

ALD. PERRY FIRES BACK AT COMMISSIONERS

Says the Resolution They Passed Was Both Amusing and Interesting in Trying to Justify Inaction.

PLAY BATTLEDORE AND SHUTTLECOCK

Thinks Mutterings Were Dying Swan Sounds of Weakening Public Usefulness.

Alderman Perry has sent a reply to the police commissioners in connection with the question of gambling in the city and in it pours a broadside of hot shot into that worthy body. He says:

"In my letter to the Daily News of the 4th instant I explained for the benefit of the police commission and the public my remarks at the previous Monday's Council meeting concerning the police commission. I wish to add that I made no such statement concerning 'taint' as attributed to me. Had I considered it necessary to do so, however, I would not have hesitated to make use of even a stronger word. I much regretted at the time that the press report misquoted my actual remarks, and my letter to the press was to put this right. I offer no apology to the commission for what I did say at the meeting nor for the amendment to the proposed resolution concerning the revoking of licenses under certain conditions.

Amusing and Interesting.
"Your resolution of yesterday was both amusing and interesting to me, particularly as, it seems, the commission in trying to justify its inaction in the matter of making recommendation concerning the Zarelli license gets deeper and deeper in the mire of self-condemnation. The position taken by the commission, namely, that 'direct instructions have been given that whenever or wherever found, professional gamblers should be arrested or ordered out of town,' and at the same time reflecting on the constable who made the raid on Zarelli's on his own account and not under the instructions of the chief of police, is at once untenable, illogical and ridiculous. This fact, coupled with the fact that Alderman McRae (who acted as acting mayor at the time the commission dealt with the Zarelli raid and disagreed as to action thereon) at last week's Council meeting observed that a new chief of police is what is wanted, brings the question clearly to the front as to whether the Commission had given any instructions whatever to the chief of police in this connection. It is also obvious that painstaking efforts have been made to present Zarelli as a model card player and to throw cold water upon the actions of the constable who acted where the Chief of Police failed to carry out the instructions said by the Commission to have been given.

Funeral Notice.
"The reasoning of the Police Commission appears to be in the direction of finding new cases whereon to take action. Evidently the Commission thinks the Zarelli funeral notice published in The News of Wednesday will serve as a warning to others and thus make it more difficult for Alderman Perry to find another professional in town whose knowledge of the game is the 'protection' of the players. But my attention is to stay with the case in point.

"Submarine" Raid.
"I desire respectfully to show the Commission (who are quoted as having been told by the mayor that some of the aldermen did not know what they were talking about when they said they had the impression that the chairman was not one way or the other on the question of cancellation of the Zarelli license) that when the

