

THE PACIFIC CANADIAN

Weekly News Digest and Journal of Observation and Comment.

Vol. I.



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THE VANCOUVER CONTEST.

Vancouver made up handsomely this week, in election excitement, for the lack of contests elsewhere throughout the Province in the by-elections made necessary by the eight Ministers of the Brewster Government going back to their constituencies for approval of their acceptance of office under the Crown.

In the case of Vancouver, two Ministers—Hons. M. A. Macdonald and Ralph Smith—had to seek re-election, and the somewhat mixed problem was put up to the electors of the Terminal City to approve one and turn down the other—to elect Mr. Smith and reject Mr. Macdonald—the formula for accomplishing this discriminatory, not to say recriminatory, result in the three-cornered Christmas puzzle being: "Vote for Ralph Smith and D. E. McTaggart, and leave M. A. Macdonald at home." As Joe Martin, whose fine Italian hand, as well as genius for a family row, were omnipresent in the plan of campaign, naively said, in a grand council of war held by the insurgents, Saturday night: "We have got to be careful. There are three candidates for the two vacancies, and I believe the Conservatives will do the right thing. All of us must vote for Ralph Smith and McTaggart. If we don't, we might elect Macdonald and McTaggart. We don't want to do that."

In an interview given to the Province Saturday night, as well as at the largely attended public meeting held under the McTaggart-Martin auspices Saturday night, Mr. Martin, who was described by the Province as "counsel for the McTaggart interests in the by-election," stated the issue from the point of view of his client and coadjutor, with considerable lucidity, not to say adroitness, thus: "There is no doubt a general desire to give the new Government an opportunity to carry out its pledges. The opposition to Mr. Macdonald does not involve that question at all. Mr. McTaggart is a Liberal and will give loyal support to the new Liberal Government, if elected. The public should also understand that the opposition to Mr. Macdonald is not for the purpose of asking the electors whether Mr. Macdonald is guilty or innocent of the charges made against him. The whole question is whether a man who is charged under oath with committing a serious crime, and charged by a man who has been intimately acquainted with him for months, and was one of his active supporters at the election during which the crime is alleged to have been committed, should be the Attorney-General of this Province while that charge is pending." Mr. Martin added to this definition of the by-election issue an assertion that Mr. Brewster had assured him (Mr. Martin, as counsel for J. T. Scott), that, pending a thorough investigation and determination of the election irregularities charges, Mr. Macdonald would not be offered the position of Attorney-General or taken into the Cabinet.

Premier Brewster, in a statement given to the public after Mr. Martin's utterances, categorically denied Mr. Martin's assertion last above noted, and clearly explained and defended his action in taking Mr. Macdonald into his Cabinet as follows:

"The duty to form a Cabinet was then laid upon me. The man reasonably entitled to be asked to assume the portfolio of Attorney-General was the Hon. M. A. Macdonald, by reason of his being the senior member of Vancouver city, a barrister in good standing and a Liberal holding the confidence of his party as evidenced by his return by an overwhelming majority after every possible use had been made of charges involving him in election irregularities.

"True, he was named in Scott's statement, but Scott had absconded even though assured of immunity.

"Therefore, to allow Scott's charges to prevent Mr. Macdonald's appointment, would have been to condemn, prejudice and injure him before he had a chance to defend himself, and before the allegation against him had been proved or disproved.

"I asked him to become my colleague, and he accepted, with the full understanding between us that the inquiry into election irregularities should be proceeded with as promised the public precedent to the election, and, at Mr. Macdonald's request, it was determined that I should have independent legal advice in all matters relating to the investigation. My own solicitor (Mr. R. T. Elliott) has, therefore, had free scope in preparing for the investigation."

While the issue as outlined by Mr. Joseph Martin, K.C., for McTaggart (who is also a lawyer) and by Mr. McTaggart for himself, was one of pure political morality, Mr. McTaggart previously, in an open letter to Premier Brewster published in the News-Advertiser of Friday last, rather detracted from his high ground by reciting that, after a conference with the Premier, he had decided not to oppose Mr. Macdonald, and had so informed the press, but had finally decided again to go on with his opposition because, as he alleged, the

PREMIER BORDEN'S VISIT.

Sir Robert Borden, Premier of Canada, as briefly noted in our last issue, reached this city and Vancouver on Friday last, accompanied by Mr. R. B. Bennett, M. P., Director-General of the National Service Commission, and addressed a large public meeting in the Wesley Church auditorium, Vancouver, the largest in the city, besides an overflow meeting in the Hotel Vancouver ball room, the same evening. The main meeting was presided over by Mayor McBeath and the overflow by Mr. Justice Macdonald. The speakers of the evening, all on the patriotic question of National Service, included besides Sir Robert Borden and Mr. R. B. Bennett, Hon. M. A. Macdonald, and Hon. Ralph Smith, on behalf of the B. C. Government.

Some of the Prime Minister's utterances especially on this great question, it is important to reproduce: Nearly 400,000 Canadians, he said, had taken up arms in this fight for justice and liberty, and all had offered themselves. We knew that the enemy had made preparations for 35 or 40 years, but we did not realize the extent of those preparations. We were not wanting war, but when it came and the cause was a great and just one, as in this instance, our men were ready to make the supreme sacrifice and showed themselves worthy of the race from which they had sprung, and the name of the land they bore upon their shoulders. "A still greater effort is necessary," he added, "and I know that the people of this Dominion, from one end to the other, will not be found wanting."

