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BREEZY MEETING OF TOWN COUNCIL

Large Deputation of Firemen Wait on Civic Fathers and Air Their Grievances

MORE PROTESTS

A regular meeting of the Town Council was held on Tuesday evening His Worship Mayor Murray presiding. Councillors Alexander, Lunam, Stewart, Ellsworth and Pinault were present at the opening of session.

The minutes of the last two meetings were read and confirmed.

Communication read from Jos. Boucher asking for sewerage extention to his house on O'Leary Street. Refered to Water and Sewerage committee.

Communication read from Secretary of Board of Health enclosing resolution regarding dumping ground. Letter was laid on the table for further discussion,

Communication read from Walter H. Gray regarding license for moving picture show, was laid on the table for further discussion.

Communication from Building Inspector re permit wanted for the erection of a laundry by C. J. Robbins on south side of Lansdowne Street, this was refered to the Fire Protection Committee.

A large deputation of firemen entered the Council room at this time and took up nearly all the vacant spaces in the room.

Communication was read from Paul Roy regarding the legality of the present council's work and making assertions against Mr. David Sansom. Councillor Stewart and the Mayor. This was laid on the table.

The deputation of firemen was then heard before the Council and Mr. H. W. Ferguson stated the views of the brigade very clearly and concisely. He said that this committees appearence here tonight is the result of a special meeting of the Fire Brigade at which it was decided to lay the present condition of that body before the Town Council, so that all doubt may be removed as to whether or not the remarks of Councillor Pinault regarding that orginisation voice the sentiments of the entire council or are merely his own personal views.

We wish to show as clearly as possible exactly where the Campbellton Fire Brigade stands and would ask your Worship and gentlemen, whether the disparaging remarks aimed at that body are in the least justified.

Let us take for instance the cost of the Brigade previous to the great fire of 1910, and the amount awarded the present Brigade. Previous to the fire the town paid $10.00 per man per year to fifteen firemen, $25,00 to the chief, $60.00 to an engineer, and $30.00 to a fireman for engine and to these men were supplied 6 rubber suits per year, the entire amount totaling in all $337.00 for one year. Now on the other hand although the present fire brigade has been organised for slightly over twenty months the only monetary assistance received from the town has been a single grant of $125.00 which only outfits ten firemen with rubber suits and makes no provision for those destroyed at fires. In addition to this the engineer and fireman of the town engine have to date only received about $12.50 each so that the entire amount only reaches $150.00 for twenty months as against $337.00 for twelve under the old regime. The chief receives nothing for his services nor do any of the firemen receive anything by way of remuneration for services rendered the town at fires.

Also while the brigade had at their disposal 3,500 feet of hose the present one has to get along with about half that amount having only 1800 feet in all.

Notwithstanding the fact that the town has allowed the Brigade but ten complete rubber suits in twenty months we now possess in all rubber outfits for twenty-one firemen or more than double the old number. This result being accomplished through different methods of financing on the part of the Brigade.

In addition to the above we have spent over $200.00 in furnishing the Fireman's Club room, not one cent of which was received from the town the Brigade even having to pay from it's own funds for the telephone installed therein. The only expense in connection with the firemen's place of meeting that is shouldered by the town is the yearly rental of the room as provided in the town by-laws. The support of the room is maintained by the members of the Brigade who all pay $2.00 entrance fee and three dollars each per year thereafter.

Now, to get down to the personal of the Brigade, its membership is composed of the towns' best and brighest young men who while stigmatised by a member of the town council as "white collared dudes" have never the less shown their ability to be on the spot in time of need and have proven themselves good firemen in every respect. If a mans vocation requires him to wear a white collar he is not committing a grave offence against the laws of the community and it is not yet looked upon as the die stamp of uselessness. Let any one acquainted with local sport glance over the membership of the Fire Brigade and he will at once see that the towns best athletes are members of that organisation. Are not these the men we want at fires? Does Councillor Pinaults' statement that we have not a man in the brigade who can climb a ladder seem justified?

The fire Brigade is now an organised force for fighting fires and all members of the brigade are unanimous in their commendation of its present Chief for his untiring efforts in their behalf and stand with him to face any charges that may be made against his conduct as chief, or the brigade as a body.

We believe this states quite clearly the present situation and in closing we wish to ask if Councillor Pinaults' interference with the fire brigade is in his capacity as member of the fire committee or as a private citizen.

