Weekly Colonist

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND, 1888.

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY MORNING.

BY

W. H. ELLIS, A. G. SARGISON, } ELLIS & CO.

THE COLONIST BUILDING, GOVERNMENT ST.

TERMS:

THE DAILY COLONIST,

PUBLISHED EVERY DAY EXCEPT MONDAY

Per Year, (Postage Free to any part of Canada).....$10 00
Parts of a year at the same rate.....
Per week (if delivered).....25

THE WEEKLY COLONIST.

Per Year, (Postage Free to any part of the Dominion or United States.....$2 00
Six Months.....1 25
Three Months.....75
Subscriptions in all cases are payable strictly IN ADVANCE.

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"DEFENCELESS CANADA."

The Americans have of late been paying a good deal attention to Canada. Some of them evidently do not regard our country in the most friendly manner. They are taking stock of us and considering our ability with the help of Great Britain successfully to resist invasion by the United States. One of these envious critics is General Ben Butler. He has contributed to the current number of the *North American Review* an article bearing the title "Defenceless Canada." He in that article gives it as his opinion that Canada must be annexed to the United States. "Peacefully we hope, forcibly if we must." It is to show how easily Canada can be forcefully taken possession of by the United States that B. Butler writes this article. He assumes that the United States will some day go to war with Great Britain for the express purpose of wresting Canada out of her hands. He has the whole campaign planned out. The declaration of war must be in the winter, when, as he thinks, the harbors of Canada will be closed by impenetrable masses of ice. This ice, he says, "would make her ships for that time as idle as a painted ship upon a painted ocean—hardly as effective as a sand fort for any warlike purpose because not in the right place." General Butler seems to be ignorant of the fact that Canada has harbors which are not blockaded by ice even in the coldest months of the severest winters, and that those harbors are connected with the inland parts of the Dominion by railways as effective as are to be found in the United States. He chuckles over what he considers the fact that an American army could cross the ice bridge to any indicated point without there being a regiment of British soldiers on Canadian soil to meet them. Canada would, he considers, be utterly defenceless and the protection of Great Britain would not avail her in the least. Having invaded the defenceless and unoffending country at a season of the year "when every corn barn and wheat bin will be full, every smokehouse and cattle pen will be a commissary depôt," the American army will proceed to take possession of it, its inhabitants, of course, not daring to make the slightest resistance, and then the conquering heroes with a Ben Butler at their head will proceed to levy contributions on its cities and towns, not, of course, forgetting the spoons, and parcel out its lands among themselves. The prospect of wholesale robbery appears to be very grateful to old Benjamin. Just see how coolly the hoary freebooter talks about dividing Canada as a prey among the men who for the purpose of plunder and no other should invade it. He says:

Such absorption of British Territory would give us the means through land warrants, homesteads and grants, of paying the pensions and bounties for our soldiers who might serve in this war, which, by the liberal justice of our people, have come to be the greatest source of expenditure, because of carrying on a war. There are some very fine lands in British America, especially timber lands. In addition, she raises great quantities of cattle, horses, corn and potatoes.

This is the scheme which a prominent American citizen has the assurance to place before the American people in a publication calling itself respectable! A more flagrant scheme of wholesale robbery was never concocted. The argument is: "Canada is defenceless, therefore the American people are justified in invading her and dividing her lands among the invaders. We have heard that Ben Butler is wholly devoid of moral sense, but never saw it so clearly exemplified, not even in the New Orleans episode of his career, as in this article in the *North American Review*, and he seems to expect that his countrymen are as unscrupulous as he is himself. But he is surely mistaken. If Canada is as he represents, "defenceless"—which, by the way, is very far from being the case—is that any reason why the United States should take advantage of her weakness to rob her and to place upon her neck a yoke which the great mass of her people are unwilling to wear. We are quite certain that not one American citizen in a hundred thousand is so utterly unprincipled as to approve of either the sentiments or the schemes of the lawyer-general. But Canada, as all intelligent Americans know, is very far indeed from being defenceless. There are on its soil over a million of men of a good fighting stock who, if put to it, would offer a resistance to an invading force which even the armies of the United States could not afford to despise. And there is no fear of the Mother Country standing by idle and indifferent while Canadians were compelled to defend their hearths and their homes.

