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DEPARTMENT.

submit evidence they should do so. He (Mr. McKinnon) had advised some of the heads of the municipalities in the south that evidence would not be necessary, and then when it was found that the assessment was being materially raised advised them of the fact so that if it was thought advisable to send witnesses they could do so. Witnesses were sent and now look to the county for reimbursement of their expenses.

Mr. Paterson questioned why Mr. McKinnon had not advised Meaford and St. Vincent as well as Durham. The warden should have notified all the municipalities. He felt that his division had not been fairly dealt with, and he did not feel like paying these expenses.

Mr. McKinnon pointed out that the solicitor had notified these municipalities, but as he had told the mayor of Durham and the reeve of Glenelg that no witnesses would be required, he felt it his duty to inform them when it became apparent that evidence was necessary. He had called up several members of the council to get them to consent to drop the increase in the assessment of Owen Sound to one hundred thousand dollars to secure a settlement, but the invariable answer was to let the appeal go on. So far as Durham and the adjoining council was concerned he had told them that nothing would be required of them, and in justice to these municipalities he had notified them at his own expense and would do it again.

Mr. McColman said the councils in his division were at ease and did not know the fate that awaited them in the appeal. They said they would just let it go. They would receive fair play and the effort was not worth the expense. He would like to have the accounts come before the county council to know all that there is to know. The accounts of the municipality that appealed was evidently the only ones dealt with. He wanted to see the other accounts paid.

Mr. Allan said that the witnesses that came from the township of Glenelg had been paid by the local municipalities, with the expectation that they would be reimbursed by the County.

It was conceded that the accounts should be sent to the clerk of the county court to be taxed and the discussion ended.

An adjournment was then made until 2 p. m.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

The printing committee's report recommended the payment of a number of accounts, including several for advertising for tenders for the house of refuge.

The county property committee recommended that the treasurer be instructed to pay for one purple beech tree; also for coal and wood required for the county buildings; and that the committee be empowered to proceed with the renovating of the various offices in accordance with the plans already adopted.

Both reports were adopted without discussion.

Mr. Shute introduced by-law 630, to ratify by-law 612 of the township of Artemesia, to close up certain road allowances and dispose of the same.

Mr. McColman introduced by-law 631, to erect the village of Priceville into a police village.

Both by-laws were put through their various stages, being finally passed, signed, sealed and ordered to be engrossed in the by-law book.

On motion by Messrs. Harness and Schenk, the chairman of the printing committee and the clerk were instructed to ask for tenders for the printing of 1903, and it was left to their discretion.

Mr. Harness remarked that this matter had usually been dealt with at the November session, but it had evidently been overlooked.

Mr. Paterson, the chairman, said it would be advisable to have the clerk act with him, as the latter was an experienced man.

The suggestion was complied with and the motion carried.

Mr. Brown moved, seconded by Mr. Paterson, that the finance and assessment committee advertise for applicants for the work of valuation of the county, for the purpose of equalization of the county assessment and report at the June session.

Mr. Brown said that there was nothing so important as to secure a fair basis on assessment for county purposes. Euphrasia, he continued, should be equal to St. Vincent. It had 9000 acres more than the latter township, though St. Vincent was assessed at \$250,000 higher than Euphrasia. He did not question the judge's wisdom in his recent appeal decision, so far as residential property was concerned, though the jump up that had been given these townships was not warranted, Meaford, no doubt, was a fine growing little town; but coupling Hanover, Markdale and Durham, he could not see why Meaford should be assessed \$124,000 higher than the three combined. Durham, with its million dollar cement works, should count for something more than Meaford, with its elevator and two or three new factories. He also made comparisons with Holland and Glenelg, contending that the latter should be assessed almost equal. Keppel had received the worst slap, having had its assessment doubted. He advocated getting the best independent men available, and thought these could best be secured by advertising for them.

Mr. Gordon urged that the question Mr. Brown had introduced was far too large to receive proper considera-

tion at this session. It would be a serious mistake to advertise for men to do the work. It would take hours to wade through the applications alone, and then would come the work of selecting.

Mr. McKinnon said they would want the month of June to dispose of the applications, to say nothing of the annoyance to the members by solicitations of the applicants in the interval. He thought the finance and assessment committee should adopt some well defined policy to arrive at a fair valuation. He contended that Glenelg and Holland were not equal, and attributed the increase to Keppel to the villages growing up around the cement works in that municipality. The magnitude of the question required that the council take time to consider fully some policy.

Mr. Paterson, while not altogether endorsing the resolution, thought that the only fair way to have the work done was by the appointment of good men to go over the county. His municipality had been dealt with unfairly, though he did not think it was done intentionally, and both St. Vincent and Euphrasia had been raised too high.

Mr. McKinnon thought that the question was too large for hasty action. The whole time of the June session would be taken up in disposing of the applications. He was in favor of leaving the matter until the June session, and taking one or two days to go thoroughly into some plan. In the meantime the members could look up good men for the position. He urged that the matter be left to the finance committee.

Mr. Allan said that in Wellington county the valuation had been taken up in blocks, and had proven very satisfactory. He was not afraid, however, of the number of applicants for the position.

