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Woodstock, July 10, 1906—1428

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MAYOR MUNRO WRITES A LETTER.

To the Editor of Carleton Sentinel:—

Your course in making such an attack on me was something of a surprise to me. In talking this matter over with Mr. Carvell before that form of tender complained of was even drawn up, he stated that his Co would be perfectly willing to submit a tender to furnish Motor, Pump, and Lamps as well as current. The first tender form calls for the Co tendering to furnish Motor and Lamps and current and the Town to furnish the pump installed. It cannot be shown that it favors any particular Co as against the other Co but under it the interests of the Town are guarded in order to make such an experiment, and for doing this, you take the part of the private Co as against the interests of the Citizens, and in order to support your case, you publish a grabbed and incorrect statement of my remarks and course, and your course is neither fair or decent. If this scheme were promoted and the Railway Power Co not in a position to tender, would the SENTINEL take such a strong stand against the rights of the Citizens. That I have favoured just such a scheme for Pumping since the New Power Co's Dam was nearing completion, Sept 1904 can be shown by correspondence in regard to Pumps to be run by electric current, consequently the dispute is over the details of the scheme. And this is just where the Town may be sacrificed. My ruling Monday night was all right. You know it. If Coun Leighton had appealed from my ruling, and my ruling not sustained and I had then refused to put the motion, you might have sustained your charge of my being arbitrary. This was not done. Now in regard to some of your articles, under head of "Thirty or Forty," which, permit me to say that this was no private tender scheme as intimated by you. The tender was drawn up by me, and the number of lamps specified was thirty the number was afterwards changed to forty in the copy kept by the committee, and it was an oversight of mine that the number was not changed in the copies handed to Mr. Carvell and Mr. Connell. It will be seen however by referring to this tender, that this error did not prevent the Town from having as many lights as the Council might want, as the Co tendering were to state price for each lamp installed in addition to the original thirty. The Water & Light Committee met at my house and Coun Dunbar Fisher and Fields approved of the tender form as far as it went, but Coun Fields would not sign the letter to the Co's because a clause was not inserted asking for tender for water and light service combined in a lump sum.

Now under head of "No More Subterranean Methods" I take it that you refer to the action of the Committee asking for tenders ahead of instructions from the Council. Were they doing this, and if they were, were they exceeding their authority. As a matter of fact they had instructions from the Council to ask for such tenders. The Light Com had asked months ago, for the Light tender, and but one tender was received and that from the Woodstock Electric Light Co. The Water Co had not previously asked for tenders for pumping, and this motion had not been rescinded, consequently they had a perfect right to ask for tenders. Again the report of the expert Engineer had, at a previous meeting in July been referred to Water & Light Committee to report on, and in asking for such tenders they were only making an effort to get the information as to the cost of electric power, so as to arrive at the cost, and be in a position to submit such figures to such expert for his advice. Coun Dunbar was acting perfectly right and straightforward in presenting his report of what the Committee had done, and making his motion for approval of what they had done, and submitting the copy of the form of tender to the Council, and the fact that he did not have a seconder for his motion would lead a person to think that while we may not live in "Russia" or "Turkey" we have some Turks or Russians amongst our Citizens, and that the Czar of the present Council does not occupy the Chair. I would ask you to publish that remarkable form of tender which you state is on exhibition in your office, and let the Citizens see its contents.

Under head of "Information wanted" you ask me to state how much it will cost to pump the Town water and run 40 Arc Light on the basis of one cent per kilowatt. Further on you insinuate that Mr. Barbour has been misled by some person furnishing information from which he has made up his estimates. In regard to the first I think this information will be all ready when the tenders are being considered. In respect to the second, I think the expert writing for the SENTINEL has got into a muddle here. I may be wrong but

the way I read his report is that the \$2400.00 is the yearly expense for pumping the water only. I would also point out to the SENTINEL expert that the one cent kilowatt basis is to compete with pumping to reservoir by a new Steam Plant of higher efficiency than the present plant. His report will show that he states with a steam plant of higher efficiency used as an auxiliary to meet the requirements for fire demand of the present system, 50 per cent of the fuel could be saved, consequently I think the rate given per kilowatt is for a new steam plant and to compete with the present plant. I think this is borne out by the final section of his report in which he says "the provision of a reservoir with new steam plant or electric equipment, if power can be purchased at about one cent per kilowatt hour, is the most desirable solution of your problem. If the first cost is prohibitive then direct pumping by steam is the remaining alternative." Such is the statement of the Engineer employed by the Council to examine into what we had better do in order to improve our system. Coun Leighton and Fields were very pronounced in favor of getting such expert opinion, and that the report was not exactly what was anticipated is quite evident from subsequent events.