REPORT TWO,

Auditors' report Number Two reveals a state of things that every business man in the community must regard as most deplorable. The carelessness and the negligence of the late treasurer and those to whom he was immediately responsible, were in the highest degree reprehensible. To suffer the account books of the treasury to remain closed from the 1st of January to the 30th of September, must appear to everyone who understands anything of business incredible. When such an extraordinary state of things prevailed for so long a time it is surprising that the financial affairs of the city have not fallen into a state of inextricable confusion. To bring order out of such a chaos must have been a work requiring for its successful performance great skill and wonderful patience. The task before the auditors was truly herculean. When it is considered how easy it is to lose the track of money transactions when no regular record is kept, and how hard it is to trace them and put them in anything like order after months have elapsed, some idea may be formed of the state into which the city's finances had fallen and the work that had to be done in order to find out how matters really stood. It is hard to believe that the Treasurer could be permitted thus to neglect his duties. But here is what the auditors say: "As foreshadowed in Report No. 1, we found that all transactions since December last still remained unrecorded in the cash books, auxiliary and general, the journal and ledger, except in the solitary instance of the bank account, and to us the aspect of the department of accounts was that of an association in the throes of approaching dissolution." The system in which such a state of things was possible is irredeemably bad. If the Treasurer had been under proper supervision, if those to whom the oversight of the city's affairs had been entrusted had acted as common sense and common prudence dictated, they would have known how the Treasurer neglected his business, and knowing it, it is impossible to imagine any men so neglectful of their duty as not to insist upon an immediate and thorough reform. To allow the Treasurer to go on, month after month, receiving monies and not to have as much as the scratch of a pen to show that they had been left in his hands is such a reckless disregard of all business rules and precautions as to prove that the men guilty of it are utterly unfit to occupy any position of trust. If, when examined as closely as the money transactions of the city, when so mixed up and confused, could be examined not a single dollar was missing the incapacity and negligence exhibited by the treasurer and the officers to whom he was responsible, proved that it would be the utmost folly to continue to keep them in office. But when it is seen that money is missing and that the same neglect, carelessness and want of punctuality are the characteristics of the whole financial department of the city, the necessity of calling to account all who are responsible, either directly or indirectly, for such a dangerous and disgraceful state of things appears all the more urgent. The report shows that sub-collectors have been allowed to hold considerable sums of the city's money in their hands for indefinite periods. This is part of the same loose system that should never have been permitted. The whole extent of the mischief which has been caused by this disorder is not yet known. The examination of the arrears of real estate tax, of insurance tax, of water rate and of tenders and other licenses is still incomplete. What discoveries are yet to be made and what new proofs of the amazing carelessness in which the finances of the city have been administered will be found it is impossible to conjecture, but from what we have already seen we will not be surprised at any revelations that may hereafter be made. It may be said that the head of the corporation was ignorant of how the late Treasurer neglected his duties. Admitting this to be true, it is no excuse. It is his business to know how the work of the corporation is carried on, and if he remained ignorant of what he would have known by half-an-hour's enquiry no valid excuse can be offered for his not making that enquiry. He was elected to guard the rights and the interests of the ratepayers, and if he suffered them to be robbed when, by using due diligence, he could have saved them from loss, it is clear that he is to a very large extent responsible for the evils which have been caused by the dishonesty, the incapacity and the negligence of officials over whom he had the oversight. There is no avoiding this conclusion. If the Mayor knew of the way in which the business of the city was managed and did not take the steps plainly prescribed by the law for the Treasurer's removal, he must bear the blame of the mismanagement which he permitted; and if he did not know of the state in which the city's accounts were he ought to have known. The Report of the Auditors shows the necessity that there is for a thorough reform of the city's Financial department. The conclusion which every intelligent reader of the Report must come to is that it is more by good luck than good management that the city's losses are not ten times as great as they are shown to be by the Auditors' Report.

The Parnell Commission.

LONDON, Oct. 30.—On resuming the sitting of the Parnell commission this morning Attorney-General Webster, counsel for the *Times*, asked the court to enforce the order permitting the *Times* to inspect the bank books of the national league containing an account of the league's deposits at the Hibernian, the National and Munster banks. President Hannan said that if the banks under color of protecting the privacy of their clients, obstructed the investigation by the commission, the court would put its power in force. Sir Charles Russell, counsellor for the Parnellites, intimated that his clients would raise no objection to the production of the books. The hearing of evidence was then begun.

DISMISSED!

Lord Sackville's Presence at Washington no Longer Acceptable to the U.S. Government.

Press Comment on the Minister's Dismissal—Secretary Bayard's Action Criticized.

Lord Sackville Declines to Speak Upon the Subject—Nothing Yet Heard From England.

(Special to THE COLONIST.)

LORD SACKVILLE'S DEMISSAL.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31.—The form of Lord Sackville's dismissal is as follows:—

"MY LORD—By direction of the President, I have the honor to inform you that for causes heretofore made known to Her Majesty's Government, your continuance in your present official situation near the government is no longer acceptable, and would consequently be detrimental to the good relations between the two powers. I have the further honor, by direction of the President, to enclose you a letter of safe conduct through the Territories of the United States.

