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THE PACIFIC CANADIAN

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Weekly News Digest and Journal of Observation and Comment.

Vol. I. 5 NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C., FRIDAY, Sept. 29, 1916. Number 30

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION.

During the recent general election campaign, it was a favorite fiction of the Government speakers and press that the Liberal Opposition campaign was solely negative in its character—destructive criticism of the Government—and that the Liberal party lacked any constructive policy; while the electors were invited to admire the fine programme of constructive legislation which the Government, in the last few months of a thirteen year lease of power, had put upon the statute books—a programme borrowed, with delightful irony and effrontery, almost entirely from the Liberal platform.

In the very nature of the case, consideration of the long and prolific in wrong-doing Government record claimed first place in a general election inquisition into the propriety or otherwise of granting that Government a renewed lease of power. Added to this, the Government did everything in its power to turn the discussion aside and concentrate it upon spurious and side issues, and succeeded to the extent of having a great deal of time squandered in such unprofitable discussions, which otherwise might have been profitably employed in considering and elaborating at greater length the many remedial and constructive proposals, in addition to those recently appropriated by the Government, that had been outlined in the Provincial Liberal platform for years.

One of the most important and far-reaching of these proposals, which necessarily, for the reasons referred to, did not receive the attention it deserved during the election discussions, is what is known as proportional representation—a term significant enough in itself of its general aim and effect, but little if at all understood in its details and workings, for the good and sufficient reason that, while it is not unknown either in theory or practice in Europe, Australasia, or South Africa, we have had no working illustration as yet on this continent, and to the great majority of people it is simply a significant phrase—significant of representation in proportion to population or voting strength—and nothing more.

Fortunately, it is much more significant of "the real thing" than the time-honored slogan of "rep. by pop," which we think we have in this country and of which we have working illustrations galore all over the British Empire, that are chiefly remarkable for demonstrating how utterly the present vaunted systems and distributions of representation fail to give the people as a whole anything like a fair or equitable representation in their legislative and deliberative assemblies. Illustrations innumerable of the grotesque travesty of representation thus achieved could be cited. It will be sufficient to note one—right at home. In the Provincial general election of 1912, over 35 per cent. of the electors of British Columbia voted for Liberal candidates. Not a single Liberal candidate was elected. Under proportional representation, 35 per cent. of the Legislature, or a little over one-third, would have been Liberal.

"We should worry!" perhaps it may be thought the Liberals of British Columbia might now well say, in the slang phrase of the day, seeing they are now on top, and that the present anomalous system of representation lends itself peculiarly to a political party that can once get into power and that is not above "manipulating the constituencies," like the party now about to be superseded, in order to maintain itself in power. We think better things of the Liberal party, however, though we thus speak. We believe that its ideal is public service, and not to make the public subservient to its ends, and that, in pursuance of that ideal, it will fulfil its pledges, not only to abolish the corrupt and debasing patronage system, but to give us a just and equitable system of representation as well, though that will insure, or at least make possible, after another election, a considerably larger Opposition than appears to have been provided for the new Legislature by the recent elections.

The two main principles underlying the proportional representation system—that was in use, before the war, in Belgium, Switzerland, Denmark, and Sweden, that was adopted by France in 1913 and by Japan several years ago, and that has been in operation for some time satisfactorily in Tasmania, as well as to some extent in Western Australia and South Africa—are: The "single, transferable vote," and the grouping of the representation into constituencies having from five to ten members each. Each voter marks the figure 1 opposite his first choice on the ballot paper, and, if it is, say, a five member constituency, he indicates by the appropriate figures opposite other names his first, second, third, fourth, and fifth choices. When the ballots are counted all candidates who have received what is called the "quota" of the first choice votes cast—that is sufficient to barely elect (the "quota" being determined by dividing the total number of valid votes cast by one more than the number of members to be elected for the constituency, and then adding one)—are declared elected as a result of this first count. The "surplus" first choice votes are then transferred to the second choice candidates, until they get the "quota," and so on, every vote being made "effective," the votes of those candidates who do not receive sufficient to possibly elect being also divided among the remaining candidates to be elected, on a fair basis as indicated by the choices marked.

Official recounts of the ballots in the recent election, so far as heard from, have been to the advantage of the Liberal party. In Dewdney, Mr. Oliver's majority has been raised from 142 to 158. In Vancouver, Mr. Bowser has lost 33 votes, putting him that much farther behind, while Ralph Smith has been boosted to second place on the Liberal ticket, coming next to M. A. Macdonald, who heads the poll by a clear 500. F. J. MacKenzie, in Delta, climbs up two, leaving him five votes behind Paterson—so near and yet so far.

WELL GROUNDED CONFIDENCE.

