

NO RIGHTS AT BEACON HILL

AN OPINION FROM
THE CITY BARRISTER

City Can't Grant Any Privileges
as it Possesses None to
Confer.

At Monday's meeting of the city council the following letter was read from Hon. J. S. Helmcken:

Victoria, B. C., Sept. 30th, 1909.
The Honorable the Mayor and Council:
Gentlemen: Many thanks for the returns asked for from your honorable body for the information of the public in re the tenure on which the Albion Cricket Club hold the cricket field.

The returns clearly indicate a serious condition of affairs in the public park.

Thus on April 22nd, 1902, the Oak Bay Cricket Club requested permission to use for club purposes a certain portion of Beacon Hill park grounds. No mention is made of a pavilion in this request. This request was referred to the city solicitor, who replied on May 12th, 1902, (note the word "lease" is used):

"That the park is held in trust for the public in general and that it would be a contravention of the act to grant a lease of any portion thereof to a particular body of persons, as it would be giving up to such body the exclusive use of the land leased."

However, on January 4th, 1903, the Oak Bay Cricket Club again asked, among other requests, for permission to erect a suitable pavilion on the ground. On February 15th, 1903, the parks board reply that the board could not see its way to grant permission to erect a pavilion on the ground.

On March 15th, 1903, the Oak Bay Cricket Club again asked, among other requests, for permission to erect a pavilion on the ground. On April 4th, 1903, in answer to the preceding letter of March 15th, the parks board reply: "The public parks board regret that they have not the necessary power to grant your request in this matter," viz: the pavilion.

It is plain that up to this period the Cricket Club had been denied all their requests to put up a pavilion.

Here ends the official record. The subject was not officially considered any more, yet in spite of the opinion of the city solicitor, in spite of the charter and in spite of the fact that the parks board had refused to grant permission, the Cricket Club had been denied all their requests to put up a pavilion.

It cannot be even supposed that after their two refusals the Oak Bay Club erected the pavilion in defiance or at their own risk and expense without having received some encouragement to do so.

Unquestionably the Oak Bays, shortly afterwards, did privately interview various members of the parks board and some "understanding" was arrived at, thus endeavoring to evade the law and virtually to annul (privately) their own previous official declaration.

The pavilion was shortly afterwards erected—an emblem of possession of the buildings and surrounding cricket ground. If such unlawful (but convenient) permission and unlawful proceedings and their results be not at once disallowed and remedied, other adventures will (as some already have) follow the trail and the public park will become the hunting ground and prey of private companies for their own purposes, foreign to the interest and meaning of the charter, and thus the park will gradually cease to be a simple park for the use and peaceful recreation of the public in general, whose property it is and of which your honorable body are the trustees.

It is therefore respectfully asked (and hoped) that your honorable body will seriously consider the hereinbefore mentioned important public matters and employ remedial measures suitable to the case and in accordance with the people's charter.

With every respect and pleasant expectations, I remain,
Yours, etc.,
J. S. HELMCKEN.

This letter was taken up again when the council came to deal with the report of the city barrister on the matter of the resolution passed by the council in regard to the Bowling Club. The council had by formal resolution given notice that the city would not confer any rights whatever on the club in connection with the building at Beacon Hill. The city barrister, in his letter read last night expressed the opinion that the resolution could be of absolutely no effect, as the city had no rights or privileges to confer on anybody at any time. The corporation was simply guardians of the park, which was to be held for all time for the pleasure and recreation of the people. Then, again, the administration or the affairs of the park must be done by by-law.

Ald. Mable took the letter to mean that the council could not convey any rights to any club or any person at the park for the simple reason that it possessed none to confer.

Ald. Turner took the same view of the matter. The council in allowing clubhouses to be erected had not alienated anything, as it possessed nothing to alienate.

Ald. Henderson who had established club houses there acquire any rights by virtue of occupation? If the clubs were allowed to remain in undisturbed possession of certain parts of the park it might be that they would refuse to move when requested to do so.

Ald. Ross asked whether the club houses were erected without any permission from the council.

Ald. Henderson didn't know about that—but they were there.

Ald. McKee said he had opposed the application for permission to erect

club houses last year and he objected still.

Ald. Fullerton said it was clear from the barrister's letter that the city could not possibly grant any rights to anybody. Any person had the right to run all over the property of the clubs who had put up buildings there.

