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THE COUNTY COUNCIL
Continued from page 2.

The roads committee went ahead and spent money just as they pleased and then called upon the citizens of the county to pay the bills. A change, whereby a good practical man would have charge was the only thing to do.

This drew a spirited reply from Mr. Calder. The foreman in charge of the Priceville road gang was very competent. Mr. McCuaig could not blame him (Calder) entirely, as there were other members on the County Roads Committee.

Mr. Dan. McTavish, Flesherton, wanted information regarding plans for the cuts that were to be made, and who was the engineer in charge of the work? Mr. Calder replied that very often no plans, etc., were made and the engineer would go over the work two or three times during the construction period.

This brought Mr. McCuaig to his feet again. What was the use of having an engineer if he was not used? He repeated his story about the gravel that was so far away while material was right at hand. If the road boss was left to decide such matters, it was time for a change.

At this point Mr. J. Lumsden, Provincial Engineer in Grey County, was called to speak to the Council. Mr. Lumsden spoke in a general way concerning the roads in the County. He said the improvement had been very general all over the county. He stated that the macadam road was not the best, but, if properly constructed and maintained, it gave very satisfactory results. He thought the county had very good men in charge of their road outfits. He strongly advocated the patrol system of maintenance. This idea had been carried out successfully in other districts and should be used in Grey County.

The Committee's report was finally adopted, although Dr. McArthur of Markdale took a fling at the Committee and claimed it was time for a new one.

The only deputation at the Council Wednesday afternoon on the session set apart for hearing deputa-

tions was one composed of Mayor W. T. Harris of Owen Sound and Mr. R. D. Little, secretary-treasurer of the Owen Sound Board of Trade who only the evening before had returned from a tour of the fire devastated areas of Northern Ontario. They both had a most interesting story to tell of the relief work that has already been accomplished but they also told of the hardships that will exist in that portion of the province for years to come and of the measures proposed to assist these people to start again. These gentlemen appealed to the County Council to give the most generous support to the appeal which would be made to them for the country's portion of the further relief which is to be made in the near future.

Practically every member of the Council was present at Wednesday's session. Following the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting the Clerk read the communications.

R. B. Harkness, Commissioner of Gas for the Department of Mines of the Province wrote the Council asking assistance in preparing a list of all drillers of water wells, oil and gas wells, drillers of salt and drillers of gypsum test wells and wells of any other description in the county. If the county could not secure the information required the letter asked that the request be passed on to the Clerks of the various townships, who could assist in securing the information desired. The Department of Mines of Ontario has in view the collecting and compiling of all information regarding well drilling all over the province during the last few years. In this way a pure water survey may be made and anyone drilling for such may be advised on the best situation for a well.

Besides this communication the usual number of accounts were read and apportioned to the various committees to be dealt with.

Reeve McTavish of Flesherton presented the report of the Finance Committee.

Mr. Bothwell moved the Council into a committee of the whole for the consideration of this report and Mr. Wright took the chair. Mr. Bothwell said he was seeking some

information regarding the Advisory Agricultural Board, several small accounts for the members of which had been presented and dealt with in the report of the Finance Committee.

Mr. Hunt, who is both a member of the County Council and of the Board of Agriculture, said he could give some information regarding the activities of the Board, but Mr. F. S. Cooper, Agricultural Representative, had prepared a report to present to the Council on the work of the Board for the year. He gave an instance where he had taken up the matter of cattle poisoning with the Department of Agriculture, which otherwise might have been neglected. The Board now proposed to organize a better stock campaign throughout the County, and each member is supposed to assist in this matter. Mr. Bothwell was quite satisfied with Mr. Hunt's statement, the committee rose and the report was adopted.

Reeve A. Filsinger, chairman of the Road and Bridge Committee presented the report of his committee, which recommended that a large number of accounts, mainly in connection with the repairs to the various bridges throughout the county, be passed and paid. The report was adopted without comment.

Reeve Smith of Shallow Lake read the report of the committee of which he is chairman. The County Property Committee, which dealt with the several clauses in the report of the Grand Jury following their inspection of the County buildings at the time of the Fall Assizes this year. The report recommended that the matter of the suggested sanitary changes in the first floor of the County buildings be left in the hands of the chairman of the committee. The report recommended certain minor repairs to the buildings and these clauses were recommended, received and filed. Regarding the grant of \$2,000 to the General and Marine Hospital suggested by the report, the committee recommended that it be left to the Finance Committee. There were also a number of accounts which were recommended passed and paid. This report was also adopted without discussion.

