

The Union Advocate

VOL. XLVI.

NEWCASTLE, N. B., THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 1913

THE COUNTY COUNCIL IS NOW SITTING IN ANNUAL SESSION

Coun. Vanderbeck Wants Jurors to be paid \$2 a Day—Valuators Bring in Their New Valuation of County Property—Scott Act Report.

The annual session of the Northumberland County Council convened at the Court House, Newcastle, on Tuesday morning. The Council was called to order at ten o'clock by Warden Benson, who said:—
Gentlemen: I am glad to see you all again, and wish you a prosperous year.

I regret that the new County building is not yet ready for occupancy, as was expected, and presume the committee will explain why the contractors have been allowed so much time to complete their contract.

It is with deep regret that I have heard of the untimely death of our esteemed Coun. Pond, and presume that this Board will fittingly recognize its loss, by resolution, later in the session.

I trust, gentlemen, that our sessions will be carried on pleasantly and in a businesslike manner.

I would remind the Council that the smallpox bills so long in dispute are still unsettled, and it is for this Board to say whether any further action is to be taken, as this is the last session of the present Council, or whether this \$11,000 legacy is to be handed over to the new Board.

The Council is now open for business, and the Secretary will please call the roll.

The roll was called as follows:—
Alnwick—Wm. Anderson, Wm. L. Allan.
Blackville—Geo. Hayes, D. G. Schofield.
Blissfield—F. D. Swim, J. C. Weaver.
Chatham—Jas. F. Connors, J. Fred Benson.
Chatham Town—F. M. Tweedie, W. F. Cassidy.
Derby—J. W. Vanderbeck, E. J. Parker.
Glenelg—John. W. McNaughton, Wm. V. Ullock.
Hardwick—P. Sullivan, Herbert F. Fowle.
Ludlow—Arthur O'Donnell.
Nelson—G. P. Burchill, Jas. Harrigan.
Newcastle—L. Doyle, H. H. Lamont.
Newcastle Town—John Clark.
North Esk—P. Forsythe, Paul Kingston.
South Esk—Wilbur Somers, Thos. Johnston.
Rogersville—Patrick Chaisson, A. M. Arseneau.
G. Bidlake and J. L. Stewart were appointed reporters.

Wm. Irving and Frank Johnstone were appointed constables in attendance.

Minutes of the July session were read and approved.

Coun. Swim referred feelingly to the death of Coun. Pond, one of our brightest young men, and moved the following:

Resolved, That the Municipal Council of Northumberland lead with deep sorrow of the sudden death by accident of one of its members, Coun. Harding R. Pond, of Ludlow.

His sudden death is a loss to the County and to the parish he represented in this body.

As a young man he fought bravely under his country's flag when the British Empire needed the services of loyal sons, and then settled down to a life of productive industry in his native county.

ications and reports, the substance of which is as follows:—
Re Sheldrake Island, the Minister had first refused to recognize the Council's claim for compensation for its use by the Marine Department, and afterwards promised to look into the matter. Mr. Damery had been asked to surrender his lease, but had not responded. The sum of \$8 had been received from John A. Morrison Jr., for hay. The Secty. treasurer had written to Richard Duke, who lives on the island, and had failed to keep his promise to pay rent. He advised that a distress warrant be issued against him and his goods, chattels and shack seized and sold—the cheapest and most effectual way of getting rid of Mr. Duke.

The report of the committee on the sale of Courthouse bonds showed that a premium of \$350 had been received.

Re level crossing at the south end of the railway bridge. The management proposed to close the two present crossings and make an overhead crossing as near the North West River as the height of land would permit. The proposal was laid before the Councillors for Derby and Southesk. They were satisfied. The engineer had informed him that the road would be completed as early as the spring as possible unless the Council objected.

Re Ludlow land damages, farm of John Donald. The Public Works Department claimed that the province was not liable and that it was a matter entirely for the parish and county.

Resolutions adopted by the Good Roads Association, St. John, were also read.

On motion of Coun. Connors these documents were referred to the Committee on Petitions.

Coun. Vanderbeck reported the following Standing Committees—
County Accounts—Anderson, Parker, Connors, Lamont, Schofield.
Petitions—Vanderbeck, Johnston, O'Donnell, McNaughton, Chaisson.
Contingencies—Doyle, Swim, Burchill, Fowle, Forsyth.

By-laws—Allain, Parker, Swim.
To Visit Jail—McNaughton, Sullivan, Weaver.
Almshouse—Burchill, Fowle, Johnston.
Report adopted.
Adjourned till 2 o'clock.

