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ASSESSMENT, DRAYMEN, HOUSING AND ROADS

These were the Principal Questions Before Council at Meeting Last Week

At the adjourned meeting of the Town Council on Wednesday evening, in addition to the passing of the estimates of the Public Works Department, referred to elsewhere in this issue, the chief topics discussed were the objections to the assessment, the matter of cartage licenses, better roads for the district, and the Housing Commission Plan. The Mayor occupied the chair, and Councillors Fogg, Newton, Studor and Brazeau were present. The estimates of the Board of Works were first considered and passed on motion of Councillors Brazeau and Studor.

Councillor Brazeau then suggested the erection of posts bearing signs to indicate the way for the traffic to go at the principal corners. He said that towns and cities in the south had these indicators, and without them this town was liable to have a serious accident sometime. The posts would bear a red light at night. The question was sidetracked while some other matter was being dealt with, and the Mayor directed attention back to it by saying:—"Well, how do you wish to dispose of this Red Light District plan of Mr. Brazeau's—I mean Red Light Post Plan." On motion of Councillors Brazeau and Newton the Council decided to erect one of these patent traffic directing posts at the Goldfields corner, one at the Marshall-Eccleston corner and one at Dalton's. Mr. Brazeau referred to the danger from autos travelling too fast in town and the motion included a clause to enforce the law for the protection of life, the town speed limit for autos not to exceed 12 miles an hour.

On motion of Councillors Newton and Fogg the pay of the Volunteer Firemen for the first three months of the year was authorized to be paid.

On motion of Councillor Brazeau and Studor a grant of \$50.00 was made to the local Boy Scouts to assist in paying the expenses of the boys to Toronto to meet the head of their organization, General Sir R. Baden Powell. Friends of the Boy Scouts have collected over \$113.00 by popular subscription for the purpose, the constitution of the "Boy Scouts" not permitting the boys themselves to solicit funds for their own use.

Mr. F. Wallingford was present at the meeting and on the invitation of Mayor Melnis he asked the Council if the town would sell him five acres of the land near the pump-house. The land he returned was in the swampy part and not valuable for other purposes. Mr. Wallingford is erecting a new mill and so the additional land was required. In view of the fact that the T. & N. O. might require some of the land, and to allow of investigation as to whether it would be a good business proposition for town to sell any of this property, the matter was laid over for a Committee to report, setting a price if it is practical to dispose of any of the land.

The Mayor, Dr. Melnis, referred to the importance to the district of good roads. He pointed out the benefits that might accrue from a Road Commission, probably composed of the heads of the municipalities in the Camp and representatives from the Motor League. When Hon. Mr. Ferguson visited here recently he said that the Government would add a dollar to every single dollar put up by the municipalities for the betterment of the roads. To get the greatest benefit from this Government offer, Dr. Melnis thought some sort of a Road Commission necessary, and he thought the Council might initiate some proposal along this line. Reference to the motorists and their use of the roads reminded Councillor Brazeau that in the matter of motor licenses North Land autoists were unfairly used when they had to pay the same license fee as those in the south who could use their motor cars practically all the year. He suggested that the Government refund part of the motor license fees from this district, the money then to be used on roads here.

On motion of Councillors Brazeau and Studor, it was decided to send a letter to the Highways Department asking for a refund of 50 per cent of the motor license fees, the money to be used on the roads here.

Charette was again before the Council asking for recompense for the damage caused by water and sand filling his cellar on Pine street. He said he had tried year after year to

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THE GREATEST GOOD TO THE GREATEST NUMBER

Freedom and Happiness for All—These are Labor's Ideals, Says President Lord in Eloquent Address

"We are not stopping to blame anyone in particular for the present unjust and inequitable conditions. We are simply trying in our own way to work out an economic plan that will bring the greatest happiness and good to the greatest number. The survival of all, not the survival of the fittest. True Democracy and Freedom for all." These were the keynote sentences in which President Lord of the United Mine Workers, one of the executive of the American Federation of Labor, suggested the true ideals of Labor in his eloquent address, under the auspices of the Miners' Union, to a large audience in the New Empire Theatre on Sunday evening last.

