

General Business.

Miramichi Advance.

CHATHAM, N. B., MAY 9, 1901.

That Pumping Machinery Contract.

The attention of the local community is now directed to the facts connected with the awarding of the contracts for the pumps and boilers for the proposed Chatham Water Works, as they came out at Monday evening's meeting of the Town Council.

The ADVANCE, when it learned them, by the merest accident, after the late civic election, deemed it a duty to state them briefly, as we did in an editorial on 25th ult.

In reply, the gentleman chiefly involved, who, fortunately for the people interested, was defeated as a mayoralty candidate, resorted to the vilest abuse of the editor of this paper, in the hope, no doubt, that public attention would be thereby diverted from the part he had played in the transaction, by which the town's interests were subordinated to those of a large Montreal concern.

We are quite satisfied with the subsequent developments, for they amply justify the stand the ADVANCE took in reference to the transaction. It is probable that some of the more glaring departures from the decision of the town's consulting engineer may yet be modified and the town saved a fraction of the loss it must sustain by the unseemly haste of the late council in departing from its engineer's advice and accepting the highest, instead of the lowest tender for the pumps, but the ADVANCE may congratulate the ratepayers on the fact that the exposures it has made will bear fruit in the awakening of the town's interest in safeguarding the town's interests in connection with contracts for the proposed water and sewerage system.

There will be no ignoring of the engineer's advice hereafter, without good and sufficient reasons, nor is it probable that the people will soon forget the developments in connection with the pumping machinery contracts, or fail to contrast them with the preaching of some of their ex-representatives.

News and Notes.

The Brotherhood of St. Paul, national organization of Methodists men, which since its organization at Little Falls, N. Y., in 1896, has extended its charters into 23 states and Canada, will meet in annual convention on the 22d.

H. L. Hewson, manager of the Oxford Woolen Mills, who is at the Pan-American Exposition installing the exhibit of the mills, writes advising N. B. Scotians not to visit Buffalo at present. Things are at a backward condition, he says, and it will be the middle of June before the show is in full swing.—Amherst News.

"The St. John market," says the Star, "is now well stocked with eggs, and the price is away down. Supplies have been coming down river and across the bay, and by the railways, and the tendency of prices has been steadily downward for some time. It is stated that one dealer refused to pay 8 1/2c per dozen for one lot because he could get them elsewhere for 8c. At all events, there have been sales at 8 1/2c."

Glooschester, N. Y., May 2.—A cat belonging to the family of Marcella Green attacked a three-months-old child of the family and tore and bit the baby terribly. The cat had been a household pet for years and allowed the older ones to "maul" it without protest.

The baby was in the room alone asleep. The mother heard the child crying and ran into the room. She found the cat mounted upon the crib, biting and scratching the baby.

When the mother tried to drive the animal away it turned and bit her and then ran from the house. It has not returned, and Mrs. Green fears it was rabid. The child will be disfigured for life.

That Extravagant Water Works Contract.

Ex-Alderman Watt ought to have learned, with the opportunities that have been afforded him since he took up his residence in Chatham, that discussion of public matters can be carried on with most advantage to the people in a clovenly way. If he persists in calling people hard names, indulging in personal insinuations and threats, manifesting bad temper and worse manners he may relapse into his former position in the community. He ought to realize, in view of the correspondence on the subject of the town's pumping plant and tenders, read at the Town Council on Monday evening, that when the ADVANCE referred to the facts and said the action of the ex-mayor and council, and especially the course of Mr. Watt in connection therewith, required explanation it was but voicing the feeling of the community generally. If Mr. Watt had been able to make satisfactory explanations, it is reasonable to assume that he would not have lost his temper and published the personally abusive letters to which his name has appeared in the World. The ratepayers, whose money will be wasted, will not have their attention diverted from the real issue by any of the congenial mud with which he endeavors to cover it. He was largely the means of having the town accept the highest tender for its pumping plant, against the advice of its paid engineer. A difference of thousands of dollars is involved in the transaction. No private business man or firm would take such a course with the unseemly haste and want of proper enquiry that characterized the making of the contract. It was a breach of faith with, and unbecomingly expression of want of confidence in the town's consulting engineer that were entirely unbecomingly. No attempt has been made to justify the course taken, and if Mr. Watt and his confederates cannot justify it, their silence and his would be more seemly than the publication of the ex-alderman's underbred personalities.

