

COUNTY COUNCIL PASSES ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS TO AMOUNT OF \$157,000

Discuss Question of Spending \$300,000 for New Public Hospital.

WILL DECIDE ON IT AT MEETING TODAY.

\$10,000 Grant for Upkeep of Tuberculosis Institution from Sept. 15th to Dec. 31st—Elected H. R. McLellan Warden.

At its meeting yesterday the county council passed appropriations for the current year to the amount of \$157,000, and discussed the question of spending \$300,000 for a new general public hospital.

Coun. McLellan was elected warden without opposition. A grant of \$10,000 was made to run the proposed St. John Tuberculosis Hospital from September 1st to December 31st, it being understood the building, which will cost \$50,000, will be finished by September.

After the secretary read the returns from the parish elections, the councilors were sworn in, and the minutes of the previous meeting taken as read and approved.

The next business was the election of warden, and on motion of Councilors Wignome and Smith, Coun. H. R. McLellan was unanimously elected.

Warden McLellan.

In taking office the new warden said the importance of the municipal council had not been properly realized in the past, and it would be his duty to try to impress its importance upon every member of the community. He said that in the near future there ought to be a revaluation in the city and parishes for assessment purposes. He had been charged with mediating in parish affairs, and if charged again would exhibit something in support of his mediating. He referred to the assessment system; that was the next thing to a joke, and the collection of taxes after the assessment was made was better than a joke.

On motion of Coun. Frink a standing vote of thanks was extended to the retiring warden, Coun. Carson, for the fair-minded way in which he had exercised the duties of his office. The ex-warden made a fitting response.

Hospital Fire Escapes.

The council went into committee of the whole to hear a delegation from the General Public Hospital, Dr. Thomas Walker said that he had been told some time that the fire escapes on the hospital would not be of much use in getting out patients, though they had been put up in accordance with the law as it was years ago. He said it was proposed to erect balconies which would serve a two-fold purpose, a means of escape from fire, and a place for taking fresh air. There would be three balconies 15 feet wide on each side, connecting with the wards, and having broad stairways leading to the ground. The estimated cost was \$5,000.

Dr. Walker asked that the council give the Hospital Commission the financial authority to have the balconies erected.

Need New Hospital.

Dr. Walker then spoke of the need of a new general hospital, a matter which has been before the public for three years or more. The first proposal was to build a wing to the south of the present building, but this was turned down. The proposition now was to acquire five lots on Wright street and put up a building four stories in height with accommodation for 140 patients. This building would be the nucleus of a new hospital. The estimated cost of the building with power house, laundry, etc., was \$275,000.

He trembled to come before the council with such a proposition, but in view of what was being done in other cities he felt it was not extravagant. The old building was antiquated, their quarters were cramped. The commissioners were accused of wanting to build a hospital for the wealthy, this was not so. They found it paid to

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take in paying patients; their money was spent in St. John instead of other places. Coun. Schofield—it is charged that poor patients have been turned away.

Dr. Malcolm said there had been cases where doctors sent people to the hospital without examining them, and these people had been turned away because they were not suitable patients. But he felt sure no deserving cases had been turned away.

Assessments.

The finance committee recommended that the following assessments be made upon the City and County of St. John for the several services and purposes named, and in the same proportion upon the city of St. John and upon the parishes of St. John, St. Martin, Lancaster and Musquash, except where the assessment is a charge upon a particular parish:

For contingencies	\$30,000.00
St. John Co. Hospital	10,000.00
Gen. Pub. Hos. St. John	42,800.00
Local Board of Health	7,200.00
St. John Mun. Home	24,000.00
Debate, interest and sinking fund:	
Municipal Home 3rd series	650.00
Hospital loan	1,500.00
Hospital improvement	1,200.00
Goal debentures	600.00
Hospital re issue of 1862	880.00
Isolation hospital	500.00
Common schools	16,072.00
Deaf and Dumb and Blind	1,000.00
Education	1,000.00
Revisors fees	280.00
Special:	
Lancaster police	700.00
Lancaster lights	1,200.00
Lancaster Fire Dist.	700.00
Lancaster debentures	500.00
Lancaster sewers Fire District No. 1 as enlarged by resolution of Council for Sewers—	
1st construction	\$2,700.00
2nd construction	2,092.00
	4,792.00
Lancaster running Par. line	82.00
Musquash running Par. line	82.00

