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# Victoria County Council Some Important Reports

## COUNCILLORS PUT IN A BUSY DAY FRIDAY — ROADS AND BRIDGES COMMITTEE AGAIN TALKED EARNESTLY AND LONG — THE REPORTS SUBMITTED.

Part of Wednesday afternoon was spent by the County Councillors in committee work, three sessions being held.

At 2 p.m. the Education committee sat, Mr. Fielding presiding. School Inspectors Stevens and Knight were in attendance.

A communication was read from Mr. McEachern, teacher at Kinnmount, in which he called the attention of Council to the inconvenience and expense caused by north country school pupils having to write on the Entrance examinations at Fenelon Falls. There was no good reason why the examinations should not be held at Kinnmount or other convenient points.

Mr. G. A. Jordan supported the request in energetic fashion, as did Mr. Fielding and others. The former pointed out that the pupils of nine schools were interested in the change being brought about, while the additional cost to the County would only reach \$12 or \$15. Even the inspectors were willing, and when Mr. Watson moved, seconded by Mr. Graham, that the proposed change be made, the resolution was adopted unanimously.

A number of accounts were then read and adopted, after which the members rose.

### County Property.

Chairman Geo. A. Jordan presided over the deliberations of the above committee, which had to do with the conditions causing dampness in the vault adjoining Judge Harding's chambers, the repapering of the Matron's room etc. The projected improvements were left to the discretion of the chairman.

### Printing Committee.

Mr. Taylor Parkin, chairman, presided over the session, W. E. Parker & Co., Toronto, asked that Council purchase a Protograph, a \$35 machine to stamp cheques and prevent the amount being raised. Treasurer McNeillie said he had never had any trouble in that way and the application was filed.

A number of accounts were read and recommended for payment.

Clerk McNeillie pointed out that next season four firms would be eligible to compete for the County printing.

Members then adjourned to meet Thursday at 10.30 in regular session.

### THURSDAY'S SESSION.

Council resumed on Thursday at 10.45, Warden Mason and all members present. The minutes of Wednesday's session were read and confirmed.

A report was read from the County Engineer dealing with Norland bridge and Ops swing bridge. This was referred to the Roads and Bridges committee.

On motion Mr. Jas. Boxall was heard relative to vault improvements. He commended the suggestion made yesterday by Mr. Jordan, which he said would be a cheap and effective method of overcoming the difficulty. The latter will have the work carried out.

A statement of Collegiate Institute accounts was referred to the Finance committee, after which the reports of the Education, County Property and Printing committees were read and adopted without amendment.

Moved by Mr. Watson, seconded by Mr. Howkins, that the report of the committee appointed at the January session to settle with the townships of Carden and Verulam relative to proportion of cost to be paid on bridge, be referred to Roads and Bridges committee.

A statement of the expenditure incurred by Lindsay during the smallpox quarantine of 1908 was referred to the Finance committee.

Moved by Mr. Howkins, seconded by Mr. Grant, that the Finance committee consider the advisability of remunerating county constables for services rendered in connection with pedlars' licenses.—Carried.

Council then adjourned until 10.30 Friday.

The members of the Roads and Bridges committee put in a laborious session Thursday afternoon, which lasted from 2 till 5.45 p.m. Mr. Howkins, the chairman, presided.

Among the visitors present were Col. Sam Hughes, M.P., Mr. S. J. Fox, M. P., County Engineer Smith and Mr. F. A. McDiarmid, Mr. J. H. Carnegie, was to have been in attendance, but was unable to keep his engagement owing to the serious illness of his father.

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of the cost of the new structures, and I have asked the members who represent the County in the Dominion Parliament and Legislative Assembly to confer with you on the subject at the present session."

Clerk McNeillie—"It may be well to state at the outset that our expenditure this year on bridges in the northern part of this county totals \$5,498.01. The proportion of this sum paid by the municipalities interested on the basis of their assessment is less than \$200."

