

THE DAILY NEWS

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DAILY EDITION

Thursday, Dec. 19, 1912.

Editorial Notes and Clippings

MAYOR NEWTON'S CONSISTENCY.

"Plank Eighteen" of Mayor Newton's platform last year was as follows: "Seek the advice of the members of the City Council as to the mayor's course as their representative on the License and Police boards."

This with other paper planks of his platform for 1912 was the structure on which the then alderman asked the rate payers for their support, and it is on this platform and his actions as mayor since being elected that he must be judged. Plank 18, like the rest of his platform, has proved itself to be but paper. Ask Alderman Morrissey how much the Mayor welcomed a conference with the Council in regard to his actions on the Police Board. It forms an incident which has caused mirth for the country, but has not been very creditable to Prince Rupert. When the alderman asked for information the Mayor insulted him and then when he would reply called in the police. Surely this was consistent with "Plank 18."

Not only does he refuse to take the Council into the confidence of the Police Board, but he does not consult the chief of police or the city solicitor; instead, he and Alderman Bullock-Webster glean information and do not divulge the name of their informant but expect the chief of police to carry out the law. How can Chief Vickers work in the dark? And unless he can get reliable information from the Police Commission he cannot carry out the work of his department.

Yesterday, Mayor Newton finally concluded that if other evidence could not be secured he would take the city solicitor and chief into his confidence and let them know who was making certain assertions.

THE TRUE POLICY.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier hit the nail fairly on the head in his speech on Thursday when he said:

"What is the remedy? In our humble judgment, the remedy is this: That wherever on the distant seas or in the distant countries, Australia, Canada or elsewhere, a British ship has been removed to allow concentration in European waters, if it must take place, wherever such a British ship is removed that ship should be replaced by a ship built, maintained, equipped and manned by the country concerned. This is the Australian policy; this ought to be the Canadian policy." — Victoria Times.

A POOR ARGUMENT.

In his speech on his navy programme, Mr. Borden gave statistics showing how the exigencies of the European situation have caused the depletion of the British fleet on the overseas station. His figures are not disputed, but do they not constitute an eloquent argument in favor of the maintenance of fleets by the dominions? If the Old Country finds herself unable to provide naval protection for her vast interests throughout her world, should not the dominions as a matter of duty take up the burden. — Victoria Times.

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ATTORNEY GENERAL BOWSER IS IN DANGER OF GOING TO JAIL

EVEN THE ATTORNEY GENERAL CANNOT DISREGARD LAWS OF THE LAND WITH IMPUNITY—TWO YEARS IS SENTENCE FOR AIDING WRONGDOER TO LIBERTY.

The following list of questions and answers, taken from the Vancouver Sun clearly shows the position in which Attorney General Bowser has placed himself in regard to his campaign for the protection of denizens of the underworld. The magistrates have convicted and sentenced certain lawbreakers to the penitentiary, and Attorney General Bowser has given instructions that they be refused admittance to that institution. One case was brought before Judge McInnes in the criminal county court and the sentence of the police court was sustained. Still the woman was refused admittance to the provincial jail.

Q. Upon what official is the duty cast of seeing that the administration of public affairs is in accordance with law?

A. Hon. W. J. Bowser, attorney general.

Q. Who has the superintendence of all matters connected with the administration of justice and of prisons in this province?

A. Hon. W. J. Bowser, attorney general.

Q. Is it true that persons duly convicted of crimes and committed to gaol with all the forms of law have been refused admittance to the provincial gaol at New Westminster?

A. It is. The attorney general frankly admits it and accepts the responsibility for the action.

Q. Has the attorney general anything to do with the criminal law of this province?

A. He has nothing whatever to do with the making of the criminal law, but it is his duty to enforce the law as he finds it upon the statute books.

Q. Who makes the criminal law of this province?

A. The Parliament of Canada, which has exclusive jurisdiction in this respect throughout Canada.

Q. Can the attorney general legally change or disregard any portion of the criminal law?

A. He cannot.

Q. Has the warden of the New Westminster gaol the right to refuse admittance to properly committed criminals?

A. No. A provincial statute (the Vancouver Incorporation Act) expressly provides that SUCH GAOLER SHALL BE BOUND, AND HE IS BY THAT ACT AUTHORIZED AND REQUIRED, TO RECEIVE AND SAFELY KEEP UNTIL DULY DISCHARGED, ALL PERSONS COMMITTED TO HIS CHARGE BY THE POLICE MAGISTRATE OR ANY JUSTICE OF THE PEACE HAVING JURISDICTION IN THE CITY OF VANCOUVER.

Q. Can the attorney general repeal this provision of the Vancouver Incorporation Act?

A. No. Only by fresh legislation can this provision be set aside.

Q. Does the law provide no remedy where a statute is disregarded?

A. Yes. The criminal code imposes a penalty of one year's imprisonment upon everyone who, without lawful excuse, disobeys any act of any legislature in Canada by omitting to do any act which it requires to be done.

Q. Does the law provide no remedy where duly convicted

prisoners are wrongfully set free?

A. YES. THE CRIMINAL CODE IMPOSES A PENALTY OF TWO YEARS' IMPRISONMENT UPON EVERYONE WHO KNOWINGLY AND UNLAWFULLY, UNDE ROLOR OF ANY PRETENDED AUTHORITY, DIRECTS OR PROCURES THE DISCHARGE OF ANY PRISONER NOT ENTITLED TO BE SO DISCHARGED.

Q. If the warden of the New Westminster gaol has disregarded a statute or has directed the discharge of prisoners not entitled to be so discharged, what is the position of the attorney general, who admits that the warden was acting under his instructions.

A. EVERYONE WHO COUNSELS OR PROCURES ANY PERSON TO COMMIT AN OFFENCE IS HIMSELF GUILTY OF THAT OFFENCE.

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KING GEORGE READS A BIBLE CHAPTER DAILY

London, Dec. 14.—The Church Family Newspaper has caused the following letter to be sent to his private secretary, Lord Knollys, to F. C. Brading, secretary of the Scripture Gift Mission:

"I have the honor of submitting your letter of the fifteenth instant to the King, and am directed to inform you in reply, that it is quite true that he promised Queen Alexandra as long ago as 1884 that he would read a chapter of the bible daily and that he has ever since adhered to his promise.

"Yours very truly,
"KNOLLYS."

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