Called upon at very short notice, owing to circumstances, to decide matters of more than ordinary import to the future of the city, the ratepayers who voted on the market site plebiscite, last week, instinctively recorded their confidence in the larger future of the city, in relation especially to the splendid waterway on which it is located and the great agricultural district whose development is inseparably bound up with that of the city, by refusing to grasp at an apparent temporary advantage, at the sacrifice of future and lasting gain. That it was not simply a question of voting the market one place or another or leasing a site at a certain price for an industry, but a question of the whole future development of the market and of the shipping facilities of the harbor as well, was realized sufficiently, if not clearly foreseen, by the ratepayers to guide them to a wise and prescient decision.

The large measure of success that has attended the public market in this city, ever since its inception, more than a score of years ago, when compared with the repeated abortive efforts to build up such an institution elsewhere in the Province, especially in the neighboring city, might well have given us pause before entering upon a policy for the future, that would divorce the market in any degree from the river, or that would in any way hamper or restrict its great growth and expansion that may reasonably be expected with the vast agricultural development undoubtedly in store for the Fraser Valley. By reaffirming their decision that the market shall be permanently located on the splendidly commodious Tenth street site, with ample facilities for shipping large and small for all time, and by retaining the whole site for public purposes, the ratepayers have at once assured the future of the market and declared their unalterable confidence as well in the future of this city as a great distributing and shipping point.

That the well grounded confidence and the reasonable aspirations of the people of New Westminster are not rightly appraised or understood at all times, or strongly sympathised with at any time, by our enterprising neighbors, has been manifested on more than one occasion through their public press, which has just suggested, the World being the spokesman on this occasion, that the ratepayers would reverse their decision if they had more time for consideration. The Province made an even worse guess at the time of our great fire some years back, when it opined that Westminster's extremity was Vancouver's opportunity, or words to that effect, and even the writer of what is not inappropriately termed "a Column of Irresponsible Chatter" in the Sun went out of his way lately to take a fling at what is shrewdly recognized to be the charter of our future greatness as a city—the Fraser River—by the inane suggestion, apropos of nothing, that, "if the enemy fleet should at any time threaten British Columbia, nothing better could happen than that they should take it into their heads to venture up the Fraser, where they would inevitably get stuck, staked or stranded in the mud."

All of which might well confirm us in the wisdom of taking our own counsel, keeping on the even tenor of our way, and improving every opportunity to establish and build up a public press of our own, instead of that of our neighbors, whose aim, naturally enough, is at all times to promote and build up their own interests, even at the expense of ours.

HERE AND THERE.

The saying that there is nothing new under the sun is again sustained by a report from a South American explorer, that he found, in the Amazon valley, a system of wireless telegraphy that had been in use more than 3000 years. The transmitter and receiver were hollowed trunks of trees suspended on poles some miles apart, and the vibration was made by striking the transmitter with a rubber hammer.

British Columbia, notes the Toronto Star, completes the solid block of Provinces with Liberal Governments from Ontario to the Pacific Ocean. The Eastern Provinces are more equally divided, Ontario, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island, Conservative, Quebec and Nova Scotia, Liberal. In Ontario five bye-elections have been held in recent years, and all have been unfavorable to the Government, big majorities being cut down in Hamilton and Dundas, while in three constituencies formerly Conservative, the Government candidates have been defeated. Three of the Ontario contests were held before the prohibition law was passed.

The Cowichan Leader, independent, refers to the Liberal majority in the new Legislature as being "so preponderant" that it sincerely hopes "that those Liberal members who are pledged to the proportional representation system will bring about this most necessary reform. Sir John A. Macdonald's comment on overwhelming majorities has frequently been quoted against the Conservatives. The Liberals have been called 'apostles of purity.' Their return to power does not immediately canonize them as 'archangels.' We hope to see them 'play the man' for British Columbia, for 'by God's grace' a candle to ignite the fires of righteous government has now been lit for them. May they never put it out!"

It makes all the difference in the world whose ox is gored. The Germans, who invented and first used poisonous gas in warfare and make murderous war upon non-combatants, including women and children, by all sorts of devilish devices and practices, object to have their formations broken up and their soldiers stalked by means of the new British armored car device known as "tanks," and, it is reported, propose to lodge a complaint with the Red Cross against their use, on the ground that it is contrary to recognized methods of civilized warfare. The idea, in a sense, is as old as Hannibal, who "made lanes" among the opposing hosts on occasion by driving maddened elephants through the enemy phalanxes.

On the occasion of being presented with a testimonial as Grand Master of the Derbyshire Free Masons, recently, the Duke of Devonshire, who will arrive in Canada as Governor-General next month, said his appointed task as Governor-General of Canada required all his energy and courage; with the good will of friends at home and the hope of a friendly reception in Canada he trusted he would have the strength and good sense to make the most of his opportunities. "We are," he said, "passing through anxious times. It is to be hoped that out of all that is sad and terrible good will come, and that we resolve never to allow this outrage Germany has perpetrated to be repeated." That, he said, in conclusion, was the message he would take to Canada, of whose generous share in the struggle England is proud.

