

The Daily News

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DAILY EDITION.

TUESDAY, AUG. 29

VOTE DOWN THE HYDRO-ELECTRIC BYLAW

For several days lately, the city council has had placed before the public the text of two bylaws—one to confirm the G. T. P. assessment settlement, and the other to authorise the city council to raise a sum of \$550,000 with which to build a hydro-electric system.

With the first question, the News has already dealt in extenso. At the time of the deliberations between the council and the G. T. P. representatives, it pointed out a multitude of reasons for concluding that the city was getting the wrong end of a horse trader's bargain. In deciding not to reopen the question the News does not withdraw one jot of its amply expressed opinion on the G. T. P. assessment settlement.

The question of the Hydro-Electric scheme is different. So far it has had little discussion. In the excitement of the immediate political campaign it is in danger of being allowed to slip through without examination, and the city be saddled with engagements entered into by a council which after next January will be a thing of the past.

Tonight has been set for the opportunity of having the bylaw explained in public. Saturday is fixed as the day upon which the vote will be taken.

There are several reasons why the bylaw should not go through. In the first place there is the legal objection that the bylaw is contrary to clause 75 of the Municipal Clauses Act which distinctly states that "No bylaw shall be submitted for the assent of the electors which groups together two or more subjects of expenditure, but each bylaw must be for a distinct purpose, and every bylaw must be voted on separately." Even a clever lawyer could see that drinking water and electric light are two separate subjects of expenditure.

There is good reason for this provision. One voter may want municipal light, but not municipal water. Another may want municipal water but not municipal light. Yet in order to secure the utility that each needs, he must vote for the other utility which he does not need.

There is the second objection, urged on economic grounds against the electric lighting portion of the scheme, that the cost of electric light under the city project will be very much greater than the cost submitted by the Tsimpsean Power Company. For the present needs the cost of the city scheme is computed to be \$74 per h. p. The Tsimpsean Power Company offers power at \$28 per h. p. to the city.

There is a third objection, more potent than both of the others combined. It is concerned with the character and fitness of the present city council to carry out such an enterprise, and to be entrusted with the spending of a sum of over half a million dollars of public money.

There is no denying that the city needs a water system. It has needed it since before the present council were elected, and the fact that no steps have been taken to get to work on the building of a water system until the council's death agonies are in sight is a suspicious circumstance.

The fact that the council have all along pursued a policy of handing out public patronage to its friends, is another suspicious circumstance. The fact that no guarantee is given as to when the work will be started, or when the work will be completed, is another suspicious circumstance.

The fact that no guarantee is given that the work will be completed for the sum of \$550,000 is another suspicious circumstance.

The fact that no statement has yet been made by the council ensuring that the work will be awarded to the lowest tenderer in public competition is another suspicious circumstance.

Taken all together these circumstances blend themselves into one powerful reason why the property owners of Prince Rupert should defeat the hydro-electric bylaw on Saturday next.

By waiting a few months until a capable and businesslike council is put in control of the city's affairs, the ratepayers will receive the waterworks system at much lower cost and in much shorter time, than if it entrusted to Alderman Hilditch and the present Board of Works to carry out without estimates, without contracts, without guarantees, without supervision and without restraint.

COMMENTS ON RECIPROCITY

The anti-reciprocity orators who shout themselves hoarse declaring that reciprocity will entangle our trade with that of the United States should remember there is nothing in the reciprocity pact to compel Canadians to sell to Americans unless it is to their advantage to do so.

Premier McBride speaking at Victoria, is credited by the Borden organ here with saying an annexation movement "was started" in this country. He lied and lied deliberately.—Calgary Albertan.

Reading the lurid stories in Tory papers of hard times and business depression in the United States, one is tempted to remark that in the United States the protective tariffs are higher than in any country in the world except one. Clearly high tariffs do not cause prosperity. Had not our Conservative friends better try some story that won't work like a boomerang?—Victoria Times.

Hon. G. E. Foster in the House of Commons, March 15, 1888. (Hansard, 1888, vol. 8, page 194.)

"I say to hon. gentlemen opposite: Suppose the United States had put a clause in their tariff act saying the very moment Canada makes natural products free the United States will make them free, would we not have a pressure which it would be totally impossible for us to resist?"

Is not that the very situation in Canada today? The United States has made the offer of free natural products. Can the Conservatives afford to resist the pressure of the farmers of Canada for its acceptance?—Ottawa Free Press.

