

CIVIC MATTERS.

Special Meeting of Road
Committee of the City
Council.LOT OF TALK ON STEAM
ROLLER QUESTIONBut a Motion to Purchase
Failed to Carry.THE CITY CLERK AUTHORIZED TO ORDER
ANOTHER WATERING CART AT ONCE.

The special meeting of the road committee of the city council last evening was attended by all the members of the Board except Mayor Palmer. Ald. Farrell chairman of the committee, occupied the chair. The meeting was called to consider three matters, the purchase of a steam roller, the purchase of another watering cart, and to hear a report from the chairman on the gravel question.

R. B. Cameron, who has been in the city for some days talking up the road machine question in his capacity as agent for a Brantford manufacturing concern, was permitted to address the meeting. He stated that his firm was prepared to deliver to the city within ninety days after receipt of the order a fifteen ton machine, freight prepaid for the sum of \$3,450. He offered to date the bill March 1st, 1904, and allow payment to extend over a period of five years with interest at 5 per cent. He explained that a steam roller would do twenty times as much work as a horse roller and could be operated very much cheaper. It cost \$10 a day to operate a horse roller while a steam roller could be operated for less than \$5. The company would send an experienced man here with the machine, and he would remain long enough to teach a local man how to operate it. He stated that machines made by his firm were now in use in Sydney, St. John and Charlottetown and gave every satisfaction. He would give a written guarantee with the roller for a period of one year.

After returning thanks for the attentive hearing given him Mr. Cameron withdrew from the meeting.

Ald. Maxwell, thought the city should accept Mr. Cameron's offer; so did Aids. Stockford and Edwards.

Ald. Stockford moved, seconded by Ald. Maxwell, that the committee recommend the council to purchase a steam roller on the terms specified by Mr. Cameron.

Ald. Clark said he would like to hear the opinion of the chairman as to the need of a steam roller. He had noticed in other places that roads made by those machines were of a more permanent nature than those made in other ways.

Ald. Edwards thought it would pay the city to have a steam roller, as better streets could then be made.

Ald. Stockford said that the piece of road on Carleton Street, near the bridge made last spring by a steam roller, was the best in the city. He was for purchasing a steam roller and always would be.

Ald. Scott said that the question was rather new to him, and he would like more information before casting his vote. He had discussed the subject with the Roadmaster, and he had stated that our roads were now pretty well macadamized and for that reason there would not be much work for a roller to do. Already quite a debt had been piled on the city this year, and he thought the council should go slow before adding to it.

Ald. Edwards said a great mistake was made in not buying a steam roller when the road plant was bought.

Ald. Farrell addressed the committee at considerable length on the subject. He believed that a steam roller was a capital thing to use in roadmaking, as had been demonstrated here last spring, though the machine then used had not been given a fair test. He agreed with Ald. Scott that the financial end of the question was a serious one, and should be carefully considered by the council. The council should see their way clear to use the roller to the advantage of the city, before making the purchase, and he did not think that could be done at the present time. Our streets were already in fair condition and the work of improving them was well advanced. He believed the present season's work would put our macadamized streets in such a condition

that we could afford to take a rest for a few years. Only a block here and there remained to be macadamized, and when that was done we might get along for four or five years with a greatly reduced expenditure. In that case a road roller would not be of great benefit to us. It was the opinion of the roadmaster that not another bit of sandstone should be put on our streets, and in this he (Farrell) concurred. It simply means that if it is put on one year it has to be scraped off the next. If, after the explanation he had made, the committee thought there was sufficient work to warrant them in purchasing a steam roller, he would raise no objection.

Ald. Ross was inclined to the opinion that the matter should lay over for the present. He was unable to see the wisdom of making the purchase, when the street work was so far advanced.

Ald. Vanwart quoted the roadmaster as saying that there was not sufficient work to keep a steam roller busy for more than half a day each week, and under the circumstances it would be a mistake to make the purchase. He thought the council should heed the roadmaster's advice.

Ald. Clark said he had opposed the purchase of a steam roller two years ago because he did not think the state of the finances at that time warranted the council in making the expenditure. He did not agree with the view expressed by the roadmaster, and was of opinion that it would be to the advantage of the city to have a steam roller. He approved of the plan of payment outlined by Mr. Cameron.

Ald. Moore said that the committee could not order the machine, therefore he did not intend voting on the question.

After a few further observations by Ald. Scott, Stockford, Edwards and Clark the vote was taken on Ald. Stockford's motion and resulted as follows:

Yeas—Stockford, Maxwell, Clark, Edwards—4.

Nays—Scott, Ross, Vanwart, Rodgers—4.

Ald. Moore kept his word and refused to vote either way.

Chairman Farrell said that he did not think it was his duty to give the casting vote when an alderman present at the board had declined to vote. Under other conditions he would not hesitate one moment, but he did care to assume the responsibility when Ald. Moore refused to vote.

