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ESTIMATES MUST BE CUT TO 1914 FIGURES, SAY BUSINESS MEN; MAYOR NOT AT ALL STIRRING Time at Session in Board of Trade Rooms Recall Is Openly Talked Of

Position Squarely Set Forth in Resolutions—Commissioner McLellan Expresses Himself and Leaves Before End of Session—County Valuation is Sharply Criticized

Renewed protests against any increase whatsoever in the estimates at the board of trade meeting this morning, culminated in an intimation from one of the members that a recall would be instituted against all the commissioners, and President Likely said there was a general feeling that the commissioners would be recalled if a further reduction were not made. A resolution demanding that all increases be wiped out was adopted, and the responsibility left with the commissioners.

Mayor Frink did not attend the meeting, replying to a second invitation telephoned from the chairman that he would not be present. The other commissioners were in attendance, and Commissioner McLellan and Potts practically intimated that they had gone the limit in cutting down expenditures and would go no further. Commissioner McLellan participated in some very lively exchanges with those in attendance, and left the meeting before its close, following the refusal to listen to a detailed statement of his increased expenditures. He declared he was willing to go to the people with the other commissioners on his estimates without waiting for any recall.

Condemnation of the failure of the commissioners to reduce the estimates to make them the same as last year was very strong. Among the speakers were W. H. Barnaby, Senator Thorne, T. H. Estabrooks, J. Willard Smith, L. P. D. Tilley, A. M. Rowan, G. S. Mayes, C. T. Jones and A. O. Skinner.

The suggestion was made for a committee of five to meet the commissioners for consideration of the estimates, but this was defeated when put in form of the motion, the feeling being that the board of trade should not usurp the duties of the commissioners as respects the details of their expenditure.

Commissioners Russell and Wigmore appeared to be willing to make a further cut in the estimates in case of a re-consideration. Several speakers very sharply criticized the county valuation and the implied suggestion that the city would not be allowed to make its own valuation for county as well as city purposes.

The Meeting. J. A. Likely, the president, was in the chair, and among those present besides those mentioned were: H. C. Schofield, J. Hunter White, C. S. Philips, F. R. Fairweather, J. K. Story, A. M. Belding, H. F. Rankin, W. G. Wetmore, R. B. Emerson, W. B. Bainford, J. G. Harrison, Thos. Bell, Fred C. MacNeill, J. H. Doody, W. G. Allison, A. G. Wetmore, W. G. Scovill, Capt. A. J. Mulcahy, John Seely, Alex. Wilson, Alex. Baird, John B. Jones, H. Climo, G. A. Kimball, M. W. Doherty, J. E. Secord, Thos. Gorman, J. S. McGivern, H. Sellen, and Commissioners McLellan, Wigmore, Potts and Russell.

President Likely said in opening that he had been assured by the commissioners after Friday's meeting that the increases would not be more than \$10,000 over last year, but it was apparent the total increase would be \$100,000 over last year. He did not know of a time when the people had been so roundly abused as they were today. He had no objection to the assessment but to insist that the assessment be the same as last year.

W. H. Barnaby said the city was a business proposition and should be governed along the same lines as business firms, which were cutting down expenditures. The bonded debt of the city proposed to become a great embarrassment to the citizens. The meeting on Friday had been a representative one, every one was in favor of a reduction to last year's assessment and he was greatly disappointed for one to find the cut had not been greater. They must bring greater pressure to bear to reduce the \$100,000 increase in the safety department further and to curb Commissioner Potts in a serious advance.

Commissioner Potts said his estimates for actual work were exactly the same as last year. L. P. D. Tilley asked for the cause of the unprecedented increase in the interest charge. Commissioners Potts and McLellan offered information as to small interest charges in their departments.

Mr. Barnaby said the meeting was called for the benefit of citizens and he thought the discussion should be limited to the citizens. He said the commission consists of one man and I want him to come here and face the music. As warden of the county let me say that on Saturday, in company with the county secretary and warden we went over the estimates and struck off \$25,000 of the increase proposed, \$10,000 of the grant to valuers and \$5,000 of the tuberculosis grant besides smaller amounts.

J. Willard Smith said much time was being wasted on discussion of details. Broadly the question to be considered was whether or not the increases were necessary. With respect to the police he wished to make a comparison with conditions forty years ago when the population was scarcely less than at present.

