NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

(Continued from page 1)

...ly be finished by the first Tuesday in July. He suggested that there be a formal opening, when the building was ready, when every member of the Council might be present.

The Warden suggested that a committee be appointed to arrange the details for the opening.

The motion to dispense with July session passed.

Couns. Doyle, Lamont, Swim, Vanderbeck and Schofield were appointed a committee to pass accounts in July.

Coun. Clark thought the Union of N. B. Municipalities should be invited to sit here next October.

Coun. Doyle submitted the Board of Health report for the year. Scarlet fever had been worse, and was more to be dreaded, than smallpox. There were only three cases of contagious diseases in the county. The total cost for the year was $627 fumigating, relief, medical attendance, etc., filled.

Coun. Anderson asked what had been done with the old Board of Health bills.

Coun. Doyle said the Council had repudiated all liability for them and nothing had been done with them. The Government had put Mr. Malthy in full charge, and, after eight months, notified the Board to act. It paid $1750 on account and charged it to the county. He thought it was up to the Council to give the Board instructions.

Coun. Arseneau—If the Government will not pay the bills, will honest merchants who supplied goods at low prices have to lose their money? Was this honest?

Coun. Anderson thought it wasn't fair to leave these people unpaid. The Council should pay what was fair.

Coun. Forsyth asked if Coun. Allain could not give some information.

Coun. Allain said the Attorney General was of the opinion that the County was liable for the expense. Why had not the Board of Health investigated the bills properly? It demanded for the Council to pay the bills.

Coun. Doyle knew the Board had been given authority to investigate the bills, but considered it a useless expense. The goods had been supplied, but no regulations had been made to supply only what was needed. Every claimant wanted the...nt of his bill because it was promised to him. If half the expenditure had not been made the result would have been equally effective. Some of the bills were just and fair and others were exorbitant.

Coun. Allain said W. A. Allain of Neguac had been paid in full.

Coun. Vanderbeck—We contracted that bill.

Postponed till 10.30 tomorrow.

Coun. Anderson moved that Architect Mott be asked to send his bill, if he had one.

Coun. Burchill said it wasn't the duty of the Council to hunt up bills. Let Mr. Mott send his bill if he had one.

Coun. O'Donnell said Mr. Stanley Miller telegraphed for Mr. Mott to come here.

Mr. Miller said Mr. Mott called him up on the telephone last night and said he had been promised $50 for his plans. Mr. Mott had made two extra trips to Newcastle. Mr. Mott said he had no bill but would leave it to the honesty of the Council.

Coun. Forsyth heard Mr. Mott say he would be satisfied with $40.

Coun. Swim thought the committee should be heard from. He had consulted architects and asked them to submit competitive plans. The Council would be satisfied to act on Mr. MacLachlan's statement regarding the case.

Coun. Connors would ask Mr. MacLachlan to report from the committee and would bring the report in the morning.

Adjourned.

Friday Morning

The Council came to order at 10.10 and the Secretary read the minutes of the previous day's proceedings, which were adopted.

On motion Coun. Anderson, Couns. Doyle, Lamont and Burchill were appointed the Finance Committee for the ensuing year.

Coun. Connors said that four years ago the Council decided to give $150 to the hospital at Chatham and later the late Mr. John McKane gave $10,500 for the purposes of building an operating room. It was found that such a room could not conveniently be added on to the present building, and another site was advised where a better light could be obtained and the building more easily heated. The new hospital had now been built, and two nurses from the institution had visited all the leading hospitals in Upper Canada, and many in the United States, and had noted all the best points in them, which had been included in the new hospital. Last Friday he had occasion to go there and was shown over the premises by two of the doctors, who pointed out to him many things that were needed. They drew his attention to the fact that this Council only gives $150 a year to the hospital, while York County Council gives $500 a year to the Fredericton hospital and this year they are giving $250 additional, besides the institution being in receipt of gratuities from many private individuals. Carleton County Council and Woodstock Town Council were liberally to the Fisher Hospital in that town. They had in Chatham as clever a lot of doctors as were to be found in New Brunswick, who give their services free to the applicants. The hospital is open to the poorest in the County, and those who are not able to pay anything receive just as good attention as patients who pay $10 a week. The hospital is saving many dollars a year to the Gilbert's parishes, and if the Council direct a donation they are simply giving as a body what would otherwise have to be paid individually. The hospital needs better appliances, and when the $150 a year was given some four years ago it was understood that the amount would be increased later. He moved that in future the County Council pay $150 towards the maintenance of the hospital, and another $150 on the thirty-first of December next, your towards the funds of the hospital, making $300 a year altogether.

