

Opinion Divided On Taking Over Plank Road

No Definite Action on The Proposal by The Lambton County

Discussion of the proposal to take over the Sarnia-Florence (Plank) road, now privately owned and have it designated as a county provincial road, first broached at the December session of the 1924 Lambton county council, took up a goodly portion of the time of the 1925 council at Wednesday afternoon's session. The debate revealed a division of opinion on the project but did not result in any definite action.

The subject was first mentioned under the inquiries order of business when reeve Ed. Armitage of Sombra asked if the committee named to go into the matter in December was ready to report. Reeve Sproule of Oil Springs said that ex-warden Leslie Harkness had attended a meeting and would make a report to the council.

Talk Business.
Mr. Harkness subsequently arrived and advised the council that he had received an eleventh hour notice of a meeting of the Sarnia and Florence Road Company and he attended after trying unsuccessfully to get one of the other members of the committee. He had expressed the views of the county council, to the meeting, concerning the advisability of getting rid of the toll gates, and after a discussion he was advised to report back that if the county council was prepared to go before the company directors with a concrete proposition and to give a definite plan of what it was proposed to do and a guarantee that the provincial department would approve of the scheme, then the company would be prepared to talk business.

The ensuing debate disclosed that the reeve and deputy reeve of Moore held opposite views on the proposal. Reeve Miller said he would like to see the road taken over and the toll gates abolished. They were the only two now in existence in the province. He believed that the people of Moore would back him up and agree to take it over if they had the assurance that the county would in turn assume the road.

Opposition
Deputy reeve William Edwards declared that he was opposed to the road being taken over. In his opinion the county should not take over any more roads until other roads were put in good passable condition.

Reeve Alfred Hillier of Sarnia township said he had talked with the ratepayers in his municipality and had yet to hear one complaint over the little toll paid on the road. Before any action was taken assurance was wanted that the road would be kept in as good condition as it was under private ownership. If the county and the province would guarantee to take it over after then Sarnia township would be willing to go into it, he believed.

Speaking for the second time Reeve Miller of Moore said that if the road was taken over merely as a county road there would be a subsidy on it and the portion near the city would probably be taken over in the suburban area. It would not be a burden to the county if the government got behind it.

The discussion then petered out and the council went on with other business.

Committees.
The striking committee reported the selection of the following standing committees for the year:

Roads and bridges, Thomas Burnley, chairman, and the Reeves of all municipalities.

Public buildings: John Barron, chairman, R. F. Rilet, James Kerr, James Currie, J. B. Scott, A. G. Gammon, A. Hillier, James Huey.

Finance: J. T. Sproule, chairman, A. Loosmore, W. Edwards, T. Burnley, E. Armitage, M. Spearman, W. G. Connolly, Alex Wark.

Printing: B. Muma, chairman, R. F. Rilet, D. F. McIntyre, James Kerr, James Currie, A. E. Shauressy, W. H. Barrett, Charles Howson.

Educational: M. Spearman, chairman, F. Eastman, A. Loosmore, J. Barron, R. Hair, J. B. Scott, A. J. Gammon.

Equalization: W. W. Miller, chairman, D. F. McIntyre, J. H. Johnston, J. McDonald, M. McVicar, W. Edwards, W. H. Barrett, James Huey.

Legislative, R. Hair, chairman, J. H. Johnston, M. McVicar, A. E. Shauressy, Charles Howson, E. Armitage, Alex Wark.

House of Refuge: F. Eastman, chairman; J. McDonald, chairman; A. Hillier, B. Muma, High School settlement board, W. G. Con-

nolly, chairman, W. W. Miller. The striking committee was made up of John Barron, chairman, F. Eastman, T. Burnley, A. Loosmore, A. Hillier, J. McDonald and M. Spearman.

Report of Agriculture.
W. P. McDonald, district agricultural representative at Petrolia, presented his annual report, detailing the work of his department during the year. The report urged co-operation in the fight against the corn borer and recommended the re-organization of the county public utility association.

Estreated bail to the amount of \$250 was divided equally between the county and the village of Point Edward on motion passed by the council. This bail accepted for a Detroit man accused of picking pockets at the West Lambton fair who jumped his bond. Point Edward laid claim to the money on the basis that the offence occurred within the limits of that municipality and that the constable employed by the village aided in the apprehension of the man. Reeve Barrett cited his claim before the action was taken.

The council board heard a few words from W. A. Graham, warden of the county in 1905. Mr. Graham suggested that the warden be allowed to take home his chair at the end of each term as a souvenir.

