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## Duties of Councillors as Fire Wardens Discussed

**General Opinion of Municipal Council is That the Present Law Works All Right—Coun. Hinchey Opened Fire on the Ottawa Delegation—Ferry License Issued for One Year Only After Long Discussion.**

The York Municipal Council on Thursday afternoon devoted much time to consideration of the present law whereby a municipal councillor is ex officio a fire warden. Coun. Tilley Bird brought up the subject saying that there was a feeling that the law was working a hardship by making no provision for the payment of fire-fighting crews on privately owned lands. Coun. Judson Hinchey supported Coun. Bird's contention but said that personally he was done fire-fighting as he had passed his fifty-first milestone and after the age of fifty no man could be forced to fight fire. Other councillors took issue with those councillors claiming that the present law was all right and enabled mutual organization to be effected for fire-fighting. They gave instances of companies cheerfully paying for fire-fighting on their lands or at fires which threatened their lands.

Ferry service on the Saint John River also was discussed. A motion to grant James Hagerman a ten-year license for the Carson or Parent Ferry was amended so as to make the license for one year only.

The delegation from the Municipal Council as part of the All-Maritime delegation last winter which pressed the Kingsclear Branch and other matters at Ottawa, came under fire. Coun. Hinchey was the objector and critic and intimated that the county had been called upon to pay for "joy-riding".

Thursday Afternoon.

The council resumed at two o'clock Thursday afternoon and after the opening routine had been disposed of, Coun. Hinchey introduced the subject of the Ottawa delegation. He wanted to be informed about the authority for the county paying the expenses of that delegation which had gone chiefly for the purpose of supporting the movement for the Kingsclear-Vanceboro Branch of the C. N. R.

County Secretary-treasurer said that the county had been asked to cooperate with the Maritime Development Association. Many councillors, the Warden and the Finance Committee had been consulted and the opinion was that the delegation should go without calling a special meeting of the council. Warden Christie, Coun. Tilley Bird and Coun. J. F. Doherty had been selected and had gone. The expense was \$211.50 which compared favorably with the expenses of \$125 for each member of the City of Fredericton's delegation.

Coun. Hinchey's View.

Coun. Hinchey replied that the delegation was not authorized.

Coun. Whipple seconded by Coun. Charles Allan moved that the action in sending the delegation to Ottawa be confirmed.

Coun. Seymour said that the Maritime Development Association had desired York County to be represented. The time had come when one had to go after things and not wait for them to be brought to him. As far as the payment was concerned the councillors who went were ready to pay their own expenses.

Coun. Hinchey said it was the principle of the thing which counted. There had been no legal authority for the delegation to be sent.

Motion Carried.

Coun. Tilley Bird said he would support the sending of delegates. The Warden had requested him to go.

Warden Christie said that the Secretary-Treasurer had approached him in the matter. He could see nothing wrong in sending the delegation.

The motion was carried.

Coun. Doble said that he had not voted as he had not understood the situation. He was of the opinion that in future a report should be submitted on such a matter.

Report on Legislation.

Coun. Whipple for the Committee on Legislation reported on the passing of legislation relative to fixing the assessment valuation of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.

Discussion Re Ferry.

Coun. Cliff moved that James Hagerman be granted a license for ten years to operate the ferry between Queensbury and Dumfries known as the Carson or Parent ferry, at one dollar per year.

Coun. Charles Allan called attention to the fact that the ferry had been sold in the spring for \$81.

Coun. Manuel objected that the licensee had no investment in the ferry which was provincial property, and

should not be given a ten-year license.

Coun. Greenlaw asked what the custom had been in regard to ferries.

Coun. Cliff said that the custom had been to charge a license-fee of one dollar per year. The people of Queensbury were not after a revenue from this ferry but were after accommodation.

Development of Ferries.

Coun. Grant gave a very interesting account of the development of the ferry system on the River Saint John and the changes which resulted in the Province owning the ferries, Hatfield's ferry being the only privately owned ferry between Fredericton and Woodstock.

Coun. Whipple and Coun. Doble argued that the ferries if maintained by the Provincial Government should be entirely out of municipal control.

Coun. Seymour seconded by Coun. Greenlaw in amendment moved that the license to James Hagerman be for a period of one year.

The amendment was carried.

After long discussion as to the year for which the license had been given the council voted on a motion to reconsider made by Coun. E. H. Allen. This motion was defeated.

A motion to adjourn was defeated.

On motion Coun. Tilley Bird was given leave of absence.

Fire-Fighting.

Coun. Tilley Bird brought up the position of a Municipal Councillor being ex officio a fire warden. His own position had not been always pleasant. A councillor had no power to pay any man for fire-fighting and received no pay himself unless the fire were on Crown Lands. The situation often arose in which a councillor on one side of a fire fought it with a crew which could not be paid, and on the other side the crew would be paid. He did not wish to argue that the municipality pay all fire-fighters but the present regulation worked hardship. He would like to hear an expression of opinion on the subject.

Coun. Hinchey said he had suffered inconvenience in the same particular but he did not think any resolution should be passed in the dying days of the council.

Coun. Coburn Approves.

Coun. Coburn said he believed Coun. Bird wanted a resolution under which a councillor could assess in his own parish to pay for fire-fighting. Personally he would favor that.

Coun. Hinchey said that a councillor had power to appoint a fire warden to perform his duties but few wanted to do it.

Coun. Cowperthwaite differed saying that in a large parish a warden might put out a fire before a councillor could get to it, and for that reason a municipal fire-warden would be of value.

Coun. Greenlaw said that any man should have interest enough to protect his own property and his neighbor's. Otherwise he should not be a citizen of the county.

Coun. Hinchey said that it was all right protecting private property but it was too much to expect people to protect the whole United States.

Coun. Fleming said his own experience made him believe that American owners would gladly pay for fire-fighting.

Coun. Grant said fire-fighting was a difficult problem. The history of fire-fighting showed that the more paid for fire-fighting the more fires there were. In the big Westfield fires men brought from Saint John to fight the fire were found setting fires and had to be taken off the fire and sent away. He considered the present law satisfactory. It gave an opportunity for mutual organization.

Coun. Manuel told of his experience saying that companies were willing and eager to cooperate in fire-fighting.

Coun. Tilley Bird claimed that when a big crew went on a fire it at least should be fed. It also should be paid. He was not advocating assessing the parishes for fire-fighting. The assistance should come from the government.

Coun. Gould told of his experience. Companies in his section paid for fire-protection. However he believed the government should pay something.

Coun. Seymour said it would not be good policy to pay every man who fought fire but there should be a fund to pay for such items as food, gasoline and so on.

Council adjourned at 5 p. m.

## DRAGS CHILDREN TO SAFETY IN THE DESERT

Los Angeles, July 8—Plodding for hours across a hot desert, with two children in her arms and virtually dragging a third, a mother saved herself and her children from possible starvation following the death of her husband in an accident.

Frank Trampus, his wife and their three children went to a little valley near Topoc, the railway station on the Colorado River that marks the California-Arizona boundary, to home stead a claim about a year ago. Trampus ferried a tractor across the river and began cultivation of the hills on the Arizona side. He attempted to ascend a steep slope with the tractor, when it turned over and crushed him before he could jump aside.

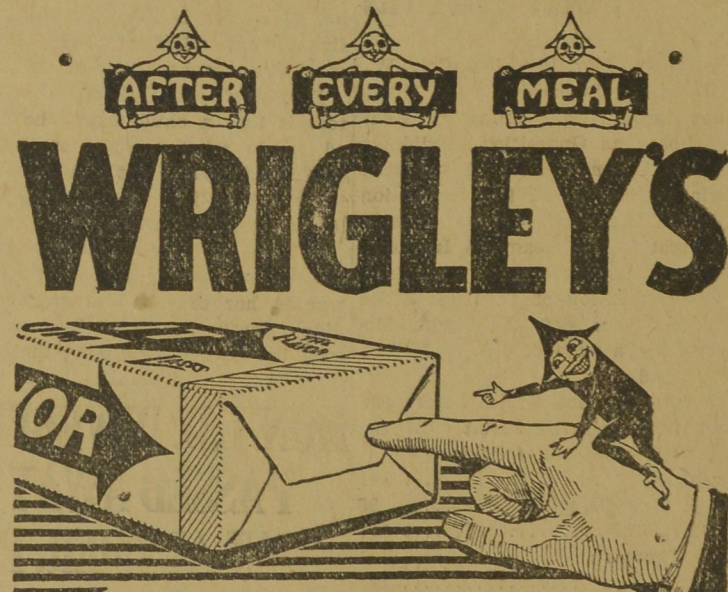
Mrs. Trampus was unable to lift the tractor and she saw her husband die with his back broken. She walked several miles with her children under a scorching sun to Topoc, carrying the children in relays up steep hills and she was near the end of her strength when she reached the station.

## CHINA FALLS BEFORE PUZZLE

Shanghai, China, July 9—Chinese cross-word puzzles have made their appearances at last. It has taken a long time for the Chinese to become infected with the craze, but it must be pointed out it took the United States a long time to find out that mah jong was being played in China and was a fascinating game. The Chinese managed to hold out several months against the cross-word fever, but a breach has been made in their resistance by the announcement in the Kuo Wen Weekly that cross-word puzzles in Chinese characters will henceforth be a feature in the journal. This is the first Chinese journal to publish puzzles but when one considers the intricacies of Chinese characters one may safely conclude that there will be more twisted brains in this country after the puzzles become popular than in any other country.

"Helen, you broke your promise."

"Well, mummy, I'll make some town quits bragging about its climate, more."



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