

Articles Relating to the Employment of Chinese in New Westminster

Royal City Craze

Daily Colonist April 8, 1886, p.3

Employment of Orientals

BCW April 29, 1913, p. 14

Would Restrict Asiatic Labor

BCW September 1, 1914, p.14

Says Chinese Work at "VAP"

BCW February 4, 1919, p.29

work going to keep the gangs employed. The superintendent had reported that he was up against it to keep his regular grading gang occupied. Ald. Kellington, while saying he was in a hard place as a member of both the finance committee and the board of works, at the same time it would be a pity to disrupt a regular board of works gang by letting it go idle. On the other hand if the council decided that it could not properly be undertaken, the board of works would let it go at that. Finally it was decided that a special meeting of the council

"LONG BILL" RETURNS.

Wednesday, April 23. "Long Bill" Turnbull this morning returned from the Cariboo country. He said it was too lonesome. Bill has signed with the Salmon Belles and will again be seen on the lacrosse field this year.

Coquitlam Civic Employees Do Not Care to Purchase Half Holiday At That Price.

PORT COQUITLAM, April 23.—The consideration of by-laws again occupied the city council at their sitting yesterday afternoon and aside from the reading of these rules and regulations, very little business was before the board.

The building, sidewalk, traffic, dog tax and road tax bylaws were all read three times and referred to committee.

Mayor Mars reported that the matter of a hospital was progressing favorably and it was also likely that a park site would be secured near the hospital location on Mary's Hill. Both these sites, said the mayor, could be secured at a very reasonable figure.

A petition signed by sixty-three of the civic employees, asking that the recent decision regarding a Saturday half holiday, do not go into effect as they objected to working a nine-hour day instead of eight as formerly, was read. After a short discussion the request of the petitioners was granted.

A communication was read from the department of the minister of public works at Ottawa, advising the board that their request for the establishment of a public building would be considered when the supplementary estimates were brought down.

A request for information regarding the city's plans in the matter of the location of manufacturing industries from a joint committee of the Vancouver Progress Club and the city council, was referred to the Industrial committee to take action.

The council went on record as favoring the name "Fraser Valley Development League" on motion of Aldermen Gaier and Millard.

COUNCIL IS SCHOOL BOARD. At Meeting in Latter Capacity, Chairman and Secretary Pro Tem Are Appointed.

FRASER MILLS, April 22.—The municipal council of this new municipality also enjoys the somewhat unique distinction of constituting the school board, and immediately after adjournment as a councilmanic body yesterday, they sat as a board of school trustees.

Beyond the appointment of a chairman and secretary no business was before the board. Reeve Scott will act as chairman with Mr. Peter Barth filling the office of secretary for the time being.

The personnel of the board is: Chairman, Reeve Robt. H. Scott; trustees, G. G. Stewart, S. C. Charles, John Cormack and Abraham Braut. Monthly meetings of the board will be held after each council meeting.

RICHMOND NEWS.

STEVESTON, Lulu Island, April 23.—In aid of the organ fund a musical and social entertainment will be given in Mitchell's Hall, at the corner of No. 5 and No. 20 roads next Friday evening.

At the well-attended special meeting of the Richmond Farmers' Institute, held last Monday evening on Sea Island, it was decided that the Richmond Institute should compete for the prizes offered by the Central Institute, in mangolds and oats. The names of the farmers who will, in behavior, have not been made public.

WALTERS ADMITS THAT CRIME OF ARSON WAS DELIBERATELY PLANNED

With bail fixed by Magistrate Edmonds at \$5000 in two sureties, Robert Smith, owner of the building occupied by the second hand store on McInnes street, No. 60, partially destroyed by fire in the early morning of March 18, was lodged in the city jail last night when the hearing of the arson charge against Howard Walters was adjourned for a week. Hugh Nass, called as a witness for the prosecution, was also placed under arrest as a conspirator to commit the crime.

