

County Council.

From the Advertiser.

With respect to the communication from the County of Frontenac asking co-operation in petitioning the Local Legislature that county councils shall have power to appoint all officers paid by them the committee recommended that the council co-operate with Frontenac as requested.

In reference to the request from the Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry asking aid in petitioning the Legislature to reduce the fees under control of all county officials appointed by them (the Legislature) the report recommended that a memorial be prepared and forwarded, praying that such reduction be made.

Having also considered the letter from the County of Carleton asking co-operation in seeking various amendments to the Assessment Act the committee pronounced as follows:—As to the amendment for extending to county councils the powers conferred on cities, towns and incorporated villages by Section 52 of the Act, they could not recommend co-operations. As to having assessments made triennially instead of annually by township assessors, and that courts of revision have power to make annually such alterations in the rolls as the assessment may require, they recommended that the Council join with that of Carleton in asking this amendment. As to giving municipal councils power to unite the offices of treasurer and collector of townships, they believed that the union of these offices would be inconvenient and expensive, and therefore would not recommend co-operation.

Mr. Campbell occupied the chair in committee on this report.

The Council resuming, the report was adopted as presented.

A number of by-laws were then introduced and given a first reading. The Council then adjourned till 7.30 on Thursday evening, Thursday morning being necessary for committee work, and a number of the members being desirous of paying a last tribute of respect by attending the funeral of the late Mrs. Gordon, wife of the esteemed inspector of schools for West Grey, which took place in the afternoon.

THURSDAY EVENING.

Among the communications presented were an application from the Meaford High School Board for a further grant under section 52 of the Act of 1891, as the late three years arrangement had expired, and the report of the county clerk as the despatch of business left in his hands at the close of the last session.

Mr. Sing presented a petition signed by some fifty ratepayers of Meaford for the appointment of Mr. Stewart as High School Trustee for that town.

Mr. Lang presented report No. 1 of Finance and Assessment, recommending (1) small accounts amounting to \$26.55; (2) that the treasurer pay the bursar of the Victoria Industrial School \$2 per week for maintenance of Arthur Bechard; (3) that Mr. Adam Cranston's peddler's license be continued; (4) as to the report of North Grey Farmers' Institute the committee were pleased to learn of the valuable information given by the delegates from the Ontario College, and recommended that the request for a grant be laid over till next session; (5) that the report of the South Grey Agricultural Society be filed; (6) that the treasurer's statement of nonresident land fund be published in the minutes; (7) the committee wished to call the attention of the county officials to whom by statute certain stationery is to be supplied to the fact that a full supply of stationery was kept in the treasurer's office, and if not in stock the required book or article could be procured on application to the Chairman of Finance.

Mr. Allan presented report No. 1 of County Property dealing with a number of accounts.

Both these reports were passed. Mr. Gagey presented the report of the Board of Judicial Audit, stating that at the four audits held during the year various deductions had been made from the accounts presented by the Sheriff, Clerk of the Peace, Jail Sergeant and constable respectively, amounting in all to \$499.64; and adding that in the case of the Sheriff the deductions were due to certain charges which he was entitled to make this year for the first time under the statute, and which on investigation were found to be payable by the government instead of the county. The report also stated that there were no irregularities requiring mention in any of the accounts presented, and acknowledged the valuable assistance received from Totten's Manual of Judicial Tariffs. The document was referred back for further information. Mr. Gagey replied that he believed the officials were fairly well satisfied.

The first and second reading of by laws was then proceeded with. Messrs. Howe and Irwin moved to introduce a by-law to repeal by-law 463 (authorizing the \$20,000 loan, of which \$14,000 goes to the municipalities for the amendment of their roads.) Mr. Howe claimed that the by-law was illegal as most of the municipalities had not asked for this money, and under the Statute such grants must be applied for before they could be given.

Mr. Howe's motion was lost.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

The session began at 2 o'clock. Reports were presented by the Chairmen of Finance, Roads and Bridges, County Property, Education, and the special committee on Treasurer's securities.

