

CITY COUNCIL

FIRST MEETING OF NEW BOARD TO-NIGHT

A Reference to Some Big Problems Confronting Board This Year

(From Monday's Daily.)

The city council's annual inaugural session, following the general elections which fix for another year the personnel of the board, is always a more than ordinarily interesting event in municipal circles, but there are some special circumstances attendant upon to-night's meeting which will make the session an exceptional one in many respects; and it may be anticipated, therefore, that there will be a goodly attendance of spectators.

The first session of a newly installed board is usually seized upon by the mayor as an occasion to indicate to his colleagues the scope and character of the chief civic undertakings which will engage their attention for the ensuing twelve months, and Mayor Morley may be expected to do the same this evening. The problems confronting the board are easily the most important that have ever been advanced in the history of the city. The project for the bringing of water from Sooke Lake is in itself a task so huge that had the board not other business before it its time might well be fully occupied; but there are other projects arising out of the growth and development of the city, the successful execution of the work of the various departments, the extension of trunk roads, the extension of Pandora avenue, the enlargement of the sewerage system, the carrying out of the details of the work of the various departments, the extension of View street, the protection of the city's interests in the matter of the sub-division of the Songhees Indian reserve, not to mention the catching up with some two million dollars worth of works of local improvements which are being carried out during the past twelve months.

Besides some routine business which will be transacted at this evening's meeting of the council, the mayor will announce the personnel of the standing committees for the year. As for the Saturday issue of the Times, Ald. Gleason will be given the most important post outside the mayor's office that of the chairmanship of the streets committee. Ald. Gleason, having had previous experience in the office, being familiar with the needs of the city in the matter of works of local improvement, is expected to be able to preside over the destinies of this important department with every credit to himself and satisfaction to the community. The mayor's inaugural address may be expected to contain some reference to suggested ways and means for the carrying out of the will of the people on the problem of an increased water supply; and it is anticipated that he will look to the formation of a permanent water committee, whose duty it will be to supervise everything in connection with the huge task of bringing water from Sooke Lake.

As regards the improvement of the trunk roads of the city, Times readers will recall that immediately on taking office in 1910 Mayor Morley made a strenuous endeavor to have the council embark upon a fixed policy in this connection. The engineer prepared plans for the improvement of certain thoroughfares, which were designated trunk roads, and it was determined to proceed with the work, but the accumulation of other works in the engineering department was so overworking that little or nothing was done. His Worship made it clear, however, in his recent speech to the legislature that he will tolerate no such procrastination this year, for he stated in the most specific terms that he intended to re-elected to see that the Esquimalt and Gorge roads were paved their entire length, as far as the city limits, during the year 1911.

It is likely that the mayor will tonight also make some reference to the fact imposed upon the board this year in view of the mandate from the people on the question submitted in the referendum by-law. They have pronounced in favor of the election of license and police commissioners rather than their appointment as at present, the abolition of saloon and bottle licenses and the tax on improvements, the council will no doubt be asked to take the task at an early date of considering ways and means to give effect to this expressed desire of the electorate. The legislative committee will probably be asked to prepare the necessary memorial to the legislature so that the municipal act may be amended to empower the board to legislate along lines to give effect to the decision of the people.

At the time when the questions set out in the referendum by-law were before the council it was decided, despite a protest from the mayor, to strike out that referring to the erection of a new city hall. The mayor is strongly of the opinion that the time has arrived when the present obsolete structure which does duty as a city hall should be abandoned for a more modern building, one that will be in keeping with the dignity and importance of the capital city of a great province.

(Concluded on page 4.)

ENABLING BILL

GRAVE DIFFICULTY IN MUNICIPAL SITUATION

Rumored That Members of the Court of Revision Blundered Knowingly

(From Monday's Daily.)

The one topic of conversation in circles where municipal matters are of paramount interest is the development imperiling the positions of the mayor and his colleagues at the council board elected on Thursday last because of the alleged flaw in the procedure followed by the court of revision in the preparation of the voters' lists.

