The City

Grant For Harbor Borings Deferred Awaiting the Committee's Report.

Majority of the Council Take Strong Ground Regarding Shacks.

The city council had another protracted session last night, the tower clock clanging the hour of eleven before Ald. Brydon was moved to suggest an adjournment. Even the the aldermen were unable to complete all the business, and the Tuesday night session, which is becoming a fixture in the municipal programme, was decided upon.

The High Level Supply. The minutes having been read and adopted, a communication was tabled from Justice Martin complaining of the inadequacy of the water supply on the high levels during the hot months of last year through the diversion of the water designed for the high level to other portions of the town. He pointed out the injustice of this course, and asked that the same course might not be adopted this year.

Ald. Williams said that the new pumping station would cover the need, and therefore moved that the letter be referred to the water committee.

In seconding, Ald. Hall emphasized the great improvement the new pumping station would be to the city. The motion was carried.

A Disinfecting Plant. F. Elworthy, secretary of the Jubilee

hospital board, drew attention to the necessity of a disinfecting plant for the hospital, especially in view of the proximity of the plague. Received and deferred for consideration with the esti-

The Rock Bay "Swing."

The matter of the Rock Bay bridge again came up for consideration, Fell & Gregory protesting against the closing of the swing, on behalf of their clients, Lemon & Gonnason, and Taylor Mill

Co. The council had proposed that the swing be closed, and that if the Dominion government decided a swing was necessary the council would construct it within six months. The writers had conferred with their clients, who refused to accede to the arrangement. Fell & Gregory added that His Worship the Mayor had admitted that Capt, Gaudin had reported in favor of their clients and against the city.

The latter statement was promptly denied by His Worship, who was corroborated by several aldermen. Ald, Yates-How does the bridge stand

to-day. Your Worship? His Worship (laconically)-It's open. Ald. Beckwith-Is the swing open?

(Laughter.) Ald. Stewart said everyone seemed happy since the opening of the bridge,

Ald. Yates pointed out the necessity of having the city's case stated before the Dominion government. He thought that if the facts were fully stated it

and it would be too bad to destroy their

would materially strengthen the city's po-It was decided to acknowledge the letter and at the same time draw the attention of the writers to its inaccuracies and also that the mayor, city so-

licitor and city engineer be instucted to prepare a statement. Ald. Cameron also suggested that a telegram be sent at once to the government informing them that the city was preparing a case.

A Refund Requested.

Heisterman & Co. had been paying taxes on a piece of property which they believed belonged to a client for two years, but only a portion of which they now found to be his. They therefore asked for a refund. Referred to finance committee and city solicitor for report. The Ever-green Dispute.

Rev. W. G. Ellison again drew the council's attention to the depreciation of property in Victoria through the break ing of windows, doors, etc., as witness his own property. In his case "a disorderly crowd" had burned up his fences. The people took it for granted that all law and order was null and void. The children were encouraged to burn by day what their parents pulled down by night He thought this a bad advertisement for Victoria as a residental city. Received and filed.

The Sorby Scheme.

The mayor reported that at the meeting of the Sorby committee in the afternoon there had not been a quorum present, but a report had been read from the real estate committee, and Mr. Sorby's reply thereto had been tabled, These were read as follows:

Victoria, B.C., 12th March, 1900. To the Chairman Sorby Harbor Improve

ment Committee, Victoria: Sir:-Referring to the earlier reports made by you to the real estate committee, we beg to state that that committee had not at the time of making those reports considered Mr. Sorby's scheme as a whole. They had not then fully realized the fact that the occupants of the property which it is proposed should be purchased by the harbor commissioners would be deprived of the revenue resulting from the collection of wharfage dues. In fact, as they understood the position, they were asked to report upon the present value of, and revenue derived from, the real estate fronting on the water.

As to value, we still believe that Mr. Sorby's estimate for the purchase of the land in question and compensation to occupants is reasonable; but we are of opinion that tenants of such property would not be prepared under the altered conditions to pay such rents as would be necessary in order to produce the revenue Mr. Sorby has calculated upon receiving.

