

VOTE ON SEWERAGE.

(CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE.)

On motion of Ald. Farrell, Roadmaster McKay was given permission to address the council in regard to snowplowing matters. He said that he fully expected that the contractor would be out at daylight after the recent storm. He came up town shortly after eight o'clock and found him just getting his team out. He (McKay) asked for an explanation and was informed by the contractor that he had not been able to get his horses up from the farm, and a team that he had engaged had not shown up. He assured the roadmaster that the storm had taken him somewhat off his guard, but he promised to be better prepared to handle the next one. The roadmaster went on to say that the storm had been an exceptionally severe one and under the circumstances he thought that the contractor had done very well. There was not sufficient horse power available to draw the two plows, so only one had been used and it took six horses to draw it. If the work was not satisfactory to the council, the contractor was prepared to go over the sidewalks again. He added that personally he was satisfied with the work.

Ald. Vanwart said that since occupying a seat at the board he had never seen the sidewalks in such a disgraceful condition as they were at present. He thought that if it was not the contractor's place to improve them, it should be done by the city.

Ald. Farrell said that the Roadmaster had stated the case just as it had occurred. The whole trouble was that the contractor did not get out early enough on the morning after the storm, and the reason for the delay was not given. Hard ridges had been allowed to form on the sidewalks and the plow coming along afterwards had not been able to remove them. The sidewalks were certainly not in a satisfactory condition, and if it was not the contractor's duty to improve them then it should be done by the city. The sidewalks should certainly not be left in their present state, and he thought the council should instruct the roadmaster to have the contractor go over them again. He had no doubt that the people were willing to pay for having the sidewalks put in proper condition for travel.

Ald. Everett thought that the contractor had done very well, but there were some bad places on the sidewalks and the contractor should be instructed to go over them again.

Ald. Vanwart thought that if the contractor did not improve the sidewalks it should be done by the roadmaster at the expense of the contractor. If anything further was wanted, it seemed that it would have to be done by the council.

Ald. Farrell moved a resolution, the text of which was that the roadmaster should in future after the occurrence of a snow storm, investigate the work of the contractor for snowplowing, and if he found that the same was not being done satisfactorily, to report at once to the council so that action might be taken.

Ald. McNally seconded the resolution.

Ald. Clark thought it would be better to have the report made to the chairman of the road committee rather than to the council, and at his suggestion the resolution was amended accordingly, and adopted.

On motion of Ald. Farrell, the Roadmaster was instructed to order the contractor to improve the condition of the sidewalks where required, and in case he refused to take steps to have the work done at his expense.

For Snow Haulers.

On motion of Ald. Farrell, seconded by Ald. McNally, it was resolved that the city clerk be instructed to issue posters, notifying parties hauling snow from yards, etc., that they must in future deposit the same near the centre of the river, away from any travelled roads, and that it be free from chips and other rubbish.

Ald. Farrell thought that if the law prohibited parties from throwing snow over the wharves, they should not be allowed to do it.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

The report of the administration of justice committee recommended that a check for \$988.65 be issued in favor of the secretary-treasurer of the county, to defray the city's share of the costs of administration of justice. Adopted.

The Taxation of Banks

Ald. McNally thought that the method of taxing foreign banks, insurance companies, etc., in this city was different from that in vogue in other places, and he believed that a change should be made. In Halifax such institutions were required to pay a license, which he believed to be the better plan. He would move the following resolution:

"Resolved, that the city clerk be directed to publish in the manner required by the rules of the House of Assembly, notice of the intention of the city council to introduce at the approaching session of the Legislature an act to provide for the manner of assessing banks, insurance companies, and other corporations not assessed on capital in this city, but having agencies or branches established here."

Ald. Slipp thought that the matter was an important one and should be carefully considered by the council. The banks and insurance companies were here now, and he thought that their side of the case should be considered before action was taken. He did not think that there was any great demand on the part of the public for a change such as that proposed.

Ald. Everett had received no intimation that the resolution was coming up. He had not given the matter much consideration and was not prepared to say that it was not a step in the right direction. He thought the matter should be carefully considered by the council before they gave notice of applying for legislation to make the change. He suggested that Ald. McNally withdraw his resolution and give notice that he would bring up the matter at a future meeting.

