

THE DAILY NEWS

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DAILY EDITION



Thursday, Nov. 28, 1912.

Editorial Notes and Clippings

BINDING THE CITIZENS.

One of the chief arguments against the calling of another engineer to examine the plans was that it would entail a great expense and would cause a deficit. At the same time the Council wish to bind the city on the statement of one man to the most costly system in America and an expenditure of millions.

WOULD BIND CITY HAND AND FOOT

As a result of the public meeting last night to discuss the sewer bylaw, it is almost an absolute certainty that the measure will be defeated on Saturday, when the rate payers of Prince Rupert vote upon it.

The poor arguments and unprepared method of presenting the bylaw to the people was revealed in the questions put to the Mayor, Aldermen and City Engineer by interested citizens. City Engineer Mason admitted that the laying of the sewer in Prince Rupert would probably cost more per lineal foot than any system in America; yet, according to Alderman Dybhavn, the father of the bylaw, all the consultation necessary could be done by reading books on the subject. He admitted that he did not know anything about the scheme other than had been told him by Engineer Mason. If no other competent engineer is to be called in for consultation, who in that case will be the man whose knowledge will be gleaned from a book?

Contrary statements were made by the Mayor and Alderman Dybhavn as to the method of Mr. Mason's work, one saying that he consulted authorities as he worked and the other making the statement that he worked and then consulted authorities.

With no other authority than Mr. Mason and the books which he or Alderman Dybhavn may or may not have read on the subject, the Council has the audacity to come before the citizens and ask them to approve of a scheme which will ultimately mean the expenditure of between three and one-half and four millions.

The borrowing power of a city is limited by law to a certain percentage of the assessed value of the assessable prop-

erty. At present the assessed value of the property which can be taxed is in the vicinity of \$16,000,000. Already there is a considerable debt charged against the credit of the city, and with this immense proposed debt added the City of Prince Rupert would have a sewer and that would be all for many years to come.

The amount necessary each year for interest and sinking fund would be enormous and each year would cost much more than the cost of the present system in Section One, which drains one third the area proposed.

CONSISTENCY IS LACKING.

Mayor Newton certainly is not overburdened with any great load of consistency. Last night he stated that the one reason he did not call in the advise of experts was on account of the faith he had in Mr. Mason. He would run the risk with the citizens' money because of his personal regard for Mr. Mason's qualifications, and later he stated that it was because of the lack of time.

The question has been rushed through in about three weeks or a month—the most expensive system in America—that the voting might be larger.

The largest percentage of the property owners of the city do not reside here and consequently their property is to be bound for fifty years without their consent.

Unionists Win.

London, Nov. 27.—The Unionists gained Bow Bromley division, Tower Hamlets, by election. Blair, the Conservative, received 4,092, and Lansbury, the Suffragist, 3,291. The Liberals did not participate in the contest.

To Enlarge Trent Canal.

Ottawa, Nov. 27.—An immense deputation is being organized by the City Council of Peterboro and the Board of Trade from all the municipalities along the Trent Valley Canal route to impress upon the government the vital necessity to the whole of Eastern and Central Ontario of the immediate enlargement and completion of the canal.

The cleverest advertiser does not always name his goods.

HALF MILLION ACRES STAKED BY FRAUD SAYS RALPH SMITH

LIBERAL LEADER SAYS THAT IN THIS PROVINCE OVER HALF MILLION ACRES OF LAND HAVE BEEN STAKED BY FRAUD—PROVES STATEMENTS BY GAZETTE

Vancouver, Nov. 26.—Vigorous and trenchant as ever was the attack upon the present provincial administration of British Columbia by Ralph Smith, speaking at the meeting the other evening of the Wards Five and Eight Liberal Associations in the Lee Hall.

With keen sarcasm he laid bare the faults of the unopposed Conservative regime. For himself, he declared that he would far rather have his provincial rights administered at present by the Dominion government, simply because there is a healthy opposition at Ottawa.

On one point in regard to the land policy, Ralph Smith laid burning emphasis.

With Rogers' Power.

