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THE HASTINGS COUNTY COUNCIL BREAKS WITH TIME-HONORED CUSTOM

This Years Warden Was Expected to be Libera But Conservatives Predominating, Elect Conservative W. H. Nugent, To That Office--Long Drawn Out Debate on Nominations.

The ancient custom, which Hastings County Council has followed for twenty-eight years, of distributing the wardenship to Liberals and Conservatives alternately in order maintain harmony in the Council, was discarded on Tuesday afternoon at the opening of the January session. On a straight political division, W. H. Nugent, Conservative, Reeve of Wollaston, was elected Warden, although last year's occupant of the chair was also a Conservative. The debate on the subject lasted an hour and a half.

When County Council opened, Mr. A. M. Chapman, county clerk, welcomed the representatives and called for nominations for the wardenship.

Two Nominations.

The Liberals whose turn it was to have the wardenship had selected J. G. Sills, deputy reeve of Thurlow, although it was felt that he would not be elected owing to the Conservatives having twenty members to ten Liberals. However, he was nominated by Mr. J. V. Walsh, seconded by Mr. N. Vermilyea.

The twenty Conservatives had after a strenuous caucus in which the aspirations of Mr. Thos Montgomery of Rawdon were cast down, selected W. H. Nugent of Wollaston to be their choice. He was nominated by Mr. Montgomery, seconded by Mr. Naylor.

The political lineup of the Council is as follows:—

Liberals.

N. Vermilyea, Thurlow.
J. G. Sills, Thurlow.
P. McLaren ,Tyendinaga.
J. V. Walsh, Tyendinaga.
J. H. Clare, Hungerford.
J. L. Newton, Hungerford.
U. E. Hubbell, Faraday.
J. A. Stewart, Carlow.
E. C. Tufts, Madoc Village.
G. E. Laycock, Marmora and Lake.

Conservatives.

C. H. Ketcheson, Sidney.
J. W. Hess, Sidney.
T. Montgomery, Rawdon.
E. W. Hawkins, Rawdon.
W. J. Jeffrey, Huntingdon.
S. Fox, Madoc Tp.
C. Thompson, Madoc Tp.
J. Moore, Elzevir.
J. A. Gunter, Tudor.
T. Turriff, Dungannon.
C. T. H. Jordison, Monteagle.
J. Green, Bangor et al.
F. White, Mayo.
Wollaston, W. H. Nugent.
E. J. Brinklow, Limerick.
R. P. Coulter, Stirling.
S. B .Rollins, Tweed.
R. P. Gray, Marmora Village.
T. Naylor, Deseronto.
T. Walker, Bancroft.

"I am afraid we are not making what is progress in this council today" said Mr. Vermilyea. The old Germanic spirit ruled in the old days, for some twenty years might was right. The Conservatives took the fruits. Then a change came and the Liberals appointed the warden for nine years.

But this dominant spirit was not progressive. In 1888, there were 23 Liberals and 14 Conservatives in the Council. He himself had moved that the warden be Liberal and Conservatice alternately.

"What the majority want to do is to kick the minority out, to make it impossible for them to hold a seat. Last year the Fihance Committee had five conservatives and only one liberal. All the chairmanships but one went to the conservatives.

"We may have to take the bitter dose, but we will take it in the bitterest spirit. Don't you think it won't be resented? You have got to show a generous spirit if you want harmony. But your are not showing it.

"I do like to see an appreciation of the acts of the past. I would like to see the truly British spirit prevail here.

"You break faith with the most generous conditions that ever prevailed in this county.

"There is a better spirit possible. I hope that the spirit that has prevailed during the past 25 years will be shown again."

A reply was made by Mr. Thos. Montgomery. The Conservatives were twenty to ten Liberals. A Conservative would have to be twice as long in the council under the old system as a liberal in order to be warden.

"I was an aspirant for warden, but I failed. I am always ready to show my colors when necessary. We are all bound more or less by our party affiliations. I felt it my bounden duty to nominate Mr. Nugent. I am perfectly satisfied to have the matter gone into by the whole council as a caucus."

"Cannot we now delay the appointment of warden until tomorrow morning and see if we have liberality enough to try and evolve some plan by which we shall have harmony?" asked Mr Vermilyea who thereupon moved that the council adjourn until ten o'clock on Wednesday morning so that the whole council might go into caucus on the matter.

