

COUNTY COUNCIL

(CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE.)

PARISH MATTERS.

On motion of Coun. Estey, the following amounts were ordered to be assessed on the Parish of Douglas: Support of poor, \$450; parish indebtedness, \$60; parish clerk, \$6; district clerk, \$2; and that the assessors be paid 5 per cent. for assessing and \$2 each for assessing road tax, and the collectors of rates be paid 5 per cent.

On motion of Coun. Morgan the list of parish officers for New Maryland was confirmed.

The following amounts were ordered to be assessed on the Parish of Stanley: support of poor, \$450; parish indebtedness, \$200; parish clerk, \$4; district clerk, \$4; parish elections, \$2; and that the assessment and collectors be paid at the same rate as last year.

The following amounts were ordered to be assessed on the parish of St. Mary's: support of poor, \$650; commissioner of highways, \$10; support of patient at lunatic asylum, \$65; parish clerk, \$6; district clerk, \$8; parish elections, \$6; assessors 3 per cent and \$4 each for assessing road tax, and collectors 5 per cent.

The following amounts were ordered to be assessed on the parish of Queensbury: Support of poor, \$100; commissioner of highways, \$20; parish indebtedness, \$20; collecting, \$50; district clerk, \$5; assessing and unforeseen expenses, \$100; and that the assessors and collectors be paid the same per centage as last year.

The following amounts were ordered to be assessed on the parish of Southampton: Support of poor, \$350; parish indebtedness, \$100; parish clerk, \$4; room for parish election, \$2; and that the assessors and collectors be paid at the same rate as last year.

The following amounts were ordered to be assessed on North Lake: Support of poor, \$150; parish clerk, \$5, and that the assessors and collectors be paid the same as last year.

The following amounts were ordered to be assessed on the Parish of Prince William: Support of poor, \$50; parish indebtedness, \$20, and that the assessors and collectors be paid the same as last year.

The following amounts were ordered to be assessed on the parish of Canterbury: support of poor, \$325; parish indebtedness \$100; parish clerk \$6. room for parish elections \$4; and that the assessor and collectors be paid five per cent and \$2 each for assessing road tax.

The following amounts were ordered to be assessed on Manners-Sutton: Commissioner of highways, \$44; parish clerk, \$4; assessors, 3 per cent. for assessing and \$2 each for road tax, and the collectors receive 5 per cent.

The following amounts were ordered to be assessed on the parish of Kingsclear: Support of poor, \$300; commissioner of highways, \$10; support of patient at lunatic asylum, \$65; parish clerk, \$4; and that the assessors and collectors receive the usual allowance.

A COUNTY POOR FARM.

Coun. Estey wanted to know what progress had been made by the committee appointed several years ago to look into the question of establishing a poor farm.

Coun. Murray said the committee had made no progress, simply because it had never held any meetings. The late secretary-treasurer had been asked to procure information from other counties having such institutions, but had neglected attending to the matter.

Coun. McFarlane thought the question was one worthy of careful consideration. The present system in vogue here was unsatisfactory, not only to the county, but to the poor, and was also expensive. At the present time the annual cost of supporting the poor was \$3,447 and on an average about 44 persons were kept each year. He advocated the establishing of a poor farm, to be under the supervision of a committee of the council, and thought such an institution would be a great benefit. He promised to move a resolution on the subject later in the session.

Coun. Rowley thought that the idea was a good one, only they should endeavor to secure a good farm instead of a poor one. If such an institution were established the council would need to put on some safeguards, and not have too many high-salaried officials. He promised to support the resolution when it came up.

Coun. McMullin, thought the question was one in dealing with which the council should move very slowly. He believed the better care the poor people received the more numerous they would become.

Coun. Brooks thought there were enough poor farms already in York county without establishing another. It was not much work they would get out of the class of people who were now supported by the different parishes. At the

present high rate of wages he would oppose the establishing of such an institution.

Coun. McManiman said he was in favor of allowing each parish to take care of its own poor, and would therefore oppose the establishment of a poor farm. He did not think the people to be taken care of would do very much in the way of work. Coun. Scott was not in favor of establishing a poor farm under any consideration. They would need to hire a man to manage such a place at a high salary, and soon a higher authority would want to appoint him.

Coun. Fawcett thought that the parishes should continue to take care of the poor in the same way they did at present. There were plenty of poor farms already without establishing another.

Coun. Brooks moved, seconded by Coun. McMullin, that the question of establishing a poor farm be taken up this day six months.

Coun. Estey moved as an amendment that the matter be referred to a committee to procure information and report at the July meeting. This was lost by a vote of 9 to 17, and Coun. Brooks' motion was carried by the same vote reversed.

Coun. Rowley wanted to know if the ex-warden had ever had an interview with the Mayor of Fredericton in regard to the assessment of the school tax. He had no quarrel with the city, but thought that at present the law was being administered to the disadvantage of the county.

Coun. Robison replied that no such conference had been held by him with the mayor.

After some discussion, a motion by Coun. Fraser, seconded by Coun. Reynolds to refer the matter to a committee with instructions to report as early as possible, was unanimously adopted.

The warden appointed Coun. Rowley, Cliff and Scott and the secretary-treasurer as the committee.

The Highway Act.

Coun. McMullin complained that the present highway act was not working satisfactorily and thought the council should urge the government to have amendments made, with a view to making it more workable. He contended that there was too much machinery about it, and too much money had to be paid out for useless work. To his mind it would be far better to go back to the act of 1886, with some amendments. He intended to bring up a resolution on the subject before the meeting closed, and wanted all to be ready for it. The present system of breaking roads and keeping them open during the winter was not what it should be. In his parish the best men went to the woods and only the women and boys remained home in winter and they were getting tired of breaking roads.

The Secretary-Treasurer in reply to a question, said that very few of the highway commissioners made complete returns to him. At the last session of the legislature it had been announced in the speech from the throne that the highway act was to be amended, but he could not remember of this having been done.

On motion of Coun. Murray, seconded by Coun. Burden, the sum of \$300 was granted to the Victoria Hospital for the ensuing year.

On motion of Coun. Scott, F. St. John Bliss was re-elected secretary-treasurer and J. W. McCready, auditor for the ensuing year.

It was resolved that the secretary-treasurer and auditor be paid the same salaries as in former years; also that the warden receive the same allowance as last year, and that the two reporters be paid the usual amount for reporting the proceedings of the present session and also the July session.

Recorder Colter then addressed the council in regard to having some of the books at the record office reindexed. He exhibited several of the most dilapidated specimens of the books and went quite exhaustively into the subject, pointing out that there was no suitable index of the records of the office from 1786 down to 1855. His object in appearing before the council was to acquaint them with the present condition of the books, so that when the bills came in they would not consider him extravagant.

Dr. Irvine's Claim.

A. R. Slipp, by consent of the council, presented a claim for Dr. W. H. Irvine of Boiestown, against the Parish of Stanley, for \$198, being his charge for professional services rendered one Frederick Palmer. Mr. Slipp explained that Palmer was injured by an explosion of dynamite some time ago, and as the accident happened only seven miles from Boiestown, Dr. Irvine was called in. Saunders Price, an overseer of the poor at the time, authorized the doctor to remain in attendance upon the case and he did so for five weeks or until the patient was cured. He held that the claim was a legitimate one and should be paid by the Parish. The councillors for the parish opposed its payment; they labored under a misapprehension, believing that Palmer was a ratepayer of the parish of Ludlow in-

stead of Stanley. He (Slipp) was willing to submit the case to any three fair minded men and abide by the decision. William Richards, who was one of the heaviest ratepayers for the parish of Stanley, thought the parish had a right to pay the bill. If the council thought the amount excessive and wanted to cut \$25, \$50 or \$60 from it, he would advise his client to accept the balance. The doctor had been advised that he had a good case for the courts, but was anxious to effect a settlement if possible, without recourse to law.

Coun. McManiman replied with great vigor to the address of Mr. Slipp, whom he referred to as his honorable friend. He contended that the matter brought up by Mr. Slipp was altogether a parish matter and should not have been brought before the council. He claimed that the dynamite which caused the accident was ignited by a spark from Palmer's pipe, and shattered his hand. Palmer never was a parish charge, and had never been recognized by the overseers of the poor. The whole amount of the bill rendered by Dr. Irvine to the parish was \$247, but he had cut it down before bringing it to the council. He (McManiman) could prove in any court of litigation or jurisdiction that the overseers of the poor had never employed Dr. Irvine to attend Palmer. Had the doctor not written an discourteous, criticizing letter in which he made use of contaminating language, his case might have received more consideration than it did. If his bill had not been so exorbitant, relatives of Palmer would have paid every cent of it. William Richards was not the largest ratepayer in Stanley, but only paid a nominal tax on his woodland. In conclusion he strongly urged the council to throw the bill out.

At the suggestion of the warden, Coun. McManiman terminated his oratorical outburst, and moved that further consideration of the matter be deferred for six months.

Coun. McMullin moved in amendment that the matter be referred to the councillors for Stanley, and it was adopted.

The council then adjourned until Wednesday morning.

DRESSMAKING.

During the months of January, February March and April Miss McCorquindale will be pleased to engage at Dressmaking in private homes. The rate for herself and seamstress will be \$1.50 per day. Jan. 6—T&T2wks.

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