

The Billings Gazette.

SEMI-WEEKLY.

VOL. XV.

BILLINGS, YELLOWSTONE COUNTY, MONTANA, FRIDAY, MAY 5, 1899

NO. 4

Watch for Our Spring Shoes

See Our "Little Giant" Line of

Children's and Boys' Shoes

Misses' and Children's Rubber Boots

ALL SIZES

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PHYSICIAN and SURGEON.
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PHYSICIANS and SURGEONS.

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ATTORNEY-AT-LAW.
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J. H. HERFORD,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW.
Room 9, Belknap Block, - Billings, Montana.

FRED H. HATHORN,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW.
Office-Room 4, First National Bank Building, Billings, Montana.

JOHNSTON & JOHNSTON,
LAWYERS.
Room 12, Belknap Block.

CHARLES L. HARRIS,
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Room 12, Belknap Block, - Billings, Montana.

J. D. MATHESON,
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- OF -

BILLINGS, MONTANA

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Surplus and Profits, - 10,000

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4593
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OF BILLINGS

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SURPLUS, - \$20,000

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DAVID PRATT, Vice-Pres.
G. A. GRIGGS, Cashier.
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COMPANY

THE NEW CITY COUNCIL

Holds Its First Regular Meeting Which Was a Very Busy One.

MAYOR REAPPOINTS

Old Officers. Who Are Confirmed by the Council—Mayor Yegen Defines His Policy.

A more imposing body of men never graced the seats of the city government of Billings than the new city council which held its first regular meeting on Tuesday night. We are imposing because it represents men of well known business ability from nearly every stage of life. They got down to business with a caution.

It was twenty minutes past 8 o'clock when Mayor Yegen rapped for order, announcing that the council would now consider itself in session. The roll call found all aldermen present, excepting Witham, who came in a few minutes later. The personnel of the new council by wards is as follows:

First ward—Cunnolly and Bennighoff; Second ward—Spear and Clement; Third ward—Frizelle and Witham; Fourth ward—Sztznick and St. John.

City Clerk Herford officiated in lieu of appointment of successor. The minutes of the meeting of the preceding night were read and approved, after which the mayor placed his "John Hancock" signature on the book of record for the first time.

Alderman Bennighoff at this particular time arose and in his usual unostentatious manner, stated that it was always customary for the mayor, upon taking his seat, to at least acquaint the council with what his policy of administration would be so that they (the aldermen) could have something to "swear" by and to know in what direction the good and progressive ship, Billings, was to be steered. Mayor Yegen is not an extemporaneous speaker, but as a writer he has few equals and in response to Mr. Bennighoff's request he submitted the following communication, which he read with good effect:

"Billings, Mont., May 2, 1899.

"Mr. President and Councilman: "Taking advantage of the time-honored usage and custom of the executive addressing a message to the legislative branch of the municipal government, I take pleasure in addressing this communication to your honorable body. The prosperity of an individual, a city or a state depends largely upon close and economical attention to what is expended. In public as well as private affairs early provision for payments of debts is evidence of sound business principles and good financing.

"In examining the finances of the city government at the present time, we find that the levy for the year 1898 has not produced revenue sufficient to provide funds for running expenses to the end of the fiscal year. In order to meet this difficulty as far as possible, I would urge the prompt collection of back taxes and back licenses and sidewalk taxes, and pursue a vigorous policy in the collection of all moneys due the city.

"The condition of roads and bridges leading to our city, our streets, sidewalks and especially our crosswalks should have our continued attention.

"The sprinkling of our streets, carried on in a business manner, can be extended to the residence portion of the city by placing hydrants at convenient points for filling the sprinkling tank without extra expense to the city.

"Municipal ownership of electric light and water supply should come under discussion.

"I would recommend all necessary improvements to our public parks and the extension of the sewer system to the residence portion of the city and to our school houses.

"However, the people must realize that what public improvements are to be made this year must largely be paid for by property owners directly benefited, and I hope that the policy of this council will be economical without being penurious, and broad-gauge without being prodigal. It is always the duty of public officials to limit as far as possible public expenditures, and thus preserve the lowest rate of taxation so far as is compatible with reasonable economy and prudence. It is also their duty so far as in their power to see that all property within the city contributes its just share, and that taxation may bear equally on all.

"In conclusion I feel assured of the hearty co-operation of your honorable body in all matters pertaining to the public welfare, and shall always feel it incumbent upon me so far as is in my power to assist in determining and disposing of all questions that may arise, to the end that we may properly and

faithfully discharge the duties imposed upon us by our fellow citizens.