"I have the honor to be,
"Your Obedient Servant,
"(Signed) T. F. BAYARD."

PRESS COMMENTS.

NEW YORK, Oct. 31.—The papers this morning make the following editorial comments on President Cleveland's action regarding the Sackville incident:—

Sun—If Mr. Cleveland has erred in his treatment of this annoying precedent, it has been on the side of over-deliberation, and yet it may be thought that the humiliation of the British government is greater, since it failed to take advantage of the loophole of escape offered it by Mr. Cleveland.

World—It is well that Lord Sackville is to go. The lesson will not be lost upon other distinguished gentlemen of diplomatic persuasion. England will think better of us, and the republican politicians who have been counting upon the bugaboo provided by the saggy British minister will probably learn that after all this is not a day of small things.

Times—The incident is ended in a manner altogether creditable to the administration at Washington, and with the least possible harm.

Tribune—It has taken the President ten days to find out that something had to be done about it. At least he has done what was demanded from the very first, but the President waited too long. The real importance of the incident lies in the conclusive proof of English feeling at the judgment it furnishes, and that it is not in the least effected by the President's tardy action.

Herald—What we believe the better sense of the American people will conclude is, that the President has allowed his temper to get the better of his judgment in his manner of dealing with this matter. We regret that in the treatment of this case he has, under the influence of an incapable and hysterical secretary of state, acted in a way to forfeit something of the high opinion which his fellow-citizens had of him. We trust that he will make haste to dismiss Mr. Bayard and get himself a secretary of state on whose self-possession, calmness and serious advice he can more safely depend.

RECOVERED EQUANIMITY.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31.—At the State department matters seem to be running along smoothly to-day and without excitement, and the Sackville incident has apparently ended, for the present at least. Nothing has as yet been heard from Minister Phelps regarding the attitude or view that the British government may take of the affair. Lord Sackville again to-day positively but courteously refused to be interviewed or to make public a copy of the letter received from Secretary Bayard yesterday.

A SIMILAR CASE IN 1885.

A prominent official of the state department said to-night that if diplomatic precedents were followed the British minister would forward the President's notification to his home government, and that in due course he would receive leave of absence for an indefinite period. No further action would be taken by this government, whether the minister continued to live in Washington or not. The old time custom of 24 hours' notice to quit the country had been abandoned. Records of the state department show that Lord Sackville's case is quite analagous to that of Sir John Crampton, representative of England at Washington in 1856. He violated the international law of nationality by seeking recruits for the British army in the Crimea. The facts were laid before the British government and Sir John was notified that his conduct was displeasing to the United States and his withdrawal ensued.

LORD SACKVILLE INTERVIEWED.

BOSTON, Oct. 31.—Secretary Bayard's official communication was delivered to Lord Sackville at the British legation yesterday afternoon. Later in the evening a copy of the secretary's statement to the President was shown to the minister. He read it carefully and declined to make any formal statement. He was evidently annoyed, and said that any information as to his communications with the state department should be sought there. That it seemed to be the news distributing centre. Lord Sackville was much averse to discussing the subject for a long time. He refused to be interviewed, although the legation was besieged by correspondents of all the principal papers in the country. He finally admitted one or two correspondents, and consented to answer one or two questions. He said he had read Secretary Bayard's letter to the President, and was familiar with its contents. He disagreed with the Secretary in his conclusions, especially regarding the obligations of American citizens of English birth. The action of the government was arbitrary and the argument of the Secretary was illogical. A response by the home government to the demand of the United States would come by mail, and it had not an opportunity to cross the water. Further than this Lord Sackville refused to comment on the action of the government.

CABLE NEWS.

The Accident to the Czar's Train.

ST. PETERSBURG, Oct, 31.—Following is the official statement of the accident to the Czar's train, containing the Czar and Czarina and suite, which left Taranovka at noon on Monday. While passing through a deep gorge near Barki, the train left the rails. At the time of the accident the Czar and Czarina were in a saloon carriage at breakfast. When the first carriage left the track the rest of the train oscillated, and the succeeding carriages heeled over. The saloon carriage, although remaining on the track, was badly shattered, the roof falling in, but resting on part of the side and forming a shed for the occupants. It seems incredible that with such a crash any of the occupants should have escaped unhurt; but God protected the Czar and his family, who were taken from the *debris* uninjured. Some of the others received slight contusions. The only person severely injured was General Scherremetoff, aide-de-camp. The *Grashdanin* says that the train was drawn by two engines and consisted of several carriages besides the saloon carriage. The train was of massive construction. The latter was of massive construction. The train was running at a high rate, 65 versts an hour. When the first engine left the track it plowed up the road-bed and embedded itself in the earth. The second engine mounted the first and was wrecked. The first and second carriages, which were also wrecked, were occupied by court and railway officials, among whom were Baron Saint Jernval, chief inspector of railways, who was badly injured. Generals Vannooski and Tchorvan, who were in the saloon carriage with the Czar, received contusions. The Czar and Czarina remained at the scene for some time giving attention to the injured. Toward evening they returned to Sosowoje, the last station passed. Religious services have been held throughout the empire, giving thanks for the escape of the imperial family. The *Grashdanin* contradicts the official report of the accident in regard to the casualties, and affirms that 20 persons were killed, including Captain Bresch, staff courier, three couriers, and eight soldiers of the railway battalion. It also says that 18 others were injured. The imperial family passed over the Charkoff and Nicolaieff railway last evening on their way to Gatschina. All were well.

