

Report of Finance Committee.

Present: D. McNaughton, J. McCallum, J. M. Campbell, Jas. Fraser, D. A. McArthur, James Dickey, D. Cameron, A. Sweet, Geo. Kerr, T. Couihart, E. O'Callaghan, A. G. McArthur.

SALARIES.

Your Committee have had under consideration a letter from A. J. McDonald, one of the Auditors, asking for an increase of salary commensurate with the increase of labor. Would not recommend any departure from the course adopted at the January session.

ACCOUNTS.

We have passed accounts amounting to \$497.84 as per statement marked A, to be appended to By-Law, and would recommend the passing of a By-Law for their payment.

LIABILITIES.

The liabilities of the Counties, aside from local improvement obligation and Debentures for the public buildings, are—

Notes in Bank of Montreal \$15,000 00
Borrowed from C. T. Act fund 4,145 99

To meet this and the interest accruing thereon we have only the amount due from the sureties of past Treasurer \$10,215 50

Leaving a net liability of \$ 8,930 49
This, however, did not accrue from excess of ordinary expenditure over revenue. When the public buildings were commenced Debentures were issued for \$12,000. The actual cost, however, of the buildings and improvements On the Gaol and Court House was..\$20,733 93
On the lot west of Court House.... 1,654 49

In all \$22,388 42

As this should all have been charged to capital account and as there have been in recent years some other expenditures that may be regarded as exceptional, your Committee would recommend the issue of Debentures at 4 per cent. covering a period of twenty years, for \$12,000, to provide for that portion of our liabilities due to the causes above set forth.

RENEWAL OF NOTES.

At the time of the January session we had notes in the Bank of Montreal here on Counties account of \$15,000 and in Moisons' Bank, Morrisburgh, on Nation River drainage account of \$11,000, and in the Union Bank, Alexandria, an account of River Beaudette drainage of \$2,900, all bearing interest at six per cent. During the interval since that session the Treasurer, with the Chairman of the Finance Committee and the Chairmen of the respective Drainage Committees, succeeded in making an arrangement with the Bank of Montreal here to take the whole account at five per cent. Your Committee would recommend that By-Laws be passed confirming the arrangement and authorizing the renewal of the notes until the Debentures which it is proposed to issue can be realized on. It being understood that the Nation River drainage account will be closed within the year.

BORROWING MONEY.

As the balance in the hands of the Treasurer is reduced to \$630 and as something more will be required to meet current expenditure before we can realize from any assets, we would

recommend that the Treasurer and Warden be authorized to borrow from the Bank of Montreal here, not to exceed \$2,500, for that purpose.

We would also recommend that they be authorized to borrow at the same place \$1,500 to meet current expenditure on the River Beaudette drainage until the Debentures to be issued under the By-Law passed can be realized on.

Last year there was levied on the Village of Lancaster \$100.29. Of this \$76.50 should have come from the Township of Charlottenburg and \$32.79 from the Township of Lancaster, or in the proportion of 7 for the former and 3 for the latter. It now appears that the whole of this amount was paid in here by the Township of Lancaster. Would recommend that Charlottenburg pay this \$76.50 to Lancaster. Otherwise it will have to be collected by the Counties' Treasurer and paid by him to the last named Township.

REGISTRY OFFICES.

No adjustment of the Registry Office account has been made since 1878. A statement which is herewith submitted shows that from that time to the close of 1888 the following amounts have been drawn from the general county funds by the several offices, viz.:

Stormont \$1,331 97
Dundas 1,274 97
Glengarry 1,035 06

\$3,645 00

From a calculation based on the equalization of last year it appears that the several counties contributed to this fund in the following proportions:

Glengarry \$1,035 06
Dundas 1,092 39
Stormont 1,095 75

And that it will require to adjust the account so that each county shall pay in proportion to the sum received a levy

On the County of Dundas \$182 56
" " Stormont 239 22
" " Glengarry.....

Your Committee would therefore recommend that a By-Law be passed accordingly.

ESTIMATES.

During a period of about ten years a uniform levy of \$12.00 has been made for County purposes, while our revenue from criminal refund and other sources approaches \$3,000 a year. This has heretofore been found sufficient to meet ordinary expenditure, but recent increases, principally on account of education and administration of criminal justice, items over which the Council has very little control, have increased our outlay to a little over \$16,000, as shown by accompanying estimates, based on the expenditures of the last two years. As this results largely from the heavy dockets at recent courts, which may not form a precedent for the future, it is not deemed advisable to increase the levy this year further than the increase in the valuation. We therefore recommend that 75-100 of a mill on the dollar be levied for county purposes on the equalized assessment of \$16,180. This will give us \$12,135 10, which, with the licenses and refund, which is likely to be large this year, will give us a revenue for County purposes of nearly \$16,000.

The Committee desire further to say that in speaking of the C. T. Act fund as a liability, it