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PETERBORO AND KIRKFIELD LIFT LOCKS.

Report of Engineer Holgate, of Montreal, will likely mean the dismissal of Superintendent R. B. Rogers, of Peterboro, and Assistant Engineers—cannot be shown that type of lock was best suited to the locality, and cost was excessive—leaks can be mended, but cost will be large.

From Evening Post, Feb. 15. (Special Despatch to The Globe.) The condemnation of the engineering staff found in the report of Mr. P. Holgate, C. E., of Montreal, to the Minister of Railways, upon the leaks in the lift locks at Peterboro and Kirkfield and the negligence shown by the investigating engineer to have taken place point to a demand for the resignation of Messrs. R. B. Rogers, superintendent and engineer of the Trent canal; R. A. Davey, resident engineer on the Kirkfield lift lock; his assistant, Augustus Sawers, jr., and Messrs. D. E. Bethune and Spence, inspectors at Kirkfield and Peterboro respectively. The belief entertained here is that Mr. Emmerson will forward a copy of Mr. Holgate's report to each of the gentlemen who have incurred criticism, together with a polite intimation that his resignation would be acceptable.

THE QUESTIONS ASKED. The questions which Mr. Holgate was directed to answer in connection with the Peterboro lift lock were as follows:

Having regard to the novelty and importance of the hydraulic lift lock at Peterboro, and to the non-existence on this continent of other similar work, were the plans and specifications prepared with the care and thoroughness such a work demanded?

Were the plans and specifications dealing with the embankment of a character that, having regard to all the circumstances, would secure a first-class job of work?

Was the work executed in strict accordance with the plans and specifications? If not, wherein did any variation take place, and by what authority was it made?

Was the work inspected by the superintending engineer as fine and as thorough as such a work would naturally demand?

What is the cause of the leaks that have recently happened?

Were they caused by the negligence or carelessness of any person or were they the natural consequence of the style of construction adopted, and of what significance are they?

Do these leaks imperil the works? How much money is involved in making the work safe?

STORY OF THE LIFT LOCK. The original contract for the Peterboro lift lock, according to Mr. Holgate, was accompanied by a plan, but it gave too little information and the works were not built on the location shown there. A supplementary contract was accompanied by a complete set of plans, general in character, which were in no way materially departed from in the construction and seem to have been well considered. No specifications accompanied the supplementary contract. The contract and specifications for the steel work were carefully made, and the work was completed in a satisfactory manner. The original contract with Corry & Laverdun appears to have been premature, as far as work on

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the lift lock was concerned, for at the time of the letting of the contract there was not enough information in America to guide an engineer or contractor in designing or building such a lock. More care might have been taken in building certain minor parts relating to bridge construction. In view of the change in the location of the object of the plans and specifications somewhat defeated. The leaks were largely due to the settlement of the embankment owing to the presence of a stone drain which was built into it and imperfectly refilled. The leaks can be stopped by the local character and the manner in which they occur indicates lack of forethought. If allowed to remain they certainly would impair the character of the work.

VERY SHARP CENSURE. The cost of the lift lock was \$600,000, and it cannot be shown that a lock of this description was best suited to the requirements of the locality. A double set would have cost an ordinary citizen \$450,000. A single set which would have taken care of ordinary traffic would cost \$300,000, and the difference between the two patterns of locks means a good deal in favor of locks of the ordinary type. This observation applies to Kirkfield as well as to Peterboro. The change of the location of both locks added very largely to the cost. Mr. Holgate does not see how the work could have been satisfactorily performed under the conditions which were to exist. These were neither commercial nor businesslike, and in a private enterprise the work would have been reorganized and put on proper business footing.

THE KIRKFIELD LOCK. The questions submitted in the case of the lock at Kirkfield were to the following effect:

After a thorough investigation as to the construction of the concrete wall approaches, what have you to report?

Were the plans and specifications clear and adequate to ensure first-class construction, having regard to the service for which it was intended?

Were the plans and specifications followed faithfully, and if not were they altered, and if so, by whom, and under whose authority?

Did the engineer give the work his personal attention to the extent such work demanded?

What caused the leaks found? How were the defects remedied, and has the work been so finished as to be permanent?

Did the resident engineer and inspectors faithfully perform the work entrusted to them?

Did the contractors faithfully obey the orders of the engineers and inspectors?

Having regard to all circumstances, is the work done of the character demanded by such an important undertaking?

NOT PROPERLY BUILT. Mr. Holgate finds that the concrete wall approaches of the Kirkfield lock were certainly not built in accordance with the specifications, and proper care was not taken in connection therewith. The alterations were not of a nature to cause the deterioration of the work, but rather effect improvement. They seem to have been made under the authority of Mr. Schreiber, chief engineer. The interpretation of the specifications should have produced better work, and the failure was due to lack of ability in enforcing them.

