

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Council Decides That the Usual Water Committee is Not Necessary.

Good Templars Address the Council in Regard to the Sale of Liquor

The mayor and all the aldermen were present at last evening's meeting of the council, when a lot of business was disposed of.

The by-law relating to the assessment roll was passed through its several stages and passed, the rules being suspended to allow this to be done.

Ald. Cameron thought it was time to change the system of assessment. Some few who appealed to the courts had their assessments lowered, while those who did not appeal had to pay on the assessor's valuation.

Ald. Macmillan also considered the system should be changed. It would be well, he thought, to secure authority to raise the rate and then reduce the valuation to say one-half.

Ald. Humphrey was in favor of the act as it was in 1894. By that act a man could only appeal when the assessment was unequal.

Ald. Macmillan, speaking on the clause providing that improvements shall be taxed for one-half of their value, said he objected to it, if the object was to increase the taxes on improvements. Last year the council only taxed improvements for 25 per cent of their value.

Ald. Cameron and Marchant agreed with Ald. Macmillan, the former moving to strike out one-half and insert 25 per cent. Ald. Marchant did not think it was right to make the improvements pay for any deficit that might arise through the decision of the supreme court.

Ald. Humphrey explained that the by-law did not fix the rate. If possible he would be in favor of taxing the improvements at one-half.

The amendment was lost. H. D. Holmcken, M.P.P., wrote requesting that any proposed amendments to the Municipal Act be handed in to him or his colleagues as soon as possible. Acknowledged and laid on the table.

F. Elworthy, secretary of the Victoria Municipal Reform Association, wrote enclosing a resolution passed by the association, in favor of having the water rates made payable monthly at the city hall, thus doing away with the cost of collection. Received, acknowledged and laid on the table.

Thos. C. Sorby again wrote in regard to his claim in connection with the James Bay causeway. Referred to a special meeting to be convened by the mayor.

S. G. Campbell, on behalf of those who petitioned to make the office of five chief electors, asked that the petition be reconsidered and referred to the legislature, with a view to having the act amended to make the office elective.

The mayor ruled that the reconsideration was out of order, no former notice having been given. Ald. Marchant moved that the communication be laid on the table until a legislative committee be appointed. This was voted down, and it was moved to receive and file the letter.

Ald. Macmillan and Marchant objected to dealing with the letter in an unceremonious manner. The motion was carried.

The secretary of the I. O. G. T. wrote enclosing the following resolution passed by the order:

"Whereas the Independent Order of Good Templars has for the purpose of the saving of the fallen and also of the keeping of the young, pure and virtuous; and whereas we have been informed with regret and shame the fact that the young men of our province are exposed to great temptation not only by the open saloons but by open gambling dens, and the legalization of the sale of liquor in clubs without the ordinary restrictions commonly placed on the traffic and whereas many complaints have been made of the drinking of intoxicants by police officers while on duty, thus causing them to disregard open violations of gambling, and whereas it is also notorious that some of the saloon keepers violate the law in regard to selling liquor to minors, including children of tender age;

"Therefore be it resolved that we, the members of the Grand Lodge of the I. O. G. T. here assembled in the city of Westminster, B. C. do hereby request the premier and attorney-general of this province, the mayors of our cities, and the reveries of our municipalities to put in force fully and quickly the laws against Sunday selling of intoxicants, against gambling, against the drinking of officers while on duty, and against the selling of intoxicants to minors."

Ald. Williams moved that the letter be referred to the police commissioners. Ald. Macmillan moved in amendment to add that the council are of opinion that the suggestions should be carried out. Ald. Marchant seconded the amendment. The amendment was defeated, and the letter was referred to the commissioners.

Several complaints regarding the condition of streets were referred to the street committee. Mayor Beaven submitted the following:

"The undersigned desires to report with reference to the contract entered into with Messrs. Walkley, King & Casey for the construction of certain works at Beaver Lake."

"That the contract was executed on the 12th July, 1895, completion to be made within six months from date of the engineers' order to commence work. However, to any extension of time for completion which might be granted by the engineer in charge of the work."

"That by the 32nd section of the contract, time is to be especially considered in the absence of the contractor, failure to perform the work within the time limit or the further period of extension renders the contractor liable to pay to the corporation as liquidated damages the sum of five hundred dollars for each day which elapses between the appointed and actual time of completion."

"That on 23rd December, 1895, the engineer granted the contractors an extension of time with the following conditions: 'That on 23rd January, 1896, the contractors requested the engineer to extend the period of time extension already granted them.'"

"That on the 24th inst., the undersigned requested the engineer (Mr. Jorgensen) to attend at the city hall, and was then informed that he (Mr. Jorgensen) had no objection in consideration of bad weather and other circumstances, to extend the period of time extension by the contractor to 31st March next; the extension to be without prejudice to the exercise by the corporation or himself of the right conferred by the contract, the contractors agreeing to undertake to have the work completed by the date specified in the extension in full of all claims in that respect."

"The correspondence which has passed between the contractors and the engineer is herewith submitted for the information of the council."

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A UNION OF EFFORTS

The B. C. Benevolent Society Favors a Union with the Friendly Help.

President Burns Presents the 24th Annual Report—Election of Officers.

The annual meeting of the British Columbia Benevolent Society was held yesterday afternoon. President T. J. Burns occupied the chair. Among those present were Messrs. T. J. Burns, B. W. Pearce, A. B. Fraser, H. A. Munro, H. H. Ross, R. H. Jameson, W. C. Ward, A. Wilson, A. Graham, W. H. Mason, Captain J. D. Warren, Rev. Canon Beauland, Rev. Solomon Cleaver, and Mrs. J. D. Pemberton.

