

The City's Business

Board of Aldermen in Open Meeting Discuss Matters of Public Interest.

Bathing Grounds Question Shelved Indefinitely-Hospital Directors Elected.

Permanent Sidewalk Amendment By-Law-Additional Street Sprinkler Not Ordered.

A question of some importance to the general public was raised in rather a peculiar manner at last evening's meeting of the city council.

Another matter of public interest came up in regard to the provision of suitable bathing grounds.

The Victoria Branch of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, by the president, Mr. A. J. Dallin, drew the attention of the council to the suffering inflicted upon horses in the city owing to the bad condition of the streets, and particularly in the lower end of the roadway, which, the letter stated, could be removed at a trifling cost.

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In building up the city and province, and expressed the belief that the city would never have cause to regret appointing members to positions, as such members have a cause to sustain which will make them do their duty.

Ald. Williams moved that the letter be received and filed and duly acknowledged. He believed the object aimed at was a very worthy one, and if any vacancies were to be filled it would be well to have it in mind.

Messrs. Drake, Jackson & Helmecken acknowledged the receipt of a letter from the city clerk informing them that their application regarding the addition to the wharf at the chemical works had been referred to a special committee.

Ald. Humphrey, chairman of the special committee, said the committee had not agreed on a subject and there was no report from them.

Ald. Stewart objected. It would not be fair to put the matter to be stuck down in the permanent sidewalk; the signs, if needed, should be hung from the building.

City Engineer Topp reported as follows: "Re Belleville street improvements between Birdcage Walk and McClure street. I would respectfully recommend before moving the stone crusher from its present position to the east side of the street, together with the macadam which will be taken from Fort Street, this would put Belleville street in a condition for heavy traffic.

Ald. Beekwith moved that the matter be referred back to the committee with instructions to make a further report without delay. Ald. Hayward seconded the amendment.

The mayor said he would course put the motion, but he really thought it was working an injustice upon the company. Messrs. Prior and Earle, the city representatives in Ottawa, are anxious to know the city's decision upon the matter and although he (the mayor) did not say he liked the chemical works where they are, it should not be forgotten that the company was some important to the industry.

Ald. Beekwith moved that the committee be authorized to purchase, for the use of the wharf, a small bay for the accommodation of larger vessels. In answer to Ald. Hayward, Ald. Humphrey said the committee was not in a position to say whether the addition would interfere with navigation.

R. S. Randall complained of a sidewalk built on Simcoe street, which is 12 or 14 feet higher than the old one was, and asking that it be rebuilt even with the one on the opposite side of the street.

complaint, but it is now 11 inches above the sidewalk leading from the street to the house of the complainant, necessitating his placing a step there.

Ald. Brydon seconded the motion, but at the same time he objected to the sidewalks being laid to suit every individual as he complained. There had been too much of that already.

The motion carried. Ald. Stewart objected. It would not be fair to put the matter to be stuck down in the permanent sidewalk; the signs, if needed, should be hung from the building.

Ald. Beekwith thought if the council was going to deal with the matter at all, it should do so on a larger scale and clear out all these posts. His worship explained that although the city has the right to remove posts and verandahs, they have not the right to remove these signs.

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his ground, and he has done that twice already. He had no objection to the work being done, but he didn't want it put back. He also called attention to the fact that the city engineer did not with instructions to ascertain what lots could be bought, their suitability and cost.

Ald. MacGregor thought it was foolish to spend \$500 there when so many streets in the centre of the city are in urgent need of repair. The crusher should be taken to Johnson street and nothing but new rock should be used on Fort.

The mayor asked, supposing James Bay bridge be declared unsafe how it was proposed to accommodate the traffic, to which Ald. MacGregor said it was not yet declared unsafe; if that was the case, it is safe by allowing the tram cars to carry their full complement of passengers. There was no use borrowing trouble anyway.

Ald. Brydon again urged referring the matter to the street committee, especially as they did not know what amount of money was available. There was no sense in spending this money there when Fort and Government street, where the greatest travel is, are in their present condition.

The other clauses (except No. 4, which was agreed to, were also left over until this evening with the understanding that Engineer Topp will be present.

Medical Health Officer R. L. Fraser submitted the following report: "I beg to report that on the night of the 15th inst. the east wing of the buildings on Darcey Island was accidentally destroyed by fire. One of the patients, Lim See, was burned to death and another was severely burned about the face, but will recover.

Ald. Brydon thought if the streets were in better repair and there was so much dust left on top there would be no need for so much sprinkling.

The mayor said had the motion come up three or four months sooner he would have supported it, but as the end of the year has now passed, the sprinkler could not be obtained in less than six or seven weeks after the contract was signed.

Ald. Beekwith recommended the sprinkling being confined to the centre of the city.

The mayor, Hayward, MacGregor and Cameron being the supporters of it. Hospital Directors. Ald. MacGregor moved that the council proceed to the election of five members of the board of directors of the Royal Provincial Jubilee Hospital.

Why not buy a lot of their own and then everything they did in the way of improvement would be so much permanent investment? He suggested that the report be referred back to the committee with instructions to ascertain what lots could be bought, their suitability and cost.

Ald. Humphrey was indignant at the idea of patronizing a man who could be so foolish as to place broken glass where little children would cut their feet. He would like to know what damage the children could do to the water front.

The fire wardens recommended that the city solicitor be instructed to prepare a by-law regulating the inspection of electric wiring in buildings in accordance with the suggestion contained in a letter received from the secretary of the board of underwriters, and the report was adopted.

The finance committee recommended the payment out of current revenue of the sum of \$11,655.50, and the report was adopted.

Ald. Cameron seconded. The city should certainly have another sprinkler or should reduce the present area. Ald. Kinsman said the city had to wait a long time for the last sprinkler they bought, and they would probably not be able to obtain this one in time to be of any use this year.

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a basement by the doors being laid flat open.

Ald. Hayward asked if the city solicitor could legalize them, it only seemed to regulate them and to limit and define the power of the city engineer, who wished that the city should express the opinion that the city was putting its foot down and stopping the construction of these trap doors.

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