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CITY COUNCIL RECEIVES FINAL REPORTS OF THE VARIOUS COMMITTEES AND WINDS UP THE BUSINESS FOR THE YEAR 1919

Recommendation Regarding Soldiers' Insurance is Passed on to the Council of 1920—No Recommendations Made With Reference to the Exemption of Soldiers Homes—Last Minute Items.

The City Council last night at a special meeting received final reports of the various committees for the year. Mayor Elson was in the chair and all the Aldermen in their places.

Thorold Council sent in the following resolution passed by them:

That this Council invite the municipalities of St. Catharines, Niagara Falls, Stamford, Welland, Fonthill, Thorold Township, Merriton, Niagara on the Lake, and Port Dalhousie to co-operate with them in a protest to the Railway Commission regarding the high rates of freight being charged by the N. S. and T. Co. while not paying the employees the McAdoo scale of wages.

The Housing Commission presented a report to the Council for the year.

During the year 22 building lots were purchased by the Commission for \$4645 and the total houses build and occupied or now being constructed is 41. A number of the lots have been taken up by returned soldiers, erecting houses on them. On seven lots the commission has contracted for seven houses now being constructed and some are nearing completion. These seven houses will be offered for sale at cost price. A large number of these having houses built had their own lots and it was much easier for them to build a better house and still come within the limits of the amount prescribed by the Act. All the applicants on completion of their houses have furnished to the Commission a statement in writing as to their being well satisfied in the manner in which the work on their homes had been carried on. The financial statement follows:

Amount of Provincial Loan \$150,000.
Loans approved and paid \$91,570.
Purchase of 22 lots \$4,645.
Seven Houses under contract by Commission \$21,000.
Loans approved and not expended \$24,000.
Balance unexpended \$8,785.

The number of loans made was 34. Twenty four loans were made to returned soldiers; to others 10; number of houses now occupied 20; being erected 21.

Ald. Eagle reported for the finance committee passing accounts of \$30,682.46 and the following:

Request of G.W.V.A.
Your Committee has given very careful consideration to the request of the Great War Veterans' Association for exemption from taxation, except for local improvements and school purposes for a period not exceeding ten years, dwelling houses assessed at not more than \$3000 owned and occupied by officers or men who have been on active service overseas, and while unanimous in their desire to give every possible assistance to returned men, it was found that as a considerable percentage of the returned soldiers were only tenants, a reduction in taxation to those who owned or were purchasing property under agreement would be showing discrimination by benefiting only part of the returned men.

In view of this, your Committee cannot recommend the granting of this request until a more equitable

solution of this matter can be found. The request of the local Great War Veterans' Association for payment of monies to dependents of soldiers who went overseas and were killed, and who were not insured has also received the consideration of this Committee. While the City Council has never authorized any body or organization to assume that such monies would be paid nor in any way promised such insurance your Committee feels that in as much as other men were insured by this Corporation it would be only just to assist those families which did not receive protection. In this connection your Committee would point out:

1—That insurance on men enlisting subsequent to the month of December 1915 was not provided for the reason that the insurance companies for a considerable time refused to write any further policies. Later, however, they issued policies, but at rates which were so high that it became prohibitive for the City to continue this insurance.

2—That the first list of soldiers killed was received from the G.W.V.A. in August of this year, and later in October a corrected and additional list was received. The estimates having been already adopted and the tax rate struck, it was therefore impossible to raise the amount required, in the tax rate of 1919.

Your Committee therefore has not been in a position to raise the money this year but it does approve of meeting this claim and would strongly recommend to the incoming Council for 1920 that immediate attention be given to the matter so that the necessary sum may be raised. As to the manner securing the money, next year's Council can alone determine and decide whether the necessary sum can be included in the 120 Tax Rate or be secured by the issue of debentures providing sufficient borrowing power remains as fixed by statute.

Fire and Light Report.

Ald. Westwood reported for the Fire and Light Committee. They recommended that permission be granted to John F. Quinn, Proprietor of the Russell House, to install a storage tank of 5000 gallon capacity for the storage of fuel oil in the Court Yard in rear of the Russell House providing the regulations of the Canadian Fire Underwriter's Association as per letter to City Engineer dated November 19th, 1919, are complied with and provided further that such installation be made under the supervision of the Building Inspector and the Chief of the Fire Department.

