

The Coroner Abuse.

The abuse of their position by coroners was the subject of a timely recommendation by the County Accounts Committee at the late session of the Municipal Council. Like the retention in their hands of the appointment of Alms House Commissioners, however, the multiplying of coroners by the Government at Fredericton, is a dispensation of patronage, which costs them nothing. If the coroners were as conscientious in the discharge of their functions as the Alms House Commissioners, however, there would be no great ground for complaint, save on account of the principle violated by rendering them independent of those for whom they perform a purely local service supported entirely by local taxpayers. In many cases, coroners hold inquests when the causes of death are known to everybody to be purely accidental, and when no legitimate purpose whatever is served by the enquiry—the coroners' simply prostituting their office to the selfish purpose of pocketing the fees which an absurd custom permits them to extort from their fellow ratepayers. As there are so many coroners of this class they should be compelled to a more honest and discriminating exercise of their official functions by Act of Parliament.

How they value Reporters' Services.

We observe, among the reported proceedings of the Municipal Council the following:—"Moved and seconded that the reporters of the press receive \$1 per day for their services—carried." We have only to say that we hope no representative of the press present so far forgot his position as to accept the gratuity offered. Since the Municipal Council of the County has been in existence the ADVANCE has given very full and faithful reports including the publication of full lists of the Parish and County officers appointed, and for several years it has, in addition, furnished the Councilors with a large number of each of Calendars with the lists of officers in their several parishes—all without asking or receiving any remuneration whatever. After a time the Advocate also gave pretty fair reports of the Council's proceedings, though never so full as those of the ADVANCE. So far as we know the proprietors of that paper have never sought payment for their enterprise and the labor and valuable newspaper space they have given up to their Council reports. This year the editor of the ADVANCE could not go personally to Newcastle, as usual, and he engaged the services of the best reporter available, paying him as much per day as this contemptible gratuity of the Council would amount to for the whole session. Our Reporter has not been acquainted with the action he took in respect of the \$1 a day voted him, but it shall not be received in any form on account of the ADVANCE. If the Council desires to have its proceedings officially reported, left engage and pay its own reporter or reporters and pay them such fees as that kind of service is worth and, further, if they desire official reports, let them pay for their publication as they ought to do. But when papers that have always treated them fairly send well paid reporters to record their proceedings, let them not attempt to insult them by the offer of such gratuities as that embodied in the resolution referred to. We desire to respect the Municipal Council of Northumberland, but its "dollar a day" business gives us a rather cheap measure of its deservings.

Mr. T. C. Berchard, public school teacher, Norland, writes: "During the fall 1881 I was much troubled with Biliousness and Dyspepsia, and part of the time was unable to attend to the duties of my profession. I procured Dr. Thompson's Vegetable Discovery and Dyspeptic Cure was recommended to me, and I have much pleasure in stating that I was entirely cured by using one bottle. I have not had an attack of my old complaint since, and have gained fifty pounds in weight."

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tion of the Council to the very loose way in which constables performed their duties. The Col. Justices had told him it was next thing to impossible to get them to collect taxes from defaulters. He thought fewer constables should be appointed and those who are to be appointed to deposit \$40 or \$50 to bind them to perform their duties and pay over amounts collected by them.

NEWCASTLE POLICE MATTER. The committee appointed to investigate the return of the Newcastle Police Magistrate, reported as follows:—"That the P. M. had acknowledged inaccuracies on his part to the amount of \$17 which amount he has agreed to pay over to the Secretary-Treasurer."

On motion the report was adopted and the P. M. ordered to pay the amount of \$17 to the Secy-Treas.

On motion the meeting adjourned till 7 o'clock, p. m., at which time proceedings were again resumed.

The appointment of Parish and County Officers was now concluded.

DOUGLSTOWN FERRY, ETC. Coun. Morrissey read a petition of Robert Wilson, ferryman of Douglastown, asking for a grant for his assistance during the present year.

