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DAILY EDITION.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8

Daily News on Daily Doings

SALE OF GOVERNMENT LOTS IN RUPERT.

Decidedly Dame Rumor has been justified in her whispers of late regarding the forthcoming sale of the Provincial government lots in Prince Rupert. Today's telegraphic despatch confirming the rumor is the best news the business world of Prince Rupert has had to read for quite a while. The sale of these lots, so long an eyesore to every realty man and citizen in Rupert, has been for years "a consummation devoutly desired." At last the long, long wish of the citizens and their oft repeated prayers have been gratified. The government lots are to be sold. The new Provincial buildings are soon to be commenced. At last the Premier, now the knightly Sir Richard, has realized in fact his promise. Amongst the list of urgent requests made of him at his last visit, there was none more urgent than this one, no old promise of his, the fulfillment of which had been more tediously delayed, none the granting of which at long last was better calculated to gratify the citizens. By his promptness at the eleventh hour in authorizing this sale, Premier Sir Richard McBride has certainly proved himself a politician of parts.

THE LABORER IS WORTHY.

It has been decided by the Police Commissioners that Prince Rupert's popular police chief shall have an increase in salary. Certainly there could be no more generally popular decision made to raise the salary of any city official. Salary raises are usually followed by protest or at any rate grumbles. This one will be heralded with approval on the part of all

citizens. Chief "Billy" Vickers is deservedly popular with young and older alike. He is efficient and courageous as an officer. He is tactful and a friend to every legitimate means for the outflow of juvenile spirits in sport or romp. His personality is worth money to the city in the maintenance of a smooth working and efficient police force.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS FROM TODAY.

The eye of faith looks forward ward, says the Toronto Star, to the time twenty-five years from now when downtown Toronto will be solid business skyscrapers right up to the Normal School grounds, shops on Church and Sherbourne to Carleton, Spadina avenue, the Yonge street of the western part of the city, and Bloor street a sort of Appian Way, consisting almost entirely of public institutions. By that time the seawall and the lake parade will have been built and the park drive system will have been hooked up. Toronto is making herself big and beautiful as fast as she can spend the money. People coming back from abroad compare Toronto invidiously with European cities, forgetting that hundreds of years and millions of money have been necessary to get them where they are. Toronto is doing fairly well for her age and means. We wish nothing better than to be alive twenty-five years from now and see the improvement.

Remembering what Vancouver did in only twenty-five years, the Prince Rupert citizen is inclined to fancy the Toronto prophet slow. It is practically certain that Prince Rupert's business section will be studded with skyscrapers by 1920.

LONDON'S IMMENSE CITY DEBT

London, Aug. 7.—The aggregate debt of London secured on the rates, on March 31st, 1911, was \$550,000,000, a decrease of

\$1,350,000 during the year. A large part of this debt was incurred for revenue producing purposes.

Although the charge for interest and sinking fund on London's debt for 1910-11 was \$31,350,000, only \$19,400,000 of this was borne by the rates, the remaining sum of \$11,950,000 being a charge on the net revenues of various undertakings which are for the most part carried on with little or no charge on the rates.

ODDFELLOWS' ASSOCIATION OF CANADA HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

Kingston, Aug. 7.—The annual meeting of the Odd Fellows' Relief Association of Canada was held in this city and was attended by representative men from all the provinces.

The reports showed that the assets over liabilities on June 30 were \$1,042,451.06. The disbursements during 1911 on mortuary account were \$228,000, and for the first six months of 1912 \$159,000. The interest on investments for the financial year amounted to \$31,191.19.

During the last year of the surplus \$134,313.19 was invested in securities bearing interest at 4.76; and the interest on all the securities held by the association has risen from 4.38 per cent. to 4.51 per cent. The mortality rate was 6.56 per thousand.

The report of the secretary-treasurer showed that the association had disbursed in benefits since its inception \$3,046,656.29. The total membership on June 30 was 27,895, and the deaths from

accidents numbered 20. The superintendent of agencies reported that from June to June 2,651 applications had been received and passed upon, and of these 130 were rejected by the medical examiner. Dr. Mundell's report showed that the mortality rate was about the lowest in the Dominion, though the association is thirty-seven years old.

Among the amendments to the laws of the association was one making every member liable for a capitation tax of \$1.25 per annum, to be used for the extension of the work in the newer provinces, and for the relief of the mortuary fund, the charge of collecting the assessments. This capitation tax will be collected in two installments in November and May.

Members of the Canadian Permanent Force are to be registered hereafter in the ordinary class, except during the time when they are called for active service or war.

Members of the Rebekah Degree holding certificates for \$250 will be allowed, when claims are sustained, a disability benefit of \$125.

Operators of switchboards and power houses will be in the hazardous class hereafter, and also policemen, constables, patrolmen and detectives.

From the surplus of the year, and on the recommendation of the finance committee, \$110,000 was carried to the reserve fund, making it then one million dollars.

The secretary and the solicitor of the association will ascertain during the year whether it is possible, under the charter of the association to make benefits payable to aged members in bulk sum or in instalments.

The retiring directors, D. M. McIntyre and Dr. A. E. Ross of Kingston, and J. J. Reed of Montreal, were re-elected. The auditors were re-elected.

BRITAIN SUSPECTS GERMANY OF BUILDING SECRET SQUADRON OF NINE NEW DREADNOUGHTS

London, August 7.—The London Daily Express prints the following report that Germany is building a secret squadron in the race for sea supremacy with Great Britain:

"It is reported in armor circles that for some months past the firm of Krupp has been engaged in the manufacture of guns and munitions for a new squadron of nine battleships for Germany. It is understood that during the last three weeks the Angle irons and plates for the ships have been received from England.

"The importance of this in-

formation consists in the fact that in the event of Germany forcing the pace either for herself or for the other members of the Triple Alliance, a fresh battle squadron of nine battleships could be ready within a year, or, at most, eighteen months. It is understood that the action which has been taken is a reply to Mr. Churchill's speeches on his accession to office.

"An addition of nine battleships to the German fleet in 1914 would place this country in the gravest peril with which it has ever been faced.

"Mr. Churchill, in the House of Commons a few months ago, laid it down that the absolute minimum of safety was the maintenance of a sixty per cent. margin of superiority in capital ships over Germany. In the House of Commons ten days ago he said that at the end of 1914 we would have a minimum of 33 and a maximum of 41 battleships fully manned and in full commission against 29 of Germany.

"Mr. Churchill added that 33 to 29 does not, perhaps, sound a very satisfactory proportion. It is certainly not an excessive proportion, but it is impossible to settle this question merely on numbers.

"If nine battleships were added to the German fleet the comparison for 1914 would stand as follows: Germany 38; Great Britain, minimum 33, maximum 41. These figures tell their own story.

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OLD COUNTRY WEATHER AT ITS VERY BEST

Throughout the whole of England the most delightful weather has prevailed all the week, and our fears, occasioned by the many wet days in June, that we are not to enjoy any more real summer this year have been dispelled.

Looking down the weather reports for health resorts all around the coast, one finds under the heading, "Bright Sunshine," 12 and 13 hours recorded in several places, while under the heading, "Rainfall," in every case this week the report is nil.

The southeast of England has felt the heat of the sun more than other parts of the country. On Monday the maximum shade temperature recorded in London was 86 degrees, and on the following day 88 degrees were registered at Hampton Court. The sun temperature, 122 degrees, has not been equalled since September 2, 1911.

Deaths from the heat have occurred, and in the Times of Wednesday no fewer than seven, all in the north of England and Wales, are reported, and there were eight more recorded yesterday.—Weekly Times, July 19th.

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