

COUNTY COUNCIL.

JANUARY SESSION.

January 13, 1903.

The County Council met at 10 a. m. The following are the Councillors for the different Parishes, who were all present—with the exception of Coun. A. G. Phillips.

Aberdeen—William Lamont, Fred Skinner. Brighton—C. E. Hayward, James Faulkner. Kent—C. E. Gallagher, M. Bohan. Northampton—J. Rankin Brown, A. C. Phillips.

Peel—D. Phillips, W. Tompkins. Richmond—Joseph Merrithew, J. H. Hay. Simonds—J. V. Kearney, Wm. Raymond. Wakefield—Frank Shaw, Albert Bell. Wicklow—C. A. Giberson, C. A. Simonds. Wilmot—Harry Carvell, John Williams. Woodstock—J. H. Forrest, F. Byron Bull. Woodstock (Town)—W. S. Saunders, Wm. McDonald, Arthur Bailey.

Warden Saunders resigned, and the resignation was accepted.

The election of a Warden in his place was then taken up.

Coun. Hayward, seconded by Coun. Bull, nominated Coun. Carvell.

Coun. Bohan, seconded by Coun. Kearney, nominated Coun. Gallagher.

Moved by Coun. Gallagher, seconded by Coun. Faulkner, that the nominations close. Carried.

Coun. Merrithew wanted to know what had been the custom about awarding the Warden-ship. Did each Parish receive a turn?

Coun. Saunders—It was customary in former times that in turn the office should pass to the various Parishes.

Coun. Gallagher pointed out that an arrangement was made last fall that after serving one year Coun. Saunders would drop out and Coun. Gallagher should be elected the next year.

Coun. Merrithew wanted to know if that was the understanding of the councillors.

Coun. McDonald said there was no understanding with him.

Coun. Saunders said there was no deal, although one member had told him that it would be well for him to have it one year and Coun. Gallagher the next year, but he did not agree to any general arrangement being binding.

The result of the ballot was as follows: Carvell, 18; Gallagher, 6.

Coun. Carvell was declared elected warden.

Warden Carvell then took the chair and thanked the Council for the honor conferred on him. He had made no canvass for the office. He would do the best he could while in the chair.

The secretary read the minutes of the last meeting, which were duly approved.

Coun. Saunders moved that the warden appoint a committee of three to meet with Sec. Treas. and report this afternoon as to the amount of money required to be assessed for the coming year.

Coun. Merrithew thought it would be well to have first a report from the auditor, and Coun. Gallagher agreed with this and moved that the auditor's report be first read. Both motion and amendment were duly seconded.

Coun. Bailey thought Coun. Saunders' motion was met by the appointment of a committee. The auditor's report would come in before the committee read their report.

The amendment was lost and motion carried.

Coun. Gallagher, Williams and Saunders were named the committee.

On motion, the auditor's report was received.

The auditor's report showed that the bonded indebtedness of the county is \$19,000 and the indebtedness on current account \$2,000. If the taxes for 1902 had been collected, the county would be square on current indebtedness. The government also had not refunded the Jury fees for the year, was paid at \$650, half of the small pox indebtedness of the county.

Quite a discussion arose over the slowness of the collectors in making returns, and it was generally agreed that the collectors should be hurried up.

Coun. Saunders said the claim of the collectors and their excuse, often was that they did not know their duties, was based on poor foundation. They should find out their duties before they took the office.

Coun. Williams moved, seconded by Coun. Saunders, that J. C. Hartley be appointed secretary-treasurer.—Carried.

Coun. Merrithew moved, seconded by Coun. McDonald, that Col. Vince be re-elected auditor.—Carried.

Coun. Williams, seconded by Coun. Saunders, moved that the Warden appoint a committee of three to consider county accounts and report tomorrow morning.

Coun. Saunders, seconded by Coun. Bohan, moved that the accounts be read from the Warden's chair, at the meeting of the council at 2 o'clock.

