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COUNTY COUNCIL.

(Continued from page 2.)

Mr. McArthur presented a by-law relating to the enforcement of the by-law respecting hawkers' and pedlars' licenses.

Resuming in committee on the hawkers and pedlars license by-law, Mr. Gordon read a letter from the County solicitor, stating that the statute permitting the summary arrest of anyone violating the by-law had been repealed, and that it would not be advisable to place a clause in the by-law.

Mr. McKay, K. C., who was present, strongly urged against the insertion of a clause which might invalidate the by-law, and leave the county or any individual who attempted to act upon its provision liable to prosecution for false arrest.

This view was concurred in by the council, and the by-law passed with the term fixed as one year from the date of issue.

The by-law relating to offering rewards for the conviction of parties violating the provision of the auctioneers and hawkers and pedlars license by-law was also passed. For a conviction in the case of an auctioneer the reward is \$10 and in the case of a hawker and pedlar \$25 to be paid by the county treasurer on receiving proof of conviction.

The by-law authorizing the county to guarantee the debentures of the village of Dundalk for local improvements to the extent of \$6000 created the only discussion.

Mr. Allan stated that he refused to support a similar action on the application of the town of Meaford and he was opposed to the principle.

Mr. Brown said that the position of Dundalk made the guaranteeing of debentures to an extent a risk. The village had no fire protection and if wiped out it might not be rebuilt at that point. In the case of Meaford it was different as the latter was a seaport town and if destroyed would be rebuilt at once. Besides the guaranteeing of debentures might impair the credit of the County.

Mr. Bell contended that the real estate alone in Dundalk was worth more than twice the amount the county was asked to guarantee. Did anyone ever hear of a county having to pay for the delinquency of a municipality? It was the common practice of governments and municipal bodies to guarantee the borrowing of its smaller corporation such as school boards. He deprecated the idea that the guaranteeing of the debenture might impair the county's credit. The village was not asking any monetary assistance and he could not see why the request should not be granted.

Mr. McArthur said if the county had an established rule not to guarantee debentures of its municipality he could not support the by-law. He could not see however, why if the county could save the village four or five hundred dollars why it should not be done.

Mr. Bell pointed out further the debentures were for permanent improvements and was a progressive movement. If the county could go on making its villages into towns, and towns into cities it would be doing a patriotic work. It was not the spirit of the present age not to assist in this respect.

Mr. Gordon said the council should adopt a well defined policy regarding the endorsement of debentures for permanent work. He was not opposed to the council taking similar action to that asked by Dundalk, but he was opposed to such action in case of debentures issued for speculative schemes such as building elevators. It was a safe and proper policy to assist the municipalities to make the best sidewalks and roads.

Mr. McKinnon said that the Meaford and Dundalk requests were not parallel. The debentures would no doubt be sold as they were for permanent improvements and if the village would benefit he could see no reason why the county should not guarantee the debentures.

Mr. Bell said the issue of debentures was for no wild-cat scheme, but for the benefit of the people. Lumber was too expensive now for plank sidewalks and the permanent improvements were necessary.

Mr. Brown said he must come over to the views of the other members with regard to guaranteeing debentures for local improvements. It was a view he had not thought of and he would consider it prudent to pass a by-law covering such a policy.

The by-law was then passed as well also the by-laws respecting the hawkers and pedlars licenses and rewards for conviction for violation of the provisions.

Mr. Thomas Harness tendered his resignation as a member of the council as he was an applicant for the position of inspector and manager of the house of refuge.

The council then went into committee on the by-law to appoint an inspector and a matron and a physician for the house of refuge and fix the salaries for the three positions. For manager D. B. Snider was nominated by Mr. Brown, Jas. A. Thompson by Mr. Pringle, R. Morice by Mr. Allen, W. J. Blakston by Mr. Bell, Thomas Harness by Mr. Gordon, William Hampton by Mr. Shute, W. T. McKee by the Warden.

Six ballots were necessary and in the last the vote stood Harness 7, Blakston 5 and Hampton 1.

The by-law was filled up with the names of Thomas Harness while the

salary was fixed at \$300. Elizabeth Ann Harness, wife of Thomas Harness, was appointed matron at a salary of \$200, while Dr. Angus Ego was appointed physician at a salary of \$150, he to supply all medicines required in the treatment of inmates. The by-law also fixed the rate chargeable for each child in the manager's family under 5 years at 50c per week, over 5 years at 75c and over 12 years at the same rate as the cost of maintenance of an inmate.

Mr. Brown referred to the illness of School Inspector Grier of East Grey and asked the warden whether it was possible to appoint an assistant inspector. The warden requested time to look into the matter before answering as to the appointment of an assistant.

The warden read an application from the acting mayor of the town council of Owen Sound asking the county to guarantee the local improvement debentures to the extent of \$29,000.

The council then adjourned until 9 o'clock.

SATURDAY MORNING.

