

BUZZINGS

"Don't you find it hard these times to meet expenses?"
"Hard? Man alive! I meet expenses at every turn."—
Boston Transcript.

LOOK OUT FOR THE MAN BEHIND YOU

Another passenger has reported to us that he had his fingers jammed by someone pulling the front door of a car shut without thinking there was someone coming behind. Just a little thought and care on the part of a person getting out the front way will probably save someone from being hurt.

Spokane vs. Vancouver, Arena Rink, Saturday, February 10, 8.30 p.m.

The next parlor show under the auspices of the Terminal City Kennel Club will be held in the store at Fourth and Columbia streets, New Westminster, Saturday, February 17, at 3 p.m. Take Burnaby Lake cars leaving Carrall street at 1.30 and 2.30 p.m.

NOTHING MORE TO DO

A military man once complained to General Horace Porter, vice-president of the Pullman Company, about the negligence of a negro porter concerning some small details and demanded his discharge.

Realizing that in the circumstances the employee had been excusable, the General replied that an investigation was being made. The protest was repeated again and again, becoming more violent and vindictive each time. Finally, when attempts to mollify the complainant failed, the General dictated this reply:

"Sir: Thanking you for your favor, permit me to say that we have hanged the porter, shot the conductor, burned the cars and discontinued the line. I trust that this will be entirely satisfactory to you." — Christian Herald.

VICTORIA ROAD CARS

It is to be noted that Victoria road cars operate on Hastings street after midnight and not on Cordova, as they do at other times of the day.

BC Electric

Vancouver

New Westminster

Victoria



The Buzzer

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Latest War News

will be found in the daily papers; The Buzzer is reserved for talk about the weather

Considering the volume of the weather for the last week or so, it is not astonishing that the air should be full of talk about it, just as the air was full of weather for a while, in fact, it might be truthfully said that the weather was the all-absorbing topic of conversation, especially after you had slopped up a few gallons of slush through your moccasins.

We do believe in patronizing home industry, and one point about the snow we do not like is that it is not made in B.C.—at any rate, not in this part of B.C. It may have come from the Rocky Mountains, but we suspect it came from the Alberta side just for spite.

Our particular grudge against the snow is that it has delayed our spring opening number. At the time of writing this, it would seem that the great spring drive has been indefinitely postponed.

There is one thing that everyone seems to be agreed upon: that the winters are getting worse. "We never have the fine winters we used to get," you hear them say. "Why, don't you remember the fine weather we had on January 15th in 189—?" And then all the reasons under the sun from the use of automobiles to the war in Europe are put down as bringing on this terrible affliction.

We can't get through any talk about the weather without saying something about the service we gave last week. We don't want to brag about it; we were ready for the snow and cars ran along on their proper schedules without any bother, other than the usual delays. We had a number of bad tie-ups on Friday last, through wagons and sleighs piled up on the tracks. There was a regular chapter of accidents and the service was irregular, but we believe the people understood the causes.

Of course, it cost the company a pile of money to keep the tracks clear of snow. The bills are not all in yet, but the expenses were running up to \$500 a day. The brushes on the sweepers need renewing on an average every seven hours and this operation alone costs \$65. The men stationed at switches numbered close to 75 day and night, so that was quite a payroll.

However, these matters were minor compared with the necessity for taking the people about the city. We did it quite cheerfully, even if the jitneys did temporarily vanish from the scene, leaving their patrons to look out for themselves. We wonder what people would say if we were to treat our patrons the same way.

THE ULTIMATE EFFECT OF THE JITNEY IS THE ONE THAT COUNTS

We think we can see President Wilson's line of reasoning. He hesitated severing diplomatic relations with Germany, because that would imply war with all its suffering and destruction. That would be the immediate effect, but there was a more remote but more important effect even than the horrors of war—the horrors of a continued disregard for humanity.

When we think about the jitney competition, we have to view the present effects along with the more remote, yet more important effects. It may be pleasant to be able to jump into a jitney when one is in a hurry, especially when there is a street car to fall back upon in snowy weather. But that is only a near effect.

The more remote effects are far more important. The unfair competition of the jitney with the street railway which furnishes transportation to seven-eighths of the travelling public of Vancouver and more, is bound sooner or later to affect injuriously the service that majority receives.

There can be no doubt of that. The jitney takes away the paying traffic, leaving the non-paying traffic to the street car. It runs in the good weather, leaving the clearing of streets to the street railway.

The jitney is now objecting to the regulations requiring it to run from end to end of the city—the only provision that is nearly on a par with the street railway's obligation to give transfers—and it is a poor substitute.

It is much more important that the public at large should have more and better street car service than that a few people should be singled out to get an occasional quick ride in a jitney.

Protect your interests by seeing that the regulations on the jitney are not repealed.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING SECURITY DEPOSITS READY

Repayment of security deposits to electric lighting customers who have paid their bills regularly during the last year and established their credit is now being made in accordance with the promise we made some time ago. Post cards are being mailed alphabetically and request the recipient to bring the card and the deposit receipt to the Security Deposit wicket, first floor, B. C. Electric building, Carrall street.

CHANGING OUR ACCOUNT SYSTEM

Probably few people realize the immense amount of detail involved in reading meters and rendering and collecting accounts for light and power service to 35,000 customers each and every month. It is necessary for us, therefore, to have as efficient a system as possible for billing and collecting our accounts.

With this end in view, we are at the present time engaged in a complete reorganization of our billing system. This means, for a start, that all data relating to each of our 35,000 accounts, such as name and address, meter number and other information, have to be transferred from old ledgers which have now been in use for five years, to 100 brand new ledgers designed on more modern lines.

We are getting this work off our chests as quickly as possible, and although we only started in January, February 28th will just about see it completed. It is possible that with this large volume of extra work, in addition to a considerable amount of labor entailed in connection with the refunding of security deposits, we may be a little late in sending out bills in the outside districts, during these two months. There is also greater possibility of clerical errors being made while these alterations are in progress.

We hereby advise our customers, however, that it is our desire to cause them as little inconvenience as possible and trust that the new ledgers will play their part in maintaining and improving the service which is this company's constant aim.

MORE CARS, PROVIDED—

Preparations are being made for an increased service of cars on all lines at the beginning of March, unless our plans are interfered with by the repeal of the jitney regulations by the City Council at the request of the Jitney League.