

GOOD TURNOUT TO WATERWORKS MEETING

Representative Crowd of Citizens Present to Discuss Question of Durham's Water Supply.

A meeting to consider the waterworks proposition was held in the Town Hall on Thursday night and was well attended, but there seemed but little enthusiasm one way or the other. In connection with the discussion and to show our need of a better system the analysis of the sanitary survey recently made and published in last week's Chronicle was dealt with at some length, but as no one present could give a clear explanation as to what the figures meant, the discussion was not very satisfactory and very little information was gained.

Dr. Hutton, our local Medical Officer of Health, was the first speaker called after the meeting had been opened in a short address by Mayor Smith. Dr. Hutton in his report for years, he said, had issued a warning as he felt that owing to the increasing number of cesspits our wells were liable to be polluted. He had nothing to do with the recent survey, made under provincial instruction, but according to his understanding and interpretation of the report the condition of our wells was such as to require prompt action on the part of the town to prevent a possible epidemic of some sort. To undertake the installation of a waterworks system was not so formidable a task as might appear on the surface. He then went on to give figures to show that during the 23 years he had been in Durham he had paid out \$112,000 in bonuses, interest on loans, hydro, high school, market building, etc. The waterworks under consideration would not be in excess of this amount and from a very short period after the installation the system would be a revenue producer.

Mr. Redfern, consulting engineer of the firm of James, Proctor & Redfern, Toronto, was the next speaker and continued himself mostly to the system they advocate as the most suitable and cheapest for the town. The total estimated cost as set out in their report was \$102,000, to which an additional \$8,000 had been added to cover the purchase of the existing service and to pay for water privileges. As a benefit to the town he emphasized its adoption from a sanitary standpoint as well as protection from fire hazard. A small reduction in insurance would result in the business section, possibly, but not much in residential parts.

The 56 hydrants distributed in different parts of the town would furnish good and accessible fire protection. Though the first building to catch fire might be badly damaged, or destroyed even in the event of having waterworks, the chances of fire spreading would be materially reduced.

In speaking of Wilder's Lake as the source of supply he had no fault to find more than the extra cost of piping. In his opinion a ten-inch pipe at least would be necessary to afford sufficient pressure in fire fighting. Some were of the opinion that a six-inch would be sufficient but this, he said, was not the case. When a large volume of water was needed he claimed the friction was such that the pressure would be reduced to a minimum, and useless in fighting fire. A ten-inch pipe was the smallest he would recommend.

There are some who think the McKechnie springs would not yield sufficient water, but he felt confident the supply would be ample for all needs.

He suggested a standpipe on an elevation in Upper Town. This would be 60 feet high and 25 feet in diameter and could be kept full at small cost by using electricity as a pumping power at off peak hours.

In comparing costs he estimated \$36,000 as liberal in providing the plant if the McKechnie springs were used. Wilder's Lake would require \$70,000. These estimates were simply estimates to get the plant started and ready to have extensions made at an additional cost of \$66,000. The extensions on the frontage system plan would entail a cost of about 7 cents per foot frontage on streets where the mains were laid, and to this would be added the water rates cost, which was estimated at an average of \$12.00 a year per family.

As a source of revenue the Engineer counted the 7 cents a foot frontage on 4,300 feet, amounting to about \$3,000.00. He also counted on 300 consumers at \$12 a year, leaving a balance of \$2,000.00 to raise by a general levy which would mean be-

tween four and five mills on the dollar extra.

Mr. W. Calder stood out in opposition to the by-law which, according to his estimate would increase our taxes to a 70-mill rate instead of 52 mills, the rate for the year just closing. He also claimed that the \$110,000 given by the engineer would be in other cases, the hydro for instance, be much higher than the engineer's estimate. To this statement, Mr. Redfern threw out a challenge to put up a thousand dollars, payable to the nearest hospital, if the cost would exceed the amount estimated. He claimed that his firm had almost invariably overestimated the cost. He further stated his belief that \$600.00 would cover cost of certain operating expenses instead of the \$1,200 he had placed in the estimates submitted.

