

T. E. Julian outlines for the government the People's Railway scheme and closes a letter from H. W. Wilfrid, dated from the Reform Club, London, from T. W. Fox, 14 Deans Yard, Westminster, from C. H. Wilkinson to Messrs. H. C. Beeton, estimating cost of line of 350 miles at a total amount of \$11,500,000 for the whole. How also the promoters wish the government to guarantee 3 1/2 per cent. Mr. Wilkinson says: "If the government will guarantee interest at 3 1/2 per cent. I will build the line in bonds, and, if necessary, I will arrange to postpone the payment of interest for three years on the equivalent being added to the capital. This would involve an annual charge of \$80,500 (\$425,000). It seems almost certain that the Dominion government would give the orthodox \$3,500 per mile, perhaps even more, and this may be put down at 320 miles (without the B. I. and F. V. railway and the Stevenson, say \$1,024,000) or nearly enough to pay the interest, for the first three years." Hon. Premier Turner replying to Mr. Julian, under date of January 28 last, said a general railway policy was being formulated by the government. Correspondence also includes copies of resolutions passed by the city council of Vancouver, Victoria and other places in regard to the Vancouver, Victoria and Eastern Railway and Navigation Company.

MINERAL CLAIMS.
Mr. Braden, the minister of mines the following questions:
1. Have any applications for record of mineral claims in land granted by the Hudson's Bay Company to settlers on Vancouver Island been received by the Hudson's Bay Company, been refused?
2. If so, what are the names of the applicants and the dates of the applications?
3. And the grounds upon which such applications (if any) were refused?
Hon. Col. Baker replied:
1. "Yes."
2. "G. Richards and others in 1891; and Alfred Deakin in February, 1897."
3. "On the ground that the property was not land whereon the right to enter and mine for gold and silver has been reserved to the crown and its licensees."

Wednesday, March 10th, 1897.
The Speaker presided in his chair at two o'clock; prayer by Rev. J. H. S. Sweet.
PETITIONS.
Mr. Kellie presented a petition from the residents of Rossland praying that the resolutions passed at a public meeting held there for the purpose of considering the Companies Act be spread in the votes and proceedings of the house. The petition was received and referred to the committee on the Companies Act.
Mr. Helmcken presented a petition from the Local Council of Women praying for changes in the Pharmacy Act to secure greater safety in the handling of poison. The petition was received and ordered to be printed.

REPORTS.
Mr. Rithet, chairman of the railway committee, presented their first report. It was to the effect that they had considered the Cassiar Railway Act and found that the preamble had been proved.

ADMIRALTY HOUSE.
Mr. Helmcken moved and Mr. Braden seconded "that a respectful address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that he will be laid before the house copies of all correspondence between his government and the commander-in-chief of the Pacific station, and between his government and the corporation of the city of Victoria, relative to the establishment of a residence for the admiral commanding this station." The motion was carried.

FIRE INSURANCE.
Mr. Kennedy asked leave to introduce a bill intitled "An Act to amend and amend the Insurance Policy Act, 1892." The necessary leave was granted and the bill was read a first time.
Mr. Kennedy's bill provides that if any fire insurance company through an agent or otherwise has issued a policy and continues to accept the premiums, in the event of destruction by fire the company shall, notwithstanding anything in the 1893 act or amendments thereto, pay the full amount of the policy, unless fraudulent statements had been made by the insured which the company or its agents had no means of verifying.

POWER AND LIGHT CO.
Mr. Booth moved the second reading of the bill incorporating the West Kootenay Power and Light Co. The motion carried and the bill will be considered in committee to-morrow.

LAND CLAUSES.
Hon. Mr. Eberts moved the second reading of the "Land Clauses Consolidation Bill." The object of the act was clearly shown in the preamble. The act was most comprehensive and clear in reference to the rights of the rights of infants and those laboring under a disability.
The bill was read a second time and will be considered in committee to-morrow.

LUNATIC ASYLUMS.
Hon. Col. Baker asked leave to introduce a bill intitled "An Act to amend and consolidate the law relating to lunatics and to provide for the care and custody of the insane." Leave was granted and the bill was read a first time.

NANAIMO-ALBERNI.
Mr. Macgregor introduced a bill to incorporate the Nanaimo-Alberni Railway Co. The bill was read a first time.
The order paper was exhausted, although the house had been sitting for only half an hour.