"I am yours very respectfully,
"Chris. Yegen."

The communication seemed to meet the ideas of the august body, for exclamations of approval were heard on all sides at its conclusion.

Under the head of reports came that of the secretary of the Maverick Hose company, stating who had been elected as the officers of the company, and that the same was subject to the approval of the council. The council by unanimous vote confirmed the election.

In the matter of the application of the Northern Pacific Railway company for connection to the city sewer system there was considerable discussion. The connection has been made, but there is still some contention between the city and the railroad. A recent letter from Superintendent Horn of Livingston states that the railroad is willing to grant the city what it desires—ownership of the system constructed by the railroad, but the latter wants the right to make whatever connections it desires for its own use. The matter was finally referred to the sewer committee.

Under the order of petitions, came one from several residents praying that a water main be laid on South Thirty-second street, between First and Second avenue. This was turned over to the committee on fire and water.

Carwile & Bouton asked permission of the council to erect a sign overhead on North Twenty-eighth street, at the door of their office in the Wardwell block. The street committee will look into the matter.

Some business was left unfinished by the former council and under this head came the matter of putting sills or a foundation under the city fire hall. One bid was submitted for the work, but was not opened. Some little discussion arose over the advisability of having the work done, in which Alderman Bennighoff took the prominent part. He came out flat-footed against such procedure, stating that the fire hall was a poor building and even after a foundation would be placed under it, it would still be a poor building. He contended that Billings, with all its push and enterprise, should have a more representative city hall, and he wanted to go on record as being firm in making any improvements "whatsoever" on the present fire hall. It was plain to be seen that Mr. Bennighoff had touched a popular chord with the rest of the aldermen. The matter was finally referred back to the committee on city property to report on cost of same, and the committee was empowered to call for bids for the work, which will be opened at the next council meeting.

Alderman Sztznick and St. John, members from the Fourth ward, having previously drawn lots to decide who should serve for long term and the former having won, the action was confirmed by the council. Sztznick will hold office two years and St. John one year.

Mayor Yegen announced as committees:

Finance—Spear, Sztznick and St. John.

Streets and Sidewalks—St. John, Bennighoff and Clement.

Ordinances—Bennighoff, Witham and Frizelle.

Officers and Bonds—Cunnolly, Spear and Clement.

Fire, Lights and Water—Witham, Clement and Frizelle.

Improvement, City Property, Sewer and Drainage—Sztznick, Spear, Frizelle and Cunnolly.

The first named on each committee will act as chairman of the same.

The clerk was instructed to advertise for bids for street sprinkling and street work, to be handed in to council by regular meeting night in June.

The committee on fire and water was ordered to report on hydrants that can be used to furnish water for sprinkler, so as to save much time in sprinkling. Heretofore but one hydrant has been used and it was on Twenty-seventh street. Every time the water ran out when the sprinkler was several blocks away it necessitated coming several blocks in order to fill again. This committee was also ordered to report what district can be included in the present sprinkling district, the council having about decided to extend the sprinkling system.

The question of checking up the warrants issued by the former city treasurer before turning over funds and books to the new city treasurer, came up. Mr. Hathorn, the retiring official, was present and he addressed the council asking that the books of Mr. Ramsey, who he had been appointed to succeed, as well as those of himself, be checked up so that there would be a perfect understanding about the matter. He stated that it was nothing more nor less than a business proposition. On motion by Spear, the mayor was authorized to appoint some person to check up the books from place where last checked. Mayor Yegen did not make the appointment during the meeting, but has since notified us that W. B. George will do that work.

Mr. J. R. Yates, in behalf of the Billings Wholesale Grocery house, appeared before the council and asked

GENERAL OTIS REPORTS

That the American Troops Are Rapidly Advancing on the Filipinos.

SOME TOWNS TAKEN

By the Brigades Under Hale and Wheaton—Col. Funston Wounded in the Hand.

Washington, May 4.—The war department received the following dispatches today:

"Manila, May 4.—Adjutant General, Washington: Situation as follows: Lawton holds Baliuag, captured the second inst., after a rapid movement from Augat, where were supplies with wagon train, pack animals and rations. He scattered the strongly entrenched enemy to the north and northward, capturing large amounts of food supplies and his detachments to the north and eastward. His successful movement was attended with great difficulty because of the character of the country, rain and heat. He now covers our railway communication and will be supplied from Malolos.