Report Finances Lambton County Are Satisfactory

Balance on Hand of Over \$12,000
Road Expenditures Total \$173,956.91

The major portion of Thursday afternoon's sitting of the Lambton county council was given over to the receipts of reports of county officers including county treasurer, John E. Leckie, high county constable R. J. Whiting and county road superintendent, John McCallum.

The report of the treasurer indicated that the finances of the county were in a favorable condition. In the period from November 30, 1924 to January 26, 1925, the total receipts were \$304,810.91 while the expenditures during the same period amounted to \$292,293.55 leaving a balance as at January 26 of \$12,517.36.

Another phase of the report worthy of note was that only the sum of \$17,750.34 was outstanding in county rates, said by the treasurer, to be a much smaller sum than was outstanding last year.

The expenditures on the county road system during the year 1924 totalled \$173,956.91. An account of \$22,500 for the county's share of the Sarnia collegiate and technical school was still unpaid. Mr. Leckie told the council that he added that the amount was very much excess of what had been anticipated.

Road Maintenance.
John McCallum, county road superintendent, traced the county road system on a map suspended on the front wall of the council chamber for the benefit of the new members before going into the details of his report. Subsequently he reported separately on the outlays on the various roads, the cost of materials, the maintenance costs of the trucks and work performed with them, and other phases of work on the system.

In passing he paid a tribute to the various towns and villages of the county for the co-operation given, making particular reference to the work done in the village of Point Edward.

In going over the bridge work Mr. McCallum referred to the Pinery bridge. Great difficulties had been experienced there in the effort to get a firm foundation for the abutments and although the work was not yet completed the cost to date had been about \$15,524.25.

Delegations.
Thomas Grace, vice-president, and John Wilkinson, superintendent of the Children's aid society, solicited financial aid for the society after citing some of its accomplishments and pointing out that there were 86 wards of the society from the county and 56 from the city of Sarnia. Their request was referred to the finance committee.

Representatives of the Luncheon club, George H. Gabler, president, and A. R. Calcott, vice-president, requested financial assistance to help pay the costs of an operation on a crippled boy living at Mooretown. Their request was likewise handed over to the finance committee for consideration.

A. Weir K. C., county solicitor, gave a brief talk during the afternoon, referring in particular to litigation in which the county had been concerned and remarking on the fact that the county was not very frequently involved in suits.

Annual Grants to County Hospitals Debated by Council

Sarnia General Hospital is Given \$800 Instead of the \$1,000 Asked For by The Commission and Petrolia Institution Gets \$1350—Amendments Offered Suffer Defeat, Various By-Laws Adopted and Report on Road Expenditure is Received.

The Lambton county council divided in committee of the whole on bylaws Friday afternoon on the question of the amount of the annual grants to Charlotte Eleanor Englehart hospital at Petrolia and the general hospital, Sarnia. In both instances it was the amendments that were defeated. It was in fact, a bad afternoon for amendments. All that were offered were voted down.

The first division came when the bylaw to grant aid to the Petrolia hospital was read in committee. A motion offered that the grant be \$1350, the same as last year. Petrolia's representative, reeve A. E. Shaunessy and deputy reeve, J. B. Scott thought the institution should get \$1500 and an amendment was offered to that effect. After some discussion concerning the service given to county patients by that hospital, the vote was taken and the amendment was defeated. In return for the grant the hospital offers 900 days service to county patients. William Nisbet, chairman of the Sarnia hospital commission, requested the council, earlier in the afternoon, to make the grant to the Sarnia institution \$1,000, but when the bylaw came to bat it was moved that the grant be \$800 as in 1924. Reeve Shaunessy of Petrolia contended that it should be worked out on the same basis as Petrolia and in view of the fact that the local institution was only giving 365 days treatment as compared with 900 offered by Petrolia, the grant should be \$547.50. He proposed an amendment covering that amount but the majority of the council favored the \$800 donation.

Money For Road Work.
Following a fairly lengthy discussion the council again decided to grant to the towns and villages under the highway improvement act one hundred and twenty-five per cent on the cost of the work done on connecting links with the county road system. In other words the towns and villages will receive back the full amount expended within their municipalities on the road work mentioned plus a subsidy of twenty-five per cent.

There was some objection to the grant. Warden Hackett, who was out of the chair, claimed that it was a pretty good thing for some villages which had completed their connecting link work. They could do work on some other street.

Reeve Hillier of Sarnia township was not altogether in favor of the grant. He said he did not believe the county council had any right to pay for building up the back streets of some villages.

County road superintendent John McCallum informed the council that if a town or village had completed work on the connecting link the reeve of the municipality must designate the road on which the work was to be done but it must be a road leading to the connecting link.