The recent fighting on the Somme, Sir Robert Borden said he believed, would prove nothing to the great offensive which would come next spring, when the Germans would realize for the first time the strength of the British Empire and its Allies. In this connection, he said: "And let me tell you this—as compared with the strength of the Allies July 1, 1916, when January 1, 1917, arrives, it will see our strength doubled." Referring to Germany's recent peace overtures, Canada's Premier said, amid the applause of the vast audiences aggregating over three thousand: "As far as peace is concerned, the people of this country want no peace until this war has been brought to the conclusion that will make German aggression impossible. All the blood that has been shed will have been shed in vain, if we do not continue until the end that makes the Allies' cause triumphant."

Regarding the National Service post-card shortly to be circulated, containing twenty-four questions and designed to elicit information as to the capabilities of service which the people of Canada would be able to give, Sir Robert said: "This information will be of inestimable value, not only in enabling the Government to throw the whole power of the nation into the war, but it will also aid in estimating the best means by which we shall provide for conditions after victory has been secured, and we are faced with the problems of peace. All sections of the community are asked to help us and see that the responses to the cards are sent in. We are asking the people, so far as we can urge them, to join us in this good work and to make the first week of the coming year a National Service week in order that these cards, properly filled in, may then be tabulated and the information asked for obtained."

"We cannot prevail," said Sir Robert Borden, in the concluding portion of his address, "without effort, and we are realizing, perhaps more to-day than ever before, the amazing preparation for world domination the enemy have made. There are those today who are speaking of peace. I believe the spirit of the Canadian people, the spirit of the whole Empire, the spirit of all the Allied nations, can be expressed in the words of Abraham Lincoln in the midst of the Civil War, 1864, when he said, 'We accepted this war for an object, a worthy object, and the war will not end until that object is attained. Under God, I hope it will never end until that time.' We in Canada accepted the war for a cause which we believed to be just and righteous, and, under God, we hope that war will never end until its purpose has been fully and completely accomplished."

Attorney-General's Department was proceeding (pursuant to instructions given originally by the late Attorney-General) to estreat the forfeited bail bonds of J. T. Scott, put up by two young Vancouver Liberals, friends of Mr. McTaggart.

Vancouver has been fairly agitated and convulsed all this week with discussions public and private, through the press and on the platform, on the street and in the office, club and workshop, by the wayside and within the home circle, over this strenuously waged and all but unique internecine political-personal contest, which had its roots in the mysteriously procured "plugging" of February last. Overflow public meetings, in which the keenest interest has been manifested, have been held every night by both parties. Premier Bowser and Hon. Ralph Smith have stood loyally by their colleague, Hon. M. A. Macdonald, and eloquently asked for his return; while one of the lately elected Liberal members from Vancouver, Mr. J. S. Cowper, ranged himself with his opponents. The verdict rendered by the electors in Thursday's polling will be found elsewhere.

HERE AND THERE

In his famous Guildhall speech of Nov. 9, 1914, Mr. Asquith, Britain's late Premier, voicing the practically unanimous determination then and now of the British peoples throughout the Empire, said: "We shall never sheathe the sword until Belgium (and Serbia, he added afterwards) recovers in full measure all and more than all, that she has sacrificed, until France is adequately secured against the menace of aggression, until the rights of the smaller nationalities of Europe are placed upon an unassailable foundation, and until the military domination of Prussia is wholly and finally destroyed."

Accounting for the considerable rise in wheat, which has temporarily dropped a little of late, a contemporary recounts the world's shortage this season, aggregating around one billion bushels, as follows: Drought in Argentina has reduced the estimated surplus from 100,000,000 to 45,000,000 bushels; neither Russian nor Rumanian production, which is 12 to 25 per cent. below normal, can be exported; Australia's crop is 25 per cent. less than in 1915; Canada's crop is less than half of last year's; India's exportable surplus does not reach 50,000,000 bushels, while the total United States production is less than the normal consumption in that country.

Following is the protocol binding the Entente Allies not to entertain or make any separate peace terms with Germany, which was signed on September 5, 1914, on behalf of Great Britain, France and Russia by Sir Edward Grey, Paul Cambon, French Ambassador to the Court of St. James, and Count Beckendorff, Russian Ambassador, and later on by the Italian Ambassador: "The undersigned, duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, hereby declare as follows: The British, French and Russian Governments (Italy was added later) mutually engage not to conclude peace separately during the present war. These Governments agree that when the terms of peace come to be discussed no one of the Allies will demand conditions of peace without the previous agreement of each of the other Allies."

Following is the text of the American Government's "friendly" but "solemn" protest against Germany's deportation outrages in Belgium: "The Government of the United States has learned with the greatest concern and regret of the policy of the German Government to deport from Belgium a portion of the civilian population for the purpose of forcing labor in Germany and is constrained to protest in a friendly spirit but most solemnly against this action, which is in contravention of all precedents and of the humane principles of international practice which have been long accepted and followed by civilized nations in their treatment of non-combatants. Furthermore, the Government of the United States is convinced that the effect of this policy, if pursued, will, in all probability, be fatal to the Belgian relief work, so humanely planned and so successfully carried out, a result which would be generally deplored, and which, it is assumed, would seriously embarrass the German Government."

