

To Consider Sorby's Plan

City Council Set Apart \$2,500 and Appoint a Committee for That Purpose.

George Snider Will Build the New Fire Hall on Yates Street.

Street Railway Company Submit Their Views on the Bridge Question

The city council dealt with a great variety of subjects at their sitting last night, the list ranging from the disposal of garbage to the Sorby harbor scheme, with its attendant colossal expenditure. A great deal of necessary and some very important matters were rushed through, with the result that shortly after ten the business had all been concluded, drawing from the mayor a compliment upon the board's expedition.

The contract for the Yates street fire hall was awarded to Geo. Snider at \$3,151.50, a very modest figure, so most of the aldermen concur. The list of contractors anxious for the work numbered sixteen, and very close calculating had evidently been done, as they varied but slightly. The police tenders were left to a committee on the selection of a successor to Engineer Wilnot to a special session of the board.

The Rock Bay Bridge.

Before the business was formally proceeded with, the mayor informed the council that as the time limit of the Rock Bay bridge had expired, he had notified the street car company that the city would not be responsible for any accident arising from that cause. He had also made an arrangement with the garbage contractors to continue their contract until the end of the month.

Ald. Humphrey said that he didn't disagree with the mayor's view of the matter, but the communication ought to come through the engineer.

The Mayor—We had a report from Engineer Wilnot.

Ald. Humphrey asked if the mayor thought the safety of the bridge ended on the exact date specified by Mr. Wilnot as the limit of its life? He didn't for one moment believe so, and if Mr. Wilnot had been here he would have examined the bridge before condemning.

The mayor said that he had not closed the bridge but had merely shifted the responsibility from the city's shoulders.

Ald. Humphrey reminded the mayor that he had referred to the bridge matter at last Monday's meeting, and that the next day the bridge was closed. He thought the council might have been informed of the mayor's contemplated action.

The Mayor—I didn't think of it until afterwards.

Communications.

Campbell Reddie, deputy provincial secretary, notified the council officially of the appointment of Alex. Stewart as a license commissioner, and Co. P. Ford of the Ketchikan Railway Bill. Both were received and filed.

J. S. Helmcken, M.D., asked if the council could not do something to abate the nuisance caused by water running down from Beacon Hill Park on to his property, which was a source of great annoyance to him.

Ald. Humphrey thought something should be done by fencing the nuisance, and had been one of long standing. It was referred to the city engineer for report.

The Rock Bay Bridge Again.

A. Goward, of the B. C. Electric Railway Company, communicated with the council as follows:

The Mayor and Council of the City of Victoria:

Gentlemen: I have the honor to advise you that I was in receipt on the 6th instant of a letter from His Worship the Mayor, reading as follows:

Victoria, B.C., March 6, 1899.

A. T. Goward, Esq., Victoria, Manager B. C. Electric Railway Company:

Dear Sir: On June 17, 1898, the city engineer reported that he did not consider the Rock Bay bridge would be safe for more than eight or nine months, as that time has now elapsed, I have to inform you that the bridge is now not safe for tramway traffic, and that if the company continues to run cars along the bridge, it does so at its own risk, as in any no-tice the city will not be in any way responsible for the bridge.

Yours faithfully,
O. H. RIBBEN, Mayor.

In view of this communication on the part of the city engineer, I have to point out that the company is ready at any time to commence the construction of its portion of the new bridge that is proposed to be built by the city across Rock Bay, but which is delayed by the building by reason of the Dominion government not having assented to the plans which have been for some time under consideration.

Under the new arrangement this company will maintain the portion of the bridge, and the Dominion government will be responsible for the remainder of the bridge.

The interruption in the tramway service is one of serious damage and inconvenience not only to the company, but to the citizens, and I might point out to your honorable body that the bridge being a pile one could easily be put in proper

condition pending the assent of the Dominion government to the plans that have been forwarded. It is the hope of the company, and it is a fact well known, can with very little trouble and expense be placed in a safe condition. The particular traffic which sometimes very severe, is a greater strain on the structure than that which is caused by the cars, the weight being distributed over a larger surface.

Trust that it will be possible to soon resume traffic over this bridge. I have the honor to be, gentlemen, your obedient servant.

