

### TIRED OF DAY LABOR SYSTEM

#### CITY COUNCIL FINDS IT HAS DISADVANTAGES

#### Not Improbable That Contract System Will Have to Be Adopted

The day labor system trembled for a time on the brink of oblivion in so far as it is a factor in civic policy at Friday's meeting of the streets committee of the city council, and as a result of spirited discussion its position is still precarious, for it is intended to give the contract system a trial.

The question of the merits or otherwise of the day labor system came up on the presentation of the report from the acting city engineer, G. H. Bryson, Ald. Humber declaring that the city is paying too much for pavement sidewalks. Then ensued some tall figuring, each member of the committee seizing his pencil and computing various sums in an effort to discover where the trouble of excessive cost lay.

Ald. Bannerman came prepared with a tabulated statement showing the cost of sidewalk construction under the day labor system as at present, which proved very helpful to the committee. These figures indicated that the amounts paid for supervision of the work were just one-quarter of the whole cost—and all present were unanimous that this was an intolerable state of affairs.

Mr. Bryson being appealed to for a suggestion as to how the system could be improved, said there was only one way out of it, and that was for each foreman to be given charge of three gangs. At present there is a foreman to every sidewalk gang, paid \$5.00 per day. Mayor Morley said he had long been desirous of getting the by-laws in such shape that one good foreman could be given charge of 60 men—three gangs of 20 men. This system would necessitate the employment of three sub-foremen at \$1 per day in excess of what was paid common labor.

During the discussion there was a reference to the recent move in the direction of dismissing Mr. Warwick, the superintendent of sidewalk construction. Ald. Sargison came to the defense of Mr. Warwick, saying he believed him to be not the least competent man in the employ of the works department, and hinting that the pruning knife might be applied in other quarters with profit.

The name of Mr. Pusey was also mentioned, and this started an animated discussion as to the ability of that official who has been in the employ of the city for many years. Mayor Morley claimed he was one of the most competent men in the employ of the corporation, and that he would have made a better record for himself had he not been "tripped" by the contractor.

After a little more figuring in respect to the cost of laying cement sidewalks, Ald. Raymond and Ald. Humber ventured the opinion that it would be cheaper to do the work by contract, and the former moved and the latter seconded a motion to the effect that tenders be called for certain work to be done by contract just to try out the two systems. This motion carried.

Mr. Bryson remarked that should the city decide to call for tenders for contract work it would prove a blessing to the engineering staff.

Mayor Morley—This much is certain, if under the new system which we propose adopting in the administration of the works department we cannot approach the contract price for civic work we will have to go into the contract system altogether.

His worship proceeded to explain that he was in the main favorable to the day labor system, which had advantages which ought not to be overlooked.

Ald. Humber remarked that it had been shown that for the past four years the day labor system had cost the city 30 per cent. in excess of what the work could have been done for by contract.

Mr. Bryson said he would like to have the engineer's department given a chance to figure against the contractors.

It was finally decided to have the chairman of the committee, the mayor and the city engineer prepare a report on the best method of solving the problem of reducing the cost of sidewalk construction.

### NO WOOD BLOCKS, WORK STOPPED

#### EXTRAORDINARY STORY TOLD STREETS COMMITTEE

#### Mayor and Aldermen Again Wrestling With Paving Problem

That the delay in proceeding with the work of laying down wood block pavements in the city is due entirely to the refusal of the sawmill companies to supply the city with blocks was the somewhat startling statement made at Friday's meeting of the streets committee by G. H. Bryson, acting city engineer. The announcement caused consternation at the board and the members were unanimous in their indignation. Certain members of the committee were in favor of calling for tenders for blocks at outside cities immediately and finally, after much discussion it was decided to leave the matter of making the best arrangement possible under the circumstances in the hands of the city engineer. During the discussion the question of the merits of the various classes of pavement was threshed out again, and invitation, ad nauseam—but the problem still remains unsolved.

It was shown that because of the higher quotations for wood blocks, the cost of pavements of that description has now approached a stage which is almost prohibitive. The tenders which have been received from local milling companies showed that wood blocks now cost from \$14 to \$16 per thousand, which three years ago cost but a trifle over \$8. It cost \$2.87 to lay a block pavement in 1907; last year it cost \$3.70 and this year the figure would be in the neighborhood of \$4 per square yard.

Mr. Bryson said it was important that the council should decide at the earliest moment what they were going to do. Work had been approved which would require a million and one-half blocks. If they determined not to use any more wood blocks it would be necessary to resolid a good many by-laws.

Ald. Sargison was of the opinion that it would prove less expensive to use asphalt as a pavement on all the residential street at all events.

Ald. Ross said in view of the somewhat serious situation it would pay the city to establish a block factory of its own. He knew of lots of suitable timber lying along the line of the E. & N. railway. The only objection to taking up this idea was that the blocks were needed at once and it would require some time to get a plant in working order.

