

JOINT BUILDING EXCITES HUMOR CITY HALL LAUGHS AT THE IDEA

It Is Taken for Granted That the County Is Only Seeking to Placate the Presiding Judge at Each Assize Court—Some Facts of the City and County Buildings.

A new joint city and county building is again to the fore, and the city council will in a short time deal with the question.

The suggestion was the outcome of a conference between the board of works and the county council yesterday, but there is a disposition at the city hall to treat the suggestion with levity.

It is taken as a means of delaying the repairs to the court house and jail for a considerable period—perhaps many years.

The suggestion does not mean a six months' hold exactly, but it is taken to mean that the wrath of the presiding judge at each assize court will be mollified when he is informed that the city and county are negotiating for the erection of newer and better equipped buildings.

ABOUT THE COURT HOUSE.

The present court house is valued at \$88,000, of which \$28,000 is for the land.

It is owned by the county of Middlesex, but the city pays a rental each year. This rental is based on certain percentages, of the cost of maintenance, etc.

Last year the city expended nearly \$11,000 on the court house and the jail.

This included sheriff's fees, witness fees, maintenance of prisoners, etc.

In other words, nearly one-half mill on the tax rates was devoted to that purpose.

There is a growing sentiment in the city, and particularly among the aldermen, that the city should erect its own buildings, and maintain a suitable court house and jail.

SELL THE CITY HALL.

One suggestion is that the city should dispose of the present city hall and police court, and erect a building on a corner of the park, opposite Kent street, to provide suitable room for the clerks and staff of the building, and the result would be that the city could practically finance such an edifice out of the receipts from the present city hall and the police court building.

Provision could be made in this building for holding courts, care of prisoners, etc., and the one system of heating, ventilating, etc., could be utilized.

There is a great need of more office room at the city hall, and this building would solve the problem.

At the present time it will be necessary, in all probability before the year is out, to provide suitable room for the clerks and staff of the Niagara power plant and other engineers, etc.

"It is a big problem and will have present city hall and the police court."

"The suggestion of a joint building seems indefinite, and is, perhaps, a desire to put the subject over for the time being."

DOG OWNERS SHOW FIGHT PHYSICIAN WILL APPEAL NO EXCUSE LISTENED TO

Dr. H. A. Stevenson Shows That Muzzle Was Stolen From His Setter, But Acting Magistrate Beattie Simply Applied the Fine—Other Citizens Were Very Angry.

There were a couple of lively discussions at the police court this morning when citizens charged with allowing their dogs to be at large without muzzles, were fined \$2.

Dr. H. A. Stevenson, after being fined, gave notice that he would appeal the case.

It was shown that his dog was at large on Sunday morning without any muzzle, and he was charged with permitting it to be so.

"I did not permit it," he said. "The dog was muzzled when I let him out. I took particular pains to see to the matter myself. He came back without a muzzle on, but that is not my fault. I have had three muzzles stolen and have taken every precaution to keep the dog muzzled. I do not think it is fair to blame me."

Sergeant Lucas and P. C. McCrae found the dog out without a muzzle, and laid the information.

Another Case.

Mr. W. G. Coles, of Wolfe street, also talked plainly to the court. P. C. Fysh had found his dog out recently and laid an information. Mr. Coles said someone had told the officer that his dog was out.

Mr. Coles admitted that a complaint had been made, but stated that he had also seen the dog run out at a grocery man.

"Are you sure you have that marked paid," asked Mr. Coles as he handed over the money.

Mr. Coles said someone had left a street, said someone had left a gate open and his dog got out.

"Two dollars," said the court, and Mr. Coles handed Mr. Mowle a check for \$2.

Messrs. William Butler, S. W. Mower, William Holman, Mrs. Rogers and Mr. John H. Phillips each paid \$2 for allowing their dogs out without muzzles.

LOCAL BRICKLAYERS MAY ASK FOR AN INCREASE IN WAGES

Letter Has Been Sent Out Asking the Employers to Meet the Men and Arrange for a New Agreement for Five Years—Carpenters Appear Satisfied.

The bricklayers of the city have sent out a notice to the contractors, asking for a meeting with their representatives, in order that a three-year agreement may be arrived at in regard to a scale of wages.

Although nothing is specified, it is understood that an increase in wages will be asked for.

At the present time bricklayers are receiving the union standard of 45 cents an hour for an eight-hour day.

It is not known when the meeting that the bricklayers have asked for will be held or whether it will be held at all, as several of the builders seem to think that a meeting is unnecessary, and that the present scale of wages is quite high enough, considering trade conditions.

HARE! HARE! HOW ABOUT THIS? COTTON-TAIL AGAIN IN THE AIR

When Is a Rabbit Not a Rabbit? Or, When Is a Hare a Cotton-tail? These Are Questions Which Are Bothering Judge Elliott of the County Court.

Judge Elliott is now face to face with the supreme question of his life: Is a cotton-tail a hare or a rabbit? The question after being thoroughly threshed out in the police court some time ago, bobbed up again serenely in the first division court this morning.