We have no idea how the vote will go till after the ballots are counted, but even should the by-law be defeated, and impurities continue in our water supply as at present, we will be forced in time to act whether agreeable to us or not. The report recently to hand and published last week urges us to proceed without possible delay and this surely means we will have to do something soon whether we feel like it or not.

GUELPH HAS JOINED "ONE-PAPER" TOWNS

Mercury Took Over Herald First of The Year.—Costs Too High.

On the last day of the old year The Guelph Daily Herald, which has been published for 76 years, disappeared from the field of Canadian journalism and was amalgamated with The Mercury of that city.

Since the war, the newspapers have been hard hit and many published in small places have gone out of existence entirely. Towns that formerly had two papers are now reduced to one, and most of the small cities have now only one daily instead of two as formerly. Stratford, St. Thomas, Galt, Chatham, and Guelph are cases that come to mind where reductions have been made and there are a number of others.

Recently The Toronto World went out of existence and shortly before that The News decided to quit. The same cause is attributed in nearly every instance—the enormous increase in the cost of everything that goes to make up a newspaper.

There was a time when it cost comparatively little to start a newspaper but that time is past. Chatsworth had two papers at one time, Chesley two, Harriston and Mount Forest three each. Now Chatsworth has none and the others are reduced to one each.

ARTHUR'S DEPARTURE WAS GENERALLY MOURNED

Dr. Jamieson's One-time Gardener and Handy Man Left Couple of Weeks Ago and Many Regrets Are Heard.

Arthur Thomas, for the past couple of years or so a resident of Egremont, left for Toronto two or three weeks ago, and many are the regrets heard over his departure. Arthur is, or rather, was, Dr. Jamieson's gardener, and we believe the doctor can truthfully recommend him as the best man with strawberries, from a destructive standpoint, he ever saw in action. Anyway, Arthur weeded the strawberries at the lake one day and, like a lot of other things about the property they are listed as "missing."

A couple of years ago, Mr. Thomas occupied Dr. Jamieson's residence at the Lake for the winter, and up to the present the doctor does not know just how much stuff he didn't appropriate when he left for the farm he rented from Mrs. Janet McMeekin and departed so suddenly that he didn't have time to pay the rent.

Joe Stephenson is another of the mourners. Arthur "rented" his car at \$20.00 per trip and made two trips to Toronto removing his household goods. The rent was never paid and we understand a little loan was also negotiated in the same neighborhood before his departure.

There are several other charges that could be brought up, but these are sufficient to show that his early training was either sadly neglected or badly misconstrued. In the meantime, a lot of people are sighing, "Will he no come back again?"

The Prince of Wales' ranch in Alberta is to be operated for the benefit of ranchmen in general. A princely undertaking.—Border Cities Star.

THIEVES ROB BARN OF GLENELG FARMER

Several Petty Robberies Have Taken Place At Premises of Arthur Edge.

We regret to learn that Glenelg has one or more sneak thieves, but we hope they'll be caught before advancing too far in their evil career. Last October a couple of bags of grain were taken from the barn of Mr. Arthur Edge, and more recently a larger amount was stolen. We are not in possession of full details, but from information to hand several other visits were made.

The stable, it appears, was entered and the grain taken from a spout that leads from the granary above. The suspected party or parties are unknown to us, but unless they quit their depredations we may soon be under the painful necessity of reporting their conviction and perhaps imprisonment.

FORMER BENTINCK RESIDENT DIED SUDDENLY TUESDAY

Mrs. Susannah Collinson, Well-known Here, Passed Away At Owen Sound.

Mrs. Susannah Collinson, for over twenty-five years a resident of Ceylon, and formerly a well-known resident of Aberdeen, died very suddenly in Owen Sound on Tuesday while visiting at the home of Mrs. Coleman in that city. The late Mrs. Collinson had been visiting at the home of her brothers, Messrs. B. B. Miller, and Thomas Dargavel in Wiarton, and was apparently in her usual health when she got off the train at Owen Sound on Monday night. On Tuesday morning about 9.30 o'clock she became suddenly seriously ill and passed away in a few minutes. She was 76 years of age.