Warden Mason—"Yes, the cost to the southern portion of the county of bridges built in the northern townships is very heavy owing to the low assessed values of the townships benefited, and it has been thought that, owing to these townships having been stripped of revenue producing wealth in the shape of timber, to the benefit of the Ontario treasury in the shape of timber dues, it would only be fair if the legislature would contribute part of what had been so received to the upkeep of bridges in the north. The Norland bridge, which had cost the county a large sum, is used very little by the people of the county, yet it had to be built."

Mr. Fox, M.P.P., followed the Warden. In opening he said he had not had time to look up any information as to the amount voted by the legislature for works in the northern part of this county, but he was aware that over \$900 had been expended, and Mr. Carnegie had secured some large amounts for bridges and colonization roads in Haliburton county. He was aware also, that the policy of the government was against assuming responsibility for bridges even in New Ontario, where they were building colonization roads. In Haliburton on the Monk road and on Victoria road north it was different—these were used by lumbermen. Possibly the government might be induced to change their views, but he didn't think so. It was true that Victoria county was in a peculiar position owing to the front townships being good and the back ones poor; the County Council might make out a claim on that score and also because, as the Warden had remarked, the government had pocketed the timber dues received from the north townships, but personally he (Mr. Fox) did not think they should succeed in their endeavors. It might not be wise even to press the matter."

Mr. Howkins—"Don't you think we have a special claim on account of the low assessment of the back townships?"

Mr. Fox—"No, Hastings is in the same position exactly."

Mr. Howkins—"Do you think it unwise on our part to press the claim?"

Mr. Fox—"No, yet it might open up new points which it would be as well for you not to have touched."

Mr. Graham—"I have always been in favor of having this question pressed. Of course the government has always been good to the northern county, yet not quite as good lately as before the passage of the new act relating to bridges."

Mr. Fox—"It would be all right to ask for assistance if you do not press for any certain percentage."

Mr. Michael pointed out that in the case of the Norland bridge, which cost over \$5,000, the townships adjacent paid only a fraction of the cost, while the share of Mariposa, whose people never used the structure, would be over \$1,000. The people of Mariposa had 36 bridges in their own territory to build and maintain.

Mr. Taylor Parkin reviewed the history of the Norland bridge, and wound up by saying that if the government would not make a grant to it they might transfer it to Mud Lake Narrows bridge with his full approval.

Mr. Howkins—"Will it do any good to memorialize the Government?"

Mr. Fox—"Yes, it will, if you put it in the way advised."

### Col. Hughes' Stand.

Col. Hughes, the Dominion member, was the next speaker, and lost no time in stating that he had a lot of sympathy with the question at issue. Carden and Dalton townships had paid a lot of money into the Provincial treasury in dues, and he had never been able to see why, as a matter of right, the bridges in the north townships should not be built by the government as a quid pro quo for the money taken from those townships in dues.

Mr. Jordan—"I feel sure the government, for the reason given, would hearken to our memorial."

Mr. Fox—"In '97 there was a memorial introduced by Mr. Bailey, and the government granted \$250 for Black River bridge. That memorial called attention to the timber dues question."

Engineer Smith referred to the importance of attaching a history of Norland bridge to the memorial to be forwarded.

Report of Education Committee

Gentlemen—Your committee have considered the communication from the secretary-treasurer of School Sec-

tion No. 3, in the township of Somerville, the school of which section is in the village of Kinnmount, and beg to recommend that Kinnmount be a centre for the holding of the Entrance examinations.

Your committee have examined accounts as follows, and beg to recommend that the same be passed, namely:

Expenses Entrance examinations, West Victoria	\$83.98
George W. Beall, stationery, etc.	20.48
Expenses, Entrance examinations Bobcaygeon	11.55
George W. Beall, stationery for same	3.15
Hart & Riddell, stationery for inspectors	4.10
Wilson & Wilson, printing	33.75

### Emily Creek Bridge.

Mr. Tiers gave a short sketch of the above bridge, which had likewise been referred to in the Warden's address. The Dominion government had, he believed, made itself responsible by raising the dam at Bobcaygeon about 7 feet some 60 years ago, previous only a small stream that frequently went dry. The township of Verulam had memorialized the Dominion government five years ago for compensation for flooded roads adjacent to Emily Creek, and last summer a cheque for \$2,000 was paid over. Emily Creek bridge must be rebuilt or repaired in the near future.

