

# New Source Of Revenue

### On Legal Advice, Council Determine to Tax All the Tramway Co.'s Property.

### Routine Matters Coming Before the Aldermanic Board at Regular Session.

That the city has power to assess and levy taxes on all property of the B. C. E. R. Company's property under the municipal by-law recently passed was one of the most interesting points brought out at last evening's regular meeting of the city council. The matter was reported on by the city solicitors and Ald. Yates observed in passing that in Vancouver, which city he recently visited, the tramway company was not only assessed for every foot of its street line, but for its entire plant. The report of the city solicitors was as follows:

Gentlemen—We have the honor to report upon the request made to us to consider what share of the burden of taxation ought to be borne by the companies and undertakings working under franchise from the city, and to contribute to the revenue of the city, and we desire to report as follows:

The Street Railway Company are liable to taxation as follows:

1. Based upon the assessment of the company's real property, such as land, road, and right of way, and road bed.
2. Its rails, etc., and buildings, as improvements.
3. Licenses in respect of the three businesses carried on—(a) Electric lighting company, (b) Street railway company (the above taxation is at present imposed); and in addition as (c) Suppliers, etc., of electricity for motive and other general purposes.
4. In respect of improvements (such as widening and wood paving, etc., of streets) and to general improvements both where special rates are imposed under a by-law made in pursuance of sub-section 23 of section 50 of act, and assessment where a local improvement is in question under section 245.
5. A tax upon each car as a vehicle kept for hire.
6. The company are under obligation by law to light their track. If the lighting charge as regards particular streets through which they run is left out of the general estimates, and a rate is made to cover the lighting of such particular streets, they should be made to bear a more equitable proportion of the taxation on this heading than is borne by them at present.
7. A rental can be charged by the company for the use of the streets, in respect of their poles and wires by the company. The agreement with the city that they should not be charged rental, or some compensation for the use of the streets and other property of the city, and this we do not consider they can do.

We have preferred to call this a rental, but we are of opinion that if it is not desired to collect a rental, the poles and wires, etc., are perhaps real property, but are undoubtedly improvements within the interpretation clause of the act, and therefore assessable.

As to the Victoria Electric Company and the Telephone Company, the same liability exists with regard to the use of the streets for their poles and wires, and the remarks contained in clauses 3 and 7 above apply to these undertakings.

As to the railway companies operating within the city limits, the power of taxation we have herebefore advised as existing against the Street Railway Company under clauses 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7 above will apply to these undertakings.

As to the Esquimalt Water Company, their pipes, etc., running through the city limits are taxable as "real property" in respect of the spaces they occupy, or can be assessed as "improvements."

We desire to point out that it is open to the council to agree with any company upon an annual rental to be paid by the company by way of a fair and equitable compromise of their claims as above (other than, or including, street and local improvement assessments) so that no undue burdens are placed upon enterprises which are of benefit to the community.

was referred to the water commissioner for report.

The city solicitor advised that the usual notice be given the owner of the wash house at the corner of Third street and King's road that the shack was a menace to health, and was to be destroyed. The same official also advised that the \$72 poll tax collected in a certain case heretofore mentioned be not refunded, and that the council sustain the action of the collector against any and all opposition in the matter.

Both recommendations were approved.

A report of the special committee appointed to consider the improvements proposed in connection with the city hall was next read, showing that the work now necessary could be done for \$900. The report advised that the painting of the exterior of the building be left in abeyance until such time as something had been done with the old fire hall annex.

Ald. Cameron, one of the committee, explained that numerous improvements had been suggested in connection with the work, but it was decided on consultation with the city building inspector that these might interfere with a comprehensive plan of improving the hall that would be later carried out next year. The \$900 expenditure mentioned was \$400 under the estimate that was to be applied to present use.

The report was received and adopted.

The finance committee recommended in regard to the tenders for the making of uniforms for the police that the contract be divided among Sprinkling & Co., Burrows & Co., and the City & County, also that each constable be allowed \$5 with which to buy his own boots. The report was adopted.

The standing committee on finance reported accounts amounting to \$2,949.00, which were passed.