In the consideration of revenue, we are met with many difficulties, arising chiefly from the fact that all estimates must, to a certain extent, be speculative.

The reclamation of large tracts on the water front must necessarily depreciate

city of the wharves that are now in existence, unless we grant (which we are not prepared to do) that the increased harbor facilities will greatly stimulate our shipping trade. Further, it is quite possible that the imposition of wharfage dues may result in the removal of some of the industries now being carried on in Victoria. We refer particularly to the saw milling

In making an approximate calculation, we can only consider the business as it now exists, and we believe that the annual revenue derivable from the land fronting on the water would be at the least fifteen thousand dollars less than Mr. Sorby's estimate, in the event of the collection of wharfage dues-as at present paid-passing into hands other than those of the oc-

cupants. In Mr. Sorby's estimate, credit is taken for an increase of revenue of \$30,000 per annum to be received from reclaimed land and new wharves. This we think is purely speculative, and should not be taken into consideration, depending as it does on the possibility of increased trade.

Yours faithfully, C. A. HOLLAND, JAMES FORMAN, C. F. TODD. Sub-Committee on Real Estate.

To this Mr. Sorby replied as follows: Victoria, 12th March, 1900.

The Chairman Investigating Committee: Sir:-With reference to the report of the real estate committee of this date, I have always stated, and the fact has been pub lished many times, that wharfage dues and rents receivable from properties purchased were separate and distinct sources of revenue. . In fact the wharves are mostly let off separately and have no connection with the offices and warehouses between them and the adjacent streets, from which alone the real estate revenue is calculated to be derived. The committee seem to have failed to understand this, and also to make allowance for the fact that the rates named in my schedule are gross rents as now existing and are discounted "en bloc" at the end to the extent of about 33 per cent. for taxes,

They have also failed to grasp the fact that the whole estate, improved, unimproved or reclaimed, is one undivided property, under one control and practically owned by the city, and of course cannot be depreciated by competition, as it might be under separate owners.

With reference to saw mills, the owners at present maintain their wharves at great cost for repilling and pay taxes; this cost of maintenance and taxes are assumed af ter purchase by the harbor trust and a wharfage of 20 cents per thousand feet is charged instead, which would in fact be a considerable saving to the mill occupier. The \$30,000 per annum calculated as receivable from reclaimed land is speculative after a period of years, as stated, and

may be left out of the calculation. The logic of the committee's argument is this: That the fact of deepening and improving the harbor, so as to be accessible to modern carriers, and building broad stone wharves and other facilities for the expeditious handling of the trade of the port, would be to depreciate the annual value of properties abutting on the harbor from their present rentals of \$78,124 to only \$38,100, which is manifestly absurd. My estimates having been challenged, I made it my business to check my calculations by interviewing the leading importers and ascertaining for myself the wharfage actually paid, I have obtained returns from 33 of our leading importers of their import trading, and these figures demonstrate the hitherto unknown fact that the charges actually paid vary with the size and weight from 50 cents to A very large proportion of the imports come in small parcels, i.e., under hair a ton, and nav the higher rates. The mean of all the averages is 83 cents per ton, and the rate on export by reason of their being in smaller lots is higher still. I beg to inclose for perusal the original figures marked H. to be returned to me. I also submit a detailed calculation marked B The tonnage stated cannot be disputed; it is a little over the revenue committee's figures, after correcting their obvious

real estate, even as reduced by the committee, \$37,500, the total revenue to be derived would be \$153,416, instead of \$148,100, as before estimated. The tonnage, I may say, is based upon the custom house averages of the last three years. There is one thing I would like to make clear. The proposition first is that a har-

revenue from this source would be \$115 .-

bor board shall be incorporated as at Mon-Quebec, and other ports, to enable them to acquire the properties under consideration. The interest on the loan would be about

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\$150,000. The board to report to the government the facts as they find them and 3. Or in the alternative, guarantee the able and it ought to be moved. city's bonds so that they could obtain the money on similar terms. 4. The board would have no power, under the act, to incur any liabilities beyond the limit of their revenue, so that by no possibility can any risk be incurred that is not clearly visible on its face and was not controllable by the property owners.

