

CITY COUNCIL.

Not Much Business Transacted at the Regular Monthly Meeting.

SHARP DISCUSSION OVER FIRE DEPARTMENT MATTERS.

Drivers Appointed For the Central Hose Station.

A SATISFACTORY REPORT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ON TAX COLLECTIONS.

The regular monthly meeting of the city council was held last evening, His Worship Mayor Crocket in the chair. The aldermen present were Messrs. Ryan, Vanwart, Ross, Maxwell, Farrell, Clark, Jago, Stockford and Boyce.

After routine auditor's report No. 1, was read by the mayor and adopted as follows:

Roads and streets.....	\$5.40
Public works.....	13.46
Market.....	17.90
Fire department.....	255.20
Contingencies.....	56.71
Police.....	31.87
City hall.....	5.01
Alms house.....	29.58
Sewerage and water.....	254.76

\$679.94

The monthly salaries of the city officers was ordered to be paid.

The report of the Alms house Commissioner was read by Ald. Vanwart and adopted. There was expended during the month for outdoor relief \$16; for alms house proper, \$192.60; for contingencies, \$113.64, making a total of \$322.64. The over expenditure for the month was \$12.36. On motion of Ald. Vanwart, a check of \$150 was ordered in favor of the Commissioner for current expenses.

City Treasurer's Good Showing.

Ald. Clark, for the finance committee, read the following report, which was adopted, and ordered to be entered upon the minutes:

"Your finance committee begs to report as follows on the tax collections for the past year:

Collected in 1902 for 1899.....	\$ 64 19
Collected in 1902 for 1900.....	1,637 62
Collected in 1902 for 1901.....	13 874 45
Collected in 1902 for 1902.....	35,921 39

\$51,497 65

The amount exceeds the collection of taxes for any previous year by several hundred dollars, and it is the first that the amount of taxes collected in one year exceeds the assessment for that year.

Your committee also begs to report that the balance due the bank on the 31st December was \$7,821.95, being \$4,209.86 less than the balance carried forward from the year 1901.

"Your committee also have to report that in accordance with authority given by this council they invested the Wilmot Park endowment fund of \$10,000, in town of Chatham debentures bearing 4 per cent interest and procured the same at a discount of \$100, this making available \$150 additional income for the park for the present year over last year. The purchase of said debentures was completed on November 29th last and they were on that day placed in the safe of the People's Bank. Respectfully submitted,

W. G. CLARK,
Chairman.

Ald. Farrell expressed his pleasure at the very creditable showing made by Treasurer Golding and his staff of collectors. It was certainly a record year, as far as the collection of taxes went, and it was evident that the treasurer and those acting with him, had exercised the greatest diligence. The showing made was one which should be highly satisfactory to the citizens, and he as one citizen, wished to offer his hearty congratulations to Treasurer Golding. He was in favor of having the policemen act as tax collectors, so long as it did not interfere with their other duties, and the experience of the past year showed that it did not interfere to any great extent. They had received some extra remuneration for their series, but he was sure had well earned it, and none would begrudge it to them.

Mayor Crocket also expressed satisfaction at the splendid showing made,

and thought the city was fortunate in having such a competent city treasurer as Mr. Golding.

The report of the printing committee which was read and adopted, recommended that the tender of H. A. Cropley for job printing, and that of Andrew Lipsett for advertising, be accepted, they being the lowest tenderers.

On motion the rule was suspended and small accounts from Peter Martin and William Craig were ordered to be paid.

The Fire Department.

The fire committee to whom was referred an account from Frank L. Cooper for a hook and ladder rack, amounting to \$44, recommended through Chairman Stockford that the bill be paid.

In reply to a question by Ald. Vanwart it was stated that the work had been done without tender.

Ald. Ross explained that the rack had been ordered by the sub-committee appointed some weeks ago, to complete improvements at the central hose station. Time was short and it being necessary to have the rack before winter set in, they had asked Mr. Cooper to make it for them. He was in a position to say that the price charged was not in the least unreasonable.

Ald. Vanwart was surprised at the action taken by the committee, and did not think Ald. Ross had justified his course. He thought the whole matter looked "fishy" to say the least, and he would vote against the bill being paid. In his opinion the greatest extravagance had been exhibited in the work done at the fire department since spring.

Ald. Stockford vigorously defended the action taken by the fire committee. The price charged for the rack was not excessive, and Ald. Vanwart could not say it was. He (Stockford) had been roasted over fire department matters and knew that Ald. Vanwart had his knife into him, but he did not mind that very much. He had perfectly good ground for saying that work had frequently been done at the alms house without tender, but no protest had been heard from Ald. Vanwart. He was proud to say that at the present time Fredericton had one of the best fire departments in the province.

