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GREETINGS OF THE Season AND BEST WISHES FOR THE New Year

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## TOWN TRADES MORE LAND WITH BEAVER READY MIXED

A vexatious question of a transfer of land between the town and the Beaver Ready Mixed Co., which has been debated for several council meetings, was settled by a majority vote on a transfer by-law when Georgetown council met for the last time in 1955 December 19th.

The by-law, opposed by Reeve Stan Allen and incoming Deputy Reeve Doug Sargent, gives the company municipally-owned land which they will use as an entrance-way into their gravel pit. The town, in return, receives a parcel of land, larger in size which adjoins the sewage disposal plant. The Beaver Company is to fence the boundary line.

With Cr. Harry Hale asking for a recorded vote, the by-law was presented after almost three hours of debate, during which S. W. Orr, president of South West Georgetown Ratepayers Association asked for a postponement of any decision until after the new year so he could obtain legal advice.

At the meeting, the original land transfer last spring between the town and Bob Lane of the mix company was again rehearsed, with Reeve Allen pressing for an explanation of why a right-of-way, which he claimed had never been discussed by council, was included in the land transfer deed. This right-of-way is cancelled by the new land transfer.

The question was introduced when Mr. Orr appeared as a delegation to ask postponement of a decision.

"I have just seen the building permit tonight, and have had no chance to study it or get legal advice," he said.

"The land exchange was not made by by-law, and it would seem the deal was made by the property committee and it could possibly be upset because of this," continued Mr. Orr, with some other residents of the lower Main St. area had objected at a previous council meeting to the company locating in what is claimed to be a residential area.

Cr. Thos Lyons objected to Mr. Orr's statement.

"I am property committee chairman," he said "and I have been on council long enough to know that no deal can be put through by any committee without consulting council."

Mayor Armstrong told Mr. Orr that, while it is desirable to have by-laws for such municipal business, it has not always been done by this, or past councils.

Certainly, he said, in the future there will be by-laws, and council has a motion on the books requiring this, which was presented by the reeve two meetings ago. The mayor quoted the Municipal Act which is rather vague about requirements of council in such situations.

Ern Hyde, general manager of Beaver, was also at the meeting and asked council to make a decision.

"There seems to be considerable dissatisfaction and I can't see any reason for postponing a decision on our company's offer of a second land exchange," he said.

Mayor Armstrong said that council had certainly made the decision in the spring, and as no motion appears in the minute book, he would assume it had been by a show of hands.

Cr. Hale refuted the reeve's assertion that there had been no committee report, saying he had presented it, and Cr. Garfield McGillvray backed him up, saying that while he is not a property committee member, he was aware that the deal was being made.

Asked by the Mayor what he remembered, town clerk John D. Kelly said town solicitor George Hewson was at the meeting the night of Mr. Hale's report, and that Mr. Hewson had been instructed to carry out the land exchange. The clerk said he had no recollection of anything being said about a right-of-way.

Questioned by the reeve about the necessity of having something in the minutes about such an important question, Mr. Kelly said it is the clerk's duty to enter motions in the minutes "without remarks."

"Mr. Lane has offered to trade a piece of land twice the size for enough land to turn his trucks on the top of the hill," said the mayor. "If this isn't satisfactory let's decide what we do want."

"Mr. Hyde was employed by the town at the time of the spring land transfer," said Reeve Allen. "Can he tell us how the right-of-way came to be designated?"

Mr. Hyde said that it had been discussed, perhaps during discussions which took place when council was looking over the property. He could not say what had occurred in council, because he had not been present at council meetings.

Cr. Lyons and Hale said they had no recollection of any discussions on the right-of-way.

"The plant is there and I can't see how it is possible for them to operate without more land," said the mayor. "It breaks down to the fact that we can sell, barter or trade some town land to give them access to the property, or we can say 'no' and they can close their plant. Sometimes council finds itself in a position where there must be some give and take. The company has made a proposition and we must now decide what to do."

Deputy Reeve Al Norton and Cr. Hale and McGillvray stated that they thought the new exchange offer fair. Reeve Allen said it was farthest

from his mind to put a company out of business, and that his whole concern was in transactions taking place without motions or by-laws. He said he could not vote for a second transfer because he is not assured that the town is getting land which has any value to the town.

