

CITY COUNCIL MEETING.

Police Commission Matters Spirited Discussion—Miss Pugh's Bill Reporting Ordered to be paid—Mr. P. Doohan Wins Out.

At the monthly meeting of the city council last evening there was a sharp discussion over matters concerning the police commission. Several of the aldermen wanted to dock Chief Winter for the time he was absent from the city last month chasing Scott Act witnesses but were outvoted.

Miss Julia Pugh's bill of \$55 for reporting the evidence of the Cameron enquiry before the police commission was a bone of contention, but the council, by a vote of 5 to 4, agreed to pay it in full.

Mr. Patrick Doohan, who is the subject for a debate at the council about once a year, was in evidence last evening. He was bounced by the roadmaster on Nov. 4th, from his position as street cleaner, but kept right on with his work. He rendered an account for \$30, and the council, after a sharp discussion, decided to pay it. Mr. Doohan has friends at the council board and will probably be allowed to finish his work.

Those present at the meeting were Mayor Chestnut, in the chair, and Alds. Hooper, Mitchell, Walker, Weddall, Kitchen, Farrell, Jewett and Crowe.

The minutes of the last regular meeting were read by the city clerk and confirmed.

AUDITOR'S REPORT.

The auditor's report for November was read by the Mayor and adopted. The expenditures for the month were as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Roads and streets | \$ 106 70 |
| Public Works | 26 05 |
| Fire Department | 172 27 |
| Administration of Justice | 66 74 |
| City Hall | 180 83 |
| Contingencies | 263 21 |
| Wharves | 45 75 |
| Street Lighting | 320 72 |
| Water | 631 53 |
| Sewerage | 518 29 |
| Total | \$2,332 09 |

On motion of Ald. Hooper the rule was suspended and an account from Odillion Fortin, for services at the central hose station was ordered to be paid.

Ald. Jewett submitted the report of the commissioner of the Municipal home. The expenditures for the month totalled \$176.60. A check for \$200 was voted to run the institution during December.

Ald. Mitchell moved that the salaries of the city officials for the month be paid.

POLICEMEN'S PAY.

Ald. Hooper wanted to know if the policemen were paid for time in which they were absent from the city.

The city clerk said he understood that the policemen were to give their whole time to their duties as policemen in the city. There might, however, be occasions when they would be sent out of town in connection with criminal cases.

Ald. Hooper said that he had knowledge that Police Constable Winter was absent from the city last month for three days. He would second Ald. Mitchell's motion, with the understanding that Police Constable Winter be docked three days' pay.

Ald. Weddall said it was true that Police Constable Winter was out of the city three days. He was absent in search of a witness wanted in a Scott Act case.

Ald. Farrell thought that the council should be guided by the advice of the city clerk in matters of that kind. He said that Police Constable Winter had returned from his trip on Saturday night, but did not go on duty that night. That same night a burglary was committed within a stone's throw of the police station. There had been an agitation for an increase in the police force, but a good many citizens were of the opinion that the force was already large enough. The city had four policemen and expected them to stay here and protect the property of the citizens. If an officer were needed to hunt up Scott Act witnesses there are plenty of constables who can be engaged to do that kind of work. The policemen should stay home and attend to the duties for which they are paid. He understood that Police Constable Winter left the city without notifying the administration of justice committee. He would move as an amendment that three days pay be deducted from Chief Winter's salary.

Ald. Hooper thought it strange that two robberies should occur within a stone's throw of the police station. If the police force is too small, why is it necessary to send one of the force out of the city searching for witnesses. He did not think the policemen exercised any great amount

of diligence in the discharge of their duties. He would second Ald. Farrell's amendment.

Ald. Clark said that the robberies complained of had occurred after Chief Winter's return to the city, and the perpetrator of them had been arrested and sentenced. This certainly showed efficient work on the part of the police force. He claimed that under the act the administration of justice committee had nothing to do with the police force, as they are under the control of the police commission. He thought the council should endeavor to strengthen the hands of the police commission. On a former occasion the question of making a deduction from a policeman's salary was referred to a special committee, and a cut of 75 cents had been made. He thought that this was hewing pretty close to the line.

