MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ORGANIZED TUESDAY.

Coun. Macrae Elected Warden—Lengthy Discussion on the Hospital Accounts and on Statute Labor in St. John County

The Municipal Council met Tuesday afternoon at the chamber at the Court House and elected Coun. Macrae warden without opposition. An address was made by the retiring warden, Coun. Lowell of Lancaster, and the newly chosen warden on taking the chair delivered an interesting address. There were present at the opening: Warden Lowell, in the chair, and:

City of St. John—Councillors White, Hamm, Macrae, Maxwell, Dailey, Barker, Tilley, Robinson, Lewis, McGoldrick, Carleton, Brannen, and Holder.

Simonds—Couns. Lee and Jones.

St. Martins—Couns. Cochran, Kelly and Fownes.

Lancaster—Couns. Gregory and Long.

Musquash—Couns. Thomson and Dean.

Sheriff Ritchie, County Secretary Vincent, County Treasurer DeVeber, County Auditor Magilton were also in attendance.

The finance and accounts committee's report advising a grant of $20,000 for the maintenance of the General Public Hospital passed after a stiff fight, which was put up against the increase in view of the fact that the commissioners had a large amount of money on hand at the close of the year 1903. Other matters of importance were discussed.

The secretary read the certificate from the common clerk of the city of St. John giving the names of the ex-officio members of the municipality.

Having been called to order, the councillors settled at once to business.

The warden announced that the first order of business was to elect a new warden.

Coun. Cochran nominated Coun. A. W. Macrae and Coun. Thomson seconded the motion.

Coun. Lee then moved that nominations close, and the resolution went through without a dissenting voice.

A vote having been cast for Coun. Macrae he was declared elected to the wardenship.

The retiring warden, Coun. Lowell, thanked the Council for the courtesy extended to him during the past year. He hoped his successor would be as kindly treated. In the matter of the employment of the hard labor prisoners it would be for the Council to determine what would be done. As for himself, he could not see that the Council had accomplished what it started out to do. A year previous the number of prisoners in jail averaged 43, but this past year it had run up to 50. There might be some reason given for this fact. It was said some people who were picked up by the police for different offences got $5 fine or two months in jail. The police magistrate would do more good if he gave these people $5, or a good stiff kick to drive them all out of town. (Applause).

Warden Elect Macrae, who was escorted to the chair by Couns. Cochran and Thomson, addressed the body in a most interesting speech. He first returned thanks for the honor done him and asked the council to continue the courteous treatment to him that had always marked their conduct towards their warden. The hospital question would come up today. Great improvements were being made in connection with that institution. The commissioners who controlled it wanted more money with which to carry on the work of maintenance. The council deserved credit for the generous manner in which they dealt with this question. The legislation obtained during the last session of the legislature was of importance. The council should congratulate themselves upon having had St. John city and county exempted from the new highway act. The council's committee presented such a strong case that the government had agreed to this exemption. Thus St. John Co. could go on working as they had done in the past. The way the St. John act worked was sufficient evidence to convince anybody that it was the proper one for this municipality. He trusted all would go on this year with the ususal smoothness.

Coun. Lee said the act gave St. John the right to assess money as well as use statute labor.

Warden Macrae said the right agreed upon now was only to assess for highway purposes. The new act provided for taxation only in the other counties.

Secretary Vincent said statute labor had been abolished in St. John Co. too by the agreement made by the council committee with the government in order to get the latter to consent to St. John retaining her local act. Direction was given to that committee by the councillors on the bill and by-laws committee. If St. John Co. employed statute labor they would violate faith with the government of the province.

Coun. Kelly asked if it was desired to have the councillors of the parishes to carry out this agreement with the government.

Coun. Lee said this was agreed to at Fredericton. If St. John did not comply with the agreement the government would apply the new act here.

The secretary explained that the delegation to Fredericton had authority to agree to the abolition of statute labor.

Coun. Fownes could not see why the government objected to the performance of statute labor in county parishes. He thought the government would consent to the act remaining as it was. Probably if the committee at Fredericton had urged our case the government would have let the act remain as it was.

Coun. Lowell assured the council that the new act did away with statute labor and the county's committee at Fredericton agreed to do that in order to retain the local act which which suited us so well.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and it was decided to appoint the officials necessary to be named now.