The Speaker remarked that as the session was drawing to a close (laughter) those having charge of private bills should get them in readiness as soon as possible.
At the request of Mr. Scullin, Mr. Williams was substituted in the private bills committee for the leader of the opposition.
The Speaker announced that he had been informed that a delegation from the Women's Council would arrive at 2:30 to present a petition to the house. He understood the petition had something to do with the amelioration of their own (laughter). If the members would promise not to scatter he would put the motion to adjourn, but otherwise he would refuse to adjourn the house until the delegates arrived. (Laughter.)

Mr. Helmcken—Why not declare a recess?
The Speaker—I had a little experience in connection with that course a few days ago. (Laughter.)
The Speaker, continuing, said that he believed Mr. Helmcken was the champion of the ladies in the matter of securing them the franchise, and he should be appointed a committee of one to escort the ladies into the house. (Laughter.)
A member then suggested that as a number of the ladies might be single the committee should be the bachelor members of the house, with Mr. Sword as leader. (Laughter.)
After waiting for fifteen minutes, however, the house adjourned, as the delegation had not arrived.

RETURNS.
Hon. Mr. Martin yesterday presented a return showing the amount of duties collected on cordwood in the different districts of the province as provided by the Land Act, 1896. The total amount collected was \$7,651.80, made up as follows: Cassiar district, \$654.55; New Westminster district, \$423.73; West Kootenay, \$6,573.50.
The Attorney-General presented a return showing: (1) The number of certificates of title which have been issued in the several land registry offices since the Land Registry Act came into force. (2) The number of certificates of indefeasible title which have been issued at the same offices during the same period. They were as follows: Certificates of title issued at Victoria, 20,792; Vancouver, 5,433; New Westminster, 17,600; Kamloops, 1,275. Certificates of indefeasible title issued, Victoria, 323; Vancouver, 3; New Westminster, 2; and Kamloops, none.

VICTORIA TO TEXADA

C. P. N. Co. Have Decided to Put a Steamer on This Important Route.

The C.P.N. Co. are considering the advisability of placing a steamer on what may be called the island route, in order to secure for Victoria her fair share of the increasing trade with Texada, Phillips Arm and other coast mining districts. On account of the mining excitement at Texada prospectors and men of capital have invaded the island, and the natural result is that passenger traffic to and from that island alone is worth having. The excitement obtains at Phillips Arm, Loughbow Inlet and other mining sections near home, and the C.P.N. Company believe that if a steamer is put on this route, giving a convenient and moderately priced service to miners, prospectors and investors, the result will be satisfactory to the company and will secure increased trade for Victoria. To-night the steamer Maude will leave for Texada Island direct. She will have a number of passengers and considerable freight.

Rumors of a frightful disaster on the Pacific were afloat on the streets early this morning. Vague tidings were said to have reached Victoria, that one of the Canadian steamers, presumably the Empress of China, had been wrecked and that 400 lives had been lost. Neither the Victoria nor the Vancouver offices reported anything wrong, and there is no circumstance on which to base a confirmation of the report. Seattle, P. O. The rumor no doubt arose from accounts sent to American papers of the marine disasters in far Eastern waters, particulars of which were published in last evening's Times.

It is reported on the water-front that Capt. Belmont of the schooner Zillah May, has failed to secure Indians at Quatsino Sound and that he is going to sail his schooner round Cape Horn and proceed to Nova Scotia for the Micmac Indians of whom so much was written some weeks ago. Capt. Belmont intends returning by the Victoria to Seattle. The rumor no doubt arose from accounts sent to American papers of the marine disasters in far Eastern waters, particulars of which were published in last evening's Times.

A PREACHER'S STORY.
Like Other Mortals He Fell Victim to Disease—Dr. Agnew's Remedy Restored Him to Health and He Gladly Allows His Name to Be Used in Testimony That Others May Be Benefited Too.
Rev. Chas. E. Whitcombe, Rector of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, and Principal of St. Matthew's Church School, Hamilton, was a great sufferer. Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder cured him, and he now proclaims to the world that a safe, speedy and certain cure has no equal. It never fails to relieve catarrh in ten minutes, and cures permanently.
Sold by Dean & Hiscocks and Hall & Co.