Mr. W. J. Bowser, after getting released from the cares of office, much against his will, took a trip east early this month on a visit to his old Nova Scotia home. While en route, he dropped off at Ottawa, and incidentally endeavored to cheer up his friends the Federal Ministers with this dope, according to the papers: Mr. Bowser said that his defeat was mainly the frame of mind, depression following quickly upon great prosperity. Mr. Bowser declared that, from a Federal standpoint, things in British Columbia are very favorable for the Conservatives. "I look," he said, "for the return of a substantial majority of those supporting the Borden Government." As to prophesying, people who remember the clinical bulletins and hopeful prognostications issued by the late Premier of British Columbia relative to the prospects of his own party, then in the throes of dissolution, will not consider his promise of Federal Conservative success in this Province a very happy augury.

The Central Powers will find that Italy is yet to be reckoned with, in addition to the good start already made, as a very potent factor in the remaining rounds of the great world war. An American-Italian editor, recently returned from a six months' visit to the Italian front, gives a most interesting account of his experiences in the San Francisco Bulletin, in which he states that the heroism, valor and skill of the Italian soldiers has made the downfall of Austria certain. "In the wonderful achievements of the Italian army, which has commanded the admiration of the world, I see, strange as it may appear," he says, "the death sentence of militarism. Italy has accomplished in one short year of war what it took Germany and Austria, with their militarist system, twenty-five years to do. At the outbreak of the war, Italy had 300,000 soldiers; a year later she had 4,000,000 men, thoroughly armed and equipped, and all men of from 20 to 40 years of age. They are taken from every trade and profession, and, after a few months of strenuous training, are sent straight to the front, where they are displaying the most surprising efficiency, besides bravery and heroism."

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"MERRY CHRISTMAS."

The words of the age-old, familiar greeting will seem to thousands this Christmastide—the third in which the embattled hosts of Europe, including our own Canadian boys, have been encamped on the hard-fought, blood-drenched field—as almost an impertinence and a mockery. To us even in Canada the great and terrible world war, whereof the end is by no means yet in sight, has come home during the last twelve months more closely and keenly than ever. Tens of thousands more of Canada's sons are overseas and in the trenches than were there a year ago, and many more chairs are vacant in Canadian homes that never will be filled. The iron has entered into the souls of thousands in this land, who have joined the vast fellowship of world-wide suffering which the war has created. In this dark Gethsemane of loss and pain, which many have experienced to the full and which hangs like a dark pall over all, the light-hearted usual Christmas thoughts and greetings seem sadly out of place and inadequate to express feelings and emotions too deep and poignant almost for expression. And yet is not the dark pall glorified as with a golden radiance by the spirit of high courage, noble endeavor, and generous devotion—of unselfish giving, to the last full measure—of freely offered sacrifice, even to the supreme sacrifice—which those who have gone from us, some never to return, have manifested in their lives and in their deaths?—the true Christmas spirit, exemplified and sanctified once for all by the Great Exemplar whose Incarnation we commemorate in the day, and of whom it is written: "He gave His life a ransom for many." Who left this testimony to the ages: "He that would save his life shall lose it; but he that will lose (or give) his life shall find it." Of those who have answered the call of this greatest Crusade, even with their lives, may we not feel with something of pride and something of envy that they have given the supreme gift which they had to bestow in a great and an enduring cause and shall not fail of their reward, in the grateful remembrance of humanity and posterity and in the finding again many-fold of that which they willingly laid down? Because of the sacrifices made by these and others by land and sea, not forgetting those in the home lands who give up and for the loved ones in the fierce fray, and including those who have fallen and who yet shall fall and those who still fight on or retire battle-scarred, "Merry Christmas" shall yet come again to countless children and children's children in many fair lands, else ground, hopeless, beneath the iron heel of the oppressor and destroyer.

THE SCOTT CONFESSION.

The famous Scott confession is out—that is one thing accomplished by the latest Vancouver by-election. It was published first in the Vancouver press open to the opponents of Hon. M. A. Macdonald, after the latter had challenged them to publish it, if they wished, and assured them of immunity from prosecution so far as he was concerned. Certainly, it proved a very harmless Damocles sword to "M. A.," once it was released, as was proved by the third triumphant win he has just scored with the Vancouver electorate. Still hanging suspended over his head, uncertain, darkly suggestive, mysteriously menacing, it might, had Scott's standing been other than it is, have lessened somewhat the emphasis of Macdonald's third consecutive endorsement within the year.

Taken as a whole and in connection with other conflicting sworn testimony by Scott himself, and directly contradictory sworn statements by another political operator of at least equal credibility, and unexceptionably supported, Scott's so-called confession, while containing an admission (inferentially denied in other sworn testimony of his own) that he himself did attempt to procure some "pluggers" in Seattle, to counter-balance alleged Conservative efforts in the same direction, certainly does not implicate Mr. Macdonald or any other responsible Liberal in responsibility for such work, and fails altogether in the crucial matter of indicating from whom he got the money (\$2,500 alto-gether, he says) for the Seattle operations. A heavily-built, dark-complexioned stranger, abut five feet seven, about forty years of age, and wearing a black moustache and a coon-skin coat, was the nearest he could come to identifying the man with the bag. As to \$250 which he declares he received from Macdonald for campaign liquidation purposes, but which he (Scott) says he, on his own initiative, paid to Annance to defray the latter's trial and defence on the charge by the Liberals of procuring impersonation, Annance, in his sworn statement, says he never received a cent from Scott, and Annance's solicitor, Mr. Dugald Donaghy, says Annance had no money and he defended him for nothing but a promise to pay some



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time in the future.

