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THE FORMAL CLOSING OF THE PLAYGROUNDS PROVED SUCCESSFUL

Over Thousand Children on Parade—Flag Raising and Drills on the Barrack Square—Prize Winners and a Baseball Match.

The closing exercises of the city playgrounds which were held yesterday afternoon on the Barrack Square are now history, but it will long live in the minds of the hundreds of children that participated in the activities of the day. The affair was to have been held Saturday afternoon but on account of the inclement weather it had to be postponed until yesterday, resulting in some inconvenience. Though it was impossible to engage a band for the parade and the dances later the children made a creditable appearance.

Forming at King Square at two o'clock the children, numbering over a thousand, marched down Sydney, Duke and Carleton streets to the Barrack Square, the children from each playground being led by a returned soldier. The girls of the Aberdeen School group were dressed in red and blue costumes and wore Union Jack caps, the patriotic display creating intense enthusiasm among the lines of march. All the marchers carried flags and wore their school colors presenting a sight that elicited applause from the onlookers.

Arriving at the Barrack Square, where a large number of spectators had gathered to witness the exercises, the children formed a hollow square and sang "God Save the King." Addresses were to have been given by His Worship Mayor Hayes and Premier Foster, but as they were unable to be on hand, Mr. A. M. Belding was called upon for a short speech. He gave a brief account of the work of the Playground Association. He spoke of the great debt owed to the president of the association, Mrs. W. C. Good, for her untiring work in connection with the playground closing.

The flag raising then took place, the ceremony being performed by Sergt. Major Wright assisted by a girl from each of the playgrounds. As the flag was thrown to the breeze the children sang "We'll Never Let The Old Flag Fall."

After the flag raising, specialties by the different schools were given. A pretty wand drill was executed by members of the Alexandra School, those taking part being: Mabel Gaudin, Ursula Macdonald, Jeanie and Marion Ald, Winnie Watters, Beatrice Corbett, Bertha Reid, Allyson Armstrong, Marion Scribner and Miss Donald. Sir Roger De Coverly, an old-time dance, was next presented by the pupils of the Allston school under the direction of Miss Turner. The Centennial pupils presented a patriotic flag drill under the direction of Miss Colwell that evoked well merited applause from the spectators. Miss Foster presented her children in a club drill, after which the Aberdeen children presented a patriotic drill that was the highlight of the afternoon. Dressed in garments red and blue they formed various patterns including the Red Cross, the initials of the War Service Corps and the Soldiers' Comforts. Several dances by the children concluded the first part of the program.

A speedy game of baseball between the Victoria and the Giants of the Boys' Club was next. The game was fast and furious and many fine plays were made including several home runs. After six innings the Victoria was out by the score of 8 to 2. The line-up was as follows:

For Victoria: Nixon, pitcher; E. Johnson, pitcher; J. Butler, 1st base; L. Nixon, 2nd base; L. Bridges, 3rd base; T. Driscoll, shortstop; Frank Hurley, left field; G. Miller, centre field; W. Doyle, right field.

For the Giants: Ritchie, catcher; Albert Foster, pitcher; G. Pemberton, 1st base; W. Graham, 2nd base; M. Griffin, 3rd base; Charles Ritchie, shortstop; Theodore Yeomans, left field; David Corey, centre field; William Parke, right field.

The gathering then adjourned to the grandstand, where the prizes were awarded. Mrs. W. C. Good, Mr. A. M. Belding and others helped distribute the prizes. Prizes were awarded as follows:

For excellence in basketball: Marjorie Moore of the Aberdeen playground, and Lester Bridges of the Allston playground.

For excellence in croquet work: Winifred Watters and Bertha Ackerly, Alexandra playground.

Kindergarten: Jennie Bridges and Alice Grondine, Centennial playground.

A special prize was awarded Nellie Daley of the Allston playground for excellence in working in pine needles. Prizes were also awarded to Gladys Keleher, Carleton playground; Valioret Seeley, Centennial playground, and Rosie McDonald of the Allston playground.

An exhibition tent, housing the work of the children had been set up on the grounds and it proved one of the attractions of the afternoon. Many people made it a point to visit the tent and of those that went in very few failed to purchase a basket or some other work of the children.

Mrs. J. H. Smith and Mrs. J. H. Duddy had charge of the exhibit, while the Misses Hazel Clark and Grace Lovitt with Mrs. W. E. McIntyre presided over the candy table.

Miss Charlotte Dodge and Miss Margaret Wright of the Y. W. P. A. were in charge of the ice cream table and the selling of peanuts at the playgrounds. They were assisted by a number of Y. W. P. A. members.

Another attraction proved to be the refreshment booth, which was under the charge of the Y. W. P. A.

