

SANITARIUM NEAR CITY NOT DESIRED

THE COUNCIL OBJECTS TO THE PROPOSAL

Consider Full Paid Fire Department, Also Estimate to Rebuild Rock Bay Bridge.

A very important meeting of the city council was held Thursday. At Monday's meeting all the work then brought up was not disposed of, and the Songhees Indian reserve question and other business was left over to be considered Thursday. After the adjourned meeting, the council went into committee and considered some of the estimates. In connection with these several very important matters had first to be dealt with, namely, an improved electric light station, to which reference is made elsewhere in this issue. A full-paid fire department and a proposal to rebuild the swing of the Rock Bay bridge.

On behalf of the Municipal Association of Spring Ridge, a deputation consisting of Messrs. E. Bragg and Shirk were present. Mr. Bragg in explaining the object of the association said that it was desired to get a more equitable distribution of civic moneys for Spring Ridge. The members of the association wanted to see the sewer work completed there, a trunk road through the district to the hospital was an improvement sought, and the sand pits required attention. The district was thickly populated, and something should be done towards effecting a general improvement.

Mr. Shirk in endorsing Mr. Bragg's remarks thought that the sand pits should be filled up, so that they would not be a nuisance. He mentioned a number of streets requiring attention, including Pandora street, which he thought might be extended through to the hospital. With regard to the sewerage of the district, the work could be done as cheaply now as at another time.

His Worship said he was glad to see such associations were being formed throughout the city, as it helped the council to more equitably distribute money for street improvements.

The deputation then withdrew, and the regular proceedings were taken up. A communication was received from the Lieutenant-Governor stating that the naval authorities had received an offer for the use of the naval hospital for a sanitarium, but it was first desired to be known if the city had any objection to the place being converted into an institution of this kind.

The Mayor and a number of aldermen took objection to the proposal. His Worship was not so much afraid of controversy as to the possibilities of consumption leading in this direction in force, who would not always be carrying their looking after themselves. A sanitarium was not a desirable thing alongside the capital of the province, and there were plenty of other locations throughout the country. The council was not in favor of this, and a reply will be forwarded to the Lieutenant-Governor stating the objections taken.

The Songhees Indian reserve question, which was left over from the regular meeting on Monday night, was then considered. Ald. Hall contended that the city had no legal right to the reserve, but it had a moral one. He would like to see something done that would provide for the city getting the first option on the land. He moved that the petition before the council from a committee of citizens be received and a copy of it sent to the provincial government with the council's endorsement and with the request that the corporation's rights be recognized.

This was approved. Ald. Stewart moved that the city members endorse the bill. This also was carried. Ald. Hall alone objecting. The council then went into committee. City Engineer Topp submitted an estimate on the construction of a septic tank for the Jubilee hospital, and enclosed a plan of the work to be done. The electric light committee's report was next adopted, and the council proceeded to discuss other matters affecting the estimates.

A proposal was then made for a full-paid fire department, the merits and demerits of which has been discussed periodically in this city for many years. The proposition is to do away with volunteer service, and to substitute it with a permanent force, which would be seven men less in numbers, but which advocates of the scheme say would be much more effective. The extra expense involved would be \$3,000, against which there could be placed a reduction in insurance. What this would amount to could not be stated last night, and so the business was left over for another meeting to be held on Wednesday evening next. Judging from the discussion which took place the council seem about equally divided on the reform, serious consideration having been given the facts that the board of fire underwriters endorse the proposal, and that Vancouver and other cities have adopted it with good results.

With regard to the Rock Bay bridge no decision was arrived at. The city engineer reported that it will take between six and seven thousand dollars to repair all but the swing of the bridge. No estimate, however, was given for the repair of the bridge, and after discussing the matter for a while the council adjourned.

PILE TERRORS SWEPT AWAY.—Dr. Agnew's Ointment stands at the head as a reliever, healer, and sure cure for piles in all forms. One application will give comfort in a few minutes, and three to six days application according to directions will cure chronic cases. It relieves all itching and burning skin diseases in a day. 25 cents.

RESERVE CANCELLED.