Ald. Raymond said he had long been in sympathy with Hon. Dr. Helmcken in the latter's efforts to safeguard the interest of the people in connection with Beacon Hill park. No buildings should ever have been erected there with the consent of the city council and the buildings that are there should be removed. There are such things as squatters' rights and he feared complications if the policy of the board was not to be altered.

Ald. Turner was of the opinion that any buildings put up on the park were city property. The park should, however, be under the sole control of the city. It was absurd, however, to say that the buildings there now should be torn down. What harm was being done anyone?

It was finally decided to refer the letter to the parks board and a copy of Mr. Taylor's report to Hon. Dr. Helmcken.

B. C. TEAMS GOING SOUTH THIS MONTH

Provincial Footballers Will Aid
in Advertising the
Province.

British Columbia will be well advertised in California this month, for two distinct sporting organizations as previously mentioned will invade the Golden state from the province. The Vancouver Rugby union will send a representative team to California to play the universities of Berkeley and Stanford in the annual matches, while a soccer team from the Pacific Coast league will leave shortly to compete during the Portola in San Francisco, playing against picked southern teams.

The Vancouver team which went to California last year covered itself with glory by its good work, though it was not considered a very strong aggregation. Writing from the south an expert declares that Vancouver will have to send a vastly improved team this year to make anything like the showing of the team which toured last year, and he asserts that the tourists will not win a single game. However, they always have the same opinion in California, and local experts are not a bit worried by this declaration. The Vancouver team has not yet been selected, but a test match will be played at Brockton next Saturday when the selection committee will be able to look over the material at its disposal.

The soccer team which will go to San Francisco has already been announced. It is a strong combination and is considered a credit to the province.

The California team which came here last spring showed a lot of class and indicated that the game is on a high plane in the south. The Victoria soccer men led by Beane and Beane will leave here about 14th.

TWO ENGINEERS KILLED IN RAILWAY WRECK

Lapere, Mich., Oct. 5.—Two fast freight trains on the Michigan Central ran into each other at Carpenters, between here and Columbusville. Both engineers were killed and two firemen and one conductor were badly injured.

The dead: Chas. Miller and Albert Wisniewski.

The injured: Ed. Sliter and John Dimmerman, firemen; J. Grinkhall, conductor.

FERRY STRAMER, Vessel Is Being Constructed in Quick Time for Havana.

Cammell, Laird & Co. have launched from their Birkenhead yard a novel type of vessel, which is to serve as a ferry steamer at Havana, Cuba, for the Havana Central Railroad Company of New York. The work having been accomplished in a particularly short time and to the great satisfaction of the owners, it is felt that similar contracts will probably come from the United States to the Mersey.

The new vessel, which is named the Guanabacoa, was built to the design and under the supervision of James Pollock, Sons & Co., Ltd., of London. The contract affords another example of rapid construction by the well-known Birkenhead firm, the keel having only been laid on the 24th of June, and it is anticipated the vessel will be complete and ready for sea toward the end of the present month. Her principal dimensions are: Length over all, 140 feet; breadth, moulded, 55 feet; depth moulded amidships, 12½ feet, and she has been designed for a speed on trial of 10½ knots. She is built of steel to Lloyd's 100 A class for ferry service in Havana bay, and has been built under special survey.

The propelling machinery consists of one set of compound surface condensing engines with cylinders 19 inches and 42 inches diameter and 2 feet stroke, and fitted with piston slide valves to both cylinders, and working with a pressure of 150 pounds per square inch. They are designed to develop 1,000 horse power at 100 revolutions per minute. The boiler consists of two Babcock and Wilcox water tube marine boilers loaded with a pressure of 225 pounds per square inch. A leading feature is the small amount of deck space occupied by the casings covering the machinery.

CHAIRMAN OF CUNARD CO. DEAD.

London, Oct. 5.—William Watson, chairman of the Cunard Steamship Company, died yesterday at his home, Lancelotti, Bromborough, Cheshire. He was born in 1842. He was head of the firm of Watson & Co., Liverpool, Watson & Hill, and Watson, Wood & Co., Charleston, South Carolina, chairman of the Royal Insurance Company, and a director of the North and South Wales bank.

FALL ASSIZES OPENED TO-DAY

POSTOFFICE CASE
FIRST ONE TAKEN UP

Mr. Justice Irving is Presiding
—Small Criminal Cal-
endar.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

The fall assizes opened before Mr. Justice Irving this morning at 10 o'clock. The first case to come before the court. These are being conducted on behalf of the crown by H. A. Maclean, K. C., deputy attorney-general.