With the resignation of Mr. Harness and the absence of Messrs. McColeman and Doyle, the attendance at the county council was reduced to thirteen, but if there was any over superstition amongst them it was not directly in evidence.

The clerk read a letter from Mr. McColeman intimating that he was slowly recovering and hoped to be in attendance at next session.

Another letter which was received with evident satisfaction was received from Earl Grey. It was as follows:—

Howick, Lesbury, Northumberland, 25th Oct., 1903.

DEAR SIR,—I feel greatly honored by your suggestion that the county of Grey should adopt the coat of arms of my family as its official seal. I shall have great pleasure in forwarding you an impression of my family coat of arms in the hope that it may be of use.

I remain, yours truly,
GREY.

John Rutherford, Clerk of the County of Grey, Owen Sound, Ont., Canada.

The education committee reported, recommending that the communication of W. S. Middlebro on behalf of the township of Sydenham re costs of the recent arbitration for the formation of a new school section, be filed as it was understood that an appeal is now pending from the decision of Justice Street, in quashing the award of the arbitrators. Respecting the communication from Inspector Burgess, respecting the changes in the school act regarding the travelling expenses of the inspectors, be filed and a bylaw introduced covering the same.

The county property committee recommend the filing of the gaol surgeon's report, the payment of a number of accounts, and that the chairman be authorized to procure book cases for the law society library, filing facilities for the vaults of the clerk of the peace, and shelving for the vault of the county clerk; and that the heating system of the gaol's office be extended to the local master's room.

Both reports were passed without debate.

Warden Preston replying to the question by Mr. Brown during the previous sitting with regard to an assistant inspector for East Grey, read the statute dealing with the question which clearly makes it possible to appoint an assistant.

A resolution moved by Mr. McKinnon and seconded by Mr. McLean was carried, expressing the council's appreciation of the courtesy extended by Earl Grey in consenting to the use of his family crest in the county seal. Mr. McKinnon said that the clerk's acknowledgement should extend an invitation if his Lordship again crossed the Atlantic to visit this county.

The report of the house of refuge committee recommended that Councilor McArthur be instructed to let the contract for ploughing ten or fifteen acres of the land at the house of refuge; that tenders be called for coal and wood for the house of refuge that tenders be advertised for in four papers in the county for the requisite equipment of the house of refuge; that the chairman be paid \$30 for plans and specifications of the barn at the house of refuge, that the contractor for the house of refuge be notified that the terms of agreement and specifications will be expected to be fulfilled by him, and the clerk be instructed to so notify him, and that the contract for the water works system be ratified by the warden and chairman with the Ontario Wind Engine and Pump Co.

Bylaw 644, relating to the governing of the house of refuge; bylaw 645, respecting the remuneration of the public school inspectors of the county of Grey; 646, to define a policy as to the guaranteeing of debentures by the county of Grey; bylaws 647, relating to the debentures of the town of Owen Sound were introduced and read a first and second time and moved into committee. Bylaw 644 was a lengthy document prepared by the county solicitors and dealt minutely with all the details of government. The only clause to cause discussion was on the principle of maintenance. The clause stated that each local municipality within the county of Grey shall pay to the county treasurer the actual cost of the board and wearing apparel supplied to the persons committed to and received by the said house of

refuge from such local municipalities less, however, the amount that such persons, by their labor, actually earn while inmates of the said house of refuge. The amount so to be paid by each local municipality is, however, not to exceed the rate of \$1.50 per week for each person so committed and received by the said house of refuge from such local municipalities.

Mr. Brown moved, seconded by Mr. Schenk, that the clause be amended in order that the cost of maintenance should be paid pro rata all over the county. Mr. Brown contended that the spirit of the house of refuge movement was defeated by the clause. In justice to every municipality the county should meet the entire expense of maintenance and transportation. It would be manifestly unfair to the towns if left as in the bylaw. It was a well-known fact that when an improvident or unfortunate individual has worn himself out and become decrepit as a farm laborer he drifts to the larger centres and there after doing odd chores around the place becomes a charge upon the municipality. It is not fair that the municipality which has derived all the benefit of the man's best years should thus be permitted to shunt the cost of maintenance over to another municipality, upon which the individual has only been a resident for a year or two. This was not the intention of the voters in Meaford, and he was confident if the idea of making the house of refuge a pay house for each municipality it would have been defeated by a large majority. The clause as read would simply provide a cause for an attack by such men as John M. Davis, of his division, whose reference to the keep of the indigent was not prompted by humane feelings. It would be the conversion of a noble charitable institution into a parody and defeat the very object for which it was erected. Besides he could only see a complication of accounts in the arrangement proposed by the bylaw.

