

The Carleton Sentinel

FRIDAY JULY 11th 1919

THE TOWN MANAGER.

Carrying out the wishes of the citizens, as expressed at the town meeting on January last, town council, Monday night, adopted the manager plan of civic government and appointed R. Fraser Armstrong to the position of town manager. This move, among other desirable improvements, is an effort to divorce town government from politics and other influences that do not tend to proficiency in town matters. The town manager is at the head of a corporation in exactly the same sense as is the general manager of a railroad company. He will at once set his house in order and name the officials whom he needs and cut off all unnecessary items of expense. It is understood he will not be interfered with in the details of his administration, for he is responsible for the work and will have power adequate to his responsibility. His sole endeavor will be to make good, which is essential to holding the position.

The majority of the citizens think this plan is good for Woodstock. Of course there will be the usual noise and clamor from sources that did not favor the old method, but have nothing new to suggest. Now that the town has made up its mind to put its business on a business basis the new system should have the hearty support of all citizens.

A WISE CHOICE.


(St. John Globe.)

The experiment Woodstock is to try, of government by a town manager, begins auspiciously with the selection of a competent engineer with practical experience in civic problems as the manager. R. Fraser Armstrong, C. E., who has accepted the position of town manager, gave St. John good service, before the war, as an engineer of the water and sewerage system. Previous to coming here he had done important work in the west. His ability and his experience justify the belief that Woodstock has chosen wisely. If the authorities are equally wise in giving him the free hand which a manager must have if he is to make a success in any undertaking, the outcome can hardly fail to be another community satisfied with a civic system now in operation in two hundred and forty-seven American communities.

RIGHT OF PEDESTRIANS.

"The automobile is here to stay and there must be a general adjustment to the conditions it creates," says a writer in commenting upon the increasing number of accidents. The drivers of cars, however, must be taught that blowing a horn gives them no right to run down the person who does not hear or heed it. Pedestrians, on the other hand, have their responsibilities too, and among their obligations is that of keeping their wits about them while traveling streets necessarily crowded with rapidly moving vehicles.

While people of all shades of politics are praising the work being done on the roads of the province, the St. John Standard has made the startling discovery that "the main highways between St. John and Fredericton, and between St. John and St. Stephen, are in such wretched condition that visitors to this province from New England point to their cars back by boat rather than undertake the experience of a return trip." It is dollars to doughnuts that the Rip Van Winkle who penned the above lines for the organ of the patriotic pot-boilers has not set foot outside of St. John this season, and probably if put to the test would not know a highway road from a cowpath. The only road of



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which he can speak with authority is the broad one which leadeth to political destruction.—Mail.

Hon. Mr. Lemieux says that if Rev. Mr. Ivens, the Methodist minister who was at the head of the Winnipeg strike, were a Jesuit priest, he would be taken out and shot. The Toronto Register thinks that it would not be as bad as all that, but believes we would have had columns of wild talk in the public press about the "baneful influence of Romanism," and stories of communications between the Vatican and Winnipeg. It is not without interest, however, that those secular papers, chiefly in Ontario, which never lose an opportunity to strike under the belt when Catholicism is concerned, are now denouncing the Methodist church because of the actions of two of its ministers.—Freeman.

PROCEEDINGS MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

(Continued from last week.)

Warden Fleming—The Municipality will buy outright; there will be no partnership; the town will pay pro rata for its own poor.

Coun. Smith—I was at the farm and was not favorably impressed with it. If I were to buy personally I could not see that amount of money in it. There is no harm done if we don't buy, because the town councilors now act as if they do not want to sell.

Coun. Phillips—I can't agree with Coun. Smith. I was impressed with the place very much. It is the cheapest property at \$6500 handy to town that I know of. The main building can be made to hold all the poor in the county. An annex must be built for caretaker and family.

Coun. Keith—What part of the \$6500 does the town pay?

Mr. Hartley—Our seventh of the amount.

Coun. Keith—We are getting a good bargain at \$6500.

A Councillor—The town does not clothe its inmates very well.

Coun. Phillips—I saw nothing wrong. The house was clean. The inmates were clothed as good as many paupers in the different parishes.

Coun. Gallagher—The house inside was nice and clean, and the inmates were well fed from the products of the farm. We feed the caretaker and family, as well as inmates, and help many who do not go to the municipal home.

Coun. Tompkins—The time has arrived to purchase a poor farm, but

I am not in favor of putting money in that plant. I did not find things as I expected. There is altogether too much land. What we want is a small farm with plenty of wood and clear running water. The caretaker should have a separate place for his wife and family. It is not fair to place a decent man who has met with hard luck in with the company of lazy people who get into the poor house. I believe that the Municipal Home will cost the Parish of Peel much more than under the present system.

Adjourned till 1.30.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

Council met at 2 p. m., Warden presiding.

RESOLUTIONS OF CONDOLENCE.

Moved by Coun. Lamont, seconded by Coun. Keith, and carried unanimously:—

Whereas God in his infinite wisdom has seen fit to remove from our circle two of the members of this Municipal Council, (namely) Councillors Robert Moxon and John Perry, men who were good citizens and had always taken a prominent part in public affairs, and whereas two families circles have been broken by the death of our brothers, be it therefore resolved that this Council now in session, express our sincere sympathy with the bereaved families, and that this resolution be placed upon the minutes of this meeting and that a copy be sent to each of the families so bereft. And may He who doeth all things well sustain those who are left to mourn.

Coun. Carvell—I don't like this poor farm proposition. We have not had enough information. The conditions were not as good as I thought. There is not room enough for sixty inmates. Coun. Perry has said that I was always opposed to the poor farm. I am not. I would not buy this one for myself and I will vote against the motion.