The Secy-Treas. said the Council had no power to make such a grant.

Coun. Loggie asked the Secy-Treas. if it would be necessary to have any action taken by the Council to give the town of Chatham power to have some additional street gas lamps erected, and was informed that the town already had the necessary power.

DOG TAX EXEMPTION CLAIMED. Coun. Loggie read a petition signed by Thos. Vanstone, Peter McKay, J. D. McMillan, Jas. Kendall, Wm. Kerr, Alex. H. Lane, Sam'l Wadell, Jas. McDonald and H. A. Muirhead, of Chatham, praying to be relieved from dog tax, as they reside in the suburbs and not in the town.

The Secy-Treas. said the Council had no power to relieve any person without changing the limits of the district.

Moved and seconded that Michael Delaney of Chatham be relieved from the payment of dog tax. Carried.

SCHOOL FUND SURPLUS. Coun. Adams, seconded by Coun. Cameron, moved the following resolution:—"Whereas we have for some years paid out of the surplus of County school funds the amount of about \$3,000 to the Provincial Government for money lent to this County on account of schools; and Whereas the full amount of the debt is now paid off and a balance on hand of \$182.28 remains in the Provincial Treasury out of last year's assessment of \$450, and Whereas the assessment is by law still to be continued by which a surplus will accumulate.

Therefore Resolved that we ask the Provincial Government to so legislate as to give this Council the power to control the said surplus, which will be left on hand after paying off all school debts and that the Secy-Treas. be authorized to memorialize the Government to that effect. Carried unanimously.

THE PROPOSED BRIDGE OVER THE S. W. After an adjournment of half an hour for coun. work, Coun. Baldwin moved, seconded by Coun. Thibideau the following resolution:—"Resolved that it is in the interest of the County of Northumberland to have a bridge built across the S. W. Miramichi by the railway bridge and that this Council urge on the Provincial Government the necessity for such a bridge and request them to build it at their earliest convenience, and Whereas a copy of this resolution be handed to each of our local representatives. Carried."

ALMS HOUSE MATTERS. Coun. Loggie, seconded by Coun. Flanagan, moved the following:—"Resolved that this Council urge upon the Alms House Commissioners that they allow Miss Ann Harrington a salary of \$80.00 per annum as assistant Alms House Keeper."

After the above was fully discussed pro and con, it was on motion allowed to stand over till 10 o'clock, to-morrow.

Coun. Freese, Chairman of Committee on Alms House accounts presented the report of that committee setting out that they had found all accounts satisfactory and recommending that the following amounts be assessed this year for Alms House purposes:—

Chatham, \$200.00; Alnwick, \$200.00; Newcastle, \$200.00; Derby, \$200.00; Nelson, \$200.00; Backville, \$100.00; South Esk, \$200.00; Bledford, \$200.00; South Esk, \$200.00; Ludlow, \$200.00; Onegon, \$200.00; Loggieville, \$200.00; Hartwick, \$200.00.

Making a total amount of \$2,125.00. Moved by Coun. Adams seconded by Coun. Cameron that the report be received and adopted and that the several amounts mentioned be assessed on the said Parishes. Carried.

On motion the Council adjourned till to-morrow at 10 o'clock, a. m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20TH. THE COUNCIL met at 10 o'clock, a. m. THE ALMSHOUSE MATTER AGAIN. The resolution in regard to the salary of an assistant Alms House keeper was read.

Coun. Adams did not believe in increasing the expenses or salaries in connection with the Alms House.

Coun. Sullivan agreed with Coun. Adams and wanted to know if Coun. Loggie thought he was going to swallow them without pepper or salt.

After a warm discussion in which Coun. Adams, Sullivan, Cameron, Bamford, Loggie, and Stewart opposed and Coun. Loggie, Saunders, Jardine, McNaughton, and Flanagan favored the resolution, it was put to the meeting and lost.

