

THE DAILY NEWS

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H. F. McRAE, EDITOR AND GENERAL MANAGER

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DAILY EDITION



Friday, June 26, 1914

The decision in the Mason vs. Prince Rupert Publishing Company's case has created a good deal of discussion, largely, of course, by those who through personal spleen would like a different decision. There is a tendency, too, to compare it with other cases of a similar nature that took place locally. The chief difference between this case and the others, however, is that this one was brought about by one of the accidents that may befall anybody and for which a full apology was rendered. The other cases were not only deliberate but the contention was that they were true and an apology was refused. This surely makes such a distinction between them that they are at once placed in different classes.

A foolish and spleenish article in Wednesday's Empire would have the public believe that it is a thousand times less libelous to attack a clergyman and refuse an apology than to accidentally publish something about a city engineer even if a suitable apology was rendered. The law always recognizes an accident in other spheres. A man may accidentally cause the death of another, and yet the court would acquit him. If some people had their way it would be much less harmful to kill a man by acci-

dent than to accidentally associate his name with a wrong, even should full apology be made.

It might also be pointed out that a judge is getting out of his sphere when he lectures a jury because of their verdict. The duty of a judge is simply to interpret the law and assist the jury to sift the evidence and not to tell them what the verdict should be. Indeed there is not much difference between questioning the intelligence of a jury and doubting the capacity of a city engineer. No better illustration could be found of the real value of that British institution—trial by jury—than the case in point. When a man is tried by a jury he is tried by his peers who take into consideration all the conditions of the case. A judge who steps into town for a few days cannot do this. He acts on the technicality of the law. He cannot tell how much, if any, a local man's reputation has been hurt. The jury who live with him know all about it and when they awarded contemptuous damages to Mason they did it because they knew he was not injured at all and that he should never have brought up the case in view of the reparation that was made.

Time alone will justify the stand taken by The Daily News on the Hydro-Electric situation. If the plant being



A RECENT PHOTO OF THE GERMAN CROWN PRINCE AND HIS FAMILY

The German and English Royal families most run to boys. It is a curious coincidence that the Kaiser had only one daughter out of a large family, and his son, the Crown Prince, has not even one. King George of England has but one little Princess in his home.

put in at Woodward Lake turns out to be a wise undertaking for Prince Rupert it will do so in the face of all the canons of the business world and men will conclude that business foresight is a delusion. In the first place considering the other requirements of this city and the state of the financial markets we can ill afford the planting of a quarter of a million dollars in a doubtful soil. In the next place it is sheer lunacy to place so costly a plant on so limited a stream of water without any attempt having been made to secure a larger power. This season has demonstrated that the Woodward Lake power is nothing like what was contended for it. You could almost stop it to-day with a wash tub, and still supposedly intelligent men are putting in a quarter million dollar plant!

Even the News-Advertiser admits that the campaign in Ontario is very uncertain. The "Abolish the Bar" slogan is confounding the old fashioned politicians. The churches, too, are taking a strong part in the movement, and the issue is creating more stir than any they have had for many years.

CITY COUNCIL NOT TRYING TO SELL LONG TERM BONDS

(Continued from Page 1)

offer. He criticized the Council for selling the \$109,900 treasury certificates to redeem the Government debt. If the treasury certificates have to be renewed it will mean another loss of four or five per cent and even then if the Council sells the bonds at 90 they will have less than if they sell now at 85. If eventually they have to sell at 85 after renewing the bonds will actually only yield about seventy-five per cent.

The Mayor denied, saying they were careless. If they had not sold the treasury certificates they could not have carried out the city hydro-electric scheme and held that franchise. "Why did not Pattullo sell last year? We haven't wasted the city's money this year. Pattullo took the ground last year that the city should sell at 90."

Mr. Naden said as chairman of the finance committee last year he had advised selling at 85. He was always opposed to treasury certificates.

Ald. Morrissey went off on a

half hour tangent and declared it was politics and Fifth Avenue citizens who wanted permanent roads at the expense of the city. He also referred to the "illustrious and distinguished city engineer."

John Buckley said he thought the meeting was going to talk finance, but all he heard was an hour's talk to the gallery by Morrissey. It looked as though there would be no permanent improvements while Morrissey is chairman. The speaker then left the hall.

Mr. Stephens said he wanted to disabuse the Mayor of any idea that Pattullo knew anything about his offer before coming to this city.

W. M. Law said the Council should have called the meeting when the offers were made. He said the Council should sell bonds at 85 rather than re-deck the streets. No street that wears out should be re-decked. The Council placed the city's credit too high.

The Mayor: We were censured for selling at 85.

Mr. Law: I don't think you were criticized much. Don't be afraid of the bank.

The Mayor: Will we sell at 85?

M. M. Stephens: Take a plebiscite. Include the whole issue.

Ald. Montgomery: We took expert advice from the bank.

The City Clerk here read another letter he had just found. It was from the London office of the Bank of Montreal and advised accepting any reasonable offer.

Ald. McClymont said the finance committee had been a unit. He favored the plebiscite but wanted a fixed rate.

Ald. Maitland said Stephens made a straight offer.

W. H. Shaw advised leaving the question with the Council.

Wm. Manson said the Council was elected to take the responsibility. He advised against a plebiscite.

T. D. Pattullo agreed with Mr. Manson on that point. He said the bank would naturally put off one city if they could when many cities were urging them to sell bonds. It is necessary to keep pressing them to take care of the city.

H. E. Gampp wanted sewers first.

Mr. Alberts advised against permanent grading under the present indebtedness.

Geo. H. Munro wants sewers first.

Mr. Gampp suggested re-decking out of general fund.

Mr. King said it was all from selfish motives. He was willing to leave it with the Council.

Ald. Maitland said permanent grading has to be done before sewers are put in.

Mr. Naden said the Mayor had said all the debentures for absolute necessities had been sold, yet the \$350,000 for trunk sewers was not sold and that is the most urgent need of all.

Meeting adjourned.

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District Fair Dates

The following are the dates of the district fall fairs as approved by the Provincial Government: Fort George, September 24-25. Prince Rupert, September 30 and October 1 and 2. Bulkley Valley, Telkwa, September 10th. Bella Coola, October 9. Graham Island, Lawn Hill, not yet announced.

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