

UTILITIES BOARD OPPOSES PRINTING LIST OF SALARIES

Refuse Wenige's Demand For Publication In City Year Book.

COMMISSION UNITED

Pocock Claims Mayor's Idea Is "Old Woman's Request."

Once more the mayor of London was defeated in his request for a salary list, when at a meeting of the public utilities commission yesterday afternoon he was refused the list, which he wanted for inclusion in the city year book.

The meeting went along pursuing the even tenor of its way until, when all the ordinary business was concluded, the mayor, speaking in the stillness that precedes the storm, asked the commission if they would accede to the resolution of the city council, and allow the salary list of the commission to be printed in the year book.

In presenting the case for the inclusion of the list the mayor said: "I think this is only fair to the ratepayers and the public bodies who have no objection to publishing their salaries, and that it is in any case good business. We are publishing a year book of the city this year, and I don't see why it should be incomplete by the absence of this list."

Pocock Questions Mayor.

"Do you publish the salary you make in your business?" asked Philip Pocock.

"That's a different thing altogether," answered the mayor.

"The publication of this list will disorganize the commission," declared T. W. McFarland. "This board is elected by the people to supply light and power as cheaply and efficiently as possible, which I think we have succeeded in doing. We have had no strikes, and no friction, and I call it an insult to any member of the commission to suggest that the salary list should be made known in a public newspaper to be read by people who would not understand it."

"It has been reported," he continued, "that the mayor said he had never been given by any member of the commission a valid reason why the salary list should not be published. If the mayor really said this then it was not a correct statement."

"Why," he went on, "no private corporation would do such a thing, and I ask the mayor for one good reason why he should publish it."

"Ford does," suggested Mayor Wenige.

"Oh, well, he's a freak," retorted Mr. McFarland.

"Perhaps he is, but you cannot deny he is a good business executive. The mayor offered as a reason the fact that there were good businessmen in the council and that they thought they were right in this contention."

Vining Supports Colleagues.

"So have we," Jared Vining joined in. "We have three good businessmen on this commission, and they use their discretion and say no."

The mayor then read clause 36 of the act, dealing with the right of the council to have access to the books of the commission, in reply to which Jared Vining stated that the commission had always complied in every way with the act, but that it did not authorize publication of the list.

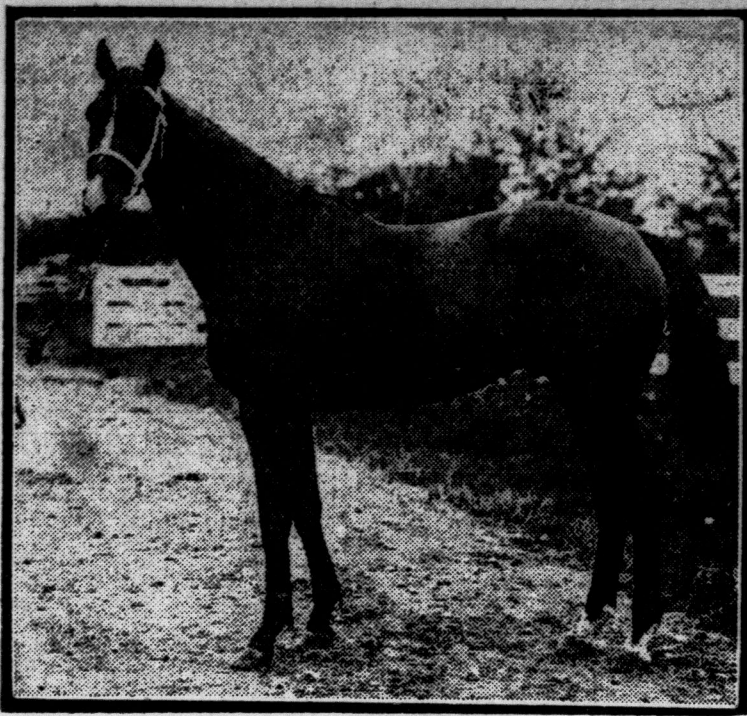
"I am ready," declared Mr. McFarland, "to stand or fall on our record and on our refusal to agree to this suggestion."