The following were sworn as grand jurors: Simon Leiser (foreman), William Acton, Thomas A. Brydon, R. C. Janion, J. L. Lemon, Douglas Menzies, Percy O. Dickenson, A. St. G. Flint, J. G. MacKenzie, R. A. Rattenbury, A. B. Fraser, Jr., and R. L. Drury. The latter two had not been summoned on the regular panel but were empanelled to take the place of two jurors absent through illness.

Addressing the grand jury his lordship complimented the city on the fact that there were but two cases, of which one was from outside. He did not think either would give the jury much trouble. In addition to dealing with these two cases the grand jury had the privilege and duty of visiting the jail and places where criminals were confined to see that their surroundings were in accordance with the dictates of common humanity.

In less than ten minutes a true bill was returned in the case of Frederick Babbage was then put on trial on a charge of stealing eight post-letters and a parcel containing a gold chain, the property of the postmaster-general, from the mails on July 31st. To this he pleaded not guilty. Babbage limped slightly and carried a pair of crutches, a reminder of his leap for liberty from the postoffice windows.

J. A. Aikman defended the accused. The following jury was sworn: Arthur H. Tobin (foreman), William A. Rivers, Richard Bows, H. J. Hildreth, R. B. F. Brice, William G. Roach, James E. B. Tyson, Mark W. Cuzner, Edward Cave, Albert E. Harrison, Geo. H. Barracough, David Breckenridge, J. P. Shephard, who people were in the postoffice service since 1891 and is in charge of the staff when he is on night duty, identified a letter posted by R. P. Rithet & Co., and addressed to a firm in "Geneva," which was a list of 45 questions, which the board of trade would like to have answered.

This letter was referred to the water commissioner.

The deputy attorney-general put in a floor plan of the postoffice, of which he only had one copy and this drew down a rebuke from the court.

"I have drawn attention to this matter before," said his lordship, "and the case can be properly handled in which maps and plans have to be referred to unless there is a copy for the prosecuting attorney, one for the defence, one for the judge and three for the jury."

Mr. Shephard told of noticing Babbage, who was sorting copies of the Times into mail sacks, fumbling with some packages on the 31st of July. Having assured himself that the man was doing something, and having drawn the attention of another employee to it, he went over to the table to have a closer look. He saw Babbage dump a lot of papers down over the package and moved around so that he was not able to see it. Hearing the charmer coming in he walked to the window and heard something drop into a mail sack about where Babbage was. Returning to the table he told Babbage he could go home. As the man turned to go he put one hand in a sack and drew out a package and with the other pulled a small box from his trouser pocket. Witness caught him by the wrist and asked what sort of a game this was. Babbage replied that it was a put-up job, to which Shephard replied that there was nothing of that on his part.

There was quite a funny little scene between counsel and witness over a small package, counsel trying to get witness to call it a package sent by parcel post and Mr. Shephard declining to use anything but the postoffice term of "sealed letter."

Witness said he had placed two men to watch Babbage while he sent for Postmaster Shephard.

It is understood that the crown alleges that these were thrown down an elevator shaft by accused and found there.

Before court adjourned for luncheon the grand jury returned another true bill against Babbage and also one against Joseph Sotero for murder.

COMMENCE ON NEW GOVERNMENT ST. BLOCK

Start Made on Tuesday for
Building for Royal Bank
of Canada.

A start was made this morning preparatory to the commencement of construction of the fine new building to be erected on the west side of Government street, between Port and James streets, for the Royal Bank of Canada. The premises which have been occupied by Bowness & Co. and H. Stadthagen have been vacated and a gang of men, under the contractors, Messrs. Luney Bros., will commence clearing the site at once.

The structure promises to be one of the handsomest in the city. It will be two stories in height, with a spacious basement, making the building practically three stories. The material will be of brick and concrete and a feature of the front will be handsome columns of marble.

Messrs. Luney Bros. estimate that it will take upwards of six months to complete the building.

ELK LAKE WATERSHED

SCHEME IS ADVANCED
TO INCREASE SAME

Commissioner Raymur For-
wards Important Letter to
City Council.

The following communication was received from the water commissioner at Monday's meeting of the city council:

"Some two years ago surveys were made by Mr. Devereux to prove the possibility of conducting a further supply of water into Beaver and Elk lakes from the western slope of Little Saanich mountain. These surveys showed that the building of two miles of ditch would add 625 acres to the gathering grounds of the lakes, with a yielding capacity of approximately 340,000 gallons per day.