Another noteworthy and principal feature of the Scott narrative is the admission, rather the matter-of-fact recital, that he was engaged to do regular and legitimate political work, and was paid in a regular and certified way, and that even the Seattle work which he set out to do was perfectly regular and legitimate—namely, to secure Vancouver registered voters who had removed to Seattle or vicinity, and also to "keep tab" on irregular operations which there was good reason to believe Conservative agents were carrying on with the object of securing "pluggers" from Seattle. Afterwards, Scott naively suggests, it was found so expensive to mobilize the legitimate Vancouver registered voters in the adjoining State, that it was decided to substitute the same number of "pluggers," at least sufficient to balance the "pluggers" which he had positive evidence the Conservative agents were assembling in Seattle for the Vancouver election. This Scott apparently considered justifiable, and, while he does not directly state that M. A. Macdonald or other Liberals were parties to this departure from his regular, legitimate activities, ambiguously seeks to convey that impression. At the same time, he relates that Macdonald repeatedly told him, on election eve, when suspicion had got round in Vancouver that crooked work was to be attempted in both camps, to prevent it, if possible, by the Conservatives, and "cut it out" so far as the Liberals were concerned.

As illustrating how little dependence is to be placed in even the "half truths" of Scott's "confession," at any rate until after the document and its putative author had been subjected to a searching cross-examination, we have, besides Scott's own conflicting testimony, the voluntary sworn statement of Peter Annance, convicted at the instance of the Liberals of "inciting to peroration" in the same election, that: "I never heard M. A. Macdonald's name used as having supplied any money or being a party to any money being paid out in connection with my defense or in any way in connection with said by-election." To which he added the rather significant statement that Scott had told him, on a certain occasion, that, if he "knew of any of the Liberal candidates who were mixed up in this plugging proposition, that he would absolutely make them come through"—a suggestion that Scott contemplated adding blackmail to his other diversified violations of the moral and criminal codes.

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HERE AND THERE

According to late despatches, the Greek Government (that is, King Tino's) has completely complied with the terms of the Allies' ultimatum, and asks the resumption of "traditional relations with the Entente, based on reciprocal confidence." It also "hopes the Entente will reconsider the blockade decision." Which recalls the ancient warning to beware the Greeks bearing gifts.

In all the Allied countries unmistakable public expression of distrust of the Kaiser's so-called peace proposals has been given, and the united formal answer of the Entente expected shortly will doubtless demand the Kaiser show his hand before peace negotiations will be considered. Complete restitution, full reparation, and effectual guarantees for the future was well expressed by Lloyd-George in his maiden speech as Premier as the minimum Allied basis of peace negotiations with Germany. In the meantime, the war is being pushed by the Allies more vigorously than ever, while President Wilson has broken out in another long note, in which he asks all the belligerents to say what they are fighting about and when they will probably get through, as it's getting on Uncle Sam's nerves.

EDISON

Friday and Saturday

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LOCAL AND GENERAL. THE CITY COUNCIL.

The \$28.35 raised by the Business Girls' Club at their recent sale of work and tea will be used to bring Christmas cheer to deserving local people.

Mr. F. L. Kerr, the enterprising proprietor of the Edison, has taken over the Opera House and will run it as a side show.

As next Monday is Christmas day, the City Council held the meeting due for that date on Thursday (yesterday) afternoon at 4 o'clock.

Dr. S. C. McEwen, who was operated upon for appendicitis at the Royal Columbian Hospital on Sunday, is making satisfactory progress toward recovery.

Major Cyrus W. Peck, son of Mr. Wesley Peck, of this city, is now Lieut.-Col. Peck, O. C. 16th Battalion, Canadian Scottish, winning his high honors on the firing line.

A recruiting concert to raise more men for the 242nd Foresters Battalion was given Wednesday evening in the Columbian block. Mr. David Whiteside, M. L. A., presided and a good programme was given.

The City Council is considering giving employment to some old men to pick out waste paper at the civic garbage dump. An offer of \$4 per ton for waste paper has been made by a paper making company.

The marriage of Mr. Walter Campbell Brown, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Brown, Columbia street, and Miss Maude McBraire Smith, will take place on Dec. 27 in St. Mary's Church, Oak Bay, Victoria.

Mr. W. A. Hancock is the latest Aldermanic candidate to throw his hat into the ring and jump on it. He says he'll eat the hat if he isn't given a show to talk through it at the Municipal round table. The chances are "Billy" need an emetic.

The 225th Battalion band under Bandmaster F. W. Smith gave a concert Sunday afternoon, in the Industrial building at Queen's Park. Sergt. Severn and B. Q. M. S. Hadden sang two solos. It is proposed to make these Sunday afternoon concerts a regular event throughout the winter.

The formal opening of the Returned Soldiers' Club in this city took place last evening, having been postponed to that date from last Saturday. The club is located on the whole of the second floor of the Thompson block on Columbia street, above the Ford garage, and almost opposite the City Hall.

At the regular meeting of the Women's Auxiliary of the Royal Columbian Hospital, held Monday afternoon, it was decided to hold a wrist drive on the evening of January 4th, the receipts of the same to be used for the purchase of linen for the use of the hospital. The place will be announced at a later date.

At a concert held in the Edison Theatre, Sunday evening, in aid of the Canadian Tobacco Fund, Judge W. W. B. McInnes, of Vancouver, delivered a vigorous and eloquent patriotic address. Those contributing to the musical part of the programme were Messrs. Walter J. Stevenson, Alex. Wallace and A. G. Williams.