Col. Hughes was the next speaker. He said: Some years ago when it was proposed to construct the Trent Canal it was realized by the government that a lot of land would be flooded. In Eldon in '96 the damaged roads were rebuilt substantially by the government. The township of Fenelon had also been recouped and the same course was pursued throughout the Province of Quebec. The drain at Bobcaygeon was part of the Trent Canal system, and made the government responsible for Emily Creek bridge. The new structure should be a high level one because the time was coming when Emily Creek would again be used for navigation purposes. Engineers had been sent up to the head of the lake, where the roads are to be opened up — at present there is no road across Emily Lake between Con-11, Emily, and Dunsford road. Municipalities had been altogether too negligent in pressing for their rights. In the case of the McLaren's Creek work he (Col. Hughes) had taken the ground that the government should leave the road in as good condition as it was before they raised the drain.

Mr. Tiers—"The government is entirely familiar with Emily Creek affair."

Col. Hughes—Mr. McDiarmid has just made the proper suggestion that there are other bridges in the county presenting just as strong claims as Emily Creek."

Mr. Fox—"Yes, the legislature has made several grants to other bridges—one, being to East Cross Creeks bridge."

Mr. Boate mentioned the case of Cowan's bridge, where the water had been raised by the building of Burleigh or Buckhorn dam.

Mr. Howkins—"I understand it is proposed to raise the new dam to be built here by three inches. If so, the Stony Creek question will come up again."

Mr. Howkins—"We must wait to be damaged before squealing; no use saying 'Good morning' to the devil until we meet him."

Col. Hughes—"The principle the government engineers go on is that it is cheaper to pay for flooded lands than to cut canals."

### The Memorial.

Moved by Mr. Michael, seconded by Mr. Tiers, that this Council memorialize the Dominion government for assistance in rebuilding Emily Creek bridge.—Carried.

A special committee was suggested to press the memorials before the two governments.

Mr. Jordan—"I propose the whole Council. This is a very important matter, indeed."

Mr. Boate—"Let us have a committee to take charge of each memorial."

The following committees were then named and appointed: For Emily Creek (Dominion) Messrs. Boate, Tiers, Watson, Parkin and the Warden. For Norland and other north townships bridges — Messrs. Young, Graham, Watson, Parkin and the Warden.

### THURSDAY'S SESSION.

(Roads and Bridges—Continued.)

Clerk McNeillie read a statement of the expenditures on Mud Lake Narrows and Mitchell's bridges, amounting to \$360. The amounts were passed.

The report from Mr. William Kennedy, overseer of county bridges, dealt with repairs made to Cobocok bridge, which was stated to be in a fairly satisfactory condition. With reference to Mud Lake Narrows bridge, Mr. Kennedy advised that a guard pier be built near the shore. A new bridge would be required in the near future.

The report of the special committee appointed at the June session to deal with the Mud Lake Narrows and Emily Creek bridges, of which Mr. T. H. Watson was chairman, was read and instructions were given to have same printed.

### Norland Bridge Matters.

County Engineer Smith reported relative to an inspection of Norland

bridge, advising that several piers be constructed to guard the structure. Mr. Smith's bill in connection with his visits and superintendence, amounting to \$105.80. The work began Nov. 1907.

Mr. Callan—"I fear we are not yet through with the expense. A serious washout occurred last spring, and there may be others."

Mr. Parkin—"There was a lot of unnecessary expense, it seems to me."

Mr. Callan—"More stone will have to be put in. There should be a protecting wall."

