

OUR TOWN FATHERS.

The Minutes of the Last Meeting - What was Done.

Friday, May 4th, 1883. The regular meeting of the town council was held this evening.

The members were all present with the exception of councillor Colborne, who was absent owing to illness.

The minutes of last meeting were read and approved.

THE TREASURER'S REPORT showed balance of cash on hand on April 30th to be, \$1,386.81—Filed.

THE STREET INSPECTOR'S REPORT showed an expenditure since last report of \$38.75; also a statement respecting the watering streets. Referred to finance committee.

THE SEXTON'S REPORT showed the interments in Maitland cemetery since last report to be 3 adults and 2 infants—Filed.

COMMUNICATIONS. A communication was received from the secretary of the curling club, stating that 700 pounds of flour were at Nairn's store to the order of the relief committee, as a donation from the curling club to the poor of the town.

Moved by reeve Johnston, seconded by councillor Nicholson, that the council tender a vote of thanks to the curling club for their generous donation to the poor of the town—Carried.

A communication was read from Capt. J. R. Miller, conveying the thanks of No. 1 Co., 33rd Batt., to the council for the use of the council chamber for the recent military ball—Filed.

Councillor Jordan suggested that, now the sawdust was removed from the body of the hall, a strip of matting be placed in the aisle.

A communication was read from the North American Chemical Co., with reference to a railway siding. Referred to public works committee.

Als communications were received from Crystal & Black, and from W. S. McKay and others, relating to street improvements. Referred to public works committee.

A communication was read from W. S. Hart & Co., asking for a bonus of \$7,500, to enable them to erect a gristing and flouring mill in the town of Goderich. Referred to special committee.

A petition was read from the fire company, asking for an increase of \$150 in their grant, so that a competent fire warden could be secured.

Moved by reeve Johnston, seconded by councillor Murney, that the petition be referred to the fire committee.

Councillor Seager thought the matter was urgent, and should not be laid over, and moved, seconded by councillor Sloane, that it be considered with the fire committee's report.

Messrs. Johnston and Murney consented to the amendment.

ACCOUNTS. A number of accounts were received and referred to finance committee.

REPORT OF RELIEF COMMITTEE. From councillor Mitchell, showing expenditure for relief for St. Patrick's ward from January 18 to May to be \$39.25.

From councillor Elliott for St. David's ward during April, \$3.75. From councillor Seager, that he had examined carefully into the case of Mrs. Ames, an indigent person in St. Andrew's ward, and that he had given an order on the treasurer to Mr. Hucklestep for \$2.00 weekly, and would recommend that it be continued until the weekly boats begin running to the South, when Mrs. Ames can then be sent to her friends—Adopted.

FINANCE COMMITTEE'S REPORT. (1) That the following accounts be paid: E. Graham, \$2.81; Rich'd Bonamy, \$4; D. Ferguson, \$9.28; W. S. Hart & Co., \$16.06; Mrs. Mitchell, \$10; John Hillier, \$5; George Grant, \$34.

(2) Respecting communication of the treasurer, we recommend that the clerk notify the treasurer to honor the orders of the following parties only, and no others: The mayor and clerk, the members of the relief committee for wood, the secretary of the school committee for school expenditure, countersigned by the chairman.

(3) We also recommend that the mayor, the chairman of finance committee and the clerk be authorized to arrange with M. C. Cameron, Esq., with respect to back taxes on part of lot 12, block A. All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. C. DETLOR, chairman.

FIRE COMMITTEE'S REPORT. That we have had the communication of the secretary of the fire committee before us for an additional grant of \$200. We cannot recommend the council to grant the same, but beg leave to recommend that the sum of \$270 in all be granted the fire company for the year 1883—this being \$50 more than they are now receiving.

(2) We would also recommend that a by-law be prepared and submitted for the consideration of the council at its next sitting, defining the duties and powers of the fire company, and giving the council some control over its management.

JOHN BUTLER, chairman. Moved by councillor Butler, seconded by councillor Elliott, that it be adopted.

Mr. Seager thought it was important that we should have an efficient fire department and head. He did not think any other man could fill the position as well as Capt. Dancy. The fire company should be under council control, and we should have a by-law to that effect.

A desultory discussion then took place. The mayor said that there were two or three by-laws on the subject, and all that was needed was revision.

Mr. Seager had been led to believe that the duties of a fire chief were merely nominal, when in reality they were of an extremely onerous nature.

The clerk stated that he had been unable to find that Captain Dancy had ever been appointed chief of the fire company.

Moved by councillor Seager, seconded by councillor Sloane, in amendment, that Capt. T. N. Dancy be appointed fire warden at a salary of \$100 a year.

Mr. Johnston thought the amendment was out of order. It required a month's notice to repeal a by-law.