It was reported by the secretary that Wm. Amos, James Stewart, R. Rawlings and Wm. Quelty had applied for appointment as policemen at Bay Shore during the summer months.

A vote was taken by ballot.

The tellers, Couns. Maxwell, Robinson, Long and Dean, reported that the ballot elected Amos and Rawlings, who received 18 and 13 votes respectively.

This was decided upon.

The finance and accounts committee recommended payment of the following amounts, such payment to be made out of the contingent fund, except as otherwise directed:

They recommend that the following assessments be made on the city and county:

For contingencies	$17,620.00
Alms house and work house	15,000.00
General Public Hospital	20,000.00
Local board of health	4,500.00

DEBENTURES.

Interest and Sinking Fund,		
Alms house, 2nd series	$1,000.00	
Alms house, 3rd series	650.00	
Hospital loan	1,500.00	
Hospital improvements	1,200.00	
Isolation hospital	500.00	
Gaol improvements	650.00	5,500.00
		$62,620.00
Common schools		16,304.06

SPECIALS, LANCASTER.

Lancaster police	$700.00	
Fire district No. 1	700.00	
Int. and sinking fund fire loan debentures	150.00	950.00
Total		$79,874.00

The accounts are here given:

J. & A. McMillan	$ 35.97
County Treasurer	5 00
James W. Lee	2.50
F. A. Dykeman	18.54
Henderson & Hunt	20.40
F. L. Kenney, M. D. coroner	64.10
Provincial Lunatic Asylum, board of pauper lunatics for the quarter ending March 31st, 1904	113.75
Mayes Case, M. D.	4.00
J. H. Scammell, M. D.	4.00
R. J. Coughlan	15.00
R. W. Green & Son	1.00
D. E. Berryman, M. D., coroner	105.80
County Secretary	15.25
Barnes & Co.	244.55
R. T. Worden	2.00
R. P. & W. F. Starr	86.26
W. H. Bowman	3.62
George A. Knodell	22.50
H. R. Gilmor, M. D., coroner	12.50
George A. Knodell	3.00
The several Parish Clerks	90.00

1. The committee further recommend that the salary of Samuel Clifford and W. J. Cunningham be increased one hundred dollars per annum each.

2. The committee had before them the communication of Messrs. Charles H. Peters' Sons praying for a reduction in valuation for assessment purposes on their property in the Parish of Simonds.

The committee recommend that the valuation be reduced from nine thousand dollars to seven thousand dollars, and that the assessment list for the year A. D. 1903 be corrected accordingly.

The report was taken up section by section. When the first section was read Coun. Kelly asked how the total assessment compared with last year.

The secretary replied that the amount was about $3,000 higher than last year.

The bills recommended were ordered to be paid.

When the advances in the pay of the turnkeys in the jail were brought up, Coun. Kelly objected. Five hundred dollars meant a good salary for workmen.

The secretary said they now got $500 and the intention in the report was to give them $600.

Couns. Lowell and Lee urged the addition to these men's pay, and Coun. Robinson agreed with them.

Coun. Kelly, while not reflecting on these officials' abilities, predicted that good men could be got for $500.

Coun. Fownes said with the increase in the cost of labor generally these men were worth the increased wages proposed to be given them.

The section respecting the Messrs. Peters' property, where a reduction in valuation was allowed, was read.

Coun. Lee moved its adoption, and it passed, the warden taking advantage of this opportunity to suggest that a new valuation should soon be made.

When the proposed estimates were taken up there was a discussion.

Auditor Magilton was called upon to give a statement of the accounts of the hospital commission. It was about as follows:

The receipts and expenditures for the year 1903 have been placed in your hands. To the following accounts I would call your attention:

Contingent you will find overdrawn $2,272.14 This overdraft is small considering the large amount paid on account of smallpox, no special assessment having been made.

Sinking fund account is as follows:

Alms house debentures, 2nd series	$1,023.44
Alms house ditto, 3rd series	416.40
Hospital loan	2,069.86
Hospital improvement	498.08
Jail improvement	443.09
Isolation hospital	545.54
	$ 5,601.41
Invested, 4 hospital improvement bonds	$2,000.00
Uninvested	3,601.41
	5,601.41

Aims house:

Expenditure for the year	$16,604.76	
Interest paid on overdrawn account	292.72	
		$16,897.48

Receipts.