CONSTABLES' SECURITY. Coun. Morrissey, seconded by Coun. Fish, moved the following:—"Resolved that this Council petition the Provincial Government to pass a law compelling Constables appointed in this County to make a deposit to be forfeited in case they neglect to perform their duties."

Coun. Sullivan and others said this would work to the disadvantage of country Parishes.

The resolution on being put to the meeting was lost.

WARDEN'S DUES. Coun. Fish read the following report of Committee appointed to revise the by-laws in regard to wharfage:—"Your Committee recommend that section 5 of a by-law in regard to wharfage be amended as follows:—For every vessel not propelled by steam, the wharfage per ton per day extra. Any by-law heretofore passed in relation to wharfage is hereby repealed. C. E. FISH, Signed, PETER LOGGIE, Committee. A. ADAMS.

Niven) would account for the fines and if the gaoler had not got discharges he should not have released the prisoners. He could not give a fuller explanation till he saw Mr. Forrest who was gaoler at that time.

Moved and seconded that Mr. Forrest be telegraphed to Chatham for to be present at the meeting of Council this afternoon and that Mr. Niven be also present at that time. Carried.

COMMITTEES. Couns. Fish, Adams and Loggie were appointed Printing Committee.

Moved by Coun. Fish, seconded by Coun. Morrissey that the sum of \$40.00 be appropriated from County funds to incur County Gaol and Court House. Carried.

Moved by Coun. Adams, seconded by Coun. Cameron that a committee of five be appointed to ascertain the amount that will require to be assessed for County contingencies. Carried and Couns. Adams, Loggie, Fowle, McNaughton and Freeze were appointed.

On motion Couns. Morrissey, Fish and John Shireff, Esq., were appointed as a Gaol Committee.

SCOTT ACT FINES. Moved by Coun. Adams, seconded by Coun. Morrissey, "Whereas, the Canada Temperance Act is in force in this County, and whereas there have been certain fines collected for the violation of the said Act, and whereas there appears to be some doubt as to whom they should be paid, the Warden is relieved from the Chair as he desired to bring up a matter of importance before the Council."

On motion it was resolved that Coun. Cameron take the chair.

NORTHEAST AND SOUTHWEST ASSESSMENT. Coun. Tozer then moved the following resolution:—"Whereas, from the time the Parish of North Esk was divided into two Parishes, viz. North Esk and South Esk, up to 1882, the basis on which the assessments were made between the two said parishes was incorrect, as shown by the fact that a committee of five members of this Council appointed in January session of 1882, and whereas, on that account, the Parish of South Esk, and whereas, therefore Resolved that five members of this Council be appointed a committee to inquire into this matter and report at this meeting of Council. Carried."

On motion the matter was referred to a Committee consisting of Couns. Freese, Adams, Tozer, Saunders and Loggie. On motion the Warden again took the chair.

COUNTY ACCOUNTS. Coun. Adams, chairman of the committee on County accounts read the following report:—"Your Committee on County Accounts beg to submit the following report:—"We find the gaol accounts fairly satisfactory, but regret to notice that many articles have been purchased without the privilege, consent, or order of the Committee, and would call their attention to a standing resolution of Council ordering accounts to be approved by such order; and would further recommend that they exercise greater care in the incidental expenses which swell the account considerably."

The fuel account is large, but we find the gaol has just been delivered and, of course, for future use.

We find the account for horse hire to convey prisoners to gaol entirely correct, and it should not be paid unless embodied in the Constables' account showing cause therefor.

We beg to call your attention to the enormous expenses incurred by holding Coroners' inquests and we hope some action will soon be taken by the local Government to remedy the evil.

We also find the law in reference to Coroners' summoning juries to be very loose, as a summons for \$8.00 to do justice between those who charge moderately.

We regret very much to notice so many charges for certificates of lunacy and cost of conveying to lunatic asylum, and would recommend that no such charges be paid when the parties are known to possess property.

