

Council Endorses Plan to Reserve Timber on River

Transient Traders' License to be Raised to \$250.00. Land Given to Government for Site for Mines Rescue Station. Arrears in Taxes Again Before the Council in Different Cases. Other Business Before Regular Session of the Town Council.

The regular meeting of the Timmins town council was held on Monday afternoon, with Mayor Geo. S. Drew in the chair and Councillors H. Charlebois, P. Dougal, R. Richardson, Alfred Caron and C. P. Ramsay present. Among the important matters before council were cases of arrears in taxes, a proposal to raise the transient traders' license to \$250.00, the granting to the Government of a site for the mines rescue station to be located here, and the question of the Ukrainian hall people paying the local improvement taxes on the property they are using for a park and children's playgrounds. A letter, starting "we, the undersigned citizens and ratepayers, but only


signed by one man, was received complaining that the dog catcher was taking cows from Fifth avenue to the pound. The letter suggested that one man was taking a number of cows from Fifth avenue to pasture each morning and when he would leave a couple of cows on the street to go into another place to get a couple more, he would find on coming out with the second lot of cows that the first lot had been taken to the pound. In answer to this the council remarked on the damage that stray cows would do, and suggested that it was likely that people whose property was threatened or injured by the cows at large were the ones that were responsible for the animals being impounded. There were several appeals to the council for relief in the matter of arrears of taxes, but the council felt it could do little. There were so many cases of the same kind that to grant one request would be liable to mean establishing a precedent that the town could not be expected to follow. Some of those applying to the council were widows and for these the council had every sympathy, though in some cases the council could not do much to help. Mayor Drew pointed out that in some past years the council had withheld collection measures and some had taken this to mean that they were let off paying the taxes altogether. Of course, this could not be done, and the mayor thought it would be well if those concerned understood that the holding back of distraint or other harsh methods did not mean relief from payment but simply a help for the present until the tax-payer would be able to look after the matter. In the cases where effort was being made to pay up the back taxes every possible help was given by the town, but there were too many cases where apparently no real effort was made to pay. In such cases no other plan was possible except to take the necessary steps to enforce col-

lection. In the case of a couple of widows applying for more time, they were informed that immediate collection would not be enforced but some plan would have to be made for payments. Messrs S. Martin, B. S. Chas. Pierce and S. Bucovetsky were present in regard to taxes on the Jewish Synagogue. Mr. Martin said he understood that churches were not required to pay taxes and he thought the same consideration should be extended in the case of the synagogue. Mayor Drew and members of the council agreed with this, saying that the synagogue should be classed the same as other places of worship. It was pointed out that all the churches had to pay local improvement taxes on their properties, and also for the residences of their clergymen. Mr. Martin said that they were willing to pay the local improvement taxes, but the synagogue had been assessed on the same basis as a dwelling house. Assessment Commissioner Channen explained that when the assessment was made in 1927 there had been a family living in the basement of the synagogue and so the place had been assessed on the same basis as the Salvation Army hall where there were living quarters in connection with the building. Mr. Bucovetsky said that the Hebrew congregational hall building had never been used for residence purposes. Some four or five years ago a Jewish family had come to town and had been unable to secure housing accommodation, and they had been allowed to use a part of the basement of the hall until such time as a house could be available. They were only in the place a few weeks and that was long before 1927. On no other occasion had there being use made of the property for residence purposes. Mr. Channen was asked to look up the names of the supposed tenants, so that the matter could be straightened out. Mr. Pierce said that as soon as the adjustment was made effort would be given to settling up the taxes due for local improvement rates. Another tax case was that of a man who had lost a limb in an accident. He had a large family and was finding it difficult to make ends meet as he had only Workmen's Compensation to keep him and his family. All he asked was that he be allowed to pay the back taxes without having penalty added, and the council thought that this was reasonable enough and the man was making a gallant enough struggle to deserve encouragement. Mr. M. Matynick explained to the council that he had bought and moved the Dr. Brown residence, formerly on the corner of Pine street and Fourth avenue. The house had been under repairs and alterations and would not be rented until September. As it had been untenanted since April he thought council might make an allowance for taxes as had been done in other cases. It was pointed out that no rebate of taxes had been made for vacant houses. He was advised to pay the taxes as set, and after the house was occupied to bring the matter again before the council. Accounts were passed, rebates authorized on water rates where people had moved and the water was not used, and other routine business dealt with. Council passed the necessary resolution granting the Workmen's Compensation Board the use of a site on town property adjoining the fire hall for the erection of a building, or lean-to, for the housing of equipment for mine rescue work. The lease is for 99 years, and the consideration is \$1.00, with the proviso that the Government looks after all maintenance. The matter of water rates in the Bartleman townsite was dealt with. Previous to the townsite being annexed, the people there paid double the town rates for water. Now that the townsite is part of the town it was felt that this was not fair and accordingly a resolution was passed to adjust the matter of rates from Jan. 1st, when the townsite was annexed. The tenants will get the rebate having paid the old water rates. It is necessary for those entitled to the rebate to call at Mr. Channen's office in the town hall to secure the refund. Permission was asked to install an oil tank in the laneway back of the Marshall-Ecclestone block. The tank is for fuel oil used in the heating of the building. The tank is 5 ft. 2 inches by 12 feet long. Permission was granted, the Marshall-Ecclestone firm to safeguard the town from any injury or interference in connection with the sewers in the laneway. The clerk called attention to the fact that the law had been changed in regard to the transient traders' by-law. The law now set the license fee at not less than \$100.00, nor more than \$500. The town has been charging \$75.00 per year, returnable in taxes after the expiration of one year. Councillor Dougal thought that for the protection of the merchants and the public the license fee for transient traders should be \$250.00 per year. Some of the council thought this too big a change from the \$75.00 formerly charged by the town. "We should protect the merchants here now," said Mr. Dougal. If the transient traders' fee were placed at \$250.00 he felt all would be protected. He did not think it would be a hardship on anyone who was justified in going into business here. Anyone who continued in business for a year would get the fee back. Councillor Dougal put the figure, \$250.00, into a resolution for the changing of the by-law to this effect, and this resolution was passed. Mayor Drew brought up the matter of the petition circulated in town asking the Government to reserve certain townships along or near the Matta-