It is alleged with the utmost circumstantially that during the recent sessions of the court of revision, which was composed of Mayor Morley, Ald. Rannerman and Ald. Sargison, the city solicitor, F. A. McDermid, pointed out the position that while the procedure was doubtful it might be as well to follow the same procedure as in former years and "take a chance" of having the government pass an enabling bill afterwards. In the event of the procedure being disputed, the members of the court of revision took the advice of its own solicitor, but it is contended by those familiar with governmental practice in these matters that the legislature will, in face of the alleged fact that the court of revision persisted in its procedure despite the advice of its own solicitor, refuse to pass an enabling bill.

In view of the application of B. J. Perry to have the election quashed because of what is claimed to be faulty procedure, the case is, of course, subject to the decision of the court, but the familiar with governmental practice in these matters that the legislature will, in face of the alleged fact that the court of revision persisted in its procedure despite the advice of its own solicitor, refuse to pass an enabling bill.

SHIPPERS OPPOSE INCREASED RATES

Declare Advances by Railways Would Cost Them \$12,000,000 Annually

Washington, D. C., Jan. 16.—Declaring that the proposed increase in railroad rates would cost them not less than \$12,000,000 annually, western shippers to-day made a more bitter attack on the proposed advance at the final hearing of the matter before the interstate commerce commission. The loss, they asserted, was reckoned definitely on the sixty commodities directly affected, but they averred that the sum would be still further increased by sympathetic increases on other articles not definitely specified.

Combating assertions of the railroads, the shippers declared that traffic profits on the roads had increased enormously in recent years, and that if the net returns were smaller it was because of the watering of books and the transference of expenses by the roads to hide their real condition.

PRESENT DEMAND FOR MORE WAGES

Dispatchers on Northwestern Railways Ask for Increase of \$25 a Month

Portland, Ore., Jan. 16.—Train dispatchers employed on all northwestern railroads to-day presented demands for a salary increase of \$25 per month. Trainmasters also made a demand for a substantial addition to the remuneration they now receive.

The dispatchers based their demand on the grounds that their work has practically doubled recently, owing to the rapid growth of traffic, while their salaries have practically remained stationary.

As further reason they declare that trainmen employed in lesser capacities receive higher pay. The average salary of dispatchers in the west is \$400. If the demands are not acted upon before June, the dispatchers say that they will organize a labor union and present their demands as a union.



WHAT HE WOULD LIKE TO DO.

GIRL IS KILLED WHILE COASTING

Another Fatality at Vancouver

Vancouver, Jan. 16.—The second coasting fatality of the week occurred at the corner of Yew and York streets, on Saturday afternoon, when a sled, on which a girl was riding, was struck by a car, and the girl was killed.

With a number of companions the young girl left the house early in the afternoon to glide down the hill on Yew street. The sled, which was being pushed by a man, was coming down the hill at a rapid pace, as an express wagon turned from York street to go up the hill. The girl was completely powerless to stop herself, she being at the rear of the sled, and the next moment her small form dived between the two and rear wheels of the vehicle, the latter portion of the wagon passing over her chest and crushing her life out.

Doctors A. L. Johnson and W. H. Lang were summoned, and they pronounced that death had been almost instantaneous. The city ambulance was then called, and the body was removed to the home of the parents.

Earlier in the week, a fourteen-year-old boy was killed as a result of coasting on a hill in South Vancouver.

Boy Injured. Portland, Ore., Jan. 16.—His wind-pipe severed, as a result of a coasting accident last night, Russell Standley, the 12-year-old son of Mrs. W. I. Standley, lies at the point of death at the Good Samaritan hospital to-day.

Physicians stated that in event the lad recovers that he probably will lose his voice.

With other youths about the same age as himself, Standley was coasting on Davenport street on Portland Heights. The runner of a sled struck him in such a manner as to slash through his wind-pipe.

Accident at Seattle. Seattle, Wash., Jan. 16.—Nine young people are nursing severe bruises to-day as a result of an accident on a local coasting hill yesterday morning. A long bob sled bearing nearly a dozen young people sledged from its course and crashed into a telephone pole. Three of those on the sled were seriously hurt. Miss Ida Bishop suffered fractures of the left leg in two places. Ed Lewis a broken leg, and Thomas Harkyard, crumpled about the legs and body. He is in the hospital.

COAL SHORTAGE IN SASKATCHEWAN

Many Dealers Have Exhausted Supply

Regina, Jan. 16.—While so far no complaints have been received by the department of agriculture, there is little doubt that unless there is shortly some let up in the present severe spell of weather, something like a fuel famine will be experienced in many parts of the province. Already shortages exist at Qu'Appelle, Arcola, Prince Albert and several other points, and stocks of coal and wood are beginning to get extremely low at many other places.

