

ST. JOHN CO. COUNCIL.

Report of Board of Health on Smallpox Situation.

Necessary to Continue the Isolation Hospital Till the Disease is Stamped Out.

Auditor Magilton's Report on Tax Arrearages—Repairs to the County Buildings—The Good Work Done by Drs. Ellis and Morris—General Business.

The regular meeting of the Municipal Council was held at the Court House Tuesday afternoon. It was an unusually long session, lasting from 2.30 till 6.30. Warden White presided and there were present:

City of St. John—Couns. Daniel, McMillan, Colwell, Christie, Waring, Millidge, Seaton, Robinson, Maxwell, Macrae, Armstrong, McGoldrick, Baxter and Tutin.

Lancaster—Couns. Lowell, Long and Armstrong.

Musquash—Couns. Dean and Thompson.

Simonds—Couns. McLeod, Horgan and Lee.

St. Martins—Couns. Cochran, Mosher and Ruddock.

The minutes of the last regular meeting and a special held since then were confirmed.

The finance and accounts committee recommended the payment of the following bills, such payment to be made out of the contingent fund, except as otherwise directed:

To R. Heans, binding address ..... \$ 8.00

To County secretary ..... \$ 5.00

Postage ..... \$ 5.00

One half cost care offices to Dec. 31st ..... 5.25

One half cost sec. secretary's office ..... 1.42

Making up list of voters for the county for A. D. 1902. 25.00

To Barnes & Co. Supplying index registry office per contract ..... \$90.00

Printing, etc. for County Treasurer's office ..... 7.70

To W. H. Thorne & Co., Ltd. Broom for Court House ..... 30

To City of Saint John. Water rates for May, 1902, Registry office ..... 12.20

They further recommend that the secretary be authorized to demand from money ordered to be paid by this council on any highway board or otherwise to any person or persons, all rates and taxes due by them respectively, and the several highway boards shall, in case the amount of any order given by them is to be divided among several persons, then the names of such persons and the several amounts due them shall accompany such order.

And further, that the secretary require the several collectors of rates to furnish him information that they may have which would assist him in the collection of said rates and taxes.

They further recommend that the committee on bills for the legislature and by-law be authorized to prepare a bill for the presentation at the next session of the legislature for enactment to authorize the issue of debentures to the amount of seven thousand dollars, for the purpose of paying off the indebtedness incurred in the purchase of the isolation hospital, such debentures to be twenty years, three and one-half per cent per annum and non-assessable.

The committee also report that under the authority of this council a loan of ten thousand dollars was negotiated with the Bank of New Brunswick and the Bank of Montreal, to pay in part the expense incurred by the smallpox epidemic in this city and county, such loan to be repaid on the first day of July next.

The report was considered section by section. Those providing for the payment of bills were adopted.

The section with reference to the collection of taxes was discussed at some length.

Couns. McGoldrick and Maxwell asked for an explanation with regard to the arrearages.

Coun. Christie said this matter was reported by the auditor. It appeared that there were large arrearages in the several parishes. These people should be made to pay up. He said he held in his hands a full list of these people, prepared by the auditor. It was said the committee were after the poor men. This was not the case. The names of the people on the list were not poor men. They were people well able to pay. If any attempt was made moneys would be collected which would do away with the practice of borrowing money for use on the highways.

The adoption of the section had been moved and now it was decided to hear the auditor, J. A. Magilton. He submitted the figures which he laid before the finance and accounts committee the other day, and on which their recommendation was based. He gave a list of the people in arrears from 2 to 20 years, showing that the totals amounted to the following:

St. Martins, due May 1, 1901, \$1,190; on Dec. 31, 1901, \$1,458, or an increase of \$268.

Lancaster, No. 2, due May 1, 1901, \$140; on Dec. 31, 1901, increase \$54.

Simonds, due May 1, 1901, \$3,777; on Dec. 31, \$4,053, increase \$276.

Musquash, due May 1, 1901, \$1,144; on Dec. 31, \$1,198, increase \$54.

Lancaster, No. 1, due May 1, 1901, \$2,232; on Dec. 31, \$2,458, increase \$226.

The total arrearages on Dec. 31st last were: St. Martins ..... \$5,622

Musquash ..... 2,290

Simonds ..... 7,670

Lancaster, No. 1 ..... 9,241

Lancaster, No. 2 ..... 201

Mr. Magilton began to go into particulars, when he was interrupted by Coun. Lowell, who said these matters were none of his business.

