

LIVELY SESSION OVER FREDERICTON SEWAGE

Sunbury County Out in Force to Protest Against St. John River Pollution

J. D. Hazen, Spokesman for Objectors—J. W. McCready and Engineer Barbour Declare That River Water is Unfit to Drink Now, and if the Capital is Stopped in Its Sew- erage Scheme Other Towns Must Be Treated the Same— Board of Health Reserves Decision.

FREDERICTON, Aug. 14.—The question as to whether or not the sewage of Fredericton should be discharged into the St. John river was discussed pro and con before the Provincial Board of Health at a special meeting here today.

J. D. Hazen, M. P., appeared as counsel for the Sunbury county authorities and was backed up by a strong delegation from that county, including Warren Murray, of Fredericton Junction; Coun. Henry Wilmut, Coun. Thomas Taylor, Dr. Peake, chairman of the board of health; Coun. G. A. Perley, Rev. H. E. Dibble, A. B. Wilmut, Parker Glasier, Judge Gilmour, R. W. Gilbert, Dr. Camp, C. F. McLean, Coun. Charles Burpee, Douglas Burpee and Mr. Day.

The city of Fredericton was represented by Mayor McNally, City Clerk McCready and E. A. Barbour, consulting engineer. The chairman stated that the board of health were acting as a jury in the case and that the municipality of Sunbury was the plaintiff and the city of Fredericton the defendant.

Sunbury's Complaint.

Mr. Hazen contended that the Sunbury people were only defending their interests and are not really plaintiffs in the case. However, if the board so decided, he was willing to accept their ruling and present his case. He pointed out that a delegation had been appointed by the Sunbury county council and nearly every parish in the county was represented at the meeting. It was true, he said, that only four parishes of the county fronted on the river, but he contended that the people of the whole county had a vital interest in the question.

Mr. Hazen then read from a circular which had been sent to the residents of the river parishes in Sunbury and obtaining their views upon the matter. All together 178 families had been interviewed, of which 73 resided in the parish of Sunbury, 40 in the parish of St. John, 38 in the parish of Burton and 27 in the parish of Lincoln. He pointed out that 450 people use the river water for drinking purposes, 541 use it for household purposes, 560 use it for watering their animals and 600 obtain their ice supply from it. There are 647 people in the four parishes who have water from wells, and 131 heads of families declare that their property will depreciate in value if the sewage goes into the river. These figures, Mr. Hazen declared, were merely intended to show the importance and extent of the interest involved.

Mr. Hazen went on to say there was a large floating population in Sunbury during the summer season made up of men who worked on the boats below Fredericton. If the sewage was dumped into the river it would simply mean that the people would be compelled to dispose of their farms and move away. If the sewage system was made compulsory it would mean that the four tons of sewage which would be discharged into the river daily and that, he held, would be sufficient to poison the water and make it unfit for use. The theory that running water purified itself had been long ago exploded and could not be put forward seriously as an argument. He had seen in the press that there was no typhoid fever in Fredericton at the present time and this was attributed to the fact that the hospital sewage was no longer discharged in the river below the water intake. This was certainly an argument against the city of Fredericton emptying its sewage into the river. He understood that the Fredericton Gas Company would be permitted to use the sewage system. In St. John the Dominion government had stopped the gas company from emptying sewage into the river, because it endangered the lives of the fish. Surely, he said, it was important that human lives should be protected, in the present case.

Mr. Hazen then read letters from Chas. V. Chapin, superintendent of health of Providence (R. I.), in which he expressed the opinion that it was dangerous to the public health to discharge sewage in the water used for domestic purposes. He also read some extracts from an article in the British Medical Journal, dealing with the subject of bacteria in the water. He also quoted some published remarks by Engineer Barbour, who stated that the water was now unfit to drink anyway, and if used for the sewage system the people would avoid it.

Mr. Hazen, in conclusion, said that the Sunbury people could not avoid using the river water as they had simply had to drink the river water.

Mr. Hazen was inclined to agree with Mr. Barbour's view that the water was bad now, but he saw no reason for making it any worse. Mr. Hazen next read a letter from Dr. Cassell, chairman of the Queens county board of health, expressing sympathy with the movement inaugurated in Sunbury.

Chairman Holly said there had been no complaint from Queens county.

Mr. Hazen also read letters from W. A. Clements, city engineer of Vancouver; Mr. Wilmut, city engineer of Victoria; and Dr. Atherton, of this city. All expressed themselves as being opposed to the dumping of crude sewage in the river used for domestic purposes. A letter was also read from Coun. McElroy, of Oromocto, who told of boring for water on his farm to a depth of over 100 feet without success. Mr. Hazen assured the board that the people of Sunbury had no ill will against the people of Fredericton in the matter, but only wanted their interests protected.

Other Objectors.

R. A. Crowley, who appeared for the Star Line Steamship Company, said that the company used the river water for their boats and did not want it polluted by sewage.

Mr. Gilbert said he resided on an island in the river and was compelled to use river water. If sewage was dumped into it he would have to get out.

