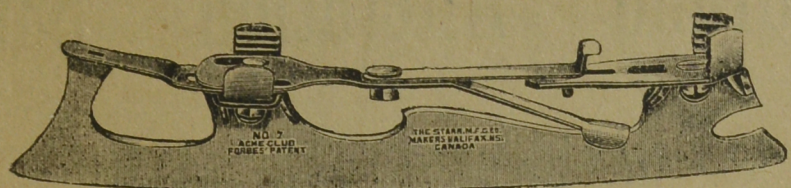


SKATES



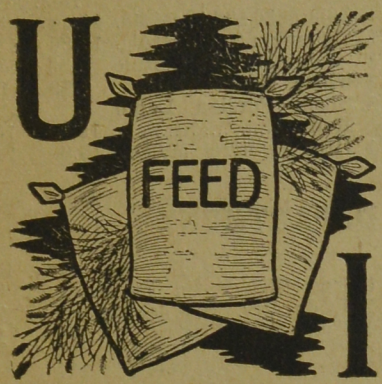
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STILL IN THE DARK

Hyde & Webster Claim Discused by the City Fathers but Information was not Forthcoming

Ald. Hooper Succeeds in getting an Important Resolution Adopted

The monthly meeting of the city council last evening was a rather very one but there was not a great deal of important business transacted. The annual reports of the chief engineer of the fire department and the street lights superintendent were submitted and adopted. The mysterious settlement made with Hyde and Webster was brought up by Ald. Hooper and while he did not succeed in bringing out much valuable information he secured the passage of a resolution ordering the publication of certain information that should be made by the ratepayers. In connection with the matter Ald. Everett was able to call attention to an error in the minutes of the last meeting of the council and a resolution was passed ordering the city clerk to amend his minutes. It seems that at the last meeting a committee was appointed to deal with Hyde & Webster's claim and while it was distinctly understood at the time that Auditor McKay was to be a member of the committee no mention was made of it in the minutes.

Those present at the meeting were Mayor McLeod, and Alds. Hooper, Everett, Kelly, Oldham, Morris, Jewett, Moore, Dougherty and Johnson. The city clerk read the minutes of the last meeting but they were amended before being approved.

Ald. Everett objected to the wording of the resolution relating to Hyde & Webster's claim against the city. He stated that the auditor was named as a member of the committee. He distinctly recollected making a motion to that effect. The city clerk said that he had written the motion as he understood it at the time.

Ald. Hooper and Moore corroborated what Ald. Everett had said. Ald. Johnson contended that the motion as it appeared on the minutes. He understood the committee was to make the best arrangements with Hyde & Webster.

Ald. Oldham agreed with Ald. Johnson. Ald. Hooper was certain that Auditor McKay had been named as a member of the committee.

Ald. Kelly—"That's right." Ald. Johnson contended that the chairman of the sewerage committee was given absolute power to settle the claim.

The Mayor suggested that as there was a difference of opinion between Ald. Everett, the mover, and Ald. Johnson, the seconder, as to the exact terms of the motion, it might be well to defer consideration of the matter until Ald. Scott could be present. He said that there was no motion before the council.

Ald. Hooper thought that as a majority of the council were positive that the auditor's name was omitted the minutes should be amended. Ald. Moore moved, seconded by Ald. Hooper that the minutes be amended by adding the auditor's name to the resolution.

The Mayor said that Ald. Scott telephoned that he had missed the train at Fredericton Junction and could not be present at the meeting. Ald. Moore's amendment was put and carried.

THE AUDITOR'S REPORT.

The mayor next took up the auditor's report for December and had rather strenuous time getting through with it, reading some of the items over twice, and mixing things up generally. The expenditures in the several departments for the month were as follows:

Roads and streets	\$15 08
Public Works	337 00
City Hall	149 38
Contingencies	31 25
Ad. of Justice	26 14
Wharves	9 62
Fire department	105 05
Market	41 38
Old Burying Ground	50
Street lights	401 70
Sewerage	286 89
Water	501 95
Total	\$1,572 26

The monthly salaries of city officers were ordered to be paid.