Auditor Vince said, roughly speaking, there was a deficit of \$2000. There was enough due on the 1902 list to square the indebtedness, outside of the bonded indebtedness of \$19,000. The councillors

have no direct way of finding out from the collectors how the different parishes stand; each councillor should have a book, go to the collectors from time to time, and find out, and keep a record, of the amount collected and uncollected for past years. Aberdeen was ahead of the game by \$17; Brighton owed \$1329; Kent, \$1186; Northampton was ahead by \$3.85; Peel owes \$455; Richmond, \$706; Wakefield, \$522; Wicklow, \$316; Wilmot, \$30; Woodstock, \$463; Town of Woodstock, \$4380; Simonds, under \$300. He saw no necessity for the county paying interest to the bank, when the different parishes owed so much; if Aberdeen and Northampton were ahead, other parishes should see that their collectors were just as much alive, as those mentioned, and the parishes would not be behind as they are. Kent reported that \$200 had been collected since the report of auditor was made up, which would cut down the deficit considerably.

The amendment was carried by a vote of 13 to 11.

Coun. Saunders asked if the water could be so regulated that the water system put in connection with the court house be used.

Coun. Macdonald said that he had seen Fewer Bros. and that it would be practically impossible to make connections without a great expense.

The secretary-treasurer explained about a question of Coun. Saunders, as to consolidating the Acts and by-laws regarding the county. He had been informed that a new road law would be passed this session, and he thought it well to wait till after the session before making the consolidation.

Coun. Merrithew spoke of the difficulty of collecting taxes, and wished the Warden or some other authority, to give information how that difficulty could be removed.

Coun. Merrithew, seconded Coun. Gallagher moved that the S. A. Inspector be requested to report after the committee on accounts are finished. Carried.

Coun. Carvell gave an invitation to councillors and officials to dine with him tomorrow at Treacart House.

Adjourned till 2 o'clock.

After adjournment the council went into committee of the whole on the county accounts. Before this Mr. G. W. White was heard with respect to a grievance he alleges, exists.

Mr. White claimed that he was overtaxed on property in the parish of Peel. He also claimed that he was overtaxed in Wilmot. His county tax had been raised from \$35.12 in 1900 to \$43.30 in 1902.

Coun. Saunders asked if Mr. White had made any sworn statement. Mr. White said no. His school tax had been proportionately raised. He was raised by the valuers \$1500 and G. Leverett White, his son, \$1000. He asked for relief on the ground that he was taxed for all he was worth and more and the principle in the parish of Wilmot was that taxation should be on two thirds of the value of the property not on the actual value.

Mr. White thought it was not an easy thing to make a sworn statement. The council could make a recommendation in the matter to the assessors.

Coun. Gallagher thought the council could not re-open the case and deal with the matter.

Mr. White said he did not wish to go back beyond the year 1902, in which year he thought he was very unjustly taxed.

Coun. Tompkins did not think the question of the tax in Peel should be dealt with because Mr. White had not yet paid his taxes.

Coun. Williams said that it might be true that Mr. White was taxed to his full value, but unless there was a sworn statement, he did not think there would be any reason for interference. There has been a cry against taxation this year. It is hoped it will not be so high next year.

Coun. Faulkner spoke of the case of Allen Bradley who came before the court last year, and as a result his taxation was reduced.

The Warden said he was informed a day or two before coming here, that Mr. White was coming here with a grievance, but he and his colleague were not informed what the grievance was. He believed Mr. White should have made a sworn statement.

Coun. Phillips (Peel) thought we were taxed 40 cts on the hundred, or about that. If Mr. White would go before the assessors of Peel and they recommend relief, he would be only too willing to endorse their action.

Coun. Bohan thought the council could not give relief.

On motion of Coun. Saunders, seconded by Coun. Bailey, it was moved that Mr. White be instructed to make a sworn statement to the assessors and if he gets no relief from them, then to the valuers.

The accounts were then taken up. The account of Banfred Colpitts, Scott Act Inspector, in full amounted to \$1697.42. The receipts in full were \$1682.25, due inspector \$12.64.

Coun. Bohan moved that the bill lay out and be taken up with the inspectors report. Seconded by Coun. Gallagher.

Coun. Bailey thought the bills should be inspected and vouchers produced.

The motion was withdrawn and a motion substituted that a special committee be appointed to report on the same tomorrow morning.

Coun. Simonds, Forrest and Phillips (Peel) were named the committee.

Coun. Saunders put in a bill for \$50 for his services in connection with the work on the jail. The bill credits \$25 to the county leaving \$25 due.

Coun. Bailey moved that the bill be paid when properly attested to.

Coun. Gallagher thought that the matter was settled by a vote of \$25 to Coun. Saunders and Carvell at last session.

Coun. Tompkins thought the committee was poorly paid. The account was small enough.

