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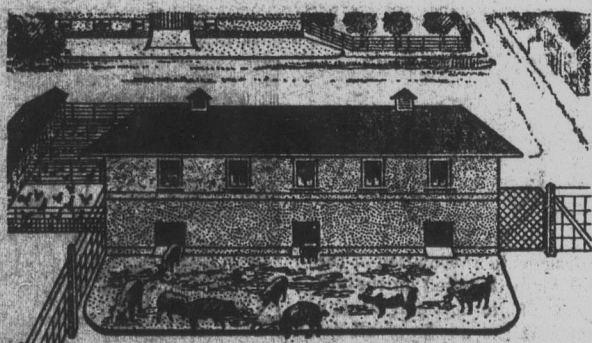
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ELECTION PROTEST IN DURHAM ELECTION

Evidence Taken Before Committee of Council Brings Out Many Facts

The annual session of the Restigouche Municipal Council which opened at Dalhousie last Tuesday morning and continued well into this week was the most exciting session held in recent years.

For four days the business of the council was at a standstill while a committee of three chosen by the council were investigating certain charges preferred against the councillors elected for the parish of Durham Messrs. Murchie and Lawlor.

When the matter of the protest was brought up in the council the first day the council voted that there were sufficient grounds to warrant an investigation into the charges.

Next in order was the appointing of a committee of three to investigate the charges. Two committees were named, but on division the council stood 7 to 7, the Warden voting. The deadlock lasted until adjournment.

The following morning a committee composed of Couns. Montgomery, Alexander and Dickie was chosen to take the matter in hand and immediately after the noon recess started in to take evidence. Mr. P. J. Byrne of Bathurst appeared for Messrs. Murchie and Lawlor, while Mr. A. T. LeBlanc and Mr. A. E. G. McKenzie appeared for the petitioners.

John Kerr, one of the defeated candidates was the first witness.

JOHN KERR.

His evidence was chiefly to show that the nomination papers of his colleague and himself were regularly filed with the parish clerk, Mr. Dan. McAllister, but while his own was received and his name placed on the notices required to be posted, giving the names of the candidates duly nominated, that of his colleague was not so posted. He also swore that to the best of his knowledge the piling of officers were not sworn as required by law, and the fact that his colleague's nomination was not received prejudiced his election.

ARTHUR CULLIGAN, M. P. P.

Arthur Culligan, M. P. P. was the next witness and he swore as follows: I live in the parish of Durham. I know John Kerr and Frank LaPointe. I know Archibald Murchie and John Lawlor who were candidates in the last council's election for the parish of Durham. I remember the day of the council's election, the 2nd of September last. I voted at the poll at Jacques River over which Mr. D. McAllister presided. I came to the Jacques River poll about 4 o'clock to vote. I went to the upper poll before poll opened. I was an agent for John Lawlor and Arch. Murchie the candidates. I was in the poll when it opened but did not stay in. Paul Doyle was also an agent. James Currie was chairman at this poll. Thos. Hayes was also in this poll. I was outside poll more than I know Wm. E. Firlotte, Joseph Dion and David McGregor of Beckettville. I do not know any other David McGregor.

NO ALUM



Ques.—Do you remember paying money to one, David McGregor, on Sept. 2nd, 1913, to influence him to vote for Arch. Murchie and John Lawlor. (Objected to by Mr. Byrne) Objection sustained.

I remember a fellow named John J. Newell, Jr. Do not remember seeing him that day at the lower poll.

Q.—Do you know if John Newell had been paid any money to vote for Murchie and Lawlor. (Objected to by Mr. Byrne and objection sustained.)

DANIEL McALLISTER.

Daniel McAllister the parish clerk of Durham was the next witness. His evidence was very exhaustive and went to show that the voters' lists had been prepared in time for the election; that he refused to accept the nomination paper of Frank LaPointe because he thought that he was not qualified to run, was not qualified because he was receiving pecuniary allowance from the council as an assessor; he was duly sworn in as chairman of poll by Matthew Ellis; that he refused to count the votes cast for LaPointe and that he had taken legal advice in regard to his action in refusing the nomination of LaPointe.

FRANK LAPOINTE.

Frank LaPointe gave evidence as to the filing of his nomination paper with the parish clerk; the making of the assessment; and other points bearing on the case.

E. McMillan, Esq., a Justice of the Peace for the county of Restigouche gave evidence as to the signing of LaPointe's nomination paper.

JOSEPH HACHEY.

Joseph Hachey was one of the most important witnesses heard. He swore as follows: I live at Jacques River, in the parish of Durham. Am a ratepayer in the parish of Durham. I remember the last election for councillors for the parish of Durham. I was at the upper poll the day of the election. I know Arch. Murchie and John Lawlor, two of the candidates seeking election as councillors for the parish of Durham at the last election. I saw Arch. Murchie about the poll the day of the election. Mr. Murchie gave me a ticket, and told me to vote the ticket. His name and John Lawlor's name were on the ticket.

Q.—Did you receive any money in that election from anyone to vote for Murchie and Lawlor.

A.—Yes, I received two dollars. It was given to me by Arch. Murchie, one of the candidates (Objected to by Mr. Byrne) He gave me two dollars about noon, when he gave me the ticket, near the poll.

Cross examined by Mr. Byrne. James Landry paid me no money. When Wm. E. Firlotte swore that Jas. Landry paid me money he swore to something which was not true.

