Trustee Jay Scores the Board

Expresses Surprise at Method of Treating High School Staff.

The Trustees Want $50,000 for New Buildings—Domestic Science.

The School Board held a meeting last night, and the pity is that there was not a single ratepayer present to listen to the proceedings. At a recent campaign meeting, Ald. Yates took occasion to regret that so few of the electors took sufficient interest in what took place in the council chamber as to be present, and if this be true with respect to the aldermanic board, it must apply with much more force to the trustee board, if the remarks of one of the members be taken as a criterion. As Trustee Jay put it at the close of the meeting, the board had put itself in the humiliating position of having to call in the teaching staff of the High school in order to show the board what was their duty in the premises. The trouble arose over the appointment of a seventh teacher to the High school, and in order to explain (it is presumed) the necessity for this step, Mr. Paul and his assistants had been asked to be present and address the board. This, too, in spite of the fact that Supt. Eaton, who is the expert adviser of the trustees, backed up by Principal Paul, himself had already pointed out the fact that unless the additional teacher were appointed, it simply meant the serious impairment of the efficiency of the High school.

Upon opening the session, Chairman Drury invited Mr. Paul to give his views on the question. This he did, stating that so far as possibilities were concerned, there were three alternatives—the board could do away with the senior grade altogether, they could amalgamate two of the classes, or they could leave one class without a teacher altogether. The board had decided last year that as there were six classes, it was necessary that there should be six teachers. Now a seventh class had been added, and the previously organized six were still entire, so that if the board were correct in their action last year, it followed that if the standing of the school was to be preserved, that another teacher should be provided. In one of the classes there would be between fifty and sixty pupils, and this was too many for one teacher. "However," said Mr. Paul, in conclusion, "we will do the best we can if it is insisted upon." The chairman and several of the trustees then asked Mr. Paul a number of questions in connection with the division of the school, the workings of the various classes, and other details, the gist of which left the impression on the hearer that some, at least, of the school board have but a dim idea of how the High school is conducted, and that very few of them seem to have taken sufficient interest in the working of the institution to pay it an intelligent visit during school hours.

Mr. Russell, of the High school staff, was next introduced by the chairman. That gentleman went into the details connected with the arranging of the classes, and stated that there were about 150 pupils in the junior division who graded into four classes. It would be impossible to re-arrange these into three classes, as part of these only came in at the last half-yearly examination. In answer to Trustee Hall, Mr. Russell stated that there were 160 pupils below the intermediate grade, and for these there were at present four teachers. A general discussion took place on the arranging of the classes, and in answer to Mrs. Jenkins, Miss Potts laughingly explained that it was impossible for one teacher to teach two classes. The chairman thought that the difficulty resolved itself into the ability of four teachers to satisfactorily teach 150 pupils. The principal explained that there were four teachers at present, but the present proposal was for five teachers for that number of pupils, and explained to Mr. Drury that the scholars were not graded according to the length of time they had been in attendance at the school, but according to the progress they had made. Further, he said that even if the present fifth and sixth divisions were combined, they would have to do a little paring on both sides of the new class in order to do justice to the pupils—some would have to put up a grade and the others down.

Mr. Pineo said that he could only agree with what Mr. Paul and Mr. Russell had said as to the needs of another teacher, if the efficiency of the school were to be maintained. He would not say that they could not get along as at present, but equally he would not say that it would be entirely satisfactory.

Then Miss Watson, in a spirited and quite eloquent address, further elucidated the question. If it was intended that the High school should take the position it certainly should take as the leading High school in British Columbia, then it was absolutely necessary that the upper classes of the school should be well fed. These classes were fed from the junior grade, and unless proper teaching were supplied, the whole efficiency of the school as a High school was interfered with. If the standard of the school was to be maintained, these lower classes must not be tampered with. In the lower grade there were three preparatory classes—some were the drones one came in before Christmas, the 5th grade numbered 39; the 6th about 32, and there was the new class which came in at Christmas and numbered 35. The new class could not be put in with any other as they were green.

The Chairman—"Can't you put them in with the drones?"

Miss Watson—"That would never do. If we don't have another teacher, the other three classes must be divided. The new class could not be divided."

Continuing, Miss Watson said that if one teacher was to teach from 60 to 70 pupils, what would be the outlook for next year? Pupils could not prepare for examination, "and," said Miss Watson, "what is to become of the Victoria High school next year? It sometimes happens that the classes that come in one year are not nearly so bright as those of the year before, and work as we will with them, we cannot supply them with brains." The oft-quoted comparison as between the numbers passing the given examination in Victoria and those in Vancouver was referred to, and Miss Watson volunteered the information that if the 60 or 70 pupils in the lowest grade did not get another teacher no such comparison will be well.

There being no other member of the school staff who wished to enlighten the board, the chairman thanked Mr. Paul and his assistants for their presence, and having been so patient with the board in answering the questions, etc., got to them. He assured the teachers that he and the rest of the board would take the matter of an addition to the High school staff into their very serious consideration. While they all appreciated the present difficulty, they could not lose sight of the fact that they had to finance the schools and had to take all due care. The teachers then withdrew.