"The estimated cost of the ditch alone was \$5,000, no allowance being made for right of way, riparian rights, or compensation for water diverted.

"The water which at present finds its way to the sea from the north slope of Beaver mountain, at the north of Elk lake, could also be diverted, as also water from the high ground to the northwest of Elk lake, but no surveys have been made, so that it is impossible to state what quantity of water could be diverted. The cost would probably be high, as heavy damages would be claimed by the riparian owners between Elk lake and the sea."

Ald. Raymond thought the letter was of extreme importance. The scheme to supplement the watershed of Elk lake was a good one. He had looked into the matter carefully, and after talking with well-informed residents of the districts had come to the conclusion that if the proper steps were taken the water supply of the city might possibly be doubled, certainly increased to a very great degree.

Ald. Henderson remarked that 340,000 gallons of water per day was "a whole lot of water." Then it ought not to be forgotten that 600 acres of watershed was one-quarter of the present area of the watershed. The city needed all the information that could be obtained on the matter.

Ald. Mable asked if Mr. Adam's had not reported to the effect that the securing of additional watershed would be of little advantage?

Ald. Henderson (chairman) could not recall any definite report of the expert on that point.

The water commissioner's letter was laid on the table to be taken up when the question of increasing Victoria's water supply is to be considered.

A letter from the water commissioner to the board of trade thanking the board for having consented to supply the former body with all information bearing on the water question. Attached to the letter was a list of 45 questions, which the board of trade would like to have answered.

This letter was referred to the water commissioner.

BUYS PROPERTY ON QUADRA STREET

Dr. Herman A. Robertson Will
Build Fine Residence With
Office Quarters.

Dr. Herman A. Robertson has acquired a fine piece of property on the east side of Quadra street, between Fort and Mears, the transaction having just been closed by a local real estate firm. The property is closely adjacent to the public park which has been made on the site of the old Quadra street cemetery, and is very prettily situated and in every way desirable.

The buildings at present occupying the site will be torn down to make room for a handsome residence and office quarters for Dr. Robertson. The latter informed the Times this afternoon that he would commence building just as soon as he could get the plans prepared.

PULP IS STILL BEING IMPORTED

Consignment for Powder
Works Left This
Morning.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

Steamer City of Nainai when she left this morning for Comox and way ports took a large consignment of wood pulp for the Hamilton Powder Works at Departure Bay. This pulp came from Norway on one of the large liners, and is one of the shipments which have been arriving regularly from that point.

Bringing pulp to British Columbia would seem little better than the New castle when it is taken into consideration what a large amount of pulp wood there is in the province. In future it is understood the local works will be supplied from Swanson Bay, where pulp is already being manufactured, or from a gang of men, under the contractors, Messrs. Luney Bros., will commence clearing the site at once.

The structure promises to be one of the handsomest in the city. It will be two stories in height, with a spacious basement, making the building practically three stories. The material will be of brick and concrete and a feature of the front will be handsome columns of marble.

Messrs. Luney Bros. estimate that it will take upwards of six months to complete the building.

BREAKS DOWN WHILE IN JAIL

SUFFRAGETTE IS
TAKEN TO HOSPITAL

Woman Was Arrested in Con-
nection With Disorder at
Birmingham.

Birmingham, England, Oct. 5.—Miss Laura Alsworth, one of the suffragettes who was forcibly fed with a stomach pump in an effort, by prison officials, to break the "hunger strike" of the women prisoners, was hurried to a hospital to-day with the utmost secrecy. It is believed that she is critically ill.

The fact that the prison officials are trying to keep the matter secret leads to the belief that the woman is suffering from the treatment she received from the jail.

The women were arrested for making an attack on the private car of Premier Asquith. When put in jail they refused to eat. The jailors put soup and beef tea in stomach pumps and forced the women to submit to being fed in that manner. To this treatment they rebelled and fought the jailers. They then were separated and each was put in a separate cell. Whether the stomach pump system has been continued is not known.

VANCOUVER'S ACTION OVER DEADMAN'S ISLAND

Application for Fiat Has Been
Refused by Dominion
Government.

Vancouver, B. C., Oct. 5.—The city solicitors laid their side of the Deadman's Island case before the city council in private session last evening. This followed upon a message which was received yesterday that the Hon. Mr. Murphy, acting minister of justice at Ottawa, had refused the application from the city for a fiat.

