

THE FREDERICTON DAILY HERALD is published every evening (Sunday excepted) by THE HERALD PRINTING AND PUBLISHING COMPANY (Ltd.) at Fredericton, New Brunswick. Subscription, \$4.00 per annum.

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DAILY HERALD.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1906

THE LEGISLATIVE MEETING

We do not pretend to anticipate the contents of the governor's speech at tomorrow's legislative opening, but His Honor, will be justified in referring with satisfaction to the continued prosperity of New Brunswick, and the progress and generally happy conditions of its people. The lumbermen have not had as good times as usual, but prices are looking up, and all other classes of the people have prospered, especially the farmers, who have enjoyed record prices for their produce, and raised prices of it.

His Honor will meet the House as it was last session—not a single change in its membership in the last year, and that is a condition seldom seen.

Some important business is scheduled for the session, including the introduction of the judiciary bill, and other changes in the administration of the law.

The government can congratulate itself that it is strong in the confidence of the legislature and the country, both in its policy and administration. The new highway act against which the opposition sought so industriously to influence the people, is growing in popularity every day, and as an indication of the futurity of the campaign put up against it, it may be noted that the York county council which is generally willing to operate for the opposition politicians, failed to even mention the new act at its recent session. The councillors were fresh from the people, and evidently knew the public feeling so well that they cast no reproach at the law.

THE WATER SUPPLY.

Engineer Barbour thinks the best way to improve Fredericton's water system is by the addition of a filtration plant which will cost \$42,300, to instal and \$3,275 for annual running expenses. The majority of the aldermen are believed to be in favor of the proposition and four of the ten voted for immediate action in the matter, but others possibly with an election staring them in the face, voted to stand the question over to a special meeting. This should be called at once, so that the council may be put squarely on record before the elections.

It is admitted that something must be done to remove the popular conception that our water is not as good as it should be, and while the filtration plan is rather an expensive one, it seems the only feasible one at present.

Engineer Barbour abandons the idea of a gravitation system as too expensive and, if we are to continue to draw our water from the St. John river, and intend dumping sewage into that waterway, the need for filtration becomes apparent.

Mr. A. H. U. Colquhoun, who has been appointed to the responsible position of deputy minister of education in Ontario, is a journalist with twenty years experience. He is a native of Montreal, and graduated with distinguished honors at McGill University. He has seen service on the Montreal Star, Ottawa Journal, Toronto Mail and Empire, and more recently with the Toronto News.

The city council will be justified in extending all reasonable concessions to the saw mill industry, which Mr. A. J. Gregory is promoting. The loss to the city by the Estey mill fire was a serious one, and the citizens would like to see the industry replaced, as Mr. Gregory proposes.

Sympathy will be extended to His Honor the Lieutenant Governor and Mrs. F. P. Thompson on the loss by death of their brother, the late Judge Snowball in California. The deceased gentleman occupied a prominent position in his adopted home.

CITY COUNCIL.

(Continued from 7th page.)

Ald. Barbour said he was in favor of having the work carried out. He said it was important that the city should have a good water supply and as a gravitation system was impracticable, it was necessary for the council to adopt filtration. It was important that plans and specifications should be prepared at once, so that the new council will be in a position to call for tenders by May 1st. He would move that the section be adopted.

Ald. McGinn thought the Council should ascertain if there was any demand for filtration before engaging in such a project. He was in a position to say that as far as fire was concerned, the present water system was entirely satisfactory. He denied that the capacity of the engines at the pumping station was overtaxed. He had lately made some tests him-

self and he proceeded to give the council the result of the same. He also quoted from the last report of the late Chief Lipsett to show that the pumps were capable of meeting all demands made upon them. He would admit that the pipe leading out to the cribwell was too small and should be replaced by one, two or three feet in diameter. In regard to purifying the water it was strange that after Engineer Barbour had told the people of Sunbury that the sewerage of the city would not be contaminated by sewage he should now recommend Fredericton to adopt a costly filtration plant. He (Mr. McGinn) was opposed to expending the people's money in that way and would vote against the adoption of the report.

Ald. Barbour, in reply to Ald. McGinn, read extracts from a report of Supt. Burchill showing that the pumps at the water works were now running pretty well up to their capacity. He (Barbour) believed that the time had arrived when the city should take steps to purify the water supply. Ald. McGinn's statement that Mr. Barbour had informed the people of Sunbury that sewage would not contaminate the river water was incorrect. What he did say was that the water was already contaminated, and the dumping of further sewage into the river would only emphasize that fact.

Ald. Everett, thought in view of the other heavy undertakings that the council had engaged in the water question, might very well be allowed to stand over for another year. He said that the river was very low last summer, yet there had been less sickness than usual.