After having their photos taken the children wended their way home—sired but happy.

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KANE AND RING AWARDED CONTRACT TO BUILD SHED, CHEAP GOAL FOR CITIZENS

All Day Session of Council—Contract Price is \$46,514—Coal for Citizens at Cost—Steamship Company Wants New Shed.

The Common Council, at yesterday afternoon's session, awarded the contract for the rebuilding of No. 5 shed to Messrs. Kane and Ring at the contract price of \$46,514. It is expected that the firm will start operations this morning.

A communication from a resident of Lansdowne avenue complaining of the conditions on that street, was referred to the Commissioner of Public Works; a coal tender submitted by J. S. McGivern, which was overlooked at the time the others were opened, was read and it was decided to see if Mr. McGivern could supply about 2,000 tons at the price he quoted, to be sold to the citizens by the city at cost; A. C. Currie appeared before the council and asked that a shed be built on the wharf now occupied by the Eastern S. S. Co. at Reed's Point, and several other matters were disposed of.

The Morning Session.

The committee met at 11:30 to further discuss the tenders for No. 5 shed. Before proceeding with the shed matter Commissioner Wigmore asked that he be given authority to purchase a one ton truck from J. C. Clark for \$1,790, and it was decided to recommend the purchase to the council.

The No. 5 shed matter was then taken up and in answer to Commissioner McLellan the engineer said he was still of the opinion that it would take \$46,000 to build the wharf and shed.

Commissioner Russell moved that the work be done by D. C. Clark on a contract for \$40,000, and if they refused, it be offered to Kane and Ring at \$49,000.

Commissioner Fisher objected to this action and suggested that the job be offered to Kane and Ring at \$49,000.

Commissioner Wigmore thought that the lowest tenderer, Louis Corey, should be given consideration.

Commissioner Fisher moved that the contract be offered to Kane and Ring for \$40,000, and if they refused, it be offered to Mr. Adams. This was not seconded.

Commissioner Wigmore moved that the tender of Mr. Corey be accepted, but this too failed to find a seconder.

The motion that the work be given to Mr. Clark was then made and lost and Commissioner Russell moved that the work be given to Kane and Ring at the price of \$46,514. This was seconded and the council agreed.

It was then decided to have Commissioner Russell and the city engineer confer with the tenderers and report at the afternoon session.

Afternoon Session.

The council met at three o'clock, Mayor Hayes presided and all the Commissioners were in attendance.

The committee of the whole recommended that the Commissioner of Water and Sewerage be authorized to purchase from J. C. Clark and Son, Ltd., a 1 1/2 ton Studebaker motor truck costing no more than \$1,790. Carried.

The Commissioner of Finance and Public Affairs reported having considered the appeal from Mrs. George Russell from an assessment for the present year on the ground that she is not a resident of the city of St. John and has no property here, having sold out in the year 1915, and that she is a resident of Kings county, to all of which she has made an affidavit and recommended that her appeal be allowed and that the assessment be withdrawn; that John J. Bradley be refunded the sum of \$297.60 on his assessment for the year 1917, the assessors having reported that such amount would have been deducted by them had his appeal been made before his taxes were paid, and Mr. Bradley having informed your commissioner that his taxes had been paid by his wife during his absence from the city. Carried.

The Com. of Harbors, Ferries and Public Lands, submitted a lease in triplicate approved by the city solicitor from the city of St. John to His Majesty the King represented by the Honorable the Minister of Railways and Canals of certain easements for the conveyor galleries from the railway property across St. John street and over property of the city known as the McLeod and Pettigall wharves and recommended that the common seal be affixed under the hands of the Mayor and Common Clerk; also that he be authorized to employ Thomas W. Russell as chief draughtsman in the harbor and lands department at the rate of \$4.80 per day. Carried.

Messrs. Barnhill, Ewing and Santord wrote on behalf of Misses Parks, that water was flowing over property belonging to them on Parks street, and asked that some steps be taken to stop the overflow. Referred to the Commissioner of Public Works.

The New Freeman Company wrote complaining that they had not received any city advertising and asked for a share. Referred to the Mayor.

William A. Saunders made application to be appointed a city constable. Referred to the Mayor with power to act.

Communications from the Royal Agricultural Schools and Single Tax Association of Ontario were received.

James A. Kelly, a resident of Lansdowne avenue, wrote complaining of the condition of that street. He pointed out there was no sidewalk from the corner of Elm street; Elm street from the corner of Main street was barely passable, and Taylor and White in putting in water for their place of business had obstructed the street.

The city engineer stated that this was not a public street, it never having been taken over by the city. The letter was referred to the Commissioner of Public Works.

Contract Awarded.

The matter of awarding the tender...

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