Fined for Publishing Forbidden Works.

LONDON, Oct. 31.—The publishing house of Vezetelly & Co., of this city, has been fined £100 for publishing the works of "Zola."

No Reliance in Reports.

BRUSSELS, Oct. 31.—King Leopold has received no news of Stanley. He places no reliance on the reports of his death.

COLLAPSED.

A Howe Truss Bridge Drops Fifty Feet Into a River.

One Man Killed and Ten Others Fatally or Seriously Injured—The Whole Structure Falls by the Loosening of a Girder.

(Special to THE COLONIST.)

DUQUOIN, Ills., Oct. 30.—A report reached this city yesterday afternoon of the sudden collapse of the large Howe iron truss bridge near Blairsville, sixteen miles south of here. The bridge was 170 feet in the clear and 48 feet above high-water, one span reaching clear across Big Muddy River. A gang of men were at work repairing the flooring, and an order was given one of them to loosen a girder a fraction of an inch. The girder was one of the main supporters, and on a turn of the wrench it swung the bridge out of plumb, and without a moments warning the vast mass dropped to the water fifty feet below. Wm. Thompson was instantly killed, and ten others seriously or fatally wounded. The injured are W. H. McRay, a broken collar bone; Arthur McRhea, jaw broken and hurt internally; James Campbell, left leg broken, one eye knocked out and head crushed, he will die; D. Maffeld, both arms broken and left side crushed; John Edmunds, back broken and dangerous internal injuries, he cannot recover; Thos. Robinson, one arm broken and badly crushed; Miles Harris, broken arm; Frank Leech, fingers of one hand cut off; Theodore Harris, both hips broken; an unknown man badly crushed. A valuable team of horses was killed.

ESQUIMALT NOTES.

General News Jottings, Marine Intelligence and Gossip About the Naval Yard.

The bark California arrived light from Sydney on Monday and left yesterday for Moodyville to load lumber.

A Norwegian bark arrived light from the Baltic yesterday and left at once for Moodyville to load lumber.

The bark Arabella leaves to-day for 'Frisco, lumber laden.

The ship Norcross sailed last evening for London with a valuable cargo of salmon and naval stores.

The good people of Esquimalt are still laughing at the escape of the deserters from the Norcross, who were being brought down from the provincial jail. They remember them last as they tried to pass a certain tree, one on either side, and after compromising and passing the tree, hung one on each side of a fence. Nothing is known of their present whereabouts.

A letter received by a resident of Esquimalt from one of the officers of H. M. S. Caroline, states that twelve of the Caroline's bluejackets ran away from the ship at 'Frisco.

Miss Gussie Howard is spending a week with friends in Vancouver.

The steamer Ancon is expected to go on the dry dock about the 16th of November, to be recaulked and recoppered.

AT THE NAVAL YARD.

The repairs at the naval yard are now well under way. A new light board fence 8 to 10 feet high extends from coast to coast, about 600 yards. It is now being neatly painted both inside and out. A new and substantial cart shed has been completed, 35 feet long by 18. New shot and anchor racks have also been built, and the torpedo shed is being entirely rebuilt.

The magazine on Magazine Island is being generally repaired; a new floor is being laid and many necessary alterations are being made. The guard room also has been practically rebuilt, new floors are being laid, and the building will be treated to a fresh coat of paint all over, inside and out. The yard is looking neat as a pin, and the visitors during the past week have been more numerous than usual.

IMPROVING THE ROAD.

The work of macadamizing the main road leading from Victoria is progressing very satisfactorily. If the weather continues favorable the work will probably be completed about the middle of December. The workmen have commenced at either end of the portion of the road to be macadamized, about 900 feet, and will meet on the completion of their labor. The macadam is being laid about nine inches deep in the centre of the road, tapering to five or six inches at the sides.

WESTMINSTER NEWS.

Large quantities of drift-wood passing down the river gives evidence of high water in the interior.