Coun. Hayes seconded.

Coun. Parker said that when the $150 a year was given the objection was taken that the Council was voting away money over which it had no control. He thought that the Council could not legally devote money to any purpose that they could not appoint a committee to see how it was spent. The hospital was a private institution over which the council had no control.

Coun. Connors said the Council had power under the Municipalities Act to satisfy themselves as to the purposes for which the money was used, and further that the matron would be only too happy at any time to show any Councillor over the hospital.

Coun. Parker said that after Coun Connor's explanation he would be quite willing to support the motion. Carried.

Coun. Lamont asked if it was in order to appoint such a committee now.

The Warden said "Yes" and Couns. Parker, Connors and Lamont were appointed such committee.

On motion of Coun. Harrigan the list of parish officers for Nelson passed.

On motion of Coun. Kingston the road account for North Esk passed.

On motion Coun. McNaughton $50 was ordered assessed on Glenelg for a special road fund.

Coun. Cassidy asked if any provision had been made for sinking fund for the Court House bonds.

The Sec. Treasurer said that the premium received on the bonds must go to the Sinking Fund, and in addition an assessment had been made on Contingencies Account to provide for that fund.

Coun. Cassidy—What amount?

Sec. Treasurer—$1,750.

Coun. Burchill said he thought that was too much.

On motion Coun. Doyle, Mr. T. W. Butler was called upon to address the Council on Board of Health matters. Mr. Butler wanted to know what he was expected to advise them on, and was told disputed bills.

Mr. Butler said that as far as he was informed the disputed bills were incurred on instructions given by the Government who put a man to take charge of the smallpox epidemic over the heads of the Local Board of Health. If those facts were correct then the Government was clearly liable for the bills. The County must pay the bills incurred by the Board of Health, but the Government had no right to incur liability and get into debt at the expense of the County.

Coun. Connors said the Government did not incur the bills, but they were incurred by the Prov. Board of Health on the order of Dr. Fisher.

Coun. Arseneau said that the Prov Board of Health was appointed by the Government.

Coun. Doyle said the Government had paid $1750 towards these bills without consulting the Prov. Board of Health. If they were not liable for this why did they pay it?

Mr. Butler did not want to be misunderstood. He said that either the Government or the Prov. Board of Health took the matter out of the Local Board's hands, and placed one man in charge. If he contracted the debts, those who appointed him must pay them.

The Warden said he saw the accounts in the Prov. Secy's office certified by Col. Maltby. They were paid for that reason.

Coun. Vanderbeck said Col. Maltby got $1,750 and the County got no... and asked to contribute $3000. If the Government audited pay the bills but they refused.

The Sec. Treasurer said to the $1,750 that had been paid by the Government there were many accounts that had already been paid.

Coun. Doyle said that 75 per cent of the goods supplied, which they were now asked to pay for, were quite unnecessary.

Coun. Arseneau said he had been right for two years to find out who was liable and they were no nearer the conclusion now than they were at the beginning.

Coun. Vanderbeck said if somebody would only sue the county they would soon find out who was liable. There were many bills that were fair and reasonable which he would like to see paid; but that many of the others were most unreasonable.