The report of the county auditors, read by D. P. Shaw, showed that the total receipts of the county during 1924 were \$591,424.77 and the total expenditures \$569,538.48, leaving a balance of \$21,886.29. The total assets of the county, including buildings, etc., were \$298,508.43 and the total liabilities were \$65,128.25, making the balance of assets over liabilities \$232,290.18.

The gist of bylaws chased through the committee stage included a measure to grant the necessary sum for the county good roads system and to provide for same by way of a temporary loan, the blank in that bylaw was filled in with \$80,000. Another measure authorized the borrowing of a sum not to exceed \$140,000 to meet current expenses.

By-Laws.
Other bylaws passed through committee were as follows: appointing Dr. Fred Walters, high school trustee at Forest for 3 years; granting \$75 each to the two women's institutes in the county; granting \$500 to the children's aid society; granting \$15 to the sick children's hospital, Toronto; fixing the rate of pay for grand and petit jurors at \$4 a day with 13c a mile travelling expenses; appointing John Huey as a member of the county board of audit; granting \$50 to the Salvation Army rescue home at London; appointing John A. Peat as a member of the board of education for the

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town of Petrolia; granting \$1200 to the county agricultural societies; granting \$25 each to public libraries of the county; reappointing R. J. Whiting, high county constable at the same salary and a bylaw to provide for the expropriation of three parcels of land on concession 9 of Sombra for road purposes in lieu of the river road.

The legislative committee reported during the afternoon and recommended no action on a communication from the county council of Welland asking co-operation in a move to secure protection for the sheep industry from the ravages of dogs.

The finance committee report recommending, among other things, that no action be taken regarding the request of the Sarnia luncheon club for financial aid in paying the cost of an operation for a crippled boy living in Mooretown, was adopted.

The council sat until 6 o'clock last night and during the committee stage on bylaws reeve W. G. Connolly of Watford occupied the chair.

Advisory Board to Inspect the County Roads

Lambton Council Goes on Record Favoring Taking Over Plank Road

An inspection of the county road system by the advisory board and the Reeves of the municipalities in the spring to be followed by a special meeting of the council for the purpose of discussing where and how the money was to be expended, was decided by the Lambton county council at the closing meeting of the January session Saturday morning after a lengthy discussion.

The motion was broached by reeve Loosmore of Brooke and in explanation he said that in his opinion the council should be better informed as to the outlays on the county road system. Reeves Hillier of Sarnia, Barron of Euphemia, Burnley of Plympton and Muma of Warwick did not favor a spring meeting of the council but Reeve Sproule of Oil Springs felt that it would be a good idea and when the motion was put to a vote it carried.

Would Take Over Plank Road.
On the recommendation of a select committee reported by Reeve Shaunessy of Petrolia the council went on record as in favor of taking over the Sarnia and Florence Plank road, now privately owned, as a county road and Warden Hackett and reeve J. T. Sproule of Oil Springs were named as a deputation to interview the department of highways and secure their opinion on the proposal.

Deputy reeve Edwards of Moore, offered an amendment that no action be taken but after Reeve Eastman of Arkona had expressed the opinion that the amendment, being directly opposed to the motion, was contrary to parliamentary rules of order, he consented to withdraw it.

The attention of the council was drawn to the prevalence of sow-thistle, a weed of prolific growth by G. Jackson of Sombra and after some discussion in which the serious results which might ensue unless efforts were made to stamp out the weed were pointed out, a motion, referring the subjects to the county agricultural representative was passed.

Petrolia Gets County Printing
The report of the printing committee recommending that the tender of the Petrolia Printing and Publishing Company for the county printing be accepted was adopted without dissent.

The request of county judge A. E. Taylor for increased office accommodation was left with the chairman and secretary of the public buildings committee to secure estimates and report at the June session on the recommendation of the

public buildings committee. Reeve Mason Spearman was appointed as a delegate to the convention of the Ontario trustees association at Toronto. The council adjourned at noon.

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FALL FAIR DATES

Strathroy	Sept. 14, 15, 16.
Wilkesport	Sept. 17.
WATFORD	Sept. 17, 18.
Petrolia	Sept. 21, 22.
Sarnia	Sept. 23, 24, 25.
Thedford	Sept. 28, 29.
Brigden	Sept. 28, 29.
Sarnia Reserve	Sept. 29, 30.
Wyoming	Sept. 30, Oct. 1.
Florence	Oct. 1, 2.
Forest	Oct. 5, 6.
Alvinston	Oct. 6, 7, 8.

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