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Insurance in Force.....	\$9,555,300	\$37,668,468
Policies issued during the year.....	2,710,755	7,107,148
Policy Reserves.....	628,429	5,255,077
Assets.....	821,320	6,112,344
Income.....	296,468	1,656,107
SURPLUS TO POLICY HOLDERS.....	177,630	771,869

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TOWN COUNCIL.

The School Trustees and the Council—A More Vigorous Discussion Than Usual, If Possible—Delegates to Ottawa.

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council was held in the council room on Monday evening. His Worship Mayor Jones was in the chair and all the councillors were present.

Coun. Stevens presented the affidavit of G. B. Little, who made oath that he had paid taxes for seven years when over 60 years of age, and his petition asking for a rebate of the same. A motion was passed to the effect that an order be drawn on the treasurer for the amount.

The petitions of William Blake and Howard McDonald were presented asking for licenses to install billiard and pool tables.

Coun. Nicholson made a motion to the effect that the matter be left to the license committee.

Coun. Henderson said that this was one way of putting the matter off. The question was a moral one and the whole council should consider it.

Coun. Stevens said that as Chairman of the License Committee he did not feel like assuming the responsibility of determining this question.

On motion of Coun. Leighton the matter was allowed to stand over until Friday evening.

The Mayor read a communication from the Secretary of School Trustees notifying the Council that, unless the Town Council assures the Board of Trustees that the necessary funds for the maintenance of the schools of the town will be supplied for the whole of the next school year, the Board will in the exercise of its discretion engage teachers for the schools for one term only.

Coun. Leighton claimed that the Trustees were trying to rub it into the council. The Finance Committee had gone to the Trustees and had made them a fair proposition and the Secretary had said that it was a fair one; but the Chairman of the Trustees was drifting around the corner and when the Finance Committee went out he drifted in and the thing was in the air. "How do we know" said the junior councillor "what amount of money it will take to run the schools during the next year? The Trustees presented a requisition for \$5,600.00, and they will get that amount and no more or less." He moved that the letter be received and filed.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Henderson.

Coun. Stevens—"This discord between the Trustees and the Council is a matter for regret. If these bodies were the only ones affected it would not matter so much; but the reputation of the town is at stake. The matter should be settled. Do not defer it as this motion purports to do. I stand for the payment of the money. We should say we are prepared to furnish them with the money."

Coun. Leighton—"I will ask Councillor Stevens one question, How are you going to finance the \$1,000.00 that the Trustees recently got and gave us a warrant for 1904 for?"

Coun. Stevens—"The matter has been threshed out before. The \$600.00 is due them for the school year ending 1905. The \$1,000.00 that we paid them should have come out of the assessment for 1904. At the close of the town year for 1903 we owed the Trustees \$2,500.00. Last year we paid them nearly \$900.00 more than they asked for. At the end of the town year 1904 we owed them \$1600.00. If the \$1,000.00 that we paid them went toward reducing that indebtedness we owe them \$600.00, if not we still owe them \$1,600.00."

Coun. Leighton—"The Trustees are trying to rub it into the council. There are men on that board who can't get elected to this council; but by some kind of pull they are able to get on the Board of School Trustees. We are not taken into the confidence of the Trustees. They asked for \$5,600 to run the schools for one year, we don't owe them one cent. If the council had assessed for the \$2500 the trustees claim to be due them doubtless the matter would have been settled. When we made up the assessment I never knew that we owed the Trustees \$2,500. It was not included in their warrant. We don't owe them any money on this year's assessment until the first of July. How can we give any guarantee as to what next year's council will do? The council is put in the wrong light in this matter. The letter of the Secretary comes out in The Press before it is submitted to this council. The same secretary who wrote that letter said that our proposition was a fair one."

Coun. Stevens: "Have the Trustees made any application for money, any written requisition?"

The Mayor: "no, not since they asked for the \$1,000."