Mr. LeBlanc.—Did Mr. Murchie ever talk to you about that after the election.—No.

To Mr. Byrne.—I did not vote at all in this election.

DAVID MCGREGOR

David McGregor also proved to be an important witness and swore as follows: I reside at Nashes Creek in the parish of Durham. My name was on the list of voters for the last council's election for the parish of Durham. I was at the Durham Centre poll the day of the election. I know Murchie and Lawlor two of the candidates in the election. I did not see Arch. Murchie pay any money to Jos. Hachey. I do not know if James Landry paid any money.

Cross examined by Mr. Byrne. I voted at the last election in Durham. I do not own any property but pay taxes. I voted in Colborne and also in Durham in the last election. I thought I had a vote in both parishes. No one asked me to go to Colborne in the election. I did not see Arch. Murchie pay any money to Jos. Hachey. I do not know if James Landry paid any money.

To Mr. Dickie.—I say that contents of paper are true and have bearing on the case.

Mr. LeBlanc.—Did you get any money from anyone to influence your vote in this election. Disallowed.

Mr. LeBlanc.—Did you have a conversation in reference to this protest. Yes. I had the conversation in this room. Arch. Murchie told me to swear I got the \$2.00 from Mr. Arthur Culligan for work. That is all he told me. I never worked for Mr. Culligan.

ARTHUR CULLIGAN, M. P. P.

Arthur Culligan—Sworn. The day of the polling, McGregor came to me and said that I owed him \$2.00 for some time. He kept at me for some time. Later in the day, I did give it to him, but not to influence his vote.

as he had no vote at this election.

To Mr. LeBlanc.—I would not like to swear that I did not give him a ticket. I do not think McGregor did vote that day. I did not go to the door of the poll with him. He had never asked me for that \$2.00 previously. Said I owed it to him for work he had done at a former election. I do not remember what he did for me. On his word I gave him \$2.00. I know David McGregor, know him as Scottie McGregor. I did not speak to him as Scottie, spoke to him as Mr. McGregor.

I do not know that I would have known him unless he had sworn here. I did not give him \$2.00 to vote for Murchie and Lawlor. He told me what I owed him for. I did not know him very well before Sept. 2nd.

ARCHIBALD MURCHIE.

Archibald Murchie took the stand in his own defence and after being sworn said in part as follows:—

I asked David McGregor if he did not get \$2.00 from Arthur Culligan which he owed him for work. He said yes. I said he did not give you money to vote for Lawlor and myself.

He said no.

Q.—Did you pay Hachey \$2.00 for his vote.

A.—I swear positively that I did not give Hachey any money to vote at any time.

Q.—Did you pay Hachey any money on election day.

A.—I will not swear to that.

Q.—Did you owe Hachey any money that day.

A.—I don't know. Hachey did not work for me.

Q.—Why did you pay Hachey \$2.00 on election day.

A.—I do not remember.

I cannot swear that I did pay Hachey \$2.00 election day. I will not swear that I did not pay Hachey \$2.00 on election day. I can't swear that I remember paying Hachey money. I remember hearing Hachey swear yesterday that I gave him \$2.00 for his vote.

Q.—Will you swear that when Joe. Hachey swore yesterday that you gave him \$2.00 election day that he swore to what was not true.

A.—I will not answer that.

I swear positively that I did not pay W. E. Firlotte \$1.00 election day. At about this period in the proceedings the committee were advised that as the accused councillors had been in the council room when the committee to hear the evidence had been appointed, when the bylaws clearly state that they should withdraw, that the appointment was not legal. They therefore reported to the council and were dismissed.

A new committee composed of Coun. Dickie, Groux and Alexander have been appointed to carry on the investigation, but owing to the lateness of the session and the fact that business was being retarded they reported to council and asked to be authorized to sit some time during the recess and report at the July session.

Nothing which learned council could do was left undone to prevent the admission of damaging evidence and some lively encounters took place between counsel and between counsel and W. S. Montgomery, who was chairman of the committee.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING DALHOUSIE

Protest of Election of Councillors Murchie and Lawlor Take up Time of Session

Dalhousie, Jan. 26, 1914.

The council reassembled at 10 o'clock and the entire day was taken up with the passing of accounts, and good progress was made.

Dalhousie, Jan. 27th, 1914.

The council reassembled at 10 o'clock and accounts were again taken up, and nearly all the accounts were disposed of at 11 o'clock, when Coun. Dickie asked for recess for fifteen minutes to enable committee on election protest to meet and make a short report. After discussing this for some time the council adjourned at 11.15 until 2 o'clock.

At the afternoon session six councillors absented themselves, so that as Coun. Levesque was absent, no quorum was present and no business could



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be transacted and the council adjourned at 5 o'clock until 10 o'clock Tuesday morning.

Dalhousie, Jan. 28th, 1914.

Council reassembled at 10 o'clock, all the councillors present except Coun. Levesque, granted leave, and Couns. Montgomery, Arsenau, Firth, and Peters.

The balance of the accounts were taken up and disposed of, when the parish officers were appointed for Durham.

A lively discussion took place over the appointment of the parish officers for Durham.

Coun. Harquail submitted a list and the two councillors for the parish also submitted a list for Durham.

An effort was made by the Warden to bring both parties together to agree on the list, when the matter narrowed down to one official. On this both parties held fast and the matter was taken up by the council, when the list submitted by Coun. Harquail, with a few changes as suggested by Coun.

(Continued on page 4)

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