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J. A. HACKING,

LISTOWEL, ONT.

Perth County Parliament.

JUNE SESSION.

The County Court opened in the court house, Stratford, at one p. m., Tuesday, June 9th, His Honor Judge Woods presiding.

The business before the court was as follows:

JURY CASES.

W. G. Movat et al v. Mary J. Bradshaw. F. W. Gearing for plaintiff; McPherson & Davidson for defendants.

Thomson & Williams Manufacturing Co. v. City of Stratford. McPherson & Davidson for plaintiffs; F. W. Gearing for defendants.

Samuel Sanderson and Wm. Bell v. Mary J. Stinson. J. M. Carthew for plaintiffs; Guthrie & Watt for defendant.

NON-JURY CASES.

Geo. Ford v. John Askin. G. G. McPherson for plaintiffs; J. M. Carthew for defendant.

Thos. J. Moore v. Harriet Hammond. F. W. Gearing for plaintiff; McPherson & Davidson for defendant.

GRAND JURY.

The first proceeding was the swearing of the Grand Jury, composed as follows: Anthony Allen, Hibbert; W. A. Beatty, Blanshard; Robt. Beattie, Thos. Brown, Ellice; Jas. C. Balfour, Fullarton; John Bell, Robt. Barbour, Hibbert; J. S. Bowman, A. Cooper, Listowel; C. Copple, Logan; Samuel Doupe, Blanshard; Thos. Edwards, Fullarton; John Eddy, Logan; Wm. Forrest, North Easthope; James Gadsby, Stratford; Thos. Hicks, Logan; Geo. Hyde, North Easthope; A. H. Hipple, Thos. Henderson, Stratford; Wm. Johnston, Mornington; James L. Rae, Milverton; Geo. Studder, Ellice; James D. Stanley, St. Marys; C. Young, Gore of Downie—24.

THE JUDGE'S ADDRESS.

His Honor after referring to the cases before the court called the Grand Jury's attention to the fact that there were 5 persons at present confined in the county jail for the "crime" of vagrancy. All were aged persons, the average age of the five being slightly over 80 years. A blind man aged 49 had also been committed to the jail by the magistrate, out of kindness, as the unfortunate had no place to go to for shelter. The judge remarked that this incarceration of the aged poor and the unfortunate in the common jail was a strange commentary upon a civilization and a Christian feeling that could tolerate the like. He invited the jury to give the subject its consideration. His Honor in closing paid a high tribute to the memory of Sir John Macdonald.

PETIT JURORS.

The roll of petit jurors was then called. The following gentlemen compose the Petit Jury: Henry Alstadt, Stratford; John Brown, Blanshard; Fred. Becker, jr., Geo. Brickman, jr., Ellice; John T. Barley, Fullarton, jr., Ellice; Listowel; Jas. Brandy, Stratford; D. M. Collins, Jas. Coulter, Elma; Jas. Clark, Fullarton; John M. Clime, Listowel; Lang Challenger, Logan; John Duffon, Thos. Darling, Blanshard; Wm. Dewar, jr., Elma; August Elligson, Logan; Jas. Fotheringham, Wallace; James Gray, Elma; Joseph Graham, Wallace; Mac. Harburn, Francis R. Hamilton, James Hislop, Hibbert; Wm. Henry, Logan; Thos. Hanley, Thos. H. Hall, Mornington; Marlin Halpin, jr., South Easthope; Geo. Hill, Leonard Humphrey, Stratford; Ben Johnston, J. R. Kerr, Mornington; Thos. Lawrence, Logan; James Lockhart, jr., Wallace; Simon Martin, Robert Miller, Bernard Murray, Downie; David Merkleger, Milverton; James McLeod, Gore of Downie; Duncan McTavish, Chas. McTavish; Duncan McTavish; David Neil, Wm. Ogilvy, Henry Ross, John Russell, Downie; Thomas Ridley, Ellice; Wm. Thompson, Isaac Elliott, Robt. Whaley, John B. Young, Blanshard—18.

Wednesday the Grand Jury rendered the following presentment and were discharged:

"We the Grand Jurors of our Sovereign Lady the Queen on oath present—That we inspected the jail and found the same carefully kept and scrupulously clean, the prisoners being well cared for and having no complaint to make. We found seven inmates confined there, six of whom have been committed for vagrancy, four of them being of the av-

erage age of 82 years. The seventh prisoner was awaiting trial for indecent assault.