Taxes city of St John and parishes	$15,221.53	
Sundry amounts	230.61	
		$1,545.14
		$ 1,445.34
Balance due Bank of New Brunswick, Dec., 1902		22329.98
		$ 3,678.32

$231.53 was paid over the warrant; the overdue balance on Dec. 31, 1903, was $3,678.32, an excess of $1,445.34 on previous year.

General Public Hospital:

Expenditure for the year 1903	$26,419.27	
Credited to sinking fund account	337.87	
		$26,757.14

Receipts.

Taxes city of St. John and parishes	$17,937.75	
Interest Savings Bank bequest	2,300.00	
Board of Sailors	2,552.40	
Government grant	3,800.00	
Pay patients	2,003.24	
Immigrants	2,122.00	
Int. on deposit	205.30	
Training school	36.74	
Sundry discounts	1.46	
Government grant, 1902	$3,500.00	
Fees retained for Royal Commis'n	1,300.00	
	2,500.00	
		$33,458.89
Receipts over expenditures		$ 6,701.75
Balance on hand 1st Jan., 1903		8,000.29
Balance to credit on general account Dec. 31, 1903		$14,702.04
Improvement account: Cr.		
Cash paid to Dec. 31, 1903		$12,112.00
Cash from county treasurer		16,000.00
Balance to credit 31st Dec., 1903		$3,888.00
Sinking fund account Dec. 31, 1903		$2,783.32
Invested 5 hospital improvement debentures	$2,500.00	
Balance on deposit	283.32	
		$ 2,783.32
Funded debt 31st Dec., 1903		$42,600.00

Jail account:

	1901.	1902.	1903.
Provisions	$769.68	$1,059.60	$1,683.46
Coal and wood	418.39	570.59	737.14
Gas	173.45	251.33	224.59
Repairs	137.75	185.45	32.74
Sundry account	351.21	498.84	563.57
	$1,850.48	$2,565.81	$3,241.50
Furnishings		306.45	51.40
		$2,872.26	$3,292.90

The increased cost in 1903 is accounted for by the sheriff having to provide better food for the hard labor prisoners.

The daily average of prisoners for 1902....43.6
1903....50.7

This is accounted for in the long sentences given for drunkenness in police court.

The cost of hard labor prisoners for 1903, June to December:

Guards	$521.50
Sundries, overalls, etc	$4.95
Shoes	39.20
Extra food	225.00
	$820.65

Credit Labor in Park.

The cost of hard labor prisoners for 1904, January to May 1st:

Guards	$294.00
Mitts, etc	18.54
Clothing	40.20
Extra food	150.00
	$502.74
Shods and expenditure by the city	112.43
	$615.17
Credit by 375 tons of broken stone	112.50
Over expended	$502.67

Funded debt:

General Public Hospital bonds by county council	$28,000.00
Ditto ditto	16,000.00
Ditto, ditto	42,600.00
	$86,600.00
Alms house—county council	25,000.00
Isolation hospital—county council	7,000.00
Jail improvement	14,000.00
Lancaster loan	3,500.00
	$136,100.00

Less:

Means on hand for redemption 31st Dec. 1903	$5,601.41	
Hospital commissioners	2,783.32	
		$ 8,384.75
Balance due on funded debt		$127,715.25

The assessments recommended were considered item by item.

That for contingencies passed, and so did that for the alms house and work house.

The commissioners of the alms house will be asked this year to keep within their income.

When the hospital assessment came up Coun. Maxwell asked that Coun. White, who was one of the commissioners of the hospital, address the Council with respect to the requirements of the hospital.

The adoption of this section for the assessment of $20,000 was moved.

Coun. White went very fully into the whole question. Already the Council had cut off the estimates made by the G. P. H. commissioners $3,323. Their estimate of their requirements for maintenance was $23,323. The whole cost would be $32,123.50, but the estimated receipts would make up the difference in all probability.

Coun. Lee pointed out that the hospital commissioners made a very full explanation of what they required this year to the finance and accounts committee. The committee after a long discussion felt that as $19,000 was assessed last year and the institution had been greatly enlarged, it was only fair to fix the assessment at $20,000. The committee had in mind the fact that there was a large balance to the commissioners' credit at the bank. Years ago it was held the hospital was run too economically and an investigation was held. Now it would seem from some people that the commissioners were willing to be too extravagant. The commissioners should be able to get along with the $20,000.

