joseph Martin, M. P., has caught the eye of the Speaker in the House of Commons already and has delivered one of his fighting speeches. Evidently Joe has not divested himself of his characteristic militancy now that he has made his way into new fighting ground. He was elected as a supporter of the government, but that support is going to be independent. It is as a critic that Joe displays his best qualities. He is after the Lords, and will not be happy until he gets them. He is an enemy of all compromise. What matters it to him that the finances of the country, which have been thrown out of gear by dissolution at an inopportune time, should be first put upon a sound basis? The Lords, like Jove, have defied the lightning. Joe is eager to show them that a greater than any heathen god is after their scalp. Perhaps after the gory trophy is tangling at his war-belt he may settle down and assist the Prime Minister in reducing political chaos to order. In the meantime Joe flourishes his tomahawk. If the head of the government comes in the way, it is just as liable to receive what is coming to it as the cranium of the most inveterate Tory of them all. What does this red-blooded, revolutionary Canadian care for the sentiments of the King. If Asquith is timid, Joe is not afraid. He will approach the Throne, not in the lowly attitude of a suppliant, but boldly as one who knows his rights and is determined to assert them. He will demand of His Majesty that the peers be taught a lesson. They have assumed an attitude of haughty superiority to the Commons, of which he is now one of the elected spokesmen. Their condition does not call for reform. They must be bundled out of the crimson chamber neck and crop. That is the only kind of reformation that will satisfy Joe the Iconoclast.

On the whole we are sure there is one Imperial politician who is well pleased with the present situation in the Imperial Parliament. The conditions are just of the kind that appeal powerfully to Mr. Martin. They have supplied him with the opportunity he has long desired. He has probably never been so happy since the days when the Manitoba School Question rent the Conservative party of Canada in pieces, and he was tugging vigorously at the rending garment. His experiences in the days when Cory S. Ryder and George Washington Beers were the leading ministers in his British Columbia government, were trivial incidents in his romantic political career compared with the pleasure he

now enjoys in jibing at Prime Minister Asquith, railing at the Lords and taking a verbal sally at the very throne itself.

We hope the occasions when Joe catches the eye of Mr. Speaker may be frequent. Every time he gets on his feet the faithful Commons will be brought to attention with a jerk and the newspaper commentators of Great Britain and of the whole world will be given something to talk about. The feeble light of Mr. Keir Hardie is dimmed already. "Vive Joe! A bas the Lords!"

MAKING AN EXHIBITION OF THEMSELVES.

The people of Canada must be terribly tired of the long-drawn-out "debate" at Ottawa on the navy bill. We shall, out of courtesy, call the discussion a debate, although it is really only a desperate attempt of the opposition to galvanize into a semblance of life the old and oft-sat-upon cry of Liberal disloyalty.

There is an element of the comic in the controversy which has probably not escaped the attention of the public. Although there is no cohesion in the Conservative party on the question of naval defence, although there are Tory members from Ontario and the West who insist that Canadians are not equal to the task of either building or manning a navy of their own and will listen to no other suggestion than annual contributions varying in proportion to the British navy, although there are others who keep up the exploded British Conservative election campaign cry of the German menace and insist upon an immediate contribution of at least twenty-five million dollars for the construction of two Dreadnoughts for service in the British navy, although Mr. Monk in alliance with Bourassa in Quebec inveighs bitterly against Canada being drawn into the vortex of European militarism and determinedly proclaims his purpose of voting against both the establishment of a Canadian navy and Canadian contributions to the British navy, although the government has an overwhelming majority from Quebec behind it, and every minister and every member from that province stands unitedly behind a policy which expresses the intention of Canada to do her duty by herself and the Empire, voicing their obligations and their loyalty to British connection—although the bewilderment and the confusion and the dismay in the disordered ranks of the opposition is so obvious, they keep up their despairing wall that there is not one loyal Liberal—no, not one—and that Laurier, although garbed in the garments of a loyalist, is at heart a separatist, an insidious advocate of "Independence."

