

BILLS FOR THE LEGISLATURE.

Dealt With at a Long Drawn Out Meeting of the Council.

PROPOSITION TO INAUGURATE

A Complete System of Sewerage Voted Down 7 To 3.

The city council spent upwards of four hours last night in deliberation upon the city bills to come before the legislature this session, and it was nearly half past twelve o'clock when they got through with the work. Mayor Palmer presided at the meeting and all the aldermen were in attendance.

The bill to enable the council to assess for exhibition purposes, to extend the water works, and close the city hall landing, was first taken up. The section relating to the exhibition, which asks for authority to assess for \$2,500, was unanimously adopted without discussion.

Water Works Extension.

When the section relating to the extension of the water works out York street was taken up, Ald. Vanwart moved that authority also be obtained to extend the system to the Aberdeen Mill. He spoke of the Messrs. Fraser as being large employers of labor, and considered them entitled to the most favorable consideration of the council. The water works already extended to Government House gate, and twelve or fourteen hundred feet of pipe would take it to Fraser's mill. He hoped the committee would adopt his motion.

Ald. Farrell said he hardly thought the council would be justified in expending \$7,000 or \$8,000 in extending the water works up Government Lane merely to protect Mr. Fraser's property. Such a course would not be fair to the other people of the city. The matter must be looked at from a purely business standpoint, and though he was willing to help Mr. Fraser in every legitimate way, he could not see his way clear to support this proposition.

Ald. Vanwart thought it was a question if the people could not better afford to extend the water works to Mr. Fraser's mill than to have his property unprotected in case a fire should start in that end of the city. Mr. Fraser was one of the largest employers of labor in the city, and was deserving of every consideration at the hands of the council. Already the water pipe extended to old government house, and it would not cost much to run a four inch pipe up to the mill.

Ald. Moore thought it would not be wise from a business standpoint to expend \$8,000 in extending the water works on government lane. Should Mr. Fraser's mill be destroyed by fire what guarantee was there that he would rebuild again? If he did not what kind of an investment would the pipe be then?

In reply to Ald. Vanwart the city clerk said the council could obtain legislative authority to extend the water works up government lane, but that would not compel the council to make the assessment this year.

After considerable discussion it was moved by Ald. Farrell that section 2 of the bill be amended so as to obtain authority to extend the water works on government lane to James Tennant's upper line.

Ald. Maxwell's Joke.

Ald. Maxwell thought there was no use to have the thing tip sided. If the council was going to extend the water works to Fraser's mill, they should also make provision for its extension to the lower mills.

Ald. Moore endorsed the remarks of Ald. Maxwell, and moved that the limit be extended to the Victoria mills.

Ald. Farrell thought Ald. Moore's proposition was the most ridiculous that he had ever heard submitted to the council in connection with the water works. He believed it was put forward with the object of killing the other.

Ald. Ross thought it would be time

enough to consider extending the water limits to the lower mill when the people of that district asked for it.

Ald. Moore said that there were more people in the down town section than there were on Government Lane.

Ald. Vanwart was surprised to hear such a ridiculous motion emanate from an alderman who had been at the board as long as Ald. Moore. He hoped there was enough good sense at the board to defeat such a motion.

Ald. Clark was opposed to the amendment moved by Ald. Moore, and he was not altogether in sympathy with the motion to make the extension on Government Lane. He thought that there were other questions of far greater importance to the people, such as sewerage and the removal of the water works intake.

Ald. Moore said he had not made a motion about the extension of the water works; it was only a suggestion.

The motion that section two be amended, as proposed by Ald. Farrell, was then put to the meeting and lost by a vote of 4 to 6. Those who supported it were Ald. Ross, Scott, Farrell and Vanwart.

The section relating to the closing of the public landing in rear of the city hall was adopted.

That Recreation Ground.

When the section in regard to the lot on the flats at the lower end of the city was taken up, Ald. Farrell explained that its object was merely to give the city control of the land as was intended by the original act, and in moving in the matter he could assure the council that he had no other object in view. It had been intimated to him that certain parties had employed counsel and intended fighting the bill when it came before the Legislature. There were people who gave employment to a large amount of labor, who now made use of the land referred to, and the legislation was not being sought with a view of taking these privileges away from them. It was not his intention to have a stone wall placed around the lot as had been stated.

Ald. Stockford said that the city now obtained shore rent for the lot and sold the grass from it each year, and it was evident from this that the council already had control of it. This being the case why was it necessary to procure more legislation.

The city clerk after quoting from the act vesting the property in the city, stated that the act was not as clear as it should be, and the object of the proposed legislation was to remove all doubt.

Ald. Stockford in reply to a question by Ald. Farrell, said that he had been given to understand that tolls for the privilege of tying up rafts at the front of the lot were paid to the harbor master.

Ald. Farrell repeated that the object of the legislation was to secure absolute control of the lot for the city, and protect the rights of the people.

After further discussion the section was carried by a vote of 6 to 4, and the bill was passed as amended.