A deputation from the Woman's Council, headed by Mrs. Wm. Grant, then addressed the board on the subject of domestic science in the schools. Mrs. Grant pointed out that the Woman's Council were as anxious that the girls should be taught domestic science as the boys had manual training. The necessary equipment would cost about $300. Mrs. Spofford also urged the introduction of the subject in the public schools. The council proposed to equip a room and asked the board at least to vote a half-year's salary for a teacher, so that the work could commence with the next term.

Mrs. Jenkins assured the deputation that she was heartily in accord with the objects sought to be obtained by the deputation, and those they represented.

The deputation then withdrew with mutual expressions of regard.

COMMUNICATIONS.

The following letter was then read:

Having been asked to call a meeting of former pupils of this school for the purpose of organizing a Victoria High School Alumni Association, I have the honor to request that the Board of School Trustees will be so good as to grant the use of the High School building on Friday evening, the 6th February, for that object.

The request for the use of the school room was granted.

Supt. Eaton recommended the purchase of some cupboards for North Ward and Victoria West schools. The Building and Grounds committee will attend to this matter.

REPORT.

A report from the Buildings and Grounds committee recommended that tenders be called for scavenger work at some of the schools. This was adopted. The inspection of the heating plant in Miss Potts' room at the High school was asked for, as it was at present in an unsatisfactory state. Carried. The brush on Yates street which has been cut, the committee thought, ought to have been carted away by the corporation, also some stones on the school grounds. A regular monthly report was asked for from the Finance committee. As to this latter, Dr. Hall thought it would be a lot of work for no good. Trustees Jay and Huggett urged that such a report was really needed. This section was struck out. Another portion of the report asked that the meetings of the committee be held the second Monday in the month; this, on suggestion of Mr. Eaton, was changed to read the Monday previous to the regular Wednesday meetings.

The Finance committee reported accounts amounting to $376.48, which were authorized to be paid. A second report from the same committee asked for the payment of an account of $228.65, contracted on account of repairs to the South Park school. Trustee Boggs wished to withdraw his statement at a former meeting as to the cost of the public schools of Halifax. He had stated that the cost was $13.50, but this did not include the government grant.

THE ESTIMATES.

When the question of salaries was reached, Trustee Hall said that it was now necessary to decide whether domestic science and other like matters were to be taught.

Trustee Boggs said that when he was in the East he had found that the business men were loud in their praises of the school system, which included domestic science. He was strongly in favor of including this subject in Victoria schools.

The chairman thought that they should consider the possibility of adding three teachers to the staff.

Trustee Jay moved to add $1,000 to the appropriation for salaries. The amount was accordingly made to read $51,000 for salaries.

The item of $2,000 for manual training was divided so as to place $1,500 for salaries and $500 for maintenance. This makes the total for salaries $52,500. This completed appropriations for ordinary needs.

Trustee Matson moved that $30,000 be put down for extraordinary expenditures.

Trustee Hall thought that $25,000 would be sufficient. This would give $5,000 for a site at Victoria West and $20,000 would build a frame building about the same size as the High schools.

Trustee Huggett also thought that $20,000 would be ample. A somewhat similar building at Vancouver with eight rooms had cost $16,000, and he thought that a ten-roomed building could be erected here for $20,000.

Trustee Matson was agreeable to have a wooden building erected, but thought that it should have a slate roof, and therefore would need to be built stronger. The board should just consider the case of the High school and the fact that they had not asked for sufficient money. He was afraid that $30,000 would be needed.

Trustee Boggs agreed with the last speaker, and urged that the board should not build a fire trap.

Supt. Eaton said that one great drawback with the manner in which educational matters was treated was the constant make-shifts that were resorted to in the way of trying to secure sufficient accommodation. At present the city schools had not a single spare room, and some little forethought ought to be exercised in the planning of a new building.

Trustee Jay did not believe in making two bites of a cherry. The people knew that a new building was necessary, and were prepared to act accordingly. More accommodations were also needed in the central portions of the city, and there was no use losing sight of this fact. The board should ask for $45,000 in order to build a school at Victoria West, and provide additional room at the Central. If the board did not deal with this question now, it was bound to come up at midsummer, and then it would be too late for another year. Then the board would find that after June they would have to call into requisition woodsheds and other outbuildings, as they had been compelled to do last year.

Trustee Matson said that he was willing to make the amount for extraordinary expenditure $50,000—$30,000 for Victoria West and $20,000 for the Central. In this shape the item passed.

The committee then rose and reported $67,900 as the estimates for ordinary expenditures—$52,500 for salaries and $15,400 for maintenance; and $50,000 for extraordinary expenditure. This report was then adopted as the board's estimate for the coming year.