The Finance report was carried, recommending no action in reference to Dr. Masley's request for reconsideration of his salary; that a free peddler's license be granted to West Grey, and that an action

be taken at present in regard to grant to Children's Aid Society.

The Report of Roads and bridges recommended that Mrs. McArthur's offer of right of way on the deviation road in Glenelg be accepted, and that she be paid \$44.50, upon giving a proper title to the road.

The County Property report dealt with a number of minor accounts, and requested that the chairman be authorized to have any necessary repairs attended to about the court house.

Mr. Davis delved into this report and discovered an extravagance in connection with the courthouse grounds. \$20 for the county flower garden in one season was pretty expensive.

Mr. Allan thought the contention a pretty small one. None of the members would want to see the grounds left a barren waste.

Mr. Lang was inclined to object to giving a chairman unlimited authority in the matter of repairs, and proposed an amendment that \$200 be set aside for that purpose.

After considerable discussion on this point the report passed without amendment.

The order of business was suspended in order to hear a deputation from the Owen Sound Ministerial Association comprised of Revs. Messrs. Norton, Somerville, Rogers, Waits, Lediard and Magee.

Rev. Mr. Norton was the first speaker, and addressed the council at some length, receiving the closest attention throughout. The object of the deputation, he explained, was to place before the Council three reforms in connection with our prison system which were being earnestly advocated by the Prison Reform Association and which the ministers of the town were unitedly desirous of seeing brought into force. The first of these was the supply of a small, suitable library for the use of prisoners in the county jail. Those who were sent there on criminal charges spent their time either alone in idleness or in association with other criminals, which (in the case of young offenders) would tend to make them go out worse than they came in. They asked the Council to set aside a small amount of money for books, so that the young men by their influence might have a chance to go out with new resolutions and new impulses. The second request was in regard to juvenile offenders. To imprison a boy among criminals was a serious mistake. The deputation had had a conversation on this subject with Mr. Miller, in whose experienced judgment they placed great reliance, and he had stated positively that 24 hours confinement alone was a greater punishment to a boy than a week or so in company with other offenders, and would do him more good. The Association therefore asked the council to co-operate with other county councils in memorializing the Government for legislation looking to short sentences and solitary confinement for this class. The third matter was the establishment of a House of Refuge in this county for the care of the aged, infirm and sick. He had read the report lately issued by the Council in respect to the cost and working of these establishments, and could not understand how they could have that report before them without contemplating the erection of such a building. If the Council was not prepared to undertake the construction of a House of Refuge this year, the Association asked that they submit the question to the county plebiscite next January.

Rev. Mr. Somerville, who followed with a brief speech said, the Association was pleased with the report, but would like to see some further information added, namely, a statement of the number of persons now being supported in the local municipalities by the county, and the cost of their support; also the number that ought to be supported.

Rev. Dr. Waits said the Ministerial Association was a unit in desiring the changes asked for, and Revs. Hincks and Ardill would have been present also if their duties had permitted.

A vote of thanks to the delegates was passed, and Mr. Chisholm suggested that they embody their requests in a memorial and leave it with the Council. This was accordingly done.

The Education report was adopted. It recommended that the reports of P.S. Inspectors of South and East Grey be printed in the minutes, and that the Meaford High School Board having submitted a detailed statement of their expenditure, for maintenance for the past three years (amounting to \$3,552.71) receive \$335 for maintenance over and above the county equivalent. The committee had notified the secretary of the Owen Sound High School Board, to furnish a statement of the cost of maintenance for the past three years, with a view to re-arranging the basis, but had not yet heard from the Board.

The council went into Committee of the whole, on the Communications and Memorials Report, Mr. Irwin in the chair. The committee had considered the memorial of the united counties of Dundas, Stormont and Glengarry, asking the government to enact that 800 electors shall be required to entitle a municipality to a deputy reeve and 1,500 to a second deputy and they recommended that the council co-operate in seeking this reform.

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Regular Council meets every first and third Tuesday evening in each month. In Sproule's block at 8 p.m. Select degree (insurance) meets monthly, the Wednesday preceding the 22nd of each month.

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