Coun. Maxwell considered that the finance and accounts committee were very generous when they advised a levy of $20,000. He estimated $18,000 as ample for this year. The council had authorized the issue of $21,000 for changes and improvements so that not a cent of the levy would be needed to pay for these things. The receipts at the hospital last year over and above the assessment levied was $13,000. How could they estimate it at $8,000 this year. Did they expect any reduction in the pay given for the care of sailors? Did they look for a reduction in the government's grant? And how about the paying patients? Why the charges for the use of the private rooms had been doubled this year. The speaker did not see how they could be so short. With $12,000 got outside of the assessment surely a levy of $15,000 would be sufficient. But he was willing to vote for $18,000. Why give them $20,000 when they had on hand at the close of last year, $14,702? If they spent $2,000 a month that would not come near consuming it all for some time in the future. He thought the hospital should be asked to live on a smaller amount than $20,000 under this year's conditions. He moved that the municipality's grant to the general public hospital this year be $18,000.

Coun. Kelly seconded this motion. The mover had shown plainly that the proposed reduction would not cripple the commissioners.

Coun. White then continued his argument. He went away back to the opening of the improvements when a warrant was issued for a certain amount. An inquiry into the manner in which the institution was conducted was held and it was a royal commission. The commission found that the hospital was not all that it should have been. People made complaints about it and the press attacked it. Then the municipal council took the question up and they told the hospital commissioners that they were prepared to go ahead with improvements. The commissioners took this assurance as given and did not go to Fredericton for an act giving them power. A bigger work required a greater expenditure. The fact that the hospital must be made first class was insisted upon. The royal commission demanded that it should be improved. All agreed upon this and the commissioners felt that they should go ahead under the council's agreement to pay the expenses to fit up the hospital properly. The councillor said he was not carried by the fact that he was a commissioner of the hospital and he was was anxious as any one to keep down the taxes. But he wished the council to understand that he was one of their representatives on the commission and he guaranteed that all the money stipulated by the commissioners was needed this year. The councillor here read the estimate of funds required for the support of the hospital for the current year.

Salaries and wages, including visiting staff	$10,750 00	
Coupon interest, $2,091; sinking funds, $262.50	2,353 50	
Water tax	107 00	
Instruments and surgical appliances	400 00	
Drugs, including ligatures and dressings	3,000 00	
Provisions	7,000 00	
Coal and wood	3,250 00	
Light and power	1,500 00	
Dry goods	810 00	
Furnishings	1,350 00	
Laundry	200 00	
Toilet articles	50 00	
Burials	153 00	
Stationery, printing, etc	200 00	
Contingencies and unforseen	1,000 00	
	$32,123 50	
Less receipts, viz.:		
Savings Bank bequest fund	$2,300 00	
Prov. Gov. grant	3,800 00	
Board of sailors	1,500 00	
Board of pay patients	1,200 00	
	8,800 00	
Amount to be assessed	$23,323 00	

Coun. White said the salaries of the visiting physicians would not be increased. The rate was $2 per day for the days on which they visited the institution. The number of nurses needed was larger. A lady superintendent nurse had been introduced. The increase made in the size of the buildings, over one-third more space being provided, meant more expense. The staff of servants had to be added to. The aim had been to do what the royal commission advised and the people approved of their desire, a first class hospital. So much money would not have been spent for improvements but for the insistence of the royal commission that the hospital should be made better. More instruments were needed, but the proposed expenditure would not be big. Drugs, ligatures and dressings would cost more money as better things were ordered. This added to the expense and the commissioners were not to blame. The cost of provisions was put down at $7,000. That was not a large amount considering that there were 100 patients in the hospital on an average with 40 other people there. For coal and wood $3,200 was the figure. Everybody knew these things were high and the heating apparatus of the hospital was expensive to run. As for the supplies, such as furnishings, which were intended largely for fitting up the nurses' quarters, which had been enlarged, they were absolutely necessary. The receipts were not fixed. The public hospital was not intended for the use of paying patients. Miss Hegan had such a place and they should go there. When the figure charged private patients at the hospital was fixed at such an advance it was not done to make money, but to shut them out. These private patients were the parties who made all the trouble. He was sure every dollar asked for would be needed. If the county refused to run properly the larger institution they would be to blame if fault was found. It was the actual need of the day that was asked to be assessed. The speaker pointed out that mention had been made of the fact that the commissioners had money on hand. That was true. But the money was not paid in till October by the county and the hospital had to run up till that date without it. It was necessary to have money on hand or the commissioners would have to borrow money with which to pay the bills.