Tuesday Afternoon
Coun. Burchill reported, as a delegate to the N. B. Union of Municipalities, that the attendance was small showing lack of interest in that body. Coun. Burchill gave an interesting resume of the proceedings of the convention. He questioned whether the cost of membership and sending delegates was a good investment, the executive having shown lack of interest and energy in trying to carry out the resolutions that were adopted.

Coun. Anderson moved that the report be filed. Carried.

Coun. Clark felt that there was an advantage in meeting in such a body free from party politics. It was a power that could be brought to bear to influence legislation apart from politics. He moved that the Council continue its membership by paying the usual fee of \$10.

This was not seconded.

Coun. Doyle moved that \$1190 be assessed on the parish of Newcastle for road purposes. Carried.

Coun. Forsyth moved that \$600 be assessed off Northesk for road purposes and \$30.50 for the support of poor lunatics; also that the Sec. Treasurer's account with the parish pass. Carried.

THE COUNTY VALUATION, 1912

Shows an Increase in the County of \$3,107,901 over that of 1900
---Newcastle has Doubled in Value in that time, While Chatham has Increased One-third---All the Parishes Show Satisfactory Gains.

PARISHES	Real Est.	Personal Property	Income	Total 1912	P. C. of Tl. Valuation	Total 1900	Increase
Town of Chatham	\$1,311,600	\$271,900	\$24,950	\$1,824,950	22.6	\$1,301,150	\$523,800
Town of Newcastle	734,475	213,175	15,900	1,103,550	13.6	337,490	431,160
Parish of Chatham	456,450	232,350	79,850	768,650	9.5	563,285	540,265
" Newcastle	390,450	104,135	55,500	550,085	6.8	322,043	228,042
" Alnwick	322,925	134,807	67,200	524,932	6.5	326,443	198,489
" Nelson	318,370	109,666	75,350	503,386	6.2	345,335	158,051
" Blackville	303,005	103,645	58,950	465,600	5.8	353,089	112,511
" Derby	208,909	94,517	41,450	344,876	4.3	201,265	103,611
" Glenelg	204,609	98,575	23,200	326,384	4.0	219,865	106,519
" Rogersville	162,850	117,367	24,650	304,867	4.4	143,205	161,662
" Hardwicke	260,535	70,165	31,650	362,350	3.7	172,277	190,073
" South Esk	192,785	75,825	30,550	299,160	3.8	164,645	134,515
" North Esk	164,045	64,892	38,500	267,437	3.4	191,855	75,582
" Blissfield	137,800	56,189	26,650	220,639	2.8	132,450	88,189
" Ludlow	134,415	43,683	25,350	203,448	2.6	148,016	55,432
TOTALS	\$5,303,223	\$1,790,891	\$976,200	\$8,070,314		\$4,962,413	\$3,107,901

Coun. Schofield moved that the parish clerks be paid the usual allowances, to be charged to the different parishes also that \$1400 be assessed on Blackville for roads. Carried.

Coun. Burchill moved \$1210.50 be assessed on Nelson for roads. Carried.

Coun. McNaughton moved that \$680 be assessed on Glenelg for roads. Carried.

Coun. Burchill moved that \$78.75 be assessed on Nelson for pauper lunatics. Carried.

Coun. Ullock reported that the Committee to visit the Almshouse has found everything tidy and the inmates contented. Carried.

Coun. Swim moved that \$575 be assessed on Blissfield for roads. Carried.

Coun. Somers moved that \$700 be assessed on South Esk for roads, and that the Secty. Treasurer's account with parish officers pass. Carried.

Coun. Vanderbeck moved that Council adjourn till 10 tomorrow morning for committee work. Carried.

Wednesday Morning
The session opened by reading the minutes of yesterday's proceedings, which on motion were adopted.

On motion of Coun. O'Donnell the sum of \$575 was ordered assessed on parish of Ludlow for Road purposes.

On motion of Coun. Parker, the sum of \$600 was ordered assessed on parish of Derby for road purposes.

On motion of Coun. O'Donnell the returns of Ludlow Highway Board passed.

On motion of Coun. Parker the parish accounts of Derby passed.

On motion of Coun. Sullivan, the accounts of A. McDonald, collector of rates of Hardwick and his default list, which showed a balance of \$1, also the accounts of Patrick Carroll, which showed a balance of \$1.15 due the County passed.

On motion of Coun. Swim the Sec. Treas. returns for pauper lunatics for the parish of Blissfield passed.

On motion of Coun. O'Donnell the Sec. Treas. parish account for Ludlow passed.