Trustee Jay then arose and stated that he regretted to feel it his duty to make the following remarks. It was, he hoped, the last time that the School Board would think it necessary to call in the teaching staff of the High or any other school to instruct the board in carrying out what was their manifest duty. Surely the board had sufficient confidence in Mr. Eaton's and Mr. Paul's judgment to follow their repeated and urgent request for an additional teacher, without having to put themselves in the humiliating position of asking advice of the other members of the staff. As the event proved, all pointed out the needs of the High school, and he trusted that the other members of the trustee board would really take the matter into their serious consideration, and that at next meeting of the board they would be prepared to deal with the matter in an intelligent and satisfactory manner.

The board then adjourned.

FAREWELL SMOKER.

Members of Navy Yard Football Club Bid Good-By to Mr. Rankin.

A very enjoyable evening was spent at Howard's hotel, Esquimalt, on Wednesday evening, when the members of the Navy Yard Football club gave a smoker to their secretary, Mr. R. F. Rankin, who is about to leave for England on Saturday. After the usual business of the club was finished the evening was given over to enjoyment. Mr. Pike opened the ball by singing, "A Mansion of Aching Hearts"; followed by Mr. Creighton (captain of the team), who sang, "Grace Darling," in which all the members joined heartily in the chorus. Songs were also given by all the members of the team, and the evening's entertainment lasted until the early hours of the morning, when all the members rose and sang "He's a Jolly Good Fellow," at the same time wishing their late secretary a pleasant voyage home to the Old Country.

Manifesto By The Premier

Hon. E. G. Prior's Address to the Electors of West Yale.

Business Like Statement of the Policy of the Government.

Premier Prior has issued the following address to the people of West Yale, prepared just previous to his departure for Ottawa:

To the Electors of West Yale.

Gentlemen,—The contention that at this particular juncture there should be on my part, as leader of the government, a clear expression of its policy is an eminently proper one. I have, as you are aware, on several occasions since my accession to the Premiership, outlined the policy the government intend to pursue, and I now wish to go more fully into the matter dealt with by me.

I am satisfied that what the country wants is not a general election and consequent political turmoil, but quietude and a chance for business conditions, dependent upon stable government, to re-establish themselves on a firm basis. The political unrest such as we have had for the past four or five years has not tended to promote the interests and the credit of this country abroad, where, without a knowledge of the situation except from impressions received through sensational accounts in the newspapers, it is regarded as being in a continuous state of upheaval. No country can prosper under such conditions, and now that our industries are beginning to share the prosperity enjoyed in sister provinces and everything is taking an upward turn, as a business man, anxious in my own, as well as in the interests of the public, it would be most injurious to our prospects to plunge the province into another political fight, with no justifiable hopes of a settled state of affairs as the outcome.

Having these considerations in view, I undertook the formation of a government under the conviction that in order to form the strongest combination possible, and the present parliament having still two years of life, it would be best to give both the great political parties equal representation in the Cabinet, and thus secure, if possible, a period of peace during which the country would have an opportunity to settle down to business of a practical nature. I took every step to secure that end, and we have today a strong administration. I decided also to give every constituency representation with as little delay as possible. In West Yale, through no fault of mine, our arrangements for the time being were delayed, thus causing the postponement of the issuance of the writ for a short time, which I am sure, has injured no one.

One of the most important questions which any government in this province has to deal with is that of finance. I wish to meet the issue squarely. The government has decided upon a revision of financial methods so far as that is possible. The present prospects in that direction are very bright. You will be pleased to know that for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1902, the expenditures have been kept well within the appropriations, and that by the end of June, 1903, from what the public accounts show now, the expenditures will, we hope, have been balanced by actual receipts, placing the province for the first time for many years in the position of having no deficit to be provided for. Nevertheless, in view of the responsibilities involved in prospective development, and to provide from possible exigencies in the future, it is necessary to exercise rigid economy. A report is being prepared with reference to the expenditures of each department and it is the intention to cut off every item not indispensable in the interests of the public service. If by the revision of methods new sources of revenue can be devised, without increasing taxation, and old items of expenditure can be minimized, it will be done and done thoroughly.