The Committee also submitted a statement of estimates and expenditures for the year 1919 for the Fire Department Hydrant Rentals and Street Lighting.

Market and Buildings

Ald. Dakers for the Market, Building and Licenses Committee submitted a statement of the Building Permits and Plumbing Permits for the year 1919.

The total Building permits amount to \$861,636.

Inspection Fees Collected \$1,105.30
Total Plumbing permits amount to \$38,603.

Inspection Fees Collected \$221.

The Committee submitted a statement of receipts and expenditures for the year 1919 and a comparative statement of the estimates for the year.

The Building Permits issued for 1919 constitute a record for the City of St. Catharines and the number of dwelling houses, 175, is very creditable.

Your Committee further report that following revenue was received during the year from licenses.

General Licenses \$1415.60.
Dog Licenses \$5223.75.

The Committee further reported that twenty nine building permits were issued during the month of December a list of which is attached with estimated cost of twenty nine thousand one hundred and twenty five dollars and fees amounting to forty

THE WEATHER

TORONTO, Dec. 30.—The depression which was in the vicinity of Lake Superior yesterday morning is now centered in New York State with diminishing energy. The northern cold wave is gradually spreading into the Western Provinces. Light local snow has fallen in Northern Alberta and a moderate snow fall has occurred over Ontario.

FORECASTS. Fresh north west to north winds; a few light snow falls, but mostly fair. Somewhat colder tonight and on Wednesday.

A Big Crowd Enjoyed Smoker

Excellent Bouts Last Night at the Lyceum Club Affair.

There was a capacity crowd in attendance at the Lyceum Club smoker last night and to say that everyone enjoyed themselves is to say the least for the long programme presented was an excellent one and there was not a dull moment during the whole evening.

The menu contained no less than eight good boxing bouts which were greatly enjoyed. Sergt. Alexander and Callahan boxed three fast rounds and so did the Hannigan brothers. Jimmy Robertson of Merriton took on Young Richardson and Floyd Cayne and McDonald put up a fine bout.

Jack Loney who is to box Proctor at the G. A. C. show on Thursday night took on Edmondson and Digweed for three rounds each. Then Young Waters and Leo Cahill swapped punches and the last bout of the night was between Lou Schench and Art June.

After the bouts, a fine vocal and instrumental programme was put on by the following talent:

Comic Song and Dance, Ed. Breen.
Song—Wm. House.
Song—Harris House.
Song—George Kadwill.

An interesting address was given by Dr. Sheahan on the "Relationship of Athletics to Health," after which Father Mogan and President Leonard Crowley spoke a few words.

A nice fat goose was drawn for during the evening and Mr. Tom Foley won the bird. Emmerson Wright won the prize pipe.

The success of the evening is due to the efforts of Mr. James Lee, Hugh McGuire and Eddie England, who had charge of the arrangements.

M'MILLAN—ROBERTSON

One of the prettiest events that has taken place in the Grand Army of Canada Hall was held on Christmas Eve, when Miss Annie Robertson became the bride of Mr. James McMillan, Rev. Dr. Smith officiating. The bride was very neatly dressed in white satin with trimmings of georgette crepe was attended by Miss Grace McLoughlin dressed in white silk. The flower girls looked very pretty indeed, Miss Drewella McMillan being dressed in blue silk and Miss Lily Robertson in white. Mr. Lock Robertson attending as best man. After the ceremony the guests numbering some one hundred and fifty sat down to a sumptuous wedding supper. In the centre of the table was the bride's cake, towering four tiers high and very nicely trimmed with chain work.

The evening was spent in dancing and other events winding up in the small hours of the morning. The bride and groom travelling on the early morning train to spend their honeymoon in Belleville and on their return they will reside on Westchester Ave.

Charles William Pearce, demobilized Ontario soldier, employed as a lumberman at Warham Camp, England, shot and wounded the barmaid and landlord of the hotel at Midhurst, Sussex, and then blew his own brains out.

According to a cable from Sydney, N.S.W., the latest New Zealand licensing poll figure wipe out the prohibition lead and give continuance a majority of 1327.

T. & L. Council Holds Meeting

Listened to Candidates Lovelace, Murphy and Others; Confidence Expressed

A special meeting of the Trades and Labor Council was held last night, President Greenlaw presiding over a large attendance.