"I do not know why this county council should divide on party lines," said ex-warden Charles H. Ketcheson. "I do not want to treat the minority with risrespect. But I cannot see the policy of dividing on party lines. I do not see why twenty men should give the wardenship every other year to the ten. It is impossible to conduct the council on the old party system. Appointments have been made for economy's sake, not to coerce the Reform party.

"I believe in awarding offices according to representation and merit."

"If he does not believe in the party spirit being introduced, then why did the reeve of Sidney go into the caucus of the twenty downstairs?" asked the reeve of Thurlow.

"If for twenty-five years the agreement succeeded, you should be slow to kick it over."

"We should consider this matter very carefully," declared James H. Clare, reeve of Hungerford. "We hope to do the county's business in a most harmonious manner. We can only do this by preserving the harmony and goodwill among the members of the council." He thought it unwise to upset a successful arrangement. "We should discard politics entirely and give each party the same privileges."

Mr. Clare referred to the equal rights principle as declared by the British in South Africa. What is the effect today? General Botha has won a great victory to the honor of Great Britain. We have competent men on both sides and I think the old arrangement will not lead us into any difficulty," said Mr. Clare seconding Mr. Vermilyea's motion.

Mr. McLaren expressed his hope for a joint caucus. It was the Conservatives' own proposition.

"We will be just as close to our verdict today as we will be tomorrow," stated Mr. Coulter. "There was a fair distribution last year. We claim the wardenship as a moral right as British fair play.

"If the reeve of Thurlow wants to fight, there are fighters here. We know the results tonight as well as tomorrow."

Mr. Coulter and Mr. Vermilyea went into details of the various committees.

"Why did not you come here and talk it over at one o'clock if you did not want the party spirit to prevail?" asked Mr. Vermilyea who went on—"You have to recognize the party spirit because it is here."

Mr. Vermilyea suggested a proposition of three Conservative wardens to two Liberals, the other party to have an important chairmanship, while the Conservatives dominate and vice versa.

"I do not promise to agree to old practises of 26 years ago," declared Mr. Rollins of Tweed. For 44 years Hastings wardens were 24 Liberals and 20 Conservatives.

"If next year the Liberals come back with 17 members we will submit."

"I do not see how with 20 to 10 we can alternate the wardenship," concluded Mr. Rollins.

Mr. Vermilyea's amendment lost, only six voting for it, four Liberals opposing it as they desired the decision not to be delayed beyond Tuesday evening.

Mr. J. G. Sills thought the Council should come to a fair understanding as to how the offices are to be meted out. He was not saying that the breaking of the agreement was wrong But a mutual understanding should be reached.

"We should settle upon some agreement" declared Mr. Rollins.

"We for ten years have had a majority—a substantial majority," said Mr. Gunter. "Wollaston has never had a warden."

"All here must realize that the result will be a political vote. Suppose we enter into a new agreement, both of us modifying our claims. How would it be if we agree to elect the warden according to representation."

"I think be are justified in taking the wardenship this year," said Mr. Montgomery.

Mr. John Green of Bangor, Wicklow and Mr. McClare supported Mr. Montgomery's attitude.

"We do not want an agreement," said ex-Warden Ketcheson, who accused Mr. Vermilyea of bringing politics into the council.

Mr. Vermilyea: "I defy any man to state that I ever cast a party vote. But just as soon as you propose harmony the reeve of Sidney does not want any agreement and he thinks there should be none."

The vote took a straight party line 19-9 in favor of Mr. Nugent.

Mr. Nugent the new warden appreciated the honor of warden of Hastings, one of the greatest counties. At that late hour he did not intend to make a speech. He welcomed the old and new members. He was sorry the debate should have caused any hard feeling and he was loath to take any position that would disturb the County Council's harmony. If he could do anything to heal the wounds, he would b epleased to do so. His honor urged the members to attend the sessions punctually as there was a great deal of business to be transacted, requiring close attention.

Dr. G. G. Clinton addressing the Council said that the secretaries of all the municipalities can have free of charge serum for all contagious diseases.

Every reeve is an officer of health.

The district officer referred to the saving of life by proper measures of prevention

O'Brien's Bridge.

"I think the committee has done everything possible in the O'Brien's Bridge matter," said Mr. Ketcheson of Sidney. The letters in the press have cast a cloud upon all the members of the council and it would be well i fthe complainants were invited to attend.

The County Clerk read a copy of the letters sent out by Mr. P. McLaren chairman of roads inviting the complainants to come.

It was said that some would appear before council Wednesday afternoon.

