

THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Dr. H. L. McNelis Takes Seat in Council—Auditor Blythe Presents Report Criticizing Action of Executive in Diverting Monies From Other Purposes Than That for Which Money Was Voted—Hon. Frank Oliver Holds Out Little Prospect of a Dominion Government Grant to Traffic Bridge.

From Wednesday's Bulletin.

Dr. H. L. McNelis, who was the fifth of the aldermanic candidates elected on Monday, and by reason of which will serve the year of the unexpired term of Alderman Thomas Daly, resigned, was formally introduced to the members of the city council at the regular meeting Tuesday evening, and took his seat after the oath of office was administered by Commissioner Kinnaird.

A ray of light was shed on the peculiar and wonderful financial methods and other administrative acts of the commissioners this year by a report from the city's auditor, G. Percy Blythe.

The fact that the executive has been diverting monies voted by the ratepayers for specific purposes to other channels, and pointing out that this action is illegal. It also deals with the collection of rents from the G.T.P. property by the Western Realty Company. The report is as follows:

"I have completed the audit of the vouchers and books of accounts of the city to the 30th day of June, 1907. I find that the sum of \$66,163.32 has been expended on the street railway, although the amount borrowed under by-law No. 90 was \$49,000; and that under by-law No. 89 the sum of \$121,000 was borrowed for street paving. Of this \$20,375.50 has been expended to 30th of June, 1907, and the balance expended on other purposes than that for which it was authorized by the ratepayers. This has also happened in the case of the G.T.P. bonus, borrowed under by-law No. 7, \$45,000 borrowed under by-law No. 27 to build an incinerator and the balance of \$25,000 of G.T.P. right of way lands borrowed under by-law No. 78.

"I would recommend that no credit whatever should be given for weighing down on the weight scales. A number of items have appeared in the weight book in this audit where the fee has been collected and the receipt given. I find that the person weighing will weigh on the scales and then promise to return the receipt and do not do so. And the fee is no moderate payment could be required in advance by the city.

"I find that a refund of school taxes has been made on lots 2-5 in block 1 and on lots 2 and 3, amounting to \$4.75. In my report to your council for the year 1906, I pointed out that the council has no power to remit these taxes.

The water department has been installed in its separate offices during this audit, and since then the telephone and electric light departments, and other departments, have been installed in the same building.

"G. Percy Blythe."

The Mayor's Explanation. The report in order. He said that when the city bonds for \$500,000 were sold, each of the city's departments was given in connection with the use of the weight scales, that an alderman which will be rectified. The collector of the rents in the G.T.P. property, he explained that when the city undertook to purchase this property, it had been secured by a security and with despatch, Alderman Smith was appointed to make purchases for the city.

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Wish Father to Thought. An important communication, addressed to Commissioner Kinnaird was received from Hon. Frank Oliver, minister of the interior, dealing with the application of the city for a grant from the Dominion Government of \$175,000 toward the construction of the traffic stock of the proposed C.P.R. high-level bridge, over the Saskatchewan between Strathcona and Edmonton.

In the discussion of the C.P.R. bridge agreement, the council has taken it for granted that the Federal Government could be induced to make a grant of \$175,000 toward the construction of the traffic portion of the bridge, if being tacitly understood the provincial government will make a grant of \$100,000 for its purpose.

Obviously this has been a case of the wish being father to the thought, and the council has given no assurance to such effect from Mr. Oliver or any member of the Dominion government.

The interior pointed out in his letter that since the provincial constitution and subsidies were granted to the Dominion Government, it has been directed of all responsibility in regard to traffic accommodation in Alberta. He assured the council he will do all he

can to obtain a grant and suggested that as a preliminary to action on the part of the Dominion Government, Strathcona and Edmonton should make substantial grants toward the construction of the traffic portion of the bridge, as an evidence of their belief in the desirability of the project. His letter is as follows:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of yours of November 25th regarding the proposed C.P.R. bridge at Edmonton, also copy of report of city council and copy of letter from yourself to Wm. Whyte, of the C.P.R.

