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INCREASES GRANTED TO FIRE CAPTAINS

Lively Discussion in City Council of the Fire Committee's Report.

There was a lively discussion by the city council on Monday evening of the fire and light committee report. The first clause recommended:

"That the following increases in salary be made, all increases dating from an 1st 1924. Two captains 25 cents per day each. The chief to detail a man to assist John Hall, with fire alarm work, and a man to have full charge of all motor apparatus, each man to receive 15 cents per day, in addition to his regular salary."

Ald. Kent stated that it was understood when the budget was brought down that there were to be no salary increases granted and he expressed surprise that the fire and light committee should bring in such a report. He had no doubt the men were worthy of the increase, but he felt that in view of the action taken to cut down expenses, the council should not grant the increases. He did not like to move a motion to strike the recommendation out of the committee's report, but suggested that it be sent back "for further consideration."

Ald. Chown stated that his committee could not withdraw the clause. He had explained the matter to the Mayor before the budget was passed and the latter had asked him to keep the matter over until the budget was struck. The matter had been up for discussion last year and had been put over, but he held that it was not fair to hold it over again this year.

Ald. Chown explained the work each man had to do and stated that it was only fair that they be given the boost in salary. He said the total outlay would amount to about \$200. Ald. Kent then moved that the clause be sent back to the committee "for further consideration." "I do this on principle," he added. "If we commence increasing the salaries, no doubt there are several city officials who will want an increase and perhaps they are just as deserving as the firemen. I think we should call a halt. We have got to reduce our expenditure. Perhaps we will soon have to make a reduction in salaries and come down to pre-war salaries. I think it is a great mistake to put through these increases."

Ald. Kent could not get a seconder for his motion and the report of the committee was adopted.

Another Objection Raised. The fire and light committee also recommended "that Capt. Fred Reid be granted leave of absence for seven weeks, and salary be paid, and that the chief be authorized to engage a substitute during this time." Capt. Reid intends to take a trip to the old country.

Ald. Laturney wanted to know the nature of the request. Capt. Reid had made in regard to the matter. Ald. Chown said that Capt. Reid was making a trip to the old country and that he could not get back home till Sept. 6th, and asked for leave of absence with pay.

Ald. Laturney stated that a police officer who had served thirty-five years had informed him that if Capt. Reid was granted this permission he too would put in a similar request. No doubt other members of the fire department would ask for the same thing. He was not opposed to Capt. Reid, but he felt that the council was inaugurating a precedent that could not be followed.

Ald. Driscoll said he had nothing against Capt. Reid, but he could not favor the proposition. Ald. Boyd said that he favored granting the request and stated that if he had a man in his employ who had given the service Capt. Reid had to the city, he would be quite willing to grant the request. Capt. Reid had served the city well for a quarter of a century. Chief Armstrong was paid \$2,000 and had from 75 to 80 days off each year.

Ald. O'Connor took Ald. Boyd to task for saying the chief had so many days off and declared that it was not the case, that he was mistaken, but Ald. Boyd stated that the chief had told him that. "It is not a question of what we would do in our own business," remarked Ald. Laturney. "It is a question as to what we will do for the city. What we do for one we must do for all. We cannot make fish of one and flesh of the other. If this goes through I will vote for the same thing for other members of the department."

Ald. William Holder stated that he had not signed the report of the committee and that he was not in favor of granting Capt. Reid the time with pay. "I am in favor of giving him leave of absence without pay," added Ald. Holder. "He is no doubt a good man but if we give to one we must give to the others. At the committee meeting Chief Armstrong was asked if he had made any request for leave of absence. The chief stated that he had made no written report, but that he asked for seven weeks in addition to the usual two weeks given him, or in all nine weeks. He did not ask to be paid for the extra time. If we pass this report tonight it will cost the city a great deal of money. I am satisfied to give the man the increase we have granted, but I am not satisfied to give the captain this leave with pay."

on the leave of absence "without salary," but the amendment was lost on a vote of 9 to 13 as follows: Yeas—Ald. Driscoll, W. Holder, Joyce, Kelly, Kent, Laturney, Nash, O'Connor, Price—9. Nays—Ald. Boyd, Chown, Godwin, J. B. Holder, Johnston, Kidd, Lawler, Milne, McCartney, Peters, Richardson, Sargent—12.

Tenders Sent Back. Two other clauses in the report of the fire and light committee were also attacked and sent back to the committee. Following are the clauses of the report sent back to the committee:

"That 600 feet of cotton rubber lined hose "Patrol Brand" with couplings at \$1.65 per foot, f.o.b. Kingston, be purchased from The Dominion Rubber System Ltd.

"That the tender of The Dominion Rubber System Ltd., to place a felloe band between the wooden felloes and supply a 4-inch tire on two wheels, freight prepaid both ways, tax included for \$67, be accepted."

