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IMPORTANT MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Reports of Various Committees Received and Resolutions Passed.—
Appointment of A. Steele Crowe as Policeman and Superintendent of Streets.—Plan for Road Improvement Suggested.

A meeting of the town council of the town of Bridgetown was held in the council chamber Feb. 27th, 1909, at 7.30 p. m., with Mayor Ruggles in the chair and councillors present as follows:—Councillors Dixon, Calder, Longmire, deWitt, Chute and Freeman.

Ordered: That the following bills be paid, viz., Municipality of Annapolis County for use of road machine for 1908, \$3.50; L. G. deBlois for services for the poor from Feb. 1st, 1908, to Feb. 1st, 1909, \$25.00; Municipality of the County of Annapolis for support of poor and insane the last six months of last year, \$158.99; Burpee E. Chute for clearing snow from sidewalks, \$11.20, and that the bill of J. H. Hicks & Sons be referred back to the sewer committee for consideration.

Reports of the committee on public property, roads, streets, and lighting, report of committee on finance, public accounts and tenders, the report of committee on water works and sewers, report of committee on police and licenses were laid on the table.

A petition from the rate payers requesting the council to take up the matter of a more economical and better system of electric lighting was also laid on the table.

The report of the committee on police and licenses was read and considered and Mr. Crowe referred to in the report was appointed to the various offices mentioned in the report upon the terms therein mentioned and the Clerk was directed to prepare an agreement to be signed by Mr. Crowe.

The following is the report:—
To His Worship the Mayor and Councillors of the Town of Bridgetown: Your committee on police and licenses beg to report as follows:—

We are of the opinion that a re-arrangement of town offices with a view to greater efficiency and economy is necessary, and with this object in view we have interviewed Mr. Avar L. Anderson, the present policeman and Scott Act Inspector of the town, whose term of office expires on the 28th day of February, 1909, and have asked him whether he would undertake the fulfillment of the following offices for another year at a salary of \$600.00 a year, under the town council, viz., policeman, Scott Act inspector, sanitary inspector, superintendent of streets, caretaker of the water works, including complete supervision of the same, tax collector, truant officer, and janitor of the council room, as we had an offer from A. Steele Crowe that he would accept the position upon the terms mentioned. Mr. Anderson refused to take the position upon the terms agreed to by Mr. Crowe, as he said he would not give the time to the job. We then interviewed A. Steele Crowe and he agreed to undertake the fulfillment of the different offices mentioned at the salary of \$50 a month for one month from the 1st day of March next and to continue from month to month at the same rate if his services were acceptable to the council. We strongly recommend that A. Steele Crowe be engaged by this council to perform the services mentioned at the salary mentioned for one month from date except the office of Scott Act Inspector to which he must be appointed by law for twelve months. We also recommend that the policeman have his office in the Town Hall, where he can be found at any time.

N. E. CHUTE.
KARL FREEMAN.
GEORGE DIXON.

The report of the committee on

water works and sewers was considered and on motion adopted.

To His Worship the Mayor and Councillors of the Town of Bridgetown: Your committee on water works and sewers beg to submit the following report:—

We are of the opinion that our water system needs more careful attention and supervision by a competent man appointed for that purpose in order that a failure of our water supply may not again occur, as we are of the opinion that our water supply is sufficient if properly looked after.

We recommend that the new policeman, whose duty it will be to look after the water system of the town, be instructed as to his duties and that he visit the reservoir and lake if necessary whenever requested by the committee or whenever the pressure gauge indicates a low or falling pressure.

And we submit that a new pressure gauge should be purchased if the present one is of no use and that the same be placed in some convenient place to be selected by your committee where it shall be seen and examined at all times by the superintendent of the water system. If the policeman and superintendent of water system should be supplied with an office, say in the council room, we would recommend that the gauge be placed there.

We recommend that the council at once purchase and continually keep on hand a few spare pieces of water pipe of each of the different sizes used to be carefully stored for use in cases of breaks, as if a break should occur and there was no pipes on hand for repairing serious damage might arise before new pipe could be procured; also a small quantity of lead.

We also recommend that the fence around the reservoir be repaired if fit and if not, a new fence be built to properly protect same from trespassers by cattle, etc. We also recommend that part of the trench from the Crosskill lake, which has been left partly open and about which complaints have been made to the council by the owners of the land, be filled up as soon as possible in the spring and made perfectly safe. We also recommend that the title to the lands about reservoir and lake purchased by the town be obtained from the former owners at once by the Clerk, as we are informed that at the present time this matter is not in satisfactory shape. We also suggest that the superintendent at once visit all houses and buildings where water is used and examine all faucets to see that there is no waste and to take the necessary steps to prevent same where found.