E. T. W. Pearce, secretary of the Inland Board of Trade, wrote inviting the council to send delegates to a convention to be held in Kamloops on September 27th, for the purpose of forming a good road organization, cheap transportation, and to be provided with the council were favorably struck with the idea, and Ald. Cameron suggested that as many representatives be sent as possible.

The building inspector reported that the new fire hall in Victoria West had been completed, and recommended that the city take over the building from the contractor, although the latter had exceeded his time limit by ten days in the work of construction. This was done, the council deciding not to deduct the demurrage from the contract prices.

The streets, building and sewerage committee reported as follows:

Your streets, bridges and sewers committee having considered the undermentioned proposals, beg to report and recommend as follows:

1. That no action be taken by the council in regard to the petition of Beaumont Boggs et al, re ditch on Jubilee avenue.
2. That a surface drain be laid along the south side of Fort street and Cadboro Bay road, from Cook street, a distance of 1,350 feet. Estimated cost, \$475.
3. Re communication from F. A. J. Payne, requesting that a box drain be laid on Ontario street and St. Lawrence street, we would recommend that the said drain be constructed. Estimated cost, \$50.
4. That 60 feet of new walk opposite the building of James H. Fisher on Cook street, together with the renewal of 125 feet from this point south, be constructed. Estimated cost, \$30.
5. Re certain street work requested in a petition from Hans O. Price et al, in Victoria West, your committee would recommend that a sidewalk be laid down on Henry street, as recommended in the city engineer's report of the 20th of August, 1900. Estimated cost, \$170. With regard to the work on Catherine street, from Henry street to Esquimalt road, your committee recommend that the suggestion of the city engineer in his report of the 20th ult., viz., that the fences encroaching on the street be removed before the street is improved, be adopted.

Re petition of I. Braverman for a sidewalk on Kingston street between St. John and Montreal streets, that the request be granted.

That the application for a sewerage on Superior street be deferred.

That the application of C. C. Revans for the improvement of Prior street be granted. Estimated cost, \$50.

That the request of Sir Henry Crease that the broom growing on Belcher street, from Judge Crease's property to Moss street, be cut down.

That the request of C. A. Holland, that the permanent sidewalk under construction on Yates street be continued around the corner at Cochrane's drug store, to the end of the building, be granted.

That the swing of the Rock Bay bridge be reconstructed, the cost not to exceed \$2,500.

That the proposition of Mrs. Shanks for water supply to her residence of Moss street, be accepted and the work carried out forthwith.

That the balance remaining in regard to the sewer rental fund, viz., \$327.20, be expended on an alleyway between First and Second streets, from King road south.

That the city engineer be requested to report to the council the cost of a gravel bicycle path on Yates street, up the centre to its junction with Fort street, such path to be slightly raised.

# He Fought With Plumer

### From the Northern Transvaal Border to the Relief of Mafeking.

### Ex-Trooper McLean, Now in the City, Talks on Interesting Topic.

Among the men who have recently returned from South Africa is A. M. McLean, who has spent a great part of his life in the colonies, although born in England. Mr. McLean is interested in sheep raising in Australia, and to a Times reporter he said that the grasses in this section of the world are much the same as in the great nutron producing country, and he sees no reason why sheep raising should not prove profitable on the island. Before leaving he was called for, and a column of the matter, thoroughly, and if he finds the conditions favorable he proposes to interest capital in establishing the industry in the province. But war is the all absorbing topic just now, and it was of war that Mr. McLean spoke as follows:

"I was called for, and a column of the matter, thoroughly, and if he finds the conditions favorable he proposes to interest capital in establishing the industry in the province. But war is the all absorbing topic just now, and it was of war that Mr. McLean spoke as follows:

"Of the Matabeleland Mounted Police, numbering five hundred, about half were taken. Volunteers from Cape Colony and Rhodesia were called for, and a column of 1,000 of whom were mounted, was speedily organized for the front.

"At Tuli, our most northern fort on the Crocodile river, and twenty miles from the Transvaal border, we thought the Boers would meet us to strike a blow, which we then aim at taking the capital, Bulawayo.

"We were right in our supposition, and found the enemy with 4,500 men there and at Rhodesia's Drift. After several skirmishes, we found the Boers in very heavy fortified positions, with heavy guns mounted on the top, a stone wall round them, in which square holes had been left for their rifles to shoot from, and entangled barbed wire lower down, impossible to climb over and only 'squared' by cutting the wire, then a trench at the base of the wall, with bomb proof shelter holes for the sentries.