The council was informed last evening that an absolute promise had been given that the city would be granted the fiat. Mr. Wallace Nesbitt, K. C., who has the case for the city at Ottawa before the commission of inquiry, has given the opinion that the city was entitled in every way to a fiat.

The civic authorities have decided to wire Mr. Nesbitt, asking him to get the government to state the grounds for the action.

In the meantime the regular case which was to be heard here this morning will not commence.

ADMIRALTY ORDERS FAST DESTROYERS

New Firms in Warship Con-
struction Accept
Contract.

The Admiralty have placed orders for 20 torpedo boat destroyers included in the navy programme for the current year. Engineering, in its current issue, states that one is to be built by Messrs. A. and J. Inglis, Limited, Glasgow, and one by Messrs. Swan, Hunter and Wigham Richardson, Limited, Newcastle-on-Tyne—two new firms to this class of shipbuilding, but with great experience in high-class work. The Wallend Slipway and Engineering Company, Limited, will provide the turbine machinery for the vessel to be built by the latter firm. Two others of the destroyers will be constructed by Messrs. William Denny & Brothers, Dumbarton; three by each of the following firms: Messrs. Hawthorn, Leslie & Co., Limited, Newcastle-on-Tyne; the Fairfield Shipbuilding & Engineering Company, Limited, Glasgow; Messrs. John Brown & Co., Limited, Clydebank; and Messrs. J. S. White & Co., Cowes, and four by Messrs. J. I. Thornycroft & Co., Limited, Woolston.

These vessels are the most powerful destroyers yet ordered, and will have a speed in a seaway of 23 knots. Their construction will enable them to keep the seas in all weathers. They will all be fitted with Parsons turbines, excepting the Clydebank boats, which will have Curtis turbines.

WAITING FOR OFFICER.

John Vascara Will Return to Fin-
land Without Extradition.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

Through the usual sources the attorney-general's department will address the Russian government of the detention here of John Vascara, who is wanted in Frederikshamn, Finland, on charges of incendiarism and burglary.

Vascara, as already reported, was arrested at Prince Rupert, disguised as a laborer, by Constable Calkin, and brought down here. He will be held in the provincial jail awaiting the arrival of an officer from Finland. He has consented to waive extradition.

The alleged incendiarism consisted of the burning of a yacht clubhouse on the Russian coast, valued at 6,000 marks (Finnish), on Dec. 19, 1908. Suspicion fell on Vascara. On March 26 last the postoffice in the same city was burglarized and some 20,000 marks in cash and registered letters taken. It is said that the authorities have strong evidence against Vascara.

BANQUET OPENS SEASON'S MEETINGS

Young People of First Presby-
terian Church Spend Happy
Evening.

The winter season of the Young People's Society of the First Presbyterian church was opened on Monday by a banquet held in the schoolroom of the church. Nearly 150 members and guests of the society were present and all enjoyed themselves to the utmost.

An executive committee composed of Miss McNeil, Miss Harkness, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Brown, Mrs. Lewis Hall and B. Morrison has been working hard for the past few weeks trying to make the opening meeting a big success. They did not fall below their intentions, but made a most enjoyable affair out of it.

After an elaborate meal had been done justice to the toast programme was started. The table was prettily decorated with sweet peas, carnations, chrysanthemums and many other delicate flowers. Miss Harkness, the president of the society, presided at the head of the table and as the first toast proposed the health of the King, which was honored by the singing of "God Save the King."

The toast "Our Church," was proposed by R. Van Munster, and was replied to by the Rev. Dr. Campbell and A. Wilson.

Mrs. Lewis Hall, in a neat speech, proposed the "Sister Societies," and this was replied to by G. B. Brown, of the St. Andrew's Young People's Society.

The toast to "The Ladies," always a most important one, was proposed by P. McKee, who spoke in glowing terms of the great help the ladies of the society had been to the society. J. G. Brown gave an address during the evening. He spoke on the great advancement the society had made last year, but said the officers were not satisfied yet with what had been done and they would push their work forward this year.

A musical programme was given during the evening in which the following took part: Miss Semmish, L. Morrison, Miss Harkness, J. G. Brown. The enjoyable evening came to a close with a "Glad night an joy be wile ye."

BRIEF LOCALS.