Mr. Murney had always understood

the fire company to be a volunteer body. It now turned out they were paid; and when they were paid, they should be under control of the town council. The eleven firemen had received \$20 a year, and the public should know that fact.

The mayor stated that the amount paid the fire company was always published in the annual financial report. There was no secrecy about the matter.

Mr. Jordan was willing to vote to Capt. Dancy all that could be given to retain his services, as he was an exceptionally good man, but did not think the town finances would stand as heavy a strain as \$100. He suggested a compromise of \$75.

Mr. Seager would cheerfully agree to the suggestion of Mr. Jordan, but understood Capt. Dancy would not accept less than \$100.

Mr. Nicholson believed \$270 a year to the fire company was as much as the town could afford. If the firemen wanted to bonus a particular captain, they should be prepared to pay him the extra amount out of their own allowance.

Mr. Butler said the fire committee had considered the matter in all its bearings. Capt. Dancy was, no doubt, a good man, but if he unfortunately died or anything happened to him, other men would be found to take his place.

At the recent fires, where he failed to appear, the company had managed to get on all right without him.

Mr. Seager—The question is whether we shall retain the services of Captain Dancy or not.

The mayor thought the town was certainly greatly indebted to Capt. Dancy for his services in connection with the fire department for a number of years. He was economically inclined, but would like to retain Capt. Dancy if the cost of that gentleman's services was not too high.

Mr. Johnston said it was only courteous to accept the report of any committee, and couldn't see why the report of the fire committee was made an exception of.

Mr. Seager understood some concession would have to be made or the fire company would become disorganized.

The mayor stated the amendment was out of order.

Mr. Bingham understood Capt. Dancy would not act for less than \$100. It would be of no use to fix the rate at \$100, if that sum would be refused.

All the talk indulged in so far would therefore be of no avail.

Mr. Dettlor believed the report should be referred back to the fire committee, together with the new petition, so that the whole matter could be reconsidered and carefully weighed in all its bearings.

Mr. Butler was willing to withdraw the report were it not for a rumor that the fire company was at present in a disorganized state.

Mr. Dettlor didn't think the council was to be governed in its action by mere hearsay. There was no definite information before the council that the fire company was not in a thoroughly organized condition.

Mr. Bingham corroborated the statement of Mr. Butler, with reference to the rumored disorganization of the fire company.

The mayor said the present embargo was through no fault of the fire committee. The petition from the fire company was the first real statement submitted by that body to this council.

Mr. Seager did not think the firemen would become disorganized and leave the town in the lurch. He believed the members of the company were all honorable men.

Moved by councillor Seager, seconded by councillor Sloane, that the petition of the fire company and the preparation of a by-law organizing a fire company and appointing officers in accordance with law be referred to the fire committee, with instructions to communicate with Capt. Dancy, and ascertain whether he will accept the position of fire warden, and at what salary—Carried.

Mr. Elliott was not in favor of a larger increase than \$50. He thought that amount would pay anyone to occupy the position.

Mr. Butler in reply to the statement of Mr. Seager concerning the honorable reputation of the men who composed the fire company, said he hoped they would act more honorably than their captain had done. That official, when he tendered his resignation, had promised to act until his successor was appointed, but had failed to fulfil his obligation.

At the last two fires the captain had given no assistance of any kind, but good work was done by the company independent of his valuable services.

Mr. Seager thought it was not right for any member of the council to asperse Capt. Dancy, when that gentleman was precluded from speaking in his own behalf.

Mr. J. C. Dettlor availed himself of the opportunity to protest against the strictures of one of the town newspapers on the conduct of the town council, in not according a vote of thanks to Captain Dancy on the occasion of his retirement from the command of the fire company.

He thought the article in the paper was uncalculated for, inasmuch as Capt. Dancy's resignation had not yet been accepted by the council, no report on the subject having been rendered by the fire committee, to whom the resignation was referred.

Until the resignation was duly accepted by the council it was premature for any action to be taken to thank Capt. Dancy for his services, although the said services had been of a most valuable nature.

This reply raised another "go-as-you-please" discussion, some of the members sitting with Mr. Dettlor, and others taking exception to him.

On motion the fire committee's report was referred back to committee.

REPORT OF PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE. I. We would recommend that Mr. Swaffield be paid the sum of \$4, in payment for the stone claimed by him and removed from off the street near his premises, although we do not consider the council in any way liable, and we make this recommendation without prejudice, in case Mr. Swaffield refuses to accept, and thinks proper to take legal proceedings.

(2) In regard to council notice lines. (3) In regard to council notice lines. (4) In regard to council notice lines.

(5) In regard to council notice lines. (6) In regard to council notice lines.

(7) In regard to council notice lines. (8) In regard to council notice lines.