President Burns presented the annual report which was as follows: "On the second of this month the British Columbia Benevolent Society reached its 24th anniversary. During the year just passed I am happy to report that a revival of business and better times have been apparent, and poverty in the community has been comparatively small. Like every other place in the world, however, no matter how prosperous, we have always amongst us our share of the poor people, who from time to time have to be cared for by the community, and who have no control over their own fate. And only those who suffer can tell the bitter experience of hunger, with their children crying for food, and nothing in the larder; cold winter nights and no coal and insufficient covering, as well as many other sufferings."

"It is therefore the duty of the more fortunate to render assistance to their fellow beings in need and distress, and the British Columbia Benevolent Society was established as a medium through which to carry out the benevolent intentions of the public in a practical and intelligent manner. During the year 1895, 182 relief orders have been given, and while the society has done much to relieve what distress was brought under its notice, it has been found that owing to the severity of the winter the want of coal amongst the poor was much felt and this required the to be paid for in advance. I need not say how acceptable a donation of the benevolent citizens of the city to the poor would be. The rich mine owners who have given nothing to the society for the past year I hope will bear this in mind."

"The total amount expended for relief is \$909.20; the subscriptions and donations, \$536.05; and as will be seen by the statement of the secretary-treasurer the balance to commence the new year with is \$115.57. I would urge upon the benevolent and charitable-minded people in this community to give their support to this old established society, and to remember that its governing principle is practical benevolence without regard to creed, color or nationality. In conclusion I beg to tender sincere thanks to all those who have assisted the society in any way during the past year."

Attached to this report was the financial statement of the secretary-treasurer, which with it was adopted. It read as follows: B. C. Benevolent Society's Balance Sheet for the year ending 31st December, 1895.

RECEIPTS. Balance from 1895 \$387.52 Subscriptions and donations 536.05 Interest, Dominion Savings Bank 1.55 Total \$925.12

EXPENDITURE. Relief for 1895 \$600.20 Stationery, postage, advertising and printing 46.85 Auditor for 1895 12.50 Salary for 1895 of Secretary 12.00 Balance forward 115.57 Total \$925.12

Examined and found correct. (Signed) "A. GRAHAM, Auditor."

B. W. Pearce strongly favored the amalgamation of the B. C. Benevolent society and the Friendly Help Association. He introduced the following resolution, seconded by H. H. Ross: "That a committee of the British Columbia society be appointed to confer with the charity committee of the Friendly Help Association, as to the two institutions uniting for the better accomplishment of the charitable objects sought by both."

Alexander Wilson opposed the resolution. He was in favor of the Benevolent society remaining separate from all other associations. An earnest appeal should be made to the public for funds, with which to carry on the good work. Canon Beauland would favor a change in the direction of having the women look after all cases of charity among women and the Benevolent Society to devote its exclusive attention to the needs of the sterner sex.

W. C. Ward was in favor of the union of the two societies. Better results could be thus obtained than by the societies acting as at present independent of each other.

The resolution was carried and the president named as the committee Messrs. B. W. Pearce, Alexander Wilson, and D. H. Ross. Secretary Mason will communicate with the secretary of the Friendly Help Association to arrange for the desired interview.

The election of officers for the current year resulted in the choice of B. W. Pearce as president, Alexander Wilson, vice-president, and W. H. Mason, secretary-treasurer (re-elected for the ninth time).

The meeting was brought to a close with a vote of thanks to the retiring officers, the Pioneer Society for the use of their hall and to the janitor, Mr. Robert Ridley, for his courteous attendance.

How to Get "Sunlight" Books. Send 12 "Sunlight" Soap wrappers to Lever Bros., Ltd., 23 Scott St., Toronto, who will send post-paid a paper-bound book, 100 pages. For 6 "Lifebuoy" Carbolic Soap wrappers, a similar book will be sent. This is a special opportunity to obtain good reading. Send your name and address written carefully. Remember "Sunlight" sells at six cents per twin-bar, and "Lifebuoy" at 10 cents. One cent postage will bring your wrappers by leaving the ends open.

DR. TAFT'S ASTHMA CURES ASTHMA CURES so that you need NOT SUFFER UPON NIGHT GASPING FOR BREATH FOR FEAR OF SLEEPING. Give Name and Post Office Address. We will mail you FREE DR. TAFT BROS., 186 ADELAIDE ST., W. TORONTO, ONT.

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W. C. Ward was in favor of the union of the two societies. Better results could be thus obtained than by the societies acting as at present independent of each other.

The resolution was carried and the president named as the committee Messrs. B. W. Pearce, Alexander Wilson, and D. H. Ross. Secretary Mason will communicate with the secretary of the Friendly Help Association to arrange for the desired interview.

The election of officers for the current year resulted in the choice of B. W. Pearce as president, Alexander Wilson, vice-president, and W. H. Mason, secretary-treasurer (re-elected for the ninth time).

The meeting was brought to a close with a vote of thanks to the retiring officers, the Pioneer Society for the use of their hall and to the janitor, Mr. Robert Ridley, for his courteous attendance.

How to Get "Sunlight" Books. Send 12 "Sunlight" Soap wrappers to Lever Bros., Ltd., 23 Scott St., Toronto, who will send post-paid a paper-bound book, 100 pages. For 6 "Lifebuoy" Carbolic Soap wrappers, a similar book will be sent. This is a special opportunity to obtain good reading. Send your name and address written carefully. Remember "Sunlight" sells at six cents per twin-bar, and "Lifebuoy" at 10 cents. One cent postage will bring your wrappers by leaving the ends open.

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