

POWDER IN THE MOON

Would Be as Dangerous, So Says the Mayor, as That in the Park.

The Milk By-Law's Progress—Election Arrangements—Craigflower Road Business Shelved.

The proceedings of the city council meeting last evening opened with a question of privilege by Ald. Partridge, on which he proceeded to discuss a letter written by Ald. Macmillan to the Times on the subject of the relative merits of contract and day labor; he accused the writer of misquoting figures. Ald. Macmillan in his turn spoke in justification of his computations.

Invitations from the Art Union for the members of the council to visit their exhibition, in the hall above, were read and accepted with thanks.

A letter from Hon. Col. Baker with respect to the admission of George Thomas to the old men's home was read; and a reply will be sent to the effect that Mr. Thomas has not been long enough in the province to entitle him to admission.

H. E. A. Robertson asked for a conference between himself and his client Mr. Steinberger on one side, and the city's representatives on the other, respecting Mr. Steinberger's claim. Referred to the Mayor and Water Commissioner.

A report from Charles Ireland of unsanitary and dangerous conditions in the city market was referred to the market committee.

Walkeley, King & Casey reported that they have finished with the corporation rock crusher and have left it in thorough repair, with the addition of dies, etc., costing \$250, which they invite the corporation to pay to them. They will be requested by a resolution of the council, the matter of paying for the improvements to be considered later.

James Kay complained of the condition of Fisgard street, and a nuisance caused by trees there. Referred to street committee.

M. Morrissey again petitioned for a sidewalk on Cedar Hill road, and offered to lay it himself for \$8 if the lumber is supplied. Filed.

Archibald McNeill applied for the position of drayman at the electric light house. Fitchinson reported against the request to place a lamp at the corner of David and Pleasant streets, as the machine running this circuit is now loaded to its full capacity. Ald. Bragg suggested that one large dynamo be secured in place of the two old ones now in use. Report received and adopted.

A petition from Victoria West residents asked that the boundaries of Craigflower road be defined and marked. A report from the city solicitor stated that this is all that is needed in order that the city may assert its rights in the disputed territory. A motion to receive the petition and grant the request was lost on division of 8 to 6. A motion to adopt the solicitor's report was lost on a similar division.

THE PARK MAGAZINE.
Ald. Williams inquired what has been done lately about the powder magazine in the park.

The Mayor replied that the last he heard of it was a conversation with a naval man, who advised him to have evergreens and creepers planted, and said that there is no more danger than if the powder were up in the moon.

Ald. Hall advised that some enterprising citizens should remove the powder without permission and offer it to be one of any body who would volunteer.

Reports from the finance committee were read and adopted.

THAT SAMPLE CROSSING.
The streets committee reported recommending that Messrs. Luker & Dier be paid \$80.75 for the cement walk put in by them on Yates street at the south crossing of Broad street, and in the belief that the parties would get a deal of work from the corporation. As they had got very little, and the crossing has proved a good one and well worth the money, the committee thought they should be paid for it. Adopted.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.
A by-law to regulate the municipal elections of 1896 was read a first and second time and put through committee of the whole. It provides for nomination on Monday, 13th January, between 12 m. and 2 p.m., polling to be on the following Thursday, at the usual places in the North and Central wards, and for the South ward at No. 21 Government street instead of No. 27, not now available. W. K. Bull to be returning officer.

MILK BY-LAW.
The milk by-law was again taken up. A motion by Ald. Macmillan to strike out the licensing provisions was voted down. Applicants for licenses are to submit their premises to official inspection. The name of the supplier is to be painted on each can. The result of examinations is to be published occasionally—not less than six times a year. A penalty not exceeding \$10 is established. The committee reported progress and the council adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

BEATEN BY HIGHWAYMEN.
The outskirts of the city, especially the James Bay district and the scattered residential section reached by the extension of the Douglas street car line, are again becoming infested with night prowlers of a most desperate and dangerous character, to whose credit may be laid two or three attempts at highway robbery within the past ten days. The most serious of these was last night, the victim being Mr. Thomas Graham, proprietor of a gentlemen's furnishing establishment at the corner of Douglas and Johnson streets, who in consequence of his encounter with two highwaymen is to-day confined to his room under the care of Dr. George H. Duncan.