In reply to your letter, I beg to say that, in view of the fact that the Dominion Government was divested of all responsibility in regard to traffic accommodation in Alberta, when the provincial constitution and subsidies were granted, I am afraid that it will not be possible to secure an appropriation for the purpose in question. I need not assure you of my fullest sympathy with the object in view, but that every effort I can make will be made to attain it.

I note with pleasure your expectation of a grant of \$100,000 from the provincial government of Alberta. This seems to be a fairly liberal grant and establishes the endorsement of the project by the government of the province. I would think, however, that as the city of Strathcona and Edmonton are the parts of the country most immediately interested in the proposed traffic facilities, and there is a grant of \$50,000, equal to one-half of the current taxes of the city, to show their belief in the desirability of the project and its value by a substantial appropriation to the city, I think, would be a necessary preliminary to action in this connection by the Dominion.

I am still unable to suggest any way in which the Dominion Government can directly assist in providing the traffic facilities mentioned, but, notwithstanding the view expressed in your letter addressed to Mr. Whyte, it may be possible that some assistance may be given to the railway company that would stand in the place of direct assistance to traffic facilities on the bridge.

Yours very truly, Frank Oliver.

Alderman Walker's Resignation. The written resignation of Alderman F. Walker as a member of the council was received and accepted, and it was decided to hold the nomination to fill the vacancy on December 23, the bye-election to be held a week later.

G. R. F. Kirkpatrick, of the Imperial Bank, notified the council that the rate of money advanced on account of the city's claim, 7 per cent. The rate on advances for municipal purposes will remain at 6 per cent. The city of Toronto, Ontario, has been notified that the communication was filed.

Ross & Sloan, who recently purchased the business of the Undertaking Company, were offering to operate a free ambulance service in the city, provided they were granted a license to use the ambulances located by the Daughters of the Empire, and which has not yet been used, for the reason that the Undertaking Company has no license to draw the ambulance. The communication was referred to the Daughters of the Empire.

The latter from P. Cronin, the representative of Balfour & Co., the English capitalists, who made a proposition to purchase the Edmonton street railway. This proposition was stated that Mr. Balfour intends coming to Edmonton early in the spring, and that he had been secured by a security and with despatch, Alderman Smith was appointed to make purchases for the city.

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The question of drumming up the Machine Telephone company and securing some definite information as to the time this company purposes shipping its plant here was referred to the commissioners.

A \$10 Remission. The report of the commissioners on the claim of A. W. Ormsby, G. Block and W. J. Johnson for remission of taxes on lots 68, 70, river lot 6, was to the effect that this property was purchased by the provincial government in August 19, 1906, with the intention of utilizing it for the erection of a coal house. The charter provides that all property owned by the crown and in actual use for crown purposes should be exempt from taxation, but the interest of other parties therein is liable to assessment and taxation. The buildings then in the possession of the original owners and established by A. W. Ormsby, finally acquired by A. W. Ormsby solely. The interest of the original owners was not considered against them at \$9,000, based upon rental valuation. The buildings have been in the possession of the original owners since the end of November. Mr. Ormsby's claim was for a remission of taxation equivalent to one month of the full year's taxes. The report was adopted.

School District's Taxes Remitted. In reference to the claim of the Edmonton public school district No. 7 for remission of taxes on lots 99, 103 and 124, block 14, Hudson's Bay reserve, the commissioners reported that the school district acquired the property early in the summer and almost immediately commenced the erection of school houses. They have been in actual possession of the property and it has been in actual use for school purposes since the middle of the year. The charter provides that the first of a series of triumphs for our cause in this western country, and was concurrent with the return of our distinguished leader, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, as Prime Minister of Canada. After eleven years of Liberal rule and of prosperity such as this country has never known, it is gratifying to us to find Mr. Oliver occupying what is for Western Canada the most responsible and most important seat in the Cabinet, and enjoying the vigor and the energy of his youth.

On the claim of the J. J. MacLaughlin company for remission of business tax for 1907, the commissioners submitted information to the effect that the machinery and plant of the J. J. MacLaughlin company was held up in the railway blockade last winter and did not arrive in the city until early spring, and as it took some considerable time to install, the commissioners stated that there is no reason to suppose that the company's business did not commence until June, recommended that a grant of \$30.93, equal to one-half of their tax for the year, be allowed them in this connection. The report was adopted.