On motion of Coun. Somers, the following accounts relating to the parish of South Esk passed, G. D. Sutherland, William T. Sauntry, D. Sillikers and the South Esk Road Board.

On motion of Coun. Swim the Sec. Treas. parish account for Blissfield passed.

On motion of Coun. Harrigan, the following accounts of Nelson parish passed, William Goggin, Peter O'Neill, Thos. Lynch, the Road Board and the Sec. Treas. pauper lunatic account.

On motion of Coun. O'Donnell the account of the collector of rates of Ludlow and his default list passed.

On motion of Coun. Sullivan the list of officers for the parish of Hardwick passed.

On motion of Coun. Harrigan the account of J. L. Stewart for printing passed, and to be charged to Nelson.

On motion of Coun. Forsythe the accounts of Geo. McLean, B. Allison and Leonard Smallwood, collectors of rates for North Esk passed.

On motion of Coun. Somers the list of officers for parish of South Esk passed.

The Sec. Treasurer said as a private individual he could lay no information, but not as a public official.

Coun. Vanderbeck said he didn't ask the question as a temperance man, but simply to find out what the Inspector's powers were.

On motion the report was ordered filed, and the account of T. W. Butler, \$59 advocate's fee ordered paid.

On motion of Coun. Burchill Inspector Baldwin was appointed Scott Act Inspector for the ensuing year at the salary of \$500.

On motion of Coun. Swim the list of officers for the parish of Blissfield was passed.

Coun. Allain presented the accounts of Saml. Martin, Henry Legere, Angus Fraser, John F. Burchill, collectors of rates for Alnwick parish; also the accounts of Sec. Treas. for pauper lunatics and parish account and the accounts of Alnwick Road Board, all of which on his motion passed.

On motion of Coun. Arseneau it was ordered that \$825 be assessed parish of Rogersville for road purposes for the ensuing year. Also the list of parish officers as presented by him be passed.

On motion of Coun. Ullock the accounts of Malcolm Wattling, collector of rates for Glenelg, also the Highway Board returns, passed.

On motion of Coun. Swim the Secy. Treas. account for special collection for roads in the parish of Blissfield passed.

On motion of Coun. Kingston the accounts of Murdoch Sutherland, collector, North Esk, which showed a balance due to the County of \$19.11 passed. List of parish officers also passed.

Coun. Burchill asked if the county valuator had made any report to the Council, and if so when would it be available for the members to see it.

The Warden said the valuator's report has been laid before the Council and that an appointment had been made for 2.30 tomorrow afternoon to go through it with them. In the meanwhile it was open for any member of the Council to peruse if he wished to do so.

REFORM IN TAXATION SYSTEM DISCUSSED BY TOWN COUNCIL

Motion to Have the Matter Brought Before the Legislature Postponed for Further Consideration—Finance Committee's Annual Report.

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council was held on Thursday the 16th. Mayor Belyea present with Aldermen Falconer, McGrath, McKay and Stuart the only other members present.

The Finance Committee's recommendation, that the available sinking fund now on deposit at the Royal Bank be used to purchase Town of Newcastle debentures as the same may be offered at a price to yield 5 per cent or more, was adopted, on motion of Ald. Stuart and Falconer.

The following bills were passed:
FINANCE
Miramichi Pub. Co., \$1.50
PUBLIC WORKS
Geo. Stables \$1.00
POLICE
Thos. Maltby and Sons, Repairs, etc., in Police Magistrate's Office \$40.25
LIGHT & WATER
Maritime Foundry \$11.96
I. C. Coal Mining Co. 112.82
J. A. Gen. Elec. Co. 37.08
John Ferguson & Sons 48.39
PARK AND FIRE
Jas. Jardine & Co., 5.75
Report of the Police and Appointment to Office Committee.

To His Worship the Mayor, and Council of the Town of Newcastle: Gentlemen:—Your Police and Appointment to Office Committee beg to submit the following report of their department for the year 1912.

During the year seventy-seven complaints other than for violation of the Canada Temperance Act were laid before the Police Magistrate, as compared with ninety four during 1911. None of the complaints were on theft or other very serious crimes.

The returns from the Police Court show a total collection of fines and costs of \$375.50. Magistrate's fees amounted to \$240.00 and constable's and witnesses' fees to \$27.50, totaling \$643.00 and leaving a balance of \$108.00 paid to the Town Treasurer.