"Our work, of course, was to entice the enemy out from such a position, but every device of Colonel Plumer failed. They were not to be 'drawn,' excepting in very small troops, and their scouts had been working up the hill, and by rushing the main kopje on the darkest night we could have.

"With more than half our force left at the fort, we tried to rush their position, but our movements had all along been watched, and their night scouts had been busy, so we found them quite prepared for us. We were fired upon by shot and shell for half a mile before the kopje was reached. Luckily, everything went right over our heads out of range, but the Boers were quite cool, while the Boers seemed scared out of their lives by the noise they made shouting at one another and firing immense quantities of ammunition over our heads. We could get over the trenches, and we had a few rifles, some of us cutting the same to gain an entry. The stone wall, seven feet high and three feet thick, was more than we could manage. Round this we went to find the weakest place, but there was 'no weak place, and we retired after, Colonel White (of the Jameson Raid) gave the order.

"It was getting back that we lost Captain Blackburn and seven men and more than 20 wounded. If they had only followed us up they would have scored, as the trenches were not so deep as they are, and it was difficult getting our positions for the retiring order. No, the Boers dare not come out of their hiding, and dark nights are safer spent inside stone walls.

"Our greatest loss was B squadron of the volunteers, which lost seventy horses, not shot, but by stamping on them again, but in less than 24 hours every Boer had cleared out and gone back, some to Petersburg with shattered nerves, and others to Senaan, with about 120 miles, where they again fortified themselves, and a Kaffir stand until it was burnt to the ground, and then did considerable damage to the railway, which runs along the border.

"Chief Lynchwe, in an interview with our Colonel, asked to have his revenge, and he would not be allowed to fight the Boers, this was his 'war.' This was more than he could stand, being a wild and reckless fellow, who had been raised by the Boers over and over again, losing thousands of his cattle and horses, and which he had bought from Kruger, and which had been purchased in the Transvaal. After Lynchwe had payed for the land, Kruger said one-third of it had not been sold, and therefore he could not claim it. After a little time, Kruger sold to you, and therefore you can't have it, until he was left with a small piece in the middle.

"We went down to Mochudi and organized an attack on the Boer position at Sequani. The Kaffirs were allowed to protect their own property only on their side of the border. On January 3rd, we got opposite the Boer position at 2,500 yards range, and a furious bombardment began at 3:30 in the morning. No sooner had we started than the Kaffirs, completely losing their heads, went mad, and thinking only of their chance had come to sweep across the border in front of us, and creeping on to the enemy's laager very soon demolished it, very few escaping.

"We retired immediately on finding what the matter was, we could not, as I estimated, wage war with them, and on the following day their chief came over to see where we were, and why it was we had not taken part in such a successful sortie. He was much surprised on being told, and after asking for part of our hospital stores to go over to his stand to dress the wounded (which was granted), said he had captured swarms, cattle, the ammunition and commissariat, and 22,000 in gold. He had 44 killed and 82 wounded. "Needless to say, the Boers found it hard to make another stand at Sequani,

but reinforced their numbers at Crocodile Pools, where we met them on January 27th. Here, again, they had three heavy guns, throwing 40 lb. shells, mounted on three kopjes, against us, plenty of sniping going on all the day time, but there were always very quiet at night. Here our men fell sick with either malarial fever or dysentery, for the weather was often 110 deg. F. in the shade, and flies and mosquitoes adding greatly to our discomfort and discomfort. Mosquitoes, one kind of them, give malaria through their vigorous biting.

"The enemy thought they would fire us out, and, not seeking another encounter with us, sent our Colonel a letter saying he had no intention to fight us, and if he would leave them alone he had their promise that we would be left alone.

"I do not know what reply was made to this (if any), but another night attack was planned and partially carried out, for after turning out at 10 p. m. a heavy thunderstorm so blackened the night and swelled the 'spruits' (creeks) that we found them unapproachable and were unable to ford the spruits.

"Twice was this encountered with the same results, and we would get back drenched to the skin at peep of day to 'turn in to wet blankets, on wetter ground, for we had no canvas. Nothing of the kind could be allowed so near the enemy's position.