Major-Gen. Sir William Robertson, Chief of the Imperial General Army Staff, began his military career as a ranker in the 16th Lancers, rising to be sergt.-major, after which he was gazetted second lieutenant in the 3rd Dragoon Guards in 1888. Most of his early campaigning was done in India and he set himself to acquire a wide knowledge of the native languages, which proved of inestimable value when he held the position of Staff Captain in the Intelligence Department at Simla from 1892 to 1896. Sir William earned much distinction by his work with the Chitral Relief Forces and took part in the hardest of the fighting in that hill campaign, being severely wounded. In the South African war, he was one of the few officers who made a reputation and was afterward Commandant of the Staff College at Camberley, afterwards being made Director of Military Training. At the outbreak of the present war, he went to France as Quarter-Master-General and ultimately became General French's Chief of Staff, later being appointed right-hand man to Earl Kitchener at the War Office, where he is now chief military adviser. Sir William was born in the little village of Welbourn, in Lincolnshire, but his parents were Scotch and he is familiarly known in the army as "Wullie."

THE PACIFIC CANADIAN

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INTERESTING SUGGESTIONS.

At the first sitting of the Dominions Royal Commission, held in Vancouver, Saturday, Sir George Foster presiding—to determine the resources of the Dominions and what is needed to best utilize them—the first speaker before the commission was Mr. H. O. Bell-Irving, who, dealing with the fisheries of British Columbia, suggested that a Royal Commission should go thoroughly into the fisheries subject, and, pending its report, no new canneries should be permitted on main rivers and that, from 1918 to 1920, the Fraser River should be closed to fishing to allow it to recuperate from a condition which he said was deplorable. Sir George Foster said he would place Mr. Bell-Irving's suggestions before the Dominion Government. Another speaker, Col. Markham, on the question of settling returned soldiers on land, suggested that the Seabird Island Indian reserve, in the Fraser, on which there were only 122 Indians, and which, with its 4,511 acres, would accommodate 450 soldiers and their families, on holdings of 10 acres each, ought to be utilized for this purpose. The suggestion, said Sir George, seemed an excellent one.

HOW IT STANDS.

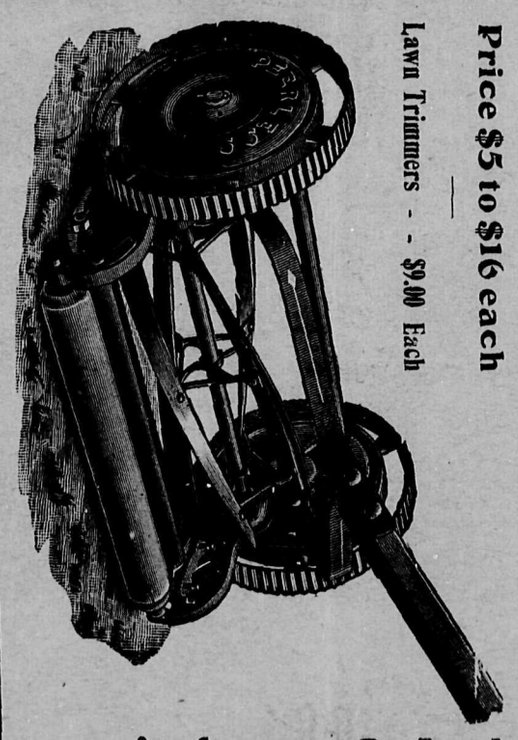
The general election returns, as made up to the date of our last issue gave the Liberals thirty-nine out of the forty-seven seats in the Province, the Conservatives five—namely, Cowichan, Nelson, South Okanagan, Similkameen, and Slocan—and three — Lillooet, Kaslo, and Fort George—in which the result was still in doubt owing to the returns being incomplete.

The returns having since all come in, it is now known that, of these three doubtful constituencies, two, so far as the regular or "civilian" vote is concerned, have gone Bowser Conservative and one Liberal—Lillooet having returned A. McDonald by the narrow majority of 29 (260 to 231) over J. B. Bryson, Liberal, and Fort George, by the grace of a third, vote-splitting candidate, having returned Hon. R. W. Ross (the only Minister to win election) by a plurality of about 26 over John McInnes, Socialist, who had the main Liberal support. Mr. Ross, however, will be a minority representative by over one hundred, and those who know the district say the soldiers' vote in this instance will undoubtedly reverse the result and insure the return of McInnes. Kaslo, the third doubtful constituency, with the regular returns all in, gives John Keen, Liberal, 421 votes against 311 for R. J. Long, Conservative, a safe majority of 110.

The new Legislature, therefore, with the soldiers' vote (which is not likely to materially alter the relative standing of the parties) to hear from, will stand forty Liberals or Liberal supporters to seven elected as supporters of the Bowser Government. It is not surprising, with such a clean-cut and unmistakable verdict, that Premier Bowser should have felt constrained to announce, as he is reported by the Government press to have done at Victoria, the other day, that, as soon as the soldiers' vote is known, probably about October 14th next, the Government will resign office, and, in the meantime, devote itself solely to routine work and, in Mr. Bowser's words, "to clean up arrears of business."