—One of the 69 Celestials who were brought to this city by the Empress of India was arrested by the police yesterday evening, charged with trying to pass counterfeit money. He went to the C.P.N. ticket office on the wharf yesterday evening and asked for a ticket for Vancouver. He intended to go up to Yale and in payment for the ticket he presented four half dollars, which Mr. A. J. Briggs, the ticket agent, found on examination to be counterfeit. He was taken to the city lock-up, where four other counterfeit half dollars were found to be in his possession. He appeared before Police Magistrate Macrae in the police court this morning, when he was charged with passing counterfeit money. He showed that he had any guilty knowledge that the coins were counterfeit. It seems that before coming over from the Middle Kingdom he got his money changed at the store of a Chinaman, thought to be genuine and legitimate coin of the realm, and acted accordingly. As he is now without means, the counterfeit coin being confiscated, he has been obliged to abandon his journey to Yale. What with his troubles at William Head and his subsequent troubles, Chong Mow's views of the Occident would be well stocked with dashes if ever published.

THOSE FILTER BEDS

Contractors Given Until Monday to Commence Making Good the Defects.

Amendments to Municipal Act Suggested by Mayor and Civic Officials.

Council Defeats a Clause to Arrange for a Settlement of the Bridge Claims.

The question of retaining the cofferdam at Beaver Lake and raising it two feet to form a settling-basin between the dam and the filter beds was discussed at last evening's meeting of the council.

In reply to questions from Ald. Partridge, the city engineer said it would be impossible to clean out between the cofferdam and the filter beds without raising the dam all but six or seven feet. The water in the space could be drained out and the balance could be pumped out.

In answer to Ald. McCandless the engineer said that the work was not so strong enough when it was filled on each side. He proposed to raise the dam by making a clay embankment, and it would then be a permanent work, there being nothing to decay. It would be made to the works which could not be made without a cofferdam.

Ald. Partridge said one of the contractors had told him that they could complete the work in ten days. Mayor Redfern—They have been requested to do so twice, but have not done so.

Ald. Kinsman was satisfied that the leaks could not be stopped. The water was running from the space referred to. The leaks could not be stopped from the inside.

The Engineer—Nobody knows where the leaks are.

Ald. McCandless said the suggestion to retain and raise the cofferdam came from him. It would keep the driftwood away from the filter beds. The contractors did not have to remove the cofferdam, and it would be better, and cheaper for the city to retain the cofferdam.

The Mayor—Mr. Randolph Herin, contractor in that opinion.

Ald. Hall—it was always Engineer Johnson's idea to retain it.

Ald. Kinsman thought the council should first find out whether the contractors intended to do any more work at the lake. If they refused, the corporation would take the work in hand. Solicitor Mason was of opinion that the contractors did not have to remove the cofferdam.

Ald. McCandless was in favor of retaining the cofferdam and not taking the city should interfere until the contractors had completed their work.

The resolution was laid over until Friday evening to find out from the contractors if they intend to complete the work by the end of the month. It was an admission on the part of the city. The mayor, however, said he was advised that the claims against the city could not hold.

Clause five brought up the qualification of trustees. Ald. Wilson wanting the qualification the same as that of aldermen. At present trustees who did not own any property in the city were voting away the city's money.

The mayor thought the amendment as suggested would be quite sufficient. Council adjourned.

VICTORIA MARKETS.
Retail Quotations for Farmers' Produce. Carefully Corrected.

Victoria, March 11.—The prices current in the city markets remain as previously quoted, though should the cold weather continue, an advance may be looked for in hay and straw. Potatoes, wheat, and other crops are likely to be raised shortly. The prices are as follows:
Ogilvie's Hungarian flour, \$4.00
Leitch Bros. Oat Lark, \$6.00
Lake of the Woods, \$5.50
Snowflake, \$5.75
Lip, \$5.50
Premier (Henderson), \$5.50
Three Star (Henderson), \$5.50
Strong Baker's (O.K.), \$5.50
Belton, \$5.50
Wheat, per ton, \$35 to \$37.50
Barley, per ton, \$28 to \$30
Middlings, per ton, \$20 to \$22
Bran, per ton, \$18.00 to \$20.00
Ground feed, per ton, \$25.00 to \$26.00
Corn, whole, \$25 to \$26
Corn, cracked, \$26 to \$28
Oatmeal, per 10 pounds, 45 to 50
Rolled oats, (O. or N. W.), 30c
Rolled oats, (B. & C.) 7lb. sacks, 30c
Potatoes, per bush, 24c to 30c
Cabbage, per head, 10c to 12 1/2c
Hay, baled, per ton, \$13 to \$15
Straw, per ton, 75c
Onions, per lb., 4c to 5c
Bananas, per lb., 4c to 5c
Lemons (California), 25c to 30c
Apples, English, per lb., 10c to 15c
Oranges, navel, per lb., 10c to 12c
Oranges, Cal. seedlings, 25c to 30c
Fish—salmon, per lb., 10c to 12c
Halibut, per lb., 10c to 12c
Fish—salmon, per lb., 10c to 12c
Smoked haddock, per lb., 10c to 12c
Smoked kippers, per lb., 10c to 12c
Eggs, Island, fresh, per doz., 20 to 30c
Eggs, Manitoba, per doz., 20c
Butter, Delta creamery, per lb., 20c
Butter, fresh, 25c to 30c
Cheese, Cheddar, 15c to 20c
Hams, American, per lb., 16c to 18c
Hams, Canadian, per lb., 15c to 16c
Bacon, long, per lb., 10c to 12c
Bacon, Canadian, per lb., 14c to 16c
Shoulders, per lb., 12c to 14c
Lard, per lb., 12c to 14c
Meats—beef, per lb., 7c to 10c
Mutton, whole, 10c to 12c
Mutton (whole), 10c to 12c
Pork, fresh, per lb., 10c to 12c
Pork, sides, per lb., 10c to 12c
Chickens, per pair, \$1.00 to \$1.50