Here, in Regina, some of the coal dealers have already exhausted their supply, while others will soon be out of coal. The scarcity of fuel has led to shutting down of the light plant. Dispatchers from Arcola state that four of the local coal yards have exhausted their supplies.

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Summers in Moose Mountain district are suffering considerably and if the present train blockade continues it is likely the government will be asked to allow farmers to cut wood from Moose Mountain forest reserve without getting permits ordinarily required.

UPKEEP OF ROADS BY PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

Government Proposed to Increase Its Share of Cost to Over One-Third

Toronto, Jan. 16.—The rounding out of the Ontario government's road road system by increasing the government share in the cost of maintaining of improved roads will be proposed at the approaching session. At present the government pays one-third the cost of improving highways, the municipality bearing the remaining expenditure, but the proposed system would insure the roads being kept up constantly to a high standard.

WIRELESS AMALGAMATION. Berlin, Jan. 16.—The Berlin Operating Company for wireless telegraphing has been organized, with headquarters at Berlin. It is an amalgamation of all the German wireless interests and the Belgian wireless company of Brussels.

WOULD BIND THE TIES OF EMPIRE

SUGGESTION REGARDING CORONATION IN LONDON

Proposal That Colonial Representatives Should Take Part—All-Red Projects

(Special to the Times.)

London, Jan. 16.—Lord Strathcona, speaking against the suggestion that colonial representatives should have a part in the coronation ceremonies, says that such would be hailed by Canadians as a priceless privilege and would mark a further advance along the path of imperial union. In Canada loyalty to the Crown is the outstanding feature of national life and the imperial idea has gripped in Canada as never before. "How far the suggested innovation is possible I am unable to say, but I am sure His Majesty will see that the colonies are adequately represented," said Lord Strathcona.

Seeking Information. Professor Hewins, speaking at Rochdale, stated that when parliament opens the Unionists would want to know what the government has been doing regarding the situation which has long been developing between Canada and the United States, and what has been done in regard to the definite pledge of the All-Red project.

GOES TO LONDON. (Special to the Times.)

Toronto, Jan. 16.—Owing to the serious illness from pneumonia of N. B. Colock, Ontario government agent in London, Hon. Dr. Reaume, minister of public works, has gone to England to oversee the commencement of the work of reconstructing the Ontario government office building on the Strand.

CHINAMAN ENDS LIFE IN FURNACE

After Filling the Furnace With Wood, He Crawls on Fuel and is Cremated

Nelson, B. C., Jan. 16.—An extraordinary case of suicide by a Chinaman who was hired as a porter at the Strathcona hospital, occurred yesterday. At 8 o'clock in the morning he was sent to attend to the furnace, which was nearly out. He filled it with wood turned on the drafts and apparently crawled on the top of the fuel. When found at 9 by other Chinamen at the hotel he had been burned to death and most of his body had been consumed. An inquest will be held. It is believed he was deranged.

INJURIES PROVE FATAL

Calgary, Jan. 16.—John Samuel Sayre, formerly of Osceola, Iowa, and manager of a local automobile agency, died in the Holy Cross hospital from injuries received in an automobile accident in the First street subway.

TWO INJURED BY EXPLOSION OF GAS

One Man Hurlled Twelve Feet and Another Almost Buried Under the Wall

Windsor, Jan. 16.—John Hill, aged 30, was seriously injured in an explosion of natural gas at the Windsor salt works to-night. Another workman, name unknown, was slightly hurt.

After turning on the gas beneath the boiler Hill apparently waited too long before applying the match. When he did so there was a terrific concussion. Hill was thrown violently against the outer wall, twelve feet distant, while his comrade was almost buried beneath one of the brick walls surrounding the boiler, which collapsed upon him. Hill was found unconscious and bleeding. He was rushed to the Hotel Dieu, where the physicians say he will live. The damage to the salt plant will not prove serious.

KING EDWARD MEMORIAL. Letter Read in Churches in Montreal Calling Upon All Catholics to Subscribe to Fund. (Special to the Times.)

