

Conference Postponed

City Council and Solicitor Taylor Will Not Confer Till To-Night

Routine Business at the Sitting of the Aldermen Last Night

Owing to the illness of City Solicitor Taylor the conference which was proposed to be held with him last night by the City Council re the extension of the Douglas street car system, was postponed. Instead a conference will be held with him to-night at 7.30.

There was little business of importance before the aldermanic board last night. All the aldermen were in their seats, an adjournment being reached at 10.30.

Hon. C. A. Semlin acknowledged the receipt of a copy of the resolution passed by the council re the Omnica wagon road. Received and filed.

E. V. Bodwell stated that he had not been able to prepare a definite answer before Tuesday regarding the Chilliwack railway matter. He promised not to delay the council any longer than was necessary.

Ald. Brydon thought that "any longer than is necessary" meant an indefinite time.

Ald. Beckwith suggested a conference with Bodwell & Duff this evening. He moved that the communication be received and laid on the table.

It was then decided that when the council adjourn it should stand adjourned until 8 o'clock Tuesday evening.

J. G. Elliott, secretary of the Underwriters' Association, asked for a list of buildings which had received the approval of the inspector. The communication was received and the wiring inspector will be instructed to report monthly to the council so that that body will be in a position to acquaint the underwriters with the facts.

Alex. Watson protested against the council making an appropriation for a new High School until Victoria West was put on an equality with other parts of the city in regard to school accommodation. If the High School was unsanitary Victoria West school was much worse.

Thornton Fell, to quote his florid language, "protested, his protest being an annual flower so far without blossom." He asked for the extension of the sewer up Cadboro Bay road, whereby 30 houses would be able to make connection. The communication was laid on the table until the first meeting of the streets and sewerage committee.

Mr. M. Baker drew the attention of the council to the delay of the fire department in reaching the fire at the corner of Government and Chatham streets, whereby he had been a heavy loser. The firemen also had thrown water on his hay after the fire was quenched, destroying a great deal of it.

Ald. Beckwith approved of the suggestion. It was due the fire department that an investigation be held, so that the people might not lose confidence in their efficient system and brigade.

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The Mayor—None that I am aware of, Ald. Yates—Well, where did this item come from then?

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Ald. Stewart said the item was as near correct as possible. He detailed the circumstances substantially as related in the Times, adding that even on Sunday the fire chief found fire smouldering in the bay.

D. R. Ker asked the council to suspend the matter of boring the harbor if an appropriation was decided upon until he and some friends had met the council and discussed the matter with them.

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The report was considered seriatim. In connection with clause A (Lawyer).

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The second and third clauses were adopted.

The discussion of the next clause drew the statement from Ald. Hall that the fence had a "jag." The clause was approved and the report adopted.

The water commissioners drew the attention of the council to the condition of the seven drinking troughs of the city, which were becoming unsightly and were a drain on the pressure. He recommended their removal and the substitution of new steel ones at the corner of Wharf and Yates, on Douglas near Meldrum's, and at the corner of Kingsford and Montreal streets, the total cost being \$175. Referred to streets committee.

He also recommended in reference to a petition of H. D. Bate and others that the water main be extended down Barclay street, that he found the cost to be \$325, while four houses would take it. It was ordered that the work be done.

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least half the park concerts be played on Sunday afternoons and the balance on Saturday evenings, and for the above purpose would recommend that an appropriation of \$500 be made.

Park Assistant—The park keeper requires the assistance of a man as usual at this season of the year, and your committee desire the necessary authority to employ one.

The lakes should have the leaves, etc., cleared out of them.

A large pipe is also required for the purpose of supplying the lakes without diminishing the supply to the fountains and drinking taps.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN HALL,
J. STUART YATES,
Park Committee.

Summary Estimates for Park.

Roads	.....	\$ 350
Bandstand removing and painting	.....	200
New seats, \$60; swings, \$10	.....	90
signs, \$20	.....	130
Bridges	.....	41
Aviary	.....	565
Rand concerts	500
Clearing lakes of rubbish	50
Pipe to supply lakes	50
Total	\$1,976

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Park Committee.

Ald. Beckwith moved that the report be laid on the table until the estimates were reached.

Ald. Hall moved the adoption of the report, and that it be considered seriatim. The cost had been put down to the lowest possible figure. Music at the park had been a long felt want. It would enable people to get back to town for service on Sunday evenings, which was not the case when people went out to Shawanigan. The speaker waxed eloquent upon the "inspiring ozone from Fene's Straits," and drew a delightful picture of the working man with his smiling wife and happy children about him listening to the inspiring strains of the band.

Ald. Cameron cautioned delay. The city's needs were increasing out of proportion to its revenue and every department was asking for increased expenditure, and this report should go over with the rest until the estimates were reached.

Ald. Yates said the estimates for the park had been cut down to the lowest possible figure.

The report was laid over to be considered with the estimates.

The finance committee recommended the appropriation of \$4,483.25 out of the current revenue, which was adopted.

The mayor here stated that he had received what was claimed to be an original copy of the London Times of June 22nd, 1815, containing Wellington's dispatches. The owner wanted \$25 for it.

Ald. Beckwith suggested the provincial library as the best place for the document.

Leave was granted to introduce the Annual Revenue By-law and the council rose.

CONCERT AT SOOKE.

(Special Correspondence of the Times.)