The Hilton Claim. The commission reported on the application of the Misericordia hospital for a settlement of the claim of the hospital for \$81 for treatment of Wm. Whyte, as a result of the accident on Monday, January 21st, 1907. Dr. L. W. Irving, then medical officer of the city, recommended that on the previous Saturday afternoon he had been applied to by W. Hilton for relief. Hilton was suffering from a severe cold and was in a painful condition, and had been without food since early morning. He telephoned to three hospitals for relief, and finally was taken to the Misericordia hospital, where he was treated for a few days. The other two being filled up at the time. The mayor of the city, the Undertaking Company, who received no grant from the city, being in this respect on a different footing from the ambulance company, which is the same case which was before the council some time ago in connection with the ambulance company. The commissioners recommended that the account be paid in full. The report was adopted.

Accounts Paid Large. The accounts passed made up the smallest total for any one week this year. The total of \$10,568.75. Itemized they are as follows:

Alberta Lumber Co. 33.05
Alberta Portland Cement Co. 16.50
American Electric Fuel Co. 550.00
A. E. Co. Ltd. 12.90
F. H. Anderson 10.00
W. H. Brown 10.00
The Bulletin Co. Ltd. 53.50
C. P. Blythe 35.00
Beals & Hoar 3.00
Cash acct., paymaster wages. 1,471.20
Cash acct., paymaster wages. 203.70
Cash acct., water dept. 199.70
C. P. R. telegraph 15.48
W. H. Campbell 65.75
C. P. R. Co. 85.61
Cushing Bros. 28.71
Can. Northern Tel. Co. 50
Can. Oil Co. Ltd. 63.25
Can. Fairbanks Co. 25.05
Carmichael & Lawrence 2.00
J. E. Clarke 3.25
Chown Hardware Co. 2.50
Can. Tel. and Elec. Co. 70.90
Can. Nor. Express Co. 18.20
L. Criswell 39.00
Can. Nor. Express Co. 9.00
D. H. Douglas 2.00
Dom. Express Co. 9.75
N. Delisle 41.20
Douglas Co. Ltd. 75.23
Edmonton 2.75
Edmonton General Hospital. 75.25
Edmonton dairy 9.92
Edmonton Tent & Mat. Co. 34.32
Edmonton street railway. 7.80
Edm'n Exp. and Transfer Co. 2,411.00
Edmonton Standard Coal Co. 21.00
C. J. Griffith 38.65
Great West Saddlery Co. 12.05
G. Gerla 18.75
W. H. G. 4.50
Gariepy & Lessard 173.65
H. P. Harbottle 55.65
H. Hutton 3.40
Hardisty Bros. 3.40

Huff Grading Co. 24.00
Imperial bank 502.70
W. G. Ibbotson 33.18
E. A. Kemp & Sons. 83.38
Landy & McLeod 11.60
St. Germain, Morinville, of the second resolution 22.40
Latta & Lyons 40.70
R. W. Line 4.44
J. H. Melich 10.40
J. H. Martin 10.40
J. H. Morris & Co. 35.23
W. Mackenzie 15.55
Bank of Montreal 675.00
McIntosh & Campbell 9.50
McColl Bros. & Co. 60.00
R. W. Macdonald 75.91
McNelis Lumber Co. 21.33
New York & Pacific Tea Co. 4.50
Northwest Bleachery Co. 17.75
Northern Hardware Co. 15.00
W. Perre 15.00
Pettit & McDougall 7.00
Pollard Bros. 205.90
C. Potter 19.50
Postmaster 50.00
Provincial printer 50.00
Picking Bros. 6.00
Robt Engineering Co. 61.00
Ross Bros. Ltd. 75.91
Ross Bros. 114.05
Stand Plumbing & Heat. Co. 24.77
Strathcona Hardware Co. 6.05
Summitville Hardware Co. 24.75
C. P. Blythe 200.00

The mayor occupied the chair at the meeting of the city council, which was presided over by the mayor, who was assisted by the city clerk, and the city treasurer. The meeting was held in the city hall, and was attended by a large number of the city council members and the public.