entertainments, by any amateur dramatic association or literary society. Carried.

Amend sub-section 26 of section 193 Municipal Clauses Act, 1896, to read as follows:

From every person following within the municipality any trade, occupation or calling not heretofore enumerated, or who enters into or carries on any contract or agreement to perform any work or furnish any material, not exceeding five dollars for every six months, provided always that no person employed as a journeyman or for wages only and not employing any other person or persons or having a regular place of business, shall be subject to the provisions of this sub-section. Carried.

Amendments suggested by the city inspector of buildings and city solicitor: Sec. 50, sub-section 26: Wooden buildings amend, this to make any alteration to any existing wooden building without the approval of the city council, or repairs or otherwise, unlawful, unless the authority of the fire warden and building inspector is first obtained. Carried.

Sec. 50, sub-section 6: Licensing and regulation of wash houses and laundries, add "and for prohibiting or regulating the drying and airing of clothes and linen in any part of the city within forty feet of any street or highway, and for prohibiting the construction of any wooden or iron scaffold or other structure for the purpose of drying any clothes or linen on any lot or part of any lot within forty feet of any street or highway. Carried.

Amendments suggested by the city solicitor: Sec. 50, sub-section 19: Aid to poor. Amend the power given by this act to the council so to enable the council to erect a separate poor house or home for women, if necessary. Carried.

Section 69: By-laws for contracting debt. Except from this section (which requires a petition to be presented by the property owners) all by-laws for raising money for street purposes, for making sewer connections and sidewalks. Carried.

Section 110: Amend these sections by specifically giving power to the council to sell land for any special assessment or rate in arrears, and to proceed with such sale under sub-section to section 64, sub-sections 130, 131, 132, 133 and 134, and sections 150, 151, 152 and 153. Carried.

Section 148: Interest on overdue taxes, 6 per cent. per annum. Extend this to all assessments and payments due the corporation. Carried.

Section 239: Limitation of actions. All the following from the Ontario act: "All actions or suits for indemnity for any damage or injuries sustained by any neglect of duty by the city shall be commenced within one year after the date of such action shall have arisen, but not afterwards. Carried.

Amendment suggested by resolution of the council: Power to the council to make an appropriation out of the general revenue or to levy a special rate to purchase or erect a suitable house for the Admiral either within or outside the city limits. Carried.

Ald. Partridge and McCandless objected to projecting signs being removed, but their opinion did not prevail.

Clause two was opposed by some of the aldermen, but again the mayor's suggestion prevailed.

All the aldermen present voted against clause three, as it was feared it might be an admission on the part of the city. The mayor, however, said he was advised that the claims against the city could not hold.

Clause five brought up the qualification of trustees. Ald. Wilson wanting the qualification the same as that of aldermen. At present trustees who did not own any property in the city were voting away the city's money.

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A MONEY BY-LAW OUT AT QUARANTINE

The Estimate for Repairs to the Central and High Schools to Be a By-Law.

The Ratepayers To Be Asked to Decide—\$17,000 Is the Amount Asked For.