ALBERT T. GOWARD,
Local Manager.

Ald. Humphrey moved that the letter be laid on the table until a report could be obtained from the acting city engineer regarding the bridge. The mayor said that Mr. Cousins would examine the bridge to-day. The motion was adopted.

Ald. Langley's Vacant Chair.

Ex-Ald. Langley wrote announcing the result of the trial of the case of Falconer vs. Langley, which had resulted in his being declared disqualified to sit as an alderman. He stated that he did not intend to contest the matter further, and expressed the hope that the vacancy caused by his resignation would be filled as soon as possible in order that the South Ward might not remain unrepresented as long as necessary.

On motion of Ald. Beckwith the letter was received and filed, and Capt. Langley will be informed that his reasons for not taking his seat as an alderman are satisfactory to the board.

The seat of Mr. Langley was declared vacant, the date of election being set for March 22nd, at the market building, notice to be given in the Times and Colonist.

More Magazines.

W. H. Berry asked the council to subscribe for the New Century Weekly and the Universal Brotherhood Monthly, at a yearly cost of \$2.50. The magazines are organs of the Universal Brotherhood. The council approved of the suggestion.

Mr. Moody and His Mint.

C. C. Moody again brought the question of a mint before the council. He expressed himself as very much pleased with the reception his former communications had received, and stated that he had the approval of the council "signed, sealed and delivered" in his possession. "In justice to the council, to the proposition, and to myself," he thought he ought to be satisfied with his reception. He further stated that he thought we were living in an age of gold, a statement that was received with incredulous sighs by many present. He further suggested a public meeting in the nature of a "Lent" when it could be otherwise engaged, to discuss his scheme. Mr. Moody discoursed at considerable length his pet subject.

The question of "Who is Moody?" he also dealt with forcibly.

"I will not deal with that communication," said the mayor.

"I move that it be referred to the sanitary officer," said Ald. Humphrey.

The council laughed and laid the letter on the table.

Thanks and Criticisms.

A. J. Piroo expressed his thanks for the prompt manner in which the nuisance of which he had complained had been dealt with by the council.

"It is pleasant to get such a communication as that from Mr. Piroo," said Ald. Stewart, and the board murmured "Aye, aye," with unanimity.

The wretched condition of Hillside avenue and some of the other streets in the neighborhood of the fountain was the subject of a strong complaint from Noah Shakespeare. He added that the South Ward was well looked after, while the North Ward was left severely alone.

Ald. Beckwith corroborated Mr. Shakespeare's statements, and moved that the letter be referred to the city engineer for report.

The mayor thought the engineer had included Hillside avenue in the list of streets requiring repairs.

Ald. Beckwith said the late engineer had not done so, and he (the speaker) had been surprised that he had not made some suggestion for their improvement.

The city clerk reported the reception of communications from the following and their reference to the city engineer: James Pottinger and others, with reference to the necessity of improving Michigan street; Moore & Whittington, Pandora street; C. W. Rhodes and others, Terrace avenue; Rev. A. B. Winchester and others, Kingston street; and Rev. D. MacRae, Frederick street, Victoria West.

The city solicitor formally acquainted the council with the result of Ald. Langley's appeal. The communication was received and filed.

The Engineer's Report.

The city engineer submitted the following report:

"With reference to the request that the sewer be laid on Mendez street, between Simcoe and Namanda: As the present existing sewer is not included in the pumping area, it is at too low a level to connect with the present ventilation system.

"Regarding Mr. Thornton Peit's request that the sewer be extended to his property on Cadboro Bay road: This would necessitate the laying of about 1,000 feet of 8-inch pipe, for which there are no present funds available."

Referring to Mr. Mason's claim of \$25 for work done by him on William street, the engineer stated that the amount of the gravel now on the above mentioned path is eighteen cubic yards. It would be necessary to purchase the gravel, which would be much improved by an average fill of two inches of gravel, which would bring the path flush with the curb.

"Regarding the steam roller: It is the intention to commence working the roller as soon as the driver, who is a prisoner, will be in a few days. The roller will be in a few days. The present box drain on the east side of Second street, north of Bay street, which is in a very rotten condition, be removed for a distance of 350 feet by an 8x12 box, the estimated cost of which is \$45.