If as a private citizen we have nothing further to say in the matter as it is taken as a matter of course with all public bodies that here and there a little mud slinging is almost certain to be indulged in by some grouchy citizen. But if he spoke as a member of the fire committee, why did he not make these charges at the regular council meeting, where we would have an opportunity of defending ourselves and not air them in public places where it is certain to place the Brigade in a wrong light through belief that Councillor Pinault is qualified to speak with authority. Also in making these statements does Councillor Pinault voice the sentiments of the Council? If not we would recommend that some means be taken to avoid the recurrence of a Councillor and member of the fire committee doing untold harm to the whole community through his disparaging remarks concerning the Fire Brigade.

This your Worship, gentlemen, covers the matter quite fully, and we thank you for your kind attention.

Signed,

C. R. Mersereau
R. G. O'Brien
H. W. Ferguson.

Representatives of Fire Brigade.

Councillor Pinault said in reply to the deputation that he spoke as a representive of the town, and at the time did not know who composed the Fire Brigade. He stated that no list of the firemen was on record on the town books where it should be, and said that he must have been credited with saying more than he did say. The doctor read copious extracts from the bye-laws which he claimed were not being followed, instancing particularly the fact that the list of firemen were not placed before the Council. Councillor White replied on behalf of the Fire Protection Committee and said that that the list of firemen was placed before the old Council and if it was not on file it had gone amissing.

(As a matter of fact a list of 45 firemen was submitted to the Council in a report of the Fire Protection Committee at a meeting of the Council held on 4th July, 1911 Ed. Graphic.)

Councillor Lunam said that while he was completely in sympathy with the firemen the bye-laws must be followed.

After further remarks Councillor White moved that the Council express their entire approval of the work of the Fire Brigade, which was then carried.

His Worship in well chosen words tendered the firemen the motion of the Council and expressed the hope that all little differences would be cleared away. Mr. Ferguson returned the thanks of the firemen and the deputation then withdrew.

The following reports of standing Committees recommending payment of accounts were received and adopted. Fire Protection $50.00; Water and Sewerage $216.52; Police and License $24.15; Public Property and Streets $105.27; Public Charities, $233.95.

The communication of the Board of Health was then taken up. Councillor Pinault stated the Public Property and Streets Committee had been authorised to purchase material and have the plans approved of a crib wharf. The cost had been much less than what was estimated, and in order to keep down expense the committee recommended the building of about 100 or 125 feet of crib work to be used as a dumping ground and if the project was satisfactory the rest of the wharf could be built.

The matter of dumping grouud versus incinerator was discussed at length and in the end the matter was held over till next meeting.

The communication of W. H. Gray was then taken up. His contention was that he should enjoy the same privileges as Mr. Dimock who paid no special fee for moving picture shows, and in the end this was the finding of the council and the $5.00 paid by W. H. Gray was ordered to be refunded.

The Town Clerk was instructed to get copies of the by-laws of other towns covering moving pictures shows.

The communication of Paul Roy was the next business. In this letter it was stated that Mr. D. Sansom owing to his connection with the Harquail Co and Richards Co. could not quality as a Councillor, that Councilor Stewart was receiving money from the town as was His Worship the Mayor.

The Town Solicitor gave his opinion that the part of the letter referring to Mr. Sansom the council had nothing to do with, and as regards the complaints against the Mayor and Councillor Stewart that was for the Coumcil to deal with. His Worship said that since he took office he had not received nor did he intend to take one penny of the town money. He had already refused to supply the town with coal. Councillor Stewart said he had done work for the school previous to becoming a councillor but was not receiving any town money nor doing work since he took office. After further remarks the matter was dropped. Before leaving the matter Mayor Murray desired the council to place themselves on record that while holding the office of Councillor they would not accept any contract or money from either directly or indirectly to which the council assented.

The Public Property and Streets Committee were authorised to purchase lumber and material to build new sidewalks about 3600 feet to cost roughly $800 to be put down this spring. Work will be done on Ramsay St., from Water to King Street, Rosebury from Andrew Street to Subway, Rosebury from Subway to Victoria, Gerrard from I. N. R. crossing to Sugarloaf Street, Sugarloaf from Malcolms to I. N. R. station, Cedar from Water to King Streets.

The attention of the committee was called to the Subway, a broken sidewalk on Andrew Street, and the fencing of the Cates property.

Mr. D. F. Graham was appointed polling clerk for election in Ward II.

Council then adjourned.