Ald. Farrell's amendment was then voted upon, and lost on the following division:

Yeas—Farrell, Hooper, Kitchen, Jewett—4.

Nays—Clark, Weddall, Crowe, Walker, Mitchell—5.

The original motion was carried by the same vote reversed.

MISS PUGH'S ACCOUNT.

Ald. Clark moved that the account of Miss Pugh of \$55 for services as stenographer to the police commission be referred to a special committee of three, with power to make a settlement.

Ald. Hooper said the motion looked like a vote of want of confidence in the administration of justice committee, which had already reported adversely against the bill.

Ald. Clark claimed that it was customary to refer matters of that kind to a special committee to report upon. Ald. Winslow had had some correspondence from Miss Pugh's solicitors, who threatened a suit, but he understood that he had submitted no reply. He regretted that Ald. Winslow was absent from the meeting, and that there was no report from him on the matter.

Ald. Hooper said that Ald. Winslow was unavoidably absent, and he argued that the matter should not be taken out of his hands.

Ald. Mitchell and Crowe both signified their intention of seconding Ald. Clark's motion, and Ald. Crowe was named as seconder.

Ald. Mitchell spoke in favor of Ald. Clark's motion and took Ald. Hooper sharply to task for heckling him. He could not say that the commission had done the right thing in employing a stenographer, but he thought Miss Pugh's account having been contracted, should be settled.

The city clerk, on being asked by Ald. Kitchen for an opinion on the legality of the bill, said that there was an argument on both sides. He quoted from the act and discussed the matter at some length in a rather non-committal way. He was inclined to think that there was some doubt as to the legality of the bill, although the commission were certainly within their rights in holding the investigation. The question was whether or not the bill could be looked upon as a contingency.

Ald. Kitchen thought that the question should be fully thrashed out by the council.

Ald. Clarke contended that the commission had the right to hold the investigation and therefore the bill should be paid as the employment of a stenographer was a necessary contingency.

Ald. Hooper contended that the whole trouble was due to the fact that the police commission had persistently ignored the council. When they wanted a roll of toilet paper or some small article they consult Ald. Winslow but that course is not followed when there are large expenditures to be made. He contended that the city of Fredericton was not liable for Miss Pugh's bill, and so far as he was concerned he was willing to allow the matter to be settled by the courts. He would make bold to say that the over expenditure in the police department was larger than that of any other department. If he was not correct in the statement he would like Ald. Clarke to contradict him. "The fact," said Ald. Hooper, "that Ald. Clarke is silent shows that I am right."

Ald. Farrell said that he had it on the authority of a reputable citizen that one of the new police constables had made the statement that if he (Farrell) went on at the council board about him like he did about

another police constable, he (the constable) would take care of him when he caught him outside of the council chamber. In other words he made the statement that he would knock his (Farrell's) block off when he got a chance. He intimated that he proposed to deal with the case of the policeman who had made that threat at a later stage.

Ald. Farrell admitted that claims had in the past been referred to a special committee, but the committee could only settle subject to the ratification of the council. In this case the proposal was that the committee should have full power to make a settlement. He thought that as Ald. Winslow was absent the matter could very well be stood over until his return.

In regard to the Cameron investigation he thought it should have been held by the police magistrate, a disinterested party, and not by the commission. In regard to Cameron he had heard it said that Ald. Clarke had waited upon him and had asked him if he (Cameron) had given Winter \$5.00 and when he reported in the affirmative, the alderman said "I believe you."

In summing up Ald. Farrell declared that there had been no need of the commission employing a stenographer. They were not allowed in the county courts or police courts therefore the police commission could get along without one. He was opposed to the payment of the bill and would vote against it.