Chatham Town Council.

The Town Council of Chatham held its regular monthly session at a Council Chamber on Monday evening last, His Worship, Mayor Snowball, presiding. The minutes were read and confirmed. The Mayor said he had a number of letters, some of them relating to matters already dealt with and some more recent, but he thought the information some of them contained should be known to the public. One was as follows:—

BOSTON, APRIL 20, 1901.

HON. W. B. SNOWBALL, MAYOR, CHATHAM, N. B.

Dear Sir:—I enclose a letter from D. McDonald, McCall & Co. which will explain itself. Will you please notify them at once in regard to the matter, which I suppose you want to fit the threads of your hose coupling, or the 2 1/2 inch nozzle for ordinary hose couplings and the steam nozzles are for the suction of your fire engine. After last evening you in Chatham, I was informed that I was to be the contractor for the purchase of the Worthington triple expansion pump for which the Council has made a contract. This is not true, and I wish to disclaim any responsibility for the making of this contract. I enclose a copy of my report upon the bids for pumping machinery. I wish it to be distinctly understood that I do not advocate the pump that was chosen. The difference in the bids between the pump which I suggested, including the difference in the cost of the Underwriters' pump, is about \$4000.00, or if the other high duty pump \$2000. I do not wish to be held responsible for this increase in the cost of the work.

Yours very truly,
FREDERICK C. COFFIN.

I enclose you a copy of the letter from the Mayor also the copy of the letter enclosed in the foregoing as follows:

[Copy.]
BOSTON, APRIL 6, 1901.

DEAR GEORGE WATT, CHATHAM, N. B.

MR. SNOWBALL:—Your letter of April 2nd received, and also bids on pumping machinery. I find on examination of these bids that they stand as follows:

Smart-Ely Machine Co., compound condensing engine, duty 30 million, \$4800.00; compound condensing pump, duty 30 million, \$7000.00; Underwriters' pump, \$1400.00.

Northington Machine Co., compound condensing engine, duty 30 million, \$5043.00; Underwriters' pump, \$1700.00.

Miller Foundry Co., triple expansion engine, 100 millions duty, \$6200.00; compound condensing pump, duty 30 million, \$920.00; Underwriters' pump, \$1841.00.

The lowest bidder was the Smart-Ely Machine Co. of Hamilton, Canada. The compound condensing pump that was chosen is, as appears as good as the others offered of the same type. They are also the lowest bidders on the high duty pump. They are also the lowest bidders on the compound condensing pump which they offer at \$4,800.00 a type, which has generally been used in works of this size. The high duty engine which they offer at \$7000.00 is, however, the economical engine. Based on an average consumption of 350,000 gallons per day for 365 days a year this pump will use 53 tons of coal per year less than the other high duty pump. This amount of coal at 85c per ton amounts to \$2200.00 per year, which would be the saving in the cost of coal between the two pumps.

On the other hand there is the interest on the difference in the cost of the pumps and the depreciation. The interest, I presume, would be a per cent, and the depreciation nearly as much more. It would be safe to say that the two items would be 8 per cent on the difference in cost of the two plants. This difference in cost is \$2200.00, or on account of the increased size of the engine house probably at least \$2500.00 more, making a total of \$4700.00, which would amount to 8 per cent on \$2000.00 per year, or a saving in favor of the high duty pump of \$900.00.

I do not wish to make any recommendation in regard to your choice of pumps or other than to give you the information, leaving it to your own judgment to decide what is the best to do, whether to pay the \$2000.00 additional for the more economical pump and probably save \$900.00 a year, or pay the above estimate, or to keep the first cost of your works down.

For your information I will give you a comparison of the items which we have so far received bids upon and my original estimate. You will remember that at the time we were employed last fall I advised you that the works would cost \$2200.00 less than I estimated in 1898 on account of the rise in prices. This rise has been largely in matters connected with iron work and machinery.