Coun. Anderson said the Government had offered to pay one half the bills that were found to be fair by the Council. The Board of Health should go through these bills and say what was right and fair, and then settle up and not let things hang on for years. There was no sense in keeping the matter over for the new Council. The present Council knew more about the matter than anybody else and they should deal with it.

Coun. Harrigan asked if there was a full Board of Health in existence and the Warden said that one new member had to be appointed.

Coun. Parker then moved

"That the Board of Health examine the disputed so called Board of Health's bills unpaid, and when the said Board has ascertained what bills are correct and reasonable and the total amount of the same, the Board interview the members of the Executive government of the province and if the Board gets an assurance that the Government will pay their due portion of the said bill, the Board of Health cause the said Bills to be paid, and the Secretary Treasurer is hereby authorized to pay such bills and red to be paid by the County Board of Health. Any other resolution of this Council contrary to this is hereby rescinded."

This was seconded by Coun. Connors.

Coun. Burchill said that at the July meeting he moved a resolution repudiating any liability on the part of the Council, which the Council adopted, and he thought that any further discussion on the subject was not in order.

Coun. Doyle said if the resolutions were passed it would place the responsibility upon the Board of Health and in the face of the legal opinion just given, would they be justified in paying the bills.

Coun. Arseneau said that any man that was not satisfied with what the Board of Health allowed him could sue for the balance, and they would soon see whether the County was liable or not. Coun. Doyle had said that many people wished to make a 'grab-bag' of the Council. He would like to know what bills came from Rogersville parish, and if they were fair he did not think it right that the people he represented should be charged with trying to grab.

Coun. Vanderbeck said the Rogersville bills as a rule were fairly reasonable, though there were some quite the reverse.

For the information of the Council he would read a few of the items of some of the bills received from different parts of the County, without giving any names. One bill was for $67.37 for goods supplied to one family between March 8th and 31st, 1911, 22 days. Some of the items included in it were 2 bbls. flour, 30 lbs. oatmeal, 60 cornmeal, 23 lard, 17 butter, 50 meat, 30 sugar, 15 rice, 40 barley, 40 beans, 20 peas, 40 biscuits 6 gals. molasses, 25 lbs. evaporated apples.

Coun. Swim—He must have kept an hotel.

Coun. Vanderbeck, continuing—Another family was supplied with goods by the same man between March 8th and April 5, to the amount of $68.67. Some of the items were 3 bbls. flour, 65 lbs. oatmeal, 24 butter, 20 beans, 15 cans beans, 20 lbs. peas, 20 barley, 23 rice, 47 meat, 25 codfish, 22 doz. herring. Another bill was for $300, and included such items as 29 prs. braces at 40 cts., 18 prs. shoe pacs at $2.50, 21 towels, 21 prs. socks at 40 cts., 10 prs mitts, 8 caps, 22 horse blankets at $2.25. There was also $20 odd for board of men who had never been near his premises. Another bill was for $18.40 for goods supplied and it had cost $10.50 to deliver them. In one month alone bills to the amount of $2000 had been run up. The bills altogether came for: Doctors, $4354; provisions, $192,85; quards, $555; drugs, $128,89. Dr. W. S. Loggie of Chatham had sent in a bill for $200 for eight trips to look over his father's lobster factories. He threw in some vaccinating and visits to A. & R. Loggie's for nothing apparently, for there was no separate charge for it. All these bills had been certified to by Col. Maltby and Dr. Fisher. (The reading of these bills by Coun. Vanderbeck caused considerable amusement and laughter among the members.)

Coun. Schofield said then the fault was theirs, if they authorized the bills they should pay them.

Coun. Swim said there were two points to be considered, one was "if the County was liable, let the bills be paid; if not, then don't pay them." Legal opinion was that the Council was not liable, therefore he saw no reason why they should pay.

Coun. Schofield said the bills were incurred by Col. Maltby the appointee of the Government, and he should see them paid.