Closely associated with the finances of the province is the important matter of the relations which exist between the province and the Dominion. It has been proved beyond a shadow of doubt that the present arrangement is a very one-sided one, in which the burden borne by British Columbia is excessive as compared with the benefits received in return, while the sources for local purposes, available under the terms of Confederation are inadequate to the responsibility of internal development and the maintenance of an efficient administration of the public service imposed on the province thereby. But the whole case has not by any means been presented for the consideration of the Ottawa authorities. We have not only to take into account the large amounts contributed each year in excess of what we receive, the lack of consideration given by all administrations in the past of such important industries as the fisheries, the manner in which the province in the matter of Oriental immigration is sacrificed in the interests of the rest of the Dominion, and the general lack of interest in the affairs of this province, which exists in the rest of Canada, but we have also to consider the additional imposts in the way of freight bills paid by the consumers of this province which, owing to the long distance we are from the producing centres, is many times greater than the consumer has to pay in the East, where there are short hauls and keen competitions; and, most important of all, the physical character of the country whereby the cost of administration, on the most economical basis possible, is three or four times greater than it is in the Eastern provinces. These are consideration which render the readjustment of financial relations absolutely necessary. I have long been impressed with the fairness of the present arrangements, and while a member of the Dominion House of Commons, was among the first—if I was not the first—to bring it to the attention of the Ottawa government, as my speeches, reported in the Hansard, will show. I was very glad indeed to see my predecessor in office take the question up so ably and so energetically as he did. As the result of increased prosperity and development in the provinces themselves, which has been brought about largely by work performed by, and at the expense of, the provinces, the Dominion is yearly receiving enormous revenues, while, at the same time, through the sale of timber, public land, etc., the sources of revenue in the provinces are being depleted, and it is becoming more a matter of concern how the public services required by the provinces are to be maintained. This is felt not only in British Columbia, but throughout the Dominion of Canada, and I was pleased to see—largely the result of the movement in this province—that a conference of provincial Premiers has been held in Quebec to consider by what means this state of affairs is to be remedied. The resolutions passed at that conference are, generally speaking, in line with the contentions made by this province, and will be presented on the 27th instant by a delegation of Premiers at Ottawa to the Dominion government. I shall be present on that occasion to represent the interests of this province. If at this conference other provinces can show that they have substantial grievances which demand redress, how much stronger are the considerations which should impel to favorable action on the part of the Dominion towards British Columbia, where the grievances are as four to one in comparison.

I am fully aware of the dissatisfaction existing in the mining districts on account of the two per cent mining tax at present imposed. Although there may be fairly a difference of opinion as to the principle of taxation involved, there is no doubt in my mind that in many cases the incidence is an unfair one. In fact, the whole question is surrounded by special difficulties. A measure will be introduced at the next session, which will, I hope, adjust the inequalities at present complained of.

I now come to what has been regarded as and is in reality, the most difficult and delicate problem which the government has to deal with. I refer to railway construction. Perhaps the strongest opposition directed towards the government's announced policy is the proposal to assist at least one of the two railway companies proposing to extend their systems to the Pacific Coast. It is stated that these railways will come to the Coast in any event, and that without access to the Western seaboard they cannot effect the objects of their existence as transcontinental railways. On first blush this would seem to have a good deal of force. Although both companies having this object in view have announced that their coming depends on the measure of assistance from the Dominion and the province, which, in the past, has been extended to other lines that have come respective of such assistance, there are other considerations which to us far outweigh the value of their coming, and these are the manner and condition of their coming. Without any measure of assistance being given the provincial benefits of construction will be largely lost. Labor and supplies, and everything else incidental to construction, which means millions of dollars to the province, would come from the East, and, so far as we are concerned, beyond the benefits of opening up the country through which these lines will pass, we would not be a dollar better off. We should lose the one supreme advantage which will never recur in the history of the province. With construction commenced and carried on from the Western termini to the Eastern boundaries of the province, we will have an era of prosperity throughout British Columbia far greater than that which followed the building of the Canadian Pacific railway. In addition to that, with assistance, we can impose our own conditions. Without assistance, and consequently without any measure of control, these railroads will, for instance, be free to employ Chinese, Japanese, or any foreign labor they choose, provided it is cheap, while our workingmen, idly looking on, can only impotently protest. Direct access to the Northwest markets for all time to come, means more to British Columbia than all other outlets than can be opened up to us for lumber, fruit and fish. I attach the greatest possible importance to the Northwest as a market for the products of this province. So much so that I believe our greatest future belongs to it. Moreover, we have not sufficiently considered the advantages of our Coast cities becoming the entrepot of the trade with the Orient and with Australia, which will in the future form the main outlet of the grain products of the great country East of the Rockies.

Railways through the Northern Interior will open up and develop an immense territory which contains certainly the greatest extent of agricultural land in the province, and immense mineral resources, which, with at least one of the termini to the Southward, will be directly tributary to the older portions of the province. They will add immensely to the revenue in the same way as Kootenay and Yale have contributed to our imports and success. They will, instead of increasing the burdens of the State, yield rich return to the general coffers. They will not only benefit the portions of the province already settled in the way indicated, but as a direct and natural result of railways through the Northern Interior, other railways will traverse the interior plateau Northward to meet them from Eastern Kootenay, Western Kootenay, Yale and Lillooet, forming a network of communication for which the Interior forms so many natural and admirable routes; and thus eventually competition as well as communication will be afforded to every important centre.

A railway to the Coast through Yellowhead Pass will give direct communication with and open up the old and important districts of Cariboo. The developments of the past few years have shown that enormously more wealth still exists than has ever yet been taken out, and with a railway, Cariboo will not only permanently assume its former status in the province, but will, I believe, become the chief contributor to the output of gold on the Pacific Coast.

The government does not propose to limit its energies to the Northern Interior, but is pledged to assist in affording communication to the Southern part of Yale and Kootenay, in order to give direct communication with the coast.