The items are as follows:

Items.	Est. of '98.	Bids rec'd.
Boilers.	\$ 1,144.00	\$ 1,284.70
Hyd. Pumps.	2,140.00	2,140.00
Pumps.	27,210.00	33,740.00
Casting.	900.00	1,125.00
Stand pipes.	5,200.00	5,300.00
Pump.	4,800.00	4,800.00
Underwriters' pump.	900.00	1,400.00
Total.	2,500.00	12,800.00
Total.	\$44,814.00	\$51,594.70
Excess.	7,780.00	
	\$52,594.70	\$52,594.70

The estimate on the stand pipe was \$6,000.00, but in the plans I have increased the height of the foundation and the cost of the stand pipe five feet, so that my estimate will cost more than my estimate and the stand pipe less. On the same basis the \$2,500.00 is given as the equivalent price in the estimate.

[This bid for the boiler is my present estimate. Your lowest bid for boilers was \$3,137.00, but these boilers, which were designed for the electric light plant as well as the water works. You have decided now not to connect the lighting plant with the water works, and I find that the boiler would be ample for the latter and am sending you to-day an invitation to the bidders to revise their prices for the high boilers under the same conditions as the 60 inch boiler. I am also sending out these invitations to all of the bidders, so you will see that the boiler matter must stand for a little while until I get the bids.

You will see by the above figures that the increase has been in the items to the present estimate nearly \$8,000.00. I believe that there will be no such increase in the 60 inch boiler of construction, but there may be some, and there probably will be an increase in the cost of the pumping station. The great increase in the above figures is in the stand pipe. My estimate in 1898 was from actual quotations from this same company that are now furnishing the pipe.

In regard to the boilers, I will say that the bids were as follows:

Smart Ely Machine Co.,	\$3,500.00
Miller Foundry Co.,	3,137.00
Rubb Engineering Co.,	3,400.00
Same Company for special boiler,	3,294.00
T. A. McLean,	3,294.00

It had slipped my mind that our tenders were designed for the electric light plant until the bids were received. We, of course, must change the design and use the boiler which was originally designed for the water works. As stated above, I am sending out invitations for new bids; but, if you choose, I will be glad to refer to the lowest bidders, it would be perfectly all right to make a trade with them direct, if you can do so to your satisfaction, on the 60 inch boiler and not wait for any further bids. I think on the whole I will send all the invitations to you and you may send them out or to the other bidders as you see fit. I hope you will inform me of your decision on the pump matter, just as soon as possible, so that we can go on with our plans for the pumping station. We shall need a little data from the builders of the pumps before we can do this, and will please give me your decision in regard to the location of the pumping station, whether it is to be near the road or near the dam. If it is to be near the dam, please send me the 60 inch boiler which I described as being needed some time ago.

We will not wait until Monday the 14th for the signatures for the pumping machinery, boilers and iron work for the sewers, leaving you to fill in the necessary blanks when you decide to whom the contract is to be awarded.

Yours truly,
(Signed) LEA & COFFIN.

We also note that you will open the bids on April 24th, and will send you a day or

Monday specifications for pipe laying in one section, sewers in two sections, stand pipe foundation, and plan for stand pipe roof.

Your obedient servant,
(Signed) FREDERICK C. COFFIN.

In course of reading the letter from Mr. Coffin to ex-alderman Watt, the Mayor said it would be observed that Mr. Coffin put in \$2800 as the price to be paid for the boilers under the contract he supposed would be entered into.

Commenting on the subject of the letters, His Worship said that the new council in looking into the matter found that the contracts had not been made with the Smart-Ely Company, as the town's engineer had advised it should be, but with Messrs. Miller instead. The committee were still investigating but he could not say whether the contract was made adversely or not. It seemed, as the matter was now presented, that the late council had acted too hastily, on advice from outside parties, before taking which they should have again referred to Mr. Coffin and so soon decided to go contrary to his judgment. It seemed that a gentleman representing Messrs. McDonald of Montreal, who were interested with Messrs. Miller in the tendering, had come to Chatham and endeavored in every legitimate way to press their claims to the contract, and no blame could attach to him or his firm, or Messrs. Miller, but the Council should have hesitated before accepting his views as against those of their engineer. However, the Board was now negotiating with Messrs. Miller in regard to certain changes, which they hoped would lift the town's position some measure. A committee of the whole having considered the subject, Ald. Murray and he [the Mayor] had communicated with Messrs. Miller in reference to the pumping engine, proposing some changes. Mr. James Miller had met them in a courteous spirit and said he would communicate with his Montreal friends. He had done so and written a letter. [This is His Worship's record.]

