

CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS

TRANSACTION AT LAST MEETING OF THE YEAR

Motion of Thanks to Ald. Nickle for His Work in Connection With C.P.R. Siding—Mayor Richardson Thanked by the Council.

Two resolutions of thanks were passed at last night's meeting of the City Council. One was to Mayor Richardson, and the other to Ald. Nickle.

Ald. Peters moved and Ald. Newman seconded a resolution expressing the Council's thanks to the Mayor for his able administration during the year.

In seconding the resolution, Ald. Newman said that Mayor Richardson had displayed marked executive ability and had presided over the meetings of Council with such ability and efficiency that it was a pleasure for aldermen to be present.

The resolution was carried amid applause. In responding, Mayor Richardson expressed his thanks to Council for its invariable courtesy and attention to business. It had been a pleasure for him to preside and nothing had tended to mar the pleasure of the meetings. The aldermen had conducted themselves as gentlemen at all times.

Ald. Wright's motion expressing the Council's thanks to Ald. Nickle for saving the city much money in connection with the building of a siding by the C.P.R. to the Reliance Moulding Company's plant, also received the plaudits of the Council.

Mayor Richardson stated that the citizens owed Ald. Nickle a debt of gratitude for his labors. "In every department of civic life Ald. Nickle has shown himself active and sincere," said His Worship.

Ald. Nickle was quite taken by

surprise at Council's expression of appreciation. He expressed his thanks at the recognition, and told of the interest he had taken in the matter.

His investigations showed him that the city was not getting a square deal from the railway company and so he followed the matter up, and after two years of urging he had finally been able to effect a goodly saving to the corporation.

The meeting was the Council's last regular session of the year. In attendance were: Mayor Richardson and Alds. Couper, Clugston, Chown, Corbett, Gardiner, Gillespie, Hughes, Kent, Laturney, Litton, Newman, Nickle, O'Connor, Polson, Peters, Wright, White and Wormworth.

These communications were read and referred to committees: City Auditor re Wormworth Piano Co. pay roll and City Treasurer re Dominion Cotton Mills pay roll.

O. C. 253rd Highland Battalion, regarding grant. City Treasurer and City Auditor re pay rolls of the Frontenac Moulding and Glass Co., and the Frontenac Floor and Wall Tile Co.

R. E. Genge about building steps on city property. Caverley and Bradshaw asking permission to install a Bowser gasoline tank at the corner of Earl and King streets.

Collector of taxes regarding the refund of street oiling and street watering. Market Clerk William McCammon asking for an increase of salary.

E. A. Turner about the shields or emblems on the Sir John A. Mac Donald monument.

A communication was read from the secretary of the local branch of the National Council of Women, pointing out that the vaudeville at the theatres is not censored and is quite often objectionable and not in the best interests of the education and morality of the young. The Council was asked to take some ac-

tion to correct and guard against this evil.

Finance Report.

These recommendations of the committee on finance and accounts were adopted: That the following unauthorized accounts be paid:—W. J. Vince, R. J. McKendry & Son, sand, \$123.50; R. J. McClelland, trip to Toronto to interview the C.P.R. officials, \$10; Light Department, fifteen lights on Catarqui Bridge, \$150; Kingston Construction Co., repairs to Cohen building, \$198.15; Honoraria to officials of Board of Health, \$75.

That the sum of one hundred dollars be granted to the Kingston Industrial Exhibition. That whereas on account of the conditions brought about by the war the Frontenac Floor and Wall Tile Co. has not been able to carry out the agreement with this corporation, that they be not held liable for that part of the agreement relating to wages and employees for the year ending Feb. 28th, 1916.

That whereas on account of the conditions brought about by the war the Frontenac Moulding and Glass Co. has not been able to carry out the agreement with this corporation, that they be not held liable for that part of the agreement relating to wages and employees for the year ending Dec. 31st, 1915.

That the City Auditor be authorized to pass for payment any accounts which come to hand during the balance of the year for which there are funds to pay. That no action be taken in regard to the resolution memorializing this committee to recommend free electric current for the Sir Oliver Mowat Hospital.

That these additional appropriations be made: Board of Works \$900; City Property \$260; Police Commissioners \$225.

Light For Mowat Hospital. In connection with the Finance Committee's recommendation regarding the Mowat Hospital, Ald. Kent explained that the city solicitor had given a ruling that council could not expend money outside the municipality. In any case, he held that the Government should pay all expenses in connection with military hospitals.

Ald. Gardiner declared it was time for the council to buck up and help. It was through the assistance of the Board of Trade that additional accommodation was secured here for the Military Hospitals Commission.

Ald. Polson remarked that the Council would be well advised to grant the \$500 proposed. Ald. Hughes placed himself on record as being opposed to a grant for electric current for the hospital. The Government, he claimed, should pay.

Ald. Litton pointed out that the Council last year gave a grant to the Mowat Hospital. If it was illegal to expend money outside the municipality, what about that grant?

Ald. Nickle offered to recompense any aldermen who feared to vote for the grant lest some citizen enter action and render them liable. He was willing to take the chance and vote the money.

It was finally decided to refer the matter back to the Finance Committee for further consideration. On recommendation of the Garbage and Refuse committee, the salary of Inspector Timmerman was increased \$100 from January 1st, 1917.