"I have just read a marvellous thing in the British Columbia Gazette," he said. "In the British Columbia Gazette for October 3, 1912, you can see it for yourselves. It says that half a million acres of land in this province have been staked off by men who carried bogus powers of attorney and staked the lands in the interests of people who were not there at all.

"Ninety-four thousand out of the half million acres staked off were in the names of women. A percentage was in the names of business men; 24 per cent. of those half million acres were staked in the name of those representing the agricultural classes of the province.

"Only 24 per cent. of the lands in question were staked by people who will really develop the lands to make them produce the things which we need in this province. God made the lands to produce the things we need, and God knows we need those things badly enough in the province today.

Gives Land Wholesale.

"But the McBride government gives the lands wholesale into the hands of speculators, and Sir Richard McBride goes to Ottawa to seek Dominion powers to deplete still further the resources of the province in patronage doled out to his political friends."

Instances of tracts of land put in the possession of speculators at \$1.50 an acre were given by the speaker, who displayed a ripe experience in, and familiarity with, the affairs of both the province and the Dominion House during his speech.

Stinging was his accusation of Premier McBride on the question of traffic with the United States speculator.

"Keep the American out," says McBride," he said, "but this same McBride is the man who passes secretly orders in council transferring lands to the speculator from Seattle and all parts of the United States. Says McBride:

"Hold up the old flag bravely on high during election times, when the issue is toward freer trade with the United States. Shout all you can about the menace of annexation—have no truck or trade with the States—but afterward, in secret, he passes orders in council handing away our resources to these very Americans.

No Land for Settler.

"When the settler comes into this province later he will not be able to get land from Victoria. He would have to buy it from the

United States speculator, and the price he pays for the land must be added to the cost of production of the produce we purchase.

"From the minister of agriculture for British Columbia himself I learn that \$30,000,000 were spent on agricultural produce in 1912 by the people, of which only \$15,000,000 were spent on provincial produce. If we produced only half what we consumed, we ought not to be taxed for the other half.

"This bogey of high cost of living would vanish in a very short time if the lands of the province were properly peopled. But Premier McBride prefers to restrict the proper development of the province agriculturally, while he keeps up the taxation of the bona fide settler by selling the lands to the speculators."

As to Dominion Politics.

Turning to Dominion politics toward the latter part of his address, Mr. Smith referred with a good deal of scorn to Sir Richard McBride's recent interview with Premier Borden, which had evidently resulted in no divulging of the coming Conservative naval policy for the Dominion.

Mr. Smith sneered rather wittingly at Sir Richard's suggestion, according to newspaper reports, that Sir Wilfrid Laurier might express himself on the Borden policy, of which, as Mr. Smith pointed out, Sir Wilfrid himself knows no more than Sir Richard was able to ferret out.

Ralph Smith's own view of the naval question is embodied in this statement, that "if Mr. Borden takes the thirty-seven millions appropriated for the nucleus navy by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and makes the sum fifty millions for the same purpose as an Imperial Canadian naval unit, then Sir Wilfrid Laurier will second the motion and every Liberal member in the House will support it. I believe the people of this country will insist that Mr. Borden shall construct a navy," said the speaker. "We should build the ships and the docks and defend our country eventually ourselves."

"What do you think about the higher education?"

"It's all right, except in the colleges where they let it take up too much time from football practice,"—Baltimore American.

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BRITISH PEOPLE WANT PEACE AND NO TROUBLE

Old Country Agitated Over Balkan Question—Want Peace.

London, Nov. 27.—A danger of a greater war than that which is involving Turkey and the Balkan states is absorbing the public mind, and far more interest is being taken in the actions of the diplomats than in the events on the battlefields of the Near East.

The mobilization of the Austro-Hungarian forces, although but preliminary precautions, make possible a vision of terrible consequences, and as far as Britain is concerned nothing could be more appalling. The British public have no desire to sacrifice life, commerce and navy over the settlement of the Balkan question, yet are very uneasy as to the extent that the country is pledged in the triple entente with France and Russia. Every effort is being made by the press to urge upon the government the necessity of maintaining a strict neutrality.

Christian Science.

Christian Scientists in the city please write P. O. box 399 or phone No. 427. 280-1



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