Is Lifted From Lands Comprising Columbia & Western Grant.

In the British Columbia Gazette of Thursday notice is given that the reservation established in pursuance of the provisions of the "Columbia & Western Railway Subsidy Act, 1896," notices of which were published in the British Columbia Gazette and dated 24th May, 1896, and 5th June, 1896, respectively, are hereby cancelled. Crown lands situated within the area embraced by the said reservation will be open to sale, settlement, lease and other disposition, under the provisions of the "Land Act," three months after the date of the first publication of this notice in the British Columbia Gazette; provided, however, that in all cases where lands are so sold, preempted, leased or otherwise alienated by the government and are subsequently found, upon the survey of the Columbia & Western Railway Company's blocks, to lie wholly or in part within such blocks, then the persons so acquiring such lands shall acquire their title thereto from the railway company, who have agreed to deal with such purchasers, pre-emptors, lessees, etc., in the same terms and conditions as the government would under the provisions of the "Land Act," except in respect to timber lands on the company's blocks, which shall be subject to the regulations issued by the company relative to the cutting of timber on the Columbia & Western railway land grant.

The following companies have been incorporated: Canada Zinc Company, Ltd., capital \$200,000; Comstock Waterworks Co., Ltd., capital \$10,000; Gold Trench-Proof Pile Company, Ltd., capital \$30,000; Johnston Fisheries Co., Ltd., capital \$20,000.

Herbert Cancellor, of Atlin, B. C., has been appointed to be a justice of the peace.

PLAN TO ENLARGE ELECTRIC PLANT

A BY-LAW PROPOSED FOR NEW CITY LOAN

Eleven Thousand Dollars Required to Introduce an Improved System of Lighting.

If the action of the city council, approved in committee Thursday, is endorsed at the regular meeting on Monday evening next, ratepayers will be called upon to vote on a by-law for the raising of \$11,000 for the enlargement of the electric light plant. The report of the committee recommending the desired improvements put the requirements of the station as follows: One dynamo, 230 lights' capacity, approximated cost, \$2,840; one exciter, \$145; one switch board, \$305; belt, pulley, etc., \$500; three transformers of 50 lights' capacity each, \$1,500; 150 long incandescent lamps, \$4,500; remaining circuits, \$510; total, \$11,000.

City Electrician Hutchinson was present at the meeting Thursday to explain to the council the various details of the proposed service. It was shown that with the installation of the new lights, one trimmer at a salary of \$720 a year could be dispensed with. This could be done because the up-to-date lamps burn 80 hours, while the old ones burn but 15 hours. Mr. Hutchinson stated what he had in mind, if the council approved of the new system, was the dividing of the city into seven districts. The new dynamo would supply two, replacing an obsolete one now in service, and under the new arrangement there would be a margin of power left for about 125 new lights. The carbons in the new lamps have to be renewed every five days, while those in the lamps now used have to be replaced every day. Furthermore, it was shown that a vastly superior light former give. No air can get at them, and the shadow effect so objectionable in the present service would be obviated.

A number of the aldermen desired to know what permanency the new service might have. This the city electrician could not answer definitely. The new equipment recommended was standardized, and improvements made on it no one could forestall. The life of the dynamo would be fifty years or more. There was very little about it to wear out, but there was one thing which he thought should be stated, and that was under the new system no extra provision was made for additional engine power, which would remain as at present, subject to an accident at any time, which might cause a temporary interruption in the lighting service. But additional power of this kind would involve much more expense on the city. The transformers, however, will be such that they can be used in event of electric power being obtained from Goldstream or elsewhere.

Attention was also drawn to the fact that a \$15,000 loan would expire this year, and it would be perfectly in order for the council to replace it with a ten-year loan of the amount mentioned, if the people favored the by-law proposed. It was also pointed out that in 1915, at the expiration of this ten years, no other city loan matured.

AFRICAN EPICURES CONSIDER THE TONGUE OF A YOUNG STRAITS A DELICACY.

The animal is said to taste somewhat like veal.

FARM WORK MADE EASY.