Coun. Maxwell said the county had given the hospital commission $16,000 on which to improve the institution, and then $5,000 was added. The amount given for maintenance was not touched in this addition. The county paid money over to the commissioners several times in the year. The hospital, he thought, could get along with $18,000 this year. They had $14,000 on hand, so surely they could make both ends meet. He thought the donation of $10,000 should be used for the improvement of the institution.

Coun. White said the increased size of the institution, which was brought about by the Royal Commission, was attended by the increase in the cost of maintenance of the same. More employes were to be paid and the current expenses had increased very materially. He did not think the list could be reduced at all, and the institution could not be kept as it should if this were done.

Coun. Kelly was strongly opposed to the proposition to increase the taxes.

Coun. Hamm reported that the hospital was one of the finest institutions in Canada. The people should not hesitate to grant the amount asked for its conduct. It was a credit to St. John.

Coun. Lee advocated the assessment of the $20,000. The rooms had been increased and expenses had grown on every side. No hesitation should be felt in giving them that amount. The finance and account committee reduced the grant some $3,000 and the Council should let that go through. New furniture and fittings must be put in to make the added space of use.

Coun. McGoldrick, another of the commissioners, spoke. He dealt with the complaints made against the hospital years ago. The Royal Commission had advised certain changes, and they were provided. That being so, the county must pay the bills. The demand of the people was what brought about these changes and improvements. The Council approved of the changes, and now they should pay for the same. While the commissioners had money on hand it was needed to pay their bills. Without it they would have to borrow money. The improvement in the hospital was something which would surprise the people, and the whole list of improvements would be completed in six months.

Coun. Maxwell wished it understood that he was not opposed to the expenditure asked for. But he wanted the reduction made in the assessment and the commissioners could spend the money on hand.

Coun. White said that in another year the commissioners would have to ask for interest paid on money borrowed.

Coun. Carleton did not see that all of the $20,000 would be needed when they had $14,000 to their credit on Jan. 1st.

Coun. White stated that the hospital commissioners paid their bills daily, weekly and monthly as they were incurred. The money assessed upon the people did not come in till late in the year, so that unless the commissioners had money on hand they would have to borrow it.

Coun. Fownes' and Coun. Maxwell's object was simply to reduce the surplus of money on hand.

Coun. White explained that the taxes nearly all came in late in the year, so that at the close of the year they had a lot on hand.

Coun. Lee said while Dec. 31st may have found them in funds, they did not have as much on May 1st. He advocated the assessment of $20,000.

Coun. Maxwell held that $18,000 was sufficient with all that would be received from other sources outside of the county of St. John.

Coun. White hoped the members of the council would do as they had undertaken to do paid the expenses of the conduct of the hospital. The report of the commission's balance on hand at the end of the year would mislead the council as the same condition of affairs did not exist now.

The resolution that the assessment be reduced to $18,000 was then put. It was voted down, only six councillors going for it, viz., Couns. Maxwell, Dean, Thomson, Fownes, Holder and Kelly. The fifteen others present went nay.

Then when the motion to assess $20,000 for the purpose was put the yeas exceeded the nays when they were called upon to declare themselves, but no standing vote was taken.

The other assessments for board of health, interest and sinking fund and schools were agreed to as recommended except the assessment on Lancaster for police protection, which was increased to $800.

Coun. Lewis submitted a report as follows: One year has rolled around since you elected me chairman of the hard labor prisoners' committee. The committee stood by me faithfully. I must thank them together with the board and jail authorities who all have assisted me. I gave one day a week to the work. I drew the guards' pay and left it at the jail for them, signed all bills and visited the men at work. I think the park was benefitted to the amount of $3,000 in improvements and you have between four and five hundred yards of flint stone broken for street work. When I took the men out first they nearly all belonged to St. John. Last winter at one time only three belonged here. Now we have got six native men taken in dens on Sheffield street, but not for drunkenness. The rest are cattlemen. Saturday the 7th of this month we had eighteen breaking stone. The entire number of old drunkards that we first had fled from the city, others if they got away will not return. There is a large number yet in jail, but they are all foreigners, so now let the jail authorities take over the work and guards. The city and county have lots of work for them to do. Some of them have given up drinking strong liquor and I think are cured of the habit. So now it is fair to take this off my hands and I beg leave to hand in my resignation. The real number of prisoners for the year 1903 was 1,176; for drunkenness, 828; the net fines of the same year, $3,930.85. For 1902 the fines were $2,682.30, leaving a balance in favor of hard labor of $1,248.55, which I think is a good showing for one year.