Ald. Clarke thought that the matter was scarcely of sufficient importance to take up so much time over. The bill had been contracted by the commission, and should be paid. In regard to Ald. Winslow as he was opposed to the payment of the bill, his presence at the meeting would make no difference. The alderman gave an emphatic denial to the statement that he had approached Cameron and had told him that he believed he had paid money to Winter. It was true that he had spoken to Cameron on a Sunday afternoon and had implored him to lead a better life. He had afterwards offered to go before the police commission and make a statement but was told by counsel on both sides that it was unnecessary. If it was wrong to have the Cameron case investigated by the police commission, then the chairman of the administration of justice committee was to blame because it was his law firm that had asked for the investigation.

Ald. Mitchell, while of the opinion that the bill should not have been incurred, thought that if the case went to law there would be a bill of costs several times greater.

Ald. Walker moved as an amendment that the bill be paid at \$55. He regarded this as the best way of disposing of the matter.

Ald. Crowe seconded Ald. Walker's motion, and in doing so, said he had been surprised at the magnitude of the bill, and thought the commission would be more careful in future about incurring expense.

Ald. Clark withdrew his motion with the consent of the seconder.

Ald. Walker's amendment then became the original motion.

Ald. Farrell moved as an amendment, seconded by Ald. Hooper that the matter should be stood over until a full board was present.

The council divided as follows on the amendment:

Yeas—Farrell, Hooper, Kitchen, Jewett—4.

Nays—Weddall, Mitchell, Walker, Crowe, Clark—5.

The original motion was carried by the same vote reversed, and the bill was ordered to be paid at \$55.

A statement of tax collections showed that \$1,664 had been collected during November, against \$395.70 for the corresponding month last year.

The printing committee were authorized to invite tenders for city printing.

Ald. Mitchell said that the road committee had tenders to supply trap rock at 70 cents per ton, and sand stone at 40 cents, the same price paid last year. They also had awarded a contract for snowploughing. In regard to the extension of Aberdeen street the engineer is now at work preparing the plans.

A bill of \$30 from Mr. Patrick Doohan for services on the roads and streets was ordered to be paid after a sharp discussion, a report of which will be found elsewhere.

Mr. John Hodge was relieved of the payment of a poll tax on the ground of old age, he being eighty-five years old.

The committee appointed to look into the matter of having Scott Act fines placed as a separate fund, to be used in the enforcement of the Act, was granted a month's extension of time to make a report.

A dispute between Alms House Keeper Thomas and R. Chestnut & Sons, over the canoe factory lot, was referred to the alms house committee to investigate.

If it was decided, on motion of Ald. Hooper that in future all accounts against the city must be rendered on or before noon on the Saturday preceding the regular monthly meeting. On motion of Ald. Crowe the council adjourned sine die.

AFTER SICKNESS.

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The Buckley Hat "when you want quality."

Public Baths.

The first public bath in England for hot bathing purposes was opened in 1679.

A White City.

All of the buildings in Valetta, the capital of the island of Malta, are of white stone. There being no smoke or fog to discolor them, they are as fresh and clean now as when they were erected.

An Acre.

Measure 209 feet on each side and you will have an acre within an inch. United States land measure.

Mine Luck.

The Calumet and Hecla copper mine was discovered by Billy Royal, who found his lost pigs under the shelter of a "ruck" which proved to be almost pure copper.

Fruit Skins.

The skin of an apple or pear is harmful and has been known to bring on acute gastritis which resulted fatally. The skins of fruits are meant for the protection of the fruit and should be no more eaten than the shell of a nut.

The Maoris.

The Maoris of New Zealand now number 42,000 odd.

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In order to cure, first reconstruct the blood—change white cells to red ones, fill the blood with nourishment—do this, and the result will be in your case just as it was with J. E. Vanhorne, a prominent citizen of South Alexandria.

"Four years ago my health became very poor, I grew thin and yellow. I wasn't strong, lacked energy, and slept poorly. At breakfast I ate very little. My physician said it was a bad case of indigestion. I grew worse, and many said I would die. I tried everything and almost lost faith in medicine. My mother had been reading about Ferrozone and advised me to try it.

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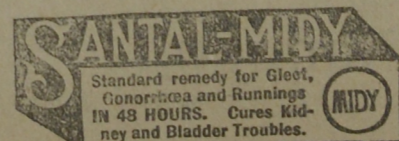
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