

THE DAILY NEWS

THE LEADING NEWSPAPER IN NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA
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HEAD OFFICE

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DAILY EDITION

Wednesday, June 16, 1915.

CIVIC INVESTIGATION.

For weeks past, the City Council has met several times a week, in private, to discuss the latest move of the bank in regard to city finances. In spite of the reiterated demands of Alderman Montgomery, the public has not been informed as to what is being done, nor how it is being done. Until Monday night, the members of the Council, with one exception, were thoroughly satisfied that they were pursuing a proper course, and that the public should be kept in the dark, until such time as the Council is able to make a final statement. So far as we are aware, that time has not yet come, but, like a bolt from the blue, the Mayor suggests that a citizens' committee be appointed to go through the correspondence which has passed between the bank and the city, in order that outside critics may be satisfied that the Council has done its work nobly. Why this sudden request for an investigation? Alderman Montgomery's repeated requests for information, in public Council, have been deliberately refused. The new move is equivalent to saying, "We still refuse to tell you anything, but whatever you can find out for yourselves, you are welcome to."

The citizens' committee is also requested to go fully into the question of City Hall expense, with a view to furnishing a report, coupled with suggestions. Was there ever anything so ridiculous? The Mayor and aldermen were elected by the ratepayers to conduct the city's business for the space of one year, and it is their clear duty to go ahead and do it. There never has been, and probably never will be a city council which is free from criticism. Had there been charges of graft or dishonesty made against any member of the Council, there

would have been reason for an enquiry, but most people are satisfied that the present Council is doing the best it is capable of doing. The second request is equivalent to saying, "We have fired all the men we could; if you are not satisfied, you must shoulder the responsibility of any further cut."

The forming of a citizens' committee of enquiry, whenever there is criticism of the Council's doings, would be setting up an absurd precedent. The committee habit is like the royal commission habit, it grows. Today the Council suggests an enquiry, and tomorrow, the citizens, having acquired the taste for investigation, may demand one, and, in time to come, enquiry commissions and conferences may be camped all around the City Hall, with each member drawing a salary. If the suggestion is carried out there is a dog's life ahead for some poor mayor of the future.

Let the Council do its duty fearlessly, and to the best of its ability, to the end of its term, telling the people in open Council exactly what the people ought to be told. The Council must shoulder full responsibility for its year's work, without appealing for sympathy, or trying to slide from under the burden, and at the end of the year the people will record their opinion. Meantime, the suggestion of the Mayor sounds suspiciously like a "cry from Macedonia."

RUSSIAN TEA BUYERS ACTIVE.

Now that vodka has been abolished, the Russians are taking to tea with great favor. Russian agents are buying great quantities of tea in the East, thus forcing up the price of the product.

It is seldom that the members of the choir entertain any great affection for the church music committee.



WON HIS D. C. M.—Stretcher Bearer Reg. H. Drake, of Montreal, decorated with the Distinguished Conduct Medal for rescuing a comrade under fire.

HAZELTON NOTES

J. W. MacKendrick, of the Babine hatchery staff, arrived from his Bulkley Valley home on Sunday.

Bert Schooling, in charge of a road crew, started out on Wednesday to repair the Manson Creek trail.

A packtrain carrying supplies for telegraph cabins north of Hazelton left on Monday, much earlier than ever before.

E. Gammon, formerly chief constable here, and now chief of provincial police at Prince Rupert, was in town on Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Birchall arrived from Babine recently and are sojourning at Hazelton. Mr. Birchall is an official of the Provincial Fisheries Department.

Henry Bretzins returned on Thursday from a visit to his claims in the Babine range, bringing splendid samples of silver-lead ore from the Deben vein.

Rod McCrimmon is back from Owen Lake, where he was engaged in work on a group of claims owned by local men. He thinks well of that section of the Omineca District.—Omineca Miner.

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A very fine Gazette will also be screened, showing beautiful waterfalls, also scenes from the Panama Canal, giving the public a splendid idea of the work being done. To conclude a very interesting program, there will be shown a comedy entitled "Bunny's Swell Affair."

PRINCE OF WALES THANKS BRITISH COLUMBIA FARMERS

The following is a copy of a letter from the Prince of Wales to L. Harcourt, Under Secretary of State, acknowledging receipt of £394 1s. 5d. sent by the Farmers and Women's Institutes of British Columbia to the National Relief Fund:

Buckingham Palace,
April 6, 1915.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office, London, S. W.

Dear Sir—I am desired by the Prince of Wales to thank you for the remittance of £394 1s. 5d., being a contribution from the Farmers and Women's Institutes of British Columbia to the National Relief Fund. I understand that a formal receipt has already been sent to you, but His Royal Highness was particularly pleased at receiving this welcome addition to the fund from the Farmers and Women's Institutes of British Columbia and requests you to make known to all those who have subscribed, his warm appreciation of their generosity.

I am, etc.,
WALTER PEACOCK,
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