I also favor giving assistance to the building of a colonization railway from Kitimaat to Hazelton for the purpose of affording communication to a very rich mineral and agricultural district.

The government recognizes the immense benefit the Canadian Pacific railway has been, and is, to the province, but it also recognizes the great benefits to be derived by wholesale competition and the extension of systems of communication by all legitimate means and wherever possible. The government is also fully alive to the great necessity that exists for the railway development of the Similkameen and Nicola districts, both of which are possessed of immense natural resources, and with this end in view, will do their utmost to secure construction at an early date.

I have been looking into the question of light railways, and I am convinced that many local requirements could be met by their adoption as feeders to main lines, or for the purpose of giving access to the seaboard. Owing to their great cheapness as compared with standard lines, and the greater frequency of service they can afford by the small cost of operation a very large extent of country can be served and lines operated where standard lines would not pay. This I conceive to be a practical policy of special benefit to already accessible and settled localities in want of better communication, and well worthy of governmental assistance.

The question which the form of assistance shall take is a proper one to consider. I know there are objections made to land grants, but we have to deal with present conditions, not theories. We have land, and plenty of it, which has been waste for centuries, and which will be waste for centuries longer, without railways. Offering bonuses in money has not secured building of lines so far. The objection to my mind does not lie in the land grants themselves. It is a question wholly depending upon the conditions that may be imposed. We propose in case land is given to surround the grants with such restrictions and safeguards, as will, so far as possible, assure all the benefits to the miner and agriculturist that would accrue from administration by the government. It is unnecessary to point out that railway corporations are the very best immigration agents, because it is in their direct interest to make the greatest possible use of the land so as to increase the tonnage of the railroads.

Along with our railways must be considered the question of immigration. This is a very important matter, and as has already been intimated by one of my colleagues and by myself on several occasions, the government has an immigration policy adapted to the practical needs and peculiar conditions of the province. We know there is a great deal of good land locked up in the hands of speculators, as well as that there is a lot of accessible crown lands that could be made available. There are also several kinds of lands. Some of it requires clearing, some draining, and some irrigation, to make it capable of cultivation! and as a rule a good detail of such land is beyond the capital of the ordinary settler to properly reclaim. The government proposes to take the power to deal with such lands; first, in an experimental way, and then in a more comprehensive way, if the experiment proves a success, so as to settle up the accessible districts and make them productive, and the homes of prosperous small holders. We know from the number and character of inquiries from many parts of the world that the problem of settlement hinges upon the character of the land we can provide them with, and the terms we can offer them. Our climate, our productive sit, and our good markets are irresistible inducements. In order to further settlement, accurate surveys and detailed reports on all available lands will become available, and this system of survey and reconnaissance will be also extended, so that prospective settlers can be supplied with accurate information, and plans concerning particular localities and lands they may require for particular purposes. This measure, which is of an exceedingly practical nature and economically sound, is now ready for submission to the Legislature.

The government proposes to immediately re-enact the Alien Immigration Acts recently disallowed. This action will be taken, not in a spirit of hostility to the Dominion government, but as a firm assertion of the right of the province to protect itself against an alien element, which now enters into injurious competition with labor interests, that can prosper only under legitimate conditions of employment.

In the foregoing I have endeavored to outline the salient points of our policy. We do not propose to do everything, but to attempt a few important things, and trust to our success in these to merit the approval of the people of the country and their confidence in our ability to deal with the many other things requiring consideration in the ordinary way.

It is my desire as leader of the government, with all parts of the province, and as far ment to act fairly with all classes, and as possible recognize the needs of every section.

EDWARD GAWLOR PRIOR.
Premier.

HORIZONTAL STEAM HAMMER.

An unusual type of steam-hammer has been placed in the shop of the Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway at Horwich England. It is duplex—that is, it consists of two great battering rams, which catch between them the ingot to be worked upon. There is an overhead traveling crane and other mechanism for carrying the ingots under treatment from furnace to hammer. The movement of the ingot to and fro is hydraulically operated by a man who stands at a lever. He has complete control of the machine, with a clear view of the work. It will be observed that foundations such as are requisite in a vertical steam hammer are needless in the case of the one under notice. Each hammer-head acts as an anvil for the other, the impact of the blow being absorbed mutually. In comparing the work of a single 35-ton hammer it is evident that each blow of this duplex 35-ton design has to be through only one-half the space, in order to produce the same effect, and a greater number of blows can therefore be given in the same time. The blows also being in opposite directions, counteract one another with a resulting absence of vibration.

Meeting of The Aldermen

A Meeting Held Yesterday Evening—Little Business Transacted.

Cows, Woodcutters and the Carnegie Library Site Were Discussed.

Cows on public thoroughfares, the steam wood-cutter nuisance, the Carnegie library site—these were the themes which engaged the attention of the City Council at an adjourned session, which was held yesterday evening from 8 to 10 o'clock; and nothing was done with all three.

Mayor McCandless presided, and all the aldermen were also present.