The letter said in effect that they [the Miller Co.] were awarded the contract in a proper manner by a body competent to make it, but they were willing to meet the Council and bring Mr. Dyer from Montreal to consult as to any propositions that might be made, the town to pay that gentleman's expenses, the committee to come to the conclusion that this is the best way to proceed, and Mr. Dyer here, as his firm had the contract, and probably would not concede any material departure from it.

The committee had authorized him [the Mayor] to write to the Miller Company in reference to the boilers. They were satisfied that 60 inch boilers would be, as stated by Mr. Coffin, furnish ample power for the pumping machinery and they were desirous of having the contract already closed with Messrs. Miller for 60 inch boilers modified. Mr. Coffin had estimated the 60 inch boilers at \$2,800 and he had written to Mr. Miller asking if he would not meet the views of the committee to that extent and give them the smaller boilers for the \$2,800.

In reference to the pumps he had asked Mr. Miller to state what was a practical advantage to be derived from a practical standpoint, from a high duty or low duty pump, so that the committee might be able to estimate whether the town would be justified in paying the extra price.

Regarding the Underwriters' pump, he had said that their [the Miller Co.] price was so much above what others quoted—al of this style of pumps being of similar construction—and according to the specification stated in the tender, they could not see where the great advantage existed, but where Messrs. Miller might be able to explain this satisfactorily. While feeling that they [Messrs. Miller] had the contract and that the town was bound by it, yet they might be disposed to meet their views to make an exchange if it were found more satisfactory to the town.

Mr. Miller said that he had a letter from Mr. Miller dated May 4th. His Worship read it and it was a request for written authority from the Council to proceed with the pumps, etc. He, the Mayor, had also received another letter this [Monday] evening from Mr. Miller asking to be informed of the date on which the Council had stopped the work on the contract. The subject, as he had intimated, was still under the consideration of the Public Works Committee. He had made some figures on the tenders submitted, in view of information they had in reference to the items included in them.

By taking the Worthington high duty pump at \$4,800.00, and the Underwriters' pump at \$1,400.00, the town must pay an excess of \$3,398.00. Interest and sinking fund on which difference at 8 per cent would be \$309.30 per annum. Total \$3,707.30.

And the annual loss on pump alone is 18.50. But to this must be added the cost of the interest and sinking fund of which interest and sinking fund of which \$30.00. And the total difference is \$3,737.30. And the excess for Underwriters' pump—35.28. And the total difference is \$3,772.58.

And it is seen that the town's loss under the contract is \$3,772.58. The Smart-Ely low duty pump? Mayor Snowball: I will read what he wrote on the subject—

"The lowest bid was the Smart-Ely Machine Company of Hamilton, Canada. The compound condensing pump offered by them is apparently as good as the others offered of the same type. They are also the lowest bidders on the high duty pump. They are contractors for the pumping machinery at Pictou and as far as I have had dealings with them they seem to be a desirable company to deal with. I should recommend that the contract for the pumping machinery be awarded to them. They are also lowest on the Underwriters' pump."

These contracts would amount, in all, to \$80,549.75. The arrangement with Mr. Coffin was estimated at \$6,000; buildings, \$5,000; land already paid for, \$2,000; stand pipe foundation, say \$3,000; wells, say \$1,850; surveys, say \$1,000—or a total of \$18,850, which, added to the \$60,549.75, would make a grand total of \$79,400.75, without taking account of extra, such as the intake dam, sewerage on the river, or the town's estimated cost of the works. The amounts estimated for hay and coal—Wm. Wye, A. W. Waters, Wm. Whalen, Chas. Rainsborough, Collector of Dog Tax—Wm. Green. Revisors of Votes—Wm. Kerr, Jas. F. Auditor—Wm. M. Salter.