The board of school trustees held a meeting yesterday evening at the secretary's office, when the estimates of the board which were submitted to the city council were returned for the second time, accompanied by the following resolution:

"That the city council, after considering fully the revised estimate of expenses for school purposes for 1897, disapproves of the sum required by the trustees to meet certain special or extraordinary expenses incurred by the rebuilding of the central and high schools, and to accept this decision of the council in good part and to refrain from exercising the right given them under the provisions of section 8 of the Public School Act Amendment Act, 1893, of formally requesting the city council through the mayor to submit for the assent of the electors a by-law to provide for the aforesaid special or extraordinary expenditure."

Trustee Belyea moved that the resolution be accepted in good part, but the trustees should stand by their guns.

Trustee Yates said that a formal request should be made to the city council to submit the estimates to the public for their assent or disapproval.

Trustee McClellan considered that the matter should be pressed, as the board was not out for fun. "It is a question of great importance," he said, "that the Central and High School buildings should be put in proper shape, as they are now not fit for children to be in."

Trustee Belyea then moved, seconded by Trustees Yates, that the secretary be instructed to write to the mayor on behalf of the board, requesting him to submit for the assent of the electors a by-law to provide for the special or extraordinary expenditure under section 8 of the Public School Act Amendment Act, 1893. This resolution was carried.

A bill was presented by Trustee Yates on behalf of this special committee from Mr. George Powell, solicitor, for services rendered to the board in 1896. The bill had been greatly reduced by the committee, which considered that the sum of \$40 was due to Mr. Powell.

Trustee Mrs. Jenkins submitted the report of the special committee on costs of the board, and the committee appointed owing to complaints of overcharging for paper, pens and pencils made by the parents of several of the pupils. The committee stated that the average cost of these articles per pupil according to the amount reported by the board was twenty-two cents, and the charge made to the pupils was from ten to twenty-five cents. This report was ordered to be spread on the minutes.

Trustee Mrs. Jenkins spoke of the over-burdening of the children with home lessons. Trustee Mrs. Grant followed in the same strain.

Trustee Yates said the Council of Education were to blame, for their requirements necessitated that home lessons be given to the pupils by the teachers. The secretary was instructed to call the attention of the principals to the notice of the Council of Education in reference to home work limiting its extent.

Trustees Hall and Belyea, the special committee appointed to confer with the mayor respecting offices for the board in the city hall, reported that they had interviewed the mayor, who had informed them that there was no accommodation at the city hall that could be given without an expenditure of \$300 being made. This outlay would not be borne by the board.

Trustee McClellan reported on the ventilation of South Park school, which he said was deficient and unsatisfactory some of the rooms causing suffering to the teachers and pupils on account of the lack of fresh air. The report was adopted and a copy was ordered to be sent to the inventors of the system used, Messrs. Smead & Dowd, of Toronto, requesting that they give their consideration and advice as to how to what should be done to secure good ventilation.

A communication was received from the Women's Council asking that the support of their board be given to a proposed amendment to the by-law. The secretary was instructed to write to Mr. Muir informing him that no change had been laid against him, his dismissal being made on account of economy.

The secretary's report for January was: Average daily attendance, 1,888; 52: average actual attendance, 1,899; 79: pupils attending, 2,191. Being an average of 43.4 to each of the 48 teachers. It was decided that the teachers should be notified of their salaries as fixed by the board from March 1st, and that they teach such divisions as are assigned to them by the principals. The principals will also be notified that the changes made will be subject to the approval of the board.

The request of the janitor of the North Ward school, who asked for an increase of salary, was not granted. The board was instructed to pay clear to increase the expenditure at present.

The meeting then adjourned.

Some twenty transfers were granted at the quarterly meeting of the board of trustees, commissioners held this afternoon. Two applications, of which sufficient notice had not been given, were not dealt with. Mayor Redfern, Magistrate Macrae and Commissioner Hall presided.

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The Ratepayers To Be Asked to Decide—\$17,000 Is the Amount Asked For.

The board of school trustees held a meeting yesterday evening at the secretary's office, when the estimates of the board which were submitted to the city council were returned for the second time, accompanied by the following resolution:

"That the city council, after considering fully the revised estimate of expenses for school purposes for 1897, disapproves of the sum required by the trustees to meet certain special or extraordinary expenses incurred by the rebuilding of the central and high schools, and to accept this decision of the council in good part and to refrain from exercising the right given them under the provisions of section 8 of the Public School Act Amendment Act, 1893, of formally requesting the city council through the mayor to submit for the assent of the electors a by-law to provide for the aforesaid special or extraordinary expenditure."

Trustee Belyea moved that the resolution be accepted in good part, but the trustees should stand by their guns.

Trustee Yates said that a formal request should be