The 225th Kootenay Battalion will give a dance in the Hotel Russell this (Friday) evening, commencing at 8:30. The battalion orchestra, under Bandmaster F. Warner Smith, will provide music. Bandsmen P. Halliwell and A. Brown will act as masters of ceremonies. The proceeds will be donated to the battalion band fund.

Pte Gordon Drew, nephew of Dr. G. E. Drew, of this city, returned to New Westminster on Monday evening. He went to the front and was wounded and taken prisoner on April 19. It was found necessary to amputate one arm, and, after spending less than one month in a German prison hospital, he was exchanged.

Capt. D. E. Carleton, of Chilliwack, and formerly City Clerk of Chilliwack, has been appointed to command the overseas company of 250 men being recruited by the 104th Regiment. Capt. Carleton went overseas with the first Canadian Expeditionary Force in command of a company. At Festubert in May, 1915, he was wounded in the foot by shrapnel, and was invalided home, but has now fully recovered.

There is a good deal of uncertainty as to what retail stores in the city will keep this week, which is the last shopping week before Christmas. Some of the merchants intend keeping their stores open every evening this week including Saturday. Others announce that they will be closed on Saturday afternoon and evening but open the other evenings in the week. The hardware merchants announce that their stores will be open on Friday evening and closed on Saturday as usual.

A memorial service was held in Knox Presbyterian Church, last Sunday morning, in memory of the late James Walker, superintendent of Knox Sunday school, who is believed to have perished when the halibut fishing steamer "Onward Ho," was lost off the coast of Alaska nearly one year ago. At the evening service, a second honor roll was unveiled by Lieut.-Col. Mackay of the 225th Battalion, assisted by Lieut.-Col. F. H. Cunningham of the 104th Regiment. One company from each unit attended the services.

One of the latest to announce himself as a candidate for Aldermanic honors at the forthcoming municipal election is Mr. S. F. Mark, a resident of this city for the past eighteen years. Mr. Mark will run a policy of strict economy. He believes that every department of the civic administration should be investigated. He would go after every industry possible for this city. Ex-Mr. Lynch has also declared his intention of entering the contest. The others so far in the field are: Ald. Wm. McAdam, Mr. A. L. Lavery, and Mr. Stuart Wade. It is possible that two or three more of the retiring Aldermen may stand.

Government Control of All Nickel Mined—Endorsed—Resolution for Nationalizing Patriotic Fund—Negatives—Christmas Grants to Hospitals, Etc.

The City Council, at its regular meeting Monday night, endorsed a resolution from the Duncan Board of Trade, which will be forwarded to the Dominion Government, asking that all nickel mined in this Province be placed under Government control. In this connection, it was pointed out that 80 per cent. of the nickel in the world is mined in Canada, and it is believed that a large proportion of the nickel mined is going to Germany. The Government will be asked to erect a smelter to handle the nickel mined in Canada.

A resolution from the Langley Municipal Council, urging the Dominion Government to assume control of the collections for the Canadian Patriotic Fund, was not endorsed by the City Council, the Aldermen expressing the opinion that the fund was well handled under the present system, and that more money could be collected by the voluntary system than by taxation.

The question of securing a rebate from the Dominion Government of the charge of \$1,125 for the use of the Dominion dredge King Edward in removing sand from the river bed for the laying of a water main over the Fraser River, will be taken up with Mr. H. S. Clements, M.P., who is acting for Lieut.-Col. J. D. Taylor, M. P., while the latter is at the front. As the main was laid for Richmond municipality, the account will also be sent to that municipality.

A rebate of approximately \$11 will be made to the Canadian Products Company Limited, being the discount on its water and light accounts for November. The Co. complained that it did not receive these accounts in time to have them forwarded to the head office in Vancouver for payment, so as to take advantage of the rebate. In future such accounts will be rendered more promptly.

The Council made the following grants to hospitals and other benevolent institutions: Royal Columbian Hospital, \$100; St. Mary's Hospital, \$50; Providence Orphanage, \$50; True Blue Orphanage, \$50; Salvation Army, \$25. The annual grants provided for in the estimates, \$500 to the Providence Orphanage, and \$180 to the True Blue Orphanage, were ordered paid.

To replace the two light standards on Columbia street, broken recently by automobiles, the City Council authorized the Light Committee to purchase two standards from Mr. G. Allers Hankey, at \$75 each. These are now in use on Carnarvon street in front of the Hotel Russell and will be removed. New lights were ordered placed at the corner of Wintrip and Richmond streets, and 6th and Blackford streets.

The contract for printing the new voters' list for the city was awarded to the Jackson Printing Co. at \$1.60 per page, provided the work is done in the city.

Ald. Eastman tabled plans for electric hoist gates for the Lulu Island bridge. The installation would cost some thousands, he said.

BOARD OF TRADE.

Protest Against Proposal to Close Fraser River Fishing—Premier Brewster Invited to Address Luncheon.

