

### THE FERRY SCHEME AGAIN DISCUSSED

#### COUNCIL ASKS THE PROMOTERS FOR NOTICE

The Council Handicapped for a Lack of Funds—A Number of Complaints Voiced by the Aldermen.

As foreshadowed in last evening's Times the ferry scheme was again before the city council last night, the solicitors for the company intimating that they were ready to proceed with construction. The by-law, however, calls for ten days' notice, and the council decided to ask the company to comply with the statutory condition.

The minutes having been adopted, communications were taken up and disposed of as follows: Geo. McL. Brown, executive agent of the C. P. R., wrote, sending a voucher for \$500 for the Islander relief fund. The thanks of the council will be communicated to the company.

The mayor said none of this money had yet been disbursed, and he proposed to ask the council to meet shortly to attend to the matter. Robt. H. Swinerton, of the Masonic Temple Association, drew attention to the bad state of the sidewalk around the temple building, and asking for a cement walk. Referred to city engineer for report.

Mrs. C. Liddell wrote in reference to her taxes, which she felt unable to pay. The matter was left in the mayor's hands to deal with.

A Munro wrote the council declining the city's offer to let his property in James Bay. The communication was read and a decision to arbitrate the matter arrived at.

C. C. Pemberton wrote complaining for a client of waste water running off Bartlett avenue on to his client's property. Referred to the city engineer for report.

Bodwell & Duff wrote as follows: Re Victoria Terminal Railway & Ferry Company. We are instructed by the company to inform you that they are ready to commence operations upon the construction of the railway in the city of Victoria.

Under the clause in the by-law it is necessary that we should give the city council ten days' notice of our intention to commence work upon any of the streets, and also submit for the approval of the city engineer a plan of the work proposed to be done. Inasmuch as time is pressing and we wish to take advantage of the weather to get as much work done immediately as possible, we are instructed to request that the city will waive the ten days' notice, and will appoint a time and place at which the city engineer can meet the representatives of the company and settle upon the place at which work upon the railway can be immediately commenced.

We should be glad to hear from you as soon as possible on this point. Ald. Yates doubted whether the council had any power to waive the terms in any form. He asked for the city solicitor's opinion.

That officer concurred in that view. It would be unsafe to waive the ten days, but he thought the letter might be treated as a notice, and the ten days dated from that time.

Ald. Yates doubted that the letter could be treated as a notice. A proper notice would have to be given to widen the streets with which they proposed to interfere.

The mayor thought the first thing that should be done would be to file a plan of the railway with the city engineer.

Ald. Williams asked the date of incorporation of the company. The solicitor—Saturday, May 11th, the date of prorogation, when all bills received the Governor's assent.

Ald. Stewart counselled no risks, and moved that Bodwell & Duff be asked to furnish the council with the proper legal notice.

Ald. Yates suggested, in seconding the motion, that it was as much in the interests of the company as of the corporation that everything be done regularly.

Ald. Stewart's motion was carried. The city engineer submitted the following report: I have the honor to submit the following report for your consideration: Communication from F. M. Rattenbury requesting a permanent walk on the two sides of new building, corner Langley and Bastion streets. After looking over the ground I am of opinion the walk in question should be laid. Total estimated cost \$350. In conclusion I may say there are no more funds out of the present appropriation for this purpose.

Complaint from Elizabeth Lehman re open drain at the corner of Richmond avenue and Leighton road. I find this drain in bad condition, and would recommend the same be boxed in from Richmond avenue westerly. Estimated cost, \$12.

Communication from Tal Yen and others re stone crossing at the intersection of Government and Cormorant streets. After looking over the ground I would recommend the construction of same. Estimated cost for labor, sand, etc., \$30.

I would also recommend that notice be given to the tramway company that it is the intention of the council to proceed with the paving of Government street in the early spring of next year, and that suitable heavy rails be ordered for the same.

The report was taken up seriatim. The first clause was referred to the streets committee to carry out if funds are available.

Clause two drew the remark from Ald. Cameron that this was a case where a point should be strained and the money taken out of maintenance. Where sickness was attributable to the bad drains it was time they were attended to.

Ald. Yates, while agreeing to the urgency of the need, said the civic purse was already overstrained and that when the citizens voted down a sewer by-law they must learn that these things could not be done out of maintenance.

However, it was so ordered. Ald. Brydon and Kinsman urged a

similar course with the next clause, and it was so ordered.

With reference to clause four, the city clerk was instructed to notify the company as suggested by the city engineer. The finance committee recommended the appropriation of \$4,383.05 out of revenue. Adopted.

A supplementary appropriation of \$3,500 was also adopted. A special committee reported that they had seen a majority of the residents on Johnson street, between George street and Fernwood road, and they were favorable to the widening of the streets, the city to bear one-third of the cost.

The mayor said the committee was to be congratulated on the settlement of a long standing difficulty. It would improve the street very much and it was hoped that at the same time the city would be benefited by the widening of the streets.

Ald. Yates asked where the money was coming from, and Ald. Kinsman, chairman of the committee, assured him that he was freely swayed by various fancies. He was inclined to be a little violent this morning, and made things uncomfortable for one of the trustees—who is none other than the redoubtable Phil. Chalk.

James is a native of Cornwall, England, and about twenty years of age. He is of temperate habits, splendid disposition, and his present condition is deplorable. In the Old Country he was quite a noted athlete, being exceedingly formidable on the football field, and he generally hoped that the affliction from which he is suffering is but a passing one, and will leave him in full possession of his pristine health and spirits.

