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St. Mary's Smallpox Bills Frightened County Councillors

Outbreak on the Indian Reserve was an Expensive Affair--- Indians Found the County an Easy Mark and Rendered Bills Just Like White Men---Lived on the Fat of the Land While Under Quarantine---Scout Jim Paul in the Roll of Nurse---Incompetency of Chairman of the Board of Health Demonstrated.

The county councillors yesterday afternoon spent two hours wrestling with the heavy problem of P. S. Watson's bill for groceries and supplies furnished the Indians of the St. Mary's reserve, while the smallpox quarantine was in force there last spring, and the councillors adjourned at six o'clock with the problem still unsolved. The question was the cause of prolonged discussion, not only in the council meeting but also in the session of the public accounts committee which lasted from ten o'clock till four. Mr. Watson's bill amounted to \$686.34. The Board of Health for the county refused to pay the bill as presented and cut it to \$475.00. The public accounts committee, after two hours' discussion, adopted the recommendation of the Board of Health on the ground that it could not do otherwise.

The whole matter turns on the answer to the question "What are luxuries?" Can oysters, prunes, apricots, tobacco, pork, flour, raisins, honey, pickles, cheese, Worcestershire sauce, any or all of them be called luxuries? If so, which of them?

Chairman J. W. Smith of the Board of Health for the district, including St. Mary's, under whose direction the quarantine of the reserve was imposed and maintained, was present yesterday afternoon and when called upon explained matters with regard to the quarantining and the methods of feeding the Indians while the quarantine was on. He left no doubt in the minds of the hearers that in his opinion the Indians got "luxuries" and lots of them and that in spite of the fact that in making the contract for supplies with Mr. Watson he had issued strict orders that the redskins were to have a plain diet and not in any way to be pampered. Not only did Mr. Smith think that the Indians had been overfed but he had strong suspicion that the aristocracy of the reserve, Jim Paul, Tom Canadian, Barney Somerville and families—the aristocracy for the time being because of having the small-pox patient in their midst—had received the lion's share of the good things, an opinion which was supported by the fact that the other Indians showed no signs of fattening during the twenty days they were incarcerated. Mr. Smith explained, however, that in the Board of Health meeting, which had discussed this grocery bill, he had been opposed to making the amount any less than \$500. He had been overruled by his colleagues and would abide by their decision until the council should decide otherwise.

RECEIVED A SHOCK.

The chairman of the Board of Health stated that several times he had visited Mr. Watson's place of business and asked to be shown the bills for the supplies which were being furnished the Indians. The amounts had been small and the articles in accordance with the instructions that he had given. Great was his surprise when the bill for everything was presented and he found that the cost of provisions amounted to more than six hundred dollars. He had issued strict orders that the wards of the county were to have no luxuries, but just plain food such as flour, pork, herring, sugar, etc., and he found that the bill-of-fare included raisins, oysters, pickles, prunes, olives, honey, cheese, bologna, onions, beef-tongue, etc., and then there were eggs. Mr. Smith reckoned there were over one hundred dozen and they were in big lots, too, for Thomas Canadian received twenty dozen at a time and another lot amounted to twelve dozen. Mr. Smith was distinctly surprised and shocked when he came across those items and taking everything together, thought \$686.34 was too much for feeding 129 Indians for eighteen days and 17 Indians for twenty additional days.

OTHER ARTICLES

In addition to food there were other articles supplied the Indians concerning the status of which he was in doubt. Tobacco could hardly be a luxury he felt and twenty-three dollars worth had been furnished. Then there were two laundry bills for 5 and 7 cents respectively. They were not excessive. But, Mr. Smith could not see why writing tablets, pots, pans, washboards and other household utensils should have been given the Indians.

UNDERTAKING ACCOUNT

That grocery bill is not the only item of expense connected with the quarantine of the St. Mary's Reserve which has not met with Mr. Smith's

approval. He thinks the wily Redman has himself been trying hard to trim the Municipality of York. One brave put up a howl about his boat having been smashed by the ice in the river while stern guards kept the owner of the craft within the bounds of the reserve. Mr. Smith viewed the craft and at once cut the bill from \$10.00 to \$2.50. Another Indian more glibly reported that his craft had been carried away altogether. That was a poser for Chairman Smith but he did the best he could to get a low price. The councilor had listened with fairly well preserved gravity to Mr. Smith's recital of items but when he told that Mike Sapier had put in a bill for burying 4 dogs, 2 cats, and 4 hens at 50 cents per head they laughed. The same Mike had kept the water-barrel of Jim Paul, Tom Canadian and Barney Somerville, filled while quarantine was on and he had put in a bill which Mr. Smith had promptly whittled down to a mark which he thought proper. Sol Brooks the Indian policeman acted as distributor of provisions during quarantine and Mr. Smith thought ten dollars was sufficient remuneration for this service but Sol thinks otherwise. Right here it should be stated that Mike Sapier has threatened to disinter the remains of the buried live-stock unless his bill is paid. Mike seems to have the Board of Health on the hip as the health of the reserve will certainly suffer if he puts his threat in to effect.

JIM PAUL, NURSE

Mr. Smith's tale of Indian perfidy is not complete without reference to the important item of Jim Paul's bill for nursing his son-in-law, Barney Somerville. Jim wants two dollars per day. Some one asked if Jim was qualified as a trained nurse.

NEVER AGAIN

Mr. Smith wound up his recital with the plaintive remark, "It's the first time I had anything to do with Indians and I hope it will be the last."