Incidentally, Premier Bowser is reported to have declared that he could "look back on the campaign with pride. We made a good clean fight," he said. "The electors have expressed their decision and we must bow to it. It is not our intention to in the slightest degree take advantage of the interval between election and our going out of office. There will be no jobs given and no new business initiated. * * * That is to my mind the proper and constitutional course to follow."

It is very good of Mr Bowser to magnanimously recognize these truisms, and no one will deny him the comfort of "looking back with pride," if he can conscientiously do so; but he would get more credit for sincerity if he would hurry up the counting of those soldiers' votes, as he has the power to do, bow himself out without so much loss of time, and let the country get on with its real "cleaning up" business.



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A great railway strike in the United States was prevented, recently, by the legislation of Congress, conceding the demands of the men for an eight-hour day. The prevention of the strike was a tremendous boon to the people of the United States. But the critics say that it meant a surrender to force—that the workmen presented the gun, and the President and Congress held up their hands. Such a policy of surrender, they say, may have untold consequences. All that would be necessary in future would be to make a demonstration of force to have anything demanded.

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LOCAL AND GENERAL.

Commencing Oct. 1st, the dairymen of the city will sell nine quarts of milk for $1. instead of ten quarts as before.

On Monday afternoon next, the Fisheries Department will put up for sale at auction a number of confiscated sockeye nets.

Capt. G. C. d'Easum, chaplain of the 131st Battalion, is expected down from Vernon camp this week to spend a few days with his family.

Mr. M. Shore, C. P. R. agent at Kamloops, paid a visit to this city this week with Mrs. Shore and child. Mrs. Shore is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Dashwood-Jones.

Harris Turner, who is reported to have suffered total blindness as a result of wounds sustained when serving with the Princess Pats, is well known in this city, having worked as a reporter on the Daily News.

The whole of the internal management of the Royal Columbian Hospital is being investigated by the board of management at a series of meetings in camera. Complaints of the quality of food served to the nurses and patients is one of the causes of the investigation.

When you buy merchandise for your home, you patronize the merchant who reduces cost and gives careful service. Buy your insurance on the same principle and place it in one of the best companies available at a reduced rate. Alfred W. McLeod, the Insurance Man.

With Aug. 31st, The Pacific Canadian completed the first six months of publication. Subscriptions, which will be received at the office, 761 Carnarvon st., are now due for period beginning Sept. 1st inst.: 25c for 3 mos., 50c for 6 mos., $1 for year.

As a result of a police raid of an opium joint in Chinatown, on Sunday, four Celestials were gathered in. One man was fined $20 and costs in Police Court yesterday, and the others forfeited bail. The majority of the inmates of the joint escaped by an underground passage.

For enrolment in night school classes which will commence next week in the Connaught High School, the School Board secretary's office will be open each evening this week from 7 to 9 o'clock. An effort is being made to secure as large an attendance at the night schools this year as possible.

The marriage took place at the rectory of St. Paul's Church in this city on Monday, September 25, of Miss Irene Madeline Schaake, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schaake, Third street, to Mr. Thomas Smith. Rev. C. E. Wincott performed the ceremony in the presence of a few friends of the couple. Mr. and Mrs. Smith will make their home in this city.

The fall criminal assizes will open on October 16. So far but few cases are set down. The most serious is the charge against Isher Singh, of Abbotsford, of wounding Sunda Singh. George Henshaw, a B. C. E. R. employee at Lake Buntzen, will be tried on a charge of robbing campers' cottages, and Harvey Long will also face a housebreaking charge.

The following non-commissioned officers of the 131st Westminster Battalion qualified at the Royal School of Infantry at Work Point Barracks, Victoria: Sergt. E. E. Goulet, lieutenant; Pte. A. Anthony, lieutenant; Lance-Corporal L. W. Parren, sergeant; Sergt. B. A. Cox, sergeant; Corporal H. McGibbon, sergeant; Corporal A. Gray, sergeant; Sergt. A. Anthony, sergeant.

The local W. C. T. U. will hold a series of sales of home cooking in the city this winter, the first to be held on Friday, October 6. The union will engage in special work this year. This will consist of Loyal Temperance legion work, dealing with the education of children; educating the women along political lines in view of women's franchise; and prayer meetings for the wives and mothers of soldiers.

One month in jail without the option of a fine was the sentence imposed in District Court this week by Magistrate Clute on a Japanese fisherman for interfering with a fisheries officer in the discharge of his duties. The fisheries patrol boat Swan pulled near the fisherman's boat, early Sunday morning, to search for fish caught during the weekly close season. The Jap had a gasoline launch and took refuge in flight. After a chase around the river the fisherman was caught.