We find a bill presented for taking care of crazy squaw quite correct, but have referred it to the Indian Commissioner, as we believe it should be paid out of the Indian fund.

We find the Secy-Treas. account correct, showing a balance on hand of \$1,827.70.

A. ADAMS, Signed, P. LOGGIE, Committee. G. FOWLE.

The Council now proceeded to the passing of County Accounts.

George Burchell & Sons, firewood, passed, \$122.50; R. Sargent, 28.00; J. W. Ferguson, sundries, 13.40; R. C. Cal, 20.70; J. H. Phillips, stoves, 8.08; J. W. Murray, carpenter work, 17.50; C. S. Benson, lime, 2.00; J. W. Murray, carpenter work, 12.50; J. W. Fish, sundries, 25.76; M. M. Sargeant, acct. of \$8.45, overcharge of \$3.00 allowed, 8.25; Robt. F. Anderson, sundries, 18.95; J. W. Fish, 1 lb. lime, 1.00; Mullin & Bauser, lime, 1.45; J. W. Fish, sundries, 22.00; D. & J. Rivlin, sundries, etc., 22.00; Jno. Cassidy, cleaning closets in gaol and cleaning Council room, 6.50; Printing, etc., 5.00; W. & J. Anslow, advertising, passed, 11.50; W. J. Anslow, advertising Shaw lot for sale, passed, 5.00; John Lawler, dog tax, \$1.50, allowed, 1.50; E. P. Williston, 1 year salary as Auditor, passed, 37.50; Rehears of Votes, 238.00; Geo. Shireff, summoning juries, etc., 45.90; County buildings, 27.50; Don't I consider, Clerk of the Peace, 27.00; Secy-Treasurer, 27.00; Anthony Bisset, conveyance of prisoners 87.50; Committee recommend a reduction of \$2.50, allowed, 85.00; Estate of late John H. Hildes, for his share, \$20.00, allowed, 17.50; Chatham Lock-up 20 cents per inmate, allowed, 84.87; David M. Savoy, Constables' fees, allowed, 7.00; P. Fraser, seal for Probate Court, 2.50; John Cassidy, sundries, 2.50; Roger Flanagan, cash to Thos. Ryan to engage Constables, 13.00; Alan A. M. Saunders, assisting to take gaol into system, passed, 6.00; Dr. McLean, certificate of lunacy, \$8.00, saw only allowed \$4.67, passed, 4.67; Dr. McLean, certificate of lunacy, \$4.00, allowed, 4.67, passed, 4.67; Thos. McDonald taking lunatic to asylum, \$2.50, allowed, 20.00; J. W. Fish, costs of taking 2 lunatics to asylum, 35.00; J. W. Fish, certificate of lunacy, 4.67; John Benson, taking lunatic to asylum, passed, 24.00; Jno. Cassidy, taking lunatic to asylum, passed, 24.00; Jas. Harriet, coroner, passed, 15.00; A. C. Smith, \$42 reduced to and allowed, 37.00; David McLean, cartage, passed, 6.00; J. S. Benson, coroner, \$45.00, passed, 73.50; John Pallen, 16.00; A. A. Davidson summoning Coroners' Juries and holding inquest, passed, 100.20; R. C. Cal, repairs to public wharf, passed, 100.20; Act of Secy-Treas. general County Contingent acct., passed, showing a balance of \$1,827.70; Wm. Smallwood, taking charge of a cart square, 4.00; Committee recommend a reduction, as recommended.

NEWCASTLE POLICE MATTER. On motion the passing of County acct. was deferred to allow John Niven, Esq., Police Magistrate of Newcastle, to give an explanation of his return.

Mr. Niven's attention having been called to the fact that his returns had been objected to by Coun. Morrissey, who said that he knew of five parties whose fines had been paid, but by the magistrates return it would appear that they had not been and that the parties had been sent to gaol, explained that he had made a mistake in reference to one but could not say as to the other four, whether he or the gaoler had discharged from him he (Mr.

