

THE FERNIE FREE PRESS.

VOLUME LX, No. 4

FERNIE, B.C., FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 1918

WHOLE NUMBER 1044

EXEMPTION COURT SITS

Military Appeal Tribunal No. 12 opened here Monday, His Honor Judge Thompson presiding. R. Crowe-Swords represented the military; F. E. Harrison, Calgary, Asst. to the Director of Coal Mining Operations, appeared for those men who are essential to the coal mining industry, and H. Martin, Secretary Fernie Miners Union, and H. Beard, Michel, represented the miners. In all 50 cases are to be heard and it is expected the sittings will conclude today.

The first case was that of Henri Beaulaurier, telegraph operator in the employ of the G.N. railway, on whose behalf H. E. Douglas, agent for the G.N., appeared and gave evidence. He stated that the ground on which this appeal was based was the importance of the employment of the appellant and it was the belief of the witness that telegraphers were very hard to procure. He was unable to inform the court accurately as to the number of men employed in this capacity on the railway system or the number of applications received for positions. Last year the appellant had had a two months vacation and considerable difficulty had been experienced in obtaining a man to fill the position during that period. "You eventually were able to secure a man?" said His Honor, to which the witness replied in the affirmative. The finding as handed down by His Honor is: "In all cases where appeals have been made on behalf of railroad employees, I have requested that facts and figures be presented to me showing the indispensability of the man called out for military service. In this case Mr. Douglas frankly says he cannot give me facts and figures. He does not know what the man-power of the G.N. railway company may be respecting telegraphers.

Without making an exhaustive inquiry into the man-power of the G. N. railway company, I could not come to a satisfactory conclusion. The onus is upon the person requesting exemption to prove that the man called upon for military service would be of greater benefit for the national service by remaining in his present employment. This onus has not been satisfied and I must disallow the appeal."

George Frederick Roo, farm manager, appealed under grounds one, two and four, namely, importance of continuing employment in habitual occupation; importance as a farm manager, and serious hardship owing to exceptional financial obligations. The appellant did not appear in person but was represented by his father by whom he is employed. The letter written by the father to the Registrar in support of the appeal was read by the court, wherein the local tribunal was accused of having been prompted in their decision to disallow the appeal by personal feelings rather than by deciding the case strictly on its merits. His Honor pointedly told the witness he considered this communication very ill-considered and ill-advised and that he did not for one moment believe Messrs. R. L. T. Galbraith and A. J. Jule, members of the local tribunal, would be guilty of any such practice, as it would render them liable to very severe censure and suggested that an apology was due them.

The witness was examined at length by the court and then subjected to a very grueling cross examination by M. A. R. Crowe-Swords. The finding by His Honor deals with the appeal conclusively and is as follows: "This is an appeal entered by the father and son. The only evidence given was that of the father. The father's notice of appeal makes the case somewhat difficult. He makes a very serious accusation against the local tribunal at Fernie, namely that the members in arriving at their decision were actuated by personal spite emanating from political position. I cannot believe that this is the case and cannot help but severely censure the father for ever having made such an unwarranted assertion. He also made it more difficult by demanding an exemption and by foolishly endeavoring to obtain exemption from a source other than the proper tribunal.

It is my duty, however, to put aside a consideration of any impropriety on the part of the father and consider the case on its merits.

The father owns a ranch at Roosville and conducts a store at Elko, which are about 30 miles apart. On the ranch, which consists of 160 acres, he has 35 or 40 acres cleared. He raises oats, wheat, hay and vegetables. Through the stores he sells about 150 bushels of oats and a few tons of vegetables; he has practically no stock outside of horses. It is quite

apparent that no great effort has been made by either father or son to materially increase production on the ranch on account of war conditions. I cannot arrive at the conclusion that the ranch is one which could be considered an adequately producing one.

The son has an independent income as mail carrier of \$500. He is also allowed to keep any money which may be derived from the sale of produce other than what is sold to his father. Of course he receives food and lodgings for nothing.

The father contends that if the son enters military service he will have to close up the ranch and bring his family into Elko but I cannot see how it would be necessary to close up the ranch. The father has the mail contract and has been willing that the son should receive the emolument of \$500 and a return for the extra sale of the produce. If he is willing to pay this over to his son for the upkeep of the ranch he should be willing to pay it to some other person for the same purpose. He, himself, would be no worse off financially and would be doing for his wife and children no more than he is doing today.