Mr. Gordon supported Mr. Brown's views that the clause was not running concurrent with the object in erecting the house of refuge—which was to create a place where the aged poor and indigent would be treated as they should be in a civilized community. The clause was a direct incentive to improper motives—that of not sending persons to the house of refuge, but of starving them out of the municipality into some other, where if they were not cared for they were going to die. The intention was to give fair Christian-like treatment to the unfortunate. He had, as they knew, visited the other houses of refuge, and wherever the proposed system had been adopted it was found to be a failure. Out of fourteen counties having houses of refuge only two—Simcoe and Essex—had adopted the proposed plan and Simcoe was about to change it at its January session. If statistics count there is the most overwhelming proof that the county of Grey was making a mistake. It was unfortunate to start wrong, and the burden of evidence was against the adoption of the clause, which was not in keeping with the true spirit of the movement. He read a list of the houses of refuge he had visited, showing that with the two exceptions all were supplied by the county funds.

Mr. Shute said that the county council had agreed to the providing of the house of refuge and had met the cost of all its supplies. The people had said "Give us a house for the poor," and the county had supplied the demand. Now they were asked to maintain it. He thought that it was fair now that the house was supplied that the municipalities should assume the individual responsibility.

Mr. Bell said while he had great confidence in experience the house of refuge was a new matter to them. The bylaw was not cast iron and if it was found after experience that the proposed system was not adapted to the requirements, it could be changed. Mr. Gordon's explanation would lead to the conclusion that the amendment would perhaps be the best move. But as the bylaw read it would be the most popular in the county of Grey at present.

Mr. McKinnon thought nothing could be fairer than the provision set forth in the bylaw as it read. The municipality paying the largest county rate would probably have the largest proportion of inmates in any case. He did not see that there was anything to lose by allowing the bylaw to pass as it was. He instanced the case of the grant to the local municipalities out of the county funds for the construction of road and bridges. Had that not been repealed the county would not now have to be building bridges all over the county. The house of refuge support if borne by the municipalities would be less expensive and cause less friction.

Mr. Paterson thought little would be gained by continued discussion. The by-law as it now read would make provision that would be the most popular all over the county. They were there to legislate as the representatives of the majority. The county had met all the expense of supplying and equipping the house of refuge and it was now but fair and equitable that the municipalities should look after their own indigents.

Mr. Brown said that he had no doubt that the municipalities which he represented were quite able to take care of all its poor. But when the council knew that Simcoe was about to rescind the very steps suggested by the by-law, was it wise not to amend the by-law now? He contended that the by-law should not have been left to the eleven o'clock hour, but that plenty of time should have

been taken to thresh out the points on which they differed in opinion.

No further discussion followed and Mr. Brown's amendment was defeated, Messrs. Gordon and Schenk being the other supporters. The other clauses were passed without debate.

By-law 645 relating to the inspectors remuneration as altered by recent statute was filled up in committee as follows: For West Grey inspectorate the salary was fixed at \$1020, for South Grey \$1367, and for East Grey \$741 over and above such sums as may be payable by the government.

By-law 646 relating to the guaranteeing of the debentures by the county of Grey opened another debate by the suggestion of Mr. Shute that the by-law be made permissive instead of imperative. Mr. Gordon contended that the change would defeat the effect of the by-law. Mr. Allen was opposed to the by-law on principle and advocated the laying over of the by-law until the January session, and both he and Mr. McKinnon scored the council on its dilatoriness in getting down to business in the early stages of the session, while Mr. Patterson defended the council on the ground that the committees had not advanced their work far enough to admit of any deliberation sooner. It was after 12 o'clock when the motion to rise with power to sit again was passed.

An afternoon session was inevitable and the council adjourned until two o'clock.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

The closing hours of the November session were remarkable for the expeditious transaction of business. Mr. Schenk was the only one compelled to catch a train. Mr. Doyle taking his seat and exchanging greetings with the members.

It was decided without discussion to accept Mr. Allen's suggestion and leave by-law 647 over until the January session.

By-law 647 to guarantee the local improvement debentures of the town of Owen Sound was taken up in committee. Its provisions were accepted without debate, Mr. Allen simply recording his opposition on the principle.

By-laws 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645 647 as passed in committee were on motion passed through their final stages.

A motion authorizing the payment of \$10 to each chairman of the standing committees was carried.

The warden was then requested to vacate the chair and Mr. Pringle asked to preside, when it was moved by Mr. Gordon, seconded by Mr. Paterson, that the thanks of this council be hereby tendered to D. K. Preston, Esq., for the able, courteous and impartial manner in which he has presided over the deliberations of this council, as warden, for this year, and that, to cover his disbursements while attending to the duties of his office, the sum of one hundred dollars be paid to him. The motion was carried unanimously, the council joining heartily in singing "He's a Jolly Good Fellow."

On returning to the chair Mr. Preston expressed his deepest sense of appreciation at the kindly feeling as displayed by the council. He was indeed indebted to them for the courteous attention and assistance they had afforded him in all the deliberations of the council. He could not but express the appreciation further of the assistance the county clerk had been to him in all the relationships and duties Mr. Rutherford's actions had been those of a brother rather than as an official of the county.

Auld Lang Syne and the National Anthem concluded the session.

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..IMPLEMENTS..

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