

A BREEZY DISCUSSION OVER SCOTT ACT ENFORCEMENT

Mayor Mitchell Had Lively Tilt With Councillor Neill—Other Councillors Take a Hand—Coun. Gould Tells How Liquor Sellar Was Tipped Off on an Intended Raid

The Scott Act row in the Municipal Council, which began yesterday morning with a delegation from the Good Government Association, asking for better enforcement of the Act, and ended about 1 p.m. with a motion calling on Inspector Timmins to resign, was continued yesterday afternoon.

Coun. Sloat's motion for the inspector's resignation was put to the Council and defeated by the narrow margin of two votes. After a great deal of cross-firing and several attempts to secure a statement from someone who knew whether the Scott Act Inspector was appointed at the will of the Council, or from year to year, it was decided, on motion, that at ten o'clock on Friday Secretary-Treasurer Bliss should be prepared to give a legal opinion on the question. Little other business was done except the passing of parish assessments and the presentation of the Buildings Committee report.

Thursday Morning.

The latter part of Thursday morning's proceedings in the Municipal Council were as follows:

Coun. Alex. Brewer said that insufficient enthusiasm had been displayed. There was a magistrate in Marysville who was available.

Coun. Neill replied that these steps had been taken only last week. It might have gone farther and probably would.

Another Charge.

Coun. Hugh Smith asked Inspector Timmins if he had telephoned Abijah Fox of North Lake or had anyone else telephoned him in April, warning him that the Scott Act inspector was coming.

Inspector Timmins said he had not.

Coun. Gould, of North Lake, stated the words of the telephone conversation, and said also that when Mr. Fox attempted to find who was speaking he was told that it was a friend, and when he insisted on knowing, the voice on the other end of the line said "Timmins, Timmins, Timmins!" (Laughter.)

Mayor Mitchell Heard.

Mayor Mitchell was heard, on motion. He said he and the County Councillors were those responsible for conditions in county and city. He regretted that liquor was sold in Fredericton, but at the St. Marys end of the bridge was one of the greatest hell-holes in the county. The city authorities were forced to take action and it was not difficult to get information then. A constant stream of soldiers visited the bar rooms, in spite of the piquet, for sufficient care was not taken in a choice of the piquet. On Christmas Day \$57 worth of liquor was sold at one place in St. Marys.

His Worship asked Inspector Timmins if he believed that an inspector could enforce the Act and visit the barrooms himself. The inspector replied in the affirmative.

His Worship asked the Councillors for their opinion, and they replied in the negative.

"It depends whether he's there to see what is going on or there to buy for himself," said Coun. Gould, amid laughter.

His Worship asked the inspector if he were at Long's Hotel on Aug. 1, 1914, when a raid was made. The inspector said he was, as he had arrested a man and had taken him to the hotel to have his bill settled.

His Worship said that he had never had that confirmed before.

Coun. Harry Smith—"The inspector offers an explanation."

Mayor Mitchell—"I accept it."

His Worship went on to say that seven cases against the men in St. Marys were being pressed by the city. There would be heavy expense, and he asked the county to pay it. If the county authorities would get information of the sale of liquor in Fredericton, the city would pay the expense.

Coun. Neill Replies.

Coun. Neill asked Mayor Mitchell if he thought there was less liquor sold in the past two years than before.

Mayor Mitchell said he believed so. Coun. Neill said he could go from

one end of the town to the other and find bars running wide open.

Mayor Mitchell replied that Coun. Neill evidently was able to go in and buy liquor in any bar. No temperance man could do that.

Coun. Neill replied that he always had voted for Scott Act and would vote for prohibition.

Mayor Mitchell said he was glad that Coun. Neill was ready to co-operate and go the whole way in Scott Act enforcement.

Coun. Neill replied that in some things His Worship had gone the whole way.

Mayor Mitchell replied that he could declare before God Almighty that he had not had a drink in thirteen years.

Conditions in Stanley.

Coun. Douglass discussed conditions in Stanley. To his query, Inspector Timmins replied that he never had been told by the former councillors for Stanley to keep away from the parish. Coun. Douglass told of his personal efforts to prevent the sale of liquor in Stanley, and said that he never would tell an inspector to stay away from Stanley parish. (Hear, hear!)

Coun. Hunter asked Mayor Mitchell if he had asked Inspector Timmins to make a raid in St. Marys before the city police made it.

Mayor Mitchell replied that he had not, because on a former occasion the inspector had disregarded information which he (Mitchell) had given.

Coun. Hunter said that he should have asked the inspector.

Coun. Sloat said that much information had been given and in view of that he would move that Inspector Timmins be asked to resign.

