

The WEST VAN. NEWS

A Weekly Newspaper

Circulating in the District of West Vancouver--Ambleside, Hollyburn, Weston, Dundarave

\$1.00 per year.

Cypress Park, Caulfeild, Whytecliff, Etc.

Newsstands 5c per Copy

Vol. IV EIGHT PAGES

HOLLYBURN P.O., WEST VANCOUVER, B.C., FRIDAY, JAN. 17th, 1930

No. 44

W. J. DENT'S MEETING IN DUNDARAVE HALL

Dundarave Hall was filled for the meeting held there by W. J. Dent on Wednesday evening. An invitation had been extended to all the candidates for the various municipal offices to be present, and all those who accepted the invitation spoke briefly.

J. Speck acted as chairman.

W. J. Dent

W. J. Dent, in opening his address said he intended to speak for a short time on the report for 1929 of Reeve Vinson as contained in last Friday's issue of The News.

He alleged the report was misleading. It was stated that the municipality had only collected 77% of the taxes in 1929 as against the 80% collected in 1928, which latter had been the basis of their figures in estimating the 1929 revenue.

Mr. Dent said that 75% was generally considered to be a very good average in such cases.

There had been considerable disagreement as regards the amount of the bank overdraft at the time of the 1929 election, but when the tax papers were sent out later for 1929, the levy included 8 mills to pay off a sum of \$55,000, approximately stated to be owing to the bank. There was an admitted shortage in collections of \$23,118.15 and the bank overdraft had been reduced by \$3,200, but what had happened to the balance of the \$55,000? Was the explanation that the mill rate last year should have been 80 or 90 mills instead of 61 mills? He could not say.

As regards the reduction of the overdraft by \$10,000 to be raised by by-law this year in connection with an expenditure on Marine Drive, that was merely taking the money out of one pocket and putting it in another.

While an operating profit of \$6,800 had been made by the ferries, the Reeve's report should have shown the position after paying the sinking fund and interest charges.

In spite of the Reeve's remarks on the excellence of the Police Department, a number of residents did not seem to be so well satisfied with it, and the Capilano bridge was still unfinished, although it was, he understood, supposed to have been open by 1st November last.

The total value of improvements was given as \$3,177,415, but this figure represented the total of the building permits, which in most cases exceeded the actual value of the building erected, and it should be remembered our borrowing power was calculated on the value of improvements.

An improvement tax was staring us in the face, unless something else could be done to meet current expenditure.

A levy of 75 mills or over might be necessary. The council should have had the auditors report ready previous to the election for the information of the ratepayers.

In connection with the Burns deal he understood a cheque for \$12,600 had been held by the council for eight months, and why it had not been cashed he did not know. The correspond-

ence in the matter should also have been made public.

If elected, he would go first through the books for his own satisfaction. West Vancouver had a rosy future.

His platform was:

1. Rigid economy. Spend in West Vancouver and employ West Vancouver men.
2. Believed in changing the Zoning by-law. Main restriction should be that buildings should be "safe and sanitary."
3. Proper investigation of water resources.
4. Reduce taxation by getting Provincial government to assume all indebtedness on Marine Drive and the Capilano bridge.

While resident here only 3 years he had had 25 years' municipal experience in Canada.

To a question as to whether he was a Bolshevik, which the questioner said was being talked on the street, he stated he was a Conservative.

Councillor Fiddes

Councillor Fiddes took no responsibility for the Reeve's report in the press, which the councillors had never been shown but he stated he would show on Thursday night where every cent had been spent.

The ratepayers could easily have learnt just what the council was doing if they had attended the council meetings.

The water problem was no problem at all but the Eagle Lake scheme referred to by Mr. Dent had been found to be too expensive. The cheapest scheme was to buy as they were doing from the Greater Vancouver Water Board. Mr. Cleveland, a great expert on such matters, had stated his board could supply water to the upper levels by several small power pumps.

The Burns' cheque was not marked. He had wanted it cashed, but that course was advised against by the legal department.

J. B. Leyland

The Eagle Lake scheme after a long investigation by the 1926 council, had been found financially impossible.

In 1926 the time had come for West Vancouver to become a permanent residential area and not merely a summer camping resort. The council then had decided to put town planning in force, being the first to do so under a new act just passed, but before putting the by-law through, had given due notice in the press, and held a public meeting to hear objections. As a result of the by-law, mortgage companies had begun to loan on West Vancouver property which they had refused to do previously.

If elected he would change the zoning by-law after consulting the various organizations who had been asked to put in recommendations.

Mr. W. McQuaker

He had got out in 1925 the first report on the water situation, in which he had been and was much interested, also a further report in 1926. His figures had been based on the then prices of the Greater Vancouver Water Board, which prices had since been altered.

Mr. V. Nightingale

He had held that when our first road program was started that we should have done our

CANADIAN LEGION WHIST DRIVE TOMORROW NIGHT

The Canadian Legion, West Vancouver branch, is giving a whist drive tomorrow (Saturday) evening at "the Clachan." This will be the first of a series of six whist drives, for which there will be a grand aggregate prize as in the case of the previous series. Play will start at 8.15 p. m. sharp. There will be good prize as in the case of the previous play and refreshments will be served. Arrangements have also been made to announce the results of the municipal election during the evening. The whist drives put on by the Legion have been deservedly popular and a big crowd of players is expected to be on hand tomorrow evening.