"MacArthur's column, concentrated, took up the advance on San Fernando at 6:30 this morning. Do not apprehend sharp resistance on the part of the enemy, who will probably leave the railroad and retire in a northerly direction to the north of Lawton. The destruction of the railroad near Calumpit necessitates dependence on wagon transportation.

"The enemy to the south and east of Manila is nine thousand, opposed by sufficient forces under Overline and Hall. His demonstrations thus far were properly met by those officers with slight losses. Many requests received from outlying cities for protection against insurgent troops. Otis."

"Manila, May 4.—Adjutant General, Washington: Sumner, with six battalions of Oregon, Dakota, Third Infantry and a piece of Utah light artillery of Lawton's division, proceeded north this morning to Maunad, crossed the river, charged the enemy in strong entrenchments, driving him northward and inflicting considerable loss. His casualties two wounded.

"Both Wheaton and Hale of MacArthur's division found the enemy in force strongly entrenched and commanded by Commander-in-Chief Luna about four miles south of San Fernando. Hale on the right dislodged the enemy and Wheaton on the left, leading in person, made a brilliant charge, scattering his forces, inflicting great punishment. Several officers and enlisted men were seriously wounded.

"MacArthur proceeds to San Fernando in the morning, delayed by partial destruction of a bridge across the river. It is not believed the enemy will make another determined stand until he effects a retreat to Mount Arayat, a short distance from San Isidor. Otis."

More Casualties.

Washington, May 4.—Otis reports the following additional casualties:

Killed—
Fourth Cavalry, April 23—Corporal John Golambecki.

Wounded—
Fourth Cavalry—Private James P. McGreevy.

First Nebraska, May 1—Private Paul Ossowski, Private John D. Keeney, Private Charles Schaffer, William Gilbert, Leo H. Hunter.

Colonel Funston Wounded.

Manila, May 4, 5:30 p. m.—General MacArthur has carried San Tomas after encountering strong resistance. General Hale moved on the right and Brigadier General Wheaton attacked the left in a daring charge, in which Colonel Funston again distinguished himself. The Kansan was wounded in the hand and several other officers and enlisted men were also wounded.

Colonel Sumner, with part of the Oregon and Minnesota regiments and a gun of the Utah battery, took Manila on the right, resting four miles from San Fernando. The Filipinos are retreating toward San Isidor and it is expected will make a stand at Arayat, at which place the whole rebel force in the province of Pan Panga is concentrating.

It is reported that impressed by recent events the Filipinos are wavering in their allegiance to the insurrection and are likely to assume a neutral attitude. It seems General Luna's forces are destined to destruction within a few days unless they surrender or scatter.

Insurgents Routed.

New York, May 4.—A dispatch to the Herald from Manila says: General Hale is pushing the insurgents toward San Fernando. After a severe engagement General Wheaton's brigade entered Santo Tomas this morning, the insurgents fighting desperately. The Americans found Santo Tomas burning.

General MacArthur moved forward at 8 o'clock with the Kansas and Montana regiments along the railway and the Utah battery and Nebraska, South Dakota and Iowa regiments on the right.

There was a severe engagement at a bridge, four miles this side of Santo Tomas, where the insurgents were found in force. Sumner's brigade of Lawton's command is now advancing northward toward Maunad.

London, May 4.—Advices have been received here from Manila that General Wheaton captured Santo Tomas after a severe fight with the insurgents. The insurgents were routed. The town was nearly destroyed by fire. Lawton's brigade is advancing toward Maunad, where the insurgents are expected to make another stand.

YORKTOWN MEN SAFE.

Information Received Concerning Americans Captured by Filipinos.

Manila, May 3.—The first authentic information regarding Lieut. J. C. Gilmore and his party of fourteen men from the United States gunboat Yorktown, who were captured by the Filipinos April 19, was received today at the hands of Major Argueles of the staff of General Luna. It is in the form of a list of the missing men and is signed by Lieutenant Gilmore. The lieutenant reports that he and his party have been brought across the mountains from Baler, where they were captured.

This information was brought in response to a note which General MacArthur sent to Luna by Major Shields and Lieutenant Hayne and which those officers, bearing a flag of truce, carried across General Luna's line yesterday evening. The note, after asking for information regarding the American prisoners in General Luna's hands, concluded with the message that he (General MacArthur) would be pleased to meet General Luna.

Major Shields and Lieutenant Hayne found a span of railroad bridge a mile from San Tomas broken.

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Continued on Eighth Page.