Commissioner Webster, who up to this time had been a silent watcher of the argument, joined battle on behalf of his fellow-commissioners. "I think," he said, "that the citizens have no right to any more information than they have always been getting."

"Do you mean to say," asked the mayor, "that an alderman has no right to these salaries?"

Webster Speaks.

"I don't think," the chairman intervened, "that the interpretation of the act permits you to have this list. This is a responsible body elected by



GIFT FROM KING GEORGE.

Amner, the thoroughbred stallion presented to Canada by King George. The horse is at present in charge of the Canadian Thoroughbred Horse Society, Toronto.

the people, and I doubt very much whether any court of law would say that we should publish this."

"Why," declared Commissioner Pocock, "you may as well ask for the list of the salaries of the city council, and the bricks we use as our salaries."

"You have never had any information refused you," said the chairman.

"Yes, I have," the mayor claimed; "this one."

"Do any of the aldermen say they have been refused information?"

"I'm not speaking about aldermen. You can't prevent the council from having this list."

At this stage the meeting became more or less incoherent, all the commissioners speaking at once, and the mayor, leaning back in his chair, looked rather bewildered at the horrid noise he had stirred up.

Above the din the voice of the chairman could be heard saying, "As far as this commission is concerned, we refuse to publish the figures."

There was a lull in the storm for a second, and Commissioner Pocock took advantage of it to tell the mayor that the whole idea was an "old woman's request, anyway."

"I think it is a very old woman's request," said the mayor. "I am a businessman and I am not making an old woman's request."

Tumult Lessens.

"The meeting is adjourned," came the voice of the chairman through the cross-tangle smoke of the skirmish, and as the members moved into the coat-room the sounds of battle died and grew fainter.

Again the chief magistrate has been defeated in upholding the resolution, and the city year-book remains as innocent of utility salary lists as it was before.

In considering the estimates for the year submitted by the electrical department there was some discussion on the erection of a new substation in the vacant in the autumn.

Mr. Buchanan pointed out the great need of the station by the fact that at present the city is losing some \$2,000 a year which the new station would very largely save. The new station is to cost \$4,000 and the commission seemed to favor its erection.

Mr. Buchanan also reported that No. 1 sub-committee is greatly overworked, and that some means of lessening the load was an ever-increasing necessity.

Objects To Tax.

The public utilities commission pays a business assessment every year of \$4,415. Commissioner Pocock objected to paying this on the ground that it was illegal to charge this tax on any other ground than on the area of the land. It was decided to ask the manager to take this problem before the city council at its next meeting.

The matter of the overhead wiring, which the commission had asked the C. P. R. to do on their system from the Grand Trunk track, up Richmond as far as the C. P. R. lines, was also taken up.

The railway offered to comply with

FAIRBOARD WANTS PRESENT GATE FEE TO BE MAINTAINED

Claim Exhibition Will Not Pay With Lower Admission.

DISCUSS ALL ANGLES

Alderman May Tells Members High Admission Causes Animosity.

When the Western Fair Board held its regular business meeting Thursday afternoon in the board room in the Dominion Savings Building, several resolutions were submitted by the various standing committees, the most important of which was one to allow brood mares of the heavy classes to be shown as a separate entry, as one of a team by paying \$1 in addition to the regular fee, and another resolution doing away with the class of grade dairy cattle, which was seldom filled, and adding the prize money to the prize list of the stock-judging competition.

Better lighting facilities for the butter-making contest room was asked for and granted. The decision was also taken to close the Horticultural Building during Monday of the week, in order to give the exhibitors and judges a chance to work uninterrupted until all exhibits were placed and judged.

The matter of supplying uniform caps to Western Fair attendants and caretakers was discussed, and the matter referred to the executive committee.

Discuss New Buildings.

Following the disposal of the usual routine business, the board turned to the question of the advisability of erecting the new Western Fair building this year. Several aldermen were present and spoke from the viewpoint of the city council. Although nothing definite was reached, the opinion of the meeting seemed to be that, having signed up contracts for 75 per cent of the exhibiting concessions in the proposed building, and the opinion of the city council being favorable, the fair board would be quite justified in going forward with the building.

