

BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

Entire Neglect of Duty Is the Charge Against the Electric Lighting Superintendent.

To Be Considered in Public—Corporate Property Missing—Fire Department Vacancy.

There was a full meeting of the council last evening, Mayor Teague presiding, and the newly appointed City Solicitor, Mr. C. Dubois Mason, attending for the first time.

A letter from Thomas A. Brydon, referring to the line of the North road, was referred to the solicitor.

H. H. Macdonald wrote asking the corporation to buy certain moulds borrowed from him in 1891 and still in the possession of the city.

Water Commissioner Raymer submitted an account from the waterworks engineer, Mr. Jorgensen, for \$101.17, being 2 1/2 per cent. on the amount of the estimated cost of proposed improvements between the coffer dam and filter beds, plans for which had been prepared by request; and also an account for \$78 from Mr. Jorgensen which he had paid to W. R. Marshall for assistance before a clerk of the works was appointed.

The water commissioner also reported on the matter of the application of the Cliff house for water service that the cost would be \$400, only one consumer to be benefited.

Report adopted and Mr. Jorgensen's account of \$101.17 referred to water committee to ascertain whether or not it is a proper charge.

ELECTRIC LIGHT AFFAIRS.

ALD. BRAGG, chairman of the electric light committee, presented a report respecting charges of neglect of duty against Mr. Hutcheson, electric light superintendent.

ALD. PARTRIDGE objected to going on with this matter, as Mr. Hutcheson has not yet had a copy of the charges.

THE CITY CLERK stated that a copy was mailed to Mr. Hutcheson on Saturday morning.

ALD. CAMERON also objected on the ground that the person accused has not yet received the copy of the charges filed to him, and further because it was understood between the aldermen that the business should not come up again until next Thursday.

THE MAYOR said he had so understood, and if the report had been read he would have asked the council to defer consideration.

ALD. BRAGG did not see why the report which he had thought fit to present should not be read at once. He thought it strange that there should be such objections raised against an attempt to investigate an important department.

THE MAYOR asked if the other two members of the committee had signed the report.

ALD. BRAGG replied that they had not, as it was his own report as chairman.

THE MAYOR said if the other two signed it he would have it read now, but not otherwise.

ALD. MACMILLAN said the understanding at the private meeting on Thursday was that a copy of the charges should be sent to Mr. Hutcheson, and after he had had time to reply that a meeting should be held on next Thursday to consider them.

ALD. MACMILLAN held that proper precaution had not been taken to ensure that the copy sent to Mr. Hutcheson was received by him. He thought the whole affair was one of spite.

ALD. WILSON was surprised at these remarks from Ald. Macmillan, who at the private meeting on Thursday was one of the loudest in demanding publicity.

ALD. PARTRIDGE, while Ald. Wilson was yet speaking, rose to a point of order, demanding from the Mayor a ruling as to whether or not the report could be received or discussed.

THE MAYOR—Will you sit down, gentlemen; my ruling is that the report be read.

ALD. PARTRIDGE—I refuse to accept the ruling, Mr. Mayor; I am a representative of the people, and I demand the right to be heard and answered.

THE MAYOR—I am going to have the report read—that is my ruling.

The report was then read, as follows:

VICTORIA, Nov. 4, 1895.

"To His Worship the Mayor and Board of Aldermen:

GENTLEMEN—As chairman of the electric lighting committee I consider it my duty to bring before the council a charge of gross neglect of duty against Mr. Hutcheson, extending over the whole period he has held the position as superintendent of the department.

Personally, I regret having to take this step, for various reasons, amongst which may be mentioned that I had no wish to make the affair public for the sake of Mr. Hutcheson himself, and also of avoiding another scandal in the city government, but the attitude of certain aldermen who have made insinuations of spiteful and unworthy motives, and the fact that the affair has become public, cause me to bring the case before the council in this manner.

When Mr. Hutcheson was elected to the office he was given every consideration, and it was after a considerable time that the committee was forced to the conclusion that he was neglecting his duty. He was scarcely ever to be found when work was wanted, either at the station or on the circuits, and eventually, on the 7th of October, I gave directions to the engineer to keep a diary of the times of starting and stopping the engine, and the number of hours the superintendent was there while the employees were at work on the machinery.

The charges are as follows:

1st. Keeping no books or accounts. He has kept no record, log or diary of any description of the work of the department; in fact there is not a scrap of writing to show what the machinery has been at work, the quantity of coal, water, oil, gas, or other stores consumed; in the manner in which the men have been employed, or their working hours; such records being necessary in order that the council and ratepayers may know the state of efficiency and the cost of the department. Nor has he ever given directions either to the engineer or foreman lamp trimmer to keep any such log or diary so that there is nothing whatever to show how the department is managed.