OLD HOME WEEK AT CAMPBELLTON

Board of Trade and Merchants and Manufactures to take up Matter

CELEBRATION PLANNED

A meeting of the Board of Trade will be held next Wednesday evening May 8th in the council chambers to take up the proposition of the St. John Board of Trade to have a "Back to New Brunswick or "Old Home Week here in connection with the St. John celebration.

In conversation with a number of citizens the Graphic learns that all so spoken to are strongly in favor of such a movement. It has been suggested that one or two days between July 9th and 14th, be set aside and a special program provided for the occasion.

It is hoped that all members of the above association will deem this of sufficient importance to attend and get the matter started at once as the St. John Board of Trade is carrying on an extensive advertising campaign amd wants Campbellton included in it.

TOWN ELECTION TO BE NEXT M...

David Sansom and Dr. Martin in the Field for Seat in Ward Two

LITTLE INTEREST TAKEN

The Town clerk held a court in the council chambers last Monday for the nomination of a candidate for the vacant seat in Ward Two, caused through the disqualification of Councillor-elect Laughlan.

David Sansom and Aug. Martin M. D., were duly nominated and a poll will be opened on Monday at 10 a. m. in the council chambers for voting on the candidates. Very little interest is being taken in the election, many of the voters feeling that they would be quite satisfied with either of the two candidates, as both are considered good solid business men.

MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE

Mass ... of Citizens Protest Against Verdict in the Doherty Trial

ASK INVESTIGATION

A mass meeting of citizens was held Monday night in the Opera House to protest against the verdict in the recent Doherty case, and to form a resolution to submit to the lieutenant-governor. The Opera House was packed, ladies among the assembly being many ladies of the W. C. T. U.

Mayor Murray occupied the chair and briefly stated the object of the meeting. Rev. T. P. Demmon moved and A. G. Adams seconded the following resolution:

"Whereas, Our esteemed fellow-citizen, Daniel J. Brace, lost his life at the hands of Dr. W. W. Doherty on the twenty-first day of September, 1911, and

"Whereas, The public conscience of this community has been shocked at the acquittal of the said Dr. Doherty by a jury on the third day of April last. And

"Whereas, We believe that the acquittal of the said Dr. W. W. Doherty was a grave miscarriage of justice and a serious reflection upon the morals of our community, And

"Whereas, The reports of the trial on the public press have left the impression that the said Daniel J. Brace lost his life through being the aggressor in a political brawl, which report we think is a libel upon the sterling character and upright citizenship of the said Daniel J. Brace. And,

"Whereas, We feel that the public conscience of this community should be awakened to the seriousness of the conditions which will allow the crime of manslaughter to go unpunished and cause the administration of justice to stink therefrom,

"Resolved, That this meeting of the citizens of the town of Campbellton in a mass meeting assembled, do hereby express our belief that the death of the said Daniel J. Brace was not the result of a political brawl, nor was the said Daniel J. Brace an aggressor in any way in the lamentable affair.

"Further Resolved, That it is the opinion of this meeting that the matter should be referred for investigation by the Government of the province, in order that steps may be taken to prevent the repetition of such a miscarriage of justice. And

"Further Resolved, That a copy of the resolution be forwarded to the attorney general with a request that he hold an investigation into the conduct of the trial and those facts which makes such a result possible, and to take into consideration means to prevent a recurrence."

The meeting was non-political and the large gathering showed a strength and power by the suppression of all that would tend to invoke party spirits.

The speakers all struck the one key note that this matter was not approached in a spirit of vindictiveness, but was rather the result of calm and studied reasoning. F. M. Anderson and John M. McLean spoke of the stigma which attaches to the country by the return of such a verdict of acquittal, and how it was a slur on the character of one of Campbellton's best citizens.

D. C. Firth, A. A. Andrew, F. E. Blackball and D. A. Stewart also spoke, Mr. Stewart claiming that the fault could not be placed at the door of the Attorney-General or the government. The fault lay with the stupidity of the jury. A McG. McDonald said he had lived lived 24 years in Campbellton and had not known of any convictions in that time on the charge of taking away life. He said that it was admitted in higher places that human life was held very cheaply in Restigouche.

On the question being put to a standing vote, one man stood up against the motion (a voice "He's a juryman") and the resolution was declared adopted. Before the close of the meeting a clause was added to the resolution clearing the character of Mr. Allan E. McGinn whose testimony had been characterised by the defending counsel at the trial as "false from beginning to end".

The meeting than adjourned.