Coun. Christie regretted to find a member getting into a squabble with an official. Let the council get down to facts. The list was here and could be read. It gave the names of a number of people who were able to pay who had not paid their taxes.

Coun. Lowell wanted to know if all the delinquents were on this list. Auditor Magilton replied in the negative.

Coun. Lowell—Why is that so? Coun. Armstrong said it would take a long time to read the list. He knew of one man who owed \$150 in taxes who was willing to pay. He had not been called upon to do so.

The warden stated in reply to Coun. Robinson that the list gave all persons in the parishes who were in arrears from 2 to 20 years.

The resolution to have the list read was then put, and the council divided evenly, 11 for and 11 against it.

The warden did not think it well to have the list read, and declared the motion lost.

The section of the report was then adopted and the committee named in the report were appointed.

The section regarding the taxation of officials passed.

The section providing for the debenture issue to pay for the isolation hospital passed with a provision for a sinking fund.

The report as to the \$10,000 loan was adopted, after some of the county representatives that expressed the opinion that the people in the several parishes should have been vaccinated free of charge.

The report as a whole was then adopted.

The county buildings committee reported: That under authority of this council they caused the judges', sheriff's and grand jury rooms to be newly papered and painted, the barristers' room panelled, new carpet and furniture put in the judges' court, at a cost of \$24,499, which is within the limit of \$300 allowed by the council.

A new platform and porch leading from the court house to the registry office has been erected.

They also recommend that six suitable chairs be purchased for the barristers' room.

Coun. Maxwell asked when this committee met to prepare this report, and Coun. McMillan, the chairman, explained that it was simply a report of what had been done.

The report was adopted. It was then moved that the auditor, J. A. Magilton, be heard.

Coun. Baxter did not think it right to hear officials.

The motion to hear Mr. Magilton was voted down.

The following report was then read from the local board of health:

At the special meeting of the municipal council held in November last, a committee from such council was appointed to act with this, the local board of health for the city and county of St. John, with power to acquire an additional epidemic hospital at a cost not to exceed the sum of \$10,000.

Subsequently the Morlan farm on the Sandy Point road was purchased, the conveyance being made to the municipality for the sum of \$7,000, which sum was paid by the municipality. This property is now designated the "isolation hospital."

At the said meeting further sums were ordered to be paid from time to time to this board, being the estimated expenses to date, and additional estimated expenses, aggregating in all a sum not to exceed, in addition to the above \$10,000, \$13,000.

The total expenses to date incurred by this board attributable to the introduction here of the case of smallpox by the Barton sailor, who went to the General Public Hospital on the birthday day of September last, are as follows:

Vaccinations ..... \$2,940 75

Vaccine ..... 805 90

Total vaccination expenses ..... \$3,746 65

At the last special meeting ..... 12,000 00

Leaving a balance, being excessive expenditure or liabilities incurred over amount ordered to be paid, \$2,732 85

The board are of opinion that the spread of smallpox here has been successfully checked, and that there will be but few cases hereafter. It will be necessary, however, to continue the isolation hospital until the disease is entirely stamped out. Probably the average cost for the next three months may be estimated at \$1,000 per month, but in order that there may be sufficient funds to enable the board to successfully cope with any fresh outbreak, it would be well for the municipal council to give authority to a committee of the council to grant a further sum of \$1,000, in addition to the sum of \$2,000, in addition to the balance as above stated.

The board of health therefore ask that the sum of \$2,732.85 be paid to them, and that in addition a committee of your council may be authorized, on the requisition of this board of health, to grant this board a further sum not exceeding the said sum of \$2,000.

It may be presumed that the Lieutenant Governor in council will reimburse to this municipality the cost incurred in above vaccinations, and it is hoped that, as there was danger that the epidemic might have spread to other parts of the province, the cost of suppressing the same may be largely assumed by the executive government to be paid for out of the public moneys of the province.

The following is a statement of all the cases of smallpox within this city and county from and including the Barton case to the present time:

Total number of smallpox cases ..... 101

Recovered ..... 72

Deaths ..... 29

Number having smallpox at present ..... 8

Treated at epidemic hospital ..... 29

Treated at isolation hospital ..... 29

Treated at homes ..... 43

At epidemic hospital at present ..... None

At isolation hospital at present ..... 4

Home at present ..... None

Besides the four cases of smallpox at the isolation hospital there are nine cases ready to be discharged, and three persons suffering with complications.

Your obedient servants, (Sgd.) JAS. REYNOLDS, Chairman of the Local Board of Health for the City and County of St. John.

(Sgd.) T. M. BURNS, Secretary.

St. John, N. B., 21st January, 1902.