Mr. Harness expressed himself as in favor of the motion. It was time some proper basis of valuation was arrived at. He did not think that the cement works warranted the increase in valuation. There was thousands of acres in Keppel that had been abandoned as not fit to live on, while the area was reduced again by the numerous lakes, which, with 60 feet around each, belonged to the government. The ratepayers were looking for some action to be taken.

Mr. McColman said when Keppel received her former assessment it was boomed as possessing gas and coal oil, and now it had cement works to take their place. He was not favorable to asking for valuers, as he ventured the prediction that the members would have twenty-five applicants each. It was not competition but competency that was needed.

Mr. McKinnon suggested that as the clerk had acted as the clerk in the appeal the latter might explain upon what basis the judge made his decision.

Mr. Rutherford said he did not question in the least Judge Creasor's decision. It would be unfair, as that gentleman was not here to defend himself. Notices were sent out to every municipality, asking each to send the assessor and whatever evidence it wished to submit. While these notices were sent out to every municipality, it was quite noticeable that not one of the northern townships were represented, while the southern municipalities were represented.

Had the total assessment been reduced the rate would have had to be higher, and in this respect with the higher valuation the rate was correspondingly lower. In making the assessment the judge had been guided largely by the progressiveness of the surrounding country, one witness stating that from one stand point no less than twelve new barns were in course of erection. The judge had given his decision on the evidence laid before him.

Mr. Gordon said that the Keppel valuation was high, as much of the land was totally unfit for cultivation,

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and were now abandoned farms with only some ramshackle buildings. He urged that the members get all the information they could and report at the June session.

Mr. Shute favored a valuation. He had been opposed to the high assessment of Owen Sound, which had been the cause of all the tension over the equalization. He suggested that at the June session each member come prepared to nominate one good man, and then select the three from the number of applicants.

Mr. McArthur failed to see all the importance there seemed to be placed in an equalization.

Mr. McKinnon then moved an amendment, seconded by Mr. McLean, that the matter of equalization be left to the finance and assessment committee to report on ways and means at the June session. The mover said that the passing of his amendment would avoid the button-holing members were subjected to by applicants.

Mr. Bell contended that the work should be done by independent men outside of the county. Get good practical men who could give a thoroughly unbiased opinion.

The amendment carried, and the council adjourned until Saturday morning.

SATURDAY MORNING.

The council met at 9:30 with the warden in the chair and the members all present. The first business taken up was the report of the finance committee, the recommendations of which were the payment of accounts of the clerk, \$2.42 for express and postage on election papers; and ex-Warden McKinnon, telephone, \$1.90; and also \$50 be granted the Owen Sound and County Grey Poultry Association, and \$10 to the Prisoner's Aid Society.

Mr. W. J. Hatton was present on behalf of Mr. W. J. Boyd, whose property was decided upon by the selecting committee as an eligible site for the house of refuge, and on consent of the council was heard on his behalf.

Mr. Hatton narrated the circumstances of the selection of Mr. Boyd's property, and pointed out that the committee had accepted it as far as it was possible for it to do so. On the understanding that it would be taken by the county. Mr. Boyd held his property. Mr. Boyd was not a man of war, but he asked the council to do what was fair between man and man. Mr. Boyd had suffered large damage, having lost one good sale, the prospective purchaser afterward purchasing the Mulholland farm. Mr. Boyd had made arrangements which were disturbed by the change, and had been advised that he had legal grounds to take legal steps; but he believed the council would make some recompense for the damages Mr. Boyd had sustained.

The education committee's report No. 2 recommended the acceptance of the reports of School Inspectors N. W. Campbell of South Grey, and Grier of East Grey; and the payments of sums to school sections where continuation classes had been established.

Mr. McKinnon presented the report of the special committee appointed to examine the treasurer's sureties, which showed that securities to the value of \$100,000 were held by the county.

The reports being adopted, business was taken up on motion.

Mr. Doyle moved, seconded by Mr. Allan, that the sum of \$1000 be granted to assist in the erection and equipment of an addition to the Owen Sound general and marine hospital, provided the directors extend to the individual members of the county council the privilege now enjoyed by the warden only, viz., the authority and privilege of sending patients to the hospital.

Mr. McArthur stated that he would like to have it made clear that the delegation had made that offer.

Mr. Doyle said he understood from the deputation that addressed the council that the members would have the privilege of sending a patient to the hospital for one year for each hundred dollars donated, the same as the warden now enjoyed of sending a patient for each hundred dollars made in the annual grant for maintenance.

Mr. McKinnon said the council was continuously being solicited for subscriptions, and would like to know where the end would come.

Mr. Bell questioned if in every case the patient sent must be an indigent.

Mr. Doyle understood that the patients sent must be those who were unable to pay.

Mr. Allan stated that as he understood the situation the proposed grant did not interfere in any way with the annual grant of five hundred dollars. He was willing to take Mr. Armstrong at his word when he said that each councillor would have the privilege of sending an indigent patient to the hospital for one year. He would have supported a resolution for double the amount.

Mr. Shute was opposed to any grant further. When the hospital was built the county granted \$1000, conditional upon no further grant being made. Since then an annual grant of first one hundred dollars, then two hundred, and now it was five hundred. It would soon be worse than the poor house. The township of Holland sent a patient to the hospital and had to pay every cent of the cost. He didn't see why the demands grew at such a rate, and considered the hospital had been lib-

(Continued on page 7)

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