Mr. Graham had closed his place of business and caught the last car for his home on the side street leading into the Saanich road, at the residence of Hon. Theodore Davis. Fortunately he had deposited his Saturday's receipts in the

city before starting, or the evidently well planned scheme to rob him would undoubtedly have been successful. Just as he reached his own gate, the street being absolutely dark, two men sprang from the shelter of the fence and commanded him to throw up his hands, which by the way were full of parcels. Before he could comply he received a severe blow on the forehead from an iron trident, evidently an iron bar, which fell, and a second blow from the other highwayman falling immediately after his first. He lost consciousness as the two commenced a search of his pockets. On regaining his senses Mr. Graham crawled with difficulty to his home and the doctor was summoned by telephone, but not likely to result fatally unless anticipated complications should arise. Unfortunately it was absolutely impossible for him to obtain such a view of his assailants as would enable him to identify them.

THE CITY

The committee appointed by the executive of the Women's Council, among other things to arrange for work in connection with the election of the two lady candidates for the school trustee board, met yesterday to prepare plans for the coming campaign.

A very pleasant time was spent at the Ridge lodge, at Spring Ridge, last evening. In spite of the unfavorable weather there was a good attendance, and the following programme was successfully rendered: Limerick exhibition and recitations, Bro. Angus, concertina solo, Mr. Oliver; song, Messrs. Oliver and Moody; recitation, Mr. Ayers.

At noon yesterday in the North Ward school Miss C. G. Walker was surrounded by her companion teachers and formally presented with a handsome sash and rocker. It is only about a fortnight ago that Miss Walker resigned her position as teacher, and it was in view of this that she was given a farewell. She was given individually by the teachers, but the rocker was accompanied by a very felicitously worded address, to which she suitably replied. A little spread was laid in the school and the whole teaching staff lunched together.

At Sunday forenoon service at St. Saviour's church, Rev. W. D. Barber referred to the death of the late Bishop Hills, speaking more particularly of his pioneer work in building the church and especially in providing for the new districts and enlarging and extending the work. A tribute was also paid to the late Bishop Hills as a churchman of broad views and moderation and judgment. In all the other Anglican churches reference was made to the late Bishop who had seen the church gradually extend over the province and three dioceses formed in place of only one when he took charge.

YESTERDAY before Mr. Justice Drake an application was made on behalf of plaintiff in McCune v. Bailey for an injunction restraining Bailey from carrying on mining operation on the Payne mine, Rossland, and to appoint a receiver to the court. A. W. Martine, Bailey Hodge, McDonald and Bailey are partners in the mine, and Bailey has been acting as manager. Plaintiffs claim Bailey has been working the mine in an extensive and unbusinesslike manner, calculated to injure the rights of the partners. Mr. Justice Drake made an order that while no injunction was made, Bailey must give bonds in \$2,000 that he will satisfactorily account to plaintiffs for the management, costs to be costs in cause. Mr. E. V. Bodwell for plaintiffs; Mr. J. W. Taylor for defendant.

AN UNCOMMON CASE.
The first chapter in a very uncommon case has just been closed by the commitment for trial at the spring assizes of George F. Drabble, justice of the peace at Union Mines. The charge was obtaining money by fraud from one Richard Walsh, and there are two or three similar cases in which the complainants have the same story of misfortune to tell that Walsh has.