Montreal, Jan. 16.—A letter was read in the Catholic churches yesterday from Archbishop Bruchési calling upon all Catholics to show their loyalty and their appreciation of the late King Edward's services to humanity as a peace maker by subscribing to the King Edward memorial fund.

FORMER BANKER SENT TO JAIL

TRAVERS GIVEN SIX YEARS IN PENITENTIARY

Warrant Issued for Arrest of Dr. Beattie Nesbitt, Who is a Fugitive

(Special to the Times.)

Toronto, Jan. 16.—W. R. Travers, former manager of the Farmers' Bank, who pleaded guilty on Friday to stealing \$40,000 from the bank, to falsifying returns to the Government and altering a minute, was to-day sentenced to six years in Kingston penitentiary.

There will be the usual shortening of the sentence due to good conduct, but even at that, the penalty imposed was quite as severe as the public generally had been inclined to believe would be the case. Travers took his sentence quite calmly.

Meeting Tuesday. Startling disclosures are indicated for the meeting of the Farmers' Bank stockholders and depositors to-morrow. It is understood the liquidator, S. T. Clarkson, has probed into the affairs of the bank from its flotation to its collapse and has information fully covering the steps which led to its failure and the sensational developments which followed. Any shareholder or any depositor will have the right at the meeting to-morrow to ask any question and to be given any information the liquidator has in his possession.

"Does the confession of Travers mean that the lid is on the Farmers' bank case?" was asked Mr. Clarkson. "By no means," he replied. "I mean to give the matter the fullest publicity." Arrest Expected.

Toronto, Jan. 16.—A warrant has been issued for the arrest of Dr. Beattie Nesbitt. By about twelve hours he eluded the local police, who had gone to his summer home in Muskoka. When last seen he was driving for Niagara and others boarded a C. N. train. The crown authorities, however, are determined to capture Dr. Nesbitt, as they claim he can explain to them a lot of things about the way much of the money of the Farmers' Bank went.

Canada and the United States are to be flooded with circulars giving a description of the fugitive and a reward for his arrest.

Inquiry Suggested. St. Thomas, Ont., Jan. 16.—Rev. Geo. Gilmore, who has been appointed to represent the depositors and stockholders of the defunct Farmers' Bank from this section, at the meeting in Toronto on Tuesday, will press for four things:

First, he will ask for the prosecution of any officers or acting officers of the bank who may have behaved in any original manner.

Second, the appointment of a royal commission to investigate the affairs of the bank since its inception.

Third, the amending of the Banking Act to insure direct and indirect government inspection or audit.

Fourth, to amend the act to make the directors of chartered banks severally and personally liable and responsible for all losses incurred.

JOSEPH MARTIN'S TRIP. Arrives at Winnipeg on Way to the Coast. (Special to the Times.)

Winnipeg, Jan. 16.—Joseph Martin, M. P. for East St. Francis, arrived here yesterday and leaves to-morrow on a flying visit to the coast on a business trip. He expects to pick up "Winnipeg" in a few days on his way to the Old Country for the opening of parliament.

ASK INCREASED WAGES. (Special to the Times.)

Toronto, Jan. 16.—Following the announcement that the seasonal indemnity of the members of the Ontario legislature is to be increased from \$1,000 to \$1,500 per session, the messengers at the parliament buildings are agitating for an increase in their modest emoluments. The regular messengers receive \$70 per year and the seasonal messengers \$20 per day.

JUMP PROVES FATAL. Los Angeles, Cal., Jan. 16.—Remarking to friends that most people, especially women, never know how to get off a moving car properly, J. O. Nickker leaped from a street car to show his companions how to alight correctly, fell and fractured his skull, dying a few hours later.

After Nickker was injured he jumped up, and while explaining that his feat would have been successful if the pavement had not been wet, he became unconscious.

KILLED BY STREET CAR. Seattle, Wash., Jan. 16.—A South Park street car, skidding on icy rails at First avenue south and Atlantic avenue on Saturday, crashed into an express car on the track, and instantly killed Ole Peterson, who was riding in the wagon, and seriously injured James Tafley, who had been sitting beside Peterson.

KILLED BY FALLING WALL. Detroit, Mich., Jan. 16.—In a fire which destroyed the Griswold Motor & Boat Company's plant, Captain Levi T. Fletcher, of engine company No. 13, was caught under a falling wall and killed.