The New Warden of Hastings County

William H. Nugent, the new occupant of the warden's chair is a native of Coe Hill, Wollaston, where he was born on Christmas Day, 1871. Coe Hill he has made his home all his life except for some six years spent in the United States. He has had ample training in the mysteries of municipal life, having been for thoirteen years the trusted township clerk of Wollaston He is now entering upon his sixth term in the county council as reeve of his native municipality. He is in religion an Anglican and in politics a conservative. He is a member of the Masonic order and an Orangeman.

He is married and has a son, Lieut W. T. Nugent, who has been accepted for overseas service

Mr. Nugent enjoys the confidence of every member of the council. Affable, generous, gifted with tact, and experienced in council procedure, he will fill the warden's chair with dignity, with honor to himself and his fellow representatives, and with success.

OBITUARY

Edward Welsh

Edward Welsh, aged 86 years passed away of pneumonia last evening in Sidney township just west of the city limits. He had been leading a retired life for the past few years. He was a native of Ireland. In religion he was a Roman Catholic.

Uncle Peter's Dream OR Another Deputation

The following poem was written some years ago during the premiership of Hon. G. W. Ross by Mr. A. M. Smith of St. Catharines. Both author and premier have since passed away, but the verses remain and are exceedingly appropriate to the present time. Mr. Smith was the father of Mrs. W. C. Dempsey, Albert St., whohas kindly loaned us a copy of the poem for publication.

Strange things we sometimes see in dreams
I'll tell you mine, so real it seems.

I dreamed that I was Premier
And saw the mighty throng
That came to plead for whiskey
The great "One Thousand Strong."
I listened to their speeches, their plea
for vested right.
Their tales of British Fair Play
I listened with delight.
They told me of the revenue
Their trade was bringing in
To deprive the country of it
They said would be a sin.
They claimed their trade was needful
It was sanctioned by the laws
And those who fought against it
Had not a righteous cause.
They claimed that the petitions
That had poured in of late
Were not from men of business
Were not from men of state
But just from church and preachers
From men who did not know
What was needed in the business
Of this busy world below.
Did not know that corks and barrels
Kept politics afloat,
Or what they represented
Ever helped to make a vote.
I listened to their arguments,
Through all their wisdom shone,
They asked no "new concessions"
Simply to be let alone.

I dismissed them from my presence
With the customary courtesy,
What "your case and the country's"
As I have to go always
I told my clerk to make an entry
Of the business of the day,
Resolving in my own mind
Proceedings I would stay.
He turned to me abruptly
And said you'd better wait
There's another deputation
Awaiting at the gate.
I looked without the window
And there to my surprise
Were thousands of anxious faces
Looking up into my eyes.
And Oh! Such looks of agony,
Such pleading looks of pain,
Expectancy and anguish,
I hope ne'er see again.
They were not men in broadcloth,
And fur-lined garments clad,
Sparkling gold chains and diamonds
As those who left me had.
They'd been stripped of these by
others,
Perhaps you all know who,
Of home, of health and happiness,
Stripped of their manhood too.
There were not only men but women
And helpless children too
With scanty wraps and clothing,
The cold winds blowing through.
Want stamped on everp feature,
Disease and crime and sin,
E'en some in prison garb appeared—
Should I dare let them in,
And still they kept on coming,
As far as eye could see,
This wave of poor humanity,
Was settling in on me.
I gazed in fear and trembling,
I began now to suspect
It was the boasted deputation
That "Parliament would wreck."
With hands stretched out imploring,
They cried "Oh! Can't you stay
This tide that sweeps us onward
Down, down from day to day?
Oh! Stop this licensed evil,
That is sweeping through the land
Destroying homes and happiness
And peace on every hand."
I turned in horror at the sight,
Enquiring in whose name
From whom and whence, and by what
right
This deputation came.
They came from every quarter
A voice said by my side,
From east and west from north and
south
Of this great Province wide,
They come from your asylums
Poor houses and prison cells.
From the dives and slums of cities
Where licensed ruin dwells.
Come in the name of humanity,
Of righteousness of God.
And ask you to redeem the land
Where ruin long has trod.
They come by the rights of freemen
Of British subjects true,
And ask for "British fair play"
For British justice too.
They want no referendum,
But prohibition straight,
They want you to redeem your pledge,
No longer halt and wait
They are backed by all good citizens,
Both men and women too,
Who anxiously are waiting
To see what you will do
With this monstrous deputation,
A thousand thousand strong,
These victims of a traffic
That you have licensed long.
I turned to see from whence the voice
That thus to me had spoke,
But every one had vanished,
And I thought as I awoke—
If this is a dream, it's real,
Only I am not Premier,
But if he could see as I have seen,
I would have no further fear.
He would rise above his party,
Stand firm in truth and right,
Go forth and do his duty,
Though he perished in the fight

Highly Successful Entertainment

The Ladies' Aid of the Tabernacle Church are to be congratulated on the splendid success of the unique entertainment given by them on Tuesday evening. The lecture room of the church was crowded to utmost capacity by an attentive and appreciative audience. Every feature of the program was an excellent taste, full of interest and exceptionally well rendered.