One of the opposition speakers asserted last night that the uppermost thought in the mind of the Prime Minister is, "What will Quebec say?" If that view of the situation is true, it seems to us that neither the rest of Canada nor the Empire at large has any reason to cavil at what Quebec is saying at the present time. There is not a newspaper in Quebec with the exception of the Journal recently established by Mr. Bourassa but is enthusiastic in its advocacy of the maintenance of the present position of Canada within the Empire. All but seven or eight of the representatives of Quebec in Parliament, who are Tories and support the "no vortex" position of Mr. Monk (the second in command of the Conservative party) are equally enthusiastic in their expressions of loyalty. Yet an individual named Edwards, a Tory who has hardly ever been heard of and is not likely to attain a conspicuous place as a statesman, says Laurier, like the spirit of Macdonald, "hangs between heaven and hell, and is fit for neither place." That observation may be taken as a fair sample of the spirit which animates the Conservative party at this juncture in its history. It realizes that the naval policy of the government, which it first supported and now opposes in a purely factional spirit, appeals with irresistible force to nine-tenths of the people of Canada and means a further addition to the indefinite term it is doomed to wander in the wilderness of opposition.

Anticipating a severe encounter between the advocates of free trade and protection, the latter in Great Britain almost immediately, the London Chronicle is collecting a fund to be devoted to a defence of the cause of the orthodox political faith. Already a good many thousand pounds have been gathered together for the greater part from small subscribers. The protectionists will have an ample store of the shewings when the time comes for another trial of strength, which promises to be very soon. This is in accordance with the history of high tariff movements in every country. It shows who is likely to be the chief gainer from a change of policy in Great Britain. The Lords and the plutocracy do not give of their abundance without indulging in a lively faith that that which they sow will bear fruit from ten to a hundred fold.

A building permit was issued by the Oak Bay municipality to J. Brown yesterday for the erection of a six-roomed house on Wilfords road, to cost \$2,500.

What Other People Think

ALBERNI LICENSES.

To the Editor: Concerning the Alberni public house case (notorious at the time) now crops up in the legislation.

If it is the individual I have in mind; it would be far better for our side to give a local "cause celebre" a wide berth, for if the story is to be rehearsed again it will reflect on credit on the persons desirous of scoring a political point over a most undesirable stalking horse.

It is news to me to learn that the holder of the license in question was the victim of cancellation on account of his political leanings, because up till quite recently he certainly did not belong to our Liberal fold.

The proper authorities very rightly saw fit to cancel the license and I hope the provincial government will investigate the matter and allow the license to be granted again, because one saloon in Old Alberni is quite sufficient, and if a local plebiscite were held to-morrow it would be found that the majority of the voters would, by a large majority, be opposed to two saloons in Old Alberni.

The chief constable in Alberni is a capable and conscientious officer and to press the jury brought in a verdict if the government would release him from the obligations which compel him to form one of a commission to consider the petition of persons applying for liquor licenses.

Indeed, it would be a wise act if the provincial government were to frame an enactment especially prohibiting chief constables from exercising such duties.

I am a Liberal and my vote helped to elect a Liberal candidate, but principle and the least amount of common sense compel me to say that we Liberals shall still further lose political caste in this province if we give ear to the doubtful importunities of disgruntled citizens, and furthermore try to make political capital out of an undeserving case. Local authority cannot be flaunted and challenged, and the citizen who practices that game and has been approved by the military authorities for an indefinite period.

The chief constable and government agent in Alberni are sound officials; the fact they are the agents of the government in power is outside the consideration of serious citizens.

If it comes down to political bias then we Liberals score two points, viz: a liquor seller in Old Alberni who happened to be a Conservative was recently deprived of his license, and a liquor license was granted to a Liberal in New Alberni, so it will be seen that the Liberal is not affected by it.

One liquor license for each town is ample, and this contention would be proved correct if a plebiscite of the local population were held.

Since most of the opponents of the Nicola valley are competent horsemen, the initial drills will deal mainly with the rifle and troop formation.

We must not forget marks which in the end must prove entangling alliances, and let us hope the proper authorities will consider one saloon for Old Alberni quite sufficient for many a long day to come.

SETTLER'S RIGHTS.

To the Editor: The pioneers who squatted on the E. & N. railway reserve seemed to have a hard time in getting their rights. Section 26 of chapter 14, of the act of 1884, referring to the E. & N. land reserve, reads as follows: "The existing rights (if any) of any persons claiming a right in the lands so to be acquired by the company (E. & N.) shall not be affected by this act, nor shall it affect military or naval reserves."