Some fault having been found with the employment of the jail prisoners, Coun. Lewis said the work done by these people had cost the city nothing. He contended that the arrangement had saved many from drunkenness.

Coun. Lowell said he was not opposed to working the jail prisoners, but it was doubtful if the county had gained anything by it. He thought Coun. Lewis should continue in charge of this matter.

Coun. Lewis replied that $1,258 more was paid in fines for drunkenness last year than the year previous.

Coun. Fownes here took occasion to say that he agreed with Coun. Lowell that Mr. Lewis did well. The city had gained considerably out of the arrangement, but the city and county had paid the bills. Still as the city paid the greater proportion the county men had no right to complain. Coun. Lewis did much good.

Warden Macrae added that Coun. Lewis did a lot of work in this connection. He hoped Coun. Lewis would continue to serve as chairman of the committee in charge of the prisoners who are put to work.

Coun. Lee was in favor of putting these prisoners to work, but they should be employed without being exposed on the streets twice a day, in charge of the guards. It was true the fines were bigger, and this was because people objected to see their relatives thus marching along the streets.

Coun. Fownes moved that a vote of thanks be tendered to Coun. Lewis for the able manner in which he administered the employment of the jail prisoners, and that the Council endeavor to get him to continue in the position.

This was seconded by Coun. Lowell.

It passed, and the warden tendered the vote of thanks to the recipient, who returned his sincere thanks and said he spent much time in looking after the wants of the men.

J. Verner McLellan, the registrar, asked for a telephone in the registry office. The request was referred to the finance and accounts committee to report back.

J. Harvey Brown, superintendent of the deaf and dumb institution at Lancaster, sent in a communication stating that it was hoped to get a grant from the government. The county and school taxes should not be charged on this property, used at is was in the way indicated.

The application was referred to the finance and accounts committee.

J. A. Magilton was re-appointed auditor, and R. J. Coughlan was again made marshal and keeper of the deadhouse.

Coun. Lee moved that the secretary be authorized to grant licenses to all surveyors of lumber who qualify.

This passed.

The parish officers were then appointed. The chief ones are:

Simonds:—

Collector of taxes, Peter Lawlor.

Assessors of rates, Coun. Horgan, J. J. Wallace and James Lee.

Commissioners of highways, Martin Dolan, Dominick McHugh and William Sands.

Revisors, Daniel Horgan, Wm. J. Jones.

St. Martins:—

Assessors, Wm. Smith, Cudlip Miller and Robert W. Skillen.

Collector of rates, Wm. J. Morrow.

Parish clerk, Thos. W. Mosher.

Highway commissioners, S. J. Shanklin, No. 1; Jacob S. Titus, No. 2, and Herbert W. Brown, No. 3.

By-road commissioners, Robt. Connolly, E. R. Alleby and Richard Horsford.

Lancaster:—

Collector of taxes, Amador Anderson.

Assessors, John Donaldson, Daniel Cronin and Wm. Cunningham.

Parish clerks, No. 1, Andrew Gault; No. 2, James Galbraith.

Collector, Nathaniel McGuire.

Revisors, James Lowell and Andrew C. Gregory.

Musquash:—

Assessors, David H. Mawhinney, Jas. M. Wenn and Geo. L. Hargrove.

Parish clerk, Geo. A. Anderson.

Highway board, Couns. Dean and Thomson and David Hargrove.

It was ordered that the assessments on the various parishes for highway purposes be as follows:

Lancaster	$3,500
Simonds	1,550
St. Martins	1,000
Musquash	450

Inquiries were here made as to whether the parishes had the right to enter into arrangements for the performance of statute labor.

Coun. Kelly stated that Dr. Ruddick assured him that the new highway act did not come into effect till next year. It would not apply to St. Martins this year, so Dr. Ruddick told him.