Mr. N. McKinnon, Secretary of the local Miners' Union, presided and brief addresses were made by Councillors W. De Feu and L. S. Newton. Mr. De Feu gave a brief summary of the interview with the Royal Commission recently in Cobalt on a Dominion-wide review of industrial conditions. Mr. De Feu said that he had explained to the Commission that any dissatisfaction among the workers in the Porcupine might be traced to three leading causes:—the improper prejudice against recognition of the Union, the matter of wages, and the lack of proper hospital accommodation, particularly for women and children. The methods of appointing mining inspectors and the composition of the coroner's juries sitting in connection with fatal accidents at the mines were also criticized. Mr. De Feu thought the present mining inspector competent and square and satisfactory, but previous appointments and the method of appointment were open to objection. He also thought that the juries should include at least some men who knew something about mines, so that intelligent verdicts might be reached. Too often now the juries were picked up hurriedly on the street and the evidence meant little to them. In speaking of the need for sufficient pay to maintain a decent existence Mr. De Feu thought \$4.00 a day small enough for men with families, yet some mines had been offering even less than this. Mr. De Feu recommended Industrial Councils, composed of representatives of both Labor and Capital and to which both sides should be compelled to submit their case, as the best probable guarantee of peace and co-operation industrially.

Mr. Newton said that people did not get together often enough in these matters. He referred to the general unrest and suggested that the "get-together" spirit would be the only cure. "When both sides get to know each other better, they will be surprised to find what good fellows they are," he said, "and adjustment will be comparatively easy then." He suggested that the time was coming when the big employers of labor would insist upon dealing only with organized labor bodies as the more practical and convenient way, and prejudice against unions would be a thing of the past even in the mining camps.

In opening his address, President Lord said Democracy was the most illusive word in the world. So many used it as camouflage. Real life on earth, he pointed out, would begin at the point when the workers reached complete Democracy. He boldly declared his patriotism, his love of his own country, "and this," he said "is the very reason why I want to see my country the best place on earth for a man to live in." A certain learned gentleman had once illustrated the economic conditions as regards the workers by a reference to the American Beauty Rose, which he said was the product of brains and was a sample of the "survival of the fittest."

"Put your Beauty Rose in among brambles and weeds, and the weeds will choke it to death and the rose will not survive," said Mr. Lord who went on to refer to the number of artists, poets, scientists and other useful people to the world who were lost to mankind through lack of opportunity due to the present hampering and crushing conditions. "I do not subscribe to the doctrine of the 'survival of the fittest,'" said the speaker. "That is the gospel of the militant autoeracy that we have just fought to a finish. I believe in the survival of all." If it were necessary to quote scientists, Mr. Lord suggested

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BOARD OF WORKS PLANS MANY IMPROVEMENTS

New cement walks, grading, Ditching, Etc., Estimated at \$10,000.00.

At the meeting of the Town Council on Wednesday evening, Mr. John W. Fogg, Chairman of the Public Works Committee, submitted the recommendations for the work to be done this year. The total estimates for the department were given as \$10,000.00. The committee had made a careful survey of the Town and noted the work most urgently required, keeping in mind the need for economy this year. The following is a list of the work recommended to be done:—

Cement walks:— Cedar street, west side, Second Avenue to Third. Second Avenue and Broadway, north side, Pine street to Cedar Street, Balsam street, west side, First to Second Avenue. Third Avenue, south side, Balsam to Birch streets. Third Avenue, crossing, at Balsam street, at Queen's Hotel.

Grading and ditching on streets:— Birch street, Second to Third Avenues, grading. Second Avenue, Birch to Maple streets, grading. Birch street, Third to Fourth Avenues, ditch and culvert. Third Avenue, Balsam to Birch, lower walk. Balsam street, cut down hill from Third to Fourth Avenue. Spruce street, grade and repair from Sixth Avenue north. Hemlock street, grade, and repair from Fifth Avenue north. Sixth Avenue, board walk from Hemlock street east to connect with walk in Rochester Township. Sixth Avenue, from Spruce street west, grade and ditch.

The estimated cost of the above work is placed at \$5,000.00, while other necessary work, much of it classed as "unforeseen" is estimated to cost another \$5,000.00. The total estimates, thus, for the Board of Works this year are given as \$10,000.00. As will be noted by the report of the Council meeting elsewhere in this issue the Council by unanimous vote approved the recommendations and estimates of the Board of Works.

ODDFELLOWS LODGE INSTITUTED AT MATHESON

Fifty brethren from the Porcupine went down to Matheson Wednesday evening last by special train to be present at the instituting of the new I. O. O. F. Lodge there. D. D. G. M. Bro. W. H. Pritchard ably conducted the ceremonies and the new lodge was duly instituted. A large number of candidates were present for initiation or reception into the new lodge. After the work of the Lodge a bountiful supper was enjoyed and the visiting brethren speak in the warmest terms of the hospitality of the Matheson people with a special word for the ladies who provided such an excellent and generous supply of good things for the inner man. The visitors returned to the Camp by special train reaching here about seven Thursday morning.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Mulhern leave to-night for Gravenhurst where they will reside in future. Mr. Ed Kert of Englehart, takes charge to-day as the new manager of the Hotel Goldfields.

Notes, Comments and Opinions Of Interest To Mining World

Very satisfactory results are reported from the recent development work on the Tough-Oakes property at Kirkland Lake.