2nd. Non-attendance at the station or on the line. He seldom put in an appearance at the station during the running hours; at times absconding himself for a fortnight at a stretch, and once a week would be a high average, as the accompanying diary will show. None of the lamp trimmers have ever seen him to speak to on duty, either at the station or on the line; and the foreman reports that he has never given him any instructions with regard to his work; nor has he ever been, on any occasion, at the station when the men have mastered before going their rounds.

It was ascertained when he took the situation that any necessary repairs or

alterations should be done by his staff under his own supervision, but such work has all been done by outside labor and paid extra for. The first thing that drew the committee's attention to this was complaints from residents on the Deschambie road circuit, which was shut down for five weeks during the months of June and July, the dynamo having been taken to pieces for repairs and left for a month on the floor of the engine-room without being attended to; and on another occasion part of the Cabrero Bay circuit was out for a week owing to an armature being defective and not being repaired.

"The committee could never find him at the station or on the line, and had a telephone put to his house; but that did not mend matters, so at last, on the 7th of October, I gave directions to the engineer to keep the log previously mentioned. From the appended copy it will be seen that from the 7th to the 29th of October, inclusive, a period of 24 days, he was only there half an hour on the 16th and an hour on the 18th. But, as on the latter occasion he only went for the purpose of collecting information with a view to obtaining an extra lamp for day work, it may truthfully be said that a period of 24 days he was only on ordinary duty half an hour.

"Under the above circumstances, and taking into consideration the unfitness of Mr. Hutcheson for such an important position, I hereby recommend this council to dispense with his services.

"EDWARD BRAGG, Chairman of Committee."

The extracts from the diary attached to the report showed the hours of each night from the 7th to the 29th of October during which the machinery was in operation, and noted the continuous absence of the superintendent, except that on the 16th he was on hand from 9 to 9:30 p.m., and on the 18th from 6:30 to 7:40 p.m.

After some facetious remarks by Ald. Macmillan and others with respect to the recurrence of the word "log," which as one said made the report "smack somewhat of the navy," while another observed that the writer appeared to be at sea, Ald. Cameron moved that the report be laid over, and a copy furnished to Mr. Hutcheson.

ALD. BRAGG spoke in justification of his action in the matter, which he felt he really should have taken two months ago.

ALD. MACMILLAN, to give the accused plenty of time, moved to have the matter considered at a public meeting of the council, on Tuesday evening of next week.

Carried.

ALD. MACMILLAN wanted to know about the tools which were said to have been missing when Mr. Cartmel relinquished the control of affairs.

THE MAYOR said he knew nothing about any such tools.

ALD. BRAGG said he had no doubt Mr. Cartmel will be able to give a satisfactory answer.

ALD. MACMILLAN retorted that he had had an answer from Mr. Cartmel personally, but he wanted now to hear from the committee.

ALD. WILSON stated that the tools in question were put in the old electric light premises on Yates street, and unfortunately without being locked up. They were stamped in any way. Some persons got access to them, during Mr. Cartmel's term of office in connection with the new station, and they got pretty well scattered. One crowbar for instance was found at Oak Bay, another at Book Bay, and still another implement on Douglas street. Some of them are still missing.

An application for assistance by Mrs. Frances Jackson was read. She asked to be sent to San Francisco, where friends will look after her, she being old and a helpless invalid. Ordered granted.

Market Superintendent Johnson submitted his monthly report, which was adopted.

Robert Ledingham asked to be assigned to duty in the fire department, there being now a vacancy.

ALD. WILSON said he believed the vacancy had been filled by the Chief.

ALD. MACMILLAN pointed out that the fire wardens had reported on the Ledingham case that he had not been in the office since there was no vacancy—the inference being that when one occurred it would be given to him. He wanted to know whether the Chief or the fire wardens make appointments.

Communication laid on the table until reading of fire wardens' report.

C. W. Ker and other residents of Esquimalt road wrote asking for a piece of sidewalk, which they would have to put down themselves if the council does not act at once. Referred to street committee with power to act.

ALD. MACMILLAN wished the committee ordered to lay the sidewalk.

ALD. MACMILLAN said it seemed to him Ald. Macmillan's plan is to move for sidewalks in all parts of the city during the last two months before the elections, when he knows very well that the funds are almost exhausted. Sidewalks are not so cheap as the talk of the alderman.

The cemetery committee asked an appropriation of \$50 for repairs to the caretaker's lodge. Granted.

Routine reports from the finance committee were read and adopted.

The fire wardens reported no funds on hand for a hydrant to be placed on the Gorge road, requested by Mr. J. R. Carmichael. Also that they had granted two months' leave of absence to David A. Henry, who is to make a trip East.