Coun. Macrae said the committee of the council wanted to abolish statute labor on the roads.

Coun. Fownes held that St. Martins could under the act take statute labor along with money contributions.

Coun. Lee said the act came into effect when it passed, but as it could not go into effect in other counties on account of the levies having been made at once it would not be declared in effect till January 1st next.

Coun. Lowell condemned in strong terms the agreement to statute labor. The committee who went to Fredericton agreed to abolish statute labor in St. John county provided the government agreed not to repeal St. John's act. This was acceptable to the government.

Coun. Cochran concurred in that statement. The committee had to do this in order to have St. John county exempted from the operation of the new law. Statute labor was not desirable. Still in St. Martins there was a portion of the district where it would be hard to ask the people to pay taxes for expenditure on the highways. Let the people in the outer sections do the work as usual.

Coun. Lowell said the county's committee agreed to abolish statute labor.

Coun. Maxwell moved that statute labor be abolished in St. John county.

Secretary Vincent told of the steps taken by the warden and himself when it was learned the new highway act would do away with the present favorable act which St. John county had. If the Council did not do away with statute labor they would be violating an agreement made at Fredericton with the government in order to get the right to retain our own act in St. John county.

Coun. Fownes thought St. Martins should retain home rule, as it was the only parish where statute labor was known. Dr. Ruddick, M. P. P., said St. Martins could have it.

The representatives of the other parishes denied this, saying they also had statute labor in their parishes.

The secretary reported that Dr. Ruddick concurred in the agreement made at the capital between the government and the county's committee.

Coun. White thought it was the duty of the county to pass a resolution abolishing statute labor. The county's committee had agreed to put a stop to it, and it should be done.

The warden pointed out that the act St. John had gave the local commissioners the right to receive taxes in money and in labor. But the Council should pass a resolution requesting that it be done.

Coun. Lee was afraid if St. John county divided the taxation for roads into labor and money the government would not give the local commissioners the money granted by them to expend.

Coun. Fownes said the people of St. Martins were willing to pay, but they statute labor continue if possible.

The resolution for the sum money for St. Martins went through without any stipulation as to whether it should be money or statute labor.

Coun. Maxwell here moved that the council approve of the action of the bills and by-laws committee at Fredericton in connection with the highway act. He said they did a great thing when they secured a continuation of the old local act even if they did in order to do so agree to abolish statute labor.

This motion was seconded by several members and passed.

It was decided to make a loan of $1,200 to Lancaster for expenditure on the highways and $100 to St. Martins and $400 for Simonds.

Coun. Kelly reported that the St. Martins councillors intended after this to make the non-resident property owners pay their taxes in full. They had got off at half price long enough.

Couns. Lowell and Gregory were appointed commissioners of the Indiantown and Lancaster ferry.

The warden then appointed the standing committees, which are largely composed the same as last year. The old chairmen in each instance where they are still members were mentioned first.

Authority was given to the buildings committee to make some repairs and for the cleansing of the registry office and the council chamber.

An adjournment was then taken, the hour being considerably after six o'clock.

BUYING THE WHOLE BUSINESS

Toronto Type Foundry Takes Over Linotype Works.

MONTREAL, May 10.—Negotiations are now under way, and it is expected they will be closed in a few days for the sale of the Linotype Company to the Toronto Type Foundry. The Type Foundry became selling agents for the concern some time ago, and now will take over the manufacturing as well. The business will be continued in Montreal. The Linotype Co. has been shipping machines all over the world.

GETS TEN YEARS.

MONTREAL, May 10.—Louis Emene, a convict in St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary, who with a fellow convict named Filiatrault escaped from the institution a few weeks ago, and clubbing the guard over the head, who was captured after a long chase, was today sentenced to ten years' imprisonment. At the time of his escape Emene had only about six months more to serve. Filiatrault has not yet been captured.

HENRY M. STANLEY DEAD.

LONDON, May 10.—Sir Henry M. Stanley, the African explorer, passed away peacefully shortly after [illegible] o'clock. He was quite conscious to the last and able to recognize his wife. Before he died, Sir Henry expressed a wish to be buried at his country place, Furze Hill, Pirbright, Surrey. The question, however, is being discussed of burying him beside Livingstone, in Westminster Abbey.

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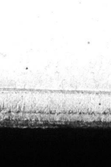

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