The annual Loan Bylaw was introduced, put through the various stages, and reported complete with amendments. Ald. Grahame's motion to amend the act regulating the stabling and keeping of cows within the corporate limits was read a first time, and the second reading deferred to a week from Monday next.

Ald. Vincent's motion to amend the act regulating the use of steam wood-sawing machines on the public streets of the city received similar treatment, after much discussion.

Ald. Vincent introduced a motion to provide for the submission of a bylaw to the ratepayers asking the latter to make a selection of a site for the Carnegie library from those lots which have at various times been offered the city for the purpose, including in the list the lot opposite the new post office.

Ald. Stewart moved to include in the motion the words "not to exceed the cost of $4,500."

Ald. Vincent included in his motion the provision that authority be given to appropriate the necessary a fraction of the adjoining property on the lot opposite the new post office.

There was an exciting and, at times, acrimonious debate on the motion in the shape it then was, Ald. Grahame charging that Ald. Barnard, who had suggested to Ald. Vincent the latter's amendment, was apparently trying to attempt "some crooked work."

Ald. Barnard resented this strongly. He knew a large number of people who were in favor of the lot opposite the post office as a site for the library. But perhaps the lot was too small; and his idea was to get authority to make the lot of sufficient size. He wanted the proposition to be put fairly and squarely before the people. He did not propose to permit the "Warden of the North" (Ald. Grahame) to side-track the proposition, as he, apparently, was attempting. If the council was afraid to let the people have a chance to vote on it, why let them say so. He believed that the lot could be put in such shape as to make it much more valuable than any of the sites which had been offered the city.

The amendment of Ald. Vincent to his original resolutions was rejected—all except Ald. Vincent, Barnard and the Mayor voting against it.

The resolution was then put lost also—so the matter of the Carnegie library site is not further advanced.

The Finance committee reported as follows:

Your finance committee, to whom (with the Purchasing Agent) was entrusted the duty of examining the various tenders named below, beg to report and recommend as follows, viz.:

Tenders for supplies to the Home for Aged and Infirm, were received from Messrs Fell & Co., D. Dickenson, Watson & Hall and Mowat & Wallace for grocories; from Messrs Fell & Co. (only tenderer) for boot; McFadden for butcher's meat; from Messrs. M. R. Smith & Co., for bread, and from Messrs. Smith Bros for milk.

We recommend that the contracts be awarded as follows: Messrs. Fell & Co. (lowest) for groceries; Mr. Robt. McFadden (lowest) for butcher's meat, providing he will will find bonds for $500 for due performance of contract; Messrs. R. F. Smith & Co., (the only tenderer) for bread; and to Messrs Smith Bros. (the only tenderers) for milk. We also recommend that the city solicitor be instructed to prepare contract and bond for supply of butcher's meat.

Tenders for forage were received from Messrs. R. Baker & Sons, Messrs. McDowell & Rosie and the Sylvester Feed Co. We recommend that the contract be awarded to the Sylvester Feed Co. at the prices named.

Tenders for castings and tran doors were received from the Albion Iron Works Co., the Victoria Machinery Depot Co., and Mr. Andrew Gray.

We recommend that the contract be awarded to the Victoria Machinery Depot Co., the lowest tenderer.

Only one tender was received for cylinder and lubricating oil, viz: Mr. Andrew Gray. We recommend that the contract be awarded to him, provided the quality offered proves satisfactory to the city electrician.

Only one tender was received for bricks, and we recommend that no contract be entered into at present.

One tender was received for cement, viz: from Messrs. Rithet & Co., and we recommend that they be awarded the contract at the price named.

Tenders for supply of lumber were received from the Shawnigan Lake Lumber Co., the Taylor Mill Co., and the Sayward Lumber Co., but as the tenders are identical in prices and terms, we recommend that no contract be awarded, as we think that in view of present high price of lumber, and low price of cement, as many sidewalks be laid in cement as possible.

Tenders for nails were received from Messrs. Prior & Co., Fraser & Co., McQuade & Sons, and the Hickman Tye Co. The tender of Messrs. Fraser & Co., being the lowest, we recommend that they receive the contract at the prices named.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

The report was adopted.

The council then adjourned.

RE RAILWAY EXTENSION.

To the Editor.

Sir,—By way of explanation, permit me to say that I was induced to refer to Mr. Dunsmuir as "boss" through one or two members of the railway committee contending that they should not wait on Mr. Dunsmuir, but let him come to them. To this I interjected from my seat that Mr. Dunsmuir was boss of the situation, and the sooner they recognize that fact the better. And I now contend that this is so in every particular. Let Mr. Lugrin or anyone else attempt to secure a charter to the North end of the Island and see how quickly they would be made to apply that Mr. Dunsmuir already has one, and a second would not be granted until his had expired. In addition to this charter Mr. Dunsmuir owns nearly all the Island to Crown mountain and the E. & N. railway to Wellington, as well as being perhaps the only Victorian in a financial position to undertake this work. If this does not very nearly make him master (perhaps this is better than the slang expression "boss") of the situation, then I don't know what does. And nothing proves it better than that only this morning the Mayor and a number of business men are reported to have waited on Mr. Dunsmuir on this very matter.

