

County Council.

From the Advertiser.

Fifty-two County Councillors gathered in the court room on Tuesday night, 23rd inst., and inaugurated the work of the year with the usual hand shakings, merriment and hearty good feeling which always seem especially to attend the January meeting.

At half past seven County Clerk Ruthford took the chair and asked for nominations for Warden, reading the statutory and by-law provision for the same. The nominations were made as follows:

Wm. Lemon, Reeve of Sydenham, by Messrs. McPhee and Sing.
John Brown, Reeve of Durham, by Messrs. Binnie and Dickson.
Victor Lang, Reeve of Normandy, by Messrs. Chisholm and Shenck.
Geo. Binnie, Reeve of Glenelg, by White and Staples.

Messrs. Binnie and Brown withdrew their names, and the ballot was taken on Messrs. Lemon and Lang. Mr. Lemon was elected, receiving 44 votes, and on motion of Mr. Lang the election was made unanimous by a standing vote.

Messrs. McPhee and Sing then escorted the victorious candidate to the dais and seated him in the chair, after which Mr. McPhee, standing by his side, pronounced the following Gaelic oration amid general applause.

Thir na cathrath agus a dhoine vaish a tha nar buille do chomhairte sirran ashd ghlaic, cha nei em choma no thain gealach a chuir an geil dhrubh eirs on na cho main a chuir orm ann taghadh William Lemon, coann suidhe comhairte Baile Su denham, gu bhe na fhir roghruidh air co mhairte seoramachd ghlaic eit son na bliadhna mille an oich eud an ceithir deug san ceithir feehaid.

The English equivalent is about as follows: Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the County Council of Grey,—I am not able to thank you for the kindness shown me in supporting my resolution to elect Mr. Lemon, Reeve of Sydenham, to the position of Warden of the County of Grey for the year 1894.

Mr. Lemon acknowledged the honor done him in a modest speech, saying that he would do the best he could to worthily fill the position. The county had had 28 Wardens since its establishment in 1853. Mr. Beachell was the first, then came Mr. Carney, then W.K. Flesher, who occupied the position seven years. Later Mr. Jackson had held it for five years and the late Judge Lane for four. Mr. Gamey was Warden in '66, and he was here to-night hale and hearty and as hard a hitter as ever. Continuing the Warden extended a welcome to all the new members and the hand of fellowship to the old, thanked his fellow councillors for placing him in the highly honorable position of Warden, and congratulated them on the fact that except for the vexed question of aid to bridges under Section 533 A there was nothing before them likely to disturb the harmony of the council. Everything else was apparently clear sailing.

After the roll-call and minutes a committee of five was chosen by ballot to strike the standing committees for the year. The five were Messrs. Clark, Rogers, Lang, Read, and Binnie.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.
The first business taken up was the presentation of the striking committee's report by the chairman, Mr. Clark. Mr. Kerr pointed out that it would be well to add a railway committee to the list this year, as there might very possibly be work for such a committee. The report was accordingly referred back for amendment, and after a few minutes intermission was again presented by the committee with the desired addition.

The standing committees for the year are therefore as follows; the chairmen having been duly selected immediately after the adoption of the report:

FINANCE AND ASSESSMENT.—Messrs. Boland, Messinger, Campbell, Stark, Gilray, Binnie, Shute, Gamey, Clark, Lang, Graham, Pringle, Sing, Brown, Chisholm, Agnew, Rogers, Peter Dickson, John McDonald, Howe, Bell and Haskett.—Mr. Lang, Chairman.

ROADS AND BRIDGES.—Messrs. Irwin, Swanston, Harness, Staples, Galbreath, Robert McDonald, Shenck, Preston, Read, Stuart, Anderson, McGregor, Graham, McMillan, Fox, Corbett, Wiltisroft, Samuel Dickson, Palmer and Douglas.—Mr. Irwin, Chairman.

COUNTY PROPERTY.—Messrs. Sing, Jacklin, Kerr, Allan, John McDonald, Tedford, Staples, Galbreath, Shenck, Westaway, Elias Lemon, Redfern, Davis, Preston, Rogers, Howe and Kells.—Mr. Jas. Allan, Chairman.

EDUCATION.—Messrs. Binnie, Agnew, Campbell, Pringle, Jacklin, Shute, Peter Dickson, McPhee, Davis, Preston, Tedford, Redfern, Palmer, Bell, Westaway and Kells.—Mr. Agnew, Chairman.

PRINTING.—Messrs. Gilray, Irwin, Swanston, Robt. McDonald, Anderson, Elias Lemon, McGregor, Wiltisroft, Harness, Samuel Dickson, Stuart, McMillan and Corbett.—Mr. Gilray, Chairman.

COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMORIALS.—Messrs. Boland, Gamey, Allan, Read, Brown, Stark, Chisholm, Lang, Kerr, Messinger, Douglas, McPhee, Fox, Haskett, Clark and Binnie.—Mr. Clark, Chairman.

RAILWAYS.—Messrs. Kerr, Sing, Lang, Clark, Chisholm, Graham, Brown.—Mr. Graham, Chairman.

The clerk presented a budget of communications including requests from several other counties for co-operation in approaching the Dominion or local government on various subjects of public interest all of which will be heard from later in the reports of the communications and memorials committee. Also a number of applications for the position of auditor.