B. C. MINERAL OUTPUT

The detailed annual report of the Minister of Mines for British Columbia, lately published, is far from being an ordinary dry-as-dust blue book. Its varied illustrations, graphic tables, diagrams and maps, add materially to its interest and value. The net increase in value of the production of the province for 1910 as compared with that of 1909 is \$1,934,041, the respective totals for the two years being \$26,377,066 and \$24,443,025. Last year's total value was the greatest of any year in the history of mining in British Columbia, the previous highest record having been that for 1907, with a total of \$25,882,260. The proportions of the several minerals included in last year's total production and the respective increases and decreases are shown in the following excerpt from one of the tables:

Mineral	Value	Inc. or Dec.
Gold, placer.....	\$ 540,000	I. \$ 63,000
Gold, lode.....	5,533,380	I. 609,290
Silver.....	1,245,016	I. 5,746
Lead.....	1,386,250	D. 322,909
Copper.....	4,871,512	D. 1,047,010
Zinc.....	192,473	D. 207,527
Coal.....	9,800,161	I. 2,177,495
Coke.....	1,308,174	D. 244,044
Other materials.....	1,500,000	I. 300,000

Total product.....\$26,377,066
Net increase.....\$1,934,041

Aggregate Value

This production brings the aggregate value of the mineral production of the province to the beginning of 1911 up to \$374,197,650, of which gold accounts for \$132,000,000.

Comparing the output of certain mineral products in British Columbia with that of similar products in all other provinces of the Dominion, the report shows that in regard to gold, silver, lead, copper, iron and coal and coke, the province produced in 1910 an amount equal to more than 64 per cent of that of all the other provinces combined, exclusive of the Yukon.

Increase in Coal Output

The most notable feature in the mineral production of the year was the large increase in coal. The gross output, including the coal made into coke, was 3,139,235 tons (of 2,240 pounds). After deduction of 339,189 tons made into coke, the net output of coal was 2,800,046 tons, an increase of nearly 800,000 tons over that of the year 1909. The greatest net increase made in any previous year was about 328,000 tons, which was in 1909, as compared with 1089. Included in the full information given in tabulated form are (1) the output and the per capita production of coal in several districts during the last four years, and (2) analyses of accidents in coal mines in different districts during 1910.

The special reports included in the report are those of the provincial mineralogist on Portland Canal, Lilooet and Tatlayoko districts, and of the provincial assayer on part of Atli mining division, Bella Coola and Valdez Island.

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POACHERS NEAR QUEEN CHARLOTTE

Continued Violations of West Coast Owing to Insufficiently Protected Fisheries.

Poachers were plentiful scooping in salmon by thousands with trolls and purse seine nets off the west coast of Vancouver Island during last week. The steamer Grey, tender of the Canadian Northern Pacific fisheries company, when it arrived at Vancouver with a full cargo of whale oil and fertilizer from the Queen Charlotte Island stations, reported having passed through a great fleet of poachers. There were over a hundred of them at work in waters from amile or less from shore, the bulk of them operating inside the three mile limit. There were among them a number of comparatively large vessels, of twenty tons or more.

The Grey passed close to two vessels which were inside the three mile limit, the names of these being read, one being the Pioneer No. 2 of Seattle, the other the Discovery. An officer took bearings of their position and found both considerably within the three mile limit. Officers of the Grey stated that the poachers were hauling in fish by thousands.

METHODIST FINANCES

British Columbia Subscriptions Show Large Increase

Toronto, Ont., Aug. 23.—The income of the General Missionary Society of the Methodist church for the year closing June 30 was \$648,908, an increase of \$54,486 over the previous year. The increased subscriptions from the western provinces were as follows: Manitoba, \$2559; Saskatchewan, \$2738; Alberta, \$1517; British Columbia, \$5410.

Report on Conservation

A voluminous report has just been issued by the Canadian Commission of Conservation. The volume contains 519 pages. It is divided into three sections, the respective captions being "Lands," "Fisheries and Game," and "Minerals." In the last-mentioned section is presented a summary of Dominion and Provincial mining laws. This is followed by chapters on conservation and on mine accidents, and by statistical tables.

The diagrams and maps that illustrate the chapters on mining are excellent. Statistics are digested much more readily when graphically represented.

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