Home For The Aged. Ald. Couper presented the report of the Board of Management of the Home for the Aged and infirm persons, showing the marked improvements made during the year. At present there are 39 inmates, 25 males and 14 females. There were 12 deaths during the year.

In conclusion the report said: "On account of the increased cost of food stuffs we increased the rate of maintenance to the Counties of Frontenac and Lennox and Addington by 25 cents per week per inmate; whereas we formerly received \$2.25 we are now receiving \$2.50."

"At the first meeting of the Board Mrs. Jordan and Mrs. Strange were appointed to act with the Board as visitors and give special attention to matters which formerly came under their observation and direction as members of the domestic committee of the Board of Directors, and to confer with the Superintendent and matron regarding the internal management of the Home. They have done excellent work and the Board is under a deep debt of gratitude for their assistance in the management of the Home during the year."

"A new electric washer and forty beds with metal springs are needed and should engage the attention of the new Board immediately."

"In conclusion your Board asks you to believe that they have endeavoured to manage the Home with a view to economy and efficiency and at all times did their utmost to make the condition of the inmates as happy and comfortable as possible in their declining years."

Reliance Moulding Siding. Regarding the report of the Board of Works showing that \$546.96 had been saved to the city in connection with the construction of the siding to the Reliance Moulding Company's plant by the C.P.R., Ald. Nickle pointed out that his protest had also resulted in getting a siding contract by which the railway company agreed to pay to the corporation \$2 for every loaded car and out from the moulding plant on which the freight amounts to \$10 exclusive of the switching charges. He said that it was discovered at the conference between the Board of Works and the company that the latter makes twenty-five per cent profit on siding construction. He was glad to say that the city would eventually be \$3,000 better off by the fight he had put up. He had stood a lot of abuse over the question, but now that it was settled he was glad that the matter was finally clinched for the benefit of the city.

It was decided to notify the Separate School Board that the Council was prepared to pay for the education of the children of Mrs. Mary Pecker, whose husband was recently killed in action in France.

COUNCIL REFUSES TO PAY BILL

(Continued from Page 1.)

not even the consent of the Council given to do this work."

Ald. Peters—"I have explained my part and what Ald. Nickle wants to know is somebody else's job to give. I understand that the accounts would be received the regular way, but they did not come in."

Who Gave Order? Ald. Polson remarked that the unfortunate part of the deal was that there was no contract. Either the Chairman of the Board of Works or the City Engineer gave contractor Payne full authority to go ahead with the work. "Who gave the order?" asked Ald. Polson.

Ald. Peters—"I suppose the City Engineer did. The Engineer asked me who was a good man to do the job, and I mentioned Mr. Payne's name. I think we saved a good deal of money by not having a contract."

Mayor Richardson—"Who is responsible?" Ald. Peters—"The City Engineer is responsible."

Ald. Polson—"I contend that there was a great deal of laxness, both on the part of the Board of Works and the engineering department. It is most disgraceful that the account has come in a way that it cannot be checked. The Council is in no position to pass upon it tonight, and I will not vote for paying it."

Ald. Nickle—"It was the duty of the contractor to do that job as cheap as possible. Has the Engineer checked over the weekly or monthly time sheets of the men who worked on the job and did he advertise for tenders?"

Ald. Couper—"It is a lax way of doing business I must say. It is too bad that a matter of this kind should crop up. I am a member of the Board of Works and did not know that the work was to be done by day labor. The Board never authorized it."

Ald. Hughes stated that he was also a member of the Board of Works. It was mentioned that the repairs would cost about \$2,000, and by giving up the property the Board had under lease at the corner of Ontario and William streets it was thought that money could be saved even by expending \$2,000 on the fair grounds building. What he disputed was the irregular way in which the work was done. The Board was not disputing the work.

City Engineer's Statement. The City Engineer was summoned from his office, and in reply to Ald. Nickle, he stated that no tenders were called for the work. The pay sheets were never checked. He had not seen the pay book of the contractor, but he was satisfied with the hours charged for.

Ald. Nickle then moved that the account be sent back, for the Council had to satisfy the people that its business was regularly transacted.

The Engineer explained that he was at the fair grounds every day and saw the men working there, but he did not put it down that so-and-so was at work.

In reply to Ald. Peters, the Engineer stated that the material could have been got from the city's contractors. He told the contractor to get the lumber that way.

Ald. Wright said that the Engineer wasn't entitled to check the contractor's time book, but he could have kept his own.

Engineer McClelland told the Council he wanted Mr. Payne would give him his time book to check over. He would ask him for it.

Mayor Richardson—"I hardly hold the chairman of the Board of Works responsible for the conditions."

The motion of Ald. Nickle to refer the matter back to the Board of Works to have it checked was carried.

Ald. Hughes explained that reference had been made to him in the press in connection with the matter. He was chairman of Property, but that committee had nothing to do with the work. The work was entirely under the direction of the Board of Works.

Covered Rink Opened. The covered rink opened for the season of skating on Monday evening. The rink was crowded to capacity, and from indications this will be a big season for this popular pastime. The opening is rather earlier than usual.

The R.C.H.A. band furnished its usual high standard of music. The ice is thick and good.

Newman & Shaw's "To-night." Grand Trunk Railway earnings from Dec. 8th to 14th are \$1,205,848, compared with \$1,023,432, an increase of \$180,435.

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C.P.R. earnings for the week ending December 14th, \$2,100,000; increase, \$51,000.