Mr. Smith—"Some rip-rapping will do."

Mr. N. Greer submitted for 12 1-2 days services while overseeing the passage of drives through Norland timber slide. Council decided to allow him \$18.75.

Engineer Smith took the ground that a caretaker should be appointed—an expert river driver—to superintend the passing of logs through the slide every spring, in order to prevent jams, which would threaten the life of the bridge.

Mr. Jordan—"Whoever you appoint should be sworn in as county constable—river men have a tendency to act in a high-handed manner sometimes."

Mr. Greer was suggested, but as that gentleman is already a Justice of the Peace, it was moved by Messrs. Parkin and Tiers that Wm. Pearson be appointed at a salary of \$20 per annum.—Carried.

Engineer Smith advised that a photograph of the Norland bridge be secured for transmission along with the memorial to Toronto, but the price —\$10—was declared prohibitory.

### Ops Swing Bridge.

Engineer Smith's report with reference to the work on the above bridge led to considerable discussion. The amount expended on the completion of the approaches this year was \$1244.21, the grand total being over \$5,000. Of this amount Ops township pays about one-third.

Engineer Smith explained that the reason the town's steam roller was not used to level the south approach was because the bridge was constructed to carry only 10 tons in safety. The extra cost this year was owing to the roadbed having to be raised a foot, drain tile laid, drip-holes constructed, the road graded, wire screens placed on side of foot bridge, and the structure painted.

Mr. Michael—"It seems to have been a costly job to finish up. I was not here last year, of course."

Chairman Howkins—"The documents and accounts are here for inspection."

Mr. Hopkins—"When it was found that the road would have to be raised a foot Ops Council gave the commissioners authority to cut down the hill south of the bridge on condition that the roadway be left in as good shape as before."

Mr. Jordan—"There were various unlooked for obstacles that had to be dealt with, such as springs in the roadway, cave-ins, etc."

Mr. Hopkins—"If the township had consented to give the material the cost of making the south approach would have been a good deal more—perhaps over \$400. The town representatives also favored that plan."

Mr. Watson—"Why did the government raise the bridge?"

Mr. Hopkins—"I guess it was in order to let yachts and other small boats pass through without having to swing the bridge and thus impede traffic."

Mr. Watson—"Well, if the government did that at Ops' request, then Ops should pay the cost."

Mr. Parkin—"Yes, I think we should make Ops pay a full third."

After some further discussion the Council fell into a forgiving mood and on motion of Messrs. Callan and Fielding an equitable settlement was adopted and the accounts were passed.

### The Stone Crusher.

A statement covering the season's work of the stone crusher was next presented and excited some jocular comments. The expenditure was \$1363, and the revenue \$129.83. This was considered a good showing—much better than last year's.

### Just Like Housecleaning.

At the suggestion of Warden Mason, it was decided that hereafter the caretakers of county bridges shall be required to clean the structures twice each year—in the spring and fall.

### FRIDAY MORNING SESSION.

Council resumed at 10.40 o'clock, all members present. The minutes of previous day were read and adopted. Clerk McNeillie read the estimate of expenditures in connection with the agricultural class at the Collegiate Institute.—Referred to Finance Committee.

### Roads and Bridges Report.

On motion of Messrs. Hawkins and Grant, the report of the committee on Roads and Bridges was introduced, and finally adopted as follows:

Gentlemen—Your Committee have given earnest consideration to the paragraph of the Warden's address referred to them, relative to the large expenditure involved in the rebuilding of bridges in the northern part of the county, and have had the advantage of a conference with S. J. Fox, Esq., M.P.P., on the subject. In the same connection the report of the committee appointed at the January session to deal with a question respecting the Mud Lake Narrows bridge and the Emily Creek bridge has been considered. Your committee beg to recommend that a memorial to the Minister of Public

Works for the Province of Ontario be introduced to the Council, setting forth the views and desire of the Council respecting the bridges under Council discussion, and that a committee be appointed, composed of the Warden, James Graham, Henry H. Young, Taylor Parkin and Thomas H. Watson, to support the memorial.