County line between Gloucester and Northumberland to extend along said line to the northwest corner of the Indian Reserve, thence south to the Tabusintac River, thence down river to McLean's River, thence south along the McLebbe road to back lot road, thence east to the Ross and McKenzie road, thence along the said road to the Bay shore. Poll to be held at or near Tabusintac Bridge.

No. 1 District to include all electors west of the boundary of District No. 2, to the eastward of Grandown Creek. Poll to be held at or near Grandown Creek.

No. 3 District—All that part of the Parish lying west of Grandown Creek to vote at or near Thos. Hickey's, Bartlogue.

W. B. STEWART, Signed, R. SAVOY, Committee. On motion the report was received and adopted.

ALNWK FERRIES. Coun. Stewart presented report of committee on establishment of Ferries across Tabusintac and Burnt Church Rivers as follows:—"That a ferry shall be established in the Parish of Alnwick between McLean's landing on the south side and the late Wm. Robertson's shore on the north side of the Tabusintac River for foot passengers only."

2nd. That the ferryman shall keep a horn and a flag on the side opposite his residence. The following rate of ferrage shall be collected and received—5 cts. for each passenger.

3rd. That a ferry shall be established in said Parish between Peter Davidson's road on the south side of Burnt Church River for foot passengers only.

4th. That the ferryman shall always keep a horn and a flag on the side of the river opposite his residence.

5th. The following rate of ferrage shall be exacted and received for each foot passenger, 6 cts.

On motion the report was received and adopted.

DOG TAX EXEMPTION CLAIMED. Coun. Loggie read a petition signed by Thos. Vanstone, Peter McKay, J. D. McMillan, Jas. Kendall, Wm. Kerr, Alex. H. Lane, Sam'l Wadell, Jas. McDonald and H. A. Muirhead, of Chatham, praying to be relieved from dog tax, as they reside in the suburbs and not in the town.

The Secy-Treas. said the Council had no power to relieve any person without changing the limits of the district.

Moved and seconded that Michael Delaney of Chatham be relieved from the payment of dog tax. Carried.

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SCHOOL FUND SURPLUS. Coun. Adams, seconded by Coun. Cameron, moved the following resolution:—"Whereas we have for some years paid out of the surplus of County school funds the amount of about \$3,000 to the Provincial Government for money lent to this County on account of schools; and Whereas the full amount of the debt is now paid off and a balance on hand of \$182.28 remains in the Provincial Treasury out of last year's assessment of \$450, and Whereas the assessment is by law still to be continued by which a surplus will accumulate.

Therefore Resolved that we ask the Provincial Government to so legislate as to give this Council the power to control the said surplus, which will be left on hand after paying off all school debts and that the Secy-Treas. be authorized to memorialize the Government to that effect. Carried unanimously.

THE PROPOSED BRIDGE OVER THE S. W. After an adjournment of half an hour for coun. work, Coun. Baldwin moved, seconded by Coun. Thibideau the following resolution:—"Resolved that it is in the interest of the County of Northumberland to have a bridge built across the S. W. Miramichi by the railway bridge and that this Council urge on the Provincial Government the necessity for such a bridge and request them to build it at their earliest convenience, and Whereas a copy of this resolution be handed to each of our local representatives. Carried."

ALMS HOUSE MATTERS. Coun. Loggie, seconded by Coun. Flanagan, moved the following:—"Resolved that this Council urge upon the Alms House Commissioners that they allow Miss Ann Harrington a salary of \$80.00 per annum as assistant Alms House Keeper."

After the above was fully discussed pro and con, it was on motion allowed to stand over till 10 o'clock, to-morrow.

Coun. Freese, Chairman of Committee on Alms House accounts presented the report of that committee setting out that they had found all accounts satisfactory and recommending that the following amounts be assessed this year for Alms House purposes:—

Chatham, \$200.00; Alnwick, \$200.