Ald. Humphrey moved that the report be taken up clause by clause, and this course was adopted.

Regarding the first clause, the petitioners will be notified of the facts therein recited.

The second clause was about to suffer the same fate when a protest was entered by Ald. MacGregor, who said that this petition had been put in last year. Residents on one side of the street had the benefit of the sewerage while the residents on the other side did not.

Ald. Stewart moved that the item be laid over until the sewerage extension came up for consideration.

Ald. Humphrey reminded the aldermen that it would probably require about \$100 to take the sewer through the rock, and it would benefit only one or two men. He wanted to see everyone get sewerage connection, but where such

an expenditure was involved it was well to consider how many people could be benefited by such an expenditure.

Ald. Williams didn't think that it would cost \$1,500, but the mayor observed that only \$4,000 was available for such work, and this fact must be considered. Ald. Brydon agreed with Ald. Humphrey, and observed that some people sometimes petition for the most extraordinary things.

Ald. Beckwith's motion that the engineer be asked to report on the cost and the probable number of connections which could be made from such an extension, met with the council's approval and was carried.

Robt. Mason's claim of \$25 for work on William street will be paid if he brings the walk up to the proper level of the curb. Mr. Mason, it seems, had no authority to fill in the road, but the council felt that he should be paid if the job was properly indicated.

Ald. MacGregor said that Mr. Mason had delivered the gravel in good faith.

Ald. Beckwith—"He had too much faith."

The suggestion to commence operation with the steam roller at once was approved.

The final clause also was adopted and the report as amended passed.

Library and Pound.

Librarian Goward wrote saying that about \$120 had resulted last year from the sale of old books, etc., of fines, etc., and asking that this amount be devoted to library purposes. Referred to a finance committee for report.

Foundkeeper Curran asked the city to purchase a dog, which he had owned, which had been found, being useless for cattle. He would then make no claim for injuries to his animal. A horse will be purchased for Mr. Curran.

Beatty & Co., H. C. Erskine & Wall, and a large number of grocers, asked that the Sunday Closing By-law be made applicable to grocers, fruiterers, and confectioners and tobacconists. The petition was referred to the able together with that of the barbers.

Police Clothing Tenders.

Seven tenders were tabled for police clothing and boots. An eighth was not received until seven o'clock, and Ald. Brydon and Stewart felt that it would be unfair to receive it. Ald. Beckwith said that a tender for brass work had been received at a quarter to eight o'clock, and had been considered with that.

Ald. Stewart, while he did not know who the tendered was, said that from long experience he found that many may put the tendering off until the last minute in order, if possible, to ascertain the amount of their competitors' tenders.

A committee, consisting of Aldermen Beckwith, MacGregor and Humphrey, will consider the tenders and report to the next meeting.

The New Fire Hall.

Sixteen tenders for the construction of the new fire hall on Yates and Gamosen streets were then opened. They were as follows:

*Green & Donnan	\$2,151.50
G. H. Hoops	3,244.50
G. H. Hoops	3,350.00
Baker & Jeeves	3,390.00
Robert Dinsdale	3,500.00
Thomas Catterall	3,560.00
Robert Dinsdale	3,560.00
Albert Frye	3,568.00
Moore & Whittington	3,575.00
M. MacGregor	3,600.00
W. H. Berry	3,625.00
H. Munday	3,745.00
J. G. Brown	3,830.00

In the case of Green and Donnan \$30 was specified as an extra for wet shaft if necessary. Mr. Northcott said that the purchase of meters to the amount of \$1,250. Received and adopted.

In compliance with the report of the special committee the mayor recommended that the part of the committee's report recommending the purchase of a snow be rescinded. The mayor's recommendation was adopted.

The Sorby Scheme.

Ald. Brydon and MacGregor then submitted a resolution providing for the setting aside of \$2,500 for the purpose of investigating the Sorby scheme, but without power to make any expenditure without the approval of the council. The committee to consist of the mayor, three aldermen and three or more expert owners.

Ald. Kinsman expressed himself as opposed to the proposition because he thought nothing would come of it.

