THE DAILY NEWS

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GOOD WORK

When Mayor McCaffery and his council took office in January, 1916, they did not make any pre-election promises, but, at the first meeting of the council, the mayor intimated that his understanding of their election was that the taxpayers wanted greater economy in the administration of the affairs of the city.

That Mayor McCaffery and his council have been true to their sense of the duty which devolved upon them is amply shown by City Treasurer Johnston. The report is even better than a cursory glance discloses, as higher prices had to be paid for many things, while there was an extra expenditure for material in several departments. For instance, the light department shows a saving of $4,402.31 in salaries and wages over last year, but an increased expenditure for material brings the net saving in this department down to $2,537.91. The total wages paid includes the amount spent in labor through the faulty working of the governor, which amount the city hopes to recover from the company installing the governor. The same, in a lesser degree, applies to the telephone department, in which the saving in wages amounts to $780, but material and maintenance costs are heavier, leaving a net saving of $207.72. In both cases the expenses include the cost of repairs arising out of the recent storm.

That the present mayor and council have been able to save the sum of $64,300 in the administration of the city's affairs speaks volumes for their ability as civic managers. Mayor McCaffery, on taking office, said that his aim would be to conduct the city's business as he would his own, and that he has lived up to his ideal is abundantly clear from the statement submitted. Cutting down expense is ever a painful process but the situation which confronted the 1916 council demanded the most rigid economy, and the outstanding feature of our present city management is not its "niggardliness," as some would have one believe, but its realization of the needs of the present situation, and, it goes without saying, that such a businesslike city management, in times of expansion, would be just as careful in its spending of the people's money, as it has shown itself anxious to save it at a time when saving was not a matter of choice but of necessity.

When Prince Rupert comes to contemplate schemes of greater development, as it must do at no distant date, the fact that the council of 1916 was able to effect such savings will be a most important factor in negotiating for further financial assistance in carrying through these schemes. Every tax payer must be more than satisfied with the showing for the present year.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

The Royalists in Greece are evidently determined to take effective measures to silence Venizelos. If they imprison the popular leader they will simply make a martyr of him and increase his popularity.

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If the government pass an order-in-council ordering the tearing up of all parallel railroad tracks, it will probably be the first step towards complete nationalization, unless the railway commission lays down a ruling as to joint ownership of the line remaining. It is very unlikely that the parallel lines will be relaid, at least not for years to come.

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American muleteers serving on a British horse transport in the Mediterranean will probably h[illegible] to rank as belligerents and take their medicine like Britishers. That at least will most certainly be the German view.

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Honest John Oliver is already active in laying bare some of the extraordinary extravagancies of the Bowser and McBride governments. Songhees Reserve seems to have been an even more costly proposition than was at first supposed.

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The Intercolonial has never been a happy example of national ownership of railways and it still seems to be causing trouble in the Conservative ranks.

SUN AND TIDE

Thursday, December 21st.

Sun rises	9:5 a. m.		
Sun sets	4:15 p. m.		
Low water	3:59 a. m.	Ht.	9.4
High water	10:14 a. m.	Ht.	19.9
Low water	5:10 p. m.	Ht.	5.3
High water	11:19 p. m.	Ht.	16.8

Captain McGee, M. M. S. A.

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Wednesday and Saturday; box closes 9:30 a. m. and Friday 3 a. m.

From the East.

Trains arrive Tuesday and Thursday, 5:30 p. m.

For the South.

Tuesday, 5 p. m. Boat sails at 7 p. m.

Wednesday, 7 a. m. Boat sails at 9 a. m.

Friday, 7 a. m. Boat sails at 9 a. m.

Saturday, Boat sails 6 p. m.

Sunday, Boat sails 6 p. m.

For Anyox.

Wednesday, box closes 10 p. m.

OUR DEMOCRATIC ARMY

Not many people now can have doubts as to the democratic character of the army of today. Writes one who has had to do with the training of recruits for some time:—"One of my latest recruits is a nephew of the Earl of ——. This aristocratic gentleman was ordered the other day to sew buttons on his trousers and clean his finger nails! In 'civvy' life these jobs were accomplished by his valet. There's also a stray millionaire knocking about somewhere in the battalion. I'm not sure that he isn't servant to an officer who in pre-war times was a foundry clerk."—Exchange.

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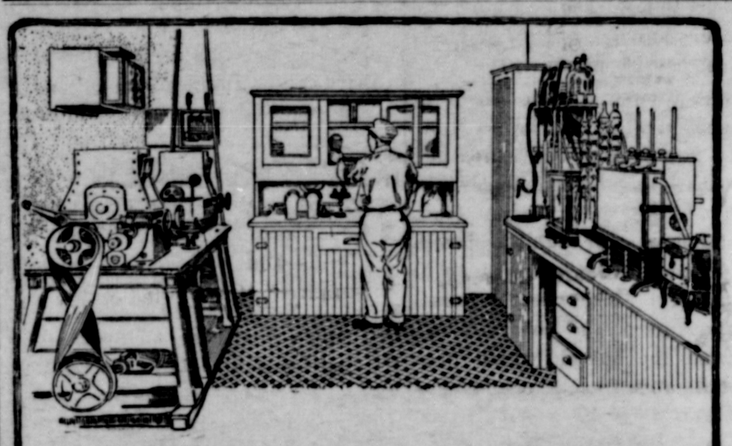
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