Ald. Morris presented the monthly report of the commissioner of the Municipal Home. The total expenditures were \$239.19 debit balance of \$39.19. The report was adopted and a check for \$150 was ordered to issue in favor of the commissioner.

The Assessment Appeals Committee, through Ald. Dougherty, recommended that William McCrea and Daniel Keely be relieved from the payment of a poll tax on account of old age. Adopted.

Ald. Hooper reported that the fire committee had awarded contracts for supplies as follows:

C. W. Whitley, oats at 55 cents per bushel.
F. H. Everett, hay at \$18 per ton, straw at \$9, and bran at \$1.25 per cwt.

Ald. Everett presented a very satisfactory report for the finance committee. The receipts for December totaled \$1,640, a slight increase over the corresponding month of last year. The total collections for the year totaled \$67,633.86 against \$59,209.17 in 1906. He explained that the amount for 1907 was only \$1400 less than the warrants of assessment.

THE PRINTING CONTRACT.

Ald. Everett presented a report of the printing committee which was adopted. It stated that the contract for advertising had been awarded to The Herald Publishing Company, and the printing to H. A. Cropley, who were the lowest tenderers.

The mayor, at the request of one of the aldermen, read the tenders for advertising. He stated that the Gleaner wanted 75 cents per inch for the first insertion and 25 cents for each subsequent insertion, and the Herald's figures were 22 cents per inch and 11 cents for each subsequent insertion and 50 cents per 100 for slips.

Ald. Hooper and Everett and the city clerk contended that the Gleaner only wanted 15 cents per inch for the first insertion, but the mayor contended that the price was 75 cents per inch. He suggested that members of the committee wanted eyesight.

Ald. Morris being called upon to arbitrate, decided after an examination

that 75 cents per inch was the price asked. The matter was then dropped. The report of the committee was adopted. His Worship remarked that they received considerable free advertising from The Herald, and should make allowance for that.

On motion of Ald. Everett, the finance committee were authorized to destroy the cancelled bonds and coupons, now in the possession of the city treasurer.

Ald. Hooper wanted to know if some member of the sewerage committee was not in a position to submit a report.

Ald. Morris said that he had no report to make.

Ald. Jewett said that he noticed by the newspapers that the sewerage committee had transacted considerable important business of late. He had not been notified of any meeting of the committee.

It was decided to allow the matter to stand over until Ald. Scott's return.

The report of the fire department was read by the mayor and ordered to be published in the annual blue book. It will be found in another part of this issue.

STREET LIGHTING.

The annual report of the street lighting department was read by Superintendent McGinn. It dealt with a number of improvements and changes which had been made during the year, and gave a list of new lamps installed. The total number of lights is now 83, the average cost of which was \$60.61. During the year the lights were kept burning 2,742 1/2 hours, an increase of 160 hours over last year. Among the improvements recommended is a new belt for the engine at the power station. The total expenditure on the department was given as \$5,528, less assets on hand of \$330.90. The balance to the credit of the department is \$337.90. On motion of Ald. Hooper, the superintendent's report was adopted and ordered to be published in the blue book.

Ald. Moore said that the small losses in fires during the year had convinced him that the time had arrived when the city should adopt municipal insurance. He promised to bring the matter up in the form of a motion some time in the future.

THAT DRINKING FOUNTAIN.

Ald. Oldham said he had received a letter from Mr. Henry Chestnut in regard to putting in a drinking fountain on Smythe street. He complained that he had received no assistance from the street department.

The mayor said that the council had done nothing more than to grant the right to the local improvement association to place a fountain on Smythe street.

Ald. Jewett said that the council had also promised free water. Ald. Everett spoke on the subject at some length. He said that Mr. Chestnut had been in connection with a new drinking trough and fountain.

He had brought the matter before the road committee, but it had been turned down. The expenditure was for the improvement of the city, and as Mr. Chestnut had expended the money out of his own pocket he had the right to be repaid.

The mayor remarked that whatever action the council might take, there was no obligation on the part of the city to pay Mr. Chestnut.

Ald. Everett said that for his part he was prepared to vote to pay Mr. Chestnut \$30 and decided the amount Chestnut \$30 and deduct that amount from the local improvement association grant next year.