A short service was held at Owen Sound on Wednesday afternoon, but arrangements for the funeral at Ceylon are not yet complete.

NO INCREASE IN 1924 MOTOR LICENSES

Ontario Government Decides No Change in Schedule Needed For Coming Year.

Motor car and motor truck owners are not to be required by the Ontario Government to bear the burden of increased license fees during 1924. While the Government had seriously considered and, in its platform announcements, almost prepared the public for some increases, particularly on heavy motor trucks, it has now come to a different conclusion and will make no changes for a year at least in the license fee schedules. Official assurance to this effect was given last week by Hon. George S. Henry, minister of highways in the Provincial Cabinet.

Increase In Revenue.

During the year 1923 the revenue from motor licenses has totalled \$4,400,000. During the coming year it will, without any increase in rates, go well over the \$5,000,000 mark, owing to the increased number of cars and trucks in operation. The Government will make this natural increase satisfy the department's need for increased revenue for a year at least.

The desire of the Government, in formulating a policy of taxation upon the motorist which will enable its good road work to be vigorously prosecuted, is to devise some manner of impost which will tax most the motorists who must use the highways. The gasoline tax is being investigated in this regard, but it has been stated by the department that no decision regarding it could be reached sufficiently soon to enable it to be enacted at the coming session of the Legislature.

Delay In Plates.

Motor license plates this year will not be available till the first of February, instead of on the 1st of January, as has been the case in previous years. The causes for the delay in issuing them are two—in part, the Government's indecision over its policy of taxation, and in part, the fact that the manufacturers of the license plates have not delivered sufficient to permit the meeting of the whole demand during January.

In past years, however, considerable leeway has usually been given to the motorists in the matter of securing their markers. This year such leeway will not be given; the license plates will all be ready for distribution on the first of the month and no period of grace will be given

to the motorist in the matter of securing his.

The delay will mean some monetary loss to the Government, as it will lose the use during the month of January of the huge sum which the sale of license plates always returns.

DEER ARRIVED CHRISTMAS AT JAMIESON NATIONAL PARK

Young Doe Shipped From Rondeau Arrived Safely Christmas Night.

The young doe scheduled to arrive here a couple of weeks ago for the Jamieson Park at Wilder's Lake did not turn up until Christmas night, and is now with its mate in the smaller enclosure south of the buffalo run. It is probable they will be turned in with the prairie bison in the near future.

We understand it is the intention to enlarge the enclosure next spring in order that the animals may have sufficient grazing room, but as they will be well supplied with hay this winter, they will not feel that their quarters are too small.

While the buffalo are surly kind of fellows, and will not likely ever become chummy with the public, both deer are very tame and will eat out of your hand, and even go down into your pockets for apples or vegetables.

With the bison, deer, Belgian hare and pheasants started, Dr. Jamieson now has another scheme on hand and may try it next spring. He claims that the turkey is naturally a wild bird and is considering getting a few and turning them loose in his 300-acre bush for experimental purposes. The scheme at that may be a good one, and will be watched with interest.

HOSPITAL MATRON TENDERS THANKS FOR DONATIONS

Expresses Appreciation For Acts of Kindness On Part of Citizens.

The Matron of the Durham Red Cross Memorial Hospital wishes to convey thanks to the following, who made recent donations:

The Holstein Methodist Mission Society, two quilts.

Mr. Alex. Grierson, two bags of turnips.

Mr. William Philp, Dromore, \$25 in cash as an appreciation of the care given his daughter during her recent illness, the money to be spent for nurses' comforts.

Mrs. S. F. Morlock, a Christmas cake for the nurses, given again this year.

Dr. D. B. Jamieson, a year's subscription to Good Housekeeping.

Mr. J. A. Graham, a year's subscription to The Family Herald and Weekly Star.

Mr. C. Ramage, a year's subscription to The Review.

Mr. W. Irwin, three copies of The Chronicle since the opening of the hospital.

LOCAL GOOD ROADS STAFF HAS RECEIVED NOTICE

Local Office Staff and Engineers Received Notice of Reorganization.