The keenest interest was shown throughout the discussion on admission fees, which took up the greater part of the meeting. This was not broached until the latter part of the meeting, because if introduced earlier it would have put the routine matters to one side, with nothing being accomplished. The subject was treated fully from every possible angle.

In order to facilitate the discussion the secretary gave the figures covering the gate receipts for the last three years under the 25c and 50c fees. The years 1917, 1918 and 1919 with a 25c gate showed earnings to the amount of \$2,102, \$18,247 and \$23,100 respectively. In contrast to that the three years at the 50c fee were shown to have brought in \$41,068, \$35,514 and \$38,521 respectively.

Ask 25c Admission.

It was mentioned that Mayor Wenige did not want the fair to fall below the earnings of 1922, and with in view the city council had voted to guarantee the fair board \$5,000 to guarantee the fair board a share against the possibility of a sharp drop in gate receipts that would put the fair behind its low water mark of 1922 in the event of the 25c admission being adopted.

Alderman May made a strong plea for the reduction of the gate admission to 25c, saying that the past method of putting aside one-fifty-cent day as Farmer's Day, another as Citizens' Day, and so forth, had engendered animosity in that these particular classes felt that they were being exploited.

In reply to Alderman May, George G. McCormick said: "The Western Fair, even with attendance at the full capacity of the present grounds, cannot be made to pay if the public is allowed more than three days at the 25c rate." He added that the fair board was not out to antagonize the public, and that if it were possible he would be among the first to recommend a return to the lower rate, but that he was convinced that this is impossible.

John Pringle sustained Mr. McCormick and added that while the receipts under the higher charge showed greatly increased earnings, the cost of conducting the fair had increased proportionately, and with the erection of the new building in prospect it would be unwise to attempt a return to the lower fee.

Seeks Park Improvement.

A. E. Silverwood stated that he considered the additional third day at the lower rate could be allowed if the city would guarantee the \$5,000 mentioned and in addition spend an equal amount in maintenance and improvements to Queen's Park adding that, after all, Queen's Park is the property of the city.

Secretary A. M. Hunt said that, judging from past experience, the board had little to expect in the way of co-operation in the upkeep of the park from the parks commission, stating that the Western Fair stood unique among exhibitors, in that from its infancy it had always paid its own way, even to the last cent.

Confer With Council.

It was then proposed by A. E. Silverwood that the executive be empowered to go into the matter at some length with the city council and explain more fully the need for upholding the 50c admission fee, and come to a definite arrangement with the civic authorities before the next board meeting.

This suggestion was adopted, and the question of reducing the admission to our local fair once more relegated to the dim future.

A suggestion from Richard Oke that the different employers and factory owners be asked to close down Tuesday of Fair Week to allow their employees to attend the fair was heartily approved.

PRISONERS FAIL TO BLAST THEIR WAY OUT OF JAIL

Associated Press Despatch.

Warren, Ohio, April 6.—Three prisoners were injured, cell windows shattered, and iron shutters broken from their fastenings in an attempt by prisoners to dynamite their way from the county jail here early yesterday.

The explosive was placed in the cell corridor, about ten feet from the cell block in which the injured prisoners were sleeping. The three were struck by pieces of the stone wall, and were removed to the jail hospital, all suffering from cuts about the face and legs.

WILL SEEK NAVY'S AID TO CHECK RUM-RUNNING

U. S. Prohibition Commissioner Haynes Will Take Immediate Action.

Special to The Advertiser.

Washington, April 6.—Prohibition Commissioner Haynes finally has taken steps to blockade New Jersey's "rum fleet," which he declares so blandly to be non-existent, an optical illusion of "wet" propagandists.

Recourse is to be had to the navy to check what has become a public scandal through the brazen operations of the so-called "rum row."

Legal authority is being sought for the transfer of fast naval vessels, chiefly Eagle boats, from the navy to the coastguard, which has primary responsibility to prevent smuggling.

It is proposed also to detail, if possible, petty officers of the navy to command the Eagle boats. There are 55 of these vessels now in commission. A like number are not in service, due to lack of navy personnel to man them.