The lawyers in the case were well primed. Not for nothing have they been digging down into "Wild Animals I Have Known" and similar imaginative literature in working up the pro and con of the case in which Mr. Samuel Turner, a game inspector, is bringing an action against Mr. F. S. Onn for selling the aforesaid cotton-tail hare or rabbit.

The police magistrate some time ago decided that a cotton-tail was a hare.

Mr. Onn and other nature specialists hold a contrary opinion, and as a result the decision has been appealed.

The Appeal.

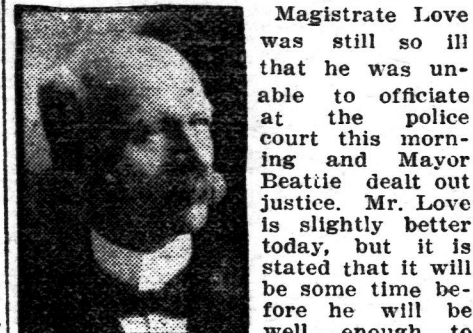
Mr. W. R. Meredith, for Mr. Onn, urged that a hare doesn't burrow in the ground, according to authorities, but lives in stumps and similar favorable locations.

The judge made a note of the fact. Also, it seems a simple mathematical calculation, dealing with the relative number of toes of the cotton-tail and hare shows certain marked differences.

The cotton-tail, too, it was urged, is born with its eyes open and with a coat of glassy hair. The species hare Continued on Page Eleven.

MANY FRIENDS ASK FOR POLICE MAGISTRATE

Mr. Frances Love is Reported Today to Be Somewhat Improved.



Magistrate Love was still so ill that he was unable to officiate at the police court this morning, and Mayor Beattie dealt out justice. Mr. Love is slightly better today, but it is stated that he will be some time before he will be well enough to be out again.

CHICKEN RUN ON THE BRUCE

Hebrews Had Biped in a Bag When Traveller Liberated Fowl.

CHANTICLEER ESCAPED

Foot Race Up and Down the Aisle Until Finally the Train Crew Settled the Row.

Three Hebrews, who were journeying to the city last night on a Huron and Bruce train, had a little adventure which cost them more than they expected.

The three got on the train at a northern town, and each carried a bag, which from sundry sounds that were heard contained chickens. The men put the bags under the seats.

Then the trouble began. A commercial traveller, bent on mischief, took out his knife, and reaching down, cut a hole in the bag. Out popped the head of a fine rooster. The knife was again brought into play, and the slit enlarged.

A moment later the fowl was out in the aisle, running about, and a few seconds later another chicken was also loose from the same bag.

A Chicken Run.

The Hebrews "got wise," and then followed a chase that convulsed those who were in the car. Excited chickens flew squawking in all directions, chased by Hebrews, who were even more excited. It was nearly ten minutes before the chickens were all captured.

The Hebrews accused the traveller of liberating the birds.

The traveller called the brakeman and said he wanted paying 10 cents for a chicken car, and demanded that the bipeds be removed.

Express Charges.

The brakeman decided that the traveller was right, and took the chickens to the express car. There were three bags, and when the Hebrews went to get them at London they were informed that they would have to pay 35 cents for each bag. They expostulated in vain, and finally they paid over the \$1.05, and left.

COBALT LAKE COMPANY CAN REDUCE CAPITAL

Private Bills Committee Gives Permission Under Certain Conditions.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Toronto, Ont. March 11.—By a vote of 13 to 11 the private bills committee of the Legislature today gave the Cobalt Lake Mining Company power to reduce its capital stock from \$5,000,000 to \$3,500,000, and to buy back its own shares, on condition that the shares be purchased only on the open market, and after two-thirds of the shareholders had voted in favor of the proposal.

There was a lengthy discussion over the proposition.

Mr. A. E. Fripp (Ottawa) said the company could "bear" the market, and the price of the stock would go up so far that the shareholders would be forced to sell. It was on the chairman's suggestion that the three-fifths clause was inserted.

Mr. McGregor Young, who appeared in support of the bill, said the company would be able to pay dividends if the proposal carried.

THE WEATHER

TOMORROW—RAIN OR SNOW.

TORONTO, March 11.—8 a.m.

Fair today; light falls or rain or snow tonight and for the first part of Saturday.

TEMPERATURES.

Stations. 8 a.m. Min. Low. High.

London..... 55 38 49 54

Victoria..... 54 38 46 54

Calgary..... 58 38 46 54

Winnipeg..... 40 26 34 40

Port Arthur..... 34 28 34 40

Perry Sound..... 28 20 28 34

Toronto..... 34 20 28 34

Ottawa..... 32 16 22 32

Montreal..... 32 16 22 32

Quebec..... 32 16 22 32

Father Point..... 24 0 3 12

Dawson City..... 12 0 12 12

Atlin..... 40 20 40 40

Vancouver..... 40 20 40 40

Kamloops..... 40 20 40 40

Edmonton..... 40 20 40 40

Battleford..... 40 20 40 40

Prince Albert..... 40 20 40 40

Moos Jaw..... 40 20 40 40

Qu'Appelle..... 40 20 40 40

St. John..... 40 20 40 40

Halifax..... 40 20 40 40

Minus (-) means below zero.

