

The Daily News

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DAILY EDITION.

TUESDAY, NOV. 7

THE HYDRO-ELECTRIC BY-LAW

The news that the City Solicitor has been able to make the best of a bad job and induce the Provincial Cabinet to pass a private bill to legalize the hydro-electric by-law, is news that will be hailed with satisfaction by all citizens, irrespective of their private opinion of the bungling that has marked the hydro-electric plans thus far.

Someone—we forget for the moment who the far-sighted individual was—in advancing Mr. Manson's cause last January, pointed out that one benefit of having the member for Skeena made Mayor of the city was, that if the city got into difficulties with the Provincial Government, Mr. Manson would be able to obtain special consideration for the city at the hands of the Government.

The whole incident emphasizes the gross neglect of the Mayor in leaving the city at the mercy of a bank. Eleven months ago, at the first campaign meeting held by Mr. Manson, he promised that his first act as Mayor would be to make an issue of debentures, and cease financing the city from the bank.

Although Mr. Manson has been in office ten months, although next year will see a Presidential election in the United States—always a period of financial stringency—Mr. Manson and his associates have not attempted to market a single debenture. The difference between promising to do a thing, and the actual doing of the thing—a difference that has haunted Mr. Manson's political career like a shadow—has been very evident in Mr. Manson's regime as Mayor.

THE Pillar of Light

Brand quitted them for an instant to glue his eyes to the lantern, after wiping a space on the glass; he must see if the lamp needed tending. Satisfied by the scrutiny, he stood behind the girls, who had shrunk closely together at the moment he retired.

Now, they unquestionably saw the great body of the ship. Her funnels showed most clearly, making sharply defined black daubs on the heaving desert of froth. The plunging whirls of the masthead light were enough to prove how the unfortunate vessel was laboring in what might prove to be her final agony.

But the hour was grudging by fate. They could plainly hear the hoarse blasts of the steamer's foghorn, and again a rocket spurted its path to the clouds. She was barely a mile away, and, if anything, in a worse position than before, as the wind remained fixed in the southwest, and the tide, at this stage, curved in towards the land ere it began to flow back again to the Atlantic.

"Can nothing be done?" screamed Constance, rendered half frantic by the thought that the steamer would go to pieces before their eyes. "Nothing," was the answer. "Pray for them. They are in the hands of God."

In gruesome distinctness they watched the vessel's approach. The siren ceased. Had those on board abandoned hope? Pitching and rolling in a manner that suggested the possibility of foundering in deep water, she came with fatal directness. Sudden death seemed to have been Brand's mind. The lighthouse stood on the easterly and most elevated portion of the reef, whose bearings ran southwest by west and north-northwest.

One of the girls, he never remembered which of them, spoke to him. He could not answer. For a second time that night he knew what fear meant. He watched the onward plunging of the vessel, his eyes fixed on the light, her sharp officers and crew were still making desperate efforts to weather the reef. But, with the utter malignity of fate, though they might have swung her to port, she would not budge a yard to starboard, for now both wind and waves assailed her most vehemently on the starboard quarter.

Then she struck, with a sickening crash that was plainly audible above the roar of the reef. This was not enough. Another rush of foaming water enveloped her and smashed her again on an inner ledge. There she lodged, falling inertly over to starboard.

And Brand found his voice once more, for, as sure as this terrible night would have its end, so surely had the gallant captain of the steamer refused to imperil the lighthouse when all hope of saving his ship had vanished. The ten or twelve girls, with their arms encircled the two pillars.

CHAPTER VII. THE LOTTERY. Just as the spin of a coin may mean loss or gain in some trumpery dispute or game of the hour, in like manner, apparently, are the graver issues of life or death determined at times. It is not so, we know. Behind the triviality on which men fasten with amazement as the governing force in events there lies an inscrutable purpose. Yet, to those watching the descent of the spinning wheel, there was little evidence of other than a blind fury in the fashion of her un-doing.