Ald. Humber at this point made a reference to the fact that during frosty weather horses were falling down on the block pavement in a scandalous fashion.

Mr. Bryson, in reply to questions, said that horses would slip on almost any kind of pavement when there was a coating of ice on it. The only remedy was the generous use of sand. He had instructed carts to get around earlier in the morning hereafter, so that the streets would be sanded before the teams commenced moving about.

Ald. Ross wanted to know what was delaying that work of laying down the block pavement in front of the brewery on Government street.

Mr. Bryson, in reply, said that the milling companies would not give the city any more blocks.

Asked to explain, Mr. Bryson added that the milling companies were determined that the city would not get any more blocks until they had accepted a tender for the supply which they needed for this year.

"A hold-up," "scandalous," "outrageous," and other terms were used to describe this action on the part of the milling companies, and Ald. Sargison suggested that the city engineer be instructed to call for tenders for wood blocks at Vancouver and Seattle.

Mr. Bryson explained that the milling companies had difficulty in complying with the specifications which had been set by the city in the asking for the supply needed for this year.

An animated discussion as to what had better be done ensued, and finally the city engineer was instructed to



A DISCOVERY BY THE ISLAND EXPLORERS. ROBINSON CRUSOE WILSON—"Eureka!—Here are traces of a rara avis—a species hitherto believed to be extinct on the south of the Island."

### STRENGTHENING CITY'S DEFENCES

#### REBEL ATTACK ON MANAGUA EXPECTED

#### Government Troops Forced Recent Fighting But Both Sides Claim Victory

#### FIRE DESTROY'S STORES.

#### SWAN RIVER, MANU, FEB. 19.—R. McKay's general store and Miss Baldwin's millinery store were destroyed by fire this morning. The loss is covered by insurance.

#### NEW THEATRE FOR WINNIPEG.

#### Winnipeg, Feb. 19.—C. P. Walker, of the Walker theatre, to-day purchased the Winnipeg theatre, controlled to date by the Shuberts, and will build a third theatre here for vaudeville in the spring.

#### SCARLET FEVER AND MEASLES.

#### SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., FEB. 19.—The energies of the United States marine and hospital corps to-day are being devoted to prevent the spread of an epidemic of scarlet fever and measles at the naval training station on Goat Island. The training ship Independence has been placed under a strict quarantine, and 221 apprentices are aboard the vessel. In addition to the youngsters, thirty-four bluejackets from Mare Island yard have been sent to the yard hospital and one hundred more are being held for observation near the hospital. The most prevalent is measles, while the number of scarlet fever victims is eight.

#### CANADIAN HONORED.

#### LONDON, FEB. 19.—Lord Strathcona to-day received the Murchison medal of the Geographical Society on behalf of Professor Coleman, of Toronto, for distinguished service.

#### WASTING OF DALLAS ROAD FORESHORE.

#### This illustration shows in the most striking fashion the inadequacy of the present retaining wall which has been erected along the foreshore at Dallas

#### as great a pace as before some thousands of dollars were expended in this ineffectual effort to stop the damage.

#### line of vehicular traffic to prevent children falling down the embankment. The roadway in this section is very dangerous after nightfall. There are

#### few street lights on Dallas and it is distinctly dangerous for less drivers of vehicles are

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### CAPT. HUGHES DIED SATURDAY

#### C. P. R. NAVIGATOR HAS PASSED AWAY

#### Deceased Was Well Known Figure Among Shipping Men in Victoria

#### LATE CAPTAIN HUGHES.

#### had been unwell a good deal since the fall into the hatch of the Princess Yatic, nearly a year ago. He had improved a good deal lately and his plans for the Atlantic and later sailed to different parts of the world. He came here over 20 years ago, and was master of the sailing schooner Carmelite when she was seized by the Russians at Copper Island in 1882. He and his crew were taken to Petropaulovski and thence to Vladivostok. He was seventeen days on board the Russian warship, and was then sent to Nagasaki, Japan, from which place he returned to Victoria by way of the Empress of Japan.

#### Besides the Carmelite, Capt. Hughes also commanded the sealing schooners Black Diamond, Mary Ellen and Ida Etta. He was a shareholder in the last mentioned vessel along with his brother and father, and Captains A. H. and Charles Burns. He operated this vessel for several seasons, and was a successful and skilful navigator.

#### In the year 1887 Capt. Hughes entered the services of the Canadian Pacific Navigation Company as mate on the steamer Willaba. He then acted in the same capacity on the Queen City, which he later commanded. He then took command of the Amur and the Tees, plying up the west coast for some years. When the Princess Beatrice was built at Esquimalt he was given the new vessel, and was promoted to the Princess Royal when she went into commission. He was on that steamer quite recently, when he was compelled through illness to relinquish his command, expecting to return, however, as soon as he was recovered.

#### Capt. Hughes leaves a wife and three children—George, Harry, and recently pilot on the Princess Beatrice, and Mrs. Murray of Hillside avenue.