Farm produce is now arriving from up-river points in much greater quantities than ever before, and the steamboats are taxed to their utmost to handle the freight offered.

Thomas Morris, who was found to be insane last week, and was committed to the provincial gaol awaiting an opportunity to be admitted to the asylum, died on Monday night and was buried yesterday.

The number of salmon eggs now in the hatchery is a little over 4,250,000, which number is a million and a quarter short of the quantity at first intended should be secured. Unusually high water on the Harrison river has stopped the strippers' operations, by carrying away the trap gates and allowing the salmon to escape up the creek. The men are now working with a gill net on the bar at the head of the rapids and manage to catch a fair number of fish, but the mode is slow and tedious and it is doubtful if the full number of eggs will be stripped.—*Columbian.*

FROM THE DAILY COLONIST, NOV. 1.

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

After More Coal.

The Oyster Harbor Coal Mining Co. are about to continue their explorations for coal with a new and powerful Diamond drill which is now on the way from Chicago.

Another Railroad For Westminster.

Col. C. M. Sheafe, manager of the Bellingham Bay Railway and Navigation Co. has returned to Seattle from a trip to the east, in connection with his railroad business. He states that the company's road from Westminster to Seattle will be built and completed in the least possible time. The line will be commenced at Westminster and pushed forward as speedily as men and money can build it.

A Burglar Sentenced.

John Nelson, *alias* John Johnson, charged with burglarizing the house of John Dyer at South Saanich on the 18th instant, was tried on Tuesday before Mr. Justice Crease, in the county court, under the Speedy Trials Act, and sentenced to two years in the penetentiary. He was to have had a preliminary hearing yesterday on a second charge of burglarizing Isaac Hurd's house, at South Saanich, but Superintendent Roycraft withdrew the charge.

Canadian Pacific Extension.

A despatch from Spokane Falls states on reliable authority that the Canadian Pacific railway will build a branch line from Nelson, the end of navigation on the Kootenai lake, to the Columbia river, thus tapping the immense mineral belt of the Kootenai district. A line of steamers will be equipped on the Columbia river to connect with the main line of the Canadian Pacific at Revelstoke, a distance by river of 130 miles. Work will commence this fall.

Crushed by a Falling Tree.

Clinton Hesserr, a night-watchman employed at the Puget Sound Hide and Leather Co.'s tannery, Seattle, was instantly killed at his home in the suburbs of that city on Tuesday morning. Workmen were felling a tree close to Hesserr's house, and the tree in its fall turned out of its course and crashed down upon the house, breaking through the roof and crushing Hesserr's head into an unrecognizable mass. There were three children in the house at the time, but they escaped unhurt.

Obituary.

The friends and schoolmates of Miss Ethel B. Courtney will be deeply grieved to hear of that young lady's death, which occurred last evening at the residence of her grandfather, Mr. A. Calder. Miss Courtenay was at school on Monday, but she complained of a violent headache, and was advised by Miss Cameron, her teacher, to go home. This she did, and on Tuesday her illness culminated in brain fever. Despite medical aid she grew gradually worse, and last evening her death resulted, at the early age of ten years and eight months. The funeral will take place on Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock. The deceased was the only daughter of the late Mr. Henry C. Courtney, of this city.

Customs Collections.

Following are the customs collections at the port of Victoria, B.C., for the month ending 31st October, 1888:—

1888.	
Duties	$79,229 63
Miscellaneous	395 90
Chinese Immigration Act	37 00
	79,662 58
Collections October 1887	63,986 17
Increase	$15,676 41

Collections for the four months ending 31st October, 1888, and those for the four months of 1887:—

1888.	
July	$71,092 94
August	82,137 39
September	61,318 43
October	79,662 58
	$294,211 84
1887.	
July	$54,693 97
August	66,840 50
September	52,274 09
October	63,986 17
	237,794 73
Increase	$56,417 11

A Contractors' Ring.

A scheme on the part of certain contractors to bleed the city of San Francisco out of a large sum of money has just been unearthed. It appears that the harbor commissioners of that city had invited tenders for the construction of a section of the sea-wall, and the intending contractors formed a ring to get a big price for the work and then divide the profits. The value of the work, leaving a good margin for the builder, was estimated by competent engineers at about $98,000. When, however, the bids were opened, it was found that the tenders ranged from $118,000 to $165,000. J. S. Antonelli's bid was the lowest, and he was awarded the contract, the next lowest bid being $124,000. Antonelli's success aroused the indignation of the ring, and one of the number made some remarks which led to an investigation by the harbor commissioners. It was then learned that Mr. Antonelli had his man in the ring to find out what the figures of the others would be, and being in possession of this information he put in his bid lower than any of the others and of course was successful. Under the circumstances, the commissioners are thinking of taking the contract from him and re-advertising for the work, now that they know the sea-wall can be built at a fair profit for less than $100,000. Mr. Antonelli is well known in Victoria, having been one of the contractors on the E. & N. railway during its construction.

SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

The Gaelic athletes sailed yesterday from New York for Ireland.

E. R. Mohler and Bob Pratt fought with light gloves, London rules, on Tuesday night at Hinckley, Minn. Mohler was the better man, but lost on a foul. They will fight again.

HANLAN WILL TRY AGAIN.

LONDON, Oct. 31.—Beach and Hanlan have signed articles to row for £1,000. The race will be rowed on the Paramatta River on December first.

ROWING.

A dispatch from Australia announces that Searle has defeated Kemp in the match for the sculling championship and £500 on the Paramatta.

PERSONAL.

Hon. Jno. Robson left for Ottawa yesterday morning.

Robert Grant was a passenger from Vancouver last night.

Jas. Orr, M.P.P., arrived down from Vancouver last evening.

A. Ausley and wife, Toronto; and Alex. McD. Allan, Goderich, Ont., are at the Driard.

W. Bredemeyer, Dr. Ph., mining engineer and surveyor, is at the Driard. The doctor has been an extensive traveller in Africa, India and other Oriental countries, and for the past fifteen years has resided in the United States. He will make his home in Vancouver.

Hon. Edward Blake, accompanied by his two sons, left Vancouver on Tuesday afternoon by special train for Harrison River, where his car was attached to the regular train which then left for the east.

Dr. Mallory, ex-M. P., has been chosen by the Reformers to contest East Northumberland for the Commons.

CHIEF OF POLICE AND CITY CLERK.

The selection of a superintendent of police to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Mr. Bloomfield was the more important of the two appointments to be made last evening. After several ballots, Sergt. Henry Sheppard, who has been temporarily acting as chief, was appointed to the position. The action of the civic board will, we think, be endorsed by the great majority of citizens. Although among the applicants there were those who would have filled the post with acceptance, yet the fact that Mr. Sheppard has been for many years an efficient and painstaking officer, and has proved himself well qualified to fill the position, had its proper weight with the aldermen. It is but just, all things being equal, that a member of the force should receive promotion when an opportunity occurs. Supt. Sheppard has always shown himself worthy of his place, and we have every confidence that, as superintendent of police, he will prove an efficient chief and an excellent disciplinarian.

After several ballots Rev. J. Dowler was elected city clerk. So far as civic business is concerned, Mr. Dowler is a novice, but that is no reason why he should not develop into a first-class official. He has a clean sheet to work upon, and being a scholarly gentleman, will, with experience, no doubt fill the position with credit.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

The city council met last evening at the usual hour, Mayor Grant in the chair, and all the members present.

COMMUNICATIONS

From J. Meadowfield, calling attention to a bad portion of Store street near his premises. Referred to the street committee with power to act.

From Eberts & Taylor, stating that Mr. Chas. Wilson had abandoned his intention in regard to the appeal of the Kate Mantle case. Filed.

From Phenix Lelaire, in regard to the grading of Waddington Alley and the laying of sidewalk. Referred to the street committee for report.

From Eberts & Taylor, reporting on the case of DeCosmos vs. Corporation, and enclosing copy of the injunction. It does not interfere with the running of the Johnson street sewer unless offensive matter be drained into it.

Moved by Ald. Braden that the communication be received and that a notice be inserted in the papers asking the people not to drain into the Johnson street ravine in consequence of the injunction.

Ald. Powell seconded the resolution and advised that the injunction also be printed in the papers. The resolution was adopted.

From W. J. McDonald, asking permission to purchase a few cart-loads of unbroken stone. Referred to the street committee with power to act.

From John Teague, on behalf of Turner, Beeton & Co., asking permission to remove a verandah on the corner of Government and Fort streets. Granted.

From J. W. Osborne, for Griffiths, Carr & Co., offering to supply lubricating oils for the use of the electric light machinery. Referred to the electric light committee.

From Henry Saunders, asking for a reduction of water rate. Referred to the water committee and water commissioner.

From E. G. Prior & Co., asking for an open box drain on Johnson street and some minor repairs to the street. Referred to the street committee with power to act.

A petition was received from a number of ratepayers and property holders, asking for the opening up of upper Pandora street north of the Royal Hospital to Fernwood road, and offering to donate a portion of their land required to widen said street, the city and Royal Hospital to contribute their share of the land. Referred to the street committee for report.

CHIEF OF POLICE.