The second great Dominion war loan, subscriptions to which closed on Saturday last, 23rd inst., proved, like the first, a great success, being over subscribed by almost double the amount, $100,000,000, called for—the subscriptions totalling $180,000,000 and probably more. Ninety-five per cent. of the thirty thousand odd subscribers were Canadians. The smaller subscriptions will all be alloted in full, and the $50,000,000 subscribed by banks will not be required for this loan.

Another native son of New Westminster, Pte. Edgar Wilson, son of Mrs. J. C. Wilson, 42 Bushby street, has been killed in action. He was 23 years of age, and was a fireman on the C. P. R. prior to enlisting. He went overseas with the second reinforcements draft of the 47th Battalion. Two brothers have enlisted, Henry T. Wilson, with the Foresters, and Clifford Wilson, with the Engineers at Valcartier. Another brother, D. C. Wilson, is employed at the Brunette Mills.

Money will be raised on "Our Day," October 19, in aid of the British Red Cross fund by local subscriptions and by the sale of tags on the city streets. A committee to solicit subscriptions and one to have charge of tagging were appointed at the public meeting at the City Hall on Monday afternoon. Ladies will predominate on the tagging committee. Mrs. J. W. Creighton was appointed chairman of the general committee and of the men's committee, and Mrs. J. S. Clute, secretary. Madame Gauvreau is chairman of the ladies' committee

Last Day to Register.

Monday next, October 2, is the last day for registering as a Provincial voter prior to the semi-annual November revision, at which the lists will be made up for the succeeding six months until the May revision. A Dominion general election is a possibility before May next, and the Provincial lists are used for Dominion elections; so, if you are not yet registered, see about it not later than Monday next. The Liberal Club rooms, Westminster Trust block, Clarkson st., will be open both daytime and evenings in the meantime to accommodate any one requiring registration forms and assistance in filling out and certifying same. Don't fail to get on the list, if not yet registered.

Next Minister of Agriculture.

Mr. John Oliver, Liberal member-elect for Dewdney riding, formally opened the Maple Ridge fair held at Port Haney, last Friday and Saturday. He was introduced to the crowd by the president of the association, Mr. Adolf Lundgren, as the next Minister of Agriculture. Mr. William MacNeill, assistant general manager of the Western Canada Power Co., also spoke briefly. There was a large attendance on Saturday, the largest in the history of the fair. All lines of produce were represented among the exhibits Vegetables, fruit, dairy produce, and stock all were shown and all of a high order of merit, and the judges had no small task in awarding the prizes. The Women's Institute of Port Haney aided largely in the success of this year's exhibition, and there were many exhibits of women's work and activities. Mr. John Oliver announced that next year he would donate a special prize of $5 for the best 50 pounds of timothy seed produced in Dewdney and a $10 prize for the best 50 pounds of red clover seed exhibited at next year's fair.

Two Zeppelin Raids.

On Saturday night last, there was an invasion of the British Isles by twelve big Zeppelins of the latest type, which took heavy toll in lives and injuries inflicted on non-combaiants, in the metropolitan district of London chiefly, twenty-eight persons being killed and ninety-nine wounded, in addition to a few in the provinces. Small suburban dwellings and shops were wrecked and one railway station damaged. The sky pirates paid heavily for the raid, one Zeppelin coming down in flames, which consumed crew and all, and another being brought to earth and the crew captured. Gun fire accounted for one and a daring aviator for the other.

A second raid, by seven Zeppelins, was made over the east coast of England, Monday night, in which twenty-nine persons are reported to have been killed, the Zeppelins being finally driven away without accomplishing anything but murder and relatively immaterial damage.

Young Liberal Club.

A meeting of the Young Liberals' Association was held in the Liberal Club rooms, Wednesday night, to take steps for the organization of a Young Liberals' Club and for the maintenance of club rooms in co-operation with the older organization. Mr. R. C. Higgins occupied the chair and Mr. J. A. Courtenay acted as secretary. Ways and means were discussed and a committee was appointed to confer with the Liberal Club executive, Saturday night, and report to a subsequent meeting of the Young Liberals, to be held on Thursday evening next, October 5.

Progress of the War.

The great war development of late—and the Allies still continue their steady advance on all fronts—was the capture, early in the week, of Combles and Thiepval, by the Anglo-French forces on the Ancre-Somme sector of the Western front. The Canadians, earlier, contributed to the signal successes by taking and holding Courcelette in a most brilliant and dashing advance. The way is now cleared appreciably to the great strategic railway communication objectives of the whole Anglo-French offensive since July 1st last—Bapaume and Peronne—the taking of which at an early date, which now seems assured, will strike a vital blow at the present Teutonic line of occupation on the Western front, and compel a serious falling back. Some sixty thousand prisoners, besides a vast quantity of guns, munitions, and stores, have fallen to the Allies in these combined British, French, and Canadian operations since July 1st, which have driven a great triangular wedge embracing over one hundred square miles into the German lines. That the German morale has given evidences of late of being seriously shaken, is hardly to be wondered at.

