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WATER PROBLEM.

(Continued from first page.)

worth while to find out if it was possible to procure a gravitation system. The interest on the cost of a gravitation supply would be less than it now cost to operate the pumping station.

Ald. McGinn said he was strongly opposed to making the expenditure. He did not think the St. John river could be improved on as a source of water supply. If the St. John river was impure it was the fault of the citizens. Now that it had been de-

cided to turn the hospital sewage into a cesspool instead of the river, he thought the cause of the pollution would be removed. He would be willing to expend money to extend the water system to the Aberdeen mill, where it would do some good, but he would oppose making any further expenditure for engineers' reports. The city had had sufficient of them already and they had done no good. He would vote strongly against the resolution.

Ald. Randolph thought it important that a competent engineer should be employed to outline a scheme for the improvement of the water system. There was now many conflicting opinions as to what was needed,

and an investigation by a competent engineer might be the means of cementing these opinions into one harmonious whole. This to his mind was the only way that the council could hope to arrive at a definite conclusion as to what steps should be taken. He did not think the citizens had had an opportunity to think the matter over, because the facts had never been properly set before them.

Ald. Stockford after offering some observations in regard to experience of St. John in obtaining a water supply announced that he was unequivocally opposed to making the expenditure proposed by the water committee.

Ald. Hanlon said that he had not changed his mind since the last meeting, when he had opposed adopting the report. If the pumps were not what they should be it would be necessary to purchase new ones. As for the St. John river, he believed that the water from it was as good as can be obtained anywhere. He was opposed to expending money on engineers at the present time. As it was impossible to obtain a gravitation system, an engineer would probably recommend a filtration system, and that would cost \$25,000.

Ald. Edwards said that there was an impression outside that there was something wrong with Fredericton water. He had met with it during his twenty years experience in the hotel business. He had met men who were guests at his house, who absolutely refused to drink Fredericton water. He was in favor of the resolution.

Ald. Everett thought that in view of the reports of the city engineer and water superintendent that there was no course open to the council but to adopt the committee's report. It was necessary that something should be done, and the alderman who were opposing the resolution had not proposed any alternative.

Ald. McGinn said that the engineers who had installed the water system had strongly commended the St. John River as a source of water supply.

Ald. Mitchell thought that the time had arrived when something should be done with a view of improving the water supply. He believed that the intake should either be extended out to the channel, or a filtration plant adopted. He did think that a gravitation system was possible here.

Ald. Barbour said that the object of employing an engineer was to obtain the proper method of improving the water system. He was hopeful that a supply could be obtained from gravitation. There was a strong prejudice against Fredericton water, and it would be decidedly in the interests of the city that some steps should be taken to improve it. The engineers who had looked over the ground in the past had recommended the St. John River on the ground of economy, but they had not stated that it was impossible to obtain a supply from other sources.

THE MAYOR OPPOSES.

The mayor called Ald. Stockford to the chair and briefly expressed his views on the subject. He said that he wanted to go on record as being distinctly opposed to spending money for investigating the water supply. He alluded to the work done by Prof. Jack and other engineers, and expressed the opinion that the council already had sufficient information to justify action. Prof. Mason, an expert in the line, had pronounced the water unfit for domestic use. That ought to be sufficient to satisfy the council. He thought the recommendations already made should be carried out.

Ald. Barbour said that the information now in the possession of the council could be utilized by the engineer.

The first section of the report was adopted on the following division:

Yeas—Barbour, Chestnut, Randolph, Edwards, McKenzie, Everett, —6.

Nays—Stockford, McGinn, Mitchell, Hanlon, —4.

Section two of the report provides that such surveys as are necessary be immediately undertaken. This was adopted by the same vote.

The third section recommended that Mr. Frank A. Barbour, C. E., of Boston, be engaged.

Ald. Barbour explained that, although having the same name, Engineer Barbour was no connection of his. He was well satisfied that he was thoroughly competent to do the work. He had solved the water problem in St. John, and could do the same in Fredericton.

Ald. McGinn was pleased to hear that Engineer Barbour was no connection of the alderman.

Ald. Mitchell was opposed to expending any money in connection with a gravitation system, and he believed it was impractical. He believed, however, that something should be done to improve the water supply from the river.

Ald. Stockford thought it was a reflection upon our city engineer to talk of engaging an outsider. He would vote against any further importations.

Ald. Randolph said that Engineer Barbour was a native of the province and had been educated at a university. If it was true as Ald. Mitchell had said that a gravitation system was an impossibility, it would not take Engineer Barbour long to find it out.

Ald. McGinn was hopeful that the removal of hospital sewage from the river would mean an improvement to the water supply and if the council had any money to spare they should expend it in encouraging manufacturing industries to locate here.

Ald. Stockford moved, seconded by Ald. McGinn that Mr. Gilman Brown be engaged instead of Mr. Brown.

Ald. Hanlon said that being approved to the expenditure in the first place he could not support Ald. Stockford's amendment. He did not think it possible to obtain a gravitation system.

Ald. McGinn was satisfied that an engineer was going to be appointed, and it was only right that the claims of the city engineer should not be overlooked. He believed he was as well qualified as Mr. Barbour.

Ald. Barbour pointed out that both St. John and Halifax had passed

over the local engineers and employed outsiders. It was felt that a man who gave his whole time to that kind of work would give a more satisfactory service.

The amendment by Ald. Stockford, that Mr. Brown be appointed, was defeated by a vote of eight to two, only the mover and seconder supporting it.

The original resolution was carried by a vote of seven to three, Ald. Hanlon voting with the minority.

On motion of Ald. Mitchell, seconded by Ald. Stockford, the section was added to the water committee's report, pledging the council to extend the water service to the Aberdeen mill and not further than Bailey's bridge in case Donald Fraser & Sons should decide to rebuild. The section also recommended that a committee be appointed to confer with the Messrs. Fraser on the subject.

The section was unanimously adopted and the Aids, Mitchell, McGinn, Hanlon, Edwards and Barbour were appointed on the committee. Ald. Barbour said that it would cost \$10,000 to extend the water works to Bailey's bridge as a new main would have to be laid from the pumping station.

A motion to adopt the water committee's report en bloc was carried by a vote of six to four.

The council then adjourned.

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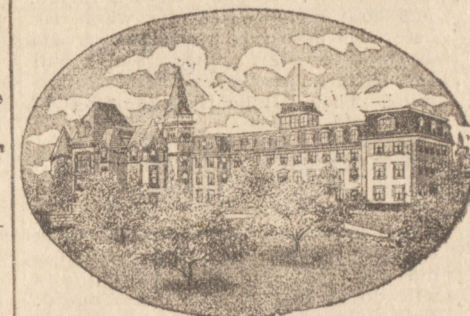
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