With reference to the Canada Temperance Act, twelve search warrants were issued during the year and thirty nine complaints were laid, as compared with three search warrants and thirty complaints in the previous year. There were thirty-one convictions for violation of the Act, seven complaints were dismissed and one dropped. The total fines and costs collected amounted to \$1699.55. Magistrate's fees were \$164.00, and constables' fees and witnesses' fees \$31.90, totalling \$195.90, balance of \$1503.65 paid over to Town Treasurer.

Two of the three gentlemen, recommended by this Committee, and appointed by the Council, to act as special valuers for the Town, viz. Falconer and McKay, failed to act, objecting, it is understood, to having the valuation of personal property included in their task.

As the season was then far advanced and a new County Valuation was being taken the Committee did not deem it advisable to press for the appointment of other valuers. They hope that the County valuation will be sufficiently correct to render a special Town valuation next year unnecessary.

The report was received and ordered printed in the Town Book.

The Police Magistrate's report for the last quarter was received and filed. The four quarterly reports for the year show the following complaints laid: For drunkenness, 47; drunk and disorderly 1; vagrancy 15; assault 6; fighting 3; cruelty to animals 2; abusing wife 1; obstructing police 1; abusive language 1; total 77.

The Police Magistrate's and Scott Act Inspector's Scott Act reports for 1912, substantially the same, were received and filed. The net Scott Act returns from the Police Court, to date are as follows:—

1900—\$684.75
1901—\$304.75
1902—\$209.20
1903—\$322.10
1904—\$336.80
1905—\$938.50
1906—\$1179.40
1907—\$2099.55
1908—\$1463.30
1909—\$782.75
1910—\$1248.65
1911—\$1466.50
1912—\$1503.65

Of the 31 convictions for violation of the C. T. A. during year, 21 were for first offence. They were as follows:
Against Hotel Miramichi 14; Windsor Hotel 12; Durick's Drug Store & Commercial Hotel 1.

The Petitions Committee reported as follows:
1. With reference to the petition of John Brander for reduction of taxes, your Committee have been unable to find any good reason for his assessment for 1912 should be altered, and would therefore recommend that the prayer of the petition be not granted.

2. In the case of David Manderson owing to ill health of the applicant, we would recommend that his income tax for 1912 be struck off. (Sgd) F. C. McGrath A. H. McKay

Adopted.
The petitions of A. A. Russell for lease of Town Hall and the North Shore Lender re water rates were deferred till next meeting. Re the former, Ald. Falconer said he was decidedly opposed to the leasing of the Town Hall for a moving picture show. As Chairman Doyle of the Public Works Committee was absent there was not yet any report on the subject, and the petition was not formally discussed.

It was moved by Ald. Stuart, seconded by Ald. Falconer, as follows:—
"That the Council hereby authorize and instruct the Mayor and the Town Clerk to have a Bill prepared and introduced in the Legislature and proposed in committee thereon, asking for such amendment of any Act or Acts relating to the Town of Newcastle as will enable the said Town, upon a majority vote of its qualified ratepayers voting, to reduce or abolish Taxes on Polls, Improvements, Personal Property and Income, or any one or more of these, and raise the extra revenue required by increased taxes on land values with or without a system of business licenses such Bill to also provide that there shall not, in case any of the above mentioned changes in the system of taxation is, or are, hereafter adopted by the said Town, be any consequent reduction in the number of persons entitled to vote at the Town elections or eligible for election as Mayor or Alderman."

Ald. McKay said that the legislation asked for was very advanced. Was the public demanding it? Was there any other town in N. B. that wanted it? Or any Canadian town of Newcastle's size that had tried it and found it satisfactory?

Ald. Stuart said that at last session of the Legislature Campbellton and Moncton had asked for several of the powers for which merely permission was asked in this motion. And St. John was taking similar steps.

Mayor Belyea reminded Ald. McKay that this motion was merely to enable Newcastle to hereafter change her tax system in accordance with the wishes of her voters.

Ald. McGrath opposed the motion. He thought that the exemption of personal property and income from taxation was ridiculous. He would admit that the present system of the country was not property. No man in the province owned any land. He would stipulate it. The ownership of land in this State. But he feared that the granting of land only would enable those who earned good incomes but did not hold land to escape their just share of taxation. It would prevent working men from buying land and would discourage building operations.

Ald. McKay said that he was in favor of reducing the tax on polls and improvements, but to adopt the entire motion would be too sweeping.

Ald. Stuart agreed with Ald. McGrath that no individual really owns land. The so-called owner is merely a tenant of the State. Land cannot be created by the individual. It rightly belongs to the community, whom it owes its value. But the improvements a man makes and the income he rightfully earns and his personal property he rightfully owns. It is not created by him, but he acquires it, and should not be taxed on it.

(Continued on page 2)