

\$110,000 INSURANCE WILL BE PLACED ON THE CITY SCHOOLS

Special Committee Recommends Distribution Among Canadian and British Firms.

Three committees of the board of education met yesterday to prepare reports for the regular monthly meeting of the board, which takes place this afternoon at 4:30 o'clock. The first of these was the meeting of the special sub-committee appointed to revise the insurance on the city schools. The press were not present at this meeting, which took place at 3:30 p.m., but it was stated afterwards that the committee will recommend insurance amounting to \$110,000 be placed on the city schools. The insurance will be distributed amongst the various companies doing business in fire insurance, and will, according to the recommendation of the committee, be confined to Canadian and British companies.

At 4:30 o'clock, No. 1 committee went into session. Considerable discussion took place relative to the duties of the public school dentists. Dr. E. W. Fuller and Roy Moore. It was explained that Dr. Fuller spends half a day each day in visiting the schools, and that he turns over the needy cases, that is, the children whose parents cannot afford to pay for the necessary dental treatment, to Dr. Moore for the necessary treatment, the work being done at the Aberdeen School.

Would Cost \$1,800. Inspector Greer, reporting on the petition of the Ealing Mothers' Club, three manual training and household science classes be arranged for in the Ealing Public School, which was referred to the committee by the board, estimated that the cost of installing such classes would be about \$1,800. The committee laid the matter over to a later meeting, and will report progress to the board.

Trustees Bice and Smith were appointed to the salaries committee. A large number of accounts were approved and will be recommended to the board for payment.

Eight of the industrial advisory committee met in the boardroom at the Technical School. In the absence of the chairman, Trustee Thomas Rowe, Trustee Edwin Smith was appointed chairman.

Principal H. B. Beal reported that the attendance at the day classes during the month of March averaged 174, with an enrollment of 182. At the night classes the average attendance was 278, with an enrollment of 334.

During the month, he stated, a check for \$10,883.90, the first instalment of the Government's annual grant, was received.

Students' Exhibitions. The students' exhibition, from March 18 to 23, had been a decided success, and the general standard of the work exhibited had been higher than in previous years. The principal and secretary of the board were instructed to write to the McClary Manufacturing Company, thanking them for the donation of an electric stove, valued at \$175, as a prize in the household science department. This prize had become an annual event.

It was decided to install a back-pressure valve to prevent the backing up of sewage into the school building during heavy storms, at a cost of \$150. Thermostatic control of the radiator in the domestic science room was also authorized.

Considerable discussion took place as to the advisability of putting in a new lawn on the Dundas street frontage, but it was finally decided that as considerable exception would be taken to the expenditure, the citizens not acquainted with the need of it, it would be well to make another year's try of grass seed. Mr. Beal explained that the present lawn had been built up with the material excavated, and there is practically no soil, so that constant watering is necessary to induce grass to grow on it. It was decided to purchase some shrubs to be placed along the front of the building.

The secretary read three communications, the first being a letter of appreciation addressed to the board by the teachers, expressing their thanks for the recent increase in salaries.

A letter signed by 30 members of the wood-carving class, complaining that the lighting of the class-room is poor, was read. The committee visited the room, and were of the opinion that the light was quite adequate, but the principal was empowered to ask the objectors for any constructive suggestion that they may have for the improvement of the lighting. Messrs. A. E. Silverwood and Chairman Rowe were named representatives of the Technical School on the special teachers' salaries committee.

Authority was given to the chairman and principal to make the necessary arrangements for the securing of soft and hard coal for the school.

COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR'S ACTION ON GAS COMPANY'S BILL

Heated Discussion Precedes Unanimous Vote Sustaining Mayor Little.

OPPOSE HIGHER RATE

Aldermen Appoint Committee of Three To Go To Toronto.

After one of the most acrimonious discussions in the history of the city council, a unanimous motion sustaining the action of Mayor Little in regard to the gas bill before the private bills committee last Thursday was passed by the council last night. A motion to oppose the action of the Legislature in approving a rate of \$1.25 for the gas was adopted.

It was discussion of this which led to a sharp debate between Ald. Cameron Wilson and G. A. Wenig on one side and Ald. Little and Ald. Bridge on the other.

A motion to grant a building permit for the erection of a new undertaking establishment on Queen's avenue, between Waterloo and Colborne streets, was sent to No. 2 committee, only Ald. W. A. Wilson voting in favor of its immediate adoption. This was done with the expectation that a private deal would be made in the meantime between the undertaker and the citizens objecting to the establishment.