The only point arguable is, have squatters any rights? The Dominion government has acknowledged that they have. Surely a government that poses and talks so loudly about being the friend of the working man and especially of the pioneers (as the government of British Columbia does) will acknowledge that squatters have rights. Then, according to section 26 of the E. & N. Reserve Act, their rights should not be affected by it.

The Settlers Rights Act of 1904 gave those squatters one year from its date to prove their claim. Many of those pioneers have since then been in the act of doing so. Some of them are anxious to come in now and prove their claims, says the Privy Council has decided that the British Columbia government can give them the coat to which they had such a good claim. Would you believe it? The British Columbia government refuses to extend the time limit in the act of 1904, and will not, as yet, consent to those pioneers coming in now to prove their claims. It is a pity that the government has not a chance now to prove their claims, but failed. Does that not prove that the supporters of the government did not imagine that it would treat pioneers as it proposes to do.

"Deeds," not "words," tell. The people returned this government to power by an overwhelming majority; but did they imagine or think that it would act as it is doing? Please publish this action of the government and thus open the eyes of those of its supporters who are working men. The government that considered itself morally bound to give to the C. P. R., though claiming after the time limit, some other railway, about half a million of acres of land in the Okanagan Valley.

February 21st, 1910. WATCHMAN.

"RUDENESS OF VICTORIANS."

To the Editor:—I read in your issue of 22nd "Victorian's" letter entitled "The Rudeness of Victorians," in which he charges that I was subjected to rudeness at the hands of a score or more of well known people who entered the assembly room last Monday night after I began to read a paper, and further that a number of members spoke throughout the evening. Will you permit me the space to say that I did not notice during the reading. The reading began earlier than is usual, and as the hall was dark my reading lamp being the only light in the room, those who did enter after the regular lights had been turned off certainly should be pardoned if they did not notice me. I am sorry if anyone was disturbed by members smoking. It is customary to smoke at the C. P. R. and I am sure that if anyone had the custom will not be changed. Let me assure all of the late arrivals and all of the smokers that I did not think any of them rude, and that I appreciate the com-

plaint they paid me by coming out on so disagreeable an evening.

JOHN P. BARBOCK.

COLLISION CASE.

Judgment for Plaintiff in Marshall vs. Sayward Over Auto Accident.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

In the Supreme court this morning Mr. Justice Morrison and a special jury heard the case of Marshall vs. Joseph Sayward—an action for \$200 damages sustained through a collision between a bicycle and a motor car driven by defendant.

The accident which gave rise to the action happened in July last. According to the story told by witnesses at the hearing this morning, the defendant was proceeding north along Government street. At Johnson street he found his way blocked by a dray and in attempting to avoid the same he ran over across the street in the direction of E. G. Prior's warehouse, where the collision with the bicycle ridden by plaintiff occurred.

Dr. Hermann Robertson, who attended plaintiff, Charles Carter, manager of Shore's hardware store, and the plaintiff and defendant gave evidence. R. T. Elliott, K. C., appeared for Mr. Sayward, and the plaintiff was represented by H. D. Twigg.

The hearing of the case occupied all morning. Just before the Times went to press the jury brought in a verdict allowing plaintiff \$40 with costs; the costs to be the county court costs of the higher scale.

MOUNTED RIFLES

TO BE ORGANIZED

Squadron of Four Troops to Be Formed in the Nicola Valley

Merritt, Feb. 21.—Word has been received in the valley from the D. O. C. military district No. 11, that the formation of a squadron of mounted rifles has been approved by the military authorities, providing the requisite establishment be obtained.

The uniform will be scarlet with yellow facings, which, together with the regulation rifle and equipment will be issued free to all enlisted men.

The strength of the squadron will be 75 all ranks—ten men being enlisted for dismounted duty. It is proposed to apportion the squadron as follows: Merritt, 2 troops (headquarters); Nicola, 1 troop; Lower Nicola, 1 troop.

As soon as possible after the formation of a headquarters staff, meetings will be held at each of the above centres for the purpose of enlistment and measurement for uniforms.

Since most of the residents of the Nicola valley are competent horsemen, the initial drills will deal mainly with the rifle and troop formation.

We must not forget marks which in the end must prove entangling alliances, and let us hope the proper authorities will consider one saloon for Old Alberni quite sufficient for many a long day to come.

