

### LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL

The Warden's Address. Grant to Plowing Association. Report of Road Superintendent. Deputations Heard and By-Laws Passed.

Sarnia, Wednesday. Immediately after the result of the vote for Warden was announced the warden-elect was escorted to the platform where the prescribed oath was read by County Clerk John Huey and was witnessed by ex-warden John T. Sproule of Oil Springs. He was subsequently escorted to the anteroom where he donned the gown and cooked hat of office and returned to the chamber and declared the session formally opened for business after a brief inaugural address. The escorts were Reeve Fred Jennings, the defeated candidate, and Reeve J.T. Sproule.

**Warden's Address**  
After thanking the county fathers for the honor conferred upon him Warden Sitter, in his inaugural address asked for the earnest co-operation of all members. He said that only with unity could the affairs of the county be carried on successfully and he hoped that it would be forthcoming. Touching on the program of the session he declared that he did not know of any special matters to be brought in except that he understood a request would be made for a grant for the purpose of bringing the provincial ploughing match to Lambton this year.

William J. Davis, incumbent of the warden's chair in 1922 also spoke briefly congratulating the warden upon his election to office and wishing the council success in this year's undertakings. Kent County, he had noticed, had been boasting that it would take but one third of a mill of the tax levy to pay the debenture debt to date.

Mr. Davis also reported on the visit of a delegation of which he was a member, to Toronto in December last to attend a conference called by the Minister of Mines to discuss the gravel situation. A committee from Kent County was also present. The principal complaint was that the municipalities were unable to get gravel when they needed it most for road work and the minister promised consideration and intimated that it might be necessary to secure and operate a small fleet of boats and supply the gravel to municipalities at actual cost.

The minister told the delegation that the private companies holding licenses had claimed that they were losing money in supplying gravel to municipalities at a fixed rate.

Mr. Davis also reported to a move made by the Kent delegation to halt the export of gravel to the United States and he said that he understood that the provincial member from that riding was to bring in a bill to that effect at the present session.

The proceedings prior to the election were very brief. Shortly after two o'clock all the members were in their seats with the exception of

Reeve John Mara of Point Edward, who was unable to be present. County Clerk Huey called the meeting to order and pointed out that the first duty was the appointment of a chairman to preside while the election of the warden was being carried out.

Reeve Duncan Smith of Plympton was named for this post and the candidates were asked to address the council.

Reeve Sitter was the first speaker and in support of his candidacy said that a representative of Bosanquet has not held the wardenship for 30 years. He also dwelt on the change in the method of choosing the presiding officer. Formerly, he declared the warden was elected from the political party having the majority in the council, making it more or less of a political fight but more recently the Liberals took the even year and the Conservatives the odd.

Referring further to Bosanquet, he said that while it was one of the largest municipalities, it had but one representative in the council.

Reeve Fred Jennings, the second candidate, quoted figures to show that a Bosanquet representative had been warden 7 times in 70 years, a Moore representative 5 times, Warwick 9. He was a senior member of the council along with J.T. Sproule and Parker and he felt that for that reason he should be elected.

The vote was taken by ballot and councillors Eastman and Miller acted as scrutineers. After the warden had been installed in office a striking committee composed of councillors Green, Harkness, Eastman, Miller, McLeod and Parker was named to strike the standing committees for the year and the council adjourned until Wednesday.

**Sarnia, Thursday Jan. 25th**  
The second day of the January session of the Lambton county council yesterday was largely given over to the hearing of deputations seeking financial and other assistance.

The first appeal came from Sherman Swift, president of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Toronto, a former Petrolia boy, who is himself sightless. After outlining in brief the work of the institution of which he is the head, he asked the council to make a grant of \$500. The request was referred to the finance committee and the warden assured the speaker that it would be given full consideration.

At a later stage of the meeting Mayor Thomas H. Cook of Sarnia, County Magistrate C. S. Woodrow and County Crown Attorney F. W. Willson spoke in support of Mr. Swift's petition.

**Plowmen's Match**  
A delegation representing the Lambton Plowmen's association, for which the spokesmen were John Farrell of Forest, J.M. McAdams of Sarnia, and H. Gilroy of Alvinston, requested a donation of \$2,000 from the county to aid in bringing the provincial plowing match to Lambton county this year.

This amount was required to guarantee the expense of prizes, advertising and other details.

A third delegation requested the county to take over a portion of road on the townlines of Brooke and Enniskillen in order to link up with the county road. This portion of road was located between the 10th and 12th sideroads and was about 1 1/2 miles in length. This request was referred to the advisory board.