Unanimous approval was given to a recommendation of No. 1 committee authorizing the city solicitor to commence legal proceedings against the London Street Railway Company to secure payment for its share of Rectory street paving.

The greater part of the discussion of the evening centred around the gas question. Speaking to the motion, which he and Ald. Watkinson had introduced, opposing the passing of the gas bill by the private bills committee, Ald. Wenig asked what had become of the resolution opposing the measure which was passed by the city council. He understood, he had been handed to the mayor. He wanted to know why it had not reached the private bills committee.

Mayor Little asked permission to speak on a question of privilege, and called Ald. Harley to the chair. He then asked if Ald. Wenig was aware that he was making an insinuation that the mayor had been handed the resolution, and had not forwarded it.

"No, I did not intend that. I was merely asking what became of the resolution," Ald. Wenig replied.

Ald. Bridge then joined in the discussion, asking if Ald. Wilson had been correctly reported in the press when he inferred that Ald. Bridge had had some connection with the action of the private bills committee. Ald. Wilson said the inference was not exactly what he had said and that he would apologize for some of them. He accepted Ald. Bridge's deserved credit for the work he had done in opposition to the McCrear bill, but he should bear in mind that a man is known by the company he keeps. K. K. Homuth, chairman of the special committee appointed by the Legislature to settle the gas question, gave assurance that no action would be taken without notifying the London City Council. To his knowledge no such notification was given, although the special committee made its report. He understood that Mayor Little was in the Legislature buildings Wednesday night, and that Ald. Bridge had been there also. He did not know their purpose for being there, but judged it was in connection with the McCrear bill. Ald. Bridge interrupted at this point to ask what Ald. Wilson meant by the company he (Ald. Bridge) kept.

"Maybe some good, some bad," replied Ald. Wilson. "You're dragging me into a herring case, the trail."

I will apologize if I am wrong, but I want to know what was done at Toronto. There may have been nothing but a herring case, but the Mayor and Ald. Bridge were there. Maybe they can explain it without difficulty. If so, I am prepared to accept their word."

Ald. Harley asked if the clerk had received notification that the special committee was reporting to the private bills committee. The clerk replied in the negative.

"Then no one was authorized to speak to the bill in any way," Ald. Harley remarked.

Ald. Bridge said his presence in Toronto was related only to opposition to the McCrear bill. He had talked with Sir Adam Beck, whom he claimed, was opposed to the action of the gas committee, but he had had no further conference with members of the Legislature.

Town Planning Bill. Mayor Little refused to recognize either Ald. Wilson or Ald. Wenig, but said he would make a report at the request of the council. "I was at the Legislature last Thursday, but not until 20 minutes after the private bills committee had dealt with the gas question," he stated. "I didn't know the matter was to come up. I was there at the request of Secretary Gordon Philip of the Chamber of Commerce to watch a town planning bill from Ottawa, in which he was interested. Ald. Wilson has insinuated that I was waiting for the gas bill to pass."

Ald. Wilson claimed he was complimented by the mayor's refusal to recognize him, but maintained that the mayor had had the council's resolution of protest in his pocket, had renounced the private bills committee, including Homuth and Brackin, and yet no protest was made, and the bill was "railroaded through" next morning.

More Herring Charges. "There is a clear-cut issue here, but it is being evaded and red herrings are being thrown across the trail. I am willing to apologize for any of my statements which are proved untrue," he said.

If I take it Ald. Wilson has apologized to me," Ald. John Bridge remarked. "In my judgment it has not been shown that the mayor knew this bill was up when he was in Toronto," Ald. Harley commented.

"The aldermen who inquired about this affair got a full explanation," asserted Mayor Little. But Ald. Wilson rushed into print and said nothing to me except to 'compliment' me on winning the 'second round of the battle,' whatever he meant by that. As I heard it from one person, it was renounced by the mayor."

Ald. Wilson denied any remark of that nature. "But," he maintained, "this issue has been evaded. I am sorry the mayor will not recognize me, because I like him. He is lined up on the other side of the question. When there are two sides it means that one of them must be licked. I've been licked a good many times, and I have sat down and taken it."

At this point a vote was taken on the motion to oppose the action of the private bills committee. Eight aldermen favored it.

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