MUST KEEP CLEAR OF ROYAL ROADS

Gun Practice Proposed Commencing on Monday Next From Esquimalt Forts

Next week the booming of cannon will be heard in the neighborhood of Victoria. The big guns at the Esquimalt forts will be manned and the annual practice held. Notice has been sent out to mariners that they must not venture too near, under penalty of having a cannon ball pierce their craft or of being frightened out of their wits.

Once a year the men of the Royal Canadian Artillery at Esquimalt engage in target practice, and if the weather is suitable they propose to do it next week, commencing on Monday and continuing until Friday.

"BIG STICK" IS AT WORK IN CHINATOWN

(Continued from page 1.)

"He also informed me that every effort would be made to improve conditions in Chinatown generally, with the idea of making them conform as closely as possible to the standard of the whites; that in this latter connection attention would be paid to the improvement of the sanitary conditions of Chinatown and the erection and maintenance of a better class of buildings.

"Now, I think, in justice to the Chinese themselves, the facts should be known. They are evidently determined to do everything in their power to establish much-needed reforms, and I have every confidence in their promises to me."

"What do you say about the suggestion that the gambling dens will be removed?"

"I do not believe it. I have every confidence that we may look to the better class of people in Chinatown themselves seeing the necessity of acting fairly with the city in this matter."

The suggestion is also made in the letter that the Chinese contribute \$1,600 per month as a corruption fund. Do you care to say anything about that?"

"I know nothing about that, and do not care to discuss that point. I am more concerned about the future and I have every confidence that we will hear little more about gambling in Chinatown for some time to come."

BLAMED FOR CHILD'S DEATH.

Montreal, Feb. 24.—The coroner's jury yesterday held Mrs. Inck Koszma responsible for the death of her two and a half year old son, who died Tuesday as the result of a severe beating on the head, which she had given him. Mrs. Koszma is now in custody.

OAK BAY AND CITY AGREED

SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL TO-NIGHT

Believed That Agreement on Water Question Will Pass the Board

(From Thursday's Daily.)

There is an excellent prospect that at a special meeting of the City Council to be held this evening the agreement between the corporation of Victoria and the Oak Bay municipality for a solution of the water problem, in so far as it affects the two constituencies, will pass. Enquiry this morning elicited the information that a number of aldermen who had on the two occasions that the agreement was previously before the board taken a stand in opposition, are now willing to support the same, providing some minor changes are made in the wording of it.

At preliminary conferences held yesterday afternoon between representatives of the Oak Bay Council and the city, a line of action was agreed upon, which, it is anticipated, will meet with the hearty approval of a majority of the members of the City Council.

With the passing of the agreement the most dangerous situation confronting the city of Victoria in respect to its future policy for a water supply will have been overcome. By the agreement certain clauses in the bill now before the Legislature conferring important rights on Oak Bay will be dropped. Oak Bay will be preserved as open territory as a market where Victoria may sell water, and the city will have the right to connect with the Esquimalt system.

This attempt to-night will be the third that has been made to get the City Council to pass the agreement. On the two previous occasions the agreement was dealt with, it was defeated on a tie vote. Broadly, the proposition is that Victoria shall agree to sell to Oak Bay all the water it needs at a wholesale rate—that is, the actual cost of the water to the city—and that within one year Victoria shall have decided to get its water supply from some source other than Elk Lake.

The aldermen opposing the agreement took the ground that inasmuch as it was proposed to sell water at a cheaper rate than that paid by consumers in Victoria, it was unfair. But to this it was pointed out that even with the wholesale rate applying to Oak Bay, the residents of the neighboring municipality would be called upon to pay a higher rate than the consumers in Victoria.

It is probable that the debate to-night will be chiefly on the clause compelling the city of Victoria to decide on a source of supply other than Elk Lake within one year. Some of the aldermen think this a harsh stipulation, but it is not believed that this knotty point will bar the way to the passage of the agreement.

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SNOW BLOCKS TRAFFIC IN MOUNTAINS

Six Trains Carrying Over Five Hundred Passengers Are Stalled

Everett, Wash., Feb. 24.—Fifteen feet of snow on the tracks for ten miles, from Wellington to Albin, has completely blocked the Great Northern railway to-day, and six passenger trains between 500 and 600 passengers aboard are stalled in the mountains. Snow, which is falling, is adding to the blockade every minute. Great Northern officials hope to have the line cleared by to-night, but it seems an impossible task. Four rotary and six snow ploughs are battling with the snow to-day.