Rev. H. E. Dibble said he was in touch with the people of the river par-

EAST SHARING IN CANADA'S BOOM

Such Is the Opinion of Hon. Mr. Templeman After His Visit

WORKMEN SCARCE

Dominion Coal Company the Greatest Sufferer He Finds—Sydney Steel Company Sending Rails to Van- couver—Remarks on the Great Growth of Glace Bay.

OTTAWA, Aug. 14.—Hon. William Templeman, minister of inland revenue, has returned from a trip to the maritime provinces. He visited St. John, Halifax, Sydney, Charlottetown, Moncton and other points.

"Notwithstanding the rush to the west fields of the Canadian west," said Mr. Templeman, "the greatest activity in the great prosperity which now exists all over Canada. There are evidences of a bountiful harvest in all the provinces down by the sea and the pressure of the demand for his products are in advance of previous years."

"The great cry is the scarcity of men to do the work. This applies to almost all branches of trade. The Dominion Coal Company in Cape Breton is probably the greatest sufferer in this regard. Some hundreds of men have sprung up from the mines and still the demand for coal is greater than the output can meet. Under the auspices of this great industrial concern new mines have sprung up. The latest example is that of Glace Bay, which has a population of anywhere from 12,000 to 16,000."

"The Sydney steel works is particularly busy. Between Sydney and the Soo enough of rails can be turned out to supply 4,000 miles of road each year. The quality seems to be excellent. The company is shipping rails to Vancouver by water for the Victoria, Vancouver and Eastern Railway. The Vancouver street railway has also purchased rails from Sydney. When this can be done there is no need for importing."

"Yesterday I was present at the ceremony of laying the corner stone of the new I. C. R. workshops at Moncton. The whole city took part in the demonstration."

Mr. Templeman will leave for the Pacific coast at the end of the week. He goes by way of Toronto.

DEATH OF PRIEST WHO WAS ORDAINED HERE

Rev. Cleophas Demers Formerly a Student at St. Joseph's, Memram- cook.

SOMERSWORTH, N. H., Aug. 13.—Rev. Cleophas Demers died before his performance of his duties as pastor of St. Martin's church. Fr. Demers was born at Lévis (Que.), Nov. 7, 1847. He was educated at St. Joseph's Seminary at Memramcook (N. B.), and was ordained a priest at St. John (N. B.), March 4, 1872, for the diocese of Portland.

He began his work as vicar of St. Anne's church, Manchester (N. H.). He was called by the Rt. Rev. Mgr. Healy, bishop of Portland, to Somersworth on Oct. 7, 1882.

For three years Fr. Demers has instituted an immense carnival, which was the chief social event among the French-Canadians far and wide.

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British Newspaper Thinks Canadian Authorities Have Big Contract— Edward Farrers Writes London Paper His Views on Canadian Polity.

MONTREAL, Aug. 14.—A special London cable says:—

Commenting on the Sabbath act of the Canadian parliament, the Newcastle Daily Chronicle says that for a new community, containing elements, which to say the least of it, are not particularly inclined towards religious observances, such an enactment seems a fairly tall order and that there should be some pretty problems presented the authorities when they come to enforce it.

In the course of a long letter to the Tribune on Canada and Protection, Edward Farrer states that if the naked question of Sunday law and free trade were left to the people of the northwest, the result would be overwhelming against protection, provided the government association was prevented from interfering to a bribery fund to be employed among the poorer class of settlers.

"I am sure," writes Mr. Farrer, "that British competition more than American would destroy any government which sought to treat the former as a colony of the latter."

Several delegates from Sunbury denied the mayor's statement, and the chairman had to be appealed to to restore order.

City Clerk McCready.

At the afternoon city session City Clerk McCready spoke in reply to a question asked by Mr. Hazen. He contended that if the board of health yielded to the demands of the people of Sunbury they should not only be liable for the cost of the sewage regulation apply to Woodstock and Edmundston and other towns on the river. They would also have to stop those engaged in the lumbering business from polluting the river. He quoted from the report of Prof. Mason to show that the water of the St. John river was unfit for domestic use at the present time above the city and it must be a great deal worse after receiving the street washings and part of the sewage of Fredericton. He believed it was the duty of the board of health to do the greatest good to the greatest number, by deciding in favor of the city. He held that conditions in Sunbury were similar to those in Fredericton and therefore there was no reason why the people could not procure water by boring wells.

Headmaster McKay stated that at the request of the mayor he visited Sunbury in March with the object of ascertaining how many people used river water. From his findings he had estimated that 24,000 water holes in the ice but as far as he could tell water for drinking purposes was taken from two of them. All of the others were used by cattle and were surrounded by much manure.

City Clerk McCready called attention to the statement of the Star Line Steamship Company's representative that river water was used on their boats. If that was true he said, it was about time the authorities put a stop to it as the water is unfit for drinking purposes.

Engineer Barbour.