POINTED REMARKS

Coun. Fred Pond stated plainly that it was Mr. Smith's own fault that the middle had occurred. If the chairman had visited St. Mary's a few times and found out what the Indians were actually getting the difficulty would have been avoided. Another councillor raised the point that the county should not pay a bill incurred by the appointee of the provincial government. It was also suggested to Mr. Smith that he confer with Mr. Watson and try to have the bill reduced. Mr. Smith could not see it that way. The Board of Health had decided and he had to stick by the decision. Meantime Mr. Watson has threatened to take legal action to recover the full amount of his bill and many councillors are of the opinion that the bill will have to be paid in any event.

The Public Accounts Committee report was: To the Warden and County Councillors of the Municipality of York: We, the members of the Public Accounts Committee recommend that the following accounts be paid:

GENERAL ACCOUNT.

Mail Publishing Co.,	\$ 8.35
A. Murray & Co.,	60.00
H. B. Rainsford,	5.00
C. W. Hall,	10.50
C. W. Hall,	20.60
C. W. Hall,	1.50
McMurray & Co.,	5.75
McMurray & Co.,	4.70
McMurray & Co.,	5.75
Coun. F. Pond,	5.00
Coun. T. C. Everett,	5.00
Coun. A. Haining,	10.00
Coun. P. Graham,	9.00
Jas. S. Neill & Sons,	3.20
Total	\$154.35

LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH ACCOUNTS.

Nurse,	\$ 5.25
A. W. Coombes,	10.81
Adams,	15.00
Adams,	12.00
Wardens & Davenport,	34.63
Wm. Smith,	99.51
A. Brewer,	7.00
Dr. Smith,	13.00
Total	\$197.20

Brought Forward, \$351.55

LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH ACCOUNTS.

(Indian Department.)
P. S. Watson, medical supplies, \$475.00

John Howell,	62.00
James Gilbert,	56.25
Frank True,	31.50
Ernest Shields,	31.50
John Stillwell,	26.25
H. C. Harding,	31.50
Roy Brewer,	26.25
J. W. Smith,	38.50
Total	\$778.75

\$1,140.30

A. Sterling
Fred Pond
G. C. Grant
W. R. Fawcett
H. H. Veysey
Wm. McMullin
Hanford Sloat
D. M. Carson
Robt. Thompson
J. C. Morrison
Geo. L. Colter
T. C. Everett
Jas. W. Green
Alex. Haining

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Coun. Sterling presented the report of the Public Accounts Committee. He mentioned that P. S. Watson's bill of \$475 for groceries supplied the Indians of the St. Mary's Reserve had been cut down by \$200.

Coun. Fred Pond doubted the right of the council to cut down a bill after the articles had been delivered. It was true that the Indians had been supplied with articles of food that the chairman of the Board of Health had not ordered to be sent them, but that did not alter the case.

Coun. C. W. Pond was of the opinion that the orders of the chairman of the Board of Health must be carried out.

At the suggestion of Coun. Timmins, Mr. J. W. Smith, chairman of the York County Board of Health was heard on the matter.

Mr. Smith told of engaging P. S. Watson to supply groceries to the St. Mary's Indians while under quarantine. He had particularly cautioned Mr. Watson against supplying luxuries, but had ordered what he considered to be a good plain living. Later Mr. Watson had informed him that there had been complaints that some were not getting enough to eat. He had told him to give them more and have no complaints. Mr. Smith read several itemized accounts showing what provisions each family under quarantine had been given. The information contained in them was similar to that given before.

Coun. Essensa made objection to the pots, pans, etc. being put in the bill. They were household utensils and had not been ordered by the chairman.

Coun. Hunter expressed the opinion that an itemized account should have been submitted.

Coun. Fred Pond expressed the opinion that Chairman Smith's orders were unlimited.

The Secretary-Treasurer was asked for his opinion.

Secretary-Treasurer Bliss stated that in his opinion the Indian Department would have to pay the quarantine expenses as the Indians were wards of the Dominion. He thought it would be advisable to pay the guards' bills as otherwise it would be difficult to secure guards for future quarantines.

Coun. Fawcett remarked that bills in connection with quarantine in Southampton some years before had been contested and the result had been the payment of legal costs together with the full bill.

Coun. Patrick Graham said he could not see how the county could avoid paying the bill under discussion. There appeared to be no system of handling such business. The Indians had found how "easy" the County of York was and were sending in their bills just like white men. (Laughter.)

On the motion of Coun. Skene seconded by Coun. Green, Abner Heron was appointed parish clerk for McAdam. Leave of absence for the balance of the session was granted Councillors Green and Skene.

Coun. Timmins thought the Board of Health should be supported in this matter.

Coun. Thompson thought it was a matter between the merchant and Mr. Smith.

Coun. Reynolds thought it was not the proper method of dealing with the bill to cut \$115 off it.

Coun. Sterling thought the report should be adopted as presented.

Coun. Fred Pond said that the bill had been cut just a little too much.

(Continued on page four)

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Children's Sox 10c pair

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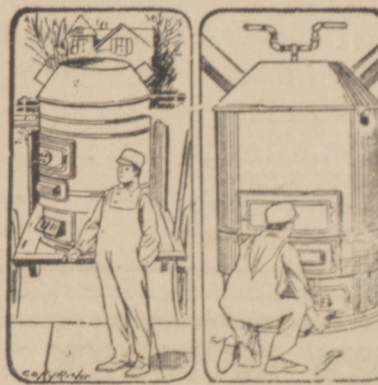
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