The subject of the evening — "The Minister's Bride" a character sketch in five scenes, representing old-time costumes, conversations, solos, choruses and readings afforded the finest scope for the exercise of the splendid variety of talent displayed by the artists engaged. The subject matter combined with much original wit and humor with more ripe wisdom and com non-sense and was throughout most wholesome and uplifting in moral tone and suggestion

"The Minister" was ably personated by Mr. W. D. Reid, with an ease and freedom of manner and delivery, that gave distinction to himself and delight to his audience, while Mrs. Singer so graced the position of the "Minister's Bride" that she quite won the hearts of all including even "most" of the members of her husband's congregation.

Mrs. F. Nicholson as "Mrs. Charity", Mrs. J. O. B. McCurdy as "Mrs. Ann Shore" and Mrs. G. W. Hunt as "Mrs. Jane Grab" were the very embodiment of the characters they represented, while Mr. Alf Burke as "Joe Crab, the hen-pecked husband" won the sympathy of all. Mrs. A. Cole in the character of "Mrs Better iDays" and Mrs. E. Fenn as "Mrs. See-good" poured oil on the troubled waters by casting a mantle of charity over all faults and failings

Miss Verna Coleman in the role of Miranda Meek and Mr. Percy Mastin as Jim Curtis figured prominently in a humorous parsonage wedding. "Molly Charity" and "Amos Wright" were cleverly impersonated in a case of match-making by Mrs. H. Moorman and Mr. A. W. Rowland.

Mrs. Duff as "Janet Heather," excelled herself in her Highland costume and her Scotch song "Angus McDonald" This being leap-year the idea was aptly and appropriately presented by Mrs. Burton Aselstine as "Jerusha Hopkins" in her leap-year reading

Miss Ruth Snell as "Miss Jones" the modest young woman and Mr. E. A. Ridley as "Ephraim Snellgrove," the bashful young man afforded a rich vein of humor for all.

Mr. Harry Moorman, in the role of "Robert Spence' the fast young man of the city under the kindly Christian counsel of the minister and the timely song by the minister's wife suddenly turned into a young man of right ideals and splendid promise

Miss Helen Moore as "Maid" played her part nobly in her quaint costume and meek and responsive manner, while Miss Florence Davis, as "Sarah Ann Smith" graced the position of accompanist of the evening and added much to the finish of the program by her choice selections of music.

The singing of the National Anthem closed a highly socially and a very pleasant and profitable evening

Meeting of Canadian Clubs

All members of the Women's Canadian Club and the Men's Canadian Club are invited to hear Venerable Archdeacon Cody, Thursday evening, 27th inst., at eight o'clock, in the High School, on the subject, "Is Our Empire Worth Fighting For"? j26-2t

Is Wanted in Chicago

Detective Knox of Chicago is in the city today to take back to the Windy City Abe Frank, known as "Silver", who is under indictment in a Chicago court on a charge of theft

Abe Frank is one of the three men arrested as German suspects eleven days ago, on whom nearly $2,000 was found.

Mrs. Leroy Vinton, of San Diego, Cal., who has been spending a few weeks visiting relatives at Ivanhoe, was in the city today en route to Syracuse, N.Y., where she will spend some time at the home of her brother, Mr. Hugh Rollins

AUSTRIAN'S APPROACH DURAZZO, GERMANS WANT PEACE

DOMINION LINER NORSEMAN BEACHED.

LONDON, Jan. 26.—It is learned that the Dominion liner Norseman was not sunk as reported but was beached. There were no casualties.

GREAT BATTLE AT DURAZZO.

ROME, Jan. 16.—The Austrian forces following the occupation of San Giovanni de Media are pressing southward toward Durazzo and hope to effect a junction with the Bulgarians at Elbassan.

A battle is expected with the Italian forces who hold Durazzo.

GREEK NEUTRAL LEADER LIKELY TO TAKE CONTROL.