I trust I have made these facts clear. I remain, sir, your faithful servant,

THOS. C. SORBY. ESTIMATE OF TONNAGE.

Custom House Returns, Foreign Tonnage Only. Tons. Tons. Gross imports for 3 years ending June, 1899 167,811 Average annual import55,937 Gross exports for 3 years

ending June, 1899 Average annual export27,920 Total average83,857 Outer wharf return about 48,000 Inner wharf return

98,000 Balance due to these company wharves as coast wise trade, say14,143

about 50,000

98.000 Total Canadian trade carried by the Amur, Alpha, Queen City, Willapa, Louise, Yosemite, Rithet, Tees, Danube, Charmer and Islander.

Of the 16,000 re. by B. & K. mills and the Chemical Works 10,000 is included in items, leaving balance of product 6,000 Private wharves as reported20,900 Add Okell & Morris.. 100 ---21,000

Local produce, lime, building stone, hay, etc., landed on other wharves from which no return was included, say 10,000 Parcels, express matter and freight to competitive points not returned, including that carried by C. P.N. fleet and the Victorian 10,000

145,000 ESTIMATE OF REVENUE. 45,937 tons (ex. of B. & K. and Chemical Works), average of seaport freight at 70\$32,155 27,920 tons export, at 80 22,336 14,143 coast wise trade, at 80 11,313 16,000 B. & K. and Chemical Works, at 10 1,600 21,000 local trade, at 50 10,500 10,000 local trade as schedule 1,475 10,000 parcels, etc., at 50 5,000 145,000 tons at an average of 58c.\$84,379

Inwards Only. 46,800 tons of coal, at 10c. \$4,680 15,000,000 feet B. M. logs, at 20c.. 3,100 9,870,000 feet cut lumber, at 25c. 2,467 10,200 cords of wood, at 20c. 2,040 3,000,000 bricks, at 15c..... 4,500

35,000 sealskins, 10tbs. ea., 175 tons (inwards), at 25c. 8,750 Reservation of wharves, etc., say. 6,000

Rents receivable (less taxes) 37,500

Estimated average revenue from reclamation and now vacant lands after the 4th year, say\$30,000 Less 1-7 ground rent as tax. 4,285

Ald. Brydon moved that the reports be laid on the table. The council had emission of 10,000 tons and calculating this been waiting because they had been contonnage at rates varying from 10 cents to fused by statements made by Messrs. 80 cents, keeping well within the actually ascertained rates. I maintain that the demonstrated by the committee. After some discusson the matter drop-

916 and adding to this the revenue from Yates Street Paving. George De Wolff said that he be lieved Yates street could be much more cheaply paved by tender than by

day labor. Ald. Cameron moved that the letter lie on the table, adding that unless fresh legislation were served the chance of dotreal, Quebec, etc. 2. That the federal ing the paving this year was very regovernment shall advance to the board mote, as a sufficient sum for the purpose \$2,500,000 at 3 per cent., as at Montreal; could not be diverted from current

revenue. A Case of Trepassing. Sam. Briggs, of North Chatham street. wrote saying that some partes had laid the sidewalk there to suit themselves.

He asked the council to rectify the mat-Ald. Beckwith counselled dealing sharply with those who meddled with the sidewalks.

The matter was referred to the engineer for report. Engineer's Report.

The city engineer recommended that as Cook street was in bad condition it be macadamized 30 feet in width from Belcher street to Richmond road at a cost of \$1.100; and between Yates and Fairfield road for \$2,350. He also recommended a surface drain on the east side of Government to James, Bay bridge at a cost of \$29. The city carpenter also recommended the renewal of the plank walk on the west side of Blanchard, from Penwill to Princess, \$30; from Princess avenue to Queen's avenue, \$45, and from Penwill street south, ninety-two feet, for \$22; Andrew street, west side, south to Garbally road, \$413. Received and referred to the streets committee.