Ald. Hooper said he thought Ald. Everett's proposal was reasonable, and he would support it.

The mayor said it seemed to him the principle was wrong. So far as the council was concerned there was nothing to show how the money had been expended.

Ald. Hooper said that Mr. Chestnut was a reliable man and his word could be depended upon. Ald. Oldham said that he had been informed by Mr. Chestnut that he had paid \$30 out of his own pocket.

The mayor remarked that it might be true, but the council had nothing to show for it.

It was finally agreed that the matter should stand over for a month.

HYDE & WEBSTER'S CLAIM.

Ald. Hooper again brought up the Hyde & Webster claim and made a strong bid for more light on this questionable transaction, but failed to get very much. He went back some months in dealing with the matter and showed how it had been brought out at a meeting of the sewerage committee that pipe condemned by the engineer had afterwards been used, by order of an employee of the city, the city thus becoming responsible. At that time it was considered that the city owed Hyde & Webster \$28.23 according to the report of the auditor. Telegrams then passed between the chairman and the contractors and it was stated by the chairman that the matter would not be settled without first being referred to the council. Shortly after this the announcement was made by one of the city papers that the claim had been settled for \$3,083. It was also stated that the check was then in the hands of the contractors, but this proved to be incorrect. Later on it was again stated by the press that the money had been paid over, and this time it proved to be an actual fact. He was surprised to learn that \$3,083 had been paid, when, according to the auditor the amount due was only \$2,083. More than that, he was informed that the statement had been made by one of Hyde & Webster's solicitors that the city had paid \$400 more than Hyde & Webster had first agreed to settle for. The point is, how was the matter settled without the council, members of the sewerage committee, or mayor knowing anything about it. He understood that when the city treasurer was first asked to pass a check for the claim he refused to do so. A city by-law says he shall not pass a check without an

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Dear Mrs. Pinkham:—

"When I commenced to take Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound I was suffering with weakness and womb trouble, headache, backache, and that worn-out, tired feeling. I have only taken the Vegetable Compound a few short weeks, and it has made me well, strong and robust. I believe that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound is without equal for female troubles."

Women who are troubled with painful or irregular periods, backache, bloating, (or flatulence), inflammation or ulceration, that "bearing-down" feeling, dizziness, faintness, indigestion, or nervous prostration may be restored to perfect health and strength by taking Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

order from the auditor, and this by-law had been ignored. The whole transaction was most extraordinary, and should be looked into. The expenditure was made illegally and the matter was one concerning every citizen. He then moved a resolution to the effect that as the press had published incorrect information, the time had arrived to give the citizens the facts, that reports of Engineers Grimmer and Lea and Auditor McKay be given to the press for publication.

Continuing, Ald. Hooper said that when Ald. Lee left the employ of the city a resolution was passed expressing appreciation of the valuable services he had rendered the city, yet the committee ignored his report, and adopted one made by Mr. Grimmer, which was proved to be incorrect. It was shown that the sum of \$83 had been charged twice and the auditor claims that another item of \$173 was paid twice.

He wanted all the reports published so that the citizens would understand that the council was not responsible for the payment.

After considerable delay Ald. Kelly, seconded Ald. Hooper's motion.

Ald. Everett said that he felt that if the city owed Hyde & Webster \$3,083, they were entitled to their pay. He had heard the chairman say the claim was \$2,883, and he thought he could settle it for \$2,500. He was surprised when he heard such a large amount had been paid. He agreed with Ald. Hooper that all the facts should be made known, but the resolution seemed to him to be a little of a brief speech. As Mr. Lee's report on the Hyde and Webster claim had been ignored, it might be a good plan to publish it for the information of the citizens. The auditor was a painstaking man and he is sure that the sum of \$170 was twice paid to Hyde & Webster.

Ald. Dougherty felt that all the information should be given to the public, but as the chairman was absent it would be well to wait for a report from him.

Ald. Johnson thought it unfair to the chairman to take advantage of him in his absence. It was to him like a stab in the back.

Ald. Hooper assured the council that he intended no injustice to the chairman. After some further discussion Ald. Hooper's motion was carried and the council adjourned.

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