Ald. Stewart also wanted the matter laid over until the rate was fixed. He didn't think it was any use appointing such a committee until it was known where the money was to come from.

The mayor pointed out that the sessions of the Commission was about to open and it would strengthen the hands of the city's representatives there if the scheme were examined and approved by the council. If the council were going to do so now, he didn't believe the proposition necessarily involved an expenditure of money, but Ald. Kinsman was worried to understand how experts could be engaged and the rate was fixed.

Ald. Humphrey pronounced the Sorby proposition as a "crazy, wild scheme," and was emphatically opposed to the motion. He liked the scheme very well, if some one else would pay for it, but if by-law to carry out the scheme was passed any one could have his property at 40 per cent. of its present value. The mayor had referred to the city's representatives taking up the matter in parliament, but he didn't believe one of them would stand sponsor for the scheme in the federal parliament.

Ald. Brydon combated the latter state-

ment, remarking that the consensus of opinion among business men was that the scheme, if carried out, would be the salvation of the city.

The same view was entertained by Ald. Beckwith, who expressed the conviction that if Victoria was to take its proper place as a business centre in the province the people must "shell out." He was favorable even to the expenditure of a small sum for the purpose of ascertaining whether Mr. Sorby's figures were correct.

Ald. Hayward favored the appointment of the committee, and believed the data desired could be verified or otherwise for a small sum. The scheme was a very attractive one, and he thought the council should not hesitate to spend a little money on an examination of the facts.

Ald. MacGregor followed in the same vein.

Submitted to a vote, the motion was carried on the following division:

Ayes—Ald. Williams, MacGregor, Brydon, Beckwith, Sayward and the Mayor.

Noes—Ald. Kinsman, Humphreys and Stewart.

The mayor nominated the following aldermen as members of the committee: Ald. Hayward, Brydon and MacGregor. The appointment of the citizen members was left to the three aldermen and the mayor.

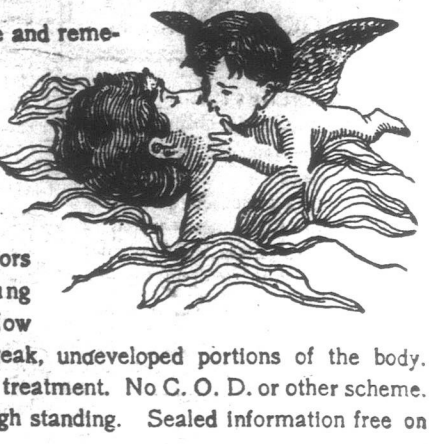
Ald. Humphrey delivered a parting shot by saying that the committee might take into consideration the question of running a tunnel across the Straits.

The resolution asking for applications for the position of city carpenter at \$70 a month was carried without discussion.

Leave was granted for the introduction of the Revenue By-Law for 1899.

The council met for a first time and will read a second time at the next regular meeting. The council adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

THE famous appliance and remedies of the Erie Medical Co. are now offered on trial without expense to any honest man. Not a dollar to be paid in advance. Cure effects of errors or excesses in old or young Manhood fully restored. How to enlarge and strengthen weak, undeveloped portions of the body. Absolutely unflinching. Home treatment. No C. O. D. or other scheme. A plain offer by a firm of high standing. Sealed information free on application to



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Piled up on the Rocks.

Steamer Dirigo Wrecked on Medway Island During a Blinding Snowstorm.

The Passengers Taken Off by the Steamer Cottage City.

Steamer Cottage City, which arrived last night, brought news that the steamer Dirigo, Capt. George Roberts, belonging to the Alaska Steamship Co., has been wrecked on Medway Island, Stenstrom passage, Clarence straits. No lives were lost.

The Dirigo is the seventh steamer to become a victim of the intricate and treacherously dangerous narrow passages in the island and reef studded waterways of the Alaska coast between Wrangell and Juneau. A glance at the map will give anyone an idea of the circuitous manner in which the steamers running between those ports have to work their way through the narrow channels, in which—in contrast to the waters further south—lighthouses are few and wide apart, and with conditions such as those extant when the unfortunate Dirigo was piled up on the rocks of Medway Island, the most experienced navigators are called upon to exercise all their skill and caution.