Ald. Ross replied vigorously to Ald. Vanwart, and as far as argument went rather got the best of him. He repeated that Mr. Cooper's charge for the rack had been fair and reasonable, and declared that Ald. Vanwart knew nothing about the rack, had not even seen it, and based his criticism altogether on street talk. Ald. Vanwart had kept away from the hose station while the improvements were going on, and did not show up until he saw a chance to make a dollar. The council heard no complaint from Ald. Vanwart because the council had purchased a supply of feed for the horses without tender. Why was this? Because the feed had been bought from Ald. Vanwart.

Ald. Farrell thought that the principle laid down by Ald. Vanwart was all right in matters relating to public works, but it could not be carried out in all cases. As far as the hook and ladder rack was concerned, he was bound to say that had he been in Ald. Ross' place he would probably have done as he did. The rack had to be procured within a limited time, and he thought the best plan had been carried out. He was not in a position to say what the rack should have cost, but he had examined it and believed that it represented a large amount of labor. In regard to the fire department he was of the same opinion as Ald. Stockford, that it had been brought to a high state of efficiency and was creditable to all concerned. Although the amount expended on the work had been large, it would be found when the balance sheet was brought down that the department had not over expended its allowance.

Ald. Vanwart was not yet satisfied that the work had been done in a business like way. In regard to the feed for the horses, Ald. Stockford came to his place and ordered it just as any other customer would have done.

On motion of Ald. Vanwart the report was adopted and the bill was ordered to be paid.

A communication from City Electrician White, suggesting some improvements to the battery room in the city hall, was read and placed on file, and consideration of the same was deferred for one month.

A communication from W. B. Coulthard, complaining of over assessment of some property belonging to the estate of the late George E. Coulthard, was received and referred to the assessment appeals committee.

A communication from the Quebec Board of Trade in regard to the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway was read and ordered to be turned over to the Board of Trade.

Ald. Stockford submitted a verbal report from the fire committee in regard to the appointment of drivers for the Central Hose station. He said the committee had offered Mr. Eduey, the tenant, \$30 to move out, but he declined to accept the offer. A room had been fitted up for the drivers downstairs, and the committee

had found two men who were willing to occupy it and act as drivers until such time as the upper flat became vacant. Under this arrangement it was found that four men were available to turn out in case of an alarm. The drivers had been temporarily appointed and were willing to serve until the first of May if their services were required by the council.

Ald. Farrell thought that drivers should be regularly appointed at once, so that the city would have some hold upon them.

Ald. Stockford readily fell in with this idea, and after a few observations, moved that Phillip Doucet and William Wilson be appointed drivers at a salary of \$30 a month each. This motion was seconded by Ald. Ross and unanimously adopted.

Ald. Farrell in his useful, forceful manner called attention to the present condition of the flats along the river front down town, and suggested that steps should be taken to give the city absolute control of this property. He moved, seconded by Ald. Stockford, that the city clerk be instructed to give notice through the papers, that it is the intention of the council to seek legislation at the approaching session of the Legislature, that will be the means of placing the management of the lands in the hand of the city.

A report from the trustees of the Wilmot Park Board signed by Secretary Fenety was read and ordered to be published in the city accounts. A financial statement appended showed a balance on hand from the season's operations of \$116.07.

On motion of Ald. Farrell, it was decided to seek legislation at the coming session to enable the city to close the city hall landing.

At 9.30 o'clock the council adjourned sine die.

On Hand.

Nice P. E. I. oysters, also Bay du Vin oysters, 60cts. and 80cts., per quart at Parsons' Restaurant, Regent St.—Nov., 29 dtf.

HELP WANTED.

WANTED.—A trustworthy gentleman or lady in each county to manage business for an old established house of solid financial standing. A straight, bona fide weekly salary of \$18.00 paid by check each Wednesday with all expenses direct from headquarters. Money advanced for expenses. Manager, 350 Caxton Bldg., Chicago. Dec. 2—d301

THE PEOPLES' BANK OF N. B.

A dividend of 4 per cent on the Capital Stock of this Bank for the half year ending December 31st, will be payable to the Stockholders at the Bank on or after Wednesday, the 22nd January, 1903.

By order of the Board of Directors,
J. W. SPURDEN,
Manager.
Fredericton, N. B., Dec. 27, 1903.—d32w

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