Ald. Everett could not see any reason why the resolution should not be adopted. He thought the council should procure the necessary legislation, so that they could have power to make the change if they saw fit.

The mayor called attention to the importance of the question under consideration and advised the council not to act hastily.

Ald. McNally could not see that any harm would result in the council procuring the necessary legislation, so that the council could deal with the matter at some future date.

After some further discussion it was decided on motion of Ald. McNally that the matter be referred to the finance committee to report upon at a special meeting.

Petitions Dealt With.

Ald. Slipp presented a petition from L. W. Bailey, A. M. Block, M. Neville, Prof. Stockley, Prof. Raymond, R. H. O'Brien, G. N. Babbitt and others, praying that the council take steps to extend the water works system out Church street beyond the C. R. R. track. Referred to the water committee.

Ald. McNally moved that notice be

given of the intention of the council to apply for authority at the ensuing session of the Legislature to issue debentures to the amount of \$10,000 to provide a complete system of water filtration.

Ald. Farrell called attention to the fact that the matter had already been voted upon adversely by the council.

After some discussion it was agreed to refer the resolution to the finance committee.

A petition from A. E. Massie, praying for relief from payment of an income tax, on the ground that he was not employed in Fredericton and only spent four weeks of the year here, was referred to the assessment appeal committee.

A petition from A. B. Wilnot in re the estate of the late William Dixon was referred to the same committee.

A petition from Arthur C. Porter and other ratepayers praying that a light be placed on the corner of Westmorland and Aberdeen streets was referred to the Light Committee.

Joseph Phillips was appointed a constable and John J. Moore a surveyor of wood without salary.

Assessors Appointed.

On motion of Ald. Vanwart, Dr. E. W. Henry was appointed principal assessor for the ensuing year.

Ald. Clark nominated H. C. MacKay, and H. C. Rutter for assistant assessors.

Ald. Merrithew nominated Thomas Wilkinson.

Ald. Everett nominated A. S. Murray for an assistant assessor, but afterwards withdrew the nomination, on Ald. McNally explaining that Mr. Murray did not want the position because he expected to be away the greater part of the year.

The motion that Messrs. MacKay and Rutter be appointed was then put and carried without discussion.

The salaries of the assessors were fixed at the same amount as last year.

A Sewerage Plebiscite.

Ald. Farrell brought up the question of having a plebiscite taken on the sewerage question. He said there were a number of citizens in favor of sewerage and he thought the council should give them an opportunity to vote upon the matter. It was a question whether it would be advisable to have the vote taken on the date of the civic elections or on a separate date. Personally he thought the question should not be mixed up with civic politics, and for that reason he favored a separate election. He would like to hear an expression of opinion on the subject and promised to abide by the decision of a majority as to the date for holding the election.

Ald. Everett favored having the vote taken on election day, as it would then cost nothing and would save people the trouble of going to the polls twice.

Ald. Clark was strongly in favor of sewerage and was very glad that Ald. Farrell had brought the matter up. He thought the vote should be taken on election day as a matter of convenience to the ratepayers. He suggested that the filtration question might be submitted to the people at the same time. Then there were people who thought the intake pipe of the water works should be removed, and that might be voted upon.

Ald. McNally favored taking the vote separately from the civic elections. This was to ensure a genuine expression of opinion and prevent the question from being overshadowed. As for filtration, he thought that would necessarily go with sewerage.

Ald. Farrell did not agree with Ald. McNally that the adoption of sewerage would make it necessary to put in a filtration plant. He did not think it was necessary to couple these matters, as

(CONTINUED ON SIXTH PAGE.)

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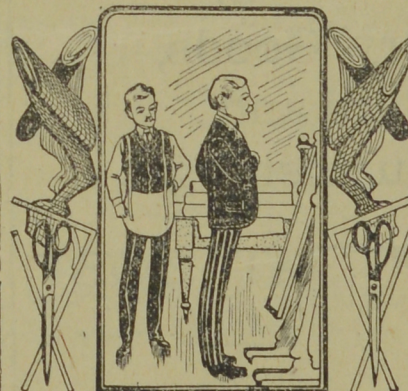


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4th—Black Astrachan Coat, size 36, first price, \$35.00, now \$28.00
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