The Northern Pacific won its battle with the elements and cleared its line at midnight last night, all blocked trains reaching Seattle by daylight. To-day's trains are from five to ten hours late. The Great Northern returned their trains east of the mountains, not blocked, to Spokane and will probably route them by the Northern Pacific to the coast.

Some of the passengers on the stalled trains are at scenic Hot Springs to-day, a health resort in the mountains, and are thoroughly enjoying the experience.

The Chicago, Milwaukee & Puget Sound is as completely blocked as the Great Northern and is making little attempt to run trains to-day.

Even the snow ploughs that went to the rescue of the trains on the Great Northern were stalled. One rotary plough was caught in a snow slide last night and it took hours for the shovelers to release it.

WEEKLY WEATHER SYNOPSIS.

Victoria Meteorological Office.

16th to 22nd February, 1910.
At Victoria there was registered 15 hours 12 minutes of bright sunshine; highest temperature, 40.5 on 20th; lowest, 19.0 on 21st; rain, .42 inch; snow, 3 inches; total, .72 inch.

Vancouver.—Bright sunshine, 23 hours 34 minutes; highest, 41 on 19th; lowest, 13 on 22nd; snow, 22.59 inches; total precipitation, 1.21 inches.

New Westminster.—Highest, 40 on 18th and 19th; lowest, 12 on 22nd; precipitation, .88 inch.

Kamloops.—Highest, 30 on 17th; lowest, 8 below zero on 22nd; snow, 2.40 inch.

Barkerville.—Highest, 29 on 17th and 18th; lowest, 24 below zero on 21st; snow, 4.60 inches.

Port Simpson.—Highest, 28 on 16th; lowest, 12 on 22nd; rain, 1.06 inches.

Atlin.—Highest, 8 on 16th; lowest, 32 below zero on 19th and 22nd; snow, 40 inch.

Dawson.—Highest, 2 below zero on 16th; lowest, 36 below zero on 18th and 22nd; snow, 1 inch.

HAZELTON HOTEL DESTROYED BY FIRE

Three Men Are Seriously Injured—Guests Have Narrow Escape

Hazelton, B. C., Feb. 24.—Two men are in the hospital with broken arms and other injuries, and a third is seriously burned about the head and arms, as the result of a fire which destroyed the three-story Hazelton hotel at 2 o'clock this morning.

The fire was caused by the overturning of an oil lamp in the smoking room on the ground floor, the flames completely cutting off the escape from the upper rooms. The house was full of sleeping guests at the time, and many narrow escapes were recorded, all having to jump from the second and third story windows in their night clothes.

The building, owned by Thomas Olsen, was leased to Walter Barnes, formerly of Victoria. The latter narrowly escaped being burned to death while arousing the sleeping guests. He lost all his belongings, including cash and hotel stock valued at about \$5,000.

Dick John, night bartender, also of Victoria, was badly burned about the head and hands while fighting the flames.

A Chinaman jumped from the third story window sustaining a broken arm and his face was badly cut.

Luckily there are three feet of snow on the ground otherwise the number of injured would probably have been much larger.

Only the strenuous efforts of the bucket brigade and snowballs prevented the fire from spreading to adjacent buildings.

The total loss to the owner of the building and lessee jointly is estimated at about \$15,000, partially covered by insurance.

PASSENGER COACHES LEAVE TRACK

Broken Rail Cause of Accident Near Spence's Bridge

Vancouver, B. C., Feb. 24.—(C. P. R.) passenger train No. 95 struck a broken rail while rounding a curve three miles west of Spence's bridge at 11 o'clock last night. The engine and baggage cars passed safely, the balance of the train, about ten cars, left the track, and only the retaining wall prevented them being precipitated into the Thompson river. There is a steep rocky bluff at that point. No one was hurt and Pullman passengers slept all through the accident.

Brakeman Drinkwater, of the wrecking train, sent down from Kamloops on going between two of the cars stepped over the wall and fell 12 feet, slid another 100 and then another 100 feet drop. He was attended to by a doctor from Last Mountain. The injured man was brought here this morning and is in a precarious condition at the hospital.

Mr. Houston in advance better mail service to Port George, but instead of that, he is getting worse. He telegraphed for, and if the Tribune will be something a mere record of land.

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