He, it appears, was desirous of purchasing 160 acres of land in the E. & N. railway reserve, and as long ago as June, 1894, went to Drabble for information as to whether or not a particular section that had met his fancy was for sale. Mr. Drabble, so the depositions say, informed him that the land was open, and also volunteered the information that he was commissioned by the railway company to represent them in any negotiations for a sale. The outcome was that a bargain was closed and \$130 was paid to Drabble as a first instalment on the purchase price, he receipting for the money in the name of the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway Co., per Geo. F. Drabble.

Later on the purchaser asked for an official receipt and was told that it would be given him as soon as it arrived from the head office of the company. As it did not come Walsh finally wrote to Mr. Solly, and was amazed at receiving the reply that no money had been received from Drabble and the land was still on the sale list. He then concluded that he had been victimized and instituted criminal proceedings, Mr. Solly in the meantime holding the land reserved, improvements to the value of \$800 having been placed upon it.

The cases of W. H. Davidson and William Machin are said to be almost parallel, save that Machin after putting in crops discovered that he was a trespasser, the land having been previously disposed of by the company.

One Honest Man.
Referring again to the offer made to him which he had called for this meeting, Col. Prior said he failed to see why the opposition should feel sore about the matter—though no doubt they had the honor is much more than a personal one—that it is a deserved compliment to the city of Victoria and to the people of the province in general. However, he felt that the Liberal-Conservatives are quite well prepared to meet the opposition, and if they want a fight, a fight goes, and if they want a fight, a fight goes, and if they want a fight, a fight goes.

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THE SCHOOL QUESTION.
Col. Prior then spoke of the Chairman's reference to the school question, but for which, he said, he would not have taken up that matter on this occasion, and without his books and notes it would be impossible for him to argue it out as it should be argued to ensure a thorough understanding. In a general way, however, he felt he could declare that he would support the present government, as he always had and always would so long as they continued to do what he honestly believed to be right. He would not stand or fall with them, for as all who knew him would readily believe, he would not be found favoring any half measures. This school question he regarded as one of constitutional justice. If it can be shown by the verdict of the highest authorities in England that the minority in Manitoba have been unjustly deprived of any right it is perfectly proper for the persons so deprived to make the appeal provided for by the law. He for one would declare for giving them their just dues and rights—not an inch or a line more or less than the law provides for. (Applause.) If the minority in Manitoba or any other province have by law any right or privilege it is the duty of any government appealed to to see that they are upheld in that right. Not being a lawyer himself, he had to depend upon the judgment of the Imperial Privy Council for an interpretation of the law, and accepting their judgment his course seemed perfectly clear. When the election contest is on he would be found prepared to discuss the question more fully if necessary, and he would be found willing as he had always been to meet any opponent on the platform or elsewhere, and when a better man came along to yield his place to him. (Applause.)

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A Member of the Cabinet and He Would Have Accepted Nothing Less

The Timely Telegram From Premier Bowell Which Places the Fact Beyond Dispute.

Assured of Hundreds of Liberal Votes Should a Poll Be Demanded.

Business so interesting as the preparation for the election necessary to confirm the Hon. E. G. Prior, in the membership of the Dominion cabinet and accompanying appointment offered to and accepted by him, sufficed on the short notice given to make the joint meeting of the Liberal-Conservative Association and the Macdonald Club held last evening a large and thoroughly representative one. It was held in their old quarters, the Adelphi hall. The new president of the senior Association, Mr. H. Dallas Helmecken, Q.C., presided, and by his invitation Mr. W. H. Ellis, president of the Macdonald Club; Hon. Senator Macdonald; Hon. E. G. Prior and Mr. Thos. Earle, M.P.; Hon. D. M. Eberts, Attorney General for B.C.; and Mr. E. Crow Baker, ex-president of the Association, were also upon the platform.