Ald. Laturney asked if the tender for the hose was the lowest received and also wanted to know how many times the committee had accepted the lowest tender this year.

Ald. Chown remarked that in the matter of the contract for hose, a lower tender had been received. He could not say how many times the committee had accepted the lowest tender this year.

Ald. Laturney wanted to know why the lowest tender had not been accepted for the hose.

Ald. Chown stated that the city engineer had been consulted in the matter as regards the relative quality of two tenders and as a result of his testimony, the one recommended had been accepted.

Ald. O'Connor asked that the two clauses be sent back to the committee.

Ald. Chown explained that there was what he termed a "joker" in the report, in that the clause regarding the contract for the hose hinged on the other clause for the tire.

Opposed to "Joker." Ald. O'Connor asked that the two clauses be sent back to the committee. He did not like this way of doing business and had refused to sign the report of the committee.

He refused to sign a report with a "joker" in it. He regarded it as "the most despicable piece of work done in the council this year." It was even worse than the action taken on the purchase of a motor pump. A contract on \$1,000 worth of hose depended on a contract for \$67.50 for a tire. He declared that some person must have had some inside information in regard to the matter. It was not the way to do business. It was a case of "gambling in tenders." He declared that very soon no person would put in a tender to the city for business if this plan was continued. Each tender should stand on its merits. He moved that the two clauses be sent back to the committee.

Ald. Chown said that Ald. O'Connor had been neglecting his business as he had not been at the meeting when the matter was discussed. It had been there he would have understood the matter. He considered that the proposition was an honest one.

"Do you call that an honest deal?" queried Ald. O'Connor.

"Perfectly honest," replied Ald. Chown. It was something that any business man would do."

Ald. O'Connor wanted to know why the second clause hinged on the first. Surely there was nothing in the tenders to show this. Separate tenders had been called for two different lines of work and then tenders for one had been granted on condition that the tender for the other be given to the same party. Who had established this rule of procedure? The alderman mentioned a local contractor who had put in for the work and yet he had not been considered. Each tender should have been considered on its merits.

Ald. Driscoll asked why a local contractor had not been given the contract. He thought it was ridiculous to give the money to an outside firm. If the work could be done in the city and the price was reasonable, it should be done here.

On the vote being taken, it was decided to send the two clauses of the report back to the committee.

The following recommendations of the fire and light committee were adopted:

"That the tender of Houslow Bros., for coating roof of lower fire station with elastic gum paint at \$1.25 per square yard be accepted."

"That authority be given the City Engineer to renew the wooden floor in the tower room, and put a cement floor in room 15' x 18' in No. 1 station, work to be done by day labor."

"That two fire alarm boxes be purchased from the Century Electric Co., at \$75 each f.o.b. Montreal, and installed, one at the corner of



