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City Council.

The Municipal Council held its regular weekly session last evening. The Mayor presided and all the Councillors attended.

After reading the minutes, etc., the following matters were disposed of:—

A. Macpherson applied for water to his stable, King's Bridge Road. Engineer to report.

The Mayor read the following report:—

Since our last meeting I have seen Mr. M. Connors in respect to the field on Quidi Vidi Road, which we decided to take over from him, and to lay out in building lots. He has appointed Mr. J. B. Slater as his arbitrator and it is now necessary for us to appoint ours.

As the arbitration can take place at once, and the city placed in possession of a part of the field in a short time, I see no reason why we should not decide how to lay out the ground, and also to ask for tenders for the building of say half a dozen double houses according to the plans we have adopted.

In connection with the building of houses Mr. James McGrath informs me that with the assistance of Mr. John Anderson he is endeavouring to form a Building Society which he hopes may undertake the building of houses on a large scale. I told him that the City would shortly be in possession of the Quidi Vidi Road property and would be glad to treat with his Society for the lease of the land in question. I trust that Mr. McGrath's plans for forming a Building Society may be perfected. It was always considered by myself and the late Municipal Board that the best means of dealing with the housing question would be through the medium of Building Societies, and provisions have been made in the Charter for the City to grant help to such Societies. I do not think it advisable for the City to become the landlord of houses if it can possibly be avoided. I have always considered that the best way for the City to help was to build houses for people who wished to become the owners, and who would pay a certain amount of the cost in cash, and the balance over a period of years. In respect to the houses which we may possibly build this year, I would suggest that this method should be adopted.

If we decide to lease the Quidi Vidi Road property for building purposes to Societies or individuals, very careful stipulations will have to be made regarding the type of house to be erected and the upkeep of the same. I have wondered whether we could not adopt the plan for this property of having no divisional fences, and consequently no backyards to be littered up with refuse. This plan is used largely elsewhere and makes a very clean and healthy settlement.

If we find it possible to build this year, I suggest that we should let it be known by advertisement that so many houses will be built, of such a type, costing so much, and ask for applications for same. By this means we will find out how great the demand is at the moment. Only to-day a man came to me asking if I could help him to find a house. He had been paying about \$90.00 a year for a house without water and sewerage and owed no rent, but the landlord wanted the house and had given him notice to quit. Unfortunately I could not help him.

While the immediate demand is great, it will be increased tenfold when the City enforces proper housing laws. For instance there must be at least a hundred families living in basements with no light or ventilation except through a door or window in front, the back of the room or rooms being against a wall.

Since the Board enforced the regulation calling upon landlords to put rented houses in habitable condition, numerous complaints have been made to the Council and action taken. Generally speaking the houses are almost too poor to repair.

In my opinion there is nothing of local character more important before the public of St. John's to-day than the need for better houses. It does not matter what question comes up in civic affairs, we find ourselves back again to the impossibility of making real improvements unless the houses are made fit to live in.

I think that before long we must pass a regulation that no house shall be considered "habitable" unless it has water and sewerage. I don't see how the City can be clean nor the public healthy until the whole of our people are living in houses with water and sewerage installed in them.

While speaking of matters connected with the Public Health I am glad to be able to announce that Miss Rogers, the trained nurse who has been employed to organize Community Nursing in the city, has now begun work. She is at present investigating conditions, rendering such help and giving such advice as she is able to at the same time. But it is obvious that one nurse cannot attend to the whole city, and I think that two or three of our local nurses should be employed as soon as possible to work with Miss Rogers, who will be able to carry on the work after she leaves.

Until the City is empowered to spend funds for the purpose, I think an appeal must be made to the public for the wherewithal to institute and to carry on this most important work for the children of the city.

M. Connors wrote that he had ap-

pointed Mr. J. B. Slater as arbitrator in connection with his property Quidi Vidi Road.

Mr. J. C. Barter was appointed arbitrator for the Council in the same matter.

Bowring Brothers asked permission to build a garage on the South Side. Passed subject to the Engineer's inspection of plans and his approval.

M. Hickey, Barter's Hill, made a complaint as to the tank near his house.

Nfld. Produce Company applied for water connection with their Cold Storage Plant. Granted, provided all expenses of installation are borne by the Company and they pay same rate for water as others.

It was decided in connection with this matter that all Cold Storage Plants in the city be metered.

J. and F. Davey submitted plan of garage to be built on Bond and Flavin Streets for the Anglo-American Garage Co.; approved.

Plan of garage for Jos. Sellars, on Rennie's Mill Road. Passed, provided pipe connection with Military Road is obtained by him.

It was decided that plans for approval at Thursday's meeting of the Council must be sent in not later than Tuesday evening before.

Wm. A. Bulger asked permission to repair house 13 Boggan Street. Left to the Engineer to see that water and sewerage is in the place.

The question of granting water to the Church of England Orphanage near Long Pond was referred for further report as to cost.

A report was made by the Engineer's Department on cost of extending the sewer out Cockpit Road and a list of property owners was also submitted. Application has been made for a building there. This cannot be acceded to without water and sewerage being available. To do this a large expenditure will be necessary. The owners of the land in question will be written and asked if they are prepared to pay their proportion of this expenditure.

James Brennan requested permission to build addition to house on Angel Place. Granted.

The Health Officer reported two cases diphtheria for the past week.

It was decided to give the second water service to the Military Hospital on Military Road as long as the building is used for the present purposes.

After passing pay rolls, bills, etc., the meeting adjourned.

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Aches

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The much talked of big football match that will open this season's play is to be run off at St. George's Field at 7.15 o'clock this evening. The contesting teams being the C. E. I. and B. I. S. His Excellency the Governor who was once a star footballer will kick off the ball, when one of the fastest exhibitions of football seen for sometime will be handed out to spectators. Both elevens have had some hard practice and each is confident of victory. The proceeds will be devoted to the W. P. A. which is badly in want of every dime that can be spared. If you can go send your gate money in care of a friend.



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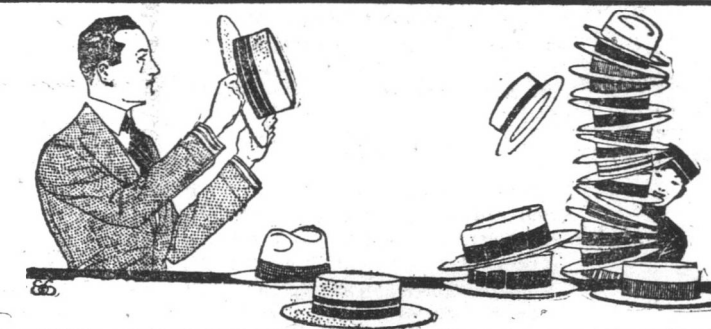
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