(9) In regard to council notice lines. (10) In regard to council notice lines.

and that the clerk furnish the street inspector with a certified copy of the several by-laws and resolutions pertaining thereto.

E. BRIGHAM, chairman. Moved by councillor Bingham, seconded by deputy-reeve Dettlor, that the report be adopted.

Moved in amendment by councillor Butler, seconded by councillor Nicholson, that Mr. Swaffield receive the sum of \$5—Carried.

The report as amended was adopted. Moved by councillor Murney, seconded by deputy-reeve Dettlor, that the thanks of this council are hereby tendered to Capt. T. N. Dancy, for the able and efficient service which he has during the last nine years rendered to the town as chief of that department—Carried.

Moved by councillor Murney, seconded by councillor Nicholson, that three street lamps be placed at the harbor, at most expedient points, parties at the harbor agreeing to have lamps lighted and lights put out without expense to the town. Referred to public works committee.

Moved by councillor Jordan, seconded by deputy-reeve Dettlor, that the expediency of enlarging the town hall, so that it can be used for public entertainments, be referred to the public works committee to report on, and to suggest an expedient plan with probable cost of same.

On motion council adjourned.

A Town Council. For style, Port Hope council takes the cake. The mayor dons an official robe, while the council sports dresscoats, and the attending policemen wear a becoming uniform.

But the galling part of the programme is, that the reporters attend in ordinary dress—and everyone knows a newspaper man can't afford to be very stylish about his toggery.—[Cobour Sentinel-Star.

Early Closing. To whom it may concern. In 1881 the leading merchants of the town agreed to shut up at 7 p.m. except on Saturdays.

Some still hold to their agreement, while others soon neglected it, their stores being open till 8 or 9 p.m. to catch late customers, many of whom would prefer other stores.

Now, as the Golden Rule is for every one, the ladies are respectfully requested to do their shopping before tea, to remove the cause of "late hours"—and the merchant to order their stores to be closed at 7 p.m. sharp, for "all work and no play makes Jack a Dull Boy."

Benn Miller. QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY.—The Benn Miller brass band announces by a large and handsome poster that they will hold their third annual picnic at the falls on the 24th inst.

Arrangements have been made for feasting and dancing, and a string band will furnish the music for the latter. The brass band will play their choicest airs during the day.

The Benn Miller band generally do things up well, and visitors from Goderich (there will be many, we think) can count on a warm welcome and good treatment.

Conspirators for Sale. The moral in the case of men like James Stephen, the head and front of a former Fenian conspiracy, and Peter Tyrnan, the Number One of the Irish Invincibles, if it be true that the Government has accepted information at his hands, appears to be that if you go into a conspiracy at all it is better to be the biggest villain of the lot than one of the mere tools.

The fate of the mere tools, who have to do all the stabbing and run all the risk, is to be dragged to the gallows on the testimony of the big villains, whose necks are saved by the free use of their tongues.

All the talk in the world will never convince anybody that the men who took the lives of Cavendish and Burke, were patriots. We hear a deal about the unjustness of the land laws and the harshness of the landlords, but what did car-drivers, town councillors, hackmen and road-makers, care about the land laws or the landlords?

They had nothing to do with either the one or the other, and were not affected by them. Not one of the Phoenix Park gang was a tenant farmer. The truth seems to be that as long as they were prepared to take the lives of whatever persons they were instructed to, and it is plain from the evidence that Number One was well supplied with funds, although nobody seems to know where they came from.

In the case of Lord Mountmorris, and one or two other murders perpetrated by tenant farmers, it was easy to see and to appreciate at its proper value the motive which impelled them, but in the case of the Phoenix Park murders there was no motive, with which any honest man could sympathize.—[Telegram.

Death sentence commuted. Dublin, May 8.—The Lord Lieutenant has commuted the death sentence of Patrick Delaney, who pleaded guilty to complicity in the murder of Cavendish and Burke.

John Neihoff, a centenarian, living in East New York, was born two years after the Declaration of Independence was written. He is 103 years old, a native of Holland, and a shoemaker.

His age is vouched for by his son, himself a man of 80, and his great-granddaughter, a woman of 40. Neihoff fought at Waterloo and soon afterward came to the United States. He no longer earns a living and is dependent upon his grandchildren for a livelihood and tobacco, of which he always used a very large quantity.

The latest dodge of the female book agent is somewhat novel. She learns in advance, by inquiring of neighbors, the name of the lady living in the house where she intends to operate. She then rings the door bell, asks for Mrs. So-and-so, and, in many cases, ushered into the parlor, as a formal caller. She at first gives her name and talks on general topics five or ten minutes, and then quietly draws from a large pocket, made for the purpose, the magazine or book for which she is canvassing. This novel method secures her from troublesome objections and servants who have been instructed not to allow book agents to enter the house under any circumstances.

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