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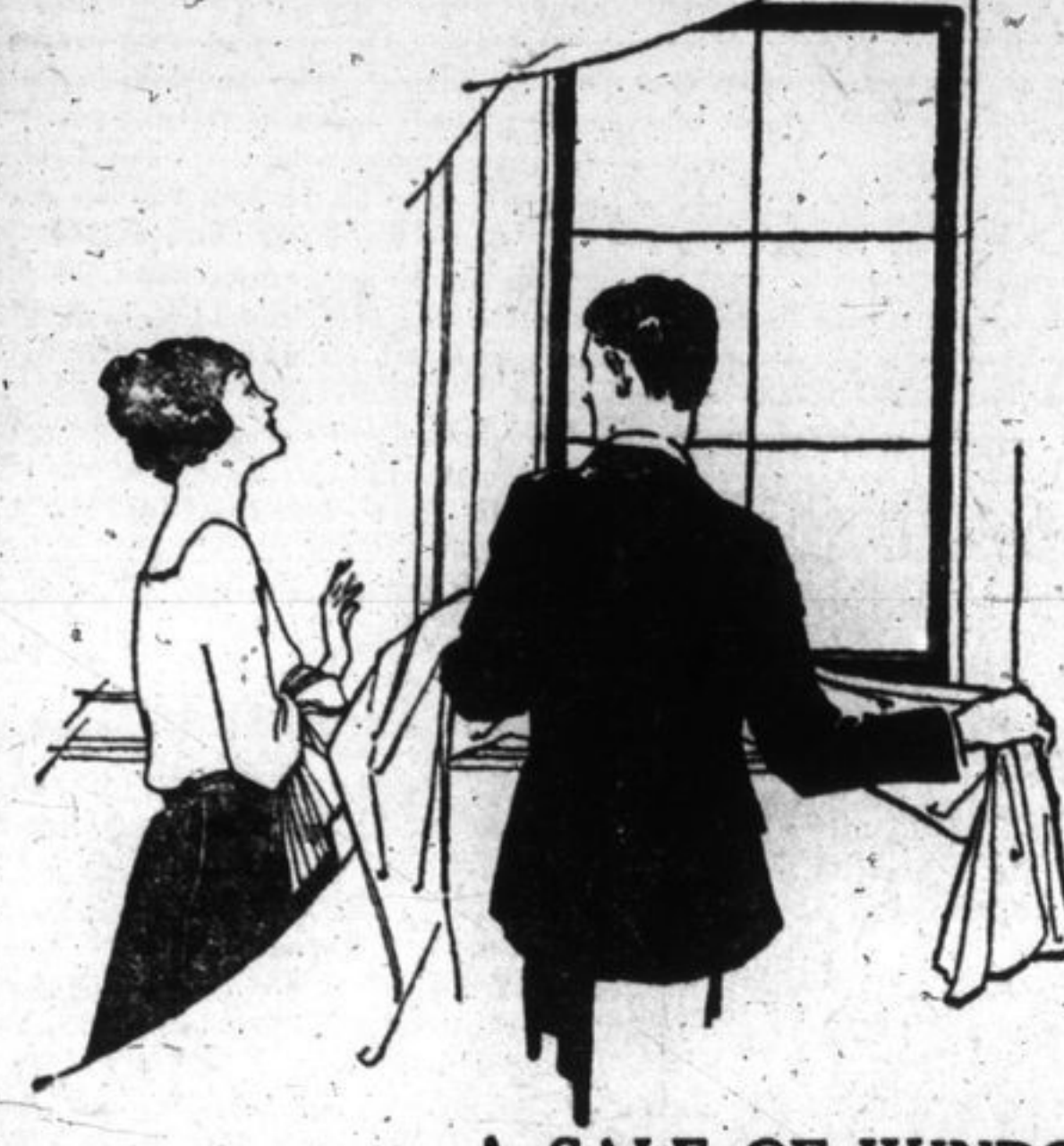
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Clarence and Ontario, and the other at the corner of Alfred and Johnson streets.

Must Pay For City Hall.
The finance committee recommended that the application of Joseph Nash, for refund for use of the city hall on Feb. 27th, be not granted, and in spite of a strong protest by Ald. Laturney, the council upheld the recommendation of the committee.

"This thing is outrageous," said Ald. Laturney. "You call this building the city hall and yet you refuse Mr. Nash permission to use it for a meeting of citizens. I have no axe to grind, but I am simply speaking on a matter of principle."

Ald. Laturney said he would move that Mr. Nash be given a refund if he could get a seconder.

"I'll second that motion," said Ald. Price.

Ald. Laturney remarked that just recently the council had given the girl guides permission to use the hall for ten days.

"You know what the by-laws says about the rental of this hall," remarked the Mayor to Ald. Laturney.

"Citizens attended this meeting," said Ald. Laturney. "They wanted to hear the public questions discussed and Mr. Nash should not have to pay. It was a public meeting."

"I don't agree with Ald. Laturney," said Ald. Boyd. "I was at that meeting. A man stated he had hired the hall, paid for it, and was going to be the speaker. I wanted to speak but he would not let me." (Laughter).

The Mayor pointed out that a refund could be made in case of the hall being used for charitable purposes or by a body of citizens for some civic matter. The hall could not be given free to one man who had an axe to grind.

Ald. O'Connor raised the question as to whether Ald. Laturney was in order or out of order.

"He is out of order," replied the Mayor.

"Ald. Laturney knows that we cannot refund the money," added the Mayor. "It is just the same if a man was giving a punch and judy show or a learned discourse."

Joseph Nash was in the audience and he asked for permission to speak, but was not given the opportunity and the report of the committee to refuse the refund was adopted.

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Ald. O'Connor asked if the grant applied for by the House of Providence had been dealt with yet and was informed that the matter was now before the finance committee and would be dealt with at the next meeting.

Has Violent Temper.
Testimony that Mrs. Grace Cole had been out riding with George Steele and with George Baltz last year, that she was possessed of a violent temper, that on one occasion at the Main Docks she threatened her husband with a butcher knife and that she did not give her seven-year-old daughter, Kathleen, the proper attention, was given at Watertown, N.Y., before Judge Harold F. Porter in juvenile court in the proceedings instituted by Mr. and Mrs. Claude W. Cole, Cape Vincent, to gain the custody of the little girl, who is their grandchild. Wednesday, Mrs. Cole will put in her side of her fight to retain possession of her child.

H. H. Couzens, Toronto, will become vice-president and general manager of the Sao Paulo Brasil, Light, Power and Transportation interests.

Harold Jarvis, noted Canadian singer, is dead at Detroit, Mich. George, the former king of Greece, and his wife will settle in Italy.