At that time the entire southern section of the city constituted a menace. York point district was not considered safe at night and in St. John and Portland there were from 400 to 500 saloons and houses of ill fame in the principal streets. The city was in an infinitely better condition today and it appeared that the large increase in force was not only inopportune but entirely unnecessary at any time. Instead of more men there was need for a better administration of justice and more efficient control of the present force.

G. S. Mayes said much of the prosperity in St. John had been due to the large amounts spent on government work.

QUEEN'S THANKS

Letters to Lady Tilley Speak of Appreciation of What New Brunswick Women Have Done

The thanks of Her Majesty Queen Mary were today received by Lady Tilley in behalf of herself and co-workers of New Brunswick for the able work they have done in connection with the furnishing of garments for naval and military hospitals. Lady Tilley has also a letter from Lady Perrot, honorary secretary to the queen, expressing thanks and asking the aid of New Brunswick women in helping endow hospital beds at the front. This suggestion is to be acted upon by Lady Tilley who will receive and acknowledge contributions of twenty-five cents and upwards for the establishment of a New Brunswick bed at the front in one of the hospitals. The sum of \$100 will enable her for next year, and she thinks this amount can be raised quite easily, for, as she said today, "I am sure that the patriotic objects in New Brunswick have gone unnumbered."

The letter received from Buckingham Palace was as follows:— Dear Lady Tilley, Lady Perrot has forwarded me your letter, which I have laid before the queen, and I am commanded by Her Majesty to request you to be so good as to convey to the women of New Brunswick my grateful thanks for the splendid contribution of garments which they have so kindly sent for the use of our naval and military hospitals.

The queen is much touched by this kindly thought on the part of the women of the province, and she hopes that you will inform them that a certain proportion of the garments will be sent to the two Canadian hospitals, one of which bears Her Majesty's name. Yours very truly, E. W. WALLINGTON, Receiver general of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

In the harbor. He knew that this would be at least cut in half. He wanted to see the commissioners go further and reduce the estimates \$50,000 under last year's figures. The counsel of Senator Thorne and W. H. Barnaby, representing large business houses, was giving heroic service in keeping positions open and paying men going to the war.

This was seconded by R. E. Armstrong. Mr. Jones said he understood the meeting was called specially to ask that the assessment be kept within last year's figures. He thought they could not go further and moved that the meeting go on record as requesting the commissioners to make the assessment not greater than last year's.

T. H. Estabrooks, in seconding the amendment, said the commissioners had been chosen by the people to reduce the estimates. It was their duty and not their right to reduce the estimates. The board of trade might advise generally that there should not be an increase, but the board or any body of citizens should not seek to usurp the place of the commissioners. If the council accepted the advice of a committee concerning particular items against their own judgment and things turned out badly the commissioners would have to take the blame and not the committee.

Presentation to. A pleasant feature of the board of trade meeting this morning was the presentation, to Col. A. E. Massie, commanding officer of the divisional train from Canada in the second contingent, of a valuable military pistol with trappings complete. On behalf of the board, J. A. Likely, the president, expressed appreciation of Colonel Massie's services to the cause of empire and extended good wishes for his success.

Colonel Massie replied suitably, and there was hearty applause from the large gathering.

Mr. Estabrooks protested strongly against any increase and pointed out that the commissioners at the beginning of 1914, as did all business, were looking forward to an improvement in conditions and might naturally have made their estimates larger on the question. With the curtailment this year it seemed reasonable that they should have sought to reduce rather than increase last year's figures. His idea was that the controller expenditures would have to be cut sufficiently to cover the unavoidable increases in interest and fixed charges.

Commissioner McLellan could surely promise more efficient service with the present police force or else what was the object in forcing a retirement of the late chief.

The amendment was put and carried. Commissioner McLellan.

Commissioner McLellan—"If there is any nonsensical idea prevailing here that the city can be properly patrolled by the present force I am quite willing to go to the people on the question. This is a nice kind of a meeting to ask the commissioners to attend anyway. I came here to give information and not to listen to expressions of bad feeling over what has taken place in the last two years. I can assure you I will do what I consider right in the interest of the whole people and not of the few gathered here this morning. The man who carries his dinner pail needs protection just as much as your big business men. I'm ashamed that so much ignorance should be displayed as has been expressed here. Some of you people have never been outside Partridge Island anyway. You are like the old farmers who say what their grandfathers have is good enough for them."

(Cries of "order, order.") Commissioner McLellan then showed the plan of the city with the new beats as (Continued on page 2, first column.)