We also recommend that water metres be connected with all factories and hotels now using water. Reconsideration of exemption of larrizan factory.

J. R. deWITT.
KARL FREEMAN.
W. R. LONGMIRE.

Bridgetown, Feb. 27th, 1909.

The report of the committee on finance and public accounts was next considered and on motion adopted.

To His Worship the Mayor and Councillors of the Town of Bridgetown: Your committee on finance and public accounts beg to report as follows:

We find by information from the Clerk that there is now due the town of Bridgetown from the town of its incorporation down to the years of 1907 and 1908 for unpaid and uncollected taxes the large sum of \$1,471.09 about, and that about \$679.00 of this amount is beyond the six years from date and the greater part of it is uncollectable now because not at-

tended to before. The balance of the unpaid taxes mentioned above amounted to about \$791.09 and is due within six years, about \$550.00 of this sum we should say is collectable now if looked after.

We further report that we find the matter of unpaid taxes and the collection thereof to be most unsatisfactory and suggest that this matter should have the most serious consideration from the council.

Nearly \$700.00 of unpaid taxes are lost to the town through the neglect on the part of those who should look after that matter.

We have examined the different loans made by the town since incorporation and also the acts authorizing the loans and the provisions therein contained as to providing a sinking fund.

We find that the sinking funds have not been provided for and are not paid up with one exception. The sum of \$1,290.00 is still due on the various sinking funds, a statement of which we submit herewith. We suggest that these various sinking funds be strictly provided for in the future as provided by the borrowing acts and that some part of the deficiency be put in the estimates for the present year and so on each year until the full amount is raised: We understand that the sum of \$4,000.00, authorized by the act of 1906 to increase the water supply for which debentures have been issued are now held by the Union Bank here and that the debentures have never been sold. We think these debentures should be now put on the market to be disposed of on the most favorable terms and the over draft in the Bank paid up.

We also submit that the new debenture for the old water system loan which expired in 1907, should be issued and sold as provided by a recent act.

And that when these new debentures are issued and sold the sinking funds be maintained strictly on the acts provided. All of which we respectfully submit.

H. RUGGLES.
KARL FREEMAN.
J. R. deWITT.

Bridgetown, Feb. 24th, 1909.

The report of the committee on public property, roads, streets, and lighting, was considered and adopted and the Town Clerk was directed to summon a public meeting of the rate payers of the town for Monday evening, March the 22nd next, at 7.30 p. m., to which a proposed expenditure of a sum of money, not to exceed four thousand dollars, for the permanent repair of the streets of the town shall be submitted and that notice of the meeting be given by hand bills and by notice in the Monitor newspaper.

To His Worship the Mayor and Councillors of the Town of Bridgetown: We your committee on public property, roads, streets and lighting, beg to submit the following report:—

We have made enquiries about road construction in other municipalities and the costs thereof, also as to the probable costs of a stone crusher and roller, and find the problem of making permanent roads in a small town like Bridgetown a very difficult one to handle and cannot be undertaken with our present small appropriation.

We recommend that a public meeting of the rate payers be called at once to consider and vote upon this question and whether they would authorize the council to borrow sufficient money to undertake permanent streets and at such meeting, when called, we shall be prepared to furnish all necessary information as to costs, etc.

We feel that the present system of road making is rather antiquated and very unsatisfactory and we know that the rate payers are demanding a change and if they will authorize the necessary expenditure the work can be accomplished.

We understand a petition is to be presented to the council at its present meeting signed by a large number of rate payers and consumers of electric light, praying the council to take some steps towards supplying commercial and house lights on a cheaper rate. Your committee have been talking to Mr. Carrier, who represents the Moncton Acetylene Gas Co., and we find that a much better

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RAILWAY STATION GARDENING

STATION AGENT WHO WINS PRIZE MAKES SUGGESTION WHICH MIGHT BE ABLY FOLLOWED PRIVATE AND PUBLIC GARDENING

"How did I do it?" said A. H. Bellis, the Riverview station agent who won the \$50 prize for the most artistic floral display at a station on the Boston & Maine railroad. "How did I do it? Well, I suppose that I got that prize because I love flowers and always have loved them. You see when a man's interested in a thing and really enjoys it he can always do better than the fellow who just takes it up as a fad or because he wants the money. Any station agent who has won a prize will tell you that."

It isn't hard to believe that Mr. Bellis loves his flowers even in winter. A glance into the Riverview station will show you that. When you step in you almost forget to buy your ticket. Only when the Boston train comes screeching up do you remember that you are in a railroad station and not in a beautifully kept conservatory.