"By our time came. After clearing them from one position in the day time, under cover of our guns, we charged a kopje to find they had retreated when we reached the top. This we held, and on January 27th, under Major Bird, we attacked them at their main kopje and laager. On this occasion, almost all the mounted reserve. Our men on foot got right up the wall on the kopje, where the Boers, all inside, were frightened to come out and could not turn their big gun on them; but, safe inside their impregnable position, fired on our men on all sides, doing very little harm on account of the excellent cover we were able to take. The first shot was Colonel White. He was hit in the thigh, but, luckily, after six weeks in hospital was again in the saddle. Major Straker, B. S. A. P., too, was struck by a shell, which almost did for him, leaving his chest. He also afterwards made a marvellous recovery. Fourteen men were killed and died from wounds, and only 22 injured. The Boers, fearing another attack, cleared off to Pitsani, within 36 miles of Mafeking.

"From here we trekked to Lobatsi, 40 miles from Mafeking, the railway running along the gorge, high kopjes on each side. But we found no Boers, though the line was much damaged and torn up for several miles, bridges and culverts blown up, affording plenty of work for our construction gang, under Lieutenant Walls. Here we had our base camp, 3 miles south of Lobatsi station, where (at the outset of the war) the brave station master had been cruelly killed by the enemy. After killing him, they left the body on the platform, just outside his office. At the same time they murdered a Kaffir boy, whose wife they carried off to the laager. The final meeting was held at Naniamo on Saturday evening last, and was not as stormy as some of the preceding ones. The matter of wages was discussed at length, and when the vote was finally taken it was found that the conservative miners had won by a fair majority, the attendance at the meeting being comparatively light. The old scale of wages will now prevail until April next.

A strike at Naniamo at the present time would be a surprise to many. Since Mr. Robins has taken charge of the mines he has managed to get along on the most friendly terms with the men. He believes in unionism and does everything possible to further the interests of his employees, and this fact is appreciated by the men who have been engaged in the employ of the New Vancouver Coal Company.

"Our next base camp was at Sefetelo-Pan, 28 miles from Mafeking and 14 west from our railway. The enemy vacated Lobatsi, and joined again their forces at Mafeking. We were here until we trekked to Ramathabana, 18 miles north of Mafeking, and tried to relieve Mafeking on the 31st March.

"Leaving our wagons and Maxim at Ramathabana, we rode down the line in skirmish order until within sight of the little town, 6 miles off. Then the Boers turned out in great numbers, opened the attack at 800 yards, often getting to 300 yards. We soon found we were over-matched, and had to retreat to our wagons, capturing preventing the enemy from capturing us altogether. It was a fierce encounter, for out of 300 mounted men we had 52 casualties—16 killed and 73 horses killed. This is by far the heaviest loss.

"Captain McLaren, who is reported to be the champion polo player in India, was strikingly hit in the chest, but his own statement is that he was hit in five places and had given up hope when the Boers found him. Seeing they meant setting him, he made a sign of the Free Masons, and a doctor who was on the field working up altogether. It was a free Mason, too, and recognized the sign; his life was saved, for he was taken great care of and treated humanely. We have saved many useful lives through having English doctors working for the Boers.

"Capt. McLaren afterwards came down to Capetown with me on June 15th, and I am glad to say he has made a marvellous recovery. One leg will always be short, but he says he will ride as well as ever. Capt. Milgan, the once famous Yorkshire cricketer, was killed in this fight. Colonel Plumer was also wounded in the wrist by a bullet.

"Up to this date, I had ridden a white horse, and although I was fortunate to be in several engagements, neither of us were ever hit, the nearest bullet striking my saddle, passing between my right leg and the body of the horse, smashing the curry comb and brush which were in the right wallet.

"One of our officers, Lieut. Smitherman, often risked his life, with some men, taking fat cattle, which was bought from the Kaffirs, into the little garrison at Mafeking on the darkest nights. His last venture was a failure, for they were all shot down, and he himself narrowly escaped.