Your committee have further considered the report of the aforesaid committee appointed at the January session, relative to the Emily Creek bridge, and have been favored by a conference with Colonel Sam Hughes, M.P., on the subject. Your committee would recommend that a memorial to the Minister of Public Works for the Dominion of Canada be introduced to the Council expressing the mind of the Council as to the claims of the county for recognition by the Dominion Government in the expenditure that must be made in rebuilding the bridge, and that a committee be appointed composed of the Warden, Emerson Tiers, James R. Boate, Taylor Parkin and Thomas H. Watson to promote the success of the appeal for assistance.

Your committee beg to recommend that the report of the Mud Lake Narrows and Emily Creek bridges committee be reintroduced to the Council, and that the accompanying documents be filed.

Your committee have considered the other documents referred to them and beg to recommend as follows:

1. That consideration of the report of the overseer of a new bridge over Mud Lake Narrows is recommended, be resumed at the January session with a view to progressive action being taken by the Council.

2. That approval be expressed of the repairs made on Grass River bridge on the boundary between the Townships of Bexley and Carden as reported by James Graham, Esq.

3. That approval be expressed of the action taken by James Graham, Esq., relative to the repair of the bridge on the boundary between the Townships of Carden and Mara, that payment of the cost be subject to Dr. Graham's order, and that a claim be made on the County of Ontario for one-half of the amount of expenditure.

4. That gratification be recorded with the action taken in repairing the Cobocok bridge, as suggested by the overseer of county bridges.

5. That the statement from the Clerk of the Township of Somerville relative to the expenditure on the repairs of Mitchell's bridge be filed, a settlement between the township and county having been effected.

6. That the expenditure on the Ops Scugog bridge shown in the statement be passed, and that the suggested settlement with the Township of Ops be adopted. The total amount expended is \$1,244.21, part of which does not appear subject to the terms of the judge's order. The amount to be claimed from the Township of Ops as computed is \$237.81. The report of the county engineer be filed.

7. That the items composing the sum of \$694.83 expended in connection with Norland bridge in the present year be passed and that the reports of James R. Campbell, Esq., and the county engineer be filed. Further, that Mr. William Pearson be appointed caretaker of the bridge, and that the allowance for his services be \$20 per annum, payable half-yearly in June and December. The caretaker is to give special attention to the protection of the bridge and its outworks during the running of drives of logs and timber and he is to clean the flooring of both sections of the bridge at least twice in each year.

8. That the items of expenditure in connection with the county stone crusher, under the control of James H. Hopkins, Esq., be passed. The amount expended in repairs, etc., is \$135.63, and the prospective receipts are \$123.83, the latter accruing from the crushing of 40 cords for the Township of Ops and 267 10-128 cords for the Township of Mariposa.

9. That incidental to the discussion of the duties of caretakers of bridges, the caretaker of the Fenelon Falls bridge be instructed to clean the floor of the bridge at least twice in each year, and that his allowance after the present year will be paid half-yearly in June and December.

Your committee have examined accounts and claims as follows, and beg to recommend that the same be passed, namely:

Sundry persons, painting Bobcaygeon bridges	\$73.08
Village of Bobcaygeon, granolithic walks within approaches to county bridges	116.66
John Van Valkenberg, work, Bobcaygeon bridges	24.20
John Van Valkenberg, work, Little Bob bridge	5.00
John Carew, lumber, Forest House bridge	44.37
Mossom Boyd Co., lumber, Little Mossom Boyd Co., lumber	5.37
Little Bob bridge	68.68
Sundry persons, repairs, Little Bob bridge	3.03
James McMullen, cleaning Bobcaygeon bridges	7.00
Wm. Kennedy, services, Bobcaygeon bridges	2.80
Wm. Kennedy, services, Little Bob bridge	5.65

(Continued on page 9.)

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