Every window and almost all the wall space is a feathery mass of green. Luxuriant asparagus ferns hang in the windows, framed by begonias and calla lilies, while ferns and dracaenas and cactus plants give the room a pleasantly tropical atmosphere even when the temperature is a few degrees below zero.

"You see," explained Mr. Bellis, "I like to have my flowers around in winter, too. I get a lot of pleasure in looking after them. That's what I do with my spare time, as I'm not thinking how I'll fix up the station lawn next summer."

"You can't imagine how much you can improve a place by thinking about it a little and looking around to see what other gardeners are doing. Your own mistakes help you a lot, too. Why, when I came here four years ago there was only one little flower bed on one side of the station and nothing on the other but an old gravel bank. The first year I was here I got a \$10 prize, the next year \$15, and then \$25, and this year \$50."

"I'm so interested in it that I keep my eyes open for new ideas all the time. I go around on my wheel to Arlington and other places where the station agents have got prizes to see how they get their best effects. I've been out to the Hunnewell gardens to notice the landscape gardening out there. The Harvard Arboretum is a great place to find out about shrubs. When I'm setting out my lawn I go out there to see how the different varieties grow, and then I know how much space to allow in my garden."

"Then I get a lot of ideas from the cemetery garden out here. You see that diamond-shaped bed there. Well, that's one of the things I noticed in the cemetery. You can make a much better effect with a diamond-shaped bed in the middle of a lawn than with the conventional round one."

"But my wife helps me most of all. It was her idea planting that gravel bank out there. That was what got me the second prize last year. Flowery on a slope make the best showing of all, you know. She saw that they would and she told me if I could only get the company to put some loam on the old gravel bank. I'd change the biggest eye-sore about the station into its most attractive feature. And it did, too. In the middle of August when that bank is just blazing with dahlias and cannas and geraniums and phlox, the people on the trains that go through just lean out of the window and stare."

"Her suggestion is the best of all though. She wants me to have a rockery. By jolly, if I could have that, I'd have a show on this lawn that would show off. That would be really artistic and I know I could fix it up all right if I had the stone. I've noticed them lots of times in big gardens."

"Oh, if I had unlimited time and all the kinds of plants I wanted I could make a great thing of this. The company is mighty generous though. They give each station agent \$10 worth of hardy plants. You have a list of 16 varieties to choose from—achyranthos, alternanthera, alyssum, caladium, cannas, coleus, geraniums, hydrangeas, Yucca, lobelia,

Mexican zinnias, petunias, phlox, Helianthus, salvia and zinnias. Last year there were 202 competitors. That makes \$2020 that they spent on flowers alone, and the prizes they gave amounted to \$1870, so you see they spend \$1,890 in all on the station flower displays.

"I don't count the fertilizer that I get you either. Every year they send me a whole carload, and the men to unload it for me. If you have any good ideas and are willing to work yourself they are always willing to help you by sending a gardener, or even two or three men to put on the loam and do some of the heavy work."

"I always set out all my plants myself though. I enjoy it, and then I like the satisfaction of seeing if a thing will grow after I've set it out. I have about 2000 plants on this lawn now, and I've set them all out and taken care of them all myself. There are 300 in that one bed by the side of the station."

"Oh, of course, all these weren't given me by the company. Half of them were given me by other people. No agent has room on his lawn for all the stuff that is given him. All these hydrangeas and lilac bushes, barberry bushes and yucca were gifts from people outside the company who are interested in my work. Patrons of the road often give me things."

"My biggest effect this year I made with the dracaenas the superintendent of the cemetery here gave me. They are so tropical looking that they gave the bed a sort of elaborate effect it didn't have last year. Both the judges, the Rev. Dr. Wallace and Mr. Judkins, noticed it. Next year I'm going to have more of them."

"I like the work of it and I shall try to keep on improving from year to year. It keeps me out of doors a lot and I feel better than I have for years. I am advising all my friends in the watch factory over there to get flower gardens. They laugh at me for spending so much time in this one. Every pleasant day when my regular work doesn't keep me busy, I'm out among my flowers. There's always something to be done if it's only dead blossoms to pick off."

"I've never studied landscape gardening but I've read some books on floriculture in the Waltham public library and I've watched other gardeners. I've always known something about plants from having a vegetable garden at home and a few beds of hardy flowers. I'm interested, that's the main thing. You can't succeed in anything you don't love."

"Next year is going to be the best year of all. I'm going to have a row of 150 hydrangeas along behind the station and I'm going to have a big canna display like the one at the Arlington station. Come out to see us about the middle of August."

Family Escaped, House Destroyed

The house occupied by Mr. John Lowe and family, Bridgetown East, known as the Thomas Balcom place, was burned to the ground during the storm of last Wednesday night. The family of seven barely escaping with their lives.

The family retired about ten o'clock leaving a fire burning in a stove of which the pipe entered an old fashioned fire-place passing through a wooden partition. A heavy gale was blowing and probably the fire had started in the flue before the family retired, as they had not been in bed long before the house was in a blaze. They had not time even to save their clothing but ran for shelter to their neighbors' houses. Every thing in the house was destroyed, including some farm machinery and implements which were stored in the rear and quantities of grain, vegetables and other farm produce. The heavy rain doubtless prevented the barn from burning as it caught several times, as did also that of the next neighbor, Mr. W. A. Hills. The place was owned by Mr. Elias Messenger and there was no insurance on house or furniture. The house had been occupied by Mr. Lowe and family only a few months, and was rented with a view of purchase later on. Much sympathy has been expressed for Mr. Lowe, who has lost nearly all he possessed, and a subscription paper has been already liberally signed, while many friends have sent them donations of clothing and furniture. Mr. Lowe has also been promised substantial assistance if he should decide to rebuild the house.

TO PRESERVE OUR HERITAGE IN FOREST AND STREAM

Extract From Address of President H. D. Ruggles at the Recent Meeting of the People's Forest, Fish and Game Society at Halifax.—People's Rights in Regard to Game and Fish Should be Secured.

The State of Alabama is an object lesson to our own province. Previous to 1907 game matters were in much the same condition as here. The revenue from game amounted to only about \$1,000 a year. During the succeeding year it rose to \$20,000 as result of efficient management. A small resident license and fines for infractions of the law. Give us in Nova Scotia a resident license of \$1.00 for big game and a small fishing permit for non-residents (coming to the Provincial instead of the Dominion treasury) and Nova Scotia can at least duplicate these figures.

With a revenue such as this, think of the possibilities in the line of game protection! Our forests could then be policed and game and fish protected: a Provincial game farm could be established, new species introduced and the province made a veritable sportsman's paradise. In the introduction of new species of either game or fish great caution should be exercised and no species should be allowed to be brought into the country without permission from the Department. I refer to such cases as the introduction of rabbits into Australia and the introduction of varieties of fish which might destroy our brook trout.

Among the different branches I might notice that during the past year a move in the right direction has been made in the introduction of wild rice into our lakes and streams as food for water-fowl or pheasants. Other branches have devoted their funds especially to patrolling the woods in search of law breakers. On the whole a better state of things exists throughout the province in respect to game matters than ever before.

I have lately been in correspondence with a firm of naturalists regarding the black game, a magnificent bird of the grouse family, of which it is the second largest in size. This bird inhabits countries similar in climate to our own. Its food is the same as our grouse and I believe this is the ideal bird for introduction here.

But it is useless for us to discuss schemes such as these for the preservation of game and the propagation of new species until the people's rights in respect to game and fish have been ascertained and secured. If we are to be told that, notwithstanding

the fact that our money has been used to protect and preserve the game, it belongs to the owner of the land on which it may be found, and that the fish matured from spawners which our money has placed in the rivers and lakes, belongs to the man who owns a narrow strip along the water's edge, then our only care should be to see that our money is no longer diverted in this direction. And if, after thousands of dollars of our money have been spent every year to protect the forest land of others from fire, we are trespassers in going upon the lands so protected in search of our game and fish, then our only duty is to see that public money is not henceforth used to protect private property. As a people's association we demand on behalf of our members and of the whole people of Nova Scotia, a statutory declaration that the game and fish of this province belong to the Crown. All other objects could be dropped until this is secured. Having accomplished this the game and fish will do their share in forest protection.

TIME RIPE FOR ACTION.

It matters not what the laws of other lands may decree; game and fish are not by nature the subject of private ownership. In this land no feudal baron with a band of cut-throats at his back has ever been able to make his will law; and game laws that were the outgrowth of feudal oppression are not applicable to the conditions that exist in this country. The time is ripe for action; we will brook no delay.

In the event of a refusal of our demands one course is still left open to us—organization. This should have received more attention in the past instead of wasting time in the discussion of comparatively unimportant matters. Before the present meeting of this association has ended, I trust you will take steps for an immediate increase of our membership in existing branches and the organization of every part of the province in which branches do not now exist. Already we number our members by the thousand. One month of faithful work by an efficient organizer will place us in such a position numerically that our just demands can no longer be refused. If necessary we must secure a fund by private subscription to defray the expenses of an official organizer.

The interests of the farmer, the sportsman, the hotel keeper and the merchant are identical in this matter; and the heritage in game and fish that we received from our fathers it is our duty to preserve and transmit entire to our children.



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It is economy to use Royal Baking Powder. It saves labor, health and money.

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