PRESIDENT HELMECKEN'S ADDRESS.
The Chairman, in his introductory remarks, expressed the extreme pleasure it afforded him to make his debut as President, at this the first meeting since his election, under auspices so favorable and happy. He congratulated the members of the two organizations so well represented here, upon the nature of the business which had called them together, and upon the fact that at last the Dominion government had seen fit to accept the moderate request and demand for representation of British Columbia in the Dominion cabinet. (Applause.) It would be in the recollection of many of those present that on the 26th of February last a resolution was passed with a great deal of unanimity calling upon the Dominion government to grant such representation upon the first opportunity, and now they had the satisfaction of seeing that their voice had been listened to, and that a choice had been made which properly represented a proper and worthy one in the person of the popular member for Victoria, Col. E. G. Prior. (Applause.) The news received yesterday had called to his mind something he had read in a copy of the Times over which he had glanced the other day. This was the issue of the 19th of July last, where H. G. Foster was reported as saying in parliament that the object of the Prime Minister in choosing his cabinet was to select four or five best men who could be found in the Dominion, and that he would not have been content with the members of this province the Times had remarked that Col. Prior would have to wait "until his golden locks grow gray." (Laughter.) These words have now come home to make and to make a proper agitation and properly worded representations of the friends of the government in this province have borne fruit; we have not had to wait until the Colonel's golden locks have grown gray, but we have now every reason to hope and believe that they will grow gray in the service of his country. (Great applause.) It seems to me natural to the opposition press—so one would judge from reading their articles—to decry every action of the government, but he felt convinced that the sober sense and sound judgment of the electors of Victoria as to what was ever may be the party preference of what individuals—should prompt them not to offer opposition to the re-election of Col. Prior. It would be simply suicidal for the opposition to take the ground suggested, that if the government is only a "sop," which should be given out as something we do not want. All citizens should join in showing their appreciation of the honor now conferred upon the province—to say nothing of the recognition to the services rendered by our representatives in the Senate and the Commons. (Applause.)

He had no doubt Col. Prior would take the opportunity afforded by the meeting to-night to say something upon the serious question now agitating the Dominion of Canada and exciting general interest even in the Old Country. He referred of course to the Manitoba school case. As everyone knows, this was a proper and fully argued before the highest appellate court known to the British nation—the judicial committee of the Imperial Privy Council. All have not the least opportunity of perusing the judgment rendered by that court, and therefore he would briefly say that it took a great deal of time in considering the case, which was very fully and ably argued before them, and came to the conclusion that the minority in Manitoba had a grievance, and that the compact under which their province entered the Dominion of Canada must be adhered to. It is unfair to state that the government of the Dominion intend to coerce Manitoba by legislation distasteful to that particular province. The matter has become a national one, which should be considered as such, instead of being made a mere political football to be kicked around to draw away from other issues the good sense of the people. He for one denied that the position of the Dominion government can be regarded as implying coercion. He found in the judgment of the Privy Council that under the charter the minority in Manitoba have the right for which they appeal, and as citizens of the Dominion we should see that this part of the constitution, as well as the rest of it, is carried out in its entirety. No political or personal considerations should be permitted to endanger the fabric of confederation.

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THE SCHOOL QUESTION.
Col. Prior then spoke of the Chairman's reference to the school question, but for which, he said, he would not have taken up that matter on this occasion, and without his books and notes it would be impossible for him to argue it out as it should be argued to ensure a thorough understanding. In a general way, however, he felt he could declare that he would support the present government, as he always had and always would so long as they continued to do what he honestly believed to be right. He would not stand or fall with them, for as all who knew him would readily believe, he would not be found favoring any half measures. This school question he regarded as one of constitutional justice. If it can be shown by the verdict of the highest authorities in England that the minority in Manitoba have been unjustly deprived of any right it is perfectly proper for the persons so deprived to make the appeal provided for by the law. He for one would declare for giving them their just dues and rights—not an inch or a line more or less than the law provides for. (Applause.) If the minority in Manitoba or any other province have by law any right or privilege it is the duty of any government appealed to to see that they are upheld in that right. Not being a lawyer himself, he had to depend upon the judgment of the Imperial Privy Council for an interpretation of the law, and accepting their judgment his course seemed perfectly clear. When the election contest is on he would be found prepared to discuss the question more fully if necessary, and he would be found willing as he had always been to meet any opponent on the platform or elsewhere, and when a better man came along to yield his place to him. (Applause.)