Russians Driving Germans Back A Violent Storm as The Great Guns do Their Work Daily Reported Capturing Villages—Austrian Army Improved in Re-organization

Petrograd, Jan. 18.—Recent developments in the vicinity of Warsaw appear to indicate that the Germans are directing their efforts to push the Russians beyond the east bank of the Vistula at the junction of the river with the Pilsa. It is the opinion of a high military authority that the Germans expect co-operation from the Austrians.

The German activity for the last fifty hours has been around a big village between Sochaczew and Bolimow, where six attacks in succession were made on Saturday night.

In the region of Plock and Milawa the Germans appear to be on the defensive. They have been slowly pushed back by the Russians, who daily are reported to be capturing new villages. On Saturday the Russians are said to have crossed the river Skrawa, which enters the Vistula a few miles below Plock.

Southward, the Austrians have fortified along the river Dunajec and are besieging Tarnow with heavy artillery. Their aim is believed to be to push eastward and relieve Przemyśl.

With all Bukowina in the hands of the Russians, only one pass, which is strongly fortified, prevents an invasion of Transylvania, Hungary.

Reorganization of the Austrian army, through which an Austro-German element predominates on the eastern front, where formerly there was a large percentage of Slavs, is said to have worked a notable improvement in efficiency. The Austrian Slavs are reported to have been sent to the French front.

THIRTY WANT TO BE POLICEMEN SOLDIER LAWYER IN COURT IN UNIFORM

Applications Filed Today—One Was Formerly on the Force An Incident in Probate Court Session Today Draws Attention

Some two or three years ago for the first and so far for the only time in the history of courts in this province a soldier appeared before the St. John Probate Court becoming attired in military uniform. Now another record has been made in the same court an advocate on the active service appearing for which he was commended by the court, dressed in military uniform, thus following the practice laid down in the Ontario courts, where it has been held that those who are patriotically taking up arms in defence of their country should not, when appearing as counsel, be required to change their dress, the king's uniform being good enough for any court.

The court today dealt with the matter of the estate of John Brown, teamster. He died intestate in last July. On the petition of his widow, Annie Brown, the executor was appointed. There is no real estate. Personal estate consists of an unimproved leasehold lot in Cleveland street of nominal value. H. F. Puddington is executor.

In the matter of the estate of Mrs. Margaret Falconer, widow, there was return of a citation to pass the accounts of W. Henry Harrison, sole executor. The accounts were found entirely correct and were approved.

Further appointments to the 6th Mounted Rifles for the marriage of the regiment were announced today upon his return from Halifax, by Major C. Herbert McLellan who is to have command of "B" Squadron of that unit. This squadron will mobilize at St. John, and it is possible that when the three squadrons of the regiment have been fully recruited this city will be the central muster place, although Amherst, as has been said before in the Times, has been making a strong bid. It will require about a month to get each squadron in working order, mobilization beginning at once, and not until this has taken place will the central muster point be occupied by the entire body.

Chief interest in St. John centres in the appointments to be made from the 28th Dragoons and the 8th Hussars because of their being New Brunswick units. The Times announced some days ago that Major C. H. McLellan of the 28th had been selected as one of the squadron commanders, and that Major Frank B. Black, of the 8th Hussars, of Sackville, had been given the post of second in command under Lieut.-Colonel Ryan of Kentville, N. S. In addition to these appointments it was announced today that Major Ings of Chatham, (Continued on page 2, seventh column.)

A Violent Storm as The Great Guns do Their Work French War Office Report on the Fighting of Sunday—Very Efficient Marksmanship by the Allies

Paris, Jan. 18.—The French War Office this afternoon reported: "During the last fortnight five German attacks on Hill 263, to the west of Bourville, in Argonne, the German attacks on Hill 263, to the west of Bourville, brought no result. We took possession of several German field works to the northwest of Pont-A-Mousson, in the only part of the forest of Le Prete which is still in the hands of the enemy. We here, later, repulsed a counter attack, and maintained all our gains."

"In the Vosges there has been a heavy fall of snow. The enemy bombarded Thann, but without inflicting serious damage."

London, Jan. 18.—This is the forty-fourth anniversary of the proclamation of Wilhelm I. as German Emperor. It is expected here that the day may mark the beginning of a widespread German effort to follow up with a still more important movement than that of last week in the neighborhood of Soissons.