The following is the statement of the probable cost of the filtration plant as given by Engineer Barbour: Low lift pump, \$5,000 00; Coagulating basin, 3,500 00; Filter tanks, 2,000 00; Filter apparatus, sand strainer system, and inside piping (as furnished by filter companies), 9,000 00; Outside piping, 1,200 00; Filter building, 4,600 00; Addition to pumping station, 2,000 00; Clear water basin and accessory structure, 11,200 00; Total, 38,500 00; For contingencies, 3,850 00; Total, 42,350 00.

The yearly cost of maintaining the purification plant is estimated as follows: Interest, \$42,350, 4 percent., \$1,694 00; Depreciation, 5,524 73; Chemicals, (based on present consumption), 558 00; Attendants, 500 00; Total, \$3,276 73.

In summing up the report, Mr. Barbour says: "It has been concluded that a gravity supply of water is not economically obtainable. It has been concluded that some improvements are necessary to make the system capable of furnishing adequate fire protection at all times."

It has been concluded that the St. John River should be continued as the service of supply, and that to obtain a satisfactory and safe water from this source a purification plant is required. It has been concluded that it is necessary to extend the intake up the river.

It has been shown that the installation of a purification plant can be so arranged to provide for better fire service without the construction of a new intake pipe. It is recommended that purification of mechanical filters, with preliminary coagulation, be adopted, and that the plant be located at the site of the pumping station and a clear water basin be provided to guarantee the water necessary for all purposes, within reach of the present pump.

Ald. Chestnut was in favor of giving the committee power to have plans and specifications prepared. Personally, he was in favor of installing a filtration plant, and making the other improvements suggested by Engineer Barbour. If the work could be done for \$42,000 he thought it would be a good investment for the city.

Ald. Randolph spoke along the same lines as Ald. Chestnut. The water superintendent had impressed upon him the necessity of having some changes made at the pumping station, with a view of improving the fire protection service. He for one did not wish to assume the responsibility of continuing a state of affairs which was held by those in a position to know to be dangerous to the city. He thought the committee should be empowered to procure plans and specifications.

Ald. Hanlon thought as the question was of such importance, it would be a good plan to defer action until a special meeting could be held. It was certain that Fredericton water had a bad reputation, and something should be done to remove it. He was inclined to favor water filtration.

Ald. Stockford favored allowing the matter to stand over.

Ald. Edwards moved, seconded by Ald. Hanlon, that the matter be stood over for a special meeting.

Ald. Barbour repeated that it was of great importance that plans and specifications should be prepared so that the new council could go on with the work if they saw fit.

Ald. Mitchell thought that there was nothing to gain by exercising undue haste in the matter. He would have to vote against the motion.

After some further remarks by Aids Everett, Stockford and Hanlon, Ald. Edwards' amendment was put and carried on the following division: Yeas.—Edwards, Hanlon, McGinn, Mitchell, Stockford and Everett—6. Nays.—Barbour, Randolph, Chestnut, McKenzie—4.

NEW STREETS.

On motion of Ald. Mitchell, the streets now known as Victoria Lane, Saunders street and Needham street were united under the name of Union street. Ald. Everett wanted Saunders street adopted as the name but his motion was voted down.

On motion of Ald. Everett Aber-

deen and Grove streets were united under the name of Aberdeen street. The new street running parallel to Aberdeen street was given the name of Argyle street, and another street in the same locality was named Victoria street. A new street laid out near University Avenue was named Grey street, and a new street connecting Grey street with Lansdowne avenue, was called Winslow street.

A communication from the school board asking for a conference was referred to the incoming council.

A letter from Dr. E. B. Fisher, secretary of the provincial board of health, was laid over until the special meeting.

A letter from J. J. F. Winslow asking the city procure lease of the lot of land on Queen street below the post office, was read by the city clerk. As the matter is outside of the jurisdiction of the council, no action was taken.

St. Andrew's Society were refunded the amount paid for the use of the opera house for the Burns Concert.

Dr. E. W. Henry was reappointed

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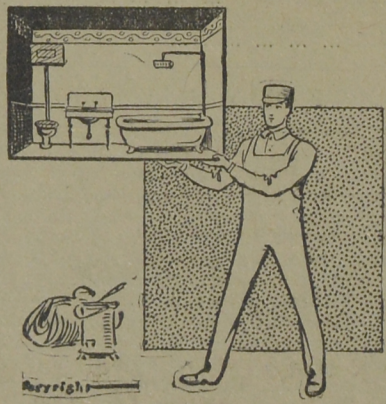
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