Among other business transacted by the Board of Trade at its regular monthly meeting, Tuesday night, was a resolution of protest to the Dominion Government against the proposal of Mr. Henry Bell-Irving, of Vancouver, that the Fraser River be closed to salmon fishing for three years from 1918. It is pointed out in the resolution that such action would be useless unless similar regulations be made affecting the Puget Sound waters. The Government will also be urged to greater efforts to reduce the hair seal herds which prey on spring salmon. The Board decided on this action after discussing the whole question at a number of meetings, at one of which Mr. F. H. Cunningham, Chief Inspector of Dominion Fisheries for British Columbia gave his views. The Board also decided to hold a series of luncheons in the city, at which men prominent in public life in the Dominion and prominent visitors to the coast will be asked to speak. The first of these will be held shortly, and an invitation will be sent to Premier Brewster to deliver an address.

Mr. L. B. Lusby was delegated by the Board to take up with the Provincial Government the question of having the bridge tolls on a daily C. N. R. workmen's train between Port Mann and this city remitted. At present this train stops at the south end of the Fraser River bridge, and Port Mann employees who live in New Westminster walk across the bridge into town. This train will run right into the city if the collection of tolls is waived.

Mr. C. O. Stewart, manager of the local branch of the B. C. Grain Growers' B. C. agency, was elected a new member of the Board.

The Vancouver Election.

The expected happened in the Vancouver by-election of yesterday, both Ministers appealing for re-election being returned by handsome majorities. As the opposition of the dissatisfied Liberal faction was all directed against Hon. Mr. Macdonald, his vote was naturally somewhat pulled down, being 5,011 to Hon. Ralph Smith's 7,319, and D. E. McTaggart's 3,866. The Brewster Government is to be congratulated on the return of all its Ministers, the country on the fact that the Government can now get down to its great reconstructive work; Mr. Macdonald on his emphatic vindication again, and Mr. McTaggart and his backers on the fact that they have shown the proverbial independence of the Liberal party within itself.

The Vancouver home vote in the general election gave McAdams 12,126, Ralph Smith 6,537, and Bowser (the highest opponent) 5,463.

C. A. WELSH

LIMITED

The People's Grocer

PHONES:

Main Store - 193 and 194
Sapperton branch - 373
West End branch - 650

Three Big Stores of Plenty

TO all our Friends and Customers we wish

A MERRY CHRISTMAS

and a Bright and Prosperous

NEW YEAR

C. A. WELSH

LIMITED



MAY this Christmas Season be a Bright and Happy one to all, is the wishes of the management and staff of

The T. H. SMITH Co.

LIMITED



Eye strain and Wrinkles

Go together—both are brought on by attempting to read or work WITHOUT Glasses when Glasses are NECESSARY!

We can fit you with becoming Eye-glasses that will enable you to see clearly without Eye strain or Wrinkles. Let us supply the Glasses to-day.

H. Ryall

Druggist and Optician

NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C.

PHONE 57

If you are Looking for Real SNAPPY Things, where Style, Distinctiveness, and Originality are dominant factors, then select your MEN'S GIFTS at

J. E. BROWN & CO.

611 Columbia St.

New Westminster

City Market.

Turkeys to right of them, turkeys to left of them, turkeys all round them gobbled and grumbled. Some of the turkeys were geese—geese galore!—and a lot were chickens. And some weren't saying anything at all—because they had got it where McTaggart got his. But all were the real thing—and soaring out of sight. Turkeys, live, 35c to 37c; dressed, 42c to 45c; geese, 20c to 25c; ducks, 25c to 30c; hens, 18c to 23c; springs, 22c to 25c. Meats were in good supply, at usual prices, and the market generally was an excellent and lively one. Eggs condescended a little, going at 35c to 40c wholesale, and 45c to 50c retail. Butter was going strong at 50c. Potatoes were quiet at \$20 to \$25 per ton and \$1.25 a sack. Apples stood at 60c to \$1 per box.

"Service" in connection with your insurance may be worth more to you in case of fire, than the amount of premium paid, and I give it free on business placed with me. Alfred W. McLeod, the Insurance Man.

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Will keep your tea or coffee warm and you will enjoy your lunch.

We can sell you Thermos Bottles and Lunch Kits.

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New Wellington, Lump, Nut, pea and Slack

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Guichon Block, Columbia and McKenzie Sts., NEW WESTMINSTER

Thinks "Tanks" Served Purpose.

On the occasion of his recent visit to Washington, where he spoke before the National Geographic Society on the "Human Side of Trench Warfare," Capt. John Hay Beith of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and widely known in the United States as Ian Hay, author of "The First Hundred Thousand," in answer to numerous questions, threw interesting sidelights on phases of the European war which are not touched upon, customarily, in despatches from the front.

"The widely-heralded British 'tanks' have served their purpose, and I doubt very much whether they will play any further important role in the war," declares Captain Beith, who was one of the machine-gun officers having charge of the training of the gun crew for the "tanks."

"The 'tanks' are essentially a weapon of surprise. They made their advent on the firing line at the supreme psychological moment. Our troops had virtually reached an impasse in the Thiepval woods, which the Germans had fortified and re-fortified until it seemed humanly impossible to make any further headway. Then came the 'tanks,' secretly made, piece by piece, all over England, and shipped to a point of assembly on the Somme front. Not even the men whom I was training as a gun crew for one of these ponderous but astonishingly flexible death-dealers knew the kind of juggernaut in which they were to operate until they were ready for the terror-spreading assault. The surprise to the Germans was complete, and Thiepval was ours. But now that the limitations of the 'tank' are known to the enemy its usefulness is no longer exceptional.

"While there must still be a vast amount of important fighting on the western front, it is the general belief of many of our officers that the war will be won from the southeast. Firm in this belief, the British, French and Italians are making phenomenal preparations at Saloniki, and in the spring the world will be amazed by the gigantic stroke which will be delivered from this quarter."