The report was adopted after Ald. Bragg had expressed the hope that it may be found somewhere for the hydrant was mentioned; and the wardens had been requested to appoint Mr. Ledingham to any vacancy.

The finance committee reported against Mr. Dalby's claim for \$20.

The streets committee reported against any action respecting the E. & N. crossing on the old Esquimalt road; and respecting other matters, including the claim for damages respecting the injuries said to have been sustained by Mrs. Piper by reason of the sidewalk on Oak Bay avenue. As there appeared to be nothing defective in the sidewalk, they recommended that the claim be referred to the city solicitor. Adopted.

This being all the business the council adjourned at 9:30 o'clock.

An Important Office.

To properly fill its office and functions, it is important that the blood be pure. When it is so, the body is healthy. The blood is the life of the system, and it is the duty of the doctor to keep it pure. The blood is the life of the system, and it is the duty of the doctor to keep it pure.

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THE CITY.

THE board of trade collection of minerals yesterday received a valuable addition in the form of a number of specimens of spherical sulphurates from Cariboo, the gift of Mr. Charles Ramos.

MESSES Dennis Murphy and A. W. V. Innes, of Victoria, and J. P. McLeod, formerly of this city but now of New Westminster, have passed their final examination as barristers-at-law.

YESTERDAY'S regular train from Nanaimo on the Island railway was several hours late in arriving, owing to a mishap to the gravel train which left the rails above Goldstream and thereby blocked the way.

ORGANIZATION of the newly established First Congregational church of Victoria, was completed at a business meeting of those interested last evening, to which the committee on rules and constitution presented their reports.

News has just been received here, in a letter from Prof. Henry G. Dor to Dr. H. P. Moody, of this city, of the death of Dr. James E. Garretson, dean of the Philadelphia Dental College, and an operator and writer on diseases of the mouth of world-wide reputation. Three-fourths of the dental surgeons at present practicing in British Columbia are said to be graduates of the Philadelphia college, and all these will remember Dr. Garretson as a kind and considerate friend as well as an able instructor.

YESTERDAY Sohoen v. Walker, an appeal from the small debts court to the Supreme court, was heard by Mr. Justice Walkem. Defendant sold goods to plaintiff on warranty. The goods turned out bad and Sohoen claimed that Walker had promised to refund, and brought suit in the small debts court, obtaining judgment in his favor. From this the appeal was taken on the ground that it was a warranty case and should be tried in the Supreme court. It was argued that a subsequent promise to refund, and brought suit in the small debts court, obtaining judgment in his favor. From this the appeal was taken on the ground that it was a warranty case and should be tried in the Supreme court.

GEORGE PARKER, a young man whose attendance at the musical halls and other places of similar resort has been very regular during the past few months, made his appearance in the city police court yesterday with a charge of housebreaking entered against him. The case went over until to-day to enable the evidence of the prosecution to be got in presentable shape. Parker was detected in the act of trying the doors of lodgers' rooms at the Pritchard-house. He claims that he had gone there for the purpose of waking a friend, but this will not excuse him. He was charged with the knob of one of the doors and he stood on the other side of the door and he took up and other articles of wearing apparel hanging within.

The Jubilee hospital fair gives promise of being an unusually brilliant affair for the occasion. The assembly rooms are being decked out very handsomely and already the sale of tickets shows that the attendance will be very large. The ball is under the patronage of the Governor-General and the Countess of Aberdeen. The Government and Mrs. Dewdney have accepted invitations to be present and it is very probable that the U.S.S. Philadelphia and Corwin will remain in port till after the event so as to allow the officers to attend. Tickets have been sold by Messrs. Chalmers & Mitchell, Davidson Bros., the Jewellers, T. N. Hibben & Co. and will also be on sale at the Assembly rooms on the day of the ball.

The patriotic enthusiasm of the residents of Victoria found hearty expression at the national reunion over the banqueting heard last Sunday afternoon. The celebration was in honor of the forty-fifth anniversary of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, and was a fitting tribute to the memory of a man who has done so much for his people and for the world. The celebration was in honor of the forty-fifth anniversary of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, and was a fitting tribute to the memory of a man who has done so much for his people and for the world.

The table for Sunday's banquet was spread at Harmony hall, and was presided over by Vice Consul S. N. Murray and Mr. A. W. Vanbl. The feast was thoroughly Japanese as possible in all details, and the postprandial speeches rang with patriotism and pride in the little country whose rapid evolution from Oriental barbarism is the wonder of the century.

A SERIES of interesting experiments in electricity and its applications to agriculture, which have been conducted by Mr. H. Davy, night manager of the C.F.R. telegraph in this city, during the past three weeks, has just been concluded with surprising results. The subject chosen was a Chinese riddle, "The effect of light on the growth of plants." The effect of light on the growth of plants. The effect of light on the growth of plants.

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