Coun. Forsyth said the resolution empowered the Board of Health to go through the accounts and pay what was due. For the honor of the Council they should take that step at any rate, as it was not fair to keep people out of their money that was rightly due them. The resolution was a step in the right direction, many of the bills were far from right, but he thought they could be arranged. Judging from the size of some of the bills, some of the people must have laid in quite a stock of goods. The County should pay for what was necessary, and the people who got the goods should pay the balance.

Coun. Connors agreed, and said that the Council was morally if not legally liable.

Coun. Burchill suggested a committee of two to act with the Board of Health in going through the bills and deciding what was fair.

Coun. Connors said to do this would be to take the matter out of the Board of Health's hands and place it in those of a committee of the Board.

On being put to the Council, Coun Burchill's amendment was lost and Coun. Parker's original resolution carried.

Coun. Anderson was appointed the third member of the Board of Health in the place of Coun. Doyle, appointed chairman.

The report of the Almshouse Committee was read by Coun. Burchill and the following assessments were ordered made on the several parishes for Almshouse purposes:—

Alnwick	$200
Blackville	275
Derby	100
Hardwicke	200
Blissfield	75
Chatham	1000
Glenelg	150
Ludlow	125
Nelson	200
North Esk	100
Rogersville	150
Newcastle	400
South Esk	75

Adjourned till 2.00

Friday Afternoon

On resuming on motion of Coun. McNaughton the Sec Treasurer's road account from Glenelg, passed.

Coun. Burchill moved the following resolution:

Whereas the Canada Eastern branch of the Intercolonial Railway was originally constructed down the south side of the Miramichi river where the line has been in operation ever since;

And whereas it has been intimated that the management of the I. C. R. intends to close up that portion of the railway between Blackville and Chatham Jct. on the south side of the river;

And whereas the people living along the south side of the river between Blackville and Chatham Jct. have been enjoying the benefits and privileges of the said railway;

And whereas any removal of the said railway from that section of the country would be a serious loss and deprivation of the rights and privileges of these people besides depreciating the value of that section of the county;

Therefore, Be it resolved that this Council place themselves on record as being opposed to any such move and that the Secy. Treasurer be instructed to forward a copy of this resolution to the Minister of Railways and Canals, and also to the Board of Railway Commissioners at Moncton.

Coun. Harrigan in seconding said there were no politics in the matter. When the road was built the people living along it voluntarily gave the land to Messrs. Snowball and Gibson and in nearly every instance they received no money whatever for it. Under such circumstances it would be a grave injustice to take away the road from them now.

Couns. Cassidy and Connors agreed with the mover and seconder and the resolution was carried unanimously.

On motion of Coun. Parker a bill of A. Arseneau for $3.90 was passed and ordered charged to Rogersville.

On motion of Coun. Parker the following bills in respect to the new County valuation were ordered paid.

D. Morrison, valuator's salary and expenses	$530.96
E. Gallivan do	556.25
T. W. Flett do	[illegible]
Chatham World, printing	20.00
Mir. Pub. Co. Ltd. do	4.00
J. E. T. Lindon, copy of assessment list, Newcastle,	10.00
J. R. Lawlor, services rendered	10.00

For Services Rendered Assessors of

Blackville	48.00
North Esk	30.00
Newcastle	60.00
Alnwick	72.00
Blissfield	18.00
Nelson	64.00
Hardwicke	66.00
Ludlow	30.00
Derby	30.00
Rogersville	60.00
Glenelg	46.00
South Esk	30.00
Chatham Town	80.00
Chatham Parish	22.00

Coun. Parker then read the report of the valuators which on motion was received and adopted.

Coun. Vanderbeck from the Committee on Petitions, reported that they recommended tenders be called for insurance on the new court house for $20,000, the lowest tender not necessarily to be accepted.

Coun. Burchill remarked that the court house was insured until it was handed over to the Council.