Board of Trade Annual Meeting

The West Vancouver Board of Trade will hold their annual general meeting and election of officers next Monday evening, 20th instant, in Colonel K. W. Savory's office. A number of important matters will come up for discussion, and a report will be made by the delegation who with General McRae last Saturday interviewed the Superintendent of Postal Services in Vancouver in reference to better facilities for the district. Every member is earnestly requested to make a point of being present.

SCOTTISH SOCIETY

The regular monthly meeting of the West Vancouver Scottish Society will be held in the "Clachan" tonight (Friday) at 7.45 p. m. Short talks on their "Native place" will be given by a number of members and a good attendance is requested for this interesting meeting.

HOLLYBURN LIBRARY ANNUAL MEETING

The General Meeting of the Hollyburn Public Library Association will take place on Monday, January 20th, at 8 p. m. sharp, at the Hollyburn Public School.

The Library Board cordially invites non-members to be present. Members are asked to bring their friends, in order that they may learn what the library has to offer.

work ourselves, and he still thought so. When he had had a local contract had employed West Vancouver men. He said transportation must be improved to attract population. He believed in West Vancouver for West Vancouver people.

Mr. E. S. Gamage

The school board was largely bound by the regulations of the department in Victoria but economy should not be effected at the cost of our children.

Vocational training was also necessary.

Mr. T. E. W. Russell

He had no axe to grind. We had a good school system, good teachers and buildings, and were getting results. He would, if elected, endeavor to co-operate with both teachers and parents for the best interests of the children.

Big Meeting in Hollyburn Theatre

Hollyburn Theatre was crowded yesterday evening for the public meeting given by the three candidates for reeve, at which all the candidates for the other municipal offices were asked to speak. John Lawson was the chairman of the evening and the candidates spoke in the order given.

Mr. W. J. Dent

W. J. Dent stated he had only consented to stand for reeve after repeated requests both by individuals and later by a delegation of residents. Last year he had heard Reeve Vinson promise to keep the mill rate to 45 mills but instead he had raised it to 61 mills. Taking up Reeve Vinson's letter in last week's West Van News he said the world over 75% was considered a good average proportion of tax payments, and therefore there was no reason to expect an 80% payment.

A levy of 8 mills had been made to pay off the bank overdraft of \$55,000. If 77% of an 8 mill tax raise had only paid off \$3,200 of the overdraft, what had become of the balance? He figured the mill rate last year should have been 80 mills instead of 61 mills. An improvement tax might soon be necessary, a tax to which he was bitterly opposed, as one was liable to be taxed out of one's home. He presumed the borrowing power of the municipality set at \$357,600 by Reeve Vinson, was based on the value of improvements, but as apparently the building permits were the basis of the valuation of improvements, the borrowing power would probably be less. West Vancouver in any case should be re-assessed throughout.

He held the reeve and council responsible for holding no stewardship meeting.

As regards transportation he thought that the statement should include sinking fund and

interest charges, which he believed would have shown the ferries to have been behind some \$12,000. From personal observation the ferries were overcrowded at rush hours, which was physically dangerous to the passengers and financially dangerous to the municipality.

We were being charged Fraser Valley rates for light and power, which should be lowered in his opinion. The board of trade had recommended this to the council, but nothing had been done.

If elected, he would try to keep mill rate where it is or lower it.

The government, he thought, could be persuaded to assume the indebtedness on the Marine Drive and the Capilano bridge, which would reduce the mill rate.

Councillor J. B. Fiddes

Councillor Fiddes stated he believed in the municipality doing its own work, and he had no intention, as reported, of reducing the wages of those employed on the roads. Unless the government would take over the Marine Drive altogether, it would be better for it to remain a secondary highway, because we would then have some control of it.

The ferry service was excellent and why it should be made a political football he could not understand. Strip tickets would be good if they resulted in more passengers in the slack hours, but what he favored particularly was a children's 10-ride ticket for 50 cents.

He believed the P. R. system should be cut out because it was not understood by the voters.

The turning down of the water by-laws last year had caused some to go short, not because of lack of water, but because the present pipes were not big enough to furnish the supply.

He stated that the following represented the allocations of expenditures in 1929 and proportions necessary for each department or disposal of tax and revenue dollar.

		% of total Receipts \$
Debenture Int. and Sinking Fund.....	\$105,580.70	45.82
Schools	52,875.35	22.95
Finance (Administration, etc.)	20,487.08	8.89
Hospitals	2,316.70	1.01
Cemetery	1,600.00	0.70
Board of Works	21,827.52	9.47
Police	11,385.94	4.94
Fire	1,308.51	0.56
Parks	1,026.21	0.45
Light	8,828.36	3.40
Reduction Bank overdraft	3,200.00	1.34
Unused fractions		0.47
	\$230,436.37	100.00%

The totals for debenture interest, schools, hospitals, cemetery, police and light amounting to \$182,587 were out of the control of the council and the council had only 10% to carry on with. The actual amount of taxes paid was \$182,157, so it was easy to see where the money had been spent.

If elected, he would have a check made of the municipal securities, as there were some which were better disposed of. They would have to go slow until 1933, when bond issues of \$170,000, all provided for, would mature. He believed in basing ex-

penditure on income not on estimates.

Mr. J. B. Leyland

Mr. Leyland said the reeve and council must take the responsibility for not holding a stewardship meeting. West Vancouver, in common with the whole world was suffering from the international financial situation, which was not good. There was a haziness about the bank overdraft and there also appeared to be some uncertainty as to what the Capilano bridge would cost. In view of these and other matters a candidate could only promise