Applications for the position of Superintendent of city police were read from Henry W. Sheppard, John M. Langley, A. R. Reid, John Kirkup, (Revelstoke), J. J. Nunns, J.P., (Nanaimo district), Edward Pierson and Jas. Adams. Each of the applications was accompanied by testimonials of efficiency and good character.

On motion a vote was taken, the first ballot standing: Henry W. Sheppard 3, John Kirkup 3, Edward Pierson 2, and John Langley 1.

The second ballot showed Henry W. Sheppard 4, John Kirkup 3 and Edward Pierson 2.

On motion Mr. Pierson's name was dropped and Mr. Sheppard elected by a majority of three.

The Mayor, in declaring Mr. Sheppard Superintendent of Police, expressed a hope that he would prove a "good *shepherd*."

Ald. Vigelius moved, seconded by Ald. Kelly, that the selection of a sergeant of police to fill the vacancy caused by Mr. Sheppard's promotion, be left in the hands of the police committee and Superintendent of Police. The resolution was adopted.

POLICE CLERK'S DUTIES.

A communication was read from Hon. A. N. Richards in reference to the duties of the police court clerk, suggesting that the clerk be in attendance at the police court in future at 10 a.m., and also that he pay over all monies accruing from fines, etc., at least quarterly.

The communication was referred to the police and finance committees to consider and report.

CITY CLERK.

For the position of city clerk, police court clerk and clerk of the cemetery committee, applications were received from Messrs. Thomas H. Baker, H. F. Metcalf-Hett, Alex Mouatt, Arthur Cecil White, John N. Muir, H. S. Farrell, Wm. H. Whittaker, J. R. Anderson, Roland E. Green (Vancouver), W. J. Dowler, S. P. Tuck, Frederick F. Pauline, J. B. Ferguson, C. Dubois-Mason, A. L. Belyea, Henry H. Wootten and John Jamieson.

On motion a vote was taken, the first ballot showing: S. P. Tuck, 4; W. J. Dowler, 3; J. R. Anderson, 1; and Thos. H. Baker, 1.

Ald. Kelly in voting for Mr. Baker remarked: "I'll vote for the Victoria boy," his remarks being received with a perfect storm of applause. On the second ballot Mr. Dowler received 4 votes, Mr. Tuck 3, and Mr. Baker 2.

On motion a third ballot was taken, all the candidates being dropped with the exception of Messrs. Baker, Tuck and Dowler. The ballot stood: Mr. Baker, 4; Mr. Tuck, 1; and Mr. Dowler, 4.

The audience seemed strongly in favor of Mr. Baker's election, each vote for him being greeted with a storm of applause, and each against him with hisses.

The fourth ballot recorded 5 votes for Mr. Dowler, and 4 for Mr. Baker.

"I declare Mr. Dowler elected," said Mayor Grant, his declaration being received by the audience with a storm of hisses.

The majority of the spectators then filed out of the room, the mayor calling "order," "order."

A COMEDY OF ERRORS.

During the reading of the applications for the position of city clerk, Acting Clerk Partridge remarked as he read a letter from A. W. Winsby, "Why this is for the position of Superintendent of Police." The letter had unfortunately got mixed and was labelled "City Clerk" by mistake. One of the aldermen suggested that possibly the applicant "wouldn't mind taking the other position instead."

On motion the clerk was instructed to write to Mr. Winsby, explaining and apologizing on behalf of the council for the error.

The reading of the applications proceeded and a few minutes later Mr. Partridge again exclaimed. "Why here's another Superintendent of Police." A letter from Mr. Huntley, of Vancouver, had also been unfortunately "mixed." An apology was also tendered Mr. Huntley, and one of the aldermen remarked in an aside, "Are there any more, I wonder?" "Yes, one more," said the clerk, referring to the last application for the position of city clerk which he read and the election was then proceeded with.

THE ELECTRIC STREET RAILWAY.

The committee on Electric Street Railway reported having met and consulted with Messrs. Heisterman and his associates, Mr. Warren and others in regard to the various systems of electric street railways now in use. As Mr. Heisterman and his associates asked for a monopoly for a certain number of years, the committee recommended that the application of Mr. Warren and his associates be accepted. Attached to the report was a minority report advising that both the schemes advanced by Messrs. Heisterman and Warren be submitted to the public for their decision.

The board divided in the discussion of the report, several of the aldermen protesting strongly against the granting of a monopoly, while others urged that the people should have the chance of deciding on a matter of so great importance to the people of Victoria.

Ald. Braden thought the aldermen were the proper ones to decide which of the rival schemes was in the best interests of the city. The people could then say whether they would extend the assistance desired by the company or not.

Ald. Wilson would not support any scheme that called for the erection of any more poles in the streets of Victoria. If the company which Mr. Warren represented would bind themselves not to make use of any system requiring the erection of poles he would support them.