FIVE GERMAN STEAMERS HIT MINES IN BALTIC AND SINK

London, Jan. 18.—The Morning Post's Stockholm correspondent says:—"During the last fortnight five German steamers have disappeared in the Baltic Sea, with all their crews. They were lost by striking mines."

"It is reported that prominent men of German commercial and shipping circles have collected \$50,000 for relatives of Swedish seamen who have been lost through disasters in the Gulf of Finland due to German mines."

KEEP UP FICTION OF "WAR FORCED ON US"

Vienna, via London, Jan. 18.—On assuming office Baron Stephan von Burian, the new foreign minister, sent the following telegram to the German chancellor, Dr. Von Bethmann-Holweg:—"Both allied powers now have tried, in serious and historical times the value of an alliance of friendship, which relies on tried faithfulness, on close intercourse of interests, and must form the foundation of their policy. I beg of Your Excellency to give me the same energetic assistance as my predecessor had."

The German chancellor replied as follows:—"Your Excellency may be assured of my most confidential co-operation and unreserved assistance in the solution of your serious and responsible task. In the unknown, and in the future, I rely on the faithful friendship of the allied powers. I receive an assured guarantee for the happy issue of the war forced upon us."

CONDITIONS IN OSTEND DECLARED TERRIBLE

Rotterdam, Jan. 18.—An inhabitant of Ostend, who reached Holland after having escaped, says:—"Ostend lives in an atmosphere of fear. The specter of famine was continually before us. Ostend today buys wounded and emaciated horses from the Germans at \$4 a head. They are converted into the only meat the people can now procure."

SUDDEN DEATH OF DR. C. H. L. JOHNSTON

Physician Had Just Returned Home After Attending Board of Trade Meeting

Just a few moments after his return from today's meeting in the board of trade rooms, Dr. C. H. L. Johnston was found dead in his home at No. 2 Green street this afternoon. The community was greatly shocked. Doctor Johnston, who was about seventy years of age, for many years practiced medicine in St. John where he had since resided. He received his early education in the local schools, and finished at Edinburgh College.

He then came to St. John where he established an office, but later removed to Boston. He did not remain there for more than a year, when he came back to St. John where he had since resided. He met with much success and enjoyed a high reputation. He retired from active practice several years ago.

Dr. Johnston had had heart trouble for the last few years. He was sitting at his desk making notes concerning some memoranda he had jotted down at the board of trade meeting, when suddenly he fell forward and died in a few seconds. Doctor Adley was summoned but life had already passed from his body. His wife, who was Miss Anderson, survives.

TRIUMPH OF ALLIES BUT QUESTION OF TIME

Ottawa, Jan. 18.—That the triumph of the allies is only a question of time and that decisive results may be expected soon after weather conditions in the early spring permit extensive operations, is the opinion expressed by Maurice Arby, a member of the parliamentary press gallery, who is now at the front.

Mr. Arby is an interpreter for one of the British regiments. A letter received by one of his conferees was censured and is very guarded beyond expressing confidence in the ultimate result and the belief that the summer will bring something definite.

MUST HAVE LICENSE

Simon and Joseph B. Jacobson, who had been reported for conducting a junk business in the city without a license, appeared before Magistrate Ritchie this morning. They were held to procure a license and present it in court on Wednesday morning.

POLICE COURT

William Dick arrested on charge of assaulting John Cobolan on Saturday afternoon in view of the police on the north side of King Square, was this morning fined \$20. The fine was allowed to stand as a representative of the Longshoremen's Association spoke in his behalf.

A Belgian arrested on a drunkenness charge was fined \$8 or two months in jail, but the fine was allowed to stand against him. He was asked if he could pay any portion of the fine, and he said that he had a \$3 bill when he was arrested but he could not find it. As it may have dropped out of his pockets while in the cell the magistrate suggested that one of the policemen go and see if he could find it.

Two other prisoners arrested on a drunkenness charge were remanded.

Weather Bulletin. Issued by authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Sturp, director of meteorological service.

Synopsis.—There are indications that an important disturbance will develop over the Middle Atlantic States, and cause stormy conditions from Ontario to the maritime provinces. The weather is moderately cold in Manitoba, and northern Ontario, elsewhere it is mild.

Rain or Sleet. Maritime.—Fresh southerly winds, cloudy with local rains, Tuesday, rain or sleet.

New England Forecasts.—Rain tonight Tuesday, rain on snow, and colder, shifting winds blowing east to south and strong.