The farmers of Canada are indebted to the Family Herald and Weekly Star for the issue of the 22nd of February, which is largely devoted to the important question of labor saving methods on the farm. It is wonderfully instructive, better than all the agricultural meetings and exhibits of farm machinery ever held in this country. The Family Herald and Weekly Star should be received in a few minutes, and three to six days application according to directions will cure chronic cases. It relieves all itching and burning skin diseases in a day. 25 cents.

WHO WILL CONDUCT THE PROSECUTION?

THE PERJURY CASE IN POLICE COURT FRIDAY

Geo. Powell Refuses to Allow Attorney-General to Interview His Witnesses—An Impasse.

When the perjury case was called in the police court this morning George Powell, representing the private prosecutor, Mr. Macdonald, and the attorney-general's department, were both on hand, while Thornton Fell was present for the defence. Apparently all parties were willing to have the case adjourned until Wednesday next, and everything went smoothly until Mr. Macdonald, in stating his reasons for his inability to proceed, said he had not been able to confer with the witnesses. Mr. Powell claimed in with the consoling remark that Mr. Macdonald would be in no difficult position next Wednesday, as he would not allow the witnesses to be seen by him, and that in no event would he allow a private trial to take place in the attorney-general's office with a view of first deciding whether or not the prosecution should proceed.

Mr. Macdonald replied that he didn't think it could be seriously argued that the attorney-general could not take charge of all criminal proceedings, and he scouted the idea that Mr. Powell was in a position to refuse to allow the witnesses to be interviewed. Mr. Powell thereupon stated that he certainly was serious, and would give his reasons for being so. First, the attorney-general had treated his witnesses and himself with marked discourtesy in not conferring with them as to the bona fides of these complaints, but, on the information of some one other than themselves, he had proceeded to the conclusion that the charges were unsubstantial and instituted for the purpose of vengeance, without regard to their legitimacy. Furthermore, he had forthwith appointed a police court through his acting deputy, and attempted to eject counsel who had been retained by the prosecutors. Secondly, that he had notified the speaker to come to his office as a witness, and at the same time had announced, through the columns of the Times, that the private prosecution had been ousted, his purpose being to first satisfy himself that there was no foundation for a case before he proceeded.

Mr. Powell stated this assumption of inquisitorial powers was objectionable. He visited Mr. Macdonald and said if this were the real reason he would respectfully decline to allow his witnesses to see him, but if the attorney-general merely wished to be personally satisfied and would allow the matter to remain in the hands of the people who elected them, he and his colleagues would be only too willing to co-operate. The attorney-general declined this, and adhered to his position that he was taking the case over himself, and that any counsel for the prosecutors would not be conceded any status.

Mr. Powell then stated that if the charges were bona fide, the accused would be committed for trial in spite of the attorney-general's efforts to burk them. What were the courts of this country for if not for the purpose of investigating crime? If the charges were unsubstantial they would be dismissed in the usual course, but he most emphatically disputed the attorney-general's right to interfere, for the express purpose of trying them himself. If this was allowed they might as well sweep away all courts of preliminary inquiry and let the attorney-general personally decide who should or should not be tried for an offence. Until the attorney-general satisfied him as to his real reasons for attempting to intervene he (the speaker) would not yield.

Finally the matter was adjourned until Wednesday next. Mr. Powell asserts that the attorney-general's real intention is not to proceed with these charges, as will press his stand to the courts of last resort, if necessary, his claim being that the matter is the subject of the King's institution and maintain proceedings up to the point of commitment, when the King then takes cognizance of it and institutes his action, calling his attorney-general to his aid, but that in the first courts of inquiry the King and his attorneys are not interested, and have never been known to be parties in them.

SAYS CROWN HAS RIGHT.

Hon. Charles Wilson Claims He Can Intervene in Perjury Case.

The attention of Hon. Charles Wilson, attorney-general, was yesterday afternoon directed to the arguments of George Powell regarding the former's right to intervene in the prosecution of the two Chinamen recently arrested on the charge of perjury. Hon. Mr. Wilson maintains that as a private prosecutor he has the right to intervene at any stage in a criminal prosecution if he considers such intervention to be in the interests of justice. To say that the attorney-general is forced to await the outcome of proceedings in the courts is a little removed from nonsense. It has been the practice of the attorney-general of this province so long as Hon. Mr. Wilson has held that office to have no private prosecutions in criminal cases here, and he is fully recovered, and he says that Dodd's Kidney Pills cured him.