Under heading "Mayor Munro in a muddle" you state "The rival power Companies under the plan or scheme of the Mayor are invited to state at what amount per kilowatt they will furnish sufficient power to pump water and light Streets," you only state one part of the proposal and leave out the proposal asking for a rate, consequently you were not dealing fairly with the subject. This can be seen by referring to the tender on exhibition as you state. You are also in error when you say I insisted upon Coun Leighton inserting a clause specifying that the estimate must not exceed one cent per kilowatt. When I suggested to Coun Leighton was that a clause be inserted stating price at which power would be furnished at per kilowatt. He declined to do this, and I ruled the motion out of order, as a protest against such action by the Council. I did not see any other course open to me in order to attract the attention of the Citizens to the matter. True it was only a tender to be submitted to the Council, but if a Council will not act in accord with the advice of a majority of the Committees having charge of particular departments, and members of the Council outside of those two departments most interested will take the matter out of their hands, and refuse to insert any alternative proposal, I submit that such a course on their part might be deemed arbitrary. You intimate that my action was in the interest of some competitor, and I will admit that such is the case, but that such competitor is the Town of Woodstock only. I have no other interest in the matter, other than a fair deal for the Town. The resolution in question was again submitted by Coun Leighton Friday evening, and was passed without division. The Tenders will be received on the 30th inst and a Council meeting will be held that evening when they will be read and the Council will have to decide as to their acceptance or rejection.

The Town has a pumping plant of its own such as it is, and I am on record as advocating either increasing its pumping capacity or putting on meters to reduce the consumption, have urged this upon the Coun for the past three years. The Council get an expert to give us his opinion and apparently he does not think that meters would be a solution of our trouble, but advises other means. Neither does he suggest the scheme for which tenders are to be received. When the expert came here he was told that our plant was put in over 30 years ago, and he was told by the entire Committee that what he wanted, was to improve the plant on lines that would make it an up to date plant, whether the Power was Steam, Producer Gas or Electricity. He gives the cost on the two first named plants, but not on the last. Why? His report is clear on the point.

The matter all boiled down just amounts to this, that the tender advocated by the Committee and myself while asking for a kilowatt rate also asked for a flat rate for water and light service, and the tenderer to furnish the motors and lamps until the experiment was tried.

The cost of the water added to the light would give the total cost per year. If the experiment was a failure the town would not stand to lose much. This is the point at issue. Under the tenders asked for now the town stands the whole expense of the outfit for the experiment. That is the question for the citizens to understand. Yours truly,

DONALD MUNRO, Mayor.

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THE MAYOR'S LETTER.

In this issue we gladly give space to a communication from Mayor Munro, in answer to the articles bearing upon him in the last issue of this paper. He starts out with the assertion that our course in pointing out wherein he erred was a surprise. It need not have been. When Mr. Munro was a candidate for office we felt that it was not our duty to come out against his candidature, as the fight was merely a factional one. The SENTINEL, it is true, expressed the opinion that he would make a very good mayor. That in no way bound us to applaud all his acts. The SENTINEL has always, under the present ownership, been brave enough to strike right out from the shoulder, and will continue to do so without fear or favor, whenever it seems to us the time is opportune. He further says our course was neither fair nor decent. That is where a whole lot of people will differ with His Worship. At any rate we did what we did in the open. If our course in condemning what nine men out of ten admit was an arbitrary and uncalled for tuling is neither fair nor decent, what words can we find strong enough to adequately label the treatment Coun Leighton received? Will the Mayor seriously affirm that Coun Leighton's motion received fair or decent treatment at his hands? If it was out of order on that memorable Monday, why did it become in order on the following Friday? The facts are as we have stated. The Mayor was wrong in declining to put the motion on the 6th inst, and everyone admits it. We are not ashamed to say so either. Read the Mayor's reasons for not putting it on the sixth inst. Will the citizens contend that the Mayor has the right to hold up any motion merely to get the people interested? Surely not. Under our system the Mayor has no veto power. He has not even a vote except in case of a tie. He has absolutely no alternative than to accept any motion made in proper terms at the proper time. His Worship in stating that his Monday night's ruling was alright, and we knew it, again displays that positive assurance so characteristic of his course on the night in question. May we ask why did he not give these alleged reasons at the time, instead of waiting nearly a week? As to the Mayor's suggestion that the Czar of the present Council does not occupy the chair, we may say there seems to be no competitor for the honor, unless he hints at one of his associates, a member of the Water Committee. As to his statement asking for publication of the form of Tender in this office, viz that sent to the Dam Company, we will say that it is on exhibition here, anyone may see it, in fact his worship knows and has admitted that it contains the word "thirty" instead of "forty" and he knows the reason why. We see no good reason for further argument. When the Mayor finally accepted Coun Leighton's motion, the wrong was righted. That being the case, we are free to admit that in so far as we are concerned we are willing to give the Mayor and Council the opportunity of dealing with the matter as if there had been no friction. What we want is the best bargain the town can drive. Probably that is what all hands to this dispute are after, but like the various religious bodies in their efforts to reach Heaven, we are taking different courses, yet all aiming in the same direction. We thank the Mayor for his letter. Coun Dunbar, Coun Fisher or anyone else will be given the same privilege. Our columns are open for discussion.

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