Meanwhile, a most interesting situation, not devoid of the element of comedy, is developing in regard to that hitherto most uncertain factor in the Balkan theatre of the war. the position and attitude of Greece, whose reluctant King Constantine, brother-in-law of the Kaiser, who has managed to stultify Greece since the outbreak of the war, is now being compelled by a general popular uprising, under ex-Premier Venizelos, to accede rather undignifiedly to the wishes of his people by entering the war on the side of the Allies, or be brushed aside as a fly on the wheel.

City Market.

Unusually good market this week, and large attendance. Meats in good supply, with prices same as last week. Poultry in very large supply, with good demand, at 14c to 18c for hens; springs, 17c to 19c; ducks, 18c. Eggs brought 45c to 50c retail and 40c to 41c wholesale. Butter retailed at 40c. Very little doing in potatoes, at 90c per sack and $10 to $15 per ton according to quality. Apples were very plentiful and ranged at 50c to 90c per box

Thanksgiving falling on Monday, Oct. 9, next market, Friday the 6th, will be Thanksgiving Market, with lots of prime home grown turkeys.

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Crabapples (Hyslop) Finest Jelly Crabs, per lb.....3c
Quince, 3 lbs. for 25c
Damson Plums, per lb.....4c
Bartlett Pears (Local) just the thing to preserve for the winter. Per box.....80c
Crawford Peaches [freestone] best quality. Per box. .$1.00

For Fall Housecleaning

Chivers' Carpet Soap makes all carpets like new. Per cake..... 25c
Smoky City Cleaner, for wallpaper, calsomine, etc. Per tin..... 25c
Polishing Oils, including Liquid Veneer, Wizard, O'-Cedar, Waxit, etc., from 25c to $1.25 per bottle
Royal Crown Soaps, etc., make housecleaning a pleasure

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THE CITY COUNCIL.

Continued from Page Four

building and taking down polling booths, $8.50, be paid.

On motion, the report was adopted.

The Finance Committee reported, recommending payment of City Solicitors' account totalling, with $50 reduction, $727.49. Adopted.

The Light Committee reported, recommending:

1. That the Warden of the B. C. Penitentiary be informed that the request for connecting the accountant's house to the city lighting system cannot be acceded to owing to the fact that the wiring installed does not comply with the provisions of the Electric Light By-law of the city, and that he be advised that the Supt. of the Light Department informed the Deputy Warden what the requirements were before the wiring was completed. Also that a copy of the by-law and regulations be forwarded to the Warden for perusal.

2. That the application for a street light at the corner of Major and Garrett sts., Sapperton, be granted, estimated cost of installation $68 47.

On motion, this report was adopted, after it had been brought out in discussion that it would not be a very serious or difficult matter to make the wiring of the accountant's house conform to the city electric light regulations.

The Electric Light Committee reported, submitting agreement of Western Canada Power Co., not to supply, after 1st October, 1916, electric power for lighting purposes to the Vancouver Prince Rupert Meat Co., or to any other customer within the city limits, without the written consent of the chairman of the Lighting Committee.

By-Laws, New Business, Etc.

The Fire Prevention By-law, 1916—a consolidation, for convenience of reference, of all the amendments for years past with the original by-law—was given first reading and laid over till next meeting.

Under "new business," the matter of arranging a meeting between the Vulcan Iron Works, the City Council, and the petitioners, re securing suitable site for Vulcan Iron Works, was left with the Mayor.

Mayor Gray announced that an invitation was extended to the Mayor and Aldermen by the Board of Trade to take part in the trip down to the mouth of the river Tuesday morning, for the purpose of enabling Hon. Dr. Reid, Minister of Customs, to view the improvements at the Sandheads. Most of the Aldermen signified their willingness to go.

The Water Committee was asked for a report re arrangements with the Canada Products, Ltd., and a special meeting of the Council was arranged for Thursday afternoon to discuss electric light and water connection matters with Mr. Russell, manager of the Vancouver-Prince Rupert Meat Co.

The Council then adjourned.

The 104th Regiment, practically denuded of its entire peace strength by the formation of the 131st Westminster Battalion, is meeting with considerable success in a recruiting campaign, 164 N. C. O.'s and men attending the last drill, Monday evening.

The following additional names have been added to the Honor Roll of St. Andrew's Church: Garnet Corbett, J. G. Shaw, D. McDonald, J. Swarbrick, A. Gleason, B. Marklaed, W. B. Carruthers, H. Gilchrist, Thos. Todd, F. Hall, Jas. Tawse, Chris. Mowbray.

Approximately $400 is expected to be realized from the sale of junk collected on "junk day," last Saturday, in aid of the Prisoners of War Fund. The Westminster Junk Company purchased a part of the material collected for $225. The remainder is being sorted and will be sold during the week.