Inspector Grier's report of the schools in East Grey; report of the North Grey Farmer's Inst., papers in the case of Arthur Bechard, a boy committed to the Victoria Industrial School; an announcement of the Road Reform convention to be held in Toronto, Feb. 9th; an application from the Mayor of Durham, for aid under section 533 a of the Municipal Act in building a bridge over the Saugeen River at Lambton St., in that town; and other letters and accounts, all of which were referred to their respective committees.

Mr. Sing presented a petition from Wm. Ewart for the continuation of his free peddler's license.

Mr. Clark moved, seconded by Mr. McDonald, that the warden and clerk prepare and forward a memorial to the Governor General praying that the fishing ground surrounding White Cloud Island, be withdrawn from the Inland fishing license limits. The mover explained that White Cloud which belongs to the township of Keppel used to be part of the Newash Indian Reserve, but was surrendered to the government by the Indians some few years ago, and had since been sold in lots. No change had been made however in relation to the fishing privileges which still belonged exclusively to the Indians. A white man, even if he lived on the island could not legally catch fish in the adjacent waters, and this was felt to be a bar to its settlement as well as unfair to the Keppel fisherman. A petition signed by 70 ratepayers of the township had been presented to the Keppel council asking that such a memorial be forwarded and the aid of the county council asked. If the restriction were removed the Indians of Newash Reserve would still have the exclusive right of the waters round Hay and Griffiths Islands and along the shore of their large reserve on the mainland of Bruce, as well as an equal right with their white neighbors to fish round White Cloud.

The resolution was carried without dissent and the council adjourned at twelve noon.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.
Council came to order at 7.20, when a fresh batch of communications was read and referred.

Reports were presented by Chairman Irwin of Roads and Bridges, and Chairman Clerk of Communications and Memorials.

On motion of the Reeve of Durham the Council went into committee on the Roads and Bridges report, Mr. Pringle taking the chair. The report recommended (1) in reference to the communication of Allan McDougall, Secretary of the Canadian Institute, requesting the Council to send a delegate to the Convention on Roadmaking on February 9th, that no action be taken. (2) That the application of the town of Durham for aid in building a bridge under section 533 A of the Municipal Act be laid over till the June session.

The first clause having been passed Mr. Brown rose to argue the cause of his town. He thought the Council should pronounce upon the application this session, or at least give a reason for not doing so. If it was more information that the committee wanted let them say so in the report. Now was the time to call for it. In reply to a question as to the estimated cost of the bridge he said the engineer estimated the cost of the superstructure at \$1,555 and the abutments at \$2,400, but he believed himself that a good iron bridge could be built for \$2,500. The town, however, had not fully decided as to what class of bridge they would put up.

Mr. Kerr said the committee had not given any sufficient reason for leaving over the report. He had the same suggestion to make as he had made in the Thornbury matter. Let the Council send down their own engineer to see whether Durham was entitled to aid or not. There was no use in waiting to see if the Act was repealed. If it were repealed to-morrow it would not bar Durham out, now that their claim and estimates were before the Council.

Mr. Read had no objection to this plan. The case was somewhat different from that of Thornbury. No one had ever denied that the Thornbury bridge was long enough to come under the cost. The present bridge at Durham was only fifty feet long. The plan submitted to the Council last session provided for a bridge of only 95 feet, and the present plan was over 100 feet; but the reeve said the Durham Council had not yet made up their minds as to whether they would stick to that plan or not. There are many things to consider, and he thought the report was not far out. It would be absolutely necessary before a decision was arrived at to have reports from all the municipalities as to their bridge expenditure for the past ten years, as the information furnished in the Thornbury matter was now over three years old. This would leave Durham's ratio much lower than the former reports, indeed it would probably fall below the average.

Mr. Kells thought a committee of the Council should be sent to examine the bridge and decide whether it came within the meaning of the Act.

Mr. Binnie had examined the bridge, and did not think its superstructure was unusual. He was told the great trouble was that the west abutment was undermined by the water, but that could not be examined till summer. It would be necessary to move the bridge perhaps 60 feet to get away from the jam ice caused by a little island just below the present structure. If new approaches had to be built the bridge would come under the Act for length, but the approaches were there already, which complicated the question. He thought it would be well to send someone to get the required information and report at the June session.

Mr. Brown said the cost of the present bridge would be included in Durham's statement for the past ten years, as it was built in '83. Mr. Binnie was acquainted with the bridge, but he was not an expert in such matters as was the engineer employed by Durham.

Mr. Irwin read the report of the engineer, saying that the bridge was desired and

the abutments had the appearance of being undermined.

Mr. Gilray said the engineer had not made certain that the abutments were undermined. If they were it was easy to dump in coarse stone and turn the current off them. The trusses could easily be replaced. It would be well to send either an engineer or two members of the Council to report on the bridge.

An amendment was introduced by Messrs. Kells and E. Lemon and carried, appointing the Reeves of Glenelg and Artemesia to go down and examine the bridge and collect information to ascertain whether it came under the Act, and to report at the June session.

Council resumed the motion as amended was adopted on motion of Messrs. Sing and Chisholm.

The Council then went into Committee on the Communications and Memorials report, Mr. Campbell in the chair.



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SONS OF TEMPERANCE—This society meets in Dr. Carters' Hall every Wednesday evening at 8 p.m. Visiting brethren invited. Insurance in connection.

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