D. R. KER.

TELEGRAPHIC BRIEFS.

The admiralty has decided to strengthen the North American and West Indies stations by the addition of three cruisers, with an additional admiral. The squadron will be divided into two parts, Northern and Southern, the latter having its base at Kingston, Jamaica.

Prince Wolffgang Zu Stolberg Stolberg, was found shot early yesterday in the park of his castle at Rottleberode. His rifle was nearby, but it is not known whether he was murdered or accidentally shot himself.

The British steamer Grafton, from Glasgow for Buenos Ayres, was sunk off Ramsey island yesterday. Six of her crew were saved by a lifeboat, one man lost his life and sixteen are missing.

Literature certainly runs in the Scribner family. The two daughters write poetry that nobody will print, the some write plays that nobody will act, and the mother writes stories that nobody will read."

"And what does the father write?"

"Oh, he writes cheques that nobody will cash."

SPHINX DISAPPEARING.

Egyptian Climate Changing, and It Cannot Stand the Rain.

From London Daily News.

The marvelous way in which the monuments of the past have been preserved in Egypt is due chiefly to its rainless climate. For ages the regions of the Lower Nile were watered solely by the river, and beyond the limits of its annual overflow the ground was perfectly dry. The tins left by Napoleon's army lay on the sand for nearly a century, bright and unrusted.

But the climate of Egypt is gradually changing. Extensive tree-planting has gone on for a long time past, and irrigation works have produced moist and fertile land where formerly stretched the barren desert. Thus rain is gradually being attracted, and while a few years ago a shower was a novelty, there are now considerable falls of rain.

The effect is seen in the crumbling of the Great Sphinx at Gizeh, near the Great Pyramid. This vast monument is 172½ feet in length and 56 feet high, hewn out of a projecting spur of the rock which rises out of the sand. The head is sculptured, and represents a woman in the old Egyptian headdress, the body being that of a lion, formed of the natural reef of porphyry, with additions of masonry to complete the shape. For more than a generation the monument has been more or less defaced owing largely to the attentions of early tourists, and the nose has long been absent. But now the rain is beginning to assist in destroying the sphinx. The wet softens the surface of the stone, and fierce sand-storms then grind the outer surface away.

The Great Sphinx is not the only one of its kind, numerous specimens, great and small, having been found among the remains of Egyptian, Assyrian and Grecian art. The older Egyptian sphinxes were wingless, like that of Gizeh, but there were many others which had wings. Some of the heads were female, others bearded, and there were sphinxes with the head of a hawk or a ram.

From the earliest times there has been speculation as to the meaning of this curious symbolic figure. The name 'sphinx" was given to it by the Greeks, and means, literally, "the strangler." From the fact that sphinxes appear commonly on ancient tombs, and are represented as treading on or carrying away a man or child, there seems some reason to believe that the figure was first intended as a symbol of death; but other explanations have been given which may hold good of sphinxes made in late times. Thus the lion's body and man's head have been held to symbolize the combination of strength and intellect in some divinity, and the sphinx has also been taken as denoting the insurrection. A chapel and a tablet found early in the last century in front of the Great Sphinx would suggest that the figure represented an ancient deity.

The Greeks, while continuing to represent the sphinx in their art, had a story with regard to it which was evidently only a poetical fable, and showed that the real meaning of the figure was lost. The story was that on a rocky mountain near Thebes dwelt a creature with the face of a virgin, the body of a lion, the wings of a bird, and the tail of a serpent, which had been given a riddle by the muses, and had power to destroy and devour mankind till the riddle was solved. Every traveler failing to solve the riddle was devoured, and this was the riddle: "What creature is it of which goes on four legs at daybreak, on two at noon, and on three at night?"

Finally Œdipus solved the riddle, saying that man was the creature, for as a baby he crawled, in his prime he walked, and in his old age he hobbled along with a staff. On hearing the answer the sphinx threw herself from her rocky mountain and was killed.

The sphinx continued for many centuries a favorite subject of art, and is found on coins, in relief sculptures, and as a decoration of arms and furniture.

MARCONI IN MONTREAL.

Within Two Months Will Be Handling Commercial Business.

Montreal, Jan. 29.—(Special.)—Marconi arrived here today to consult with the directors of the Canadian company. He intimated that within two months a regular commercial business conducted by wireless telegraphy would be established between England and Canada. The Wireless company has decided that charge for transmission of messages would be ten cents as against cable company tariff of 25 cents per word for trans-Atlantic telegrams. Marconi hopes that an important branch of trans-Atlantic business he will do will be press messages, which will be given to Canadian news and news in England in which Canada is especially interested, but which is now practically entirely lost sight of.

STORM PROOF.

Wireless Not Affected By the Raging Elements.