The action or rather the inaction of Aids. Moore and Farrell, leaves the steam roller question in statu quo, and nothing further is likely to be done at present.

Ald. Clark, from the committee appointed to procure information in regard to a watering cart, reported that one similar to that was now in use here could be obtained from London, Ont. for \$200.

On motion of Ald. Edwards the city clerk was authorized to make the purchase, Ald. Clark having declined to act in that capacity.

Ald. Farrell reported that he had lately visited the scene of the government dredge operations at Springhill, and the result of his investigations had convinced him that it was not feasible to obtain a supply of gravel from that source for street work.

After some discussion the chairman was authorized to purchase two more boat loads of gravel for street work on the most advantageous terms. The meeting then adjourned.

Lost His Home.

On Friday night last the dwelling house of Albin Harris, at Fredericton Junction, was totally destroyed by fire. Sherman Harris, a brother, and his family lived in a part of the house. Both families lost all their possessions. The weather has been dry of late, and the shingles on the roof being somewhat old and very inflammable, gives a clue to the cause. This is the second time within three years in which Albin Harris has been burned out. No insurance either time.

To Leave Tomorrow.

Dr. Thomas Harrison, chancellor of the U. N. B., is to leave tomorrow evening for Montreal, where he takes passage on Saturday by the Allan Line steamer Tunisian for the old country. The doctor is to attend a reunion of the graduates of Trinity College, Dublin. During his absence Dr. Bailey will act as chancellor of the U. N. B.

Aged Resident's Death.

The death occurred at Scotch Settlement yesterday morning of William B. Christie, a well known resident of that place. He was 79 years of age and leaves a widow and family of four sons and two daughters. The funeral took place at three o'clock this afternoon, with Robert A. Adams in charge of the arrangements.

The Weather.

The weather progn. today say: Thursday, light to moderate, variable winds, cool, a few showers, partly fair.

The Land of Big Game.

George Walker, a prominent farmer of Penniac, whose home is about eight miles from this city, was rather astonished this morning when looking out of his bedroom window, shortly after daylight, to behold three large bull moose within twenty feet of his house. One of the animals was exceptionally large, with good sized antlers still in the velvet, and the others were also of good size, but their antlers were not so well developed. The animals seemed to be very tame and Mr. Walker had time to call other members of his family to the window before the moose began to move away from the house. Finally the dog detected their presence and his barking frightened them away to their forest home. The general supposition is that the moose started out to call on Harry Allen, the celebrated guide of Peoniac, but got slightly mixed in their bearings.

Funeral To-day.

The funeral of the late Mr. John Kelly took place from his home on Campbell street at nine o'clock this morning, and were very largely attended, many old friends being present from Lincoln, O. O. motto and Maugerville, to pay their last tribute of respect to the deceased. The remains were taken to St. Dunstan's church where high mass of requiem was celebrated by Rev. Father Carney, who also preached a very impressive and touching funeral sermon. The remains were afterwards conveyed to the Hermitage where interment was made.

The Temple Estate.

A hearing in re the estate of the late Hon. Thomas Temple is being held today before Judge Barry in the York probate court. J. W. McCready appears for the administrator, A. H. F. Randolph; Geo. W. Allen, K. C., for Mrs. F. S. Hilyard, one of the heirs, and E. H. McAlpine for Mrs. Grosvenor and Major Forester, also heirs. The question at issue is over the distribution among the heirs of the balance of the cash on hand, amounting to \$2,000.

Shipping Notes.

The schooner Georgie E., Capt. E. L. Wason, cleared yesterday for Vineyard Haven, Mass., with a cargo of laths and shingles belonging to the Gibson Company.

The woodboat Maggie Alice left for St. John yesterday with a cargo of one million laths, loaded by the Gibson Company, for reshipment to the old country.

Baker's Cocoa.

G. T. Whelpley is opening today Baker's cocoa, sweet eating and cooking chocolate.—d.

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A smart boy of about fifteen years, and with a fair education, can obtain steady employment and learn a useful trade at the

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May 18—d61

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A cottage on the corner of Westmorland and Aberdeen streets, eight rooms and a bathroom. Apply to J. M. A. Clark, Westmorland street, or to Mr. J. W. McCready. May 9—d61

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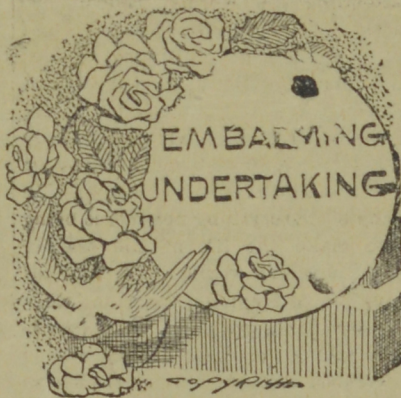
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