Good progress is being made in the work at the Baldwin Gold Mines near Kenogami Station. The crosscut at the 200-foot level has been run for about 60 feet and the ore is of a good commercial grade. The results in general from the development work are of the most promising kind.

About 40 to 50 tons per day are now being treated at the Davidson Mine, with the mill heads averaging in the neighborhood of \$18.00 per ton. The mill is now running steadily and it is the intention to enlarge the equipment to increase the capacity to 200 tons per day.

The Knox properties in West Shiningtree have been taken over by the Herrick Gold Mines, and development work will be gone on with at once. A number of promising veins were

PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS ASSESSMENT

At Suggestion of Council Ratepayers' Association Call Another Meeting for To-morrow Night

There will be a public meeting of the citizens to-morrow (Thursday) night at 8 o'clock in the Council Chambers for the discussion of the assessment and the explanation and discussion of the Assessment Act. In view of the many complaints regarding the Assessment this year, the Council at its last meeting passed a resolution asking the Ratepayers' Association to call another public meeting for the explanation and discussion of assessment matters. In accordance with this request, the Ratepayers' Association has called the meeting for to-morrow night. It is expected that members of the Council, the Assessor, the Town Solicitor, etc., will be present to give views and explanations. All citizens having complaints against the assessment, or wishing information, should attend, and the general public will find it profitable and interesting to be there. Council Chambers, to-morrow evening Thursday, May 22nd, at 8 o'clock.

ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION FORMED IN TIMMINS

Executive Includes Representatives of Football, Baseball, Lacrosse and Hockey.

At last night's public meeting in the Council Chambers the Timmins Amateur Athletic Association was formed, Mr. E. G. Noble being elected president and Mr. H. C. McDonald, of the Imperial Bank, secretary. The executive will include representatives from the Baseball, Football, Lacrosse and Hockey Clubs, and Mr. C. G. Williams as representative from the Hollinger. The various clubs will conduct their own sports as heretofore, and the idea of the Athletic Association is to see about the athletic grounds and give a medium to prevent conflict of dates, etc. It is understood that the Townsite Co. will spend several thousand dollars in fixing and equipping grounds for the different sports. Accommodation for baseball, football, lacrosse, perhaps a track, and covered grandstand will be provided, if the Athletic Association can keep all the sports in line and agreement.

JURY GIVES VERDICT OF ACCIDENTAL DEATH.

The Coroner's jury enquiring into the death of Peter John, the Bulgarian who died after an accident last week at the Dome Mine, this week returned a verdict to the effect that the man came to his death through accident. The jury did not lay any blame on anyone for the death, as they considered the evidence showed that the man himself was to blame having disobeyed orders looking to safety. He was injured by being crushed by a car through an open switch, and died from the effects of the accident.

TIMMINS TO APPOINT HOUSING COMMISSION

Town to Follow Government Plans For Financing Houses for Soldiers and Others

At the next regular meeting of the Timmins Town Council a by-law will be ready, with the names of two good men for the position, to act with the Mayor as a Housing Commission for the Town. This is the first step in taking advantage of the provisions of the Dominion of Canada legislation passed in conjunction with Provincial legislation, for the providing of houses under favorable terms for returned soldiers and for others, particularly workmen. At the meeting of the Town Council on Wednesday evening action in the matter was decided upon. Mr. D. W. O'Sullivan, Town Solicitor, had perused the Housing Act, and at the suggestion of the Mayor he outlined its chief provisions. Briefly, the Housing Plan is financed by loans from the Dominion and Provincial Government. The first step in taking advantage of the Act is for the Town Council to appoint a Housing Commission. This Commission is to be composed of the Mayor and either two or four other men who must be citizens who are not members of the Council. The Council decided that a small committee was generally preferable to a larger one, so it was decided to appoint for the present two other citizens to act with the Mayor as Timmins Housing Commission. The Mayor and Councillor Fogg are to interview suitable men for the Commission and before the next meeting of the Council select two capable men who will be willing to act. A by-law will be ready at the next meeting to formally make the appointment required by law and the returned soldiers and workmen generally in Timmins will then have opportunity to take advantage of the Housing Plan. The local Housing Commission will act under the supervision and approval of the Provincial Director under the Act and the other Provincial and Dominion authorities concerned.