Coun. Baxter inquired as to the pay allowed Drs. Ellis and Morris during the smallpox epidemic.

Coun. Lowell, who is a member of the board of health, said Dr. Ellis was employed by the hospital commissioner. He was paid \$7 a day. Dr. Morris given \$5 up to the time he took charge of the isolation hospital. Since that time his pay was \$7. The board of health thought Dr. Morris was inequally paid and had in mind to make his allowance \$7 a day all through.

Coun. Baxter said Chief Justice Tuck referred to the excellent work done by these two physicians and he was sure he but voiced the sentiments of all people generally. The board of health wanted to be economical, so they put the wages down low. He thought there should be an expression of opinion here in the direction of giving these two doctors more. These young gentlemen had worked hard and at the risk of their lives.

people were given in the report, and was told they were not.

Coun. McGoldrick said he understood some of them earned \$15 in a day. If so these two doctors should get more pay, as they worked day and night.

Coun. Ruddock asked why the people in the parishes were not vaccinated free of charge. The council at the special meeting called to consider the smallpox situation ordered that.

Coun. Millidge considered that Drs. Ellis and Morris were deserving of the thanks of the people, and they should get more pay.

Coun. Christie urged that something should be done to recognize in a public way the valuable services given by Drs. Ellis and Morris and the nurses who cared for the smallpox patients. A committee should be appointed to look into the proposition.

Coun. Lee again asked why the people of the county had not been vaccinated.

Coun. Ruddock repeated the question. It was explained that the council had simply asked the board of health to consider the advisability of enforcing the law regarding compulsory vaccination in the several parishes.

Coun. Daniel replied that the board of health were told by this council that it was a question whether they should enforce the law in the city. If that were so it was even worse in the country. The board of health felt that it was not advisable to carry on free vaccination in the country. A large number of people in the county had been vaccinated where the cases did not crop up. The board of health did not think it necessary to send physicians all through the county.

Coun. Ruddock thought something more should have been done.

Coun. Lowell did not wish to find fault with the board of health, but he thought the people of Lancaster should have been protected against smallpox by vaccination. The county had not been treated fairly. He would vote against the payment of any greater sum of money to the board of health.

Ald. Baxter did not think the board of health should be found fault with in this way. They should not have spent money that could be saved. The precautions taken in the county seemed to have been adequate. People from the parishes could have been vaccinated at Ritchie's building free of charge.

Coun. Lowell said he understood people had been refused.

Coun. Daniel replied that he did not think that was so.

Coun. Baxter stated that the board of health could not be blamed for not enforcing compulsory vaccination. The blame lay at the door of the local government.

Coun. Lee was not surprised that the people of the parishes were not vaccinated free of charge. He did not expect that, although the feeling in the council was in favor of it.

Coun. Christie did not see that the representatives of the parishes had any reason to complain, because they could not show where the disease had spread in the county because of the failure of the board of health to vaccinate people.

Coun. Lowell would vote against the payment of any more bills as a protest against the board of health's action.

The report was then adopted, only Couns. Mosher, Lowell, McLeod, Long and Ruddock voting against it.

Coun. McGoldrick asked if the amounts paid doctors for vaccinating



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mittee who acted with the board of health before in the matter of the loan authorized to negotiate a loan as indicated in the board of health's report. He thought the local government would help the city in the payment of the bills incurred in connection with the smallpox epidemic.

The motion passed. This committee consists of Warden White and Coun. Christie, the chairman of the finance and accounts committee.

Coun. Robinson moved for the appointment of a committee to wait upon the local government to ascertain what they are prepared to do to help the municipality out in this matter.

Coun. Daniel, in seconding the motion, said the government should be interviewed at once.

The motion passed and Couns. Robinson, Macrae, McGoldrick, Lee and Ruddock were appointed the committee.

On motion of Coun. Christie, Couns. J. R. Armstrong, Maxwell, Millidge Dean and Long were appointed to consider the best way to recognize the valuable services of Drs. Morris and Ellis and the various nurses during the prevalence of the smallpox scare.

The special committee appointed to act with the architect in the matter of jail improvements, reported:

That in accordance with a resolution of this council they called for tenders for necessary cell and other doors for the jail and received seven tenders therefor. That of James Fleming for \$1,200, being the lowest, was accepted, and the architect was authorized to enter into a contract with Mr.

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Advertisement for Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. Includes the headline 'Kidney Troubles', a testimonial from Mr. C. J. Traggott, and a portrait of a man. The text describes the benefits of the pills for kidney issues and general weakness.