Engineer Barbour was the next speaker on behalf of the city and was given an attentive hearing. He took the ground that the whole question was one of sentiment and should not be considered in any other light. The question to his mind was what standard the board of health was going to set for the purification of the river of the province. He thought the objections raised by Mr. Hazen were very far fetched, but could not be met sentimentally. It had been contended that the sewage should be emptied into septic tanks and purified. Septic tanks, he pointed out were nothing but scientific cesspools and their use would not obviate the difficulty complained of.

He admitted that plans for the purification of sewage were used in the United States, but only on small streams. The water in the St. John river, he contended was already impure and the additional amount of sewage from Fredericton would really make no difference. There is no known system which guarantees the entire elimination of bacteria from sewage. The system designed for Fredericton he contended was absolutely modern in every way, and the river was sufficiently large to dilute the sewage to the standard which it was necessary to maintain.

As the water is now unfit to drink he held it would be very illogical on the part of a commission to look into the whole question, but no action had been taken. City Clerk McCready said that the action of the city council in stopping the dumping of sewage into the river was a very wise one. He contended that if the board of health insisted on the city disposing of the sewage by means of septic tanks the council would abandon the waterworks.

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After Mr. Barbour had satisfactorily answered some questions by Dr. Peake, Mr. Hazen made a few observations and closed the discussion.

Chairman Holly promised that the board would carefully consider the whole question and announce their decision at a later date.

Under the terms of the act either side can appeal to the governor-in-council from the board's decision.

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MUNICIPAL UNION CURE FOR MONOPOLIES

Dominion Convention at Halifax a Unit for Self- Government

Passed Unanimous Resolution That Railways Should Pay the Cost of Maintaining Gates and Safeguards at Crossings— Mayor Sears' Paper on the Value of Tourist Associa- tions Makes a Hit.

HALIFAX, Aug. 14.—Halifax city hall is in full and happy possession of representatives of municipalities throughout Canada, and to show pleasure at this invasion the building has been gaily decorated with bunting, shields and electric lights. Over the entrance are the words in electric globes "Municipal home rule our motto."

The proceedings began with a cordial address of welcome from the mayor of Halifax. His worship said the awakening of a new municipal spirit is manifest and he trusted and believed that the deliberations in Halifax would make for what is best.

Mayor Simpson, of Winnipeg, in responding, said the delegates were delighted with the splendid reception already given them and he thought Halifax was one of the most beautiful cities he had ever seen. He had heard of many gateways to the west, but after seeing Halifax, with its splendid geographical location, he felt that surely it was in truth one real gateway to Canada.

Ex-Mayor Urquhart, of Toronto, president of the union, was not able to be present, and his address was read by W. D. Lighthall, M. A., ex-mayor of Westmount. His keynote was home rule for municipalities and the supreme rights of the governing bodies of the cities and towns within their own spheres. The control of public utilities was theirs and that right should be safeguarded.

In Union There's Strength.

Mayor Fleming, of Brandon, who was born in Sackville (N. B.), was the next speaker, his topic being The Benefits of the Canadian Union. He preferred rather to name his subject the advantages of municipal union. The work of the union, in protecting the rights of municipalities, had been marked and successful. But while a noble work has been done, a great deal remains and re-organization may be necessary. Mayor Fleming thought there should be a federation in the Canadian union of all the provincial unions, and that say thirty per cent of the subscriptions of the provincial unions should be paid into the federal union treasury, so that thus there should be no double subscriptions from some provinces.

Mayor Coatsworth, of Toronto, dwelt on the fact that in the fight with monopolies the municipalities should stand together. In the contest with the Bell Telephone Company during the last session of parliament, through Mr. Lighthall, the secretary, had done his best, the municipal union had proved to be only a rope of sand. Toronto and Montreal had been almost alone in the fight. Fortunately, said Mayor Coatsworth, the government saw that the Bell company had too much power, and they eliminated it. He may, he said, be one thing, cutting down its proposed capital from \$30,000,000 to \$20,000,000 and providing that in case of the first failure of a municipality to pay its rate should be referred to the railway committee of the private council for settlement.

Mayor Coatsworth strongly urged upon the delegates the need for a more vigorous effort in the union of the cities and towns, business principles, justify its existence and accomplish the objects for which it has been organized.

Not a "Rope of Sand."

Ex-Mayor Dyke, of Fort William, pointed out that much quiet work had been done by the municipalities. He did not think the union only a rope of sand, as stated by Mayor Coatsworth. He hoped the remark would not go so far and that Mayor Coatsworth's statement would not be used by the Bell Telephone Company and perhaps paid for as an advertisement in the newspapers.

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Mayor Sears was then called to the platform for an address on Value of a Tourist Association. The speaker began with appropriate reference to the growth of the tourist trade and the increasing tourist business. Speaking from a New Brunswick point of view, he said that the objects of a tourist association was to assist and inform tourists coming to the country and to educate the people as to the value of their country and to help develop its attractions for the visitor.

Mayor Sears proceeded in a most interesting and graphic way to tell of the manifold details of the work of the local tourist association, the order of the growth of improvement and progress as well as safeguard historic sentiment and its objects. The conclusion of the reading of the paper was greeted by applause, and it was ordered that the paper be printed with the proceedings.

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