

AMENDMENT TO MEET MAYOR'S VIEWS MADE

Two Fredericton Bills Recommended by the Municipalities Committee — Other Bills Also Recommended.

The Municipalities Committee of the House of Assembly this morning had before it a large number of bills two of which were City of Fredericton bills. Both of these were recommended by the committee.

One of these was the bill relating to the Fire Limits of the City of Fredericton. Ald. Ivan McKnight chairman of the Fire Committee and H. R. McLellan Provincial Fire Marshal appeared in support of the bill and His Worship Mayor Clark appeared in opposition to one section that which places a ban on shingled roofs within the limits of the City of Fredericton.

Suggestion Adopted.

His Worship offered the same objection which he did in the City Council, that there were people upon whom a hardship would be worked unless they were allowed to complete shingled roofs already begun.

The bill was taken into private consideration by the committee and the suggestion of His Worship adopted the bill being so amended that property owners who have started to replace a roof in shingles will have until January 1st, 1927 to complete the work.

The bill to Provide for Water Debenture Issue to complete alterations in the pumping station also was recommended.

Other Bills.

Other bills recommended by the committee were To Amend the Municipalities Act, To Confer an Agreement Between the N. B. Power Company and Saint John County, To Authorize a Bond Issue by the Town of Sussex, and To Amend the Saint John Assessment Act.

City Affairs

Was Convicted.

An Indian arrested during the week-end for being drunk was convicted this morning and sentenced to a fine of eight dollars or thirty days in gaol.

Entertained at Bridge.

Mrs. Gordon Coy entertained at auction bridge last evening. Those winning prizes were Mrs. D. W. Griffiths, Mrs. W. D. Gunter and Mrs. H. J. McMurray.

Travelling on the Ice.

Farmers from down river points are now using the river to bring their produce to this city, and say the ice is in fine condition, which is unusual for so late in the season.

Desires to Remove Barn.

C. T. McCutcheon has applied to the City Council for permission to remove a barn from Aberdeen street to Victoria street. The application has been referred to a Roads and Streets Committee.

Bridge Party.

Mrs. N. W. Brown was the hostess at a bridge of five tables at her home on George street last night in honor of Mrs. Todd, wife of the Lieutenant Governor. The prize winners were Mrs. R. W. McLellan, Mrs. R. P. Allen and Mrs. A. T. Murchie.

A Highway Expenditure.

Ex-Premier Veniot was before the public accounts committee of the Legislature this afternoon in connection with statements made by James Lewis M. L. A., concerning highway work in the Parish of Lancaster. Members of the Highway Board of the Parish and J. King Kelly, Municipal Secretary-Treasurer, were also present. The Ex-Premier denied that there had been any verbal agreement with the late government in connection with work in the Village of Fairville relating to the road to the Reversing Falls. The matter is being further considered this afternoon.

COUNCIL HAD TROUBLE IN SECURING QUORUM TO PASS THE ASSESSMENT ACT

Commissioners Were Heard in Regard to It—Dr. Kierstead Claims Real Estate in Fredericton Does Not Bear Fair Share of Taxation — Act Amended so as to Exempt Rental-income to Amount of \$500, Also so as to Value Stocks-in-Trade at Seventy Per cent of Inventory Value.

The City of Fredericton Assessment Bill was adopted with amendments by the City Council in special session last night. It was adopted with difficulty for a number of aldermen left their places and shortly it was discovered that only five were seated. This made it necessary to go out of the chamber and inform aldermen still in the building that there was no quorum. A bare quorum was secured and the bill adopted.

Two important amendments were made. Exemption was given income from rentals to the amount of \$500 and valuation of stocks-in-trade was fixed at seventy-five percent.

Many Spectators.

Many spectators were present including the three Assessment Commissioners and many merchants. The Commissioners all spoke and R. B. VanDine also spoke briefly stating that he knew of no organized movement on the part of the merchants to oppose the bill.

Merchants Not Satisfied.

Merchants who were present last night expressed the opinion outside the Council Chamber that the taxation of stocks-in-trade was excessive in point of valuation. The opinion also was expressed by others that the withdrawal of aldermen from the chamber leaving no quorum was done in an attempt to prevent the adoption of the bill.

Dr. W. C. Kierstead.

Dr. W. C. Kierstead, one of the members of the Assessment Commission, addressed the gathering making explanations of certain features of the bill. He claimed that in the Maritime Provinces real estate bears the least proportion of the burden of assessment of any part of the American continent. Fredericton he said obtains the smallest proportion of revenue from

land value of any place of similar size in Canada. The tax on permanent property in Fredericton he claimed was excessive.

Dr. Kierstead criticized the provision that taxing on stocks-in-trade on inventory value. He said it was the assessors and not the taxpayer who should decide the assessment value of property.

He claimed also that the poor man was not dealt with very generously in the matter of exemptions.

He doubted if the provision for the assessment of personal property would be passed as drawn.

Mayor Clark.

His Worship Mayor Clark followed Dr. Kierstead had said that there were great differences between theory and practice. He knew personally that the change in Saint John assessment had resulted in increase in taxation on real estate. The idea of "single tax" had prevailed in the West for a time but was being departed from at present. Land values were not alone bearing the burden Fredericton was a "city of homes." Its peculiar conditions must be considered no matter what other places have.

In reply to Ald. Goodspeed, Dr. Kierstead said that taxation of income from real estate was considered proper by the commission. Neither Moncton nor Saint John taxed income from real estate. Federal income tax assessed it.

To Ald. Mitchell he said that Ontario had a uniform assessment act and Quebec Province had practically a uniform act.

J. B. Dickson.

J. B. Dickson, chairman of the assessment commission also was heard. He criticized the provision for inventory value of stocks-in-trade.

(Continued on Page Five.)

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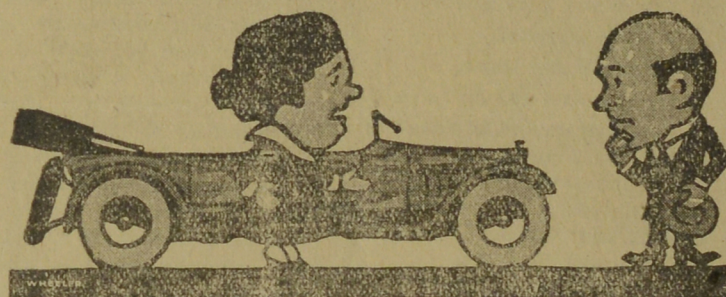
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