When the Dirigo went ashore on the night of Thursday last just as the quarter of twelve striking eight bells, a blinding snow storm was raging. The pilot was alone on the bridge (Capt. Roberts being ill in bed with pneumonia) and unable to see an arm's length before him for the thickly falling snow made the night like those of Egypt during plague time. He, as is the custom of the Alaskan steamboat men in such weather, was tooting his whistle at short intervals and listening to the echoes to share his course. The steamer was proceeding cautiously along, feeling her way through the inky, though placid seas, under the slow bell, when there came a crash, which caused the pilot on the bridge to stagger, and a awakened the sleeping passengers. After the first shock, according to one of those taken from the wrecked vessel by the Cottage City, the steamer slewed around and struck heavily on the reef with her beam, throwing some of the half-awakened passengers from their berths. Two other blows sounded in quick succession and then her bows remained hard and fast in the rocky fall, the snow made them bled up on a natural machine slip, while the engines pounded for a few minutes in a mad endeavor to push the vessel further on the rocks.

The passengers—there were about 40 odd miners on board, most of them en route to Atlin—crowded to the deck and some of great excitement prevailed for a space, for none knew as they rushed about the decks with their packs strapped on their backs in the darkness, but that the wrecked vessel would founder within a few minutes.

According to the story told by a passenger, some of the more terror-stricken men rushed to the boats and would have cut some of them away from the days in their frightened hurry to get away from the ship, but for the firm stand taken by the officers of the steamer, who exhibited great coolness. They quieted down the excited miners and with the assurance that there was no immediate danger, got them to stand by the ship until morning.

When daylight came the snow was still falling heavily, but the wrecked pilgrims were able to see the land looming out through the snowy mantle at no great distance away. Thus a strange discovery was made. It was found that the ship had accomplished by the strangest accident, what would have tested the skill of the best of mariners. As did the Cleveland when she was wrecked two years ago in Barclay Sound, the steamer and twisted her way through a veritable archipelago of reefs and found herself in a rock-bound cradle in which she had planted herself at the highest stage of the tide. With the falling of the water she was high and dry as though in a dry-dock. Her position could be imagined when it is learned that the ship's com-

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Erskine, Wall & Co., Victoria, Sole Local Agents.

placed the much needed light. The United States has few, if any, lighthouses in northern waters, and none at all in the dangerous narrows and intricate passages between Wrangell and Skagway.

MARCH AND THE LION.

Something Better Than the Old Saw.

The saying about the lion and the lamb is another often proves false, but there is a truth in it. When March comes in and finds you taking Hood's Sarsaparilla to purify your blood, when it goes out, that it will give you free from that first feeling and will none of the boils, pimples and eruptions which manifest themselves because of impure blood. You have not yet begun to already begun taking Hood's Sarsaparilla for your spring medicine, we advise you to begin to-day. We assure you it will make you feel better all through the coming summer.

RICH QUARTZ.

Some glowing reports from Southeastern Alaska indicate that ere the close of the year that region will have at least one rich dividend-paying quartz mine. Recent developments of the property of the Sea Level Mining and Milling Company is very gratifying to the owners of this property, which is located on Thorne Arm, in the Ketchikan district. A letter from the superintendent of the mine says: "Have struck another pay shoot near the front of the claim. A number of assays show a large body of \$30 ore, while there are ore streaks that run as high as \$80 a ton."

"I forward by this mail some free gold specimens taken from the Sea Level shaft. The indications are that we will get plenty more of the same, which I will forward later. We also have struck another rich streak of sulphates, going over \$40 to the ton. The specimens will average from \$20,000 to \$40,000 a ton, while one in particular, which is nearly a solid nugget, will assay over \$200,000 a ton."

The Sea Level mine, which now promises such rich returns, is located on Thorne Arm, Reviegeiro island, in the Ketchikan district, about 450 miles from Seattle. There are two parallel fissures on this property, about twenty feet apart, which are exposed for the entire length. The veins are each from two and a half to five feet wide. About every 100 feet along the ledges for their entire length, prospect shafts have been sunk, the lowest assay running \$19 and the highest into the thousands of dollars. It is calculated that on this mine alone there is exposed a body of not less than 200,000 tons of ore, equivalent to \$5,000,000 in sight above the ground.