The House of Refuge Committee's report was read by the chairman, Reeve Brown. It stated that the committee had visited the institution on July 6 and October 11 this year and had gone over the accounts and records. Mr. Brown read a lengthy statement of the receipts and expenditures of the House. Mr. Calder asked regarding an account for the burial of one of the inmates which had been left unpaid. Mr. Brown explained that the relatives of the case to which Mr. Calder referred had taken the remains away and had held their own burial. In this case it was the rule of the committee to allow the relatives of the deceased to pay the funeral expenses. If the deceased had been buried by the County the expense would have been borne by the County. Mr. Brown stated that Mr. Smith, the

Superintendent, would be up to a meeting of the Council in the near future and that he could probably explain the matter at that time. The report was adopted.

Mayor Harris and Mr. R. D. Little, of Owen Sound, who had come to address the Council on the situation in Northern Ontario, were introduced by Mr. Calder. Mr. Harris explained that he had arrived home only the evening before, and as yet had no time to prepare any complete and comprehensive address. In spite of this he gave a very vivid account of the existing conditions in the fire-swept area and told of actual incidents which brought the situation more clearly before the members of the Council. The trip was organized by the Governor-General, the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario and by Premier E. C. Drury, and the majority of those who were on the trip were mayors or officials of the cities and towns in Ontario. The first call was made at North Cobalt, which was mostly destroyed by the fire. The method of distributing the relief was most systematic. The goods are placed on shelves in the relief depots and the people wishing assistance fill out applications and are waited on in much the same way as customers are waited on in a store.

Haileybury, he described as one of the most beautiful town sites he had ever seen. The place slopes gently upward from a most beautiful lake. There has been large and well built buildings at this place and many of these had been supposed to be fire-proof but they had crumbled like powder before the fury of the fire.

Englehart, Charlton and Cochrane had been visited on Sunday. These places, as well as a large number of other smaller places had been wiped out by the fire. At one of these places, they say a man, his wife, a neighbor and eight children had been suffocated in a root house. The people have no idea of leaving and Mr. Harris described them as iron-hearted to continue in the face of such odds. He was talking with one farmer, who with his six children was living in a shack. Another farmer who had lived in Haileybury but owned a house and farm out of the town a short distance thought when his house in the country was destroyed he would be able to return to his home in the town, but the house in town had been destroyed and he was entirely homeless.

So far, the clothing which has been sent has been adequate to fill the needs of the people and there had been no actual suffering from the cold. The great need at the present time is food, building materials and farming implements. The country has still great prospects to become an agricultural centre. If the farmers can get lided over for a few years, the fire will really be a benefit to them for it will be so much easier to clear the land now that it has been burned over.

The question of how to relieve the situation came up. Some one suggested that a lump sum be taken

from the Provincial treasury and be added to the taxes of the people of the province, but this suggestion did not meet with the approval of the majority of those who were on the trip. Premier Drury's suggestion is being accepted and each municipality will be given a share of the one million dollars it is proposed to raise. Any municipality which has contributed to the fund already will be credited with that amount and will only be asked to bring their total up to the amount asked.

"The scenes were heart-rending," said Mr. Harris, "one could not help but feel for those evidently iron-hearted people. The amount asked would not affect any one seriously and it is hoped every municipality will co-operate." Mayor Harris stated he hoped the County Council of Grey would see fit to fall in line.

Mr. R. D. Little said he was pleased to see the reference made by the Warden in his opening address at the first meeting of the session to the matter of Northern Fire Relief work. Without further preliminaries Mr. Little plunged into the subject, telling of the conditions at the town of Cobalt. Many of the refugees are at this place and much of the relief work is being carried on from here. The work is in charge of ten men and two women, one of whom is a former Owen Sound lady. They are all thoroughly responsible people and deserving their services in the work free.

The people of the North, Mr. Little said, don't want to be placed where they were before the great catastrophe, but just a little ahead of where they were now. There had been a fine lot of buildings at Haileybury and the town had been responsible

for one quarter of a million debenture debt. This must be paid or the whole system of municipal finance in Ontario will be seriously affected. Haileybury, for this reason, must be re-established. The Province has undertaken to pay the debenture debt for the next three years and is taking the insurance paid on the loss of the schools and building new school buildings as well as assisting in other ways to re-establish the town.

Mr. Little explained that only those who absolutely required assistance would be given the opportunity to receive it. In the country \$500 will build a shack and a stable for cattle and in the village \$350 will construct a building in which people could live for the winter months. In conclusion Mr. Little said that the County of Grey had measured up in the past and he was confident that the county would do so at the present time.

Mr. Calder presented a by-law to authorize an agreement between the County of Grey and the corporation of the County of Simcoe whereby the corporation of the County of Simcoe shall take over and maintain for all time that portion of road on the county boundary between the village of Singhampton and a point approximately 6½ miles south of the south-east corner of the County. The County of Simcoe is to assume the construction of the road and at the end of each year an adjustment is to be made between the two counties whereby each shall pay fifty per cent of the cost of construction of the road. The by-law was to take effect at once. Mr. Calder moved the Council into a Committee of the

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