The bill to give the council power to appoint one member of the county administration of justice committee, was next taken up and adopted without discussion.

The Sewerage Question.

When the bill asking for authority to issue debentures to the amount of \$20,000 to defray the cost of constructing surface sewers, came up, Ald. Moore said he was opposed to the council seeking any such legislation. There was an agitation, he said, for a permanent system of sewerage, and under the circumstances, he thought it would be a great mistake to expend such a large amount on surface sewers. He intimated in reply to Ald. Farrell that he was in favor of a combined system of sewerage.

Ald. Scott was inclined to agree with the remarks of Ald. Moore. His attention had been called during the day to a cellar in the lower part of the city, where until recently there had been three feet of water. It had run out and left the cellar covered with slime, which had caused sickness in the family, and the doctor had ordered them to move out. Ald. Scott stated that during the winter the water pipes at Estey's mill had become frozen, and the men drank water brought direct from the river near the spot where a surface sewer emptied. As a result there had since been five cases of typhoid fever among the men. He thought some of the drains about the city were badly in need of repair, and a combined system of sewerage was what was wanted.

Ald. Clark Speaks Out.

Ald. Clark said he was willing to take his full share of responsibility of making

the amount \$120,000, instead of \$20,000, and ask authority to inaugurate a complete system of sewerage. Some of the drainage sewers, particularly that on St. John street, are certainly in a bad state and will have to be renewed without delay. He believed the time had arrived when Frederickton should have a sewerage system.

Ald. Farrell expressed his approval of Ald. Clark's suggestion, and intimated that he was willing to take his share of responsibility for making the change. The surface sewers were certainly in a bad state, and it was imperative that repairs should be made during the coming season. It was not the intention that the \$20,000 asked for should be expended all in one year; that was a matter which could be determined at a later stage. The sum of \$750 had been placed in the assessment for repairing sewers during the present year, and if the council wanted to stop at that amount he was perfectly willing. If a motion was made to make the amount of the debentures eighty or ninety thousand dollars he would not oppose it. In his opinion the time was certainly drawing near when a complete system of sewerage for the city would become a necessity.

Ald. Moore was not quite prepared to say that he was willing to go in for inaugurating a complete system of sewerage in the city, but he was in favor of what he termed a combined system.

Ald. Scott for Sewerage.

Ald. Scott believed that if a vote were taken now, when there was so much sickness in the city, that the people would endorse the sewerage proposition.

The mayor thought if the council had authority to expend \$20,000 on sewerage he did not see what would hinder them from spending a larger amount and inaugurating a complete system. Personally he was strongly in favor of sewerage.

An Amendment Moved.

Ald. Clark said he would move as an amendment to the bill that authority be asked to issue debentures for \$120,000, to be expended in providing a sewerage system.

Ald. Scott said he had much pleasure in seconding the motion.

Ald. Farrell said that he would vote for the motion with the understanding that the council should go ahead and inaugurate the system under the direction of a competent engineer.

Ald. Moore said that the people had several times expressed their opposition to sewerage at the polls, and because of that he would vote against the motion.

The Council Excited.

Ald. Vanwart was afraid the council had got a little bit excited, and for once he felt that he would be compelled to vote with Ald. Moore. A combined system had been condemned as impracticable by every engineer who had been employed by the city to give an opinion. It was therefore plain that if permanent sewers were established the surface sewers would still have to be kept up. In his opinion the council should not take such a step without first getting the opinion of the people.

Ald. Scott believed the time had arrived when the city should have a modern opinion of sewerage. People who now had to keep up cesspools would be put to very little more expense with a sewerage system than they had to undergo at the present time. He was greatly surprised at Ald. Vanwart's attitude on the question.

Ald. Edwards was satisfied that a combined system of sewerage was impracticable in the city. The surface sewers had to be kept up separately and there had been a distinct understanding in committee that debentures would be issued to defray the cost of the work. He was not in favor of the amendment suggested by Ald. Clark.

Ald. Vanwart thought the \$750 placed in the assessment would be sufficient to expend on the sewers this season. He favored delay in asking for authority to issue debentures for sewerage until more information was procured.

Ald. Farrell, who spoke with considerable warmth, said that \$750 would not go very far in repairing the sewers. They were in a wretched condition, and Ald. Moore knew this better than he did. There was scarcely a day that that he did not receive complaints from some quarter of the city, and he was getting tired of it. He wanted \$20,000 with which to rebuild the sewers, and if the council did not vote the amount they must be prepared to take the responsibility for their action. He would vote to fill the blank with \$120,000 first, and if that failed to carry, he would go in for making the amount \$20,000.

Sewerage Defeated.

Upon the vote being taken on Ald. Clark's amendment, it was declared lost on the following division:

Yeas—Alds. Clark, Scott and Stockford—3.

Nays—Alds. Vanwart, Maxwell, Moore, Edwards, Rodgers, Ross and Farrell—7.

The original section was then voted upon and adopted.

(CONTINUED ON THIRD PAGE.)

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