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PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD.
Heated Discussion at the Annual Meeting of Public Library Board Last Week Over Certain Faults in the Building—General Business.
From Evening Post, Feb. 15. The adjourned annual meeting of the Public Library Board was held in the Board room Wednesday business being taken up at 8 o'clock sharp. The members present were: Chairman A. P. Devlin, Judge Harding, Mayor Vrooman, Rev. Fr. O'Sullivan, Inspector Knight, and Messrs. R. M. Beal, Wm. Flaville, R. Kylie, F. D. Moore; absent, Rev. J. W. Wallace.

Secretary Geo. Patrick read the minutes of the last meeting, which were confirmed after a slight amendment. He then presented brief communications from the Public and Separate School Boards, respecting the appointment of representatives on the Library Board. On motion these were filed.

SEVERAL REPORTS. Judge Harding presented the Finance committee's report, which recommended payment of the following accounts:
Elias Bowes ..... \$ 1.00
L. H. & P. Co. .... 14.48
Geo. Engle ..... 24.90
Geo. Beal ..... .90
D. Cinnamon ..... .35
Librarians' petty acct. .... 10.30

Report for month ending January, 1906; Circulation in detail—History, 57, Biography 44, Voyages and Travels 79, General Literature 65, Juveniles, boys 263, girls 90, little ones 86, Bound Periodicals 102, Poetry 38, Science 89, Religion 25, Miscellaneous 21, Fiction 1078. Total circulation for month, 2040; number new tickets issued, 31; total number of borrowings to end of month, 2131. Cash receipts for month, \$202.

Secretary Patrick presented the financial statement for 1905 in following extract:
Receipts—
County grant ..... \$ 50.00
Government grant ..... 147.05
Town rate, 12 mills ..... 1013.35
Sale of periodicals ..... 35.85

Total ..... \$1,346.11
Expenditures—
Books ..... \$402.87
Periodicals ..... 14.48
408.29
Caretaking ..... 48.00
Light ..... 93.62
Fuel ..... 60.05
Miscellaneous ..... 130.61
Overdraft on current acct., 1904 ..... 60.23

Balance on hand ..... 16.96
Total ..... \$1,363.11
A report from the Board, attached to the financial statement, set forth the attendance of members at the various meetings, and stated that as the building had now been occupied for a full year and a half its merits and demerits were fully apparent. The defects heating in the one room, and this will have to be remedied before another winter. The lack of ventilation in the smoking room in the basement is another drawback and has entirely prevented its use, but possibly the trouble can be remedied.

THE REPORT OF THE LIBRARY AND READING ROOM COMMITTEE was next read. During the year a total of 21,238 volumes had been issued, of which 11,246 were fiction. A report from the janitor followed, the consumption of coal since 18th Oct. had been 12 tons, or a little less than for the same period last year. This was working to the improvement in the working of the furnace, but to the mild season and the placing of storm windows on the stock-room.

On motion the above reports were adopted.
OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES. The selection of officers "good and true" for the current year was the next item on the program. Mr. Devlin's name was mentioned for the position of chairman, whereupon he demurred, taking the ground that having served one year the honor should pass around.

Mr. Flaville did not think the argument of all weights—Mr. Devlin or anyone else who had served for one term should be the better qualified to fill the position for another term. He had regretted very much the dropping out of Judge Harding last year for that reason.

Mr. Beal—"I don't want the job, but I think we ought to fix a limit. We don't want anyone to monopolize the position."
Mr. Moore—"Let it pass around; everyone will be better pleased if you moved by Judge Harding, seconded by Mayor Vrooman, that Mr. A. P. Devlin be chairman for 1906."
Moved in amendment by Mr. Flaville, seconded by Inspector Knight, that Judge Harding be chairman. His Honor—"I don't wish to serve."
On a show of hands being made Mr. Devlin was declared elected.

Moved by Mr. Moore, seconded by Judge Harding, that Mr. Geo. S. Patrick be re-appointed Sec.-Treasurer. Carried.
Librarian—Miss Reazin.
Janitor—John Kelley.
Committees.
Library—Rev. Fr. O'Sullivan,

(chairman), Judge Harding, Rev. J. W. Wallace, Messrs. Moore and Beal, Building—Mr. Wm. Flaville (chairman), Mayor Vrooman, Inspector Knight, Mr. Kylie.
Finance—Judge Harding (chairman), Mr. Flaville, Mr. Moore.
ESTIMATES FOR 1906.

Secretary Patrick next presented the estimates for 1906. The expenditures and receipts balanced at \$1,565.86, the increase in outlay over '05 being additions of \$25 each to the salaries of the secretary and librarian.

Mr. Flaville—"Would it be possible to get a larger grant from the County?"
Mr. Moore—"No."
On motion the estimates as read were adopted, and the Secretary was instructed to forward a copy of same to the Town Council to secure the collection of the half-mill rate authorized by statute.