Coun. Williams had seconded the motion last year and he did not feel like paying any more.

On a vote being taken there were 12 in favor of paying the bill and 11 against. The motion was declared carried.

At this stage a delegation from the Hospital Board was heard, consisting of Rev. Father Chapman and Dr. W. D. Rankin. Dr. Rankin said it was estimated last year it would cost \$2500 to establish the hospital and run it the first few months. \$3000 was secured and there is now a balance of \$350 or \$400 to credit in the bank. The average number of patients in attendance is 6 or 7. He submitted a statement showing the working of the hospital. It will cost from \$1000 to \$1200 for the balance of the year. The \$3000 that has been collected is from private subscriptions. The main annual contribution must be from the town, the county and local government. We save yet to rely on a grant of \$300 from the town, the \$400 from the county and the \$400 from the Provincial Gov't. About 5 out of 8 of the patients have been paying. Along the spring and early part of the summer the proportion of free patients will be larger. The patients who pay their board pay \$1.00 or \$1.10 a day. More than half the patients have been from without the town. We are not at liberty to take free patients from outside the county. We have had many operations and one half of the patients would have had to go elsewhere for treatment if not for the hospital. The free patients get everything free while in the hospital. Incurably diseased persons are not admitted to the hospital although a person, say, with consumption would be admitted for surgical treatment or for some hurt other than the incurable disease.

Rev. Father Chapman said he was put forward as a mouth piece as the board of management, probably because he was a clergyman. We are asking \$500 as the annual grant. A hospital is a necessity in a populous community. There are always these distressing cases and the doctors must have a place to work in. There is always a sympathetic part of man's nature which responds to the call of charity. In our county we have the best body of physicians in New Brunswick. I would almost say. In the town they take difficult cases up and so far they have been very successful. The doctors want to see the grant made in order that the hospital may not default. In these days nursing is a great thing, and in a hospital we have the exact science of the trained nurses. The doctors are our authority on disease and their recommendation should be acted upon. He hoped that the amount asked for would be granted. All patients are treated alike, free and paying, the free getting as good treatment from the doctors and nurses as the paying patients. In expending this amount for the hospital, he had no doubt the people would applaud the action of their representatives.

Dr. Rankin invited the Warden and members of the council to visit the hospital.

Coun. Bohan moved that the hospital be granted \$500 annually. Seconded by Coun. Giberson.

Coun. Merrithew was against the council being bound by a grant in perpetuity to this hospital or any other institution. He moved that the council grant the hospital \$400 for this year.

Coun. Williams seconded the amendment.

Coun. Gallagher moved seconded by Coun. Skinner that the council grant \$500 for this year.

Coun. Saunders favored the help to the hospital, and for a vote for five years. It was pointed out that there was no motion to this effect.

Coun. Merrithew spoke of a number of cases that had been successfully operated on in their own houses. They had trained nurses and they said it was cheaper than the hospital.

Coun. Gallagher said that he had experience of operation performed at home in his own family. In his case it had cost \$400 and the patient only lived a few days. The hospital would be found cheaper.

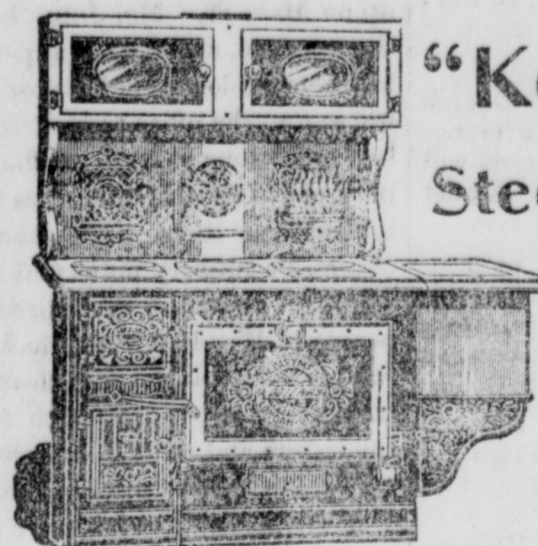
Coun. Macdonald favored a grant for the balance of the lease of the present building. The town beside its own contribution, paid 1-7 of this that the county proposed to give.

Coun. Faulkner thought the next council would perhaps wish to raise the grant. He favored giving \$500 for this one year.

Coun. Williams thought the hospital board would be well satisfied if \$400 was

Continued on 6th page.

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