"That we believe the matter of providing a House of Refuge for those who from any cause are unable to support themselves should be no longer delayed. We found a number of aged persons in the jail whose only crime was that they were poor and friendless. To treat such unfortunates like criminals is neither charitable nor just, and as the Ontario Government offers liberal grants towards the building of such institutions, we strongly urge that the county council take up the matter at once instead of treating it with indifference as is their usual custom.

"That we visited the new hospital and after being shown through the building by Sheriff Hossie, chairman of the board of trustees, were unanimously of the opinion that the building is eminently adapted for the purpose for which it was intended, and that it fills a long felt want in our community. We consider too, that it reflects creditably upon the munificence of the citizens of Stratford and the County of Perth.

"That we desire to express our sincere regret at the death of the Right Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald, Premier of Canada. The loss to a country of a man who for so many years has been its virtual ruler, cannot but be serious, and while we believe that Canada is greater than any of its citizens and will survive them, and that a kind Providence will continue to control the destinies of our nation, we feel that in the death of our distinguished statesman our country has suffered an almost irreparable loss. It is gratifying to know that his name will always be prominently connected with the history of our country, the Confederation of the provinces being a monument to his greatness which so long as Canada itself exists cannot be overthrown.

(Signed), "Geo. HYDE, Foreman. Grand Jurors' Room, Court House, Stratford, June 10, 1891."

COUNTY COUNCIL.

John Corrie, road and bridge inspector, presented his annual report. He had made a thorough inspection of the county. He recommended some attention to pointing abutments of bridge near Lisbon; also to Armstrong's between Mornington and Wellesley; that cedar span about 60 feet between Huron and Perth; also a new wooden structure near Tuckersmith; Kirkton bridge needs new flooring; the iron bridge between Downie and Blanshard should have its approaches widened, and stone work pointed. Contract for gravel on Huron road has been let. General expense will be less. He estimated that \$1500 would cover all expenses. The wooden bridge between Downie and Blanshard has not enough of a span. It should have from eighty to ninety feet.

The report was referred to the road and bridge committee.

Wm. A'lexander, Public School Inspector, presented his annual report, a very elaborate one containing much useful information. The report showed a statement of receipts and expenditure for 1890 for the 11 townships and village of Milverton:—

	Receipts	Expenditures.
Blanshard	7775 48	6839 98
Downie	5008 82	3944 00
North Easthope	6499 96	4219 84
South Easthope	3704 57	2632 15
Ellice	7307 30	5765 62
Elma	11,498 13	10692 76
Fullarton	6179 86	5119 28
Hibbert	6770 47	5003 68
Logan	6085 52	5841 53
Mornington and Milverton	8159 93	7123 19
Wallace	5255 35	4808 18
	\$73745 29	61890 17

The total receipts for the year are \$1,445 less than in 1889 and total expenditure \$1,990 less. The amount paid for teachers' salaries was \$44,471, being an increase of \$459 over previous year. As the number of teachers is the same, this shows that teachers' salaries have slightly increased for 1890.

The total amount received from school tax on property was \$47,232 being an average of \$433 to each section.

Number of schools and teachers:—

Townships.	Schools.	Teachers.
Blanshard	13	13
Downie	8	9
North Easthope	8	9
South Easthope	6	7
Ellice	8	9
Elma	12	12
Fullarton	7	10
Hibbert	9	10
Logan	11	11
Mornington	14	14
Wallace	12	12
Village of Milverton	1	2
	109	119

The average salary of 67 male teachers was \$416, an increase of \$2 over the previous year. The average salary of the 57 female teachers was \$295, a decrease of \$3. The highest salary in Blanshard was \$500; Downie \$480; N. Easthope \$600; S. Easthope \$440; Ellice \$550; Elma \$500; Fullarton \$492; Hibbert \$550; Logan \$400; Mornington \$550; Wallace \$485; Milverton \$475.

The highest salary \$600 was paid by S. S. No. 5, N. Easthope.

The annual promotion examination was held on the 3rd April at which 2,174 presented themselves. The numbers were as follows:—

Candidates.	Promoted.
Blanshard	245
Downie	174
Ellice	196
Elma	304
North Easthope	167
South Easthope	113
Fullarton	171
Logan	178
Mornington	269
Hibbert	152
Wallace	161
Milverton	43
	2174
	1478

Attendance at four high schools:—

School.	Total attendance.	County pupils.
Stratford Coll. Inst.	270	55
St. Marys Coll. Inst.	203	53
Mitchell high school	136	45
Listowel high school	154	50
	763	203

The total expenditure was:—

Stratford	\$11,584 34
St. Marys	5423 46
Mitchell	2735 32
Listowel	2943 32
	\$22,686 44

Deducting from this say \$4,000, expended by Stratford on building leaving balance for maintenance \$18,686.44.