After routine business had been disposed of the meeting was thrown open for a discussion on the municipal election situation.

Reviewing the whole position, it was agreed that the Soldier-Labor candidates were putting up a good, clean fight and would be elected by large majorities.

"There is only one thing we have to fear," said one delegate, "and that is our over-confidence, so it is up to everyone to get out on Thursday and vote solid for those candidates running under the auspices of the Soldier-Labor combination. We have a platform, an ideal to work and fight for."

Captain Lovelace, the mayoralty candidate, was referred to by President Greenlaw as a man who had given five of his best years of his life fighting for his country; a man whom a yeety might consider it a high honor to have as mayor. "Therefore," continued the speaker, "I trust that not only the Trades Unionists, but everyone with the welfare of St. Catharines at heart will support the Captain and elect him by a bumper majority."

Captain Lovelace briefly addressed the meeting by thanking all those who had placed their confidence in him. This fight, he said, is yours as well as mine and I feel proud to know that the Soldier-Labor people have honored me to run under its auspices.

M. J. Murphy on being called upon to speak stated that as everyone knew him so well it was useless for him to give a speech.

"I have lived here all my life," he said, "my whole time has been spent among the people and I can only promise that all my efforts will go to the making of St. Catharines, if possible, a better city and to see its citizens healthy and happy."

The chairman intimated that Mr. Avery and Mr. Bannan, the other candidates were engaged elsewhere and adjourned the meeting by wishing the delegates a bright and prosperous New Year.

G. A. C. NOTES.

One of the largest attended Whist Drives ever held by the Grand Army of Canada took place last evening in their hall. The prize winners were Mrs. Bannan and Mrs. Burgess who won the special prizes given at half time. The first prize for ladies went to Mrs. Joy, Mrs. Wismer won second Mrs. Stoddard third, and Mrs. Young fourth prize. In the gent's Mr. J. Beswick won first, Mr. Calder second, Mr. Harmon third, and Mr. Leeding fourth.

The Social that will be held on Saturday will be somewhat changed being a hard time social and dance and prizes will be given to the persons that look the hardest up.

The Secretary would like to once more notify all those who have not made up their gratuity forms for Imperial service or Royal Air Force that he is available at all times to give his assistance.

NEWS BRIEFS

Five Orillia firms have within the past few days adopted the plan of insuring their employees.

The Canadian Pacific Railway announces that it will spend half a million dollars on its lines in the London district.

Neil Love, a veteran commercial traveller and wool buyer, well known over Ontario, died at St. Thomas, aged seventy six.

London is to have a new hotel as soon as half a million dollars is pledged for its erection; a quarter of a million has been secured.

John McCoy, who was a drummer during the Indian Mutiny, was found dead in bed at his home in Brantford, at the age of seventy seven.

William Anderson is dead and his brother Joseph likely to die, as a result of drinking "Columbia spirit," largely wool alcohol, at Owen Sound.

Mrs. William Charlton of Derby township, near Owen Sound, died after nine days' agony, from burns received in an explosion when she filled a lamp with gasoline by mistake for coal oil, fumes catching fire from the stove. Her baby daughter died the next morning.

Arab volunteers and French detachments have clashed at Basbek, Syria.

SOLDIERS LISTEN TO WHAT CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE HAVE TO SAY AS TO WHY THEY SHOULD BE ELECTED TO OFFICE

Nearly All Were Present and Accepted Invitations to Speak—Meeting Was Orderly and Good Natured, With Few Riffles—Question of Service Overseas Pops Up Occasionally.

The G.W.V.A. corralled the various candidates for public office in the auditorium of their club house last night and until midnight listened to what they had to say for themselves. There was a large turnout of the soldiers and they gave each speaker a kindly hearing. Some excellent speeches were made, short and to the point. The chair was occupied by Comrade Cain and he held things well in hand all through. Nearly all the candidates were on hand and accepted the invitation to speak.

Only three candidates, new Board of Education members, Mrs. C. M. Gibson, W. B. Burgoyne, and A. H. Trappell, and they all addressed the meeting.

A. H. Trappell referred to the need of the new Collegiate and made a strong plea for the Bunting site. He said the smallpox outbreak might well be traced to two rooms in the Collegiate Institute for obvious reasons.