It seems to me that the real reason for the appeal is a sentimental one, which though very proper in a parent, is one the Court cannot consider.

I therefore feel that I would not be doing my duty if I were to allow permanent exemption or even any lengthy exemption. I think, however, that the father should be allowed some time to enable him to procure a substitute for his son. I will therefore allow the appeal by reason of business obligations until the 15th day of March, 1918."

William Edwin Ashley made claim for exemption owing to serious hardship on account of domestic position. The appellant is in the employ of the Canadian Dairy Co. In deciding this case His Honor also took into consideration the appeal of Irene Roux, one of the partnership for whom Ashley works. The ranch in question has seven employees engaged, which number was considered by the court to be really a greater number than was required. At a former sitting the appeal of Roux had been disallowed principally due to the fact that the appellant omitted to present all the facts connected with his case. "Under these circumstances," said His Honor, "if it were possible I would allow a re-opening of that appeal or allow the appeal to go to the central appeal court judge and if Roux is granted exemption the appellant in this case would therefore not be entitled to exemption. This appeal is disallowed."

James Herbert McLeod appealed on the ground of serious hardship owing to exceptional financial obligations. The appellant is connected with a partnership known as the Cash Meat Market and he claimed that his partners could not operate the business as successfully during his absence. Questioned as to his earnings and same

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COMMITTEES APPOINTED

The first meeting of the 1918 council was held in the city hall on Tuesday evening with Mayor Thomson and all the Aldermen present.

The following committees were then appointed for the ensuing year:

Finance — Aldermen Dudley and Beck.

Works and Property — Aldermen Brooks and Dicken.

Fire, Water and Light — Aldermen Jackson and Dicken.

Health and Relief — Aldermen Jackson and Rutledge.

Park — Alderman Brooks.

Assessment — Aldermen Beck and Dicken.

The regular night of meeting was fixed for the 2nd and 4th Thursdays in each month.

The usual motions in connection with the bank overdraft and the signing of checks were passed and the meeting adjourned until Thursday night.

CORRECTION

Fernie, B.C., Jan. 21, '98.

Editor Fernie Free Press:

Dear Sir—In your report of the Civic Meeting held last week you state that a small lot of debentures was sold at 90. As this is inaccurate I will be obliged by your giving this correction the same publicity that you gave the original report.

The whole block of Annex Sidewalk Debentures was sold at 92.

Yours very truly,

Arthur J. Moffatt,

City Clerk.

C.S.E.T. BOYS ENTERTAINED

Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Wilson entertained the Canadian Standard Efficiency Boys and officers of Fernie to dinner in the Methodist church basement last Wednesday evening. About one hundred guests sat down to a bountiful repast. There could be no mistaking the thorough appreciation of the host and hostess' kindness. If beaming countenances say anything, they were shouting out to all "For me this just touches the spot."

After supper an entertainment was given. Dr. Garner, President of the C.S.E.T. executive, took the chair. The Mayor, Mr. Thomson, was called on for his maiden speech. The maiden seemed comely and acceptable to the boys by the applause he received. The Mayor expressed in clear definite statements what he considered his duty regarding the carrying out of the law of the land, and his interest in any movement that would make a more moral and better city for the boys to live in. The Chairman, Rev. Mr. Carr, Mr. Daniels and Mr. Cummings spoke on the aims of the teen boy movement, and the hopes that a more perfectly developed organization than we have at present with a permanent home might be obtained in future, so that any boy might have the advantages of the four-fold training the course offers.

Mr. Wilson, in answer to the boys' vote of thanks, expressed his and Mrs. Wilson's delight in having the boys as their guests. He gave them sound, practical advice, not from theory but from experience of those things which really counted.

Songs were rendered by Rev. Shaw, Mr. Parker, and the Boys Club. The girls class gave a club swinging drill. The boys athletic class, under the tutelage of Mr. Owen, put on numerous gymnastic stunts.

Two boxing exhibitions were given by the boys.