A Matter of Names. J. D. Bryan drew the attention of the ouncil to a petition presented to the council of 1899, asking that Chatham street be known as Caledonian avenue, from Cook street to Blanchard street. Referred to streets committee.

An Odd Request. Wm. Monks, an inmate of the home, asked for a cash substitute in place of his keep there, so that he might live

Ald. Hall moved that the matter be re ferred to the home committee. Ald. Williams said he understood that the old man had turned over some pro-

\$75,000 per annum, and the revenue about perty in Vancouver and asked that the matter be looked into

Ald. Yates took occasion to say that suggest a course for future proceedings. the location of the home was undesir-Ald. Beckwith, chairman of the home committee, said it was the intention of the committee to take up the question of another location at once.

Ald. Kinsman pointed out that it was a dangerous principle to make a grant of money in such cases. The communication went to the home committee. Official's Advice Disregarded.

The water commissioner reported adversely against extending the water main up Moss street to the foot of the hill. It would take 1,700 feet of pipe, and the cost would be \$570, which would be throwing money away.

Ald. Cameron said the wells had been closed by the health authorities and though the expenditure was rather large there was no other way out of the matter. These people had paid taxes for a long time and received no benefit from the city. He moved that the pipe be

Ald. Hall seconded the motion, as the request was a perfectly reasonable one. No one else was asking for water and it was a necessary step. The motion car-

Sewer Connection Wanted.

A petition was presented from Thos. Elliott and four others residing on Mason street, asking for the extension of the sewerage system from the corner of Mason and Quadra along Mason. Referred to streets, sewers and bridges

No Light. The city electrician reported adversely on the proposed light on Esquimalt road, as the circuit would not at present stand it. He suggested deferring the matter. Received and adopted.

The Old Women's Home.

The home committee reported that as the Home for the Aged and Infirm Women was not under the city's jurisdiction it would not be wise to reommend Mrs. Robson's armission thereto. Adopted. Finances.

The finance committee recommended the payment of \$3,500 for current bills. Received and adopted.

A further report recommended the expenditure of \$1,630 for harbor borings was also submitted. Ald, Kinsman said this was money wasted and he would oppose it. Harbor Borings.

Ald. Cameron said they were no further ahead than ever. He wanted the matter laid over awaiting reports from the commissioners. Ald. Beckwith reminded the aldermen

that a great deal of good would result from the borings apart altogether from the Sorby matter. It had been recommended by Mr. Pearse and others. These borings were being taken to furnish data for Mr. Kennedy. Ald. Yates moved that the report be

laid on the table and the general committee informed that the money will not be voted until they passed a resolution. Ald. Stewart had always been doubtful about the matter, and he refused to vote any money until the committee had

reported. The scheme was to cost \$5,-600,000 and had yet to be satisfied that the scheme was worth it. Ald. Yates then moved that the motion be laid on the table until a general report was received.

Ald, Kinsman said that the council could not be liable for Mr. Harris's indebtedness through the matter. Ald, Brydon said the facts were there and had been substantiated by customs returns, while on the other hand rumors

and guesses were indulged in. It had been pointed out that no committee could be expected to master the scheme, as the promoter had done, and which had taken him three years to master. In a lengthy address Ald, Brydon ridiculed the criticism which had been levelled against the scheme. He for one

would not consent to repudiation of responsibility in connection with Mr. Harris. He wouldn't follow such a course in his private business. The mayor said that to meet a discrepancy in the committee's figures Mr. Sorby had raised the freight rate from 50

to 75 cents a ton. He would like to know how that would take with the business community. It was pointed out by Ald. Yates and Beckwith that this was the rate paid at

Ald. Beckwith pointed out that as it had been charged that the figures of two commissioners overlapped, these should have been asked to investigate the mat-

The finance committee's report was laid on the table pending a report from the revenue committee, which should be notified of the fact.