Town engineer Douglas Wilson was asked for an opinion and said the new land could have three possible uses—a future sewage plant extension, a location for municipal garages and storage building, and for sanitary land fill. The property contains a water test hole which might be valuable too, he said, though water consultant Roberts thinks it might be too close to the existing pump-house for a complete new well, and it might be only usable as a stand by well.

"I'm getting more confused all the time," said the reeve. "We bought some land originally because of this test hole and now Mr. Roberts, who advised buying the land, says it isn't much good."

The reeve said that final action would not be taken at the meeting because a by-law would have to be prepared for presentation at a future meeting.

When told by John Ord, who attended the meeting for the Hewson & Ord law firm, that he had a draft by-law with him, Mr. Allen said he objected to council's wishes being "anticipated" as no instructions had been issued for any such by-law.

Mr. Ord said the by-law had been prepared because there seemed to be a chance that it would be asked for, and that if it were not used, there would be no charge to the town for work involved.

"This has been done in other land sales, and it's the first time I remember it being questioned," said Cr. Hale.

"Perhaps we weren't too clear on a right-of-way, but we went into this deal knowing what we were doing, and it shouldn't be dragged out any longer, and left for the new council to clean up," said Cr. McGillvray as he presented a by-law motion by himself and Cr. Hale for the new land transfer.

## FALLS FORTY FEET PAINFULLY INJURED

A Rockwood man who miraculously escaped death when he fell from a 40 foot scaffold three weeks ago, expects to be home for New Year.

Wynn Dunbar, a foreman for a construction firm building a new Co-Op building in Guilph, was the victim of the accident when a defective scaffold collapsed. In his plunge to the ground, he was knocked unconscious when his head hit a projection on the building, and this contributed to avoiding a fatality.

He was rushed to the nearby St. Joseph's Hospital, where he has been treated for internal injuries, including eight broken ribs.

Mr. Dunbar is a relative of the J. B. Mackenzie family of town. His wife is the former Agnes Pasmore of Rockwood.

## Musgrave is President Ontario Co-Operatives

Arthur H. K. Musgrave of Clarksburg, Ontario, was elected president of the 60,000 farmer-member United Co-Operatives of Ontario at the organization's annual meeting held at the Royal York Hotel, Toronto, on December 12th and 13th.

Mr. Musgrave succeeds Mr. Erroll Nephew of Woodstock, Ontario. Alden McLellan of Muskoka, Ont., was elected 1st vice president of UCO.

Highlights of the annual meeting, which was attended by over 500 delegates included the 1955 financial statement which showed net earnings of \$504,000 and a record gross volume of \$50,322,972 for the year ended September 30th, a report from the Co-operators Insurance Association of Ontario, in which UCO has a controlling interest, that 1955 will be the biggest year yet for that organization, a report on UCO's reflecting a sharp expansion of the organization's current fixed assets of \$1,887,028.

Over 900 UCO members and their wives attended a banquet on Monday night and heard W. B. Peterson, secretary of the Illinois Agricultural Association describe farm organization in Illinois, and advocate that farm organizations in any given area must work closely together and develop a well integrated program.

Mr. Peterson said that Ontario farmers were like Illinois farmers in that they were once a majority group and were now a minority group in the economy.

On Tuesday, Professor Fred Jones, Dean of the School of Business Administration University of Western Ontario, told the UCO delegates that while farmers had made big strides in improving their production methods, they had a long way to go in bringing their administrative methods up-to-date. He pointed out that there was an unlimited need for an improved and broadened marketing program, and that such a program should include improved merchandising techniques.

A motion to have the United Co-Operatives' board enlarged to include two more directors, and that these directors be appointed by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture was withdrawn, and it was unanimously agreed to study this matter for another year with a view towards finding ways to consolidate the relation-

ship between UCO and the Ont. Federation of Agriculture.

In discussing the motion to enlarge the UCO board, it was pointed out that UCO and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture were already carrying out a number of projects on a joint basis and that many of the UCO members were also members of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. Lloyd Jasper, president of the Ont. Federation of Agriculture urged the meeting to remember the farmers had to think of themselves as part of all organized farm groups in Ontario, rather than expressing special loyalty for one group to the exclusion of the other groups. He said that in these times farmers could not afford to be divided.

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