All present spent a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

It is to the credit of the grown-ups of Fernie that the boys are receiving more attention than they have in the past. This is the second banquet the boys have been given this winter, the first being the Father and Son banquet. We hope it will not be the last. The boy after reaching 14 years of age has always demanded attention in a more manly way than before. In the past we have neglected him greatly at this critical period of transition from boyhood to manhood. With many of us the years slip by so silently that it takes some outside happening to wake us up to the fact that our children are really becoming grown-ups. Why, we say, it was only yesterday they started school. Boys of the teen age in Fernie have outside of their homes very little choice of where they shall go. It is up to us grown-ups to provide them with good accommodations.

FERNIE'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO PATRIOTIC FUND

Victoria, Jan. 12, 1918.
A. Cummings, Sec. Canadian Patriotic Fund, Fernie, B.C.:

Re 1918 Campaign

Dear Sir—It is with regret that we note the enormous fall in the contributions of your branch. We, of course, understand the reasons, but would like, if possible, to do something to reinstate the branch as nearly on the same basis as it has been since the inception of the Fund as possible.

I have just arranged a trip through the Okanagan country, beginning at Kamloops on Monday, 28th inst. From there I will go down to Enderby, Armstrong, Vernon, Kelowna, Summerland and Penticton, and I may have to go to Trail. It has occurred to me that, while in Southern British Columbia, it might be well, if your Committee think it advisable, to continue my trip through to Cranbrook and to Fernie. I shall be very much obliged if you will advise me by night lettergram, as soon as possible after receiving this letter, what you and your committee think of the proposal. If you think it desirable, I will fix a date and advise you by wire.

The coast cities of Vancouver, Victoria and New Westminster, and possibly Nanaimo, have decided to inaugurate and hold their campaigns beginning the week of March 4th. It is thought that, by the four places combining, considerable enthusiasm might be infused. Several of the places throughout the Interior have already begun their campaigns. Grand Forks is holding theirs from the 23rd to the 25th inst. We are hopeful that the re-

sults may be as satisfactory as in the past.

For your information, I may tell you that British Columbia will be the only province during the year 1918 which will not be self-supporting. In view of the fact of the financial conditions of the Provincial government, it is not possible for them to assist as a province, as all the governments in the other parts of Canada are doing. We will probably have to draw upon the Central Fund this year for about one million dollars. In view of this fact, and the willingness of the other parts of Canada to make up our deficit, there can be very little logical argument by individuals who seek to disturb the present arrangement by demanding government administration. The same rule applies now, only in a more intensified form, that those who stay at home have a direct and personal responsibility in doing their part to assist in the prosecution of the war. If the government were to take this Fund over, why not all other similar Funds, and thus relieve that class of people from any personal inconvenience whatever, simply placing the whole responsibility upon the soldiers at the front. Surely if people will give this matter the consideration it deserves, they will readily see that such argument is purely selfish, and should not exist while such sacrifices are being made on their behalf.

F. Nation,

Provincial Secretary

PYTHIAN SISTERS OFFICERS

At a meeting of the Pythian Sisters held in the K.P. hall on Tuesday evening, the following officers were elected for the ensuing term:

P.C.—Mina Turnbull.

M.E.C.—Martha Baker.

E.S.—Ann Baugh.

E.J.—Elizabeth Alton.

M.R.C.—Annie Bunch.

M.F.—Minnie Williams.

M.T.—Jessie Bunch.

P.—Margaret Markland.

G.—Jane Timmings.

DONALD MCKENZIE WRITES

Pte. Donald McKenzie, late of the 225th and who has recently been decorated with the Military Medal, and now of the M. M. G. Brigade, writes to Mr. and Mrs. Jamieson, of West Fernie, as follows:

It is some time since I had your welcome letter with the cards. No doubt you received the Christmas card I sent. The boys all register their parcels as so many are lost, more from France than those coming to France. The P.O. staff think when a parcel is leaving France it contains souvenirs and it is easy for them to hang on to them. We were very doubtful if we would manage to have our Christmas dinner out of the line but were preparing quietly. The day before we started in earnest and rented a bake-shop from 7 p.m. the night of the 24th to 2 p.m. next day and four of us dug in and made pies, cakes, roasted the meat, etc., at the same time enjoying the change in the work. Perhaps the best way to describe the affair would be to enclose a menu card. The card itself is the work of a boy from our own battalion, the Nelson company (C company.) Our mail has been a bit irregular lately. Some think the Halifax disaster has something to do with it. Some of the boys of this battery came from near Halifax, so we had quite a time of worry and talk about it. I just had a letter from Jim Mc-Nicholas. He has returned from his leave and was mighty lucky getting it so early. They are now in the line. I had the pleasure of meeting Chubby Dudley the other day. The following day he went on leave to Paris; it is better than Blighty. With Blighty leave it is military all the way; report here, report there, but with Paris you get taken on a motor cycle to the nearest railway station; then it is all plain sailing provided you speak a little French. Of course with Blighty we get free passage; with Paris it is only a reduced rate but it is worth it for freedom's sake. With me it is my mother I consider. We were together so short a time. But for that it would be Paris for me. When Chubby comes back we'll have a fine time. He is in B. battery, the same brigade.

The menu card was as follows:

1st C. M. G. B., "A" Battery,

Christmas Menu:

Soup—Giblet Soup.

Entrée—Cold Ham, Chicken, Potato Salad.

Roast—Roast Pork, Applesauce;

Roast Beef, brown gravy.

Vegetables—Mashed Cream Potatoes, Mashed Turnips, Peas.

Dessert—Apple Pie, Raisin Pie, Cakes, Christmas Plum Pudding, with Brandy Sauce.

Oranges, Apples, Nuts.

Coffee, Beer.

Cigars, Cigarettes.

CITY FATHERS START YEAR

The 1918 council, composed of His Worship Mayor Thomson, and Aldermen Dudley, Beck, Jackson, Brooks, Rutledge and Dicken, held its first real business session last evening. Upon the minutes of the inaugurating sitting being read, Ald. Rutledge took exception to his having apparently been discriminated against with regard to appointment of standing committees, he having only been named on the relief committee, while Ald. Dicken, also a new councillor, had been included on three committees, namely, Fire, Water and Light, Works and Property and Assessment. A somewhat lengthy discussion took place during which His Worship expressed regret that Ald. Rutledge considered he was being slighted as such was not the case. He stated the reason which had prompted him to name Ald. Dicken on the respective committees was in view of the past experience that alderman had had on the council. Ald. Rutledge said he could not help feeling slighted but it would have to go and the incident closed and the minutes were adopted.

Ald. Jackson during the foregoing discussion when the matter of his absence from the city was mentioned, in his characteristic emphatic manner referred to the capital which had been made out of said absence. He claimed, however, up until last August, that during his five years on the council he had never been absent from a council meeting and for the ensuing term he pledged himself to be here and in attendance at any time the city required him.

Communications: A letter from the police commissioners suggesting that toboggan slides be provided next season on Jaffray street and the hill to West Fernie was referred to the works and property committee for report some time during the present year.

The District Registrar transmitted a plan of a new subdivision which was approved by the council. This property is within the city limits across the C.P.R. yards opposite Block 13. The matter was referred to the city engineer for investigation.

A resolution was received from the city council of North Vancouver relative to the development of a steel industry in this province. Endorsement thereof was requested but without discussion, on motion of Beck and Dudley the communication was filed.

The Salvation Army headquarters at Winnipeg wrote soliciting a donation. A grant of \$25 was made to this cause last year and it was moved by Dicken and Brooks that a similar grant be made this year.—Carried.

The Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co. advised that in view of the recent cost of living investigation an increase in wages of 14c per day had become effective. In view of this the company were obliged to advance the price of coal sold to the city 15c per ton, making the new price \$4.25 per ton f.o.b. power house spur. The amended price is retroactive from Dec. 1. The city clerk announced for the information of the council that these periodical increases during 1917 had cost the city \$2000 over the cost of coal for 1916, and that this additional cost of operation was responsible for the reduction in profits of the electric light department. The letter was filed.

A lengthy printed circular was received from the Union of Canadian Municipalities with headquarters at Montreal, accompanied by a memorial addressed to the Premier, which if approved by the local council was to be signed by His Worship and the City Clerk. The object of the memorial is to bring about co-operation between the municipalities and the government with regard to the enforcement of war measures. The request was granted, Aldermen Dudley and Beck introducing the motion to that effect.