The feature of the case was the confession under oath offered by the man accused of setting fire to the building, Howard Walters, who told an amazing story of the deliberate planning of the crime for days before it happened, claiming that he was kept under the influence of liquor during that period and was in a sodden condition when he reached the verge of committing the act. According to the story of Walters he was brought over here to New Westminster from Seattle by Nass and another man, the trio staying three days en route at the Lotus hotel, Vancouver, where he was drunk all the time. Leaving Seattle with \$48, he found himself without any money except \$2 he had borrowed. Arriving here he was introduced to Robert Smith, who, he was informed, was the wealthy contractor he had been promised a job with when in Seattle.

After several days and nights of heavy drinking, Walters was asked by Robert Smith if he would set fire to the McInnes street property, explaining that it had been condemned and was insured though not as heavily as he would like. He stated further that he had a place in Chinatown well insured which he wanted burned also, and that he would pay witness \$500 for each job if the building was completely destroyed, and in event of partial destruction, ten per cent. of the insurance recovered.

Witness then accompanied Smith into his house and there told Nass about the proposition, Nass telling him to shut up as he knew all about it. According to the confession of Walters, heavy drinking was continued for several days until the morning of Monday, March 17, when Smith gave him \$5 outside the Central hotel and told him to go to Vancouver and get the gasoline, saying that he should use that instead of coal oil. It had been arranged between Nass and himself that the former should join in the enterprise and Nass had told him that he would do the job as he knew all about it. His plan was to bore holes in the joists and pour gasoline into them.

In pursuance of the general plan he and Nass went to Vancouver on Monday morning to get the gasoline and, after dark, bought it at a place on Granville street, which he could not identify. Nass secured a sack to wrap around the tin. Coming back from Vancouver they proceeded at once to the building to be destroyed and found the back

door, which, witness swore, Smith had promised to leave open for them, locked. Setting down the gasoline, Nass remarked, with an oath, that he had forgotten the candles and asked witness to go to a neighboring house on Eleventh street and ask for one. While he tried at another house. Later he went back to the store and found the can of gasoline gone. Nass was not there either. At this time he was feeling not only very drunk, but very sick and wanted to lie down. Going around to the front of the store he found the door open and went in. It was quite dark, but he heard someone moving about upstairs and called out for Nass. He got no reply, and becoming more helpless he decided to lie down. He lay down on something soft that he found on the floor and knew nothing more until a burst of flame woke him up. He was lying on his back and had his clothes burnt off him. He had trouble getting out, explosions occurring all over the place in rapid succession. He covered his face with his hands and got both badly burned. On leaving the premises he was arrested by a policeman and brought to the jail.

Cross-examining the witness, City Prosecutor McQuarrie expressed his dissatisfaction with his story and declared that he did not believe that Walters had made a clean breast of the business. He had not told the whole truth. He was keeping something back. He could apparently set conveniently drunk when he wished and it was absurd to tell the court that he had deliberately walked into and slept in a building which he knew was to be burned down that night.

Magistrate Edmonds also informed the accused that his story did not ring true. The lateness of the hour forced adjournment and the cross-examination will be resumed next week. Witness stuck to his story. However, Nass had sworn that Robert Smith had engaged Walters to do the job and that he had been with Walters in it up to the point where they went together to the building with the gasoline, when, he said, he "got cold feet and quit," so there was no doubt about his and Smith's arrest even before the court ordered it on adjournment.

Preliminary Hearing.

Robert O. Smith and Hugh Nass, accused of setting fire to the former's building on McInnes street on March 18, crown witnesses in the sensational case against Howard Walters, charged with the same crime, were this morning brought before Magistrate Edmonds in the police court. The hearing in both cases was adjourned until April 29, when the adjourned hearing of the charge against Walters comes up.

His worship fixed bail in the case of Smith at \$5000, in two sureties of \$2500 each, and in the case of Nass of \$2000, also in two equal sureties. Mr. J. P. Hampton Bole appeared for the defendants and informed the court that he hoped to be able to secure the bail for both men.

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