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Literally tons of blueberries are being shipped these days from the North Land. The crop is a bountiful one and from 8 to 10 cents a pound is being paid for the fruit in Toronto. In the central part of Temiskaming New Liskeard, Englehart, Charlton, Uno Park and other centres are exceeding previous years in the amounts of blueberries shipped, while this year is probably the banner year for blueberries in this part of the North. Nellie Lake and other points north of Porcupine Junction are contributing their share of the popular fruit, while Matheson and other towns in that area are important centres for shipment. On the Porcupine branch all the centres along the line are holding up their end with Timmins probably the most important point in the epidemic of shipping blueberries. Blueberries appear to be one of the most popular of summer fruits and all shipped seems to find ready sale in Toronto and other points south. In Timmins and district the question what to do with the boys and girls in vacation time has been wisely solved by sending them picking blueberries. Many families in town have secured large quantities of fruit for immediate use and for preserving in this way. Some of the berries have also been sold around town, few days passing recently without youngsters making the rounds of the houses offering blueberries for sale. The blueberry industry this year has assumed important proportions in this district. One settler's family have actually been making as high as \$30.00 per day through the sale of blueberries. Nearly every day sees groups of berry pickers going out to work. Last week one gasoline boat noticed return-



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ing from a trip up the river had no less than 33 persons on board. The man operating the boat was the only man in the party, the others being women and children, all able pickers of blueberries. This week two gasoline boats crowded with women and children going berry picking were among the notable groups in this present popular work of bringing the blueberries from the bush to the market. One settler, half humorously and half seriously this week suggested that he intended to quit trying to develop his property as an ordinary farm, but instead proposed turning himself into a fruit farmer, meaning that he felt it would pay to centre on the blueberry crop this year. Many settlers in this district have found the blueberry crop a big help in the struggle. Unfortunately, however, the season is comparatively short, and it is not every year that there is such a bountiful crop.

Last year The Advance suggested that by the use of a small bus a group of friends from the South might enjoy a very pleasant holiday on a tour of the North Land together. In last week's issue of The New Liskeard Speaker appears the following item as a sort of proof of the suggestion:—"Last week more than the usual number of visitors called at the Beach, and on Wednesday morning a large passenger car from Toronto carrying about fifteen passengers passed through town en route to Kirkland Lake."

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