The first real live news transmitted across the Atlantic was sent by Mr. Marconi on the night of January 6th from Table Head station to the London Times during a violent storm. About 10 o'clock it began to snow hard, and the northeast wind rose shortly afterwards, and at 11 o'clock the worst blizzard of the year was raging around the Table Head station. The snow came down thick and fast and the wind blew at a velocity of 60 miles an hour, and, strange to say there were intermittant flashes of lightning and the faint rumbling of thunder was heard. When the storm was at its height Mr. Marconi decided that he had an opportunity to test his wireless station under the most adverse conditions. He wished to see if the most violent storm would effect or retard the transmission of the messages, and more than that, he wished to see what effect, if any, an electrical storm had on wireless communication. Like all the young Italian's undertakings, this one was a complete triumph, and he demonstrated conclusively that the elements, such as gales and lightning, could not in the least interfere with wireless telegraphy. The first message was sent to the London Times. It read:

"Times, London: Please insert following in birth column: 'Third January, the wife of R. N. Vyvian, chief electrical engineer, Canadian Marconi station, of daughter.' (Signed) Marconi."

The next message sent was to Mrs. Fawler, mother of Mrs. Vyvian. It read: "Fawler, Weymouth: 'Daughter born, 3rd January. Both well.' (Signed) Vyvian."

Both messages went through without the slightest hitch, and Marconi decided that not the slightest difficulty will be experienced in sending messages through a storm. There was also a severe storm raging in England at the time.

Mr. Marconi was asked to give a name to the wireless messages. He replied that he had given some consideration to the matter, but he had not yet determined on a suitable name. He did not like the name "Marconigram," because it brought his own personality too prominently to the fore. "Wireless messages' was too lengthy a nomenclature, and he thought the word "cethergram" would not prove popular. "I fear we will have some difficulty in finding a suitable name," answered Mr. Marconi.

The inventor stated that the wireless line between Cornwall and Cape Cod passed directly over Sydney. He added that he could send a wireless message now as easily to Vancouver from Table Head as to Cornwall from Table Head. In fact, a message could now be sent to any part of the world.

After the establishment of operations between North America and Great Britain Mr. Marconi will turn his attention to establishing a line between Italy and South America.

KINGSTON PARK RACING.

London, Jan. 30.—King Edward rode in an automobile from Windsor to Kingston Park today to see his grand national steeplechase favorite, Ambush II., run in the Stewards' steeplechase. The weights favored Ambush, but he was not placed. The race was won by Fanciful. Patrick Ball and Saltator II. fell in the Wey bridge steeplechase and were killed. Nightingale, a jockey, was hurt.

Official Gazette Announcements

New Appointments, Incorporations, Notices Etc. Appearing in Gazette.

Complete List of Members of the B. C. Pharmaceutical Association.

The following announcements appear in the last issue of the British Columbia Gazette:

The following appointments are gazetted:

William Thomas Kergin, of Port Simpson, M. P., to be a justice of the peace in and for the province of British Columbia.

Lestock R. Forbes, of Fernie, Esquire, to be: Stipendiary magistrate for the County of Kootenay; collector of provincial revenue and revenue tax, and registrar under the Marriage Act for the Fernie electoral district; deputy, for the Fernie electoral district, of the district registrar of births, deaths and marriages for the Southern division of East Kootenay; deputy mining recorder for that portion of the Fort Steele Mining division known as the Fernie district, comprising the drainage area of the Elk river, North of the South Fork thereof, with sub-recording office at Fernie, and coroner for the province of British Columbia.

Tenders will be received up to noon of Monday, February 16, for the erection of a two story addition to Cranbrook school.

Certificates of incorporation have been issued to the following:

The Abbotsford Lumber Company, Limited. Capital, $30,000 in $1 shares.

Alpha Brand Potted Meat and Fish Company, Limited. Capital $50,000 in $25 shares. The primary object of the company is to acquire and take over as a going concern the business now carried on by E. A. Marshall, of the city of Vancouver, of putting up potted fish and meats, and to acquire the patent for improvements in sealing and securing covers of jars and the registered trade mark "Alpha Brand," now owned and used by him, and with a view thereto to enter into the agreement referred to in clause 3 of the company's articles of association, and to carry the same into effect with or without modification.

The Balmoral, Limited. Capital $80,000 in $10 shares. The primary object of the corporation is to acquire, by purchase, all that the leasehold and interest of R. A. Lawrence Kirk, George Alan Kirk, Henry Buchanan, Alastair Kirk and Evelyn Georgiana Kirk in and to that piece or parcel of land situate in the City of Victoria, known and described on the official map of the said city as lots 403 (four hundred and three) and 410 (four hundred and ten), together with the building thereon, known as the Balmoral hotel, and any other building of buildings situate thereon.

The Elwood Tin Workers Gold Mining company of Lardeau, British Columbia, Limited. Capital $1,500,000, in $1 shares.

The Fernie Manufacturing Company, Limited. Capital $25,000 in $100 shares. To carry on a lumbering and manufacturing business.

The following persons have been registered during the year as licentiates of the British Columbia Pharmaceutical association:

Anderson, J. A.—S