Tuberculosis Grant

Coun. Schofield moved that \$10,000 be appropriated for the maintenance of the St. John County (Tuberculosis) Hospital this year. He said they should not delay longer about the erection of the institution; money had been voted to put up the building. They could have the building ready by September. It would cost \$40,000 a year for maintenance, and for the quarter they wanted \$10,000. St. John had an unusually high death rate from tuberculosis.

Coun. Agar said he understood the institution would cost \$30,000 a year to run, and that the estimate of \$40,000 included cost of furniture. They must expect to pay for conveniences. Coun. Frink said he had been long in favor of the tuberculosis hospital, but was startled at the cost of maintenance. If it cost \$30,000 or \$40,000 a year to maintain the tuberculosis hospital where there would be fifty patients, what would be the cost of maintaining the new general hospital? They were told the proposed new hospital building would cost \$275,000; that would mean an interest charge of about \$8,000. They could not vote in favor of the expenditure without further consideration.

Need Institution

Coun. Wignome thought in view of the public agitation and loss from tuberculosis, they would be justified in voting the money.

The warden believed none of the councilors had had an idea that the expense of maintenance would be so great. He would like to be able to spend \$40,000,000 to wipe out the white plague, but although they should give the matter serious consideration. Coun. Frink moved that the matter be deferred to a special meeting three weeks hence, in order to give the public a chance to express their opinions.

Coun. Howard seconded this.

Coun. Schofield said the estimate of \$30,000 was based on the assumption that fifty-three patients would be constantly in the hospital, and that the expense would be \$1.72 per day per patient. Probably the hospital would not always be filled up, and the paying patients would reduce the cost. The amendment was voted down, and the motion to assess \$10,000 was then declared carried.

Lancaster Taxes

Coun. Frink said collections in Lancaster had not been kept up, and this was had from a debenture issued by the council. Coun. O'Brien said the other councilors for Lancaster ought to explain why the taxes had not been collected.

Coun. Golding said the collector would not always be filled up, and the paying patients would reduce the cost. The amendment was voted down, and the motion to assess \$10,000 was then declared carried.

It was decided to dispense with the services of Police Officer Wm. Armstrong for Simonds and sell his horse; the reason being that a policeman was not necessary there in winter.

The salaries of the treasurer and auditor were fixed at the rate of \$900 per year.

Claims of Dr. Kelly for \$12; Dr. Pratt for \$12, and Dr. Bentley for \$8 for examining lunatics were ordered paid.

Municipal Home.

Some discussion took place over the recommendation to install electric lighting in the Municipal Home at an estimated cost of \$2,500.

Coun. Howard said they had agreed some time ago that the Municipal Home ought to be sold, as it was an unsuitable place.

Coun. Agar thought they should install the lights, as the site of the Home would not be utilized for industrial purposes for some years away.

Coun. Carson agreed with this; electricity would be safer and cheaper.

Coun. O'Brien suggested the idea of using the boiler in the Home to generate electricity.

Coun. Schofield said electricity would cost cheaper, and that there was still reason to believe the Home would be wanted for industrial purposes.

The Warden said that last year he had believed it would have been folly to spend \$2,500 on electric lighting, in view of the statements made that Norton Griffiths Company had wanted the site.

He has never been in the Home, except in Mr. Wood's office. He congratulated ex-Warden Carson for not signing the option he wanted, and said that he wanted to protect the Home. He would not sign the Home away in the next two years, unless they paid \$2 for every one it was worth. Now he believed the Home would remain there for a long time, and he favored the installation of electric lights.

A motion to install electric lights was passed.

A motion was passed voting \$60 to pay a parish clerk, a portion of salary withheld from him during 1911.

Examined Plans.