#### There was no excitement when vessel sank after striking iceberg

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### GOVERNMENT AND HOUSE OF LORDS

#### H. L. SAMUEL SAYS ACTION WILL BE SWIFT

#### Finances Will Be Given Precedence Over Veto Question

London, Feb. 19.—Keir Hardie has endorsed the attitude taken by G. N. Barnes, the new chairman of the Labor party in parliament, having previously thought that Premier Asquith had guaranteed from the King regarding the government's programme. Individual Laborites disavow the ultimatum which Barnes sent to Premier Asquith demanding that the veto question precede the budget measure in the House. Some of these individuals allege that the Labor party has not as yet reached a decision, and asserted that the chairman's manner constituted merely an expression of his personal opinion. This view is taken by Philip Snowden.

The demand for "guarantees," which the Laborites and Nationalists must know that Premier Asquith cannot seek from King Edward until the prime minister is enabled to demonstrate by the actual voting in the House of Commons that he has a solid majority of the House at his back, is described as being in the nature of a bluff. Premier Asquith appears to have met this bluff with a reiteration of his determination to clear up the financial situation before launching a campaign against the veto of the House of Lords.

H. L. Samuel in a speech last night declared the government's action respecting the House of Lords would be swift, courageous and decisive.

Sir W. Robson said the government would emerge triumphant from the crisis.

The Liberal press expresses confidence that neither the Irishmen, Laborites nor extreme Radicals will eventually play the Lords' game.

It is expected that John Redmond will solve his conscience by offering an amendment to the effect that Ireland shall be excluded from the operation of the land and excise clauses of the financial bill. The premier cannot possibly accept such an amendment, but the Irish leader will be in a position to say that he did all he could, and with this explanation will allow the budget to pass.

The Irish Times says: "We may be confident that if Mr. Redmond has really thrown down the gauntlet to the cabinet he has done so with reluctance. Redmond's choice, if indeed, it has been finally made, has been decided by three factors in the situation. First, his speech at Grasmouth Hotel. It may have been intended originally as a bluff, but Nationalist Ireland has taken it seriously and he may have come to the conclusion that if he retreats from it now the storm of public disgust will shatter the already tottering fabric of his autonomy in Ireland. Healy and O'Brien would then have an opportunity after their own hearts and might be trusted to exploit it with pitiless efficiency."

### KAISER ATTACKED IN REICHSTAG

#### SOCIALIST'S SPEECH CAUSES UPROAR

#### Chancellor Replies With Bitterness Which Adds to the Turmoil

(Times Leased Wire)

Berlin, Feb. 19.—Emperor William and Chancellor Bethman von Helldorf to-day were attacked on the floor of the Reichstag by Dr. Frank, the leader of the Socialists, in the German representative body.

Frank declared that the same law which brought the Reichstag into being was responsible for the creation of the "Kaiser." Dr. Frank declared that as Chancellor von Helldorf had attacked the basic suffrage principle by the Reichstag as a demoralizing and dangerous influence in public life, he had the same right to use those terms concerning the Kaiser.

When Frank attacked the Kaiser, Vice-President Shahn, who was presiding, called him to order saying that no speaker would be allowed to use the Kaiser's name in the debate.

"I will say what I like about the Kaiser," retorted Frank.

"We have no cause to shrink from mentioning the Kaiser as though he were a divinity. I favor respecting the Kaiser, but I must insist that the same respect be given the Reichstag."

The Conservative side tried to lay Frank down, but the Socialists though outnumbered cheered and applauded wildly. Frank continued:

"The Prussian government in suppressing public demonstrations has methods such as have been employed during the last week, will yet prove a revolution. If a revolution starts the Socialists will sweep away the chancellor and all obstacles to popular government."

The speech was accompanied by one of the most uproarious scenes witnessed in recent years in the Reichstag, which has been torn by furious dissension frequently of late. The Socialists members, who have been stirred to a fever of intense resentment by the attacks made by soldiers upon street crowds during the last week, were in their enthusiasm over the leader's speech.

Chancellor von Helldorf replied in a bitter speech in which he in turn attacked the Socialists. The hosts and jeers which the Conservatives hurled at Frank were in turn taken up by the Socialists who greeted the chancellor with disrespect equal to that received from their opponents.

The chancellor declared that demoralization of the popular franchise had widened the scope of the government but had degraded the tone of public life.

### AGAIN LOST ON TUESDAY

#### CITY COUNCIL REAG OAK BAY AG Meeting of Board La Was a Very L One

#### The city council at a held on Thursday afternoon agreed agreement with city of Oak Bay in respect of water. This outcome on the resolution could have been anticipated, it is the conclusion of the city council.

#### On the agreement by Ald. Langley, chairman of the water committee, it was noted that the agreement had been made to the satisfaction of the city council.

#### The water company to streets and lay mains, city should acquire the property, whether by purchase or lease.

#### In regard to the matter he said this figure is after a calculation given by the water company.

#### The question had been fair to the large man in Victoria who had been in the city for some time.

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