The funeral of the late Thomas Deans Jamieson, the twin thirteen months old son of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Brown, took place on Tuesday at 2 o'clock from the family residence, 2723 Turner street.

Building permits have been issued to E. M. Boulding for a frame kitchen and shed on Speed avenue to cost \$400, to Miss Sorley for a kitchen and bathroom on Hudson street to cost \$400 and to Mrs. E. J. Bassett for a 7-roomed dwelling on Shakespeare street to cost \$1,900.

The traffic returns of the B. C. Electric Company are still on the increase, and for the month of September 488,087 passengers were carried over the lines of the company. For the corresponding month of last year the returns were 404,435, thus an increase of 12 per cent. was made.

A rifle club has been formed at Sooke and now has a membership of twenty, who are taking great interest in the new organization. A competition is held over the rifle range on the sand spit at Sooke harbor every week and the members are developing into excellent marksmen. John A. I. French, son of General Sir John French, is in charge of the club.

A quiet wedding took place on Tuesday at the Metropolitan Methodist parsonage, when the Rev. T. E. Holling united in wedlock Miss Elita Steers, of this city, and Mr. Charles Beckensell, of Seattle. Both are well known in this city and were the recipients of many useful and valuable presents from their many friends. They will spend their honeymoon in Vancouver, and will after a few days there leave for Seattle, where they will in future reside.

The L. O. L., No. 1428, met Monday night at the A. O. U. W. hall, Yates street. The evening was given by Rev. H. C. Speller, grand chaplain of Saskatchewan; P. G. M. J. Dillworth, of Manitoba, and Provincial Organizer J. W. Whitley. A committee was appointed to take in a grand entertainment on November 6th. There were forty members present.

The death occurred on Monday at the Royal Jubilee hospital of a young ward Humber. Deceased was born in Freshwater, Newfoundland, and was 27 years of age. Some three years ago Mr. Humber came to this city, but later returned to his old home and was there married. Early in the spring of this year he came to Victoria again. He is survived by a wife in Freshwater, and a brother residing at the corner of Tolmie and Maple streets.

Ald. Humber has given notice that at the next meeting of the city council he will present a resolution to the effect "That owing to the dangerous condition of the Gorge road bridge, and the city being unable to complete same, the city engineer be instructed to call for tenders from local contractors for the completion of the filling-in of the bridge, as said bridge is one of the main arteries of the city, and if left in its present state it will be utterly impassable this coming winter."

Those who wish to subscribe for tickets for the Arion Club concerts, the first of which will take place during the month of November, are particularly requested to send in their names and addresses as soon as possible to the secretary at 1130 Broad street. As usual three concerts will be given during the season, and the following are the subscription rates: Four tickets for each set of three nights, \$5; two tickets for each set, \$3. Considering the high class of concert given these prices are exceptionally low and a packed theatre should greet the efforts of the club.

Washington, D. C., Oct. 5.—Complying with the terms of the special agreement signed on January 27th last between the United States and Great Britain, the state department yesterday through Chandler Patterson, of the fisheries department, filed with the British embassy here the government's case in the Newfoundland fisheries controversy. The case of the British government will be filed with the United States ambassador at London. This record, together with that of Great Britain, will be submitted to the international bureau at The Hague immediately. According to the special agreement, on February 4th next counter-briefs in each case are required to be filed, and by April, 1910, printed arguments must be ready.

BUFFALO HERD LOST BY FIRE

EIGHT HUNDRED
HAVE ESCAPED

Fire Plays Havoc With Can-
ada's Big Herd and Causes
Heavy Loss.

Winipeg, Oct. 5.—Canada's buffalo park at Vainwright, Alberta, was destroyed by fire, and eight hundred buffalo escaped owing to a fire which has been raging in the enclosure for a week. The buffalo were secured from Pablo, in Montana, last year.

Such a loss brought to Calgary to-day by a local auctioneer named Edwards, who has been in the district. As the fire burned the fence herds of elk and buffalo escaped and scattered over the prairie, many being killed and burned in a desperate effort to avoid the flames.

Millions of dollars loss have been sustained through the fire.

SOOKE HAS ACTIVE DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE

Resolution Favoring Provincial
Land Clearing Action
Carried.

Sooke and Otter Point agriculturists have a practical and economical land clearing scheme, without which it is felt that the settlement of the rich island district will be delayed. The individual settler who is limited in capital has a hard battle ahead, and the means at his hand are sold to be such as will delay the rapid extension of arable land in the island.

A remedy to the