The Finance committee's report, presented by chairman Leverage, was adopted as submitted. The following accounts were ordered to be paid: Herald office \$19, Davis Bros., \$42.86, Walter Stone \$3.50, Stratford Times \$19.50, D. Bartlett \$5, P. Dunn and A. Tracey \$17.60, Drs. Matheson and Gunn \$11.50, T. A. Thistle \$10, P. Whelihan \$33.00. A few accounts were held over for further enquiry. The usual grants were allowed to Mitchell, Listowel and Milverton. No action was taken on the various motions for school grants to the various townships. To the North and South Perth Farmers' Institutes \$25 each was granted; also \$150 each to the North and South Riding to be distributed equally between the various agricultural societies and the Mitchell horticultural society. The treasurer's estimates for the year ending May 31, 1892, had been examined and as a result it was recommended that \$40,000 be levied and collected over the amount required to supplement the legislative school grant. The receipts for the year ending May 31st, 1891, were found to be \$28,326.35 and the payments \$17,782.58, leaving a balance in the treasurer's hands of \$10,543.77.

Warden Schaefer presented the report of the County Property Committee. Some slight improvements required to doors or gates were authorized and it was recommended that the clerk and warden be instructed to take the steps necessary to get a building complained of by the jailer removed. The report was adopted.

Chairman Freeborn presented the report of the Equalization Committee which was adopted. The valuation of the county valutors in 1887 was again adopted, the following to be the equalized assessment for the county for 1891:—

	Acres.	Rate.	Real Prop.
N. Easthope	43,119	\$48	\$2,069,700
S. "	23,795	33	1,261,190
Downie	45,533	49	2,380,560
Blanshard	45,968	55	2,528,240
Fullarton	40,268	53	2,135,150
Hibbert	41,413	50	2,070,650
Ellice	54,303	34	1,846,300
Mornington	49,936	44	2,197,180
Logan	53,858	38	2,046,400
Elma	67,320	35	2,356,200
Wallace	49,445	42	2,076,690
Mitchell			520,280
Listowel			688,960
Milverton			110,600
			\$24,288,280

Mr. Cleland for the committee appointed to inspect bridge on gravel road near Poole, reported that as the requirements of the Act had not been complied with, no action was recommended this session. Adopted.

By-law 325 assessing an equivalent to the legislative school grants for 1891 was passed.

By-law 326 levying \$40,000 to meet expenditure for the current year was passed, the amounts required for each municipality being:

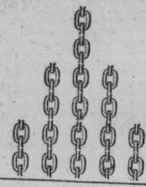
North Easthope	\$3,408
South Easthope	2,078
Downie	3,922
Blanshard	4,165
Fullarton	3,517
Ellice	3,040
Hibbert	3,410
Logan	3,370
Elma	3,619
Wallace	3,880
Mitchell	3,421
Listowel	852
Milverton	1,135
	182

By-law 327 authorizing the warden and treasurer to borrow a sum not exceeding \$20,000 as may be required until the taxes can be collected, was passed.

At the meeting Thursday morning the Education committee's report was adopted. It briefly reviewed the inspector's report and expressed pleasure at the gratifying and encouraging progress of education in the county. The usual grant of \$100 toward expenses of the promotion examinations was recommended.

Mr. Coveny reported for the committee on roads and bridges. Mr. Corrie's report had been adopted with its various recommendations the smallness of the outlay required for repairs as per his report was a matter for congratulation. The letter of complaint from Mr. Carpenter was referred to the Reeve of Logan to act in conjunction with the road inspector and the Reeve of McKillop, to report at the December session. The report observed that "the custom of people when draining their lands to (if at all possible) deliver their surplus water on the roads, thus necessitating the deepening of the roadside ditches to in most cases a very dangerous extent in order to carry off the water, is becoming far too prevalent in the county, and he would recommend that in so far as the roads in charge of the inspector are concerned, that he be directed to put a stop to the further deepening of any of the ditches on the roads under his supervision, except where the deepening may be made under an award of an engineer acting under the Ditches and Watercourses Act." The report was adopted.

The business of the session being at an end the council adjourned.



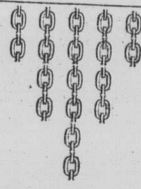
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