

LAMBTON HIGHWAYS TO RECEIVE A LARGER OUTLAY FROM PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

County Council Hears That More Than \$65,000 Additional Grant Will be Expended on Provincial Roads in This County in 1924 Over That of 1923—Demand For Farm Labor in Lambton Far Exceeds Supply—Ask Increased Grant for Sarnia Hospital—Salvation Army Ask For Their Welfare Work—Many Bylaws up for Consideration.

The estimated outlay by the Ontario government on the provincial highways in Lambton county during 1924 will be \$161,240, according to a letter from S. L. Squires, deputy minister of highways, read at Wednesday afternoon's meeting of the Lambton County council. The county will be asked to contribute one fifth of that amount. During 1923 the province expended \$94,074.03 in this municipality.

Several delegates were heard by the county fathers, during the afternoon and John Farrell of Forest, district immigration officer, gave a brief address in which he outlined some phases of the immigration question. He said that 1924 loomed as a very important year in the history of the county as well as the province. There had been a great struggle during the last few years resulting from the trouble in the land across the seas, but he could see a bright star shining in the future.

Labor is Scarce
At the present time the department was unable to supply the demand for labor in Lambton and western Ontario in comparison with conditions a few years ago when places could not be found for the men brought in.

Australia and Argentine were trying to attract more settlers, Mr. Farrell continued and Australia would take them at any season of the year. Here immigration was not encouraged during the winter months and he believed this was a mistake. Fairly wealthy people were ready to come to this country and with the ideal climatic conditions which existed in Ontario he did not see why they should not be taken during the winter as well as in the other seasons of the year.

If the proposed district immigration office was established in London a class of industrial and agricultural workers such as had never been known before would be brought into this district.

County Road System
The sum of \$180,207.11 was expended on the Lambton county road system for the year ended December 31, 1923, according to a printed detailed statement presented to the council at Thursday morning's meeting of the January session.

The summary showed the outlay for the various municipalities was as follows: Brooke, \$20,308.49; Bosanquet, \$11,946.66; Dawn, \$8,750.61; Enniskillen, \$16,029.41; Euphemia, \$17,087.18; Moore, \$31,934.83; Plympton, \$8,134.09; Sombra, \$25,504.13; Sarnia (township), \$3,794.19; Warwick, \$9,200.13; general \$15,689.60; village grