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CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSED MANY MATTERS AT BELATED JUNE SESSION

City Stoneyard Will Be Moved Within a Year, Work to Commence Within a Short Time—New Uniforms for Firemen — Discussion on City Building Regulations — Electric Signs, Other Matters.

The city council at its belated June committee and regular meeting, both meeting being held last evening—discussed a number of matters, including the removal of the city stoneyard from its present site, new uniforms for the firemen, building regulations, electric signs, transient laborers and other matters.

A motion, moved by Ald. Dr. B. R. Ross that the city engineer be asked to proceed with the removal of the city stoneyard from its present site in the center of the city, the work to be done over a period of one year, and to be completed within one year was passed. Proper notice will be given the people at present located on the site. The new site as suggested by the Roads and streets committee will be in the vicinity of the almshouse one hundred feet away from any dwelling. The present site is only 25 feet from a dwelling. Ald. Ross said that the city is paying rental for the new site anyway and the city will get rentals from the old site, where new buildings will likely go up. Ald. McKnight raised the question if the new site would effect properties any, but was assured it wouldn't by Ald. Ross.

The matter of a railway siding in the vicinity of the new site was brought up and the city engineer, J. D. MacKay assured that one there would make no difference.

New Fire Uniforms

Ald. Ivan McKnight reporting for the fire department told of being waited upon by a committee asking that the city bear a third of the expense of buying new uniforms for the fire truck call men. Thirty-four new uniforms are needed. The last new ones were bought twenty-nine years ago. The Firemen's Association is willing to pay two-thirds of the cost and asked \$250 from the city. The matter was left with the fire committee with power to act.

A request of James S. Neill & Sons for permission to erect a wooden frame on a lot on York Street for storage of non-combustible matter such as pipe and wire was granted, although it engendered some discussion. Ald. Dr. Ross quizzed as to what building regulations were in the city with regard to brick and wood. Ald. Mundle warned against fire traps, and said the council should move more cautiously. "We are to be loaded with fire traps," he said. He advised that the council stand by the by-laws which "our forefathers have made," and protect them. He opposed the motion.

Applications for several electric signs were received and permission granted to build them. The Valley Motors, Limited was given permission to erect a galvanized roof at its premises, and Ald. Mundle took occasion once again to warn that there would be a swarm of such applications soon. Ald. Gunter asked if the city by-laws dictated as to any "certain standard of lighting".

At the present time no by-laws cover this.

Option For Lease

Palmer-McLellan Company was granted an extension for three years on their option of buying the grounds on which the present business is situated.

The present lease expires in July. In making the motion favoring the extension of time, Ald. Maxwell said: "We should have no desire to bar any of our industrial plants".

Ald. Hagerman asked permission to proceed with the putting on of a coating of roofing on the city hall, the expense to be about \$100. Motion giving him this authority was granted. The matter of a communication respecting the putting in a drain of pipe on the property of Thomas Lynch was left to the Roads and Streets Committee to report back.

Ald. H. Ralph Gunter, chairman of the legislation committee, said he had no report ready on the matter of transient laborers but would make a report at the next special meeting. Ald. Hagerman pointed out that local tradesmen were interfered with by transients. "There should be some protection to our citizens who are paying to keep them up," he said. Ald. Hagerman also suggested that the work of laying out trees in the P. N. S. grounds be proceeded with as soon as possible. Ald. Mundle suggested in connection with parking that the citizens should be made aware of the parking space at the back of the post office. This could be utilized by autoists, he said. He also advised that police officers pay more attention to the traffic regulations on Queen Street where the new widening has made traffic more heavy.

TOO MUCH EMPHASIS PLACED ON POSITION

SCHENECTADY, New York, June 4.—What to do after college? That is a question which several hundred thousand college graduates have had to face in the last few years of nationwide depression.

Some of the possible answers, and also straight-from-the-shoulder advice both to colleges and prospective graduates, appeared at the discussions on the subject at the recent meeting of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education at Union College here.

Prof. F. Alexander Magoun of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in particular, suggested specific recommendations.

First, commented the M. I. T. professor, "altogether too much emphasis, particularly as a result of the depression, has been put on securing a position—any position".

A fledgling college graduate in engineering, Prof. Magoun indicated should remember that the question "What can this company offer me?" is just as important as "What can I offer this country?"

ONE FISH FOR TWO ANGLERS

MALONE, New York, June 5.—Alban Glazier and Charles Chapman each caught the same fish in Plumbadore Pond. The two anglers said they were astounded when each got a nibble at the same time and pulled up their lines to find the hooks imbedded in a 15-inch speckled trout.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES PROBLEM IN EARLY DAYS

Confusion in Colonial Times Due to Scarcely Any Uniformity Now Eliminated by Bureau of Standards

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 5.—"A false balance is an abomination unto Jehovah but a just weight is his delight," said King Solomon in his Proverbs some thousands of years ago, and most people have been of the same opinion ever since. There never have been lacking, however, some people who delight in false balances and dishonest weights, and that is why governments have uniformly adopted standards and have appointed public officers to test weights and measures at frequent intervals to determine their accuracy. Even with all the vigilance of federal officers and local sealers of weights and measures, false balances continue in use and butchers weigh their thumbs. How much more of this type of deception would be present were it not for the laws and the standards it is scarcely possible to imagine.

History Tangled

The history of weights and measures in the United States is a tangled and troubled one. This is not only true of coinage but of other standards. The confusion was due to the circumstance that, in colonial times there were English, Dutch, Swedish, Spanish, Portuguese, and a few other influences. At the time of the American revolution, there was a variety of weights and measures in use with scarcely any uniformity.

This situation was unsatisfactory and when the articles of confederation were drawn a provision was inserted for the fixing of standards. That began the legislative tangle over the subject that was to last for half a century. When the constitution was adopted, it contained the provision that "Congress shall have power to coin money, regulate the value thereof, and of foreign coin, and fix the standard of weights and measures". But even with this constitutional permission amounting, constructively to an injunction to act, Congress could not agree, for many years, on what the standards should be.

The story of American weights and measures is dotted with the names of the nation's greatest men. The Continental Congress had appointed a committee consisting of Alexander Hamilton and James Madison to bring in a report on weights and measures, but apparently the matter was neglected. Rufus King made an effort in the same Congress to get something done without avail.

Subject of Much Debate

In his very first message to Congress, President Washington said: "Uniformity in the currency, weights and measures of the United States is an object of great importance and will, I am persuaded, be duly attended to. In his second and third messages to Congress, President Washington reiterated his belief that action should be taken, but too much difficulty was experienced in obtaining agreement for action to be taken.

One congressional action called upon the secretary of state, Thomas Jefferson, for a report on the subject, and in 1790 he did submit a lengthy, scholarly and technical report. At the time, the French and English governments also were considering standards, and Jefferson was much influenced by the French system, which was based on the metric or decimal idea. But his report was

ordered to lie on the table. Congress could not agree.

However, the next year a Senate committee of which such men as James Monroe and Robert Morris were members brought in a report opposed to changing from the American which were by this date, largely the English units. A year later, though, the committee did bring in another report which was practically a decimal system.

Debating and reports on the subject reveal a surprising amount of technical knowledge of physics. There has been an idea held by not a few people that the early members of Congress were largely planters and lawyers. Their command of science nevertheless, was surprising. It was debated, for example, whether standards should spring from a pendulum's vibrations at latitude 38 or at latitude 45, at sea level and in a vacuum, at a constant temperature. It was fairly generally agreed that the standard should derive from the pendulum.

The first congressional action did not come until 1799 and then it was nothing final. It merely provided that surveyors of customs, twice a year, should examine the weights and measures in use at ports of entry. The act provided for the fixing of no standards, but it had the effect of showing the need of standards, for wide discrepancies were found and it was realized that the government was losing revenue.

Hassler Standards Adopted

From 1804 until 1821 there was inconclusive discussion of the subject in Congress. To be sure the mint act of 1792, had set up standards of coinage, but other weights and measures were still in confusion, the more so because, by this time, several of the states had set up their own standards and these did not stand in harmony with each other. In 1812, John Quincy Adams, then secretary of state, sent to Congress a comprehensive report on weights and measures. Adams was conservative and thought that traditional measures, rather than French innovations, should be used. A committee, named to consider the Adams report, brought in a recommendation that the President ask the British government for exact copies of their standards of weights and measures. No action was taken.

Then in 1826 there was a period of discussion of employing scientific experts, but again nothing happened. But in 1828 a measure passed adopting the troy pound as the measure of gold and silver, and Albert Gallatin, then minister at the Court of St. James, dispatched a copy of the standard troy pound at London. Next, Louis McLane, secretary of the treasury, believing he had authority to do so, directed Ferdinand Hassler, superintendent of the coast survey, to make standards for custom house use. Taking the matter out of the hands of a talkative Congress seems to have been the first really constructive step. The British yard of 36 inches was decided upon, the Winchester bushel, the British wine gallon, with all the many divisions and copies were worked out.

In 1838 a joint resolution of Congress provided for adoption of the Hassler standards. It will be noted that the primary business of the federal government appeared to be

standardizing the weights and measures for the custom houses which were federal. Although this was a period at which the states' rights controversy was nearing its height Congress decided that it would do what it could to have the states conform to the federal standards. It was questionable whether Congress could require action on the part of the proud and sovereign states, but it accomplished its purpose by what might be called a sly trick. It had exact copies of the full set of weights and measures made, and presented them to the states. Not in one breath, to be sure, but fairly soon the states adopted the federal standards.

There have been some refinements since, but these 1838 standards remain substantially the base. They are in charge of the national bureau of standards. The 1838 standards were pretty fine. An avoirdupois weight of only one-tenthousandth of an ounce was included, with the same denomination for troy. But now the bureau has reached the point where it can measure the force of a knot's breath. King Solomon would be pleased with the national bureau of standards.

BIBIONID FLIES NUMEROUS IN THIS VICINITY

R. E. Balch, Entomologist, Reports on Bibionid Flies Being Very Frequent in the City—Harmless But a Nuisance.

R. E. Balch, entomologist in charge at the Dominion Entomological Laboratory, reports on some flies which have been very numerous about the city in recent weeks and which have raised inquiry.

A fly with black body and reddish legs, longer but more slender than a house fly, has been very numerous in the Fredericton area this spring, he says, and can still be seen in large kinds in the city or in the woods. Many get into houses and a number of people have feared it may be an injurious pest of some kind. Some have thought that it was laying eggs on shrubs and flowers.

These flies are harmless. They are sometimes called "March flies" farther south, where they appear during the month of March. Periodically, they become very numerous and illustrate very well the tendency of many insects to fluctuate in numbers in a periodic cycle of fairly definite length. They were very numerous here in 1931. They breed in the ground, where the larvae feed on decaying vegetable matter, and sometimes on roots of plants although they are not known to cause noticeable damage. The majority of them have come from the woods and very large numbers will be seen floating on the water of the river where they have dropped.

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