MOVING TO-DAY.

Fittings of Offices on Wharf Street and on Hudson Bay Wharf Being Transferred.

Officers in the new C. P. R. building over the bank are today being occupied. The old offices on Wharf street and on the Hudson's Bay wharf are in a state of confusion in so far as their furnishings go. The moving operations have begun, and early next week will see the new premises taken over. The basement may eventually be used for a vault. On the floor facing the James Bay wharf are two big waiting rooms, one for ladies on the Belleville street side, and the other for gentlemen on the opposite side of the building. Between the two with big open windows into either will be the ticket office. On the western section of this floor is the freight office and the office of the freight agent, while in the middle of the floor, leading up to which from Belleville street is a broad stairway, is a good-sized landing with lavatory in the rear. Capt. Troup's private office will be in the northeast corner of the second floor. On the same side will come the typewriter's, F. W. Vincent's, and an office not yet designated. Of the rooms on the opposite side facing Belleville street one is to be used by the assessor, and the other will be a building an abundance of light is provided.

YOUNG GIRL MISSING.

Leaves Note Announcing Her Intention to Drown Herself.

The whereabouts of Laura Whittle, a girl fifteen years of age, who has been in the employ of Mrs. De Foe, of 113 Main street, for some time, are being investigated by the police. Yesterday morning she left the house of her employer during Mrs. De Foe's absence in town, and up till the hour of going to press, she had not been located. The note found on her, written in pencil on a piece of wrapping paper was found by Mrs. De Foe when she returned home: "Mrs. De Foe—Wishing you long and God-bye happy lives. Do not take the trouble to look for me, as I am going to the Police as I am gone for ever. I shall be drowned by the time you come home." The police were notified, and Sergeant Redgrave and Constable J. Woods conducted a search along the beach from the wharves to Clover Point, having been told that a girl answering the description of the one who is missing had been seen going toward Beacon Hill park. It is said she had written a similar letter last year, but was located in the Work estate.

CONFLICTING REPORT.

Paris Dispatch Says Commission Found Admiral Was Not Justified in Firing on Trawlers.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 24.—The decision of the North Sea commission has not yet been officially made public here, although it is understood that it has been already communicated to the foreign office and the admiralty. The prevailing impression from the foreign dispatches is that the decision is that the Russian squadron under the circumstances was justified in firing on the trawlers, and there is consequent rejoicing over the discontinuity of the British.

ANOTHER PIONEER CROSSES THE LINE

JNO. H. MELDRAM DIED EARLY FRIDAY MORNING

Came Here About Forty Years Ago—Prominently Connected With Fraternal Organizations.

Another pioneer passed away early this morning in the person of John Horsley Meldram, who has been associated with the life of Victoria for forty years. He had been ailing for some months, and only a short time ago underwent a serious operation. From that time he failed to rally, and the news of his death, although keenly regretted by a host of friends and acquaintances, was not unexpected. During his long residence here Mr. Meldram's activities lodge circles, and his estimable character, won widespread popularity. His demise will be deeply mourned by the whole community.

Mr. Meldram came to Victoria in 1865, leaving London as a passenger on the good ship Countess of Fife early in that year. It was a tiresome passage, lasting 165 days, and exceptionally rough weather was experienced in round Cape Horn. Mrs. Meldram accompanied her husband. During the trip James W. Meldram, their eldest child, was born. Arriving at Victoria Mr. Meldram had a hard time earning a living for his family. With a total capital of \$5 and very little work in sight, the outlook was anything but promising. His hardships were increased by the high cost of living, butter costing \$1 per pound, and eggs the same amount per dozen. Finally, however, Mr. Meldram got settled at his trade, that of a ship-builder, which he followed for 20 years. At this time there was a considerable demand for the British built vessels required for the transportation of the miners and their goods from the coast to Cariboo and elsewhere. Mr. Meldram constructed a number of these ships, building one at the mouth of the Queen's-needle river and another at Sooke. From this pursuit he accumulated considerable wealth, and retired about 20 years ago. Since that time, however, he has been identified with a number of enterprises, all of which have proved most successful.

