

Tax-Collections Must Be Made Larger

City Council Discussed Matter at Length---New Tax-Collector Suggested---Executions Against Delinquents Likely to Issue---Drainage to Old Race Course to be Improved.

The City Council's regular July session last night was short. The greater part of the time was devoted to discussion of better methods of tax collection. The matter was left in the hands of the Finance Committee with power to act. By several the suggestion was made that there should be a change in the office of tax collector, now filled by H. C. Rutter. It also was decided to expend \$500 to improve drainage conditions in the Old Race Course district.

In the matter of delinquent tax payers it is probable that executions will be issued at once.

Those present were Mayor Mitchell, Ald. Barker, Ald. Burnett, Ald. Everett, Ald. Baxter, Ald. Walker and Ald. Reid.

Auditor's Report.

The Auditor's monthly report was adopted as follows:

Water	\$1,487.47
House connections	350.06
Sewerage	92.45
Wharves	3.00
Market and scales	20.00
Fire Department	252.82
Canada Temperance Act	3.50
Administration of Justice	367.60
City Hall	52.12
Contingent	161.76
Roads and streets	2,275.33
Municipal Home	137.00
Assessing and collecting	2.50
Total	\$5,261.21

Municipal Home.

The monthly report of the Municipal Home Committee was submitted by Ald. Baxter. It showed an expenditure

of \$132.74 for outside relief and \$66.90 for upkeep of the Municipal Home. On Ald. Baxter's motion a check for \$450 was ordered to issue in favor of Commissioner T. A. Niles.

Tax Collections.

Ald. Reid reported on tax collections as follows:

June 1916	\$2,572.92
June 1915	3,464.63

Ald. Reid's Views.

Ald. Reid, in connection with this report, said he was much disappointed at the showing being so much worse than in June 1915. He would like to know from the City Treasurer what was the cause of this. If things were not better he (Reid) would favor a change at the next meeting.

The City Treasurer said he had been busy with water rates, census enumeration and other matters. He had instructed the collector concerning the wishes of the Finance Committee. As a matter of fact, the collections for the past month had been better than in any preceding June except in 1915.

Ald. Wilkinson favored Ald. Reid's suggestion to make a change unless the collector could show better results. There was a large amount of taxes in arrears and it was ridiculous that those who had paid their taxes must pay interest on an overdraft.

Service of Notices.

The City Treasurer pointed out that the collector would be starting short-ly on the service of tax notices, and

in consequence would have less time to devote to tax collections.

County Buildings.

A recommendation from the Grand Jury of the County of York covering the better feeding of gaol prisoners provision for juvenile prisoners, and other matters, was read.

On motion of Ald. Wilkinson the matter was referred to the Buildings Committee.

Ald. Walker issued a warning that there would have to be a considerable expenditure on repairs to the County Court House. Stone trimmings about doors and windows were loose and in a dangerous condition. A portion of the building must also be rewired in order to properly apportion the light-bill between the city and municipality.

A letter from T. C. Burpee & Son protested that that firm had not been given an opportunity to supply a portion of the gravel purchased by the city. The letter was referred to the Roads and Streets Committee.

New Arrangement Wanted.

Ald. Reid moved that the City Treasurer be empowered to make some arrangement for the delivery of tax notices other than those in force within the past few years.

Ald. Wilkinson claimed that the collector had not done satisfactory work or he would have had the present month clear for the serving of tax notices.

Mayor Mitchell advanced the opinion that the city had no tax collector at present, that official being appointed only until June 1.

Ald. Everett thought the Finance Committee should do something to improve conditions.

Ald. Baxter thought that collections should be greater, but did not want someone else paid for doing work the present collector should do.

A Change Suggested.

Ald. Walker was of the opinion that a change should be made, the present collector having been given every opportunity.

Ald. Reid thought no action could be taken until the end of this month, the collector holding office until that time, as he was performing the duties. He would give notice that the Finance Committee would call a special meeting of the Council before the end of July to make arrangements for a change.

The City Treasurer suggested that the collector be called before the Finance Committee and told plainly what was expected of him.

Ald. Reid replied that such had been done already, and the collector knew the views of the committee.

Executions Advised.

Ald. Burnett asked if the collector had power to take legal action to collect taxes. This was the time to compel the payment of all delinquent taxes.

Ald. Reid said the collector worked directly under the City Treasurer, who had power to "put the screws" on to any extent he might deem advisable.

Ald. Walker suggested that the old-fashioned commission basis was better than the present system.

Mayor Mitchell said the commission basis had been tried, but had resulted in collectors getting after the heavy tax payers and letting the small ones go.

Ald. Burnett said he agreed with Ald. Wilkinson that the present collector should deliver the notices and someone else collect the taxes. The time for issuing executions had come.

On the motion of Ald. Everett, seconded by Ald. Baxter, the matter of making the necessary arrangements for tax collections was placed in the hands of the Finance Committee with power to act.

Ald. Reid suggested that the City Treasurer issue a few executions and "start something."

To Extend Back Drain.

Ald. Everett brought up the matter of better drainage for the "Old Race-course" and moved that the Roads and Streets Committee be empowered to expend \$500 on improving the "back drain."

Ald. Baxter seconded the motion. He said that amount should be doubled twice. Residents of that locality were not being used properly. Twice within a fortnight their property had been flooded. Last year nothing had been done, all money being expended elsewhere.

The motion was carried. The Council then adjourned.



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Announcement**

ALL THE STORES in the city will close at one o'clock EVERY THURSDAY AFTERNOON DURING THE MONTHS OF JULY AND AUGUST.

The stores will be closed on Saturday, July 1st, and keep open on the previous Friday evening.

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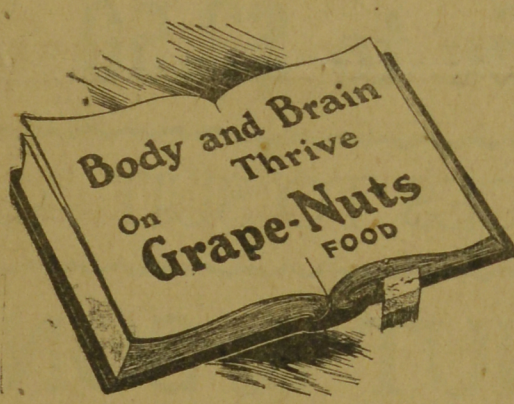
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"When some people around here have a little printing to be done, they visit all the printing offices, get quotations from each one, and then give the work to the man who gives the lowest figures."

"The ordinary user of printing knows his own business, but he is no more a judge of the work of printing than he is a judge of what sort of medicine a doctor should give him for the cure of his ailment. If people ask me for quotations and pass me by if my price happens to be a little more than the other fellow, why shouldn't I apply the same method to the doctor, lawyer, dentist and painter? Why not? It's a mighty poor rule that won't work more than one way."

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