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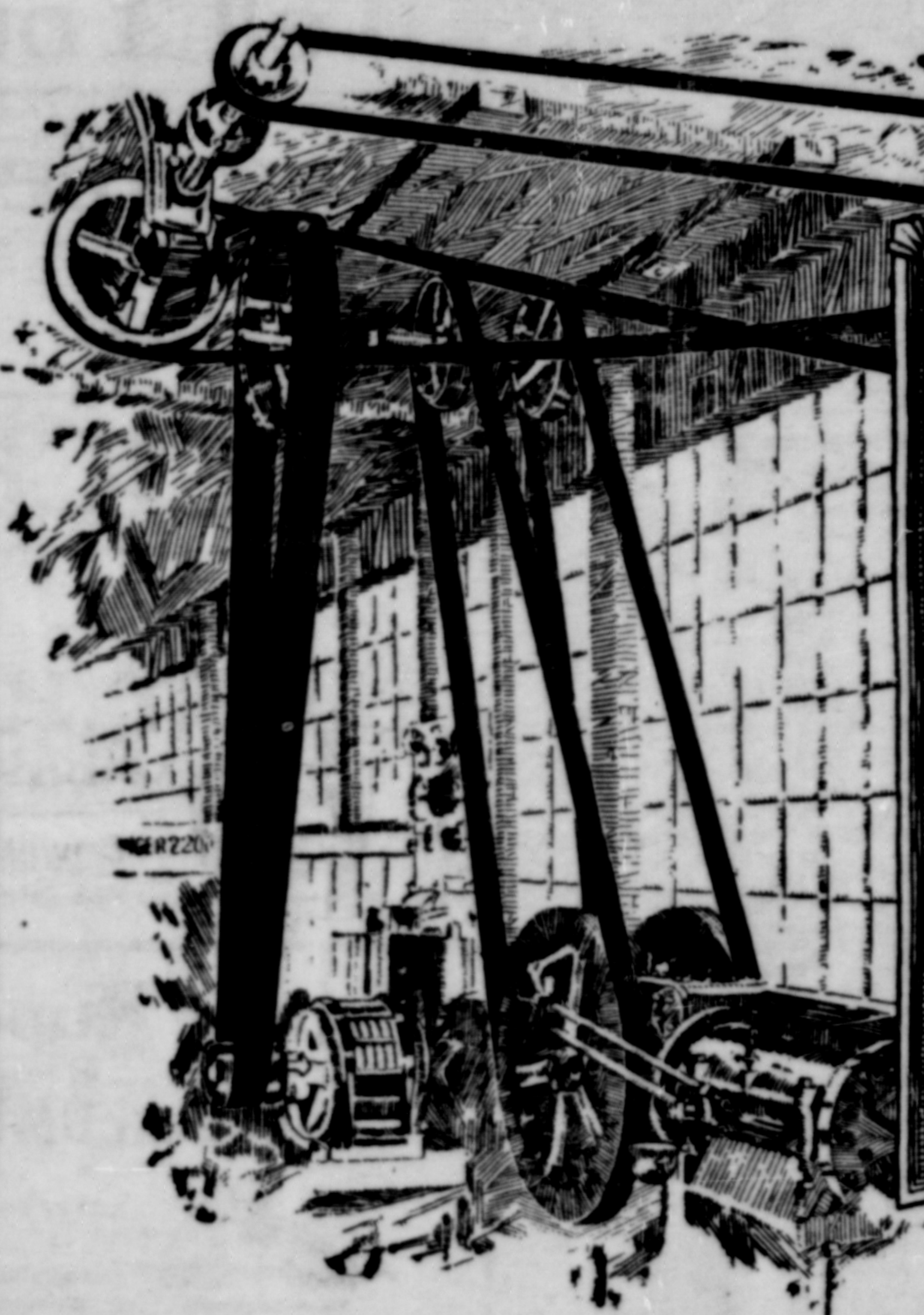
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mayor says he took the stand against the cancellation because it looked like discrimination against Zarelli, the fact is, it appears to me, that the B. C. Social Club and not Zarelli was discriminated against, and that Zarelli received protection all the way through and might have been receiving protection today had not an efficient police officer raided the 'submarine,' as the mayor says: 'off his own bat.' I would qualify this by pointing out that on January 9th last Fotos of the B. C. Social Club was fined \$100 with an alternative of six months' imprisonment for 'being the keeper of a common gaming house,' after which conviction the Police Commission and Council moved heaven and earth to get the license cancelled, even to the extent of making the matter of cancellation one errand in the list on the mayor's visit to Victoria and the license was duly cancelled.

No Recommendation.

On April 4th Zarelli was fined \$100 with an alternative of six months' imprisonment for 'being the keeper of a common gaming house.' In addition no less than 31 men were arrested and fined \$5 each who were found by the police at the police at the same time and place. Yet no recom-

mendation appears to have been made to the Council to have this license cancelled, and no action is taken by the mayor except to make it appear that Zarelli and not Fotos was discriminated against. If there was any discrimination it appears to have been against Fotos.

"It also seems that if, as the Mayor says, one house was fined for playing 'blackjack' and the other for having played the game of poker, was immune from responsibility to the gambling law, there is an issue between the opinion of the commission and the finding of the magistrate who made the penalty the same in both cases. Both looked alike to the magistrate. The magistrate's decision was not appealed from, and it is a wonder to me the Commission did not appeal in Zarelli's behalf since it feels so strongly that he was discriminated against.

Playing a Game.

"Since the Police Commission and the Council are playing battledore and shuttlecock with this matter it may be expedient to point out that:

"(1.) It is obvious that the Police Commission is not in a position to take a decided and (continued on Page Four.)

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