WEATHER NOTES.

Depressions exist in the Upper Missouri Valley and in the Western Provinces, and pressure is high from the lake region to the Atlantic.

Local rain or snow have occurred in Manitoba. Elsewhere the weather has been fine.

LOCAL MEN TO CONTRIBUTE FOR PHILADELPHIA STRIKE

If Appeal Comes From Federation of Labor It Will Not Likely Be Denied—London Men in Past Have Put Up Money To Assist in Battle Against Steel Kings.

A dispatch from Toronto states that Toronto trades unions will be asked to contribute financially to the Philadelphia strike, and will also be asked for an opinion of a general sympathetic strike of employees throughout Canada and the United States, which would involve 3,500,000 men.

President Archer of the London Trades and Labor Council stated to the Advertiser that as yet no official communication had been received regarding the matter.

If such an appeal comes it would come from the American Federation of Labor, and London members of the unions may contribute toward the strike fund.

No General Strike.

Mr. Archer pointed out that London unionists have in the past contributed toward the strike fund in the fight against the steel magnates.

"Regarding a general strike involving union men throughout the country, I think such a course improbable," he stated. "It might, of course, possibly happen, but I do not think it will."

The board will likely cut off a portion of the charge for meters.

At the present time the board are not all in favor of the water-saving devices, and there is no doubt that this year will witness the installation of few meters in dwelling houses.

It may be possible that the surplus may reach \$70,000, or perhaps more, giving the council a fine lift towards their tax rate.

In actual money, the surplus will be over \$38,000. The remainder is made up of water charges, which are not collected from the council.

WATER SURPLUS OF ABOUT \$38,000 \$5,000 BETTER THAN LAST YEAR

Water Commissioners Are Not All in Favor of Meters and It Is Not Likely That Many Will Be Installed This Year—Two Items in Estimates of Interest.

The estimates of the waterworks board will be considered at a meeting tomorrow afternoon, and will then be submitted to the council.

It has been learned unofficially that the surplus for the year is estimated at \$44,000. This is an increase of about \$5,000 over what was received last year.

Two items of expenditure will attract considerable attention.

One is for \$10,000 for main extension and the other is \$10,000 for meters and hydrants.

The main extension will not be undertaken until such a time as a complete report on the requirements of the city in the way of new meters is prepared.

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ASK BUSINESSMEN TO PAY FOR UNDERGROUND WIRE SYSTEM

City May Do This in Order to Improve the Appearance of Main Thoroughfares by Doing Away With Niagara Power Poles—The Scheme in Detail.

The businessmen of the downtown districts will be asked to pay for part of the Niagara power underground system, if the plans of the water commissioners are carried out.

Some time ago the commissioners thought it would be an easy matter to string the wires in the downtown districts at the rear of stores and across private property.

This scheme was gone into, and it was found that there were so many disadvantages that it had to be abandoned, and will in no case be considered.

It then developed that there were only two plans—overhead wires and underground.

Iron Poles Dangerous.

The poles would have to be of timber, as iron poles—ornamental ones were suggested—are extremely dangerous to string wires on, and would be a positive menace to the employees of the city.

This poles system would be expensive, and the difference between an overhead and an underground system would not be so great, especially in view of the fact that new pavements will have to be laid on Dundas and Richmond streets. In any case, the flags would have to be taken up in a short time and new walks laid.

The commissioners are of the opinion that the property owners downtown could well afford to pay the difference in the cost.

Cost of Poles.

The city would contribute the cost of poles towards the project, and the difference could be obtained from the property owners by the same method as the frontage tax for local improvements.

The payments could be spread over a period of 10 or 15 years, and the annual charges would be a mere bagatelle.

"I think the advantage of the scheme would appeal to the businessman," said one of the commissioners to The Advertiser. "He would be saved the unsightly poles. A better and more efficient system of lighting the streets could be utilized. The danger to his property in case of fire would be reduced considerably. High tension wires are extremely dangerous to the firemen, and would prevent them from doing their very best work."

Difference in Cost.

"I am convinced that the difference in cost would not amount to more than one dollar or perhaps \$2 per annum to the property owner."

A canvass of the owners of property on the street will be made very shortly. Some of the businessmen have been approached on the subject, and they declare that they would be willing to bear that portion of the expense in order to assist in beautifying the city.

The idea will be to do away with the "company" poles, and will mean that the city will have a considerable amount of power disposed of.

Both lines need more power. The London street railway are in great need of power, as it was quite impossible to operate their lines of late, owing to the lack of sufficient power.

It is expected that the report on the price of power to these companies will be received very shortly.

As a result, it is said that the hydro-electric commission are preparing a new scheme, and that will be submitted to the companies at an early date.

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