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CITY POLICE MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED AT CONFERENCE OF THE COMMISSION AND COUNCIL

Incidents of Last Week Produced Severe Criticism of the Force
—Too Much Attention Devoted to Prohibition Enforcement at the Expense of Other Law Enforcement—Rewards Offered for Information on Perpetrators of Recent Outrages.

As was expected after the ante-Halloween and Halloween disturbances last week, police matters were to the fore at last night's meeting of the City Council. The old bone of contention, the use of the city police in the enforcement of the Prohibition Act, was again exhibited and the statement was made plainly that the police were devoting on much time the prevention of the sale of liquor that other law enforcement was suffering. Ald. Camp was the first alderman to make a statement on the subject although certain indirect references had been made. Ald. Neill seconded him ably. On the motion of Ald. Cain chairman of the Administration of Justice Committee it was decided to discuss the entire matter of the police force at a joint meeting with the Police Commission at a date to be selected.

In connection with disorderly acts committed Friday and Saturday night it was decided to offer rewards for information leading to arrests and conviction. Other minor items were discussed.

Reward Suggested.

H. C. Rutter, chief of the Fredericton Fire Department, in a communication suggested to the City Council that a reward be offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the persons responsible for the ringing of false alarms of fire and also the opening of fire-hydrants both of which acts had been committed on Saturday night.

The University Misdeeds.

Ald. Neill said the suggestion was a good one. A reward for the discovery of the people who disfigured the Robert Burns statue would also be in order. University students were to blame and should be punished in some way. All students were not responsible but some were.

Mayor Reid said a good horsewhipping would be a suitable punishment.

Ald. Hall said the student body of the University was ready to act in that matter and discover the guilty parties. Some action certainly would be taken by them as all the members of the student-body were not responsible.

Ald. Neill said that it was the police department which should take action. Ald. Camp said that the only wonder was that they had not taken the City Hall.

Ald. Neill said there had been too much vandalism recently. The defacing of plate-glass windows along Queen Street with a diamond or glass-cutter was an instance.

On the motion of Ald. Cooper a reward of twenty-five dollars for information concerning the person who rang in or may ring in a false alarm of fire was offered.

Another Reward.

There was discussion on the question of offering rewards for information concerning the defacing of the Burns statue and various buildings in the city. On the motion of Ald. Neill the amount of the reward was placed at one hundred dollars.

Ald. Cooper said he was very doubtful if any University student would inform on another.

Ald. Neill suggested to Mayor Reid that the Chief of Police should be instructed to follow up these cases and secure information.

Chief Out of Town.

Mayor Reid said that he had attempted to confer with the Chief that morning but had found that he was out of the city on other very important business.

It was remarked that the business was the analysis of beer which had been seized.

Ald. Neill said that the police seemed perfectly able to smell a puddle of beer in somebody's cellar.

A Third Reward.

On motion of Ald. Neill a reward of twenty-five dollars was offered for information leading to the arrest of those who opened fire-hydrants.

Stone Contract.

There was discussion on the matter of the contract of R. T. Baird for stone for street-making purposes.

Ald. Camp stated that Mr. Baird had conferred with the Street Committee and had made three alternative propositions. The Street Committee had suggested to him in turn that he continue under the existing contract until April 1st and if he had not filled requirements by that time, that he ask then for an extension of time.

There was general discussion in which Ald. Neill expressed the opinion that the best thing would be to hold Mr. Baird to his contract.

Ald. Camp said that that practically was the decision of the Street Committee.

Placing German Guns.

Ald. Cooper reported on the matter of placing the captured German guns and constructing concrete bases for them. The special committee on the matter was authorized to make the necessary arrangement. If possible there will be a formal taking over of the guns and a celebration on November 11th the anniversary of Armistice Day.

The positions selected for the guns are, two in front of the Parliament Building, two in front of the Normal School, one in front of the Custom's House and one on the triangular piece of land at the junction of King and Brunswick Streets with Woodstock Road.

Ald. Camp Protests

Ald. Camp said that there had been much comment lately upon the administration of the police force. All recognized that the Prohibition Act must be enforced but the public desired that the police think of something else besides beer. He was second to none in regard to temperance but he could not help recording all the misdemeanors which had taken place within the past few days. Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday night, had seen all these things done.

It was a curious situation when a woman could not call the Chief of Police and complain of certain conditions without being told that her statement was not true. Mrs. Harding Kierstead and Mrs. Lloyd Richards on Thursday night had been interfered with by two drunken bums who had been begging about the city. They ran back to the house they had left and with Mr. Richards started in search of a policeman. They went as far as Regent Street without finding one. Mrs. Kierstead then called the police station by telephone. She called four times without getting an answer. Later she called Policeman Hartt at his home and was told that he had gone off duty and at still another time she called Chief Finley and got in communication with him. She made a complaint to him and he interrupted her statement to say it was not true and to request her to get off the line as he wanted to use it. If no guarantee could be given that the present police force could protect the citizens, let two extra policemen be engaged until March next when the whole question would be decided one way or another.

Continuing, Ald. Camp said there had been stabbing on the street, painting of a statue and buildings, opening of hydrants, robbery at the D. S. C. R. Hospital and other acts of disorder within a short time. It was a strange thing that a number of young men or boys could perpetrate acts which must have taken them at least half an hour, without the police being aware of them.

Ald. Neill of Like Mind.

Ald. Neill said that it was poor business to neglect law and order to enforce one particular law. He was a total abstainer but he certainly must express his opinion. He believed it a mistake for the Police Commission to take over duties of a provincial department. If the police force were not large enough it should be increased. He had been told by a certain citizen that if there was to be an agitation in the City Council on account of police matters, the temperance people would enter the civic political arena and dispose of the agitators. He did not care if the temperance people did get into civic politics and he very much doubted their ability to defeat the aldermen who made this protest. He believed that the citizens in general wished proper police protection and the enforcement of all laws.

Mayor Invites Conference.

Mayor Reid said that as a member of the Police Commission he must express the opinion that the police were in a better position than outsiders to enforce the Prohibition Act. But he thought that the province should be willing to pay its fair share. It was paying \$1,000 for what was worth \$3,000.

A Suggestion.

Ald. Neill suggested that two policemen might be paid by the province and be used exclusively by it leaving the remainder of the force free to patrol the city. He wanted to see the boot-leggers rounded up but it was not fair to the city for the whole force to be taken to Morrison's Mill.

Continued on Page Four

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