In his opening remarks Mayor Elson said that often estrangements occurred through misunderstandings and ill report. He hoped that after he finished speaking, if the audience would do him the courtesy of an attentive hearing the judgment of the War Veterans toward himself and the Council over which he had the honor to preside would be mollified. He had no reason to assume that a statement he had made in the Council Chamber had been reported to Mr. Cunningham in the same language as he (the Mayor) had used. He had only been giving a statement of fact on behalf of the finance committee but too frequently our neighbors in passing words on to a third person added pepper and salt to season them.

"I feel quite confident," said His Worship, "that Mr. Cunningham as Secretary of the G.W.V.A. has too much respect for the office of Mayor to charge its holder with anything so ignominious as that mentioned by Mr. Cunningham in the article in a local newspaper. Furthermore I am of Irish extraction and I will ask if you ever knew of an Irishman who ran away from a fight." (Laughter.)

The remarks credited to Mr. Cunningham had been made in haste the speaker felt certain and he did not think in a calmer moment Mr. Cunningham would have made them.

More than this he wanted to say that whether in office or out of it he would do, as he had always done, everything possible for the returned men to whom the community owned a deep obligation but while in office he would also remember that there were 19,000 other people here whose business had to be transacted and their interests looked after.

Faces Issues Squarely.

The Mayor said he came up to speak to the War Veterans because he has always been taught to face an issue squarely and what he had said at the Council Chamber he would say again before the Veterans themselves.

Touching on the item in the paper that he had not enlisted the Mayor said he was told by military men before whom he went that he could do more, as a man with a wife and children, if he gave his paper and pen and voice to public service during the war. This he had done to the best of his human ability and he felt certain the people of St. Catharines knew quite well that he had consecrated the best that was in him to all patriotic, Red Cross, recruiting and other war work, looking after the dependents of those who went overseas and giving his newspaper space freely to all causes.

Dealing with the incident of the stenographer whom the city had been paying at the G.W.V.A. club house, the Mayor and the whole finance committee had come to the decision that they should pay the salary no longer if Mr. Cunningham as paid secretary of the G.W.V.A. was giving his time to politics and elections.

"Any taxpayer would have a perfect right to ask us," said the Mayor, "why we spent money in that way and I could not justify it."

Explaining this point further, the

speaker said the public could not disassociate a paid official of the G.W.V.A. from any other citizen who went into politics to defeat sitting representatives. Politics was no more nor less than the science of government in the administrative, legislative and judicial. Municipal government was therefore, politics and he regretted the returned men were alienating public support by forming political parties and alliances. As war veterans he as well as other citizens, was willing to assist in every way but as political opponents returned men must expect to be met as civilians entering into political strife against other civilians. This was his (the Mayor's) attitude and that of the finance committee.

The Mayor then read the report of the finance committee explaining what action had been taken on the insurance and assessment questions. Other matters considered by the Council in the interests of returned men were also dealt with to the satisfaction apparently of all present.

In conclusion His Worship said:

"To my mind one of the best ways to help the returned man is to assist him become re-established as a citizen enjoying all the privileges of citizenship without being under obligation to the public. The War Veterans would always have his personal support and the help of his paper no matter what occurred."

Secretary Cunningham of the G.W.V.A. said the G.W.V.A. is not in politics but entered the municipal fight to inject some enthusiasm into it. He had not neglected his official duties in this or any other contest. In the general elections he spoke at noon meetings and two night meetings. He had accepted the secretaryship of Repatriation League on condition of having a secretary. It had been impossible to meet every train. But meeting soldiers at the train is not all. Repatriation consists of seeing him safely to his home and establishing in a good job. Many men staid at home to make munitions and in the room who served in France might have done the same thing.

Mr. Cunningham charged that an engineer from the Welland Canal and Assistant Assessor had been appointed without a soldier being given an opportunity to apply. A deputation had a few days before waited on Captain Lovelace and asked him to retire in favor of the Council instead in which case he would receive the support of the Journal. He would have considered it the proper thing for the others to retire in favor of the returned soldier.

Mayor Elson denied all knowledge of the deputation to Captain Lovelace and he knew nothing of any citizens committee. If there is one he is not a member and knows nothing of it. He pointed out that Mr. Nicholson was employed only during the summer months.