"It was on the 14th May we left Sefetelo-Pan, and went into Mafeking on the 17th from the west side, with the help of 'O' Battery, of Canada's 2nd division. This battery had landed at Beira, on the east coast, trained to a point on the Beira-Salisburg railway, then trekked across to Bulawayo, and on board trains again down to within 18 miles of Mafeking. With this help, the staff we wanted, all along, we soon made the enemy fly for their lives. They were utterly beaten by the superior shelling of 'O' Battery, whose magnificent

# Agents Wanted

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We have the largest nurseries in Canada, 800 acres, and can therefore give the best assortment of stock.

## Stone & Wellington, Toronto.

### AGREEABLE SURROUNDINGS

### How Time Passes Pleasantly With the Passengers of the Steamer Walla Walla at William Head.

Matters at the quarantine station are adjusting themselves quite speedily and the beautiful grounds are literally swarming with a seemingly happy well-dressed throng of agreeable people, having from almost every quarter of the globe. All the detention houses are closed to overflowing, while quite a city of canvas has sprung up along the Coastway, opposite Capt. Gould's cottage. Directly in front of the post office, a large Union Jack side by side with the flag. The latter is spick and span, the former larger but much older looking, emblematic, presumably, of the new country and the old.

The hanging of these flags was rather an amusing event. There was no flag pole, until one young gentleman who had no doubt been wandering on the beach looking with longing eyes across to his native mountains, suddenly exclaimed that he had discovered a beauty. No sooner was this made known than the sturdy first officer of the Walla Walla, with a couple of men, drove on the flagstaff and had it immediately placed in position. Then arose the question of which flag would come first, Captain Hall, in his kindly way, quickly settled this by ordering them hung side by side. Canadians and Americans watched the performance with some interest, a general approbation passed around. The post office above mentioned is quite a formidable institution, while the sign board decorating it would do honor to a metropolis. The purser and clerk are in attendance here, while a sturdy guard, well armed, watches over the strong box, which is said to contain about forty thousand dollars' worth of treasure.

Near the post office is a store, stocked with useful articles. At the first class detention house, where the ladies have gaily colored sleeping quarters, hammocks are swung on the veranda and in shady spots, while beautiful bouquets of sweet peas, dahlias, asters, etc., make the air indoors sweet with their delicate aroma.

The dining hall is arranged in the Chinese detention building, where also a large number of the gentlemen have their sleeping quarters. The steers passengers occupy the Japanese detention house. The officers and crew of the ship are in tents.

### APPARATUS ARRIVES.

The apparatus for the manual training school, shortly to be established here, has arrived, and yesterday Superintendent of Schools Eaton had it stored from the freight warehouse and stored. This apparatus consists of benches and tools, such as are usually used in wood working; and it is this branch of industry that will be taught in the schools. Where and when the school will be established are questions yet to be decided. The city schools are crowded at present, says Mr. Eaton, and it will be necessary to obtain quarters elsewhere. The school trustees will deal with the matter at their meeting this evening.

Professor Robertson, of Ottawa, will arrive here shortly, and as soon as he puts in an appearance the work will be taken up in earnest.

### A RARE CHANCE.

Wanted, party with capital to work Penton Mineral Claim, West. Search shafts 50 ft. and 20 ft. deep, showing rich copper and magnetic iron and gold, samples of which may be seen at the office of the undersigned. Particulars apply to Thomas Graham, proprietor, Suggart F. O. B. C.

### Section 17, Range 2, Cowichan District, B. C.

### NOTICE.

Whereas the Crown Grant, No. 1188, for the above named land was on the 14th of September, 1871, issued in trust to one Modeste Demers as therein described; and whereas application has been made for the issue of new Crown Grant for the said land in favor of August Brabant, the present owner;

Now notice is hereby given that the said August Brabant intends three months after date to apply for the cancellation of the said Crown Grant, and for a corrected Crown Grant to be issued to him in place thereof.

All persons claiming adversely are hereby notified to state their claims within the time specified in the said notice, or before the day of November, 1900, in the City of Victoria, B. C., this 5th day of August, 1900.

### CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.

WANTED—We will pay \$12.00 a week salary to either a man or woman to represent the Midland Monthly Magazine at the subscription solicitor. The Midland is the same size as McClure's or the Midland Monthly. It is now in its third year and is the only magazine of its kind published in the great Central West. It has a handsome premium given to the subscriber. Send 10 cents for a copy of the Midland and premium list to the Editor, The Century Publishing Co., St. Louis, Mo.

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