Over an item for relief some discussion ensued and it was decided with respect to the case in question that the Mayor endeavor to procure information as to the possibility of making arrangements for admission to the Provincial Home or with some institution for treatment of the infirm.

The finance committee's report, which covered a list of accounts left over by the retiring council, was unanimously passed with practically no comment.

Under the heading of new business the question of street improvement in the north end of the city was discussed and the city engineer was instructed to bring in a recommendation at the next regular meeting.

Ald. Dudley, chairman of the finance committee, came forward with the suggestion of renovating the city

hall. The upstairs required kalsomin-ing, for which an appropriation had been made last year but not used; for the city clerk's office also some improvements were necessary to make same more sanitary and convenient. Ald. Jackson took strong opposition to some of these suggested expenditures and launched forth on a digression of economy. The matter will receive further consideration when the annual estimates are presented.

Ald. "Bill" then pointedly inquired with regard to the relation of authority of the council with actions of the police commissioners particularly with regard to appointing members on the force and increasing salaries of the force. The statutes were consulted and he was advised that the police force was entirely under the jurisdiction of the three commissioners. Still on the new year economy strain Ald. "Bill" introduced the following motion:

"That the city council recommend the police commissioners be asked to reconsider the action taken by them in putting on a new policeman as from time to time the government urges the council to economize in finance and otherwise. Also to compare our city in this respect with others of the same size."

He passed the motion to Ald. Dicken to be seconded but not being in sympathy it was passed on to Ald. Brooks, who supplied the missing signature. The fact that Ald. Dicken did not see fit to agree with the motion caused Ald. Jackson to become riled and he went into personalities by accusing Ald. Dicken of now acting in direct conflict with his expressed attitude a year ago, when he had been a candidate for civil office. Ald. Dicken very politely replied that he was not on the council to second or support anything and everything that Alderman Jackson proposed, and with reference to the accusation of now being inconsistent with his former attitude this was not so. The statement Ald. Dicken had made regarding the police force was that if he could not get better satisfaction out of two policemen instead of four at the time, he wanted to know why and was still of that opinion. He said he was not interested in the ratepayers and would not overlook his duty, but he did not feel it an opportune time to criticize until it had been demonstrated that the commissioners and the force were not doing their duty.

Aldermen Brooks, Beck and Jackson spoke in favor of the resolution, while His Worship, Aldermen Dudley, Dicken and Rutledge supported the action of the commissioners for the present at least. Ald. Jackson, after Ald. Dudley had advanced arguments showing why it had been deemed necessary to augment the force, sarcastically suggested to him that he had considerably changed his tune from last year when he had been an insistent advocate of reducing the force.

Ald. Dudley said there was a great difference in the conditions in the city this year and last. "The town was in a worse condition and you know yourself the law has been broken every day since prohibition came into effect. I have heard you say so," said Ald. Dudley to Ald. Jackson. "You haven't," replied Ald. Bill. "You have," repeated Ald. Dudley, and after exchanges of half a dozen "you haven't" and "you haven't's" (local parliamentary terms for "You are" and "You're another,") somebody else chimed in with his view.

At this juncture Ald. Rutledge had to leave the meeting and shortly after the recommendation to the police commissioners by Ald. Jackson was put to a vote, resulting in Aldermen Jackson, Brooks and Beck voting in the affirmative; Ald. Dicken negative; Ald. Dudley not voting. His Worship declared the motion carried.

Adjournment was taken at 9.40 p.m.

Knox Church

11 a.m., "Foreign Missions."
7.30 p.m., "The Call to Build."
2.30 p.m., Sunday school.
Friday, 7.30 p.m., Junior choir practice; 8 p.m., Senior choir practice.
Wednesday, 8 p.m., Cottage service in West Fernie.
A. L. Carr, Pastor.

Olivet Baptist Church

Services, Sunday, Jan. 27—
2.30 p.m., Sunday school and Bible classes.
7.30, Regular evening service.
Thursday, Jan. 31, 8 p.m., Prayer service.
Pastor, E. Fantetti, B.A.

All Pythian Sisters are requested to meet in the K. P. hall on Tuesday evening, 29th inst., at 8 p.m. sharp. Important business.