This ore is very rich in sulphates, and a series of milling tests made of large lots give an average value of \$25.84; silver \$210 ounces. Fifty marks amalgamated for free gold, returned \$10.85 per ton from plates in connection with battery. The concentrates, which run about twenty-five ounces to the ton, average \$210.00; silver \$2.5 ounces, while the tailings averaged \$2.48. The more recent finds will largely increase this value. An idea of its richness can be gleaned from the fact that over \$4,000,000 in dividends have been declared by the Treadwell company, which has been mining and milling ore that averages less than \$4 to the ton.

Mr. Lobe, superintendent of the Sea Level mine, who has been over South-eastern Alaska, speaks most enthusiastically of the mining prospects for the coming year in that section, and also in the North generally. Some of the recent strikes are fabulously rich. In the adjoining ground some little distance from the Sea Level \$750 worth of gold was discovered by a single shot. On Annette island, the Indian reservation, some ore has been discovered, a few sacks of which would make a man rich, and at another place a miner, after one blast, has been taking out gold by the aid of an arrastre, mortar and pestle, with \$40,000 to his credit at last accounts.

Half Sick Half Well

Many persons have their good days and their bad days. Others are about half sick all the time. They have headache, backache, and are restless and nervous. Food does not taste good, and the digestion is poor; the skin is dry and scaly and discolored; the bowels are constipated; sleep brings no rest and work is a burden. What causes this? Impure blood.

Ayer's Sarsaparilla

It takes out all impurities from the blood. When these are removed, nature takes her course and the system is restored. Price, \$1.00 a bottle. If there is constipation, take Ayer's Pills. Price, 25c a box. Write to the doctor all the particulars in your case. Address, Dr. J. C. Ayer, Lowell, Mass.

\$1.50 PER ANNUM

Victims of Hotel

Thrilling Scenes at the tion of the Wind New York.

Corrected List of Those ished in and About Building.

The Death Roll Now In teen Names—Forty Still Missing

New York, March 18.—The plete list of casualties in Hotel fire shows 15 persons sibly fifteen fatally injured tempting to speculate on the ruins. Forty persons are in two names are on the list whose whereabouts are known.

Three fire engines and a hoeman remained all night burning building. These six large streams of water which would start up in into of the firemen.

Little explosions occurred from escaping gas, the pipes smashed all over the lower building, the only portion to be left standing. It will be during the day. The wall, side, seven stories high, is but it looks as though it is the first stiff breeze. The street is filled with the debris that in front on Fifth Avenue, the wall in them and their jagged to the hideous appearance of blind, them, which smoke and emitted a bad stench.

Fifth avenue and 46th and were impassable. They were broken in many instances were broken by the great and brick.

Gangs of men were kept the ruins, ready to begin to at the earliest moment such be possible.

It is said that it might be the continual outbursts of cease, and the hot iron work on the 46th street down the threatening wall.

Edward Killen, a milkman, ran into the hotel and in an alarm by means automatic box, but it won't Then he ran into the street and the wall portion of it with him. They found the through the shaft. He a two men got down the hotel, they had caught fire, and flooded with water.

Their Efforts Were U and they had to give it flame came up to them, liceman Charles Leibold say five persons from the fire, carried a first-aid down floor, but though he tried to was unable to do so and out of the burning building.

Mrs. Alice W. Frisco, the Bellevue with a broken leg, this morning as doing well.

Mrs. Sol Smith Russell, actor, who was registered in her hotel, was not in the time of the fire and is Kate Forsythe, an Ameri who arrived from England gistered at the hotel, was phia yesterday.

At about 9 o'clock the re hotel

Threatened to F and all the inmates of Nos 47th street were ordered their houses. The rear wall of these buildings.

The building department tried to shore up the wall it could be pushed in, and it did fall in the desired direction. The gas company's men morning trying to locate pipes, so as to shut off it is still burning and giving trouble.

The home of Helen corner of 47th st rounded by a cordon of night and morning, who guarded the interior. A consensus every person who house. Beyond a few broken house was not cent the top, where the fire today.

All the bodies and in taken from the house, he was in great confusion. It is thought the safe,

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