As a Christmas present from the Ontario Government, Engineer C. A. Robbins and staff have received notice that their services will be dispensed with after February 1st.

This, however, is not as bad as it sounds. The new order applies all over the Good Roads portion of the Province and is a move made by the new minister of highways, the Hon. G. S. Henry, to reorganize the whole highway staff and start afresh on the question of good roads. It is quite possible, and even probable, that Mr. Robbins will be one of the engineers retained by the Government in its good roads program for 1924, and the appointment will be a popular one locally, as well as all along his beat from Owen Sound to Guelph.

ANNUAL RINK MEETING HELD TO-MORROW NIGHT

Postponed Meeting To Which All Shareholders Should Attend.

The postponed meeting of the Durham Amusement Company, the proprietors of the skating rink, will be held to-morrow (Friday) night in Mr. H. J. Snell's store, at 8 o'clock.

With the opening of the rink on New Year's night, the skating season is now officially "on" and while the annual meeting of the company has been delayed somewhat, it is to be hoped that a good number of the shareholders will be on hand to look over the year's business.

Experience is usually what you get when you are looking for something else.—Platte City, Mo., Landmark.

ALLAN AND CALDER IN FIELD FOR REEVE

Nine in Running For Council, Six of Whom Will Be Elected.—Dr. Smith Mayor By Acclamation.

The nominations in town were held Monday night and when the hour expired there was a lot of material to choose from, but Returning Officer Vollett was able to announce only one acclamation. A year ago Dr. Smith, who had been a couple of years in the Council, was elevated to the mayoralty without opposition, and again on Monday night he was similarly honored.

There were four nominees for the Reeveship, as follows: W. J. McFadden, W. Calder, Dr. J. F. Grant, and Ex-Principal Thomas Allan. Mr. McFadden and Dr. Grant withdrew from the contest, leaving Messrs. Calder and Allan in the field.

Fifteen names were submitted for the Council: John Murdoch, W. J. McFadden, Wm. Macdonald, Allan Bell, John McQueen, S. P. Saunders, all members of last year's Council. The added names were: George McKay, Thomas Whitmore, Arthur McClocklin, Joseph Firth, Oliver Hunter, J. C. Adams, John Whittaker, George Noble, and John Moffat. Of these the following qualified:

George McKay, J. N. Murdoch, W. J. McFadden, John McQueen, Allan Bell, John Whittaker, Joseph Firth, William Macdonald, Oliver Hunter.

The nominees for the Hydro Commission were William Laidlaw and Harvey W. Wilson, and for School Trustees, John McGowan, E. A. Hay, J. S. McIlraith and S. D. Croft.

When the nominations were declared closed, Mr. W. B. Vollett, the Returning Officer, was elected chairman and immediately a resolution was submitted and carried limiting the time of the speakers to half an hour and no more.

Dr. Smith was the first speaker, and on rising thanked the electors for the honor of being returned to the mayoralty without opposition. This he said was his fifth time to be elected to the Durham Council and four of these were by acclamation. He then went on to say that he would not be a candidate for municipal honors next year, as he does not believe in any man monopolizing the honors.

As Reeve Currey had left town a few weeks ago and was not there to present his case, Mayor Smith said he would undertake a brief outline of the work of the Council, both as it affected the town and the county. He had a word of praise for Mr. Currey, whom he considered a good, faithful officer. He then made a comparison between the reports of 1922 and 1923, in which he showed there was over \$5,000 less in the treasury at the end of the year than at the beginning. He then referred to criticisms made against the 1923 Council for striking too low a rate, which, if true, went to show that the 1922 rate should have been 55 mills.

He referred to the satisfactory way in which the 1923 taxes had been paid in, and touched briefly on the failure of Clark Metals to meet their payment in 1922, which tended as a handicap against the Council of 1923. The expenditure on the county bank did not appear in the report submitted for 1922, and to make a fair comparison between the business of the two years another \$1,500 should be added.