A sub-committee submitted a report, saying they had examined the plans for the proposed new general public hospital and felt from a layman's point of view that they met the needs of the situation.

Coun. Agar said the matter would have to go forward. The project would mean an expenditure of nearly \$300,000.

Coun. Agar moved that the report in regard to the plans be received.

This report recommended that an expert be secured to make a report on the preliminary plans. It stated also that the preliminary estimate for the building and land was \$286,000.

Coun. Schofield—An expert may find the estimate may be cut down.

The Warden—The first thing is to decide whether we are willing to spend the money. We don't want to spend money on an expert unless we are going ahead with the building.

Favor Idea.

Coun. Agar said he was prepared to move a resolution to provide the building; the commissioners, doctors and general public had been clamoring for more and better hospital accommodation.

Coun. Schofield said new light had broken in on him. Probably the expert's plans would be determined by the amount of money available. That meant the councilors should decide how much money they would expend.

The hospital matter had been before the public for five or six years; the need of increased accommodation was generally admitted. He favored the idea.

Coun. Wignome said he was willing to vote for the proposed expenditure.

The Warden pointed out that it was then 6 o'clock, said they should give careful consideration to the project, which would involve \$300,000, and ultimately a great deal more.

Coun. Carson—I move we adjourn till 2 o'clock tomorrow. I think we ought to take the night to consider a matter of issuing bonds for \$300,000.

Council adjourned till 2 p. m. today. Those present were: St. Martin—Wm. Smith, C. Fred Black, J. A. Howard.

Simonds—Messrs. Carson, Stephenson, Shillington.

Lancaster—E. Bryant, Wm. Golding, John O'Brien.

Musquash—Wm. J. Dean, Frederick Thompson.

City—Messrs. Frink, Wignome, McLellan, Schofield and Agar.

GOVERNMENT TROOPS IN HAITI ARE DEFEATED

Cape Haitien, Haiti, Jan. 20.—The Haitian government troops were overwhelmedly defeated by the rebels who fled in disorder after a battle today two miles from this city.

The minister of war took refuge on board the steamer Quebec.

Marvellous.

Alys—Albert promised me he wouldn't smoke a cigarette for two days. Ethelred—He'll keep his promise; that boy has wonderful will power.

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Delegates from Fourteen Nations Signed Agreement Yesterday.

EMBODIES SEVENTY-FOUR ARTICLES

Lord Mersey Gives Summary—Deals with Ice Patrol, Wireless and other Methods for Protection.

London, Jan. 20.—The convention drawn up by the international conference on safety at sea was signed at the foreign office this afternoon with considerable formality by all the delegations except one, namely Austria, which will sign tomorrow.

The representatives of Great Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, United States, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Norway, Holland, Belgium and Denmark were all present.

The text of the convention which contains seventy-four articles will not be officially published until Feb. 15.

Lord Mersey, president of the conference, in his closing speech summarized the principal provisions of the convention. He said:

Watch For Ice in North Atlantic

"An international service is to be established by the nations chiefly interested for the purpose of an ice patrol and ice observation, as well as the destruction of derelicts in the North Atlantic."

It is to be under the control of the United States. This service is to take over and continue the work done by the two vessels employed by the United States in 1912-13 in locating ice, in determining its limits to the south, the east and the west, and in keeping in touch with the icebergs and ice fields.

The service also will continue the duty of dealing with dangerous derelicts east of a line drawn from Cape Sable to latitude 34 north, longitude 70 west. The waters to the west of this line will continue to be watched by the United States.

The duty is also imposed on all shipmasters to report the presence of dangerous ice and derelicts and a code of signals is to be prepared to facilitate this reporting.

"When ice is reported on or near the track a ship must proceed during the night at moderate speed or alter its course so as to clear the danger zone."

"The practice by which routes across the Atlantic are fixed by agents of the shipping companies has been left unaltered and the government undertakes to impress all ship-owners with the desirability of allowing as far as possible these rules."

"The effective lighting of boat decks is provided for by the convention and the carrying of Morse lamps is made compulsory."