Australia and Conscription.

"The referendum on conscription which we have had recently in Australia has shaken the political life of the Commonwealth to its very foundations. But I would like to emphasize that Australia is just as patriotic to-day as she was the first day of the war, and the spirit of the people is that they are quite as determined to win as ever. Australia will be one of the last countries to quit, and I say this despite the impression which seems to prevail in some quarters to the contrary, and despite a big headline which I saw in a San Francisco paper saying 'Australia Quits,'" said Mr. J. Symes, proprietor of the Tingha Advocate, and general manager of the Tingha Consolidated Tin Mines, Tingha, N. S. W., to a representative of the Province at the Hotel Castle the other day. Mr. Symes is on a world tour via Chicago, New York, London and Paris, and, besides being interested in the newspaper and the mines referred to, is a member of the Cuyrashire County Council, N. S. W., and is a strong advocate of conscription in Australia.

When asked why the conscription referendum in Australia failed, he attributed the result largely to Premier Hughes' delay in putting the question to the people.

"When Hughes came back, the entire country was ready for him to ask it to consent to conscription at once, but he wasted too much time flying kites to see how the political wind was blowing. The people were like a horse keen on the bit, but the driver hesitated and the horse got cool," he said, speaking metaphorically of his estimate of the situation.

"By this delay, Hughes gave his political and personal enemies ample time to undermine his prestige, and they did it effectually," he went on to say. "In the meantime, the papers and associations all over the country were asking him to say what he wanted. The workers of Australia, too, were prepared at that time to accept conscription and would have voted for it, and, if the Premier had not hesitated, he would have carried the country with him. The women's votes also counted for a good deal in the fight. The forces against conscription sent out tons of literature, much of which I believe contained untrue statements, but it had the effect of making the women's vote an emotional one, in which the proportions of the question from the standpoint of the Empire at large were lost sight of," said Mr. Symes.

THE SONS OF CANADA.

The Sons of Canada, and who are they?
The Challenged to a deadly fray,
With heart of steel, to dare, to do,
To play the game, in God's way,
through,
Their gallant best; in soul array,
And these are they!

The Sons of Canada, and who are they?
The men who feel the forward sway,
Till blood-red hand of Iron Will
Has spent its mightfulness, its ill;
So note them; hark them; they obey—
And, these are they!

The Sons of Canada, and who are they?
No pretence at a vain display,—
The men who make the battle strong,
For right, for honor,—with a song!
The men who smile on hope's dim day,
And these are they!

The Sons of Canada, and who are they?
They struggle for a later day,
When world of pain and strife forgot,
The stars still shine, forget them not!
And mark their splendor while you may!
For these are they!

The Sons of Canada, and who are they?
The marshalled hosts on Death's high-way,
Who grapple with the hour's despair,
And smite the evil lurking there,
Then pass, with glory, from the day,
And these are they!

(Alice Irene Wood in N.Y. Tribune),

Another Oliver Banquet.

About one hundred and fifty people gathered in the Agricultural Hall, Coquitlam, last Saturday evening, to celebrate by a banquet the return by acclamation, that day, as member for Dewdney Riding, of Hon. John Oliver, Minister of Agriculture and Railways in the Brewster Government. Both ladies and gentlemen participated in the banquet, and among those present were a number from this city, including Mr. David Whiteside, M. P. P., Ald. Jardine, and Messrs. R. C. McDonald, D. Douglas and R. Buckland, president, secretary, and treasurer respectively of the local Liberal Association. Mayor McKenzie, of Port Coquitlam, was toastmaster, and among the speakers of the evening, besides Hon. John Oliver and Mr. David Whiteside, M. P. P., were Ald. Jardine, Dr. Sutherland, Rev. Mr. Campbell, Ald. H. Keith, Maxwell Smith, and D. McLean. The banquet proper which was served by the ladies of Coquitlam, reflected credit on their hospitality and ability as caterers.

Liberal Organization Meeting.

On Friday evening last, a meeting of representative Liberals of the New Westminster Federal District—embracing the municipalities of New Westminster City, Burnaby, Richmond, Delta, Surrey, and Langley—was held in the Liberal Club rooms, Westminster Trust block, this city, to further the matter of organization, begun at a previous informal meeting at the same place about a month ago, on which occasion a committee was formed to draft a constitution.

At Friday's meeting, which was presided over by Mr. R. C. McDonald, president of the local Liberal Association, and at which Mr. Thos. Kidd, chairman of the first meeting was also present, the committee on constitution, consisting of President McDonald and Secretary D. Douglas, presented a complete draft of the proposed constitution, which was provisionally adopted, with a few minor amendments, by the meeting, and referred, for final review, to a subsequent general meeting, which the president and secretary were authorized to call.

On motion, the date for this general meeting was fixed for the third Friday in January, the 19th prox., at the same time and place. It will be of a more formal nature than the previous meetings, composed of delegates representative of the entire Federal district, on the basis of one delegate to every five hundred registered voters.

New Westminster's Battalion.