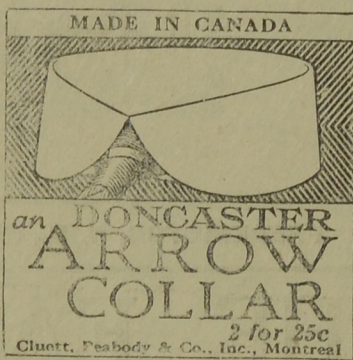
Wants Fair Play.

Inspector Timmins stated that he laid information with Magistrate Limerick on Dec. 20 against a man in St. Marys. His papers lay there until after the raid had been made by the city police. All he wanted was fair play.

Coun. Douglass said that statement put a different phase on the question. He could not vote against the inspector unless there was further explanation.

Wants Waking Up.

Coun. Harry Smith said that what Inspector Timmins wanted was waking up. He had not enforced the Scott Act satisfactorily. He (Smith) had been very angry at the way Scott Act matters had been going, and had spoken to the inspector about it. As far as the Parish of Douglas was concerned there was no liquor sold there now. One man had gone out of business himself and the other had been closed up by the inspector. As far as St. Marys was concerned, the conditions there were disgraceful.

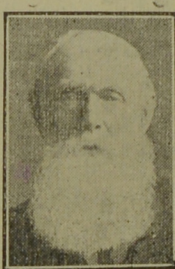


Coun. Robert Graham said that in Prince William the sale of liquor had been stopped.

A motion to adjourn was made and carried.

Thursday Afternoon.

The Council resumed deliberations at 2.30 on Thursday afternoon and considered the motion of Coun. Sloat that Scott Act Inspector Timmins be asked to resign.



Coun. Thompson expressed the opinion that the motion was out of order. He gave the opinion that it was within the power of the Council to reappoint or dismiss the Scott Act inspector as it may see fit.

Coun. Thompson. Coun. Alex. Brewer asked the Secretary Treasurer for an opinion on the subject.

Secretary-Treasurer Bliss stated that the inspector's term of office would expire on Friday, January 7.

Coun. Alex. Brewer drew attention to the fact that a two-thirds vote was required to dismiss the inspector.

Coun. Sloat said that he could re-introduce his motion on Friday.

Coun. Pat Graham thought that the matter should be proceeded with.

Coun. Douglass claimed that the motion was unnecessary.

Motion Defeated.

Question was called for and the vote was recorded as follows:

Yea—Sloat, Reynolds, Jones, Hallett, Alex. Brewer, Gould, Hugh W. Smith, Nason, Everett, Manuel, Thos. Brewer, Pat Graham, Clarkson.—13. Nay—Allen, Pickard, King, Robt. Graham, Goodine, Hunter, Thompson, Harry A. Smith, Neill, Young, Wetmore, Douglass, Lawson, Embleton, Haining.—15.

The motion was declared lost.

Coun. Douglass Explains.

Coun. Douglass, in explanation of his vote, said he was not against temperance. He had asked if the inspector was in office at the pleasure of the Council or from year to year.

Coun. Lawson claimed the official was appointed from year to year.

Coun. Haining's Opinion.

Coun. Haining stated that the arrangement was that the receipts from fines up to the amount named for salary was to be paid to the inspector, and the surplus was to go to the county.

Coun. Alex. Brewer said that Coun. Haining was painting the Council blacker than it was.

Coun. Haining asked the chair if the Council had agreed to pay the inspector \$500 whether he secured any convictions or not.

The Warden replied in the affirmative.

Amid laughter, Coun. Haining denied that any such agreement had been made when Inspector Timmins was elected.

Coun. Sloat said he did not feel at all sore because his motion had been defeated. He felt proud of the stand he had taken.

Legal Opinion Asked.

He then moved a resolution that the Secretary-Treasurer be asked for a legal opinion on the matter of the terms on which the Scott Act inspector had been appointed, whether at the pleasure of the Council or from year to year.

The motion was carried on the understanding that the opinion is to be given at ten o'clock Friday morning.

Coun. Harry A. Smith called for the Board of Health report, but was told it was not ready.

Buildings Committee.

Coun. Everett reported for the Buildings Committee, stating that repairs had been made to the gaol on order of the judge and grand jury, and also that a new roof had been placed on the County Court House at an expenditure of about \$800.

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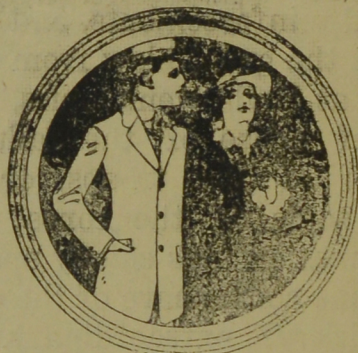
A NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

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