On motion the report of the special committee was received and adopted, and the minority report was received and filed with the main report.

DRAINAGE.

The street committee recommended the laying of drains on Johnson, Douglas and Market streets. Adopted.

SECOND AUDITORS' REPORT.

The finance committee presented a report referring to the settlement of a number of small accounts, and accompanied by a report from the auditors, which reads as follows:

REPORT No. 2.

VICTORIA, B. C., Oct. 31, 1888.

To the Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Corporation of the City of Victoria:

Sir:—By virtue of a resolution of the board of aldermen passed on the 1st inst., and to obedience to instructions conveyed to us on that day by Ald. Harris, we reopened the special audit of the city accounts, in order to cover the period beginning 1st of January and ending 30th September, 1888, and now we beg leave to submit an interim report.

At the outset we hoped to be in a position at an early date to make a full and final report on all points, and we have strenuously striven to accomplish this, but notwithstanding close application and unflagging attention, superadded to the necessity which presented itself in the course of our inquiries for a minute study of the financial records in the treasurer's office, more time has been consumed than we had anticipated. In view of this circumstance we deem it desirable that the council should be informed of the results at which we have arrived, leaving certain matters, as yet imperfectly considered, for future discussion.

As foreshadowed in Report No. 1, we found that all transactions since December last still remained unrecorded in the cash books, auxilary and general, the journal and the ledger except in the solitary instance of the bank account, and to us the aspect of the department of accounts was that of an association in the throes of approaching dissolution. How this state of things could so long have been allowed to continue,—and we are constrained by a strong sense of duty to the ratepayers to state it—in the face of interests of so great magnitude as are those of the city of Victoria, and with no arrestment—not even at the point when the first audit was in progress—is to us the subject matter of wonder. There existed no valid reason whatever why the books were not written up, and had this duty been done our previous report would have necessarily been modified as regards certain payments which had reached the city treasury in 1888 on account of the year 1887. The mechanical labor alone of constructing the various records, aiming at economy of time and efficiency in audit as the chief object, has been and still is of no ordinary character, and we are now *inter alia* engaged upon the real estate assessment roll for the current year, a record of formidable dimensions and subject to complications arising out of the imperfect handling of previous years. Transcribed at so late a season of the year, it will throw upon the city treasurer a greater responsibility in the matter of collections than should have been imposed. In some respects the new roll will probably be found inaccurate, notably in regard to "Improvements," which may have been omitted because of the absence of any record, so far as we can ascertain, in compliance with law in the imposition of the tax on that class of assessable property. But irrespective of this, we are persuaded that the roll as it passes out of our hands will prove to be more intelligible and better arranged than any the city has hitherto had from which to work. Future years, however, ought to show still further advancement in elaborating and perfecting details.

We now turn to the two questions of deficiencies in cash, and arrears.

DEFICIENCIES.

On 1st January, 1888, the late treasurer is shown to have had in his custody, cash amounting to $433.67; and on the first day of each succeeding month down to first July, balances of cash vary from $990 to $2,500. On the 1st August the corporation appears to have owed him $655. On 1st September cash again changes sides on the book, and the balance of $1,612.98 stands at the debit, at the 30th September rising to the sum of $1917.03. This latter sum is the late treasurer's deficiency at that date, arrived at thus:

Cash-book called for	$2,913.05
There was found in the vault, as reported by the present Treasurer:	
General Cash	$306.35
Water-works' Cash	328.45
Petty Accounts Paid	399.22
Total found in vault	1,035.02
Leaving a deficiency of	$1,917.03
To which should be added for map sold	1.00
Total deficiency	$1,918.03

There have also been found, and of which we have taken note in detail, cash $500, and a number of I. O. U's and cash memos, of little actual value, which will probably reduce the deficiency.

As an illustration of unhappy recklessness, no later than on the 11th and 25th September, Mr. Smith asserts that he paid over to the late treasurer two collections of $100 each, of which there is no record.

As the result of our investigation, there was brought to light the fact that the chief of police had also failed to report his collections of police court fines since January last, and we have had to debit him with $218.50. This sum remains unpaid to the treasurer, although we are informed that a package of money, reputed as coming from the chief is deposited in the vault.

With respect to the late city clerk's intromissions in police-court fines and fees, and cemetery fees, we report as follows:—

On January 1st he held Police moneys		$2,000 00
Cemetery money		170 75
Total		$2,170 75
Down to end of September he had collected police moneys	$2,187 75	
Cemetery	943 75	
Total		3,131 50
Making a debit of		5,302 25
During the year he had paid over to the treasurer police moneys	$2,950 00	
Cemetery	300 00	
Total paid in		3,250 00
Leaving amount held by clerk		2,052 25
In