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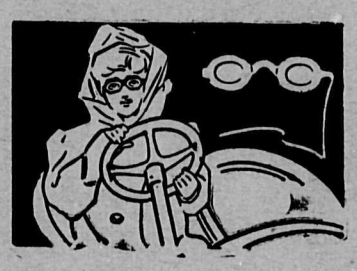

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AFTER INFORMATION

Some Pertinent Questions re Production in B. C. Asked Sir George Foster by Mr. Joseph Martin, M. P.

In a communication to the Vancouver press, Mr. Joseph Martin, after referring to the pleasure he had listening to the eloquent and able address of Sir George Foster, on Friday evening last, in Convention Hall, Hotel Vancouver, indulges in the following stimulating and pertinent criticisms:

At the end of his speech he dealt with conditions in British Columbia, and pointed out, quite properly, that the people of British Columbia could not add to the wealth of Canada by speculating in town lots; and further pointed out that what we must do is to increase our production.

He did not go further and point out to us how that could be done.

I quite appreciate that Sir George's speech was purely non-partisan, and that is no doubt the reason that he did not explain to us how, in his opinion, our production should be increased in this Province.

I think, however, that while we have two members of the Government here (Hon. Martin Burrell, Minister of Agriculture, being also in the Province) it would be a very opportune time for them to point out to us how we should proceed in this important matter.

My contention is that the reason production in this Province has been so inadequate in the past, and will continue to be in the future, arises from the fact that Canada is under a protective policy, the effect of which is to increase by about 50 per cent. the cost of developing the great resources we have in this Province, to wit: our fisheries, our timber, and more especially our mineral resources; also to a more limited extent, our lands.

The argument for a protective policy is that it will increase the prices of articles produced by the people of the country to which it applies.

While it may be true to a certain extent with regard to portions of Eastern Canada, it has no application whatever in British Columbia. The price of fish, the price of lumber, and the price of metals are fixed outside of Canada altogether, and the protective policy has no possible effect on the question of these prices.

On the argument of the productionist then, whatever the cost of production is increased by the tariff, is a dead loss to the producers of this Province.

I am aware that there is a feeling against discussing political issues while the war is on, but Sir George himself pointed out to us that preparations for after-war conditions ought to be dealt with immediately.

While Sir George took that point, I think quite properly, in the speech itself, he went no further than to point out to us what we really already knew, that British Columbia could only progress in the future by developing its natural resources.

It seems to me, therefore, that the question of the effect of the tariff on British Columbia ought not to be in any sense a partisan question.

There was a time when the Conservative party in Canada stood for a protective policy, and the Liberal party stood for a purely revenue tariff. The fifteen years that Sir Wilfrid Laurier was in power changed all that, and the Liberals, by their legislation and practice, to a large extent adopted the protective policy, and that was one of the strong reasons that I became an independent and refused to longer support the Liberal party.

When a couple of years ago Sir Wilfrid Laurier and I had a conference, we thoroughly discussed this matter, and I was authorized by him to announce (which I did in Winnipeg, on my way home) that the Liberal party, if returned to power, would make all mining, lumbering, and agricultural implements and machinery absolutely free of duty and, in my opinion, such a modification of the tariff would be the very thing that is required to develop our natural resources, especially our mineral wealth.

Since I came to this Province nineteen years ago, there has been very little development in minerals, compared with the vast extent of ores which are known to exist in this Province. It is true that since the war there has been a great improvement in mineral production in this Province, but that has arisen from the fact that the war has about doubled the price of metals.

From an Imperial standpoint, it is certainly most important that a portion of the Empire, extremely rich in mineral wealth, like British Columbia, should be developed to the utmost possible limit.

What then is the proposal of Sir Geo. Foster and his colleagues with regard to this matter? He told us last night that things could never be the same after the war is over, and we all agreed with him. Is the tariff to remain the same? As far as I can understand, the position taken by the productionists is that it will be necessary to largely increase the tariff after the war. If this be so, what is the thing that the people of this Province must devote themselves to in order to do what Sir George so strongly advises, and what we also so clearly appreciate, increase our production?

Yours, etc.,
JOSEPH MARTIN.

Vancouver, Sept. 23, 1916.

THE CITY COUNCIL.

Influential Petition Received Asking Council to Reopen Matter of Suitable Site for Vulcan Iron Works.

The Mayor and all the Aldermen were present at the regular Council meeting, Monday night, which dealt chiefly with a variety of communications of more or less interest, including a petition signed by most of the manufacturing and business concerns of the city, asking the Council to take steps to bring about a meeting with the Vulcan Iron Works directorate and the Council, with a view of re-opening the matter of securing a suitable site for the proposed extension of those works in the city, the petitioners offering their services to assist. Considerable discussion ensued, resulting finally in the passing of a resolution in accordance with the petition.

Communications.

The following communications were received and dealt with.

From the Returning Officer, reporting the results of the plebiscite vote of Wednesday, 21st inst., on market site question, ete.