Coun. Henderson: "Councillor Stevens has just woke up. The Trustees ask us to guarantee them more than we can. We don't want to be whipped into line by men who are no better than we are. Who are they and who are we? We didn't put them into the trouble and we can't get them out of it. The papers have given this matter to much publicity altogether. They had no right to ventilate the thing. We are not under any obligation to the newspapers. We pay for our printing." Coun. McManus: "If the finance committee overlooked the \$1700 they simply felt that much short." The question all comes down to this: the ratepayers pay the money and they want the schools kept open. They don't care who finances the matter. I have nothing to say against the Trustees. I know nothing but good of them. They are men of ability and men owning property. They are as much interested in our schools as we are. It is not to the credit of this council to cast reflections upon the School Trustees. Our schools are the equal of any in the province, we should not tie the hands of the Trustees. I do not feel like voting for the motion. We should pay them the \$1,700.00 in addition to the \$5,600.00. If we overlooked the \$1,700.00 in making up the assessment it is our fault. I will make this amendment to the motion: That the School Board be paid the balance due them together with the \$5,600.00 asked for in their requisition."

Coun. Stevens seconded this amendment.

Coun. Leighton—"In 1903 Councillor McManus knew that \$2,500.00 was due the Trustees. He is the mover of this amendment, Councillor Stevens is the seconder. Why didn't he tell us that we owed them this 2,500 when we were making up the estimates. Where is this money coming from? I am not willing to pay the Trustees any more than they ask for. That letter doesn't ask for any money at all. The amendment is not in order." Here the Clerk called the attention of the Board to the fact that the councillors could not have assessed the town for the 1,700 as they had not any requisition from the Trustees for this amount. In fact the town had already been assessed for it in other years.

Coun. Nicholson thought the teachers should be paid, he was not in favour of having the letter laid aside.

Coun. McManus thought that perhaps a committee from the council could meet with the Trustees and come to a satisfactory arrangement.

The Mayor placed himself on record as being against the amendment. He thought no council could guarantee what the Trustees asked.

Finally the letter from the Secretary was filed and Coun. Leighton made the following motion. That when the School Trustees make their warrant for an amount up to \$1000 it be honoured, providing they change their warrant in the Town Treasurer's hands to read "out of the assessment for 1905;" and that a copy of this resolution be sent to the School Trustees. The motion was carried.

The Mayor expressed himself as being heartily glad that this difficult matter had been settled? and the Council proceeded to transact other business.

On complaint of the Mayor regarding delay on the part of the assessors Assessor Fields was heard who gave satisfactory explanation.

The Board then took up the matter of selecting delegates to go to Ottawa to present to the government the claims of the valley route for the G. T. P.

Coun. Leighton's motion, that the delegation consist of the Mayor and Councillors Nicholson and Henderson, found no seconder and His Worship selected himself and Councillors Nicholson and McManus as the fortunate trio.

Council then adjourned.

A MORNING WITH MAC.

The Third Bridgewater Conference Only a Partial Success. Prospects of a Conversion.

Once more the limelight has been turned on the City of Bridgewater and again a portion of the cockle-warmer has been located. On this occasion the Inspector was not in at the death, as he has been confined to his house for some days by a serious cold. However, the machinery worked slickly and everything went off in a manner highly pleasing to all concerned.

On Friday evening Constable Woolverton, Deputy Sheriff Foster and Customs Officer Carpenter meandered along the well trod path and when the boundary line rooster crowed they were joined by United States Officers Peters and Barrett at Bridgewater. At the breakfast hour they called on Mac the thirst-quencher. They were told that Mr. McMullen was engaged in arranging some furniture in the parlour. The host was found hanging a beautiful framed motto, "Lightning never strikes twice in the same place." On being informed that the party were on the trail of "The Lost Quart" he offered his services in the search. The old familiar spots about the dwelling were carefully examined to no avail, while Mac's new giant gramophone ground out "Peek-a-boo; I see you." Then a search was made under the floors and in the beds. There was still nothing doing. Finally the efforts of the investigators were deservedly rewarded by the discovery of a couple of dozen bottles of the palate tickler in a hole under the

stairs. Nothing more loomed up however, and after cleaning out the chimney and turning over the woodpile the struggle was given up.

Over a generous repast of vim and butter-milk Holman informed his guests that he was seriously considering the problem of the better life. He announced that he had nearly arrived at the conclusion that it pays to be good. He has a proposition to make. It is to this effect: If the officers of the law will assure him that no one will be allowed to open the canteen at Bridgewater after his retirement, he will abandon the strenuous life and join the church.