He imagines that he is being detained from doing wrong, and frequently asks to be liberated. "This is no place for me," he repeats, and looks askance at some of the trustees. His moods are variable. He alternately laughs and cries, and at times gives way to the imagination, when he is freely swayed by various fancies. He was inclined to be a little violent this morning, and made things uncomfortable for one of the trustees—who is none other than the redoubtable Phil. Chalk.

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### THE FERRY TO THE LOWER MAINLAND

#### CONSTRUCTION WILL BEGIN IMMEDIATELY

New Company Has a Twenty-Year Lease for Handling Great Northern Freight to Victoria.

After many months of apparent inactivity, the promoters of the railway ferry scheme from this city to the Mainland, via Sidney and Liverpool, have at last taken steps which indicate that they purpose proceeding with the work without delay. It will probably be ten days yet before anything is done in breaking ground on any of the streets for the V. & S. In the meantime the market building, as the council think it desirable both for the company and for the corporation that the strict letter of the by-law, which calls for such notice, be carried out, and it was late yesterday afternoon before the organization of the company was completed.

The promoters state that they have low ample funds for their purposes, and this would make it be indicated by their preliminary steps to the by-law for the widening of Johnson street was carried and referred to the city assessor and city engineer for the purpose of drafting the necessary report to the council.

Ald. Beekwith complained of the delay in the furnishing of granite curb for Johnson street, and Ald. Cameron of the dilatory removal of the decorations. The mayor said this would be attended to to-day.

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### DEPLORABLE CASE

Bright Young Man Detained at Police Station Suffering From Unsound Mind.

A peculiarly sad case is receiving the attention of the medical health officer at the police station. A young man named John James is being confined for safe keeping, suffering from unsound mind. He was taken ill some time ago, and was removed to the hospital for treatment. He developed symptoms of insanity, and it was deemed advisable to keep him at the police station pending examination by the city physician.

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### VICTORIA SEALER A RUSSIAN PRISONER

#### HUNTER DIMOND IS CAUGHT AT ROOKERIES

His Boat Seized With Big Cargo of Pelts — Three Japanese Sealing Schooners Captured.

This year it is Japanese schooners, and not Canadian sealers, which are falling into the hands of the Russians. Some time ago news was published of the seizure of the Josephine, belonging to the Japanese fleet, and of her being taken prisoner to the Czar's domain to there await subsequent developments. The information is now confirmed by the just-arrived Casco, which returned from the sealing grounds yesterday. But in addition to this seizure the Casco brings news of still other prizes obtained by Russians. In addition to the Josephine two more Japanese vessels have fallen prey to the Bear's vigilance, while a boat from a fourth was gathered in off Robin Island.

Here is located one of the Russian rookeries, and the rapidly with which the valuable fur was being taken aboard can be imagined from the fact that there were 350 pelts in the boat. Seals assemblage by the hundreds on the island, and the temptation to go ashore could not be resisted by the boat's crew. The men included a Victorian, in the person of Chas. Dimond, one of the few white hunters sealing out of Japan. He had joined the schooner as hunter, and has spent the last few years in Asiatic waters. Formerly he was one of the crew of the schooner Ida Etta, of this port, and has in fact sailed out of this port on different vessels. After going to Japan he married a Japanese woman, it is said, and has thus been living in peace and happiness until now at Hakodate.

According to advices by the Casco, however, he will be domiciled during the next year in quarters not so congenial. When taken into custody off the island rookery, he and the crew of the schooner taken charge of by Russian guards, and in Vladivostok prison. What his explanation of the rash act is, is of course not told by those who heard of the incident on the Casco. Dimond, being an old hunter, must have known that he was trespassing, for he has been long enough in the sealing business to be familiar with all the sealing resorts of the Pacific Coast. Sealers who were taken to Vladivostok in the early sealing days of this city will be able to recall what this means.

That so many of the Japanese feet have been seized this year bears out the statement which has been made privately by a number of hunters since their return from Copper Island and Behring sea. This, in effect, is that the Japanese have been hunting most indiscriminately this year, that they have been using guns and have been raiding rookeries most fearlessly. There are 29 of the Japanese schooners on this year, and while all have not engaged in this work, a few phenomenal catches may be explained in the assertion that many visited the rookeries.

On the other hand the operations of the Victoria feet have never been questioned. They did not secure big catches during the year, but while this is the reason they were never once overhauled so far as can be learned. There were several which went to the Japan coast, and which hunted off the coasts of Copper and Behring seas, but one has yet to return which sighted a Russian man-of-war in her travels. All kept well within the ten-mile zone marking the territorial waters around these islands, and thus avoided all trouble. The Mary Taylor was perhaps the most venturesome, she having gone into the Gulf of Tartary.

REV. DR. WILSON TO LEAVE. Has Been Appointed to Important Chair in Philadelphia Institution.

Rev. Dr. Wilson, of the Reformed Episcopal church, has been appointed to the chair of "Apologetics or Evidences of Christianity," at the Theological Seminary of the Reformed Episcopal church at Philadelphia. This institution was erected through the benefactions of a wealthy lady of the City of Brocton, N. Y.

The reverend doctor arrived here about six years ago, and has ever manifested keen interest in all religious work, as well as public affairs. He is an eloquent pulpiteer, and his discourses have always proved intellectual treats. His announcement has been received with universal regret. He leaves for his new field in about a week.

CHAPLAIN ENDS HIS LIFE. St. John's, Nfld., Oct. 20.—The body of Rev. Henry Black, for some time chaplain of the British cruiser Charybdis, who mysteriously disappeared from St. John's last Wednesday, was found this morning near St. John's. He had evidently committed suicide in consequence of dementia, attributed to the great excitement growing out of the arrangements for the visit of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York.

Arrests for drunkenness in 120 cities of the United States are said to aggregate \$2,000 during the last fiscal year.

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