Although no serious legal obstacle to the development of such a "dry navy" was anticipated, it was believed advisable to have a survey made of existing statutes to remove possibility of trouble on that score.

The inquiry into the law is being made by government experts, most familiar with national statutes. It was requested specifically by the prohibition enforcement unit.

TORONTO PROFESSOR DIES.

London, April 5.—Adrian Berrington, professor of architecture in the University of Toronto, died in London yesterday. He was 36 years old.

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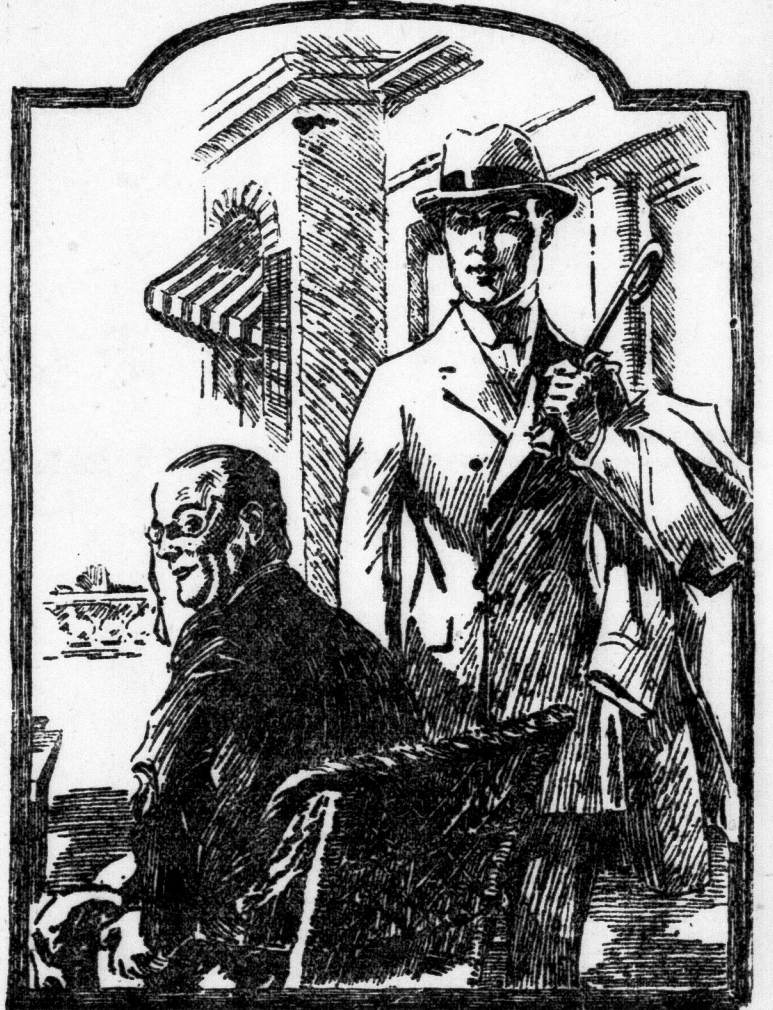
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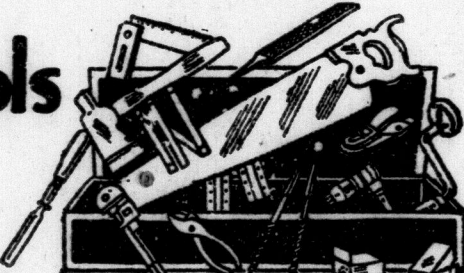
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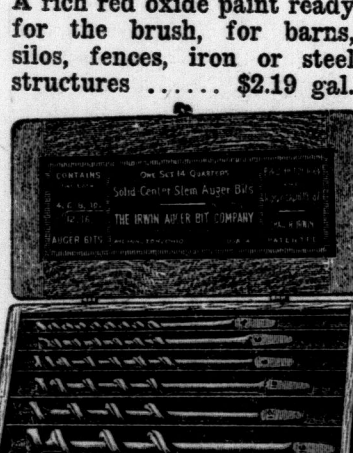
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