Mr. Beal—"There's one thing the Board should provide for, and that is keeping the Library open on holidays and perhaps on Sunday afternoons—the latter is coming, but the former is a present need. There is no more harm in taking a book off our library shelves and reading it on Sunday than there is in taking one out of our bookcase at home."
Inspector Knight—"Better drop Sunday; you won't carry it."
Mr. Moore—"I have some sympathy with the motion, and do not object to the Sunday idea, but I think the building open as suggested we shall have to provide for additional help."
Mayor Vrooman—"What is your objection, Mr. Beal?"

Mr. Beal—"There are many people who have no other time to do any reading."
Mayor Vrooman—"Well, I'm sorry if they can only find time to do so on Sundays and holidays."
Mr. Beal—"Many men have to work from early morning till night and then do odd jobs at home. These can find time to read only on Sundays and holidays."
Mayor Vrooman—"On holidays our people go away and others come. We would like to provide a caretaker if permitted the people to crowd in to the library."
Rev. Fr. O'Sullivan—"I don't always agree with Mr. Beal, but I fail to see any good reason why the library should not be opened on Sunday."

Judge Harding—"I have no objection, but there will be a sentiment against it."
Inspector Knight—"Advise that the library will be kept open on May 24th and see how many workmen will respond."
Mayor Vrooman—"The matter of extra cost is a stumbling block."
Mr. Beal—"You are fixing the estimates now, and can make provision."

Inspector Knight—"I think the Library open on Good Friday?"
Rev. Fr. O'Sullivan—"I don't think there would be any more harm in doing so than in holding a Lacrosse Association meeting on that day." (Laughter.)
It was then proposed that the salary of the Librarian be made \$350 and that of the Secretary \$50, but Fr. O'Sullivan suggested that the proposed increase be held in abeyance until the matter of opening the library on Sundays and holidays had been decided. This was agreed to.

A request from Mr. Goodwin that a copy of "Health" magazine be placed on the reading room table was referred to the Library committee.
Inspector Knight—"I know you have become of a list of books by Canadian authors which he had been requested to prepare for the guidance of the purchasing committee. Not one of the books had been provided, and the same thing had occurred in a number of instances where books had been recommended. No information was volunteered, however."

THE ARCHITECT SCORED. At this stage of the proceedings some member suggested an adjournment, whereupon Mr. Beal remarked, "Let us settle this furnace trouble—I'm sick and tired of the thing."
Judge Harding—"We can't do anything now; in the spring, when the fire can be drawn, let us call in an expert and see if he can explain the trouble."
Mr. Beal—"After using the furnace for two years we won't be able to make much of a kick no matter what the expert says."
Mr. Flaville—"What about the architect's account? We owe Mr. Miller \$140."
Mr. Moore—"I will never consent to settle that until everything is made right."

Judge Harding—"That man has me bungles in this building that the builder of a common stable would not make, and now, after botching things by not providing for ventilation of the basement or providing means of getting rid of the fumes, he comes other than by carrying them upstairs and out through the front door of the building, for him to ask us to pay him anything more than he has already received is a bit of sheer audacity."
The architect is willing to swear that the furnace supplied was a new one, and he has offered to send down a competent expert to examine it and permit the Board to deduct the cost from the \$140 due him."
Mr. Moore—"What about the door for getting the ashes out? I think of any first-class architect omitting that I'll not agree to pay him one dollar until that and other things have been made right."
Judge Harding—"He has acted scandalously."

Mr. Flaville—"The Judge is too harsh—he should not say such things. Many citizens have had dealings with Mr. Miller, and while he is a high-minded, conscientious man."
Judge Harding—"Whatever he may be to others, he has treated this Board in scandalous fashion and made bungles unworthy of a greenhorn architect."
"Flaville—"The claim has been running for two years and should be settled. I'll move that Mr. Miller be offered \$100 in full settlement."
Mr. Beal—"I've talked to some local men who inspected the boiler and they will not swear that it is an old one. The furnace was used all the first winter by the carpenters and others, and they may have ill-used it."

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Judge Harding—"Then it was the duty of the architect to see that the contractor made the damage good before taking the building off his hands."
Mr. Moore—"We won't have any difficulty in proving that the boiler was a second-hand one. Let Mr. Miller sue for his money."
Mr. Beal—"I don't think the Board has a case to defend."
Mr. Kylie—"Would we be in any better shape, then, if we allowed him to send a man down?"
Mr. Beal—"What is your defence?"
Judge Harding—"There will be no trouble about the defence—our case is sound."
Mayor Vrooman—"If we pay over the \$100 will that settle the case?"
Mr. Flaville—"I don't know; I hold no brief for Mr. Miller, but I'm anxious to get rid of this constantly recurring trouble. I will advise him to settle for the \$100."

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J. RIGGS, Kent-st. - Lindsay.

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F. C. EDMONDS, 132 William-st., - - Lindsay.

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W. J. ELLIOTT, Principal, Corner Yonge and Alexander-sts.