THE TROUBLE AT VAN BUREN.

Mr. Pond Tells His Side of the Story—He is Going up the River.

On Saturday THE DISPATCH called upon Mr. Levi W. Pond at the Carlisle Hotel with the object of gleanings some information regarding the racket at Van Buren. At first Mr. Pond declined to be interviewed, claiming that his talks in the matter with the St. John reporters had been grossly misrepresented. He was informed, however, that the DISPATCH reporter was a disciple of Blackstone, and therefore unable to depart from the beaten track of veracity even should he be desirous of so doing. Thereupon Mr. Pond's manner underwent a transition from thirty below to summer heat and he proceeded to pour upon a sympathetic ear his little tale of woe.

Mr. Pond is in the sheer-boom and log-driving business, having successfully operated sheer-booms on the waters of the Upper Saint John for the past twenty years. He informed the reporter that he is at present under contract with the Sheer Boom Improvement Company to operate twenty booms annually and also with the Madawaska Log Driving Company to make the drive from Allegash to Grand Falls every two weeks. The St. John Lumber Company, says Mr. Pond, has a mill at a point two miles above Van Buren. The Van Buren Lumber Company have two mills, one at Van Buren and another about two miles above that place. Both companies have wing booms in the river in order to facilitate the passage of their logs down the river. The St. John Lumber Company have their booms in positions where they do not interfere with Mr. Pond in his business; but the Van Buren Lumber Company have their booms fast to the shore of the river, and Mr. Pond claims that they are a great obstruction in that position. On his way up the river with his towboats he has been compelled to haul them over the booms, thus incurring the risk of injuring the bottoms of the boats and of losing the tow from the great strain on the tow-line. He had put up with this condition of affairs for a long time; but when he went up river on the 27th of last month and found the first boom across his path he made up his mind that he would remove the obstacle. He was supplied with dynamite and he put a stick of it in the boom, pushed a lighted match up against it and dropped back to watch things shiver. The explosion failed to occur, however, and two more unsuccessful trials were made. The dynamite was then removed and soaked in kerosene. The fourth attempt proved successful and Mr. Pond went on his way rejoicing. Upon arriving at the second boom it was found that a gallant little band of defenders were stationed there and things looked black for further progress. Mr. Pond's foreman, Cyr, stepped ashore and looked into the barrel of a gun. It was intimated that if Mr. Pond's party persisted in using the dynamite there would be more than one explosion. Accordingly the voyagers retreated without blowing up the boom.

On Monday Mr. Pond went up river in company with Deputy Sheriff Albion Foster. Mr. Pond remarked before leaving that he would stop at St. B-sil. He contends that he has the right both at common law and by treaty to navigate the river St. John, and he asserts that he is going to exercise that right.

List of Dates of Golf, Teas for 1905.

- Saturday, June 10—Mrs. A. B. Connell, Miss Gussie Connell, Miss Kathleen Bourne.
- Saturday, June 24—Mrs. Geo. Gibson, Miss Annie Hipwell, Miss Muriel Merritt.
- Saturday, July 8—Mrs. W. B. Belyea, Miss M. Rankin, Miss Mary V. Clarke.
- Saturday, July 22—Mrs. W. P. Jones, Mrs. F. W. McLean, Miss Marguerite Lamb.
- Saturday, Aug. 5—Mrs. J. S. Creighton, Miss Blanche Dibblee, Miss Jessie Denton.
- Saturday, Aug. 19—Mrs. H. P. Baird, Mrs. E. W. Mair, Miss Katherine Danison.
- Saturday, Sept. 2—Mrs. G. A. White, Mrs. Wm. Dickinson, Miss Porter.
- Saturday, Sept. 16—Mrs. T. F. Sprague, Mrs. A. F. Garden, Mrs. R. B. Welch.
- Saturday, Sept. 30—Mrs. Geo. Mitchell, Miss Rosa Dibblee, Miss Hazel Welch, Miss Eva Newcombe.

If any of the ladies are unable to serve tea on the dates above mentioned, they are especially asked to procure a substitute and notify the tea committee.