The Fire Inquiry. Ald, Yates asked what had become of the Baker fire enquiry. The Mayor replied that the inquiry had been stopped owing to the threat of Mr. Baker that "he would make some one pay for this hay." Ald. Yates said that while he cient or not.

The Chinese Shacks. When a motion looking to the removal



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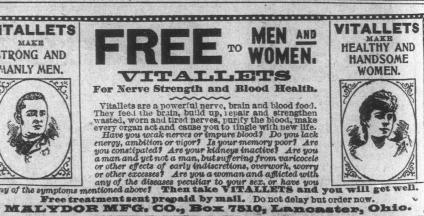
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of some unsanitary shacks in China- of license from Wm. Jensen to Marion town was reached Ald. Kinsman and the Mayor expressed the opinion that the over from the last quarterly session, and owners should be first requested to pull

down the building. Ald. Beckwith instanced some cases where the owners had been notified and las streets-For a transfer of license from had made the motion to cease the public had caused trouble. It was high time inquiry he intended that it should be that some prompt steps should be taken Harry Harris. prosecuted privately, as the council to abate these nuisances, Ald. Yates ought to know if the brigade was effi- held the same view, while Ald, Brydon gave a graphic account of his visit to the shacks, describing them as overcrowded, filthy and loathsome.

The motion finally passed without a

dissenting voice, and the council rose to meet again this evening. LICENSE BOARD MEETING Is Being Held This Afternoon-List

Applications. The regular quarterly meeting of the board of licensing commissioners, consisting of Mayor Hayward, Ald. Stewart and Mr. J. B. Lovell, is being held this afternoon. There are eleven applications up for their consideration, but it is doubtful whether more than half a dozen will be dealt with, as the remainder were not submitted according to the time required Queen's. by the regulations—a fortnight prior to

The applications are as follows: Royal saloon, Fort street-For transfer of license from Alf. Kendall to John Bar-

Adelphi saloon, Government street-For a transfer of license from Henry Harris to William Roberts. Dallas hotel, Dallas road-For a transfer

The above applications were referred

the following come under the head of new business: Clarence hotel saloon, Yates and Doug-James B. Adam and John D. Skinner to

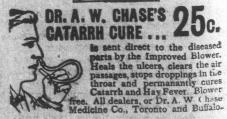
Bee Hive saloon, Fort street-For transfer of license from Patrick Burke to Dennis Gray. Telegraph hotel, Store street-For transfer from Fred. Sturm to John Coigdarippe. Royal saloon, Fort street—For transfer from Alf. Kendall to Fred. Weldon and Jno. Henly.

North Pacific saloon, Wharf street-For transfer from Chas. Richard Lawson to the Vernon block to Forbes George Ver-Occidental hotel saloon, Wharf street-

For transfer from Walter Porter to Alexis Ziokovic Hotel Victoria salcon-For transfer from J. C. Voss and Edward Leason to Ed.

temporary transfer to No. 1 Store street, during the rebuilding of the said saloon. W. Brotchie, of Alert Bay, is at the

Caledonia saloon-Harry Maynard, for



\$1.50

VOL. 19

Lord Ro

From Cape

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Ottawa, Ma

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June General Gata and the whole of Bloemfontei he British. General Bra rossed the Ora march at Aliw General Cleme at Vansyl, the an army of 12, s expected to perts at Blo northward. Just where oppose that mar tion, but it ca until Joubert is

New Further news world from March 9th, sho rison was in buoyed up by plucky fight wa

Losses It was official the British cast March 10th we wounded. vounded. Wounde

General Robe

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en wounded ontein, and ared for. He adds: "I Boers by telling lowed to proceed of being made can leave the

BRABAN

Jameston, M. enthusiasm at bant's troops Commondant mander, apolo Boers during saying he coul The British Free State side with the Boern hill in front of

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ENTRAN Bloemfonteir

Roberts was b to-day by the had gone out ed by crowds displaying the ordiality. L market square the parliamen