With regard to Sheldrake Island, the committee recommended that it be leased for a term of years by auction.

With regard to the high level crossing they recommended that a new crossing be built, and the old one kept in repair.

As to the petition for land damages in Ludlow parish, they recommended that the matter stand over until next session, as the record of ownership could not be produced.

They recommended further the adoption of the suggestions of the Good Road's Association of St. John but did not favor sending any delegates to the meeting.

On motion of Coun. Parker, Derby Highway Board returns passed; also list of parish officers.

On motion of Coun. Connors, the list of Chatham parish officers passed.

On motion of Coun. Connors the Sec. Treasurer was ordered to pay any account sent in by H. H. Mott not exceedig $20.00.

On motion it was ordered that the rate of pay for Statute Labor in the Parishes of Hardwicke, Glenelg and Chatham be 15c. an hour instead of 12 1-2c.

In reply to Coun. O'Donnell, Coun. Vanderbeck said there were no smallpox bills from Ludlow parish.

On motion of Coun. Doyle list of parish officers from Newcastle passed.

On motion the reporters and constables were granted their usual fees.

On motion of Coun. Allain a bylaw was passed forbidding the running at large of cattle between the western boundary of the Town of Chatham and the eastern boundary of the Parish of Nelson, such bylaw to come into force on the 15th of July next.

Coun. McNaughton asked if the Jail Committee had any report to make as to the ventilation.

Coun. Doyle said the Committee were not experts and even architects found difficulty in arranging the proper ventilation of buildings, and he suggested when the Court House Architect was here next time, he should be asked to inspect the jail and suggest what was best to be done to get better ventilation.

On motion of Coun. Burchill the Warden then left the chair, which was taken by Coun. Connors, and a vote of thanks was moved to the Warden by Coun. Burchill for the very efficient and impartial manner in which he presided over the proceedings of the Council. This was seconded by Coun. Schofield.

Warden Benson in returning thanks said it had been a great pleasure to preside over the meetings for the last two years. He had met with every courtesy from the Councillors and the business had been transacted under very pleasant conditions. He hoped that when the election came again in the Fall they would all be successful, and would meet this time next year in the New Court House.

The Council adjourned sine die at 3.05 p. m.

THE COUNTY VALUATION, 1912

Corrected Figures.

PARISHES	Real Est.	Personal Property	Income	Total 1912	P. C. of Tl. Valuation	Total 1900	Increase
Town of Chatham	$1,211,600	$271,900	$241,450	$1,824,950	22.6	$1,301,150	$523,800
Town of Newcastle	734,475	213,175	155,900	1,103,550	13.6	563,285	540,265
Parish of Chatham	456,450	232,350	79,850	768,650	9.5	337,490	431,160
" Newcastle	300,450	104,135	55,500	550,085	6.8	322,043	228,042
" Alnwick	322,925	134,807	67,200	524,932	6.5	326,443	198,489
" Nelson	318,370	109,666	75,350	503,386	6.2	345,335	158,051
" Blackville	303,005	103,645	58,950	465,600	5.8	353,089	112,511
" Derby	209,900	94,517	41,150	344,876	4.3	201,265	143,611
" Glenelg	204,600	98,575	23,200	326,334	4.0	219,965	106,519
" Rogersville	162,850	117,367	24,650	304,867	3.7	143,205	161,662
" Hardwicke	260,535	70,165	31,650	362,350	4.4	172,277	190,073
" South Esk	192,785	75,625	30,550	299,160	3.[illegible]	[illegible]	134,515
" North Esk	161,045	64,892	31,500	267,437	3.1	191,855	75,582
" Blissfield	137,100	56,189	26,650	220,039	2.8	132,450	88,189
" Ludlow	134,415	43,683	25,350	203,448	2.0	148,016	55,432
TOTALS	$5,303,225	$1,790,891	$976,200	$8,070,314		$4,962,413	$3,107,901

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