OPPOSITION MISREPRESENTATION.
Referring again to the offer made to him which he had called for this meeting, Col. Prior said he failed to see why the opposition should feel sore about the matter—though no doubt they had the honor is much more than a personal one—that it is a deserved compliment to the city of Victoria and to the people of the province in general. However, he felt that the Liberal-Conservatives are quite well prepared to meet the opposition, and if they want a fight, a fight goes, and if they want a fight, a fight goes, and if they want a fight, a fight goes.

Now that Col. Prior is to have a seat in the cabinet he will be strengthened in his position when he lays before the parliament of Canada questions of importance to our sealing, mining, timber and every other industry, and may be taken for granted that he will see that we get our proper deserts in the future. While not anticipating a contest just

now, he thought they should take nothing for granted, but that they should take every precaution to see that Col. Prior is handsomely secured in the place to which he has been promoted. An effort in this respect he felt to be due from every member of the party, to show that the honor conferred is properly appreciated, and to testify appreciation of the sterling qualities which Col. Prior has shown himself to possess (Great applause.)

COLONEL PRIOR'S POSITION.
Hon. E. G. Prior, having been called upon by the Chairman, arose amidst great applause, which he graciously acknowledged as one more example of the many kindnesses shown him by the people of Victoria since he has had the honor of being one of their representatives. He had no reason to doubt that should an election contest be now called for he could rely upon the same whole-hearted support extended to him by his honored colleague Mr. Earle and himself in the past. (Applause.) While in Ottawa, they could both truthfully say, they have never hesitated, when the occasion required it, to stand up and declare themselves like men upon any matter before the house. He felt, however, that at this moment what the meeting wished to hear from him was not a record of his parliamentary services, but first and foremost about the appointment with which he saw it stated by the Times in effect that he had been offered by a salary of \$5,000 to fill a gap (laughter) and that British Columbia is better off now than it was six months ago. He would not discuss the methods of the Times—those connected with it would know their business, but he would make a plain statement of the facts as they have occurred. On Saturday a gentleman in town received and communicated to him a telegram, which was the first he had heard of the proposition. This read as follows:

OTTAWA, Dec. 14.—Kindly ascertain from Prior if he will accept a commission with a seat in the cabinet. This would give British Columbia a voice in the council. (Signed) MACKENZIE BOWELL.

Upon receipt of this he had consulted with his colleague Mr. Earle and a number of other gentlemen whom upon short notice he was able to get together, including his friends whom he saw here, Mr. T. B. Hall, Mr. H. D. Helmecken, and others, and the result of their conference he sent this answer to the gentleman chosen as the means of communication:

DEAR SIR:—Referring to the telegram you received from Sir Mackenzie Bowell a copy of which I have handed to me and which reads as follows, namely: "Kindly ascertain from Prior if he will accept a commission with a seat in the cabinet. This would give British Columbia a voice in the council." After consultation with my colleagues and consultation with some of our principal supporters, I have no hesitation in accepting the position as stated above. Yours faithfully, E. G. Prior.

"That is all," Col. Prior continued, "that I know of this matter. You have heard of it I got and the answer I gave. I believe British Columbia is thoroughly entitled to a seat in the cabinet, and I don't believe for one moment that any British Columbian would ask me to do it. (Great applause.) I did not think of going into any position for the salary attached to it. I am pretty independent and I am quite satisfied to stop among you and to make my living as I have in the past. (Renewed applause.) Perhaps the Times knows more than you or I do about the position in affairs. (Laughter.) If Sir Mackenzie Bowell made a mistake, and does not mean a seat in the cabinet, I shall tell him that he can't get E. G. Prior to represent British Columbia in that way. (Great applause.)

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