From the Market Clerk, monthly statement for August, reporting receipts of $183.30.

From the corresponding secretary of the Local Council of Women, asking support for a movement to enable the wives of soldiers who have gone overseas, and are municipal voters, to vote in their stead. On motion, received and recommended to the Union of B. C. Municipalities.

From Stephen & Gauntt, re plans for proposed new market building, offering their services as architects. Received and filed for reference.

From the Canada Products, Ltd., asking permission to store some supplies temporarily on Front street near industrial tracks. Received and referred to Board of Works to act.

From the secretary of the Woman's Auxiliary Royal Columbian Hospital, asking for permission to have a tag day on November 10th next. Received and permission granted.

From the City Solicitors, with copy of statement of claim re Mrs. Dolphin vs. city, from Adam S. Johnston, solicitor, claiming $10,000 and costs for injuries sustained by fall on sidewalk. Received and referred to Board of Works to report.

From Fred. Morshead, applying for employment. Received and filed.

From the pilot of the Fraser River, reporting on soundings between Port Mann and No. 1 buoy. Referred to Harbor Committee to take up with Resident Engineer.

From the secretary-treasurer of the Union of B. C. Municipalities, asking that the Council send a full representation to the annual meeting at Vernon on the 11th and 12th October. Received, and matter of delegation deferred till next meeting.

From Thomas Ovens, asking for an extension of the life placed on his building adjoining the Central Hotel. Referred to Building Inspector to report.

From the City Engineer, re communication of James Innes, complaining of lack of drainage; also re application of A. G. Lovick, 1411 Edinburgh st., to connect with West End sewer. Report of engineer on these mattets rdopted.

From Chung Nye and others, asking permission to rebuild roof of building belonging to Chinese Reform Association on corner of Carnarvon and McInnes sts., and asking three years' extension of life of building. Also report of Building Inspector on same, recommending an extension of one and a half years. Recommendation of Building Inspector adopted.

From E. E. Nixon, re flooding of his basement on Third street. On motion, the Mayor and Ald. Jardine were appointed a committee to see what could be done in the matter.

Vulcan Iron Works Site.

From J R. Grant and others, petitioning the Council to take steps to bring about a meeting with the Vulcan Iron Works management with the view of secnring a suitable site in the city for the proposed extension of those works, the petitioners—including the principal manufacturing and business concerns of the city—offering their assistance in the negotiations.

Ald. Goulet moved, seconded by Ald. Johnston, that the communicotion be received and the Vulcan Iron Works be invited to meet the Council as a whole.

Ald. Bryson objected, after all that had passed between the Vulcan Iron Works and the Council—after the latter had been informed that no other site would be considered but the Tenth street site, which the ratepayers had refused to grant—for the Council now to ask the Vulcan Iron Works management to meet the Council in the matter.

Ald. Gonlet considered that, in the largely and influentially signed petition received, the Council had a mandate to re-open the question of endeavoring to obtain a suitable site for the Vulcan Iron Works, other than the Tenth street site.

Ald. Eastman, seconded by Ald. Bryson, moved, in amendment, that the Council accept the services of the petitioners to bring about a meeting between the City Council and the Vulcan Iron Works.

Considerable further discussion followed, participated in by the Mayor and Ald. Goulet, Bryson, Eastman, Johnston, and Dodd, and, on motion of Ald. Eastman and Dodd, Mr. J. R. Grant, one of the petitioners, who was present, was heard in support of the petition.

Mr. Grant said he was present to see what position the Council would take in the matter. While, in what he conceived to be the interests of the city, he had publicly opposed the alienating of the Tenth street site, the fact that the Vulcan Iron Works had applied for a location on that site had nothing to do with the position he took. Personally, he would be glad to give assistance to the securing of a suitable site in the city for the Vulcan Iron Works, and there were other suitable sites, he was satisfied.

Ald. Eastman's amendment was finally put and lost, and the original motion—modified to read: That, in acquiescence to the request of the petitioners, the Vulcan Iron Works be invited to meet the Council, with the petitioners—was carried.

Reports.

The Finance Committee reported, recommending:

1. That the Mayor, chairman of Finance Committee, and City Treasurer be authorized to arrange the staff in the City Treasurer's office and make such changes as is deemed necessary to provide the highest efficiency in the Department.

2. That the fee for 1916 to the Union of B. C. Municipalities, $50, be paid.

3. That the following grants, on account of educational purposes, in rebate of taxes, be made: To St. Louis College, $347; to St. Ann's Academy, $420; to Columbian Methodist College, $1125; provided the institutions named pay their taxes in full for the current year.

4. Also that arrangements had been made with the manager of the Bank of Montreal, and approved by Mr. Brymner, for a subscription of $100,000 from the sinking fund of the Corporation to the Dominion war loan, 1916, in 20 fully registered bonds of $5,000 each.

5. That William Pope's account for

Concluded on Page Three

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