The work on the streets in 1923 was done more systematically than in 1922, when gravel containing large stones had been piled on the streets and had to be taken away by the 1923 Council at a heavy expense. The sifting of the gravel used in 1923 obviated the necessity of such an expenditure in 1924.

The sidewalks had received but little attention in the past but were repaired at considerable outlay in 1923. The oiling of the streets was another increased expenditure of which he believed every citizen approved. Fire hose had also been purchased to the value of \$400.00.

Dr. Smith then referred to the recent report of the wells as furnished by the Board of Health, and lamented that 99 of the 125 wells examined showed signs of gross pollution. The town is in need of better fire protection and with waterworks there would be a hydrant near every house. He referred to Ailsa Craig turning down a waterworks by-law about a year ago and a subsequent fire a few months later when the business part of the town was nearly wiped out.

Mr. W. Calder was the next speaker and expressed pleasure in listening to the explanations given by the Mayor. He then went on to criti-

cize the rate, which he deemed was too low, but did not think the Council had made it too low intentionally. The Mayor, he said, admitted the expenditure was higher than last year and from this went on to charge Reeve Currey with laxity in losing \$450.00 that should have come to Durham in connection with the good roads program.

He opposed the waterworks, which he said, would require an annual levy of \$8,000 to retire the bonds in 30 years. This would be the cost incurred for the completed work, including that for which the by-law is to be voted on, together with the extension of the service system throughout the town. This on our present assessed value would mean an additional rate of 15 mills on the dollar and to this should be added another 10 mills to place the rate where it should have been in 1923. As an alternate scheme he suggested the issuing of \$12,000.00 debenture to buy out the Snell system and extend the piping services. This he claimed would give adequate water for domestic uses but would make no provision for fire protection, for which he thought a chemical engine would serve a good purpose.

Dr. Grant said we were living in a democratic country where people had the right to run for office if he felt like it. He believed it was the duty of every citizen to do something for the good of the community in which he lived. He had been approached and urged to run for the Reeveship and the bright pictures presented to his gaze led him to see the honors in his grasp, and felt sure it would be useless for any of his opponents to remain in the field against him. The decisive defeat would be painful to him as well as to the defeated candidates. He had served in the Council and as Mayor and thought he had done his part and was willing to leave the honors to others. With evident regrets to many of the electors he expressed his intention to withdraw in order to devote his time to his own business. Dr. Grant said the waterworks should be carefully considered. The Government knew the condition of the wells and in the face of the warning just issued there might be a calamitous outbreak of disease that all would regret. Loss by fire would be disastrous. Our debenture debts are guaranteed by the town, and if loss occurred the indebtedness would still have to be assumed, and heavier mortgages would have to be borne by those who were left. He said he would like to hear about the agreement between Mr. Calder and Mr. Catton.

Mr. Allan had no intention of coming out until approached by a number of citizens on Friday night. After considering the question, he decided to stand against Mr. Calder, who has been trying to "hog" the position. He promised to retire in 1920 and is up again, but only for the Reeveship, because there's more money in it.

Mr. Allan expressed himself as favorable to the waterworks and said if we failed to make provision for a better system than we have, we would soon be forced to do so by the Government, as Hanover had been forced.

After announcing his intention to stand he asked the people in a general way to vote for him. Young men should have a chance in municipal work, and if elected he would be willing to retire next year in favor of any young man who desired the office.

Mr. Calder endeavored to explain the Catton Contract but didn't clear up matters very much. He didn't deny having signed the agreement, but he had been told by his friends it was a foolish thing to do, as the election to the Reeveship should be in the hands of the people and not in the hands of the candidate.

ALL WOMEN VOTE MONDAY FOR REEVE AND COUNCIL

Same Qualifications Required As For Provincial Election.

Mayor Smith informs us that on Monday next all married women, the wives of either owners or tenants of properties having an assessment of \$400 or over will have a vote for Reeve and Council. As has always been the case, women property owners will have a vote on both by-law and council.

The polling booth in the East Ward, advertised as in MacBeth's Drug Store, has been changed to D. B. McFarlane's tailor shop, one door north of the post office.

Almost any day now there will be some one predicting an early spring.—St. Catharines Standard.