ATHENS, Jan. 26.—There is a crisis in the Greek cabinet. M. Goumaris, head of the neutrality party, will likely succeed M. Skouloudis as premier.

SERBIANS REJECT ALL AUSTRIAN PROPOSALS.

CORFU, Jan. 16.——The Serbian premier who is here declares that the part of the Serb forces still in Albania will continue the fight against Austria. No peace proposals have been considered.

AUSTRIANS OCCUPY ALBANIAN SEAPORT.

LONDON, A Rome despatch says the Austrians have occupied San Giovanni di Meria a seaport in Albania 17 miles south of Scutari.

W. J. BRYAN WILL GO TO STOCKHOLM.

LONDON, Jan. 26.—A Reuter despatch from Stockholm says that William J. Bryan in accepting membership on the Ford permanent peace committee in timated that he was preparing to leave the United States for Stockholm.

RUBBER EXPORTS PROHIBITED FROM HOLLAND.

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 26.—A royal decree has been issued prohibiting the export from Hollan dof rubber and gutta percha and articles manufactured therefrom.

GERMANS WANT SEPARATE PEACE WITH SERBIA.

LONDON, Jan. 26.—Germany is continuing her efforts to conclude a separate peace with Serbia, according to the Athens Daily Mail correspondent.

HOSPITAL BURNED NEAR BOULOGNE.

PARIS ,Jan. 26.—The Grand Hotel at Wimereux near Boulogne which was occupied as a hospital by sixty wounded British soldiers has been destroyed by fire. The wounded were safely rescued.

JAPANESE PRESS CLAIMS ON CHINA.

LONDON, Jan. 26.—The Manchester Guardian says the Japanese government delivered to the Chinese minister at Tokio for transmission to the government a note embodying seven demands which were included in the Japanese programme of the spring and which owing to pressure by Britain were afterwards withdrawn.

MYSTERIOUS DEATH AT MONTREAL.

MONTREAL, Jan. 26.—Jeanne Dorten, aged 24, was found dead last night on the sidewalk under the third storey balcony of the flat on St. Dominion Street where she had lived with Phillip Lacerte. Lacerte is under arrest.

Military Notes

Charles Hall, Belleville, went to Kingston this morning to join the 33rd Battery C.F.A.

Eleven recruits have turned up as a result of the 155th Battalion recruiting meeting in Trenton on Sunday night

Lieut. P. H. Wills reports 15 recruits at Marlbank. Lieut. Cole of Deseronto leaves today to take charge if these recruits

Thirty enlistments appear in today's orders of the 155th Battalion This is a record for the Bay of Quinte unit.

The 155th Battalion expects the band will next week begin practices, as musicians will then be on duty

Col. Adams and staff found on his tour of inspection the following recruits—33 at Tweed; 57 at Madoc; 43 at Marmora and 15 at Stirling. Stirling recruiting has been going on for one week

The school for the 155th N.C.O.'s started this morning in the High School gymnasium with 39 in attendance. Several more will enter in a day or so

Col. Adams, Major Allen and staff have gone to Picton today

Three C.N.O.R. tickets were found beneath the iron of a cell of the police station today

In police court today a man named Coley was remanded t jal fr a week on a charge of theft of a robe

HALLOWAY.

At the present time the sleighing here is very scarce and men are obliged to take the wheels.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Kelly returned home one day last week after a visit with friends in Madoc.

La grippe has made its appearance in this neighborhood

Mr. and Mrs. Hartswood from the Northwest are visiting the latter's mother, Mrs. R. McMullen and other friends

Miss Sara Kelly who has been visiting relatives in this section returned to her home at Tweed on Monday

Miss May Broad of Prince Edward County is visiting her friend, Miss Bessie Spencer

Revs. Smith and Kerr of Belleville addressed the citizens here last Thursday on Prohibition.

Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Denyes entertained a few of their friends last Sunday evening

Mr. and Mrs. George Smith have returned to the Northwest after a month's visit with the former's parents here.

Rifle Rhooting

The last practise before the monthly spoon competition, which will be held on Friday evening next, took place last night at the armouries. Some wonderfully good shooting was done and the remarkable average of nearly 95 was reached. Highest possible score 100

C. J. Symons 97
J. Douch 97
C. C. Walker 97
A. Harman 97
W. J. Andrews 96
J. S. Peck 95
A. R. Symons 94
E. V. Brown 94
H. Day 94
G. D. Gratton 93
M. Wright 90