Here his face came into the lower focus of the light—strong, clean-shaven, clear-cut features, a determined chin, two dark, earnest eyes, and a mop of ruffled black hair, for his deer-stalker cap had blown off ere he cleared the spar deck. "Look out for the line," they heard him shout. The wind brought his voice plainly, but evidently he could distinguish no syllable of Brand's answering call.

"Shall I make fast?" "Catch the line," he went on. "It is attached to a block with a running tackle. Haul in and make fast." "The megaphone!" shouted Brand to Constance. She started away to bring it, and when the adventurer, clinging to the fore-mast had thrown a coil successfully, Brand took the instrument.

"Why don't you come this way? The others will follow," he belovied. "There are women and children down below. They must be saved first, and they cannot climb the mast," was the reply. "All right, but send up a couple of sailors. We are short-handed here."

"Right-o," sang out the other cheerily, though he wondered why three men should anticipate difficulty. Down he went. Hauled without waiting, Brand and the girls hauled lustily at the rope. It was no child's play to point a heavy pulley and several hundred feet of stout cordage. More than once they feared the first thin rope would break, but it was good hemp, and soon the block was hooked to the strong iron stanchions of the railing.

To make assurance doubly sure, Brand told Enid to take several turns of the spare cord around the hook and the adjacent rails. "Meanwhile, Constance and he saw that the rope was moving through the pulley without their assistance. Then through the whirling scud beneath they made out an ascending figure clinging to it. Soon he was close to the gallery. Catching him by arms and collar they lifted him into safety.

"The newcomers was a typical Briton. "Thank you," he said. "Close the hatch. Have you a light? We must signal after each arrival." Enid brought the small lantern, and the stranger waved it twice. The rope travelled back through the pulley, and this time it carried a sailor-man, who said not one word but stooped to tie his boot-lace.

"How many are left?" inquired Brand of the officer. "About thirty, all told, including some twenty women and children." "All wet to the skin?" "Yes: some of them unconscious, perhaps dead." "Can you hold out?" "Yes: a nip of brandy—" "I will send some. We must leave you now. These with me are my daughters."

At last the crust of insular self-possession was broken. The man looked from one to the other of the seeming lighthouse-keepers. "Well, I'm —" he blurted out in his surprise. "That American youngster, who's wondering what the trouble was," a shaggy-headed man in a striped cap, it contained two little girls, tied inside a tarpaulin and lashed to the rope. This, evidently, was the plan for dealing with the helpless ones.

Brand instantly divided his forces. Enid he dispatched to make hot cocoa in the quickest and most lavish manner possible. Constance was to give each new arrival a small quantity of stimulant (the lighthouse possessed a dozen bottles of brandy and whiskey) and act as escort. The women and children were to be allotted the two bedrooms. Any bad cases of injury or complete exhaustion could be dismissed to the visiting officer's room, whilst all the men fit to take care of themselves were to be distributed between the entrance, the coal-room, the workshop and the stairways. The kitchen, store-room and service-room were to be kept clear, and the store-room door locked. Eighty! Brand had already doing problems in simple arithmetic.

A similar problem, with a different point to be determined, was occupied the active mind of the "American youngster" who had solved the knottiest proposition put forward during that eventful night. He watched the forwarding of the shrieking, shuddering, or inanimate women. He timed the operation by his watch, and reflected light from the lamp was quite sufficient for the purpose.

Then he approached the captain. "Do you give the remains of her to hold out?" "It is not high-water yet," was the answer. "Perhaps half an hour. Forty minutes at the utmost." "Then you'll have to boost this thing along a good deal faster," said the cheerful one. "They're going up now at the rate of one every two minutes. That's thirty in half an hour. Fifty of us will travel a heap quicker at the end of that time if your calculation holds good."

COAL NOTICE

Skeena Land District—District of Queen Charlotte Islands. Take notice that Austin M. Brown, of Prince Rupert, B. C., occupation saddler, intends to apply to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for a licence to prospect for coal and petroleum on and under the following described lands on the West Coast of Graham Island:

Commencing at a post planted three miles east of the southeast corner of C. E. B. Coal Lease No. 8, thence south 80 chains, thence east 80 chains east to point of commencement. AUSTIN M. BROWN, Leocator Pub. Aug. 17.

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