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M. F. Webb, Edmonton, and R. Chisholm, Lac Ste. Anne, were the mover and seconder of the first; A. B. Campbell, Edmonton, and Omar Germain, Morinville, of the second resolution.

Hon. Mr. Oliver Nominated. Nominations were then called for and the name of Hon. Frank Oliver was proposed by George J. Welbourn, Winterburn, amid great applause.

"When the history of the last west comes to be written in the future," he said, "the name of Hon. Frank Oliver will be written in large characters. It is many years ago since Hon. Frank Oliver came to this country, and in the early days he did not occupy the exalted position he does today. In early years in municipal and territorial affairs he took a deep interest, and later he was elected to represent the country in the Dominion House. Eventually Sir Wilfrid Laurier paid a compliment to the people of Edmonton and to Mr. Oliver by appointing him Minister of the Interior. His work since has not been office work, but he has travelled over the length and breadth of the Dominion, and to the Old Country as well in the interests of his department. In his opinion he approached most nearly to the ideal of a Cabinet minister."

The nomination was seconded by Joseph Rye, Sunnyside, and enthusiastically endorsed by the singing of the hymn, "My Country, 'Tis of Thee." Mr. Oliver was then elected to the ideal of a Cabinet minister."

Premier Rutherford Speaks. Premier Rutherford, being called upon, referred in eulogistic terms to Hon. Mr. Oliver and the work he has done for Alberta in the past. He referred briefly to the enthusiastic nomination of Dr. McIntyre, M.P., in Strathcona.

Mention was made of the selection of Edmonton as the capital and the work being done by the local government in the interests of the province. In the past, legislative buildings, parliament buildings have already been erected and excavation and foundation work have been started on the permanent legislative buildings for the construction of which tenders will shortly be called. It is the intention to build a new and more extensive building than at first contemplated, and one will be erected that will be a credit not alone to the city, but to the province. By starting the work this fall considerable money is being put in circulation.

In Edmonton a site had also been selected for a court-house, and it was at first thought to start work this fall. The work has been delayed, however, by the plans not being ready, but will be commenced on early spring.

A new news titles' office has been started in Calgary, and it is proposed to erect a similar building in Edmonton in the year 1909. The buildings will reflect credit more particularly on the minister of public works and the city of Edmonton.

While these things are being done for the cities of Edmonton and Calgary, he hoped the country people would not think the government neglectful of their interests. Much attention is being given to the public works, and the government is doing its best to improve the condition of the country.

Dealing with the federal aspect, he said that the excellent work being done in the field, that at next federal election there will be an "all-red" Alberta. In the past four years Edmonton has grown greatly, and the Hon. Mr. Oliver, who was then a private member, is now a cabinet minister. The country has grown and prospered in the past five years, owing to the government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

He said that the government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier has been a great blessing to the people of Alberta, and that the government is doing its best to improve the condition of the country. He said that the government is doing its best to improve the condition of the country.

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ern Canada who has done as much for the country as Hon. Frank Oliver. The country is witnessing great movements and they are tending to make Alberta the centre of the continent. In this time of growth it is fitting that the Edmonton district should do honor to the man that has done so much for it.

Dealing with local government affairs the speaker eulogized Hon. Mr. Rutherford and Hon. Mr. Cross, the one having been so highly honored by the people of the province, and the other who is making a name for himself throughout Canada by the administration of the attorney general's department.

The question of transportation, said the speaker, is one of the most important of the present day. The Hudson's Bay railway promised to be a great boon to Western Canada, though it will be strongly opposed by the systems with their heads now in the east.

He closed by saying he had been in this country from the time when the country "was one vast solitude from sky line to sky line," and he expressed his pleasure in speaking to an Edmonton audience in support of his old friend, Hon. Frank Oliver.

After Old-Timers' Testimony. John A. McPherson, M.P. for Stoney Plain, said he had been a constituent of Hon. Mr. Oliver for about twenty years. Many changes have taken place, but he has constantly grown a more ardent supporter of the party of which he is a member.

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