New Danger Signal.

"An international code for urgent and important signals has been adopted."

"On the question of construction of passenger steamers," Lord Mersey continued, "the convention provides that existing arrangements shall be continued by the member states of the country to which each vessel belongs, with the view of providing increased safety where practicable and reasonable."

"The most difficult point this committee had to deal with was the division of ships into watertight compartments. The convention provides that the degree of safety should increase in a regular and continuous manner with the length of vessels, and that vessels shall be as efficiently subdivided as possible, having regard to the spread of fire, means of escape from watertight compartments, requirements as to the strength of bulkheads and decks, the reduction to the smallest number practicable of openings in watertight bulkheads, the restriction of the number of openings in the ship's outer skin, appliances for closing such openings, and arrangements as to the fitting and extent of double bottoms, the periodical operation and inspection of watertight doors, etc."

The President referred to the compulsory entering in the log of drills and inspections, and the requirement by the convention of backing power and auxiliary steering apparatus.

Concluding the summary of these provisions, Lord Mersey said that great increase in safety can result from prudent and skilful management and navigation.

Wireless on Merchant Vessels.

The convention provides that all merchant vessels when engaged in international or colonial voyages, whether steamers or sailing vessels, and whether carrying passengers or not, must be equipped with wireless telegraphy if they have on board fifty persons or more, except where that number is increased owing to causes beyond the master's control. The contracting states, however, have the discretion to make suitable exemptions in certain cases, the most important of which is in connection with vessels, which in the course of their voyages do not go more than one hundred and fifty miles from the nearest land.

In the meantime, the following vessels are required to maintain a continuous watch, in addition to all vessels placed in the first category contemplated by the radio-telegraphic convention, which includes all fast passenger steamers, vessels of more than

thirteen knots speed which carry 200 passengers, and make voyages of more than 500 miles between two consecutive ports, other passenger vessels, during the time they are more than 500 miles from land, and still other vessels engaged in the trans-Atlantic trade or whose voyages take them more than 1,000 miles from land.

Vessels in the second category, nevertheless are required to keep watch for at least seven hours a day besides a watch of ten minutes each hour.

Wireless apparatus must have a range of at least 100 miles and an emergency apparatus placed in the safest place unless the main installation is in the highest part of the ship in conditions of the greatest safety.

The master of a ship in distress is to have the right to call for assistance, among vessels which have answered his appeal, from those vessels which he thinks are best able to render him assistance. The other vessels may then proceed on their voyage.

Lifeboats For All

The convention lays down that there must be accommodation in lifeboats or their equivalents for all classes of persons on board a ship. Lifeboats are divided into two classes, the first of which comprises the ordinary open boats and other boats with fixed sides, and the second of which is composed of boats having the upper parts of their sides collapsible.

Every vessel must be equipped with minimum number of davits, or equivalent appliances which varies according to the length of the ship. Each davit must have a lifeboat attached to it, and thereafter additional boats must be provided until provision has been made to accommodate seventy-five per cent. of the total of persons on board. If further accommodation be required it may be provided in the shape of lifeboats or approved pontoon life rafts.

Special life jackets for children also must be provided.

The convention further provides that there must be a minimum number of members of the crew who are competent to handle boats and rafts. For a boat or raft carrying not more than sixty persons, the minimum number of the crew is fixed at three with additional numbers for larger boats or rafts. The men must hold a certificate of competency, issued under government authority.

The convention further provides that all ships must be efficiently and sufficiently manned from the point of view of safety of life at sea. The carriage of dangerous goods is forbidden and each administration is to issue warnings as to what goods are dangerous.

For detecting fire, an organized system of patrols is called for, and the regulations require adequate provision for extinguishing fire and for the organization of crews for fire and boat drills.

All ships are to have an adequate system of lighting, to enable passengers to find their way to the exits, while the boat decks also must be well lighted.

The ships of the contracting states which comply with the requirements of the convention shall be accepted by all states as having the same value as certificates issued by them to their own ships, and as constituting prima facie evidence of compliance with the convention.

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