Adopted. Mayor Snowball said that as he was indirectly interested in his own behalf and for his brother in a report which he was informed was to be next submitted by the chairman of the Light Committee, he would call that gentleman to the chair and retire from the Council, which he did, Ald. March taking the chair.

Ald. Murdoch, from the committee, submitted an inventory of the Electric Light Company's plant, which he said was more in detail than the former one, which was thought to be satisfactory, although good enough to run an election on (laughter). He read the inventory and the committee's recommendation that the company's plant, etc., be taken over by the town on 1st June, in accordance with the vote of the public meeting of ratepayers. In reference to poles said to have been in dispute with the Telephone Company, he read a letter from that company, addressed to the Mayor and also a copy of a resolution of the company passed at a regular meeting relinquishing all claim to the poles referred to and said to be in dispute.

Ald. Murray moved, seconded by Ald. Murdoch, that the offer of the Chatham Electric Light Company to sell its plant and franchises to the town for \$25,000 be accepted and the works taken over June 1st.

Ald. Nicol said he might not be able to get a satisfactory price for the town bonds to obtain the money to pay for the plant; that a question had been raised as to the validity of the town dealing with such matters by reason of the alleged disqualifying position of the Mayor.

Ald. Murray: The election is over now. Ald. Murray said this consideration might affect the sale of the bonds. He would aid to Ald. Murray's motion, "provided satisfactory use of bonds can be effected by that time."

Ald. Murray seconded this. Ald. Murray said he decidedly objected to any such proposal. Questions of this kind might be raised for election purposes, when certain people wanted to obtain political advantage of their opponents and perhaps at times after election, but they had no place here. Mr. Snowball was duly elected and sat here as Mayor and there was no question that any act of this Council was other than valid, regardless of the question of the Mayor's qualification. No such act could be nullified, but it would be binding on all parties. Supposing that he [Ald. Murray] was not qualified? That would not affect the validity of any act done by the Council while he sat at the board, and the same principle applied to all members, as well as the Mayor. The Mayor was thoroughly qualified. He might say, also that investors were generally well informed on such matters as these and were not at all to be as much affected by the canvasses on the subject as were Ald. Nicol and some other people who were told.

The question being put on the amendment it was lost. Ald. Nicol and Wye voted for it. Ald. Murray's motion was carried by the same vote reversed.

Ald. Maher moved that W. C. Winslow be instructed to prepare the necessary papers for the transfer of the Electric Light plant, etc., to the town.

Ald. Murray said it was the duty of the company who were the vendors of the property, to bear the expense of preparing the papers and their privilege to engage whomever they would to do the work. There was no reason why the expense should be put upon the town, as Ald. Maher's motion would have the effect of doing.

The Mayor agreed with Ald. Murray's view of the matter said Mr. Winslow had some [Continued on 3rd page]

CANADA EASTERN RAILWAY. WINTER 1900-1.

Still further notice, trains will run on the above Railway, daily (Sundays excepted) as follows:

Between Fredericton, Chatham and Loggieville. Connecting with I. C. R. GOING NORTH.

FOR CHATHAM (read down)	Express	Freight	FOR FREDERICTON (read up)	Express	Freight
6:00 a.m.	3:00 p.m.	Fredericton, 1:00	4:30	Nelson, 9:50 a.m.	1:40
6:30	3:15	Fredericton, 1:15	4:45	Nelson, 10:20	2:05
6:50	3:30	Fredericton, 1:30	5:00	Nelson, 10:50	2:30
7:10	3:45	Fredericton, 1:45	5:15	Nelson, 11:20	3:00
7:30	4:00	Fredericton, 2:00	5:30	Nelson, 11:50	3:30
7:50	4:15	Fredericton, 2:15	5:45	Nelson, 12:20	4:00
8:10	4:30	Fredericton, 2:30	6:00	Nelson, 12:50	4:30
8:30	4:45	Fredericton, 2:45	6:15	Nelson, 1:20	5:00
8:50	5:00	Fredericton, 3:00	6:30	Nelson, 1:50	5:30
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