THE SIMPSON TUNNEL.

Two Boring Parties Meet—The Permanent Way May Be Completed Next Month.

Gondo, Switzerland, Feb. 24.—The piercing of the Simpson tunnel through the Alps was completed at 12 o'clock this morning. The work was commenced in 1896. The meeting of the two boring parties (Swiss and Italian) was signalled throughout Switzerland by ringing of church bells and salutes by cannon. Many unexpected obstacles were encountered, the most serious being hot springs, which threatened to wreck the whole enterprise, and a temperature which at one time rose to 131 degrees Fahrenheit, making a continuation of the work impossible until the engineer could means of cooling the atmosphere. Now that the borers have met, it will enable the water accumulated in the north gallery to be drawn. The work of preparing the tunnel for a permanent way will be pushed as rapidly as possible, and it is hoped to inaugurate the tunnel about March 20th.

WOMAN MURDERED.

Body Found in Ruins of Her House, Which Was Destroyed by Fire.

Montclair, N. J., Feb. 24.—The police are making every effort to find the woman who was employed by Mrs. Hanna B. Ross and who has been missing since Mrs. Ross was found dead in the ruins of her burned house yesterday. As proof that Mrs. Ross was murdered and robbed, and that the house was fired to conceal the crime, the chief of police points out that a folded portfolio was found covering the woman's face, and with a note pinned to the reverse of her face in the cloth. Jewellery and silverware known to have been in the house are missing.

YOUNG AGAIN AT SEVENTY-TWO

HOW CALIXTE RICHARD, J. P., FEELS AFTER USING DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS.

They Make the Kidneys Strain Out of the Blood All the Seeds of the Diseases That Trouble Old Folks.

Acadie Sidng, Kent Co., N. B., Feb. 24.—(Special.)—After suffering for forty years from Kidney Trouble, Calixte Richard, the well-known justice of the peace here, is fully recovered, and he says that Dodd's Kidney Pills cured him.

DUFFEY'S VICTORY.

Melbourne, Victoria, Feb. 25.—Arthur P. Duffey, the American runner, to-day scored his first win in Australia, capturing the hundred yards invitation handicap, from scratch. Time 1:30.15. In the hundred yards sprint Duffey lost the preliminary heat.

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THOS. KIDDIE, Smelter Manager.

DECISION OF COMMISSION

Is Not a Pronounced Victory For Either Side.

Paris, Feb. 23.—The international commission appointed to inquire into the North Sea incident practically concluded its work to-night by finally agreeing to the report, which will be published Saturday. Concerning the general nature of the report, the following statement was made in a most authoritative quarter to the Associated Press: "When the text of the decision becomes known it will be far more acceptable to the British press and public than they have been led to believe. The semi-official summaries appearing, while more or less accurate, tend to strongly show Russian success, and the decision is not a pronounced victory for either side. It is of such a character as to preserve Russia's self-respect, and at the same time give the British public much ground for satisfaction. If anything, the decision is rather more favorable to Great Britain than to Russia."

On the other hand, the Havas agency to-night confirms its semi-official statement of last night. It says: "The conclusions, as a whole, are quite favorable to Russia, recognizing that Admiral Rojestvensky could legitimately consider himself in danger and act as he did. However, the report contains reservations calculated to satisfy British susceptibilities, the most important being that the commission estimates that the Russian fire lasted too long, and also that Rojestvensky should have speedily notified the British maritime authorities of the deplorable incident. Upon the question of the presence of torpedo boats, the commission frees all navies from the imputation. The Russian rejected a motion of Admiral Beaumont (Great Britain), blaming the Russian crews. The conclusions are said to be in the form of questions where the Russian fire lasted too long, and also that Rojestvensky should have speedily notified the British maritime authorities of the deplorable incident. 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