Thursday evening visitors and residents of Sooke met together at Charles Hall, in the interests of the Mansel House Fund. From the splendid attendance there does not appear to be any lack of sympathy or loyalty to Sooke way.

Mr. John Muir, as the oldest resident, was chairman, and gave a stirring address, dealing with the present state of affairs at the front. He was greeted with applause whenever the soldiers were mentioned. All present were in hearty accord with the speaker.

After refreshments had been served the following programme was gone through, the numbers being very frequently encored:

- Instrumental Solo.....Mrs. Clarke
- Solo—Soldiers of Our Queen.....D. A. Fraser
- Dr. F. W. Morris, J. T. Dewitt
- Reading—Tommy Atkins.....Mr. Hayward
- Solo—Jesse's Dream.....Miss Muir
- Solo—Sons of the Sea.....Mr. Oldershaw
- Solo—March of the Cameron Men.....Mr. Hayward
- Duet—Tommy Atkins.....Mr. Hayward
- Dr. F. W. Morris, J. T. Dewitt
- Solo—Rat-a-Tat-Tat.....Mrs. Fisher
- Solo—Left Behind.....Mrs. Demers
- Who Gave the Compliment.....Mr. Smart
- Solo—Tending To-Night.....Mrs. Harbottle
- Solo—Love's Old Sweet Song.....Mrs. Harbottle
- Reading—The Absent-Minded Beggar.....Mr. Forsyth

After the reading of Kipling's poem by Mr. Forsyth, Mr. John Murray, of Well Park, gave a series of lantern views illustrating the Soudan war, following Gordon's route to Khartoum. When Gen. Gordon's picture appeared it was greeted with loud applause. There was no need for the lecturer to announce a name for that picture.

The collection was taken up by Miss Alice Gordon, and Miss Gordon, who represented the Gordon Highlanders. These two little maidens were very popular, and showed great pleasure in their very important portion of the programme.

After a hearty vote of thanks to the friends who had come from far and near, the meeting united in singing "My Country, 'Tis of Thee," and closed with the National Anthem.

Killed as Witches

Indian Family on the Liard Exterminated by Superstitious Tribesmen

Dixon and Mason Compelled to Live on Tea Leaves and Lard.

The first detailed news of the great distress to the north of Wrangell and drained by the Stikine river reached Victoria yesterday through E. T. Pope, who has been acting as manager for the Casca Trading Company at Laketon. It was Mr. Pope who was charged with the task of bringing out the mail which had been accumulating in that country since the middle of last November, but the information which he himself has gleaned is of greater interest than any intelligence brought by means of Her Majesty's mails.

Since early last year Mr. Pope has been in a position to clean all the current news of the district, as his business brought him in contact with all the Indians in the district, as well as with the few men who make up the white population in the far North. From him a Times man yesterday gleaned the following epitome of the events which have transpired north of Telegraph since last November.

The Dixon Party.

Readers of the Times will remember the hardships which were undergone by a party of Hailigons in their attempt to reach the Klondike capital over the Edmonton trail last spring. The story of the awful suffering through which they passed, culminating in their being lost and the party broken up on Hay Mountain, was given to the readers of the Times last spring in the narrative of the man Boutlier, who reached Victoria by a steamer passenger on the steamer Alpha. Since that time most of the party have either returned or have made their way through to Dawson. But from Capt. Dixon, the leader of the expedition, practically nothing has been heard until a few days ago, when a steamer from Wrangell brought the news that he was on his way to the outside.

From Mr. Pope details are gleaned which go to show that the sufferings of one of the Bluenose party at least did not end even when he arrived in the territory surrounding Dease Lake.

It was early in December that Capt. Dixon accompanied by a man named Mason, who was the survivor of a Philadelphia party, which had attempted to reach Dawson through the Edmonton trail, arrived in Laketon. The two men were in a famished condition, and had undergone privation hardly paralleled even by the dreadful experiences on Hay Mountain. They had started out from Mc-Dame's creek for Laketon with but eight days' provisions, and had been reduced to the point where they were forced to make for the country last year, making but a cursory and superficial inspection of the land which bordered the trail. There are several men at Telegraph, who have excellent quartz properties which will be thoroughly opened up and explored this year. At Laketon there are two old country men, one a son of Dr. Vaudin of the Channel Islands, and the other a German by the name of John Frutzen. These men are making a good living during the winter by trapping, but they know the country well, and when spring arrives they are likely to thoroughly explore the territory. Messrs. Mc-Bane and Hunt are drifting on an old shaft on Tibbets Creek, which was opened up twenty years ago.

In March the Cassiar Central Railway Company intend taking in a good haul, trailling plant to work their properties on the same stream.

Mr. Sumner, the old man who is credited with residence in the country for twenty years and who has never been out during that time to the knowledge of the residents, broke his rule and came out to Wrangell during the past summer. From there he went to Skagway, but metropolitan life proved too much for him, and he returned to his old haunts. He got off the Danube when she reached Wrangell, when Mr. Pope was there, and intimated that Rozella Creek and his interminable tunnel would henceforth occupy his attention.

Mr. A. Merritt, manager of the field operations of the Casca Trading Company, left yesterday for the north to direct the operations in Cassiar for the coming summer.

The president of the company, Mr. Warburton Pike, leaves to-day for England to consult with the old country diary, and to take home his cousin, Harold Pike, who has been ill here and who is returning to England.

Mr. Drummond, the prospector for the Cassiar railway, also goes in shortly to undertake work for that corporation in the Stikine country.