It is reported that Lieut.-Col. J. D. Taylor, M.P., who went to England, is now on his way back to Canada, accompanied by Paymaster Capt. T. H. Smith, though a later report says Capt. Smith is remaining on duty in England. Lieut.-Col. Taylor paid a visit to the fighting front in company with a number of other M.P.'s. It is stated he will engage in recruiting work upon his return to Canada. A report has also been received that Capt. G. C. d'Esam, chaplain, has resigned his commission and gone to France in the ranks. The 131st has ceased to exist as a unit, being transferred to the 30th Reserve in England, and a number of the 131st, including Lieut. F. J. MacKenzie, are reported to have been already drafted to the front. Sergt. W. R. Burr, who had the option of instructional work in England, is also reported to have gone to the front.

The Half Holiday Question.

At a largely attended meeting of the Retail Clerk's Association, held Monday evening, in the Labor Temple, plans were made for the starting of a vigorous campaign in opposition to the movement to abandon the Saturday half holiday for retail stores. It was proposed to divide the city into districts and to make a personal canvass of every voter and householder in support of the Saturday half holiday. As soon as the Christmas holidays are over, public meetings in the interests of Saturday will be held. It was also proposed to publish the names of all the merchants who are in favor of retaining the Saturday half holiday and all of those who want it abandoned.

Meanwhile the committee from the merchants are preparing to circulate a petition for signature asking that a plebiscite be taken at the January civic election on the half holiday question. Those opposing the Saturday half holiday are asking that Wednesday be named as the half holiday for retail stores instead of Saturday.

Milk Producers' Convention.

The first convention of the Fraser Valley Milk Producers' Association was held in this city, Monday, with Mr. E. D. Barrow, M.L.A., of Chilliwack, acting as temporary chairman, and Mr. J. A. Parks, of Pitt Meadows, as secretary. Several recommendations of vital interest to the betterment of the milk industry in the valley were discussed, including whether it is in the best interests for the organization to sell the stock, how much should be handled, and the price per can as a basis for securing the stock subscriptions. Messrs. C. E. Eckart, of Chilliwack; John W. Berry, of Fort Langley, and Chas. E. Evans were the committee on resolutions. There were about forty milk dealers from all parts of the valley in attendance.

B. C. Seeds the Best.

That in all cases the seeds that are grown in British Columbia are far superior to those imported from other sources was the statement of Prof. Davidson, of the Dominion Experimental Farm, Sidney, speaking at a public meeting, Friday afternoon last, in connection with the Provincial seed fair held in this city. The speaker further stated that he had tried at the farm certain tests with home grown seeds and imported seeds and had found in every case that the germination of the home grown seeds was in excess of those of the imported. He was dealing with the production of field root and vegetable seeds and was proud to say that British Columbia he considered was one of the best places in existence for

the production of these commodities. Other speakers of the evening were Dean Klinck, of the University of British Columbia, and Mr. E. W. Hogan, of the Agricultural Department. Hon. John Oliver, Minister of Agriculture, presided. He congratulated the exhibitors on the splendid specimens at the show. He also stated that he was willing to assist the producers of the Province in every way that was in his power.

Seasonable Suggestions

- Xmas Stockings 25c to \$1.50
- Local Fresh Eggs, doz.....50c
- Xmas Crackers...25c to \$1.50
- Good Cooking Eggs, doz..40c
- Chocolates, fancy boxes, at 10c to.....\$1.15
- Beef Suet, chopped, 2 lbs..35c
- Table Figs, lb.20c
- Mixed Candies, lb. 17 1/2 to 40c
- Fancy Table Apples, highly colored, every apple wrapped, box.....\$1.75
- Table Raisins, 1 lb.....20c
- Two lbs. for.....35c
- Mince-meat, lb....17 1/2 and 25c
- Jap Oranges, box.....55c
- Crystallized Cherries, lb...80c
- Glace Cherries, lb.....75c
- Dates, pkg.....15c
- Mixed Nuts, best quality, per lb. at.....30c

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Matheson & Jacobson

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- East Burnaby, 2nd St. Phone 598
- Edmonds, Gray Block Phone 1111L
- Sapperton, Guhr Block Phone 1012

IS THERE A CHRISTMAS GIFT PROBLEM

Still Confronting You?

There are many who find it difficult to decide what to buy. As the hours before Christmas grow fewer the problem looms larger. A person naturally likes to give what will prove most satisfactory and acceptable. Have you thought of using one of our

Merchandise Certificates or Glove Coupons

We issue them for any amount and the recipient can redeem them at any time.

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The Store for Women's Wear

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General Machine Work, Engineering and Blacksmithing

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The Royal City Laundry

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CANADA



NATIONAL SERVICE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given under the authority of the "War Measures Act, 1914," that during the first week in January, 1917, an inventory will be made by the Post Office Authorities, of every male between the ages of sixteen and sixty five, residing in Canada.

National Service Cards and addressed envelopes for their return to Ottawa have been placed in the hands of all Postmasters for distribution amongst the persons required to fill in such cards. Every male person of the prescribed ages is required to fill in and return a card enclosed in an envelope within ten days of its receipt.

Any person who fails to receive a card and envelope may obtain the same upon application to the nearest Postmaster.

R. B. BENNETT,

Ottawa, 15th December, 1916.

Director General.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

NATIONAL SERVICE WEEK : 1st to 7th JANUARY.

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- No. 6.....\$33.50
- No. 9.....\$66.50
- No. 10.....\$102.00
- No. 11.....\$137.00

Thousands of Records, all the latest, to select from. A large stock of Victrolas; every style and finish. Comfortable parlors to see and hear them. The same privacy and convenience as though in your own home. A small cash payment, balance easy terms, makes you the owner of one.

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