Ald. Eagle referred to the cash surrender value of soldiers' policies being received by the city. Only the beneficiary can receive that money. Today there are 42 policies now due for payment of premium. So they had decided to publish the names of the insured. The city does not wish to keep these policies up if those insured do not wish to. These insured can take a paid up policy. He could not go overseas, and it was well some men did not as somebody had to stay at home and carry on for those overseas. He had done what he could at home. During his five years of service he has done what he could for the city generally.

In answer to a question Ald. Eagle said he had opposed a G.W.V.A. man being appointed on the Housing Commission because he considered good men had been named otherwise. It was in no spirit of sighting.

Ald. Westwood said he was a worker, not a talker. He pointed out that he had been a candidate for Mayor considerably before. Capt. Lovelace came out. He had tried to get into the Bantams battalion but was turned down because he was too old, being 52 at the time. He had done his

RHINE FLOODS WORST IN YEARS

PARIS, Dec. 30.—Floods in the Rhine and its streams flowing into it are higher than they have been for thirty years, and great damage is being done by the inundation according to a Mayence despatch to The Petit Parisien.

duty as a citizen at home as every man was supposed to do. Ald. Westwood said he had also worked hard in the Council for the soldier's dependents and citizens generally. Every possible appointment on the fire brigade is a returned soldier.

Ald. Smith said the Council had issued insurance to the soldiers as long as the Companies accepted it. He was one of the members in charge of this. He had never lost an opportunity to help a war widow or orphan. He had also helped to get pensions for men. He has been in the Council six years and he considered he had given good service and deserved recognition. He never betrayed a trust of the people. He denied joining the I.L.P. for political purposes. He had always been a friend of the working man. He wished no partisan support, he wanted to be the people's candidate.

Captain Lovelace had left the meeting and so Ald. Rose was called on.

Ald. Rose said he had tried hard to get to the front but was rejected.

Secretary Cunningham here pointed out that the G.W.V.A. did not ask the candidates things as yet. They had not yet got to the front. The G.W.V.A. has only selected three aldermanic candidates. The members have nine men to vote for.

Ald. Hill mentioned that he had done something for soldiers. He had cut hair of soldier's kiddies for nothing and he had also cut soldier's hair also free. On the Fire and Light Committee he had always given returned men the preference.

Ald. Dakers didn't make any claims of work done in the past, but he promised to do everything in his power if elected for every citizen. He will work in the interests of the citizens. He had favored the building inspector's appointment after he had put him through a grueling test. He mentioned him an efficient man. He mentioned the handicap of carrying on the city's business by changing aldermen every year. He represented no club or clan but the whole citizenship.

Ald. Riffer said he employed returned men. He had done his best in the Council and believed he could do good work next year. As for his railway policy he considered he was right in sticking to the Hydro. He was willing to stand by that policy. He had always been a laboring man.

Ald. Nash asked support for the new athletic grounds. He was willing to serve the city if wanted. If not he was quite willing to retire. The sports ground proposition is a good one and if the land is purchased it will put the city on the map as a sports town.

Speaking of the railway question, Ald. Nash pointed out that the granting of the franchise to the N. S. and T. R. will give St. Catharines what it wants in railway development. He considered the N. S. and T. R. proposition a good one and was prepared to stand or fall on that issue.

A. J. Veale said he was at the disposal of the citizens. He, however, took exception to the G.W.V.A. leaving him off the list for aldermen. He had offered to go overseas and had sent his young son over. He had helped the soldiers and the cause in every possible way.

J. D. Wright said he had no apologies to make in asking any man in test for alderman. If elected he would do his utmost for industrial development. He believed new blood is needed in the Council. Returned men always get the preference from him.

E. C. Graves said he had no apologies to make in asking any man in the hall to vote for him. If the city wants him he was willing to act. He said there is no citizens slate. He was not in favor of class legislation. He owns property which entitles him to a seat in the Council. He had done quite a lot for the returned soldier. But this is no sentimental question. It is purely a business proposition and he would not vote for a man

(Continued on page 6.)

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WYER, Secy.-Treas.

To the Electors

After having served seven years on the Public School Board and two years on the Collegiate Institute Board, I have been nominated for the Board of Education. Should you desire a continuance of my services, the same are at your disposal

Yours
A. H. TRAPNELL,
25 Queen Street