Coun. Bull—I do not like the situation. There is a gully through the center of it. I will vote against the purchase.

Coun. Melville—On principle I am opposed to a poor farm. Peel can get the poor boarded at \$3 a week. I have voted against a poor farm every time it came up. I have bought as much land as any councillor at the board, and \$6500 is a fair estimate of the value of the property. I have always voted against giving the town of Woodstock anything for nothing. The town is now talking business. I am going to vote for it if the town will give us the whole plant for \$6500.

Coun. Phillips—I am going to vote to buy the farm. We can spend \$2000 and have a splendid home. If we buy land and build, it will cost us \$15,000 or \$20,000. We will never get a better chance. Some of the poor have relatives who keep them at a small cost to the parish, but many have no relatives and we have to farm them out and they get no care.

Coun. Stevens—I have advocated the purchase of a municipal home for fourteen years. I am sick, sore and tired hearing it discussed. Let us dispose of the matter now one way or the other. The town is trying to put nothing over on the county. If the motion goes through the county will be putting one over on the town because the farm is worth more than \$6500. Coun. Melville says it is a good value. Knowing that genial councillor as we do, his answer should be sufficient. The option the town gave us expires after this session. If the county builds a home for itself, surely you would not expect the town to pay one-seventh when we have a home of our own. The poor should not be auctioned off like cattle; they are not getting the treatment that they deserve. Somebody said something.

Coun. Stevens—The town poor do not wear starched shirts, stand-up collars and at all times have their boots polished but they are kept clean and live on the fat of the land the products of the farm. Personally I would feel like voting against this motion because the town is losing money at \$6500, but for humanity's sake I will vote to buy the farm.

Coun. Melville—Will you give us lock, stock and barrel for \$6500.

Coun. Gallagher—Town Councillor Harry Bell, chairman of the poor committee, is in the audience and whatever he says goes. Personally I will vote for a municipal home wherever the Council decided to buy it.

Coun. Hagerman—Is it not true that if we decide to build a home elsewhere, the town would have to pay one-seventh of the cost?

Mr. Hartley—You would have to get special legislation, and the government would say that it would not be fair to Woodstock as it had a home of its own to ask it to pay one-seventh and its share of the interest if the money was borrowed.

Coun. Smith—I am in favor of the Council buying a smaller farm and erecting new buildings.

Coun. Anderson—We have not received the information we should have. Has there been any estimate of the amount of wood on the land?

Coun. Melville—I have cruised this farm as much as any farm I ever bought, and I say there is good value for the money.

Coun. Hagerman—The caretaker,

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Simon Adams, showed us as good wood as could be got anywhere.

On motion of Coun. Stevens, seconded by Coun. Kinney, Mayor Nodden addressed the ward and gave full information about the farm.

Coun. Estey—An ideal farm of 175 acres, well watered and well wooded, is mighty hard to find. We have the offer of such a farm for \$6500. It will cost us twice as much to buy land and build. Put a town man on the committee with us and his experience will be worth much to us. I will support the motion.

Coun. Keith—A municipal home is the better way. The poor are costing us \$1 a day for each. In some places they are sold like cattle. The class that bids them in now are not able to care for them properly. I thought at first the price for the farm was too high; now that we get the horses, cattle and everything the farm and the Council can sell it if this reason I am going to support the motion. If a better place shows up, we can sell this farm for what we paid for it and buy the other.

Coun. Gallagher—The Lenahan farm of 100 acres near the poor farm, a few years ago, sold for \$3000. Now the owner wants \$4500 for it. The value will also go up on the poor farm and the Council can sell it if they wish.

Coun. Hagerman—We could sell the front of the farm for \$2000 and spend the money for buildings to be erected in the rear.

The motion to purchase was then put to the Council and carried.

Moved by Coun. Melville, seconded by Coun. Stevens, that the Warden appoint a committee of three, assisted by the solicitor, to arrange for the transfer and carry out the movement. Carried.

The warden appointed Couns. Perry, Melville and Phillips, said committee.

Coun. Carvell—I wish to congratulate the town on putting one over on the county.

Coun. Gallagher—If you say so, I will make a motion to reconsider the question.

Coun. Perry—No, No. It's all over. Moved by Coun. Hagerman, seconded by Coun. Perry, that Coun. Gallagher be added to the committee. Carried.

Coun. Anderson—When the deal goes through, can we send our inmates down.

Coun. Perry—Kent should have the preference. Moved by Coun. Tompkins, seconded by Coun. Hagerman, that the committee just appointed have authority to make the necessary improvements. Carried.

Moved by Coun. Perry, seconded by Coun. Kinney, that the poll tax of John Shaw, returned soldier, of Bristol, be refunded, for 1916 and 1917, and charged to Kent. Carried.

Moved by Coun. Perry, seconded by Coun. Kinney, that Wallace Miller of River de Chute be refunded \$3.50 for 1918 tax, and charged to Kent. Carried.

Moved by Coun. Phillips, seconded by Coun. Gibson, that the delinquent lists for 1911, 12, 13, 14, parish of Northampton, be struck off. Carried.

Moved by Coun. Clark, seconded by Coun. Bull, that Walter Treacarten be appointed commissioner instead of C. O. Miller. Carried.

Moved by Coun. Phillips, seconded by Coun. Gibson, that the Northampton collector be given a commission of five per cent. Carried.

Moved by Coun. Smith, seconded by Coun. Keith, that Joseph Estabrooks be appointed poor master, parish of Brighton, in place of Chesley Estabrooks. Carried.

Moved by Coun. Perry, seconded by Coun. Kinney, that John Crobin, St. (Continued on page eight.)

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