After the Commission is appointed, the Solicitor explained, the Housing Plan may be carried along any or all of three distinct plans. The Commission may build the houses itself by contract or otherwise; a Company may be formed for the construction of the needed houses; or the local Commission, under certain regulations and restrictions, may loan money to individuals to construct their own houses. Except under certain special conditions specified, the cost of a house is not to exceed \$2500.00, nor the cost of the house and lot together to be more than \$3,000.00. A house bought under this plan is not to be rented or sold, except with the direct consent of the Commission. In the case of a Housing Company being formed, the Commission may advance them 85 per cent, of the cost of the houses. If the Housing Commission loans money to private individuals, the latter must have at least ten per cent, of the cost in money of their own to invest. In the case of returned soldiers and the widows of dead soldiers the full amount of the cost of the house may be advanced. There are a number of restrictions and regulations in the Act to prevent the plan being used for speculative purposes or for anything else except the purpose for which it was designed. Repayment of the loans are to be made in instalments about equal to rent. The plan does not cost the Town any money directly, nor does it effect the Town's credit or borrowing capacity. Debentures are issued by the Town to meet instalments that are not paid, but these debentures do not figure in restricting the other debenture debt.

President Geo. Smith, on the invitation of Mayor Melnis, spoke on behalf of the local Great War Veterans. He said that there would likely be twenty-five returned soldiers wishing to take advantage of the Housing plan. Most of them owned their own lots and some had money in addition. They would be the best kind of risks for such a plan, as they were good citizens interested in the town. There were about 20 applications already and of this number at least 16 had been found on investigation to be the right kind, really anxious and willing to secure houses of their own. The Council could depend on receiving the fullest help and co-operation from the War Veterans in every way. The G. W. V. A. president was in favor of the Commission building the houses, as this would be the most economical way, as doors, windows

SOUTH PORCUPINE FIRE DOES \$200,000 DAMAGE

Forty-two Buildings Burned Down. Little Insurance Cause of Fire Unknown.

Fire starting from some unknown cause in the upstairs of the Dagenais Rooming House, South Porcupine, shortly before one o'clock last Thursday swept down both sides of the block on Golden Avenue, and wiped out all but five buildings on the back of the same block facing on Bruce Avenue. In all 42 buildings were destroyed and the loss is estimated at \$200,000.00. On account of the high insurance rates, very little insurance was carried, and the loss is thus a very serious one to the town. Among the buildings destroyed were:—the Dagenais building, Robillard's Rooming House, Hermant & Co's store, Aquino's shoe shop, Slotnick's store, Frisby's bakery, Catarello's poolroom, Levinson's grocery, Park Hotel, Maple Leaf Rooming House, W. H. Wilson's residence, Porcupine Herald building, Palace Hotel, Gold Dollar Saloon, and many other smaller buildings and residences. The Northern Canada Supply Co. warehouse was destroyed and the store badly damaged. The store, however, with its metal-clad sides, served as a buffer to save the Crown Lands and Recording offices, Todd drug store and the post office, and perhaps much of the rest of the town. Practically all the stock was destroyed or damaged, but most of the loss was covered by insurance. On the other damage in the town, however, there would not be more than \$20,000 insurance. The fire was checked at the Northern Canada where the Timmins firemen particularly made a determined stand. In about three hours after it started the big fire was under control.

The alarm of fire was turned in at 12.50 and in 8 minutes the firemen were out and had the water on, Chief Chas. Carr being in charge. The fire, however, had such headway that the streams of water available were useless to check the flames and the blaze spread rapidly. A call for help was sent to Timmins and about a dozen of the volunteer firemen here went out by auto truck and gave the best of service. The engine from here was also sent, but was stalled on a piece of bad road. A number of other citizens from the town and district also went to South End and rendered any assistance they could. So rapidly did the fire spread from one frame structure to another that many who were able to remove goods or effects from buildings in the path of the fire saw the goods burned on the street before they could be taken to a place of safety. The Division Court records were found to be unharmed in the vault after the fire. During the fire there was a steady round of exploding cartridges from a foreign rooming house that was raided last year and searched for firearms. It is thought a quantity of ammunition was hidden in the walls and ceilings.

ANOTHER PLUMBING SHOP OPENED IN TIMMINS

Messrs. Alex Simpson and G. Hicks, formerly of Haileybury, but recently employed in the mechanical department of the Hollinger, have opened a new plumbing shop on Spruce street, just opposite the freight sheds. Both these gentlemen are experts in their line, and intend to make a specialty of sheet metal work, plumbing, and heating systems. As they are returned soldiers, and also experienced and skilled in the plumbing and metal trades, they should receive a fair share of the custom and confidence of the public.

etc., could be standardized and a saving effected in this way. He suggested that the Commission secure five or six plans of different styles of houses for the choice of those wishing to take up the plan.

The Mayor agreed with Mr. Smith that the plan of the local Commission handling the building operations would be the way to get the most out of the money both financially and in satisfactory results.

Councillor Newton struck a popular note when he said he was not in favor of any company making a profit out of such money.

The Council then unanimously decided to go on with the Housing proposition, the by-law necessary to be ready at the next meeting, and two men to be selected in the meantime to act with the Mayor as the Timmins Housing Commission.