**Committee**  
The report of the striking committee selected to name the standing committees of the council for the year was submitted and adopted as follows:

**Roads and Bridges**—C. H. Stevens, (chairman), and Reeves of all the different municipalities.

**Public Buildings**—Leslie Harkness (chairman), W. G. Connolly, Alex. Wark, Robert Hair, B. J. Warren, Ed. Armitage, Jas. Kerr.

**Finance**—F. C. Eastman (chairman), F. Jennings, Joe Hackett, D. Smith, W. Miller, J. Barron, Alfred Hillier, V. G. Greene.

**Printing**—Alex Wark (chairman), J. Mara, T. Burnley, W. A. Annett, Jos Landon, J. McDonald, W. Edwards, J. Kerr, J. Barron.

**Educational**—D. Smith (chairman), W. G. Connolly, Joe Hackett, J. T. Sproule, Robert Hair, A. Loosmore, H. McLeod, J. Landon, J. Mara.

**Equalization**—W. E. Parker (chairman), W. A. Annett, F. R. Rilett, T. Burnley, J. T. Sproule, C. H. Stevens, Ed. Armitage, A. Loosmore, Alf. Hillier.

**Legislative**—H. McLeod (chairman), Les. Harkness, Joe Hackett, B. J. Warren, W. Edwards, F. R. Rilett, F. C. Eastman, J. McDonald, House of Refuge—F. Jennings.

**Advisory Board**—V. C. Greene (chairman), W. Miller, W. E. Parker.

Reeve V. C. Greene of Sombra was chairman of the striking committee which submitted the foregoing report.

The case for the plowmen's association was well presented by the spokesmen. John Farrell pointed out the acknowledged fertility of the soil in Lambton county and yet there were thousands of acres untilled.

A plowing match such as the provincial contest would serve to advertise Lambton and stimulate interest in its location.

J. M. McAdams and H. Gilroy touched on the publicity which would accrue from such an event particularly in view of the fact that it was to be an international affair with representatives from the state of Michigan on hand if Lambton was selected.

**Jail Facilities**  
After his talk in support of the petition for funds for the institute for the blind, County Crown Attorney F. W. Willson drew the attention of the council to the lack of detention facilities in the county for retaining prisoners from the time of their arrest until they appeared for trial and suggested that suitable quarters might be set aside in the jail for prisoners brought in by county or provincial officers. County Magistrate C. S. Woodrow also spoke on the same subject and the matter was referred to the public buildings committee for consideration. Notices of motion for a grant of by-laws were given before adjournment.

Friday, Jan. 26th  
The request for a grant of \$2,000 to aid in the effort to bring the provincial plowing match to Lambton county this year made on Wednesday by a delegation from the committee working in conjunction with the Lambton Plowmen's Association was the subject of a somewhat lengthy and at times frank discussion by the county council at yesterday afternoon's session. Practically every member of the council was asked by Warden Sitter to recite his view and one by one they replied but a decision on the matter was laid over until today.

The expressions, however, were unanimously in opposition to the contribution of the amount asked with a good many favoring \$1,000, which it was claimed, was the amount agreed upon to request from the council at the meeting in Petrolia a short time ago.

The county fathers also heard two other deputations, one from the Children's Aid Society asking for the establishment of a juvenile court in the county and the other, composed of ex-Mayor William Nesbit and Mayor Thomas H. Cook of Sarnia, petitioning for the annual grant for the Sarnia general hospital. Both of these applications were referred to the committees for consideration, the former to the legislative and the latter to the finance.

The talkfest on the plowing match grant followed the report of the finance committee recommending that the matter be referred to the whole council. Warden Sitter first asked Reeve Annett of Brooke, to give his views and continued with the same request all the way around the chamber. Deputy Reeve Burnley of Plympton, was one of the most out-

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spoken. He took a little rap at fancy plowing which he had seen at some county matches.

Reeve Duncan Smith, of Plympton, declared that the delegation was not given authority from the Plowmen's Association at Petrolia to ask for \$2,000, but for \$1,000, at least that is what he understood the meeting believed was to be requested.

**Sarnia Pay Half Expense**

Reeve John T. Sproule of Oil Springs didn't like the idea of the delegation coming before the council and asking for \$2,000 and yet intimating that they would take what they could get. He did not blame the Sarnia Chamber of Commerce and thought the members were good live people, neither did he blame the city of Sarnia, it was a matter of business with them.

Deputy Reeve Alfred Hillier said he was a director of the Lambton Plowmen's Association and took an interest in its affairs. He believed that the county matches had been of considerable benefit and stimulated interest in good plowing. Regarding the grant he said that it had been distinctly understood that the delegation was to ask for \$1,000 and as far as he was concerned he could not support a \$2,000 donation. He thought the city of Sarnia should pay half the expense.

**Observe Economy**

Reeve Leslie Harkness of Sarnia township touched on the advisability of observing economy in view of the arrears of taxes which had been reported at the end of last year. While the county would undoubtedly benefit if the match was staged here he was hardly prepared to back a \$2000 grant.

Deputy Reeve Edwards of Moore thought that making a grant of \$2,000 would be like "paying too much for a whistle." Furthermore he did not believe that the county would receive a dollar benefit for every dollar expended.

Reeve Fred Jennings, of Theford, did not see where the urban municipalities would receive any benefit from the match. As far as the educational phase went he did not believe that any one would go to a plowing match to learn how to plow. It would only draw those who could plow. The county could not give to everything that came along and expenses must be cut down.

After the remainder of the members had set forth their opinions it was decided to lay the matter over until Friday before taking a vote.

**County Treasurer**

Before taking up the first and second readings of a grant of by-laws, Reeve Sproule, Oil Springs, brought up what he termed as "something he hated to discuss" the service the county was getting from the treasurer.

He said that if the county was not paying enough to obtain full time service of a treasurer then he felt that it should be arranged that payment should be made for the service given and the officer be allowed to carry on with other business for the remainder of his time.

Reeve Green of Sombra, expressed a similar view pointing out that the end of the session was near and no statement had been received from the treasurer. It was subsequently moved by Reeve Eastman of Arkona, that the treasurer be invited to appear before the council on Friday. The council concurred.

Reeve Hackett of Enniskillen said that two men who had been employed on the trucks used in road operations had been staying around at Marthaville since the trucks had been laid up in November and he thought it might be advisable to investigate and find out the facts in the matter.

Saturday, Jan. 27th  
Lambton's expenditure on the county good roads system for the year 1922 reached the total of \$237,947.84, according to the report submitted to the county council by Superintendent John McCallum and accepted. The sum of \$62,337.08 of that sum was expended on construction work on provincial county roads and \$46,929.80 in construction work on county roads.

Maintenance and repair on provincial county roads cost \$20,833.42 and on county roads \$63,286.70. The council also reached the com-

mittee of the whole stage on bylaws and on the measure to make a grant for the county good roads system by way of a temporary loan, filled in the blank with \$100,000. Last year the grant for this purpose was \$80,000.

The by-law to raise money by way of a loan for current expenditures was filled in with the sum of \$120,000. In the matter of a grant to the provincial plowmen's association which was the subject of a lengthy discussion at Thursday's session, the county fathers voted a grant of \$1,000 on condition that the provincial match would be held in Lambton this year. An amendment was proposed to make the grant \$500 but this was defeated.

**Many By-Laws**

Other bylaws adopted in the committee stage were as follows: granting \$75 each to the East and West Lambton Teachers' Institutes; granting \$10 to the Sick Children's hospital; granting \$100 each to the 12 township and union agricultural societies in the county; granting \$1,000 to the Sarnia general hospital and a similar amount to the Charlotte Englehart hospital, Petrolia; fixing the rate of pay for grand and petit jurors at \$4 a day and 13c a mile travelling expenses; granting \$25 each to the public libraries of the county; appointing F. Jennings a member of the county board of audit for 1923; appointing Dr. Jas. Newell a member of the board of education for the village of Watford; granting \$1,000 for the use of the suburban road commission; granting \$500 to the Children's Aid Society; re-appointing W. A. Scott as high county constable at the same salary \$1,500 a year; borrowing \$10,022 to cover cost of a provincial county road in Sombra and \$3,000 to cover cost of a stone road in Euphemia township; appointing Dr. J. P. Hubbard and John McKenzie high school trustees for the town of Forest and Thos. Truan, F. H. Gilroy and Russell Kilpatrick members of the board of education for the town of Petrolia.

Reeve Leslie Harkness of Sarnia township, drew the attention of the superintendent to the erosion of the sand near the abutments of the bridge where the Cull drain empties into Lake Huron and asked if it would not be advisable to erect a breakwater.

The superintendent replied in the affirmative and said that he would look over the conditions at the first opportunity. Deputy Reeve Hillier of Sarnia township required if it would be possible to get aid from the Dominion government in this matter, to which Mr. McCallum replied that he believed both governments "had their hands full."

The question of sending delegates to the Ontario Good Roads convention to be held at Toronto in the near future was also broached and it was decided that all the members of the advisory board should attend.

**Summary**

A summary of the various expenditures set forth in the county road superintendent's report follows: provincial county roads, road construction \$62,337.08; bridge construction \$5,270.50; maintenance and repairs \$20,822.42; special grants, \$1,437.92; county good roads system, road construction \$46,929.80; bridge construction \$11,185.25; maintenance and repairs \$63,286.70; machinery \$7,151.84; special grants \$9,953.86; gravel pits \$6,354.90; superintendence \$3,306.57.

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