

NEWS—NEWS

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CANADIAN MUNICIPAL JOURNAL

CIVIC NOTES**WESTERN PROVINCES**

BRANDON, MAN. The city expects shortly to have a good supply of natural gas at 40 cents per thousand.

BOW ISLAND, ALTA. A good flow of gas was struck here in the municipal well; efforts will be made to distribute gas in the town immediately and industrial development is expected.

CALGARY, ALTA. Two women are to be appointed to the police force.

EDMONTON, ALTA. Plans have been prepared for the construction of sixteen steel and concrete subways.

MACLEOD, ALTA. The new filtration plant is ready for operation, and should assure the city of an abundant supply of pure water; it has a daily capacity of five million gallons.—The city now owns its power, light and water systems, the municipal buildings, and the townsite.—Natural gas for domestic and manufacturing purposes is now in use, and cheaper rates are being contemplated by the municipal administration.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. There is a strong movement to have the gas by-law recently defeated, re-submitted.

PORT GUICHON, B.C. The B.C. Condensing Company has acquired a two-acre site, and expects to have a condensory in operation next February; this will be a great help to the dairy interest, as the transportation facilities are poor at present.

REGINA, SASK. The north-east section of the city has been connected with the business district by means of the new civic car lines; the service will be expanded as the traffic warrants.

SASKATOON, SASK. The initial thirteen and a half miles of municipal street railway, which started operations on January 1st, is showing a profit of considerable proportions.—A taxi-cab company is in course of formation here.

VEGREVILLE. All the gas rights within or near the city limits are being secured by the city, which is only prevented from boring other well, by the scarcity of capital

VANCOUVER, B.C. A Chinese Board of Trade has been instituted, owing to the volume of trade between Chinese merchants in China and here.—The population is 122,100.—The Council voted against the suggested amendment to the charter to change the civic government to a Board of Control.

VICTORIA, B.C. The Board of Trade is discussing the daylight saving scheme, that is to advance the clock one hour on the first Sunday in April and set it back again on the third Sunday in October.

WINNIPEG, MAN. The work on the new 18,000,000 gallon reservoir is being rushed to completion.—The Provincial Government is preparing to commence work on the Capital building; which will be the finest in the Dominion, and will be situated on the extreme south end of the proposed wall.

PERSONAL

Mr. Peter Lorensen has been appointed City Assessor of Prince Rupert, B.C.

Mr. W. Leclaire, ex-Mayor of Trois-Pistoles, Que., accidentally killed himself while out hunting.

Assistant City Engineer R. D. Wilson, of Winnipeg, was accidentally electrocuted while inspecting the city pipe line.

SCHOOL DEBENTURES

The security of School Debentures in at least the Province of Quebec, is not what it should be if the value of the educational part of a town's equipment is considered. The recent issue of the debentures of a certain school in a flourishing town in the Province of Quebec led the writer to enquire why School Bonds—in this Province at all events—were loaded upon so unfavourably. Let it be said for the benefit of readers outside the Province that School Boards have the acknowledged merit of having been approved by a Provincial authority, after an examination, evidently more or less formal, by the authorities at Quebec. The method leading up to the need of School Bonds is for the Commissioners, or Trustees, to submit the plans of a proposed new building or extension to the Secretary of Education at Quebec, with the estimated cost; and this needs no endorsement by the proprietors interested nor by the municipal council. The plans having been approved, building is commenced and when finished, the School Board applies for permission to borrow money, naming different ways. Permission is granted by an Order-in-Council, and smooch sailing is over, for the difficulty of selling the bonds now appears.

Of course, it is at once admitted that municipal bonds, which are a lien on the whole property of the town, offer better security than those of either a Protestant or a Roman Catholic School, which are secured by the property of those belonging to either roll. But in discussing the question with a banker who knows the bond market thoroughly, the real weakness was found.

"Suppose," said he, "that a population that is now largely Protestant should build a school and incur a heavy debenture debt, and then gradually become Roman Catholic, who will continue to pay the interest which might be perfectly easy for a large valuation roll, but would be impossible for a small number of proprietors."

That shows the weakness of School Bonds in any Province where the School system is divided into two separate sections, each putting up its own buildings and collecting its own taxes, without any oversight or guarantee from the municipal council.

ST. HYACINTHE, QUE. The Council has had the two wooden bridges connecting the villages of La Providence and St. Joseph de St. Hyacinthe taken away, and is replacing them with steel structures.

TORONTO, ONT. There is a proposal for the City Council to co-operate with the Toronto Housing Company for the construction of more houses on the civic waste lands; twenty thousand houses are needed to supply adequate accommodation.