

CITY COUNCIL

Met and Discussed Proposal of the

BOARD OF FIRE UNDER- WRITERS.

Council Willing to Take all Reasonable Precautions.

A REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO CONFER WITH UNDERWRITERS.

The city council met last evening and appointed a committee composed of members of the council and leading business men to confer with representatives of the New Brunswick Board of Fire underwriters in regard to providing additional fire protection for this city.

Those present at the meeting were Mayor Palmer and Alds. Stockford, Scott, Everett, Ross, Farrell, Maxwell, McKnight and Barbour.

The reading of the minutes of the last meeting was dispensed with.

Ald. Farrell explained that the meeting had been called at the request of three aldermen in the absence of the mayor, in order that an answer might be given to the Board of Underwriters prior to Monday.

The Mayor said he had received a telegram on Saturday last from Mr. Clinch asking for a conference, but as he was going out of town he had referred the matter to the city clerk.

The city clerk told of his conference with Mr. Clinch and of the proposition that the latter had made for increased fire protection. The sum of about \$30,000 was now collected annually in this city for insurance premiums, and an increase of twenty per cent. which had been promised unless improvements were made in the fire department, would mean about \$6,000 additional.

Mr. Clinch had explained that it was necessary for the Board of Fire Underwriters to take immediate action, otherwise the matter would be taken out of their hands by the head office.

Ald. Everett was in favor of establishing a fire district, but could not see the advisability of purchasing a chemical engine. He thought the present hydrants had given satisfaction and saw no reason why they should be set aside. If it was a question between buying a chemical engine and having our insurance rates increased, he thought perhaps it would be better to purchase the engine.

Ald. Ross thought the Fredericton hydrants were quite as good as those in use in other cities. A chemical engine might be all right, but he did not think one was a necessity in Fredericton. He thought it unfair that the underwriters should make such demands on the city now that it had such a splendid fire service. We have a good water supply, but it might be improved by the establishment of a reservoir. The city is now in a better position than ever, with regard to fire fighting apparatus. Pressure can be put on almost instantly at the pumping station, where in other places there is always a delay in getting up steam. There has been no serious fire in Fredericton in recent years, and he saw no reason for complaint on the part of insurance companies. When a fire breaks out here it is an easy matter to get at all four sides of most of the buildings. If insurance rates are increased the citizens should consider the advisability of carrying their own insurance.

Ald. Farrell said that there was no doubt that our fire department is second to none in point of efficiency. Still the city is face to face with a rather difficult situation and it would be a serious matter for the council to take the responsibility by inaction of causing the insurance companies to increase their rates. Fredericton has been fortunate in the matter of fires in times past, but the insurance companies, profiting by errors of the past in other places, must take precautions to prevent conflagrations. A chemical engine was undoubtedly a good thing and it might be advisable for the city to purchase one. In regard to the hydrants he thought there would be no difficulty in convincing the insurance companies that they were quite up to the standard. In regard to a fire district, it is to be regretted that one was not started here long ago. It would certainly have a

tendency to prevent conflagrations, and the people expected the council to take action. Municipal insurance might work in the case of one building but it would not do in the case of a whole block. He would suggest that the clerk be instructed to notify the Board of Underwriters that the city was willing to comply with their demands to a reasonable extent. It might be a good plan to ask the Board of Underwriters to appoint a committee to meet with a committee composed of members of the council and citizens representing the business interests, with the object of arriving at a satisfactory adjustment of the difficulty.

Ald. Scott was inclined to agree with the views advanced by Ald. Farrell. He was strongly in favor of establishing a fire district, but thought it should extend to the whole city. At the present time a man might erect a fine building, while another man was allowed to erect a shack or fire trap alongside of him. This was certainly not as it should be.

Ald. Stockford believed it would be a good plan to have a committee from the council meet the Board of Underwriters and try and arrive at some arrangement. One of the difficulties met with at the time of the St. John fire was that most of the houses had lead water service pipes, and as these melted the water supply was diminished. No such difficulty could be encountered in the city of Fredericton. He was confident that Fredericton had one of the best water systems in the Dominion of Canada.

Ald. Barbour thought it was advisable that a conference should be held between a committee of the council and the Board of Fire Underwriters. Pending that conference, he thought it would be inadvisable to take any action likely to prejudice the case of the city. He was not quite sure that the insurance rates would not be increased, even if the council complied with the wishes of the Board of Underwriters.

The city clerk said that Mr. Clinch stated that if the conditions proposed by him were complied with, he had every reason to believe that the increase of rates would not apply to Fredericton.

On motion of Ald. Farrell, seconded by Ald. Barbour, the following resolution was adopted:

"Resolved, That the city clerk be authorized to correspond with the Board of Fire Underwriters and assure them that the council will assist in putting into effect any reasonable request made by the board for increased protection from fire in this city, and of the willingness of the council to further confer with the board Board of Underwriters in this respect."

On motion of Ald. Farrell, His Worship the Mayor and City Clerk McCreedy were appointed members of the committee.

The Mayor appointed Alds. Farrell, Everett and Barbour, and Messrs. F. E. Edgecombe, J. J. Weddall, G. T. Whelpley and J. S. Neill, as members of the committee.

Ald. Stockford thought the chairman of the fire committee, chief engineer and water superintendent should attend the conference.

The suggestion was approved of and the city clerk was instructed to notify them to be present.

Ald. McKnight thought it advisable that the city should put in a tender for the government road roller.

After a brief discussion it was agreed that a meeting of the road committee be called to deal with the matter.

Ald. Scott called attention to the unsafe condition of a culvert at the lower end of the city.

The mayor stated that the council could not deal with matters not outlined on the notice of meeting.

At 9 15 o'clock the meeting adjourned.

Mr. B. A. Everett, of Woodstock, is a guest at Windsor Hall today.

G. T. WHELPLEY.

Seeds

- Seed Oats,
- White and Black Seed Oats,
- Grass Seed,
- Alsike, Northern Red and Long Late Clover Seed,
- Seed Peas and Ensilage Corn,
- A large variety of Garden Seeds.

G. T. WHELPLEY,
310 Queen St., F'ton.

HE'S ALL RIGHT.

Minister of Railways Sent Telegraphers' Delegation Home Happy.

INCREASE OF WAGES AND OTHER CONCESSIONS

Treated the Delegates with Every Courtesy.

(Special to Daily Herald.)

May 7.—T. C. Charters, station master at Point Du Chêne, returned yesterday from Ottawa, where he was one of a delegation from the Brotherhood of Railway Telegraphers to interview the minister of railways in regard to the increase of salaries and some revision of the rules in connection with their order.

Hon. Mr. Emerson met the delegation and it is learned that a satisfactory arrangement of rates and rules has been agreed to.

The minimum for telegraphers on the main line was \$41.50, and on branch lines, \$38. This has been increased to \$45 on the main line and \$43 on the branch lines.

There will also be an increase in extra time for Sunday working, also a small increase to agents above minimum.

Operators at terminal points and yard offices have been increased from \$45 to \$50, and operators in the despatching office from \$55 to \$60.

Train despatchers are granted an additional week's vacation.

Mr. Charters said the delegation was much pleased with the kindness and courtesy extended to them by the Minister of Railways, and the best of feeling prevailed throughout the discussion.

The delegates feel satisfied that the Minister has done all he possibly could to meet their wishes.

For Men Only.

A meeting for men only will be held at Edgecombe's in the clothing department. It is about time now for changing to lighter underwear. Have you seen the mens' felt hats, they are selling for 25c. each.—d.

CASTORIA

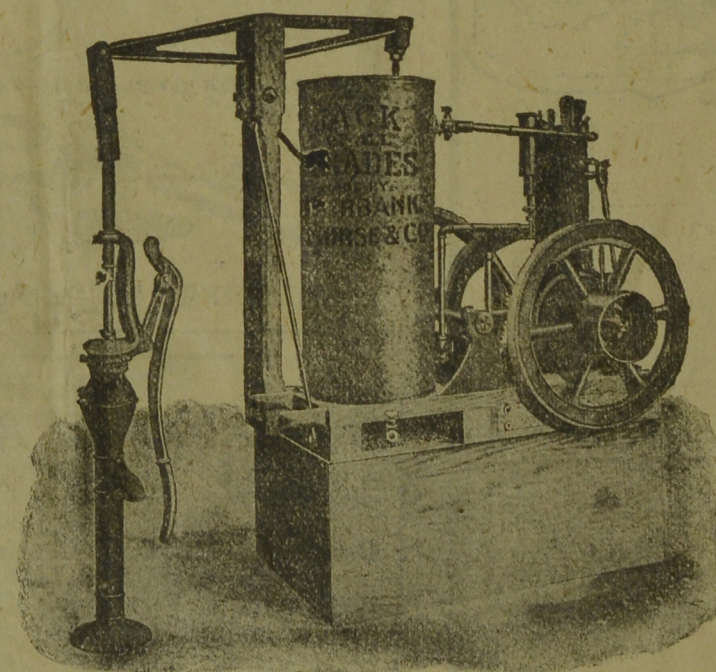
For Infants and Children.
The Kind You Have Always Bought

Bears the
Signature of *Dr. J. C. Fitch*

SAFE FOR SALE.

A Tilton & McFarlane Safe in good order. Apply to J. W. McCREADY, Barrister.

May 7—d31



R. CHESTNUT & SONS, THE HARDWARE PEOPLE.

Write for catalogue or come in and see one in operation.

HOT WATER BOTTLES

AT A PURSE PLEASING PRICE.

We have a quantity of Hot Water Bottles of the finest quality, each one of new, strong, dependable rubber, fully guaranteed, that we offer while they last at

75 cts.

Worth the price in a single emergency case. Buy one to-day.

C. FRED. CHESTNUT, Apothecary,
308 Queen street,
F'ton, N. B.

New Cut Glass.

We are just opening up the finest line of the above Goods we have ever shown. The prices too are surprising low for the quality.

F. E. BLACKMER'S
220 QUEEN STREET.

Hand Made Long Boots,

(Boyer's celebrated make),

LOTTIMER'S SHOE STORE.

WE HAVE THEM IN

Cowhide, Imperial
Kip and Calf....

Of ordinary length of leg: and also Imperial Kip and Calf Driving Boots.

PRICES AS LOW AS THE LOWEST.

H. M. LOTTIMER,
Dealer in Reliable Footwear, - - 210 Queen st., Fredericton

Mechanical Power....

For pumping water, sawing wood, grinding grain, threshing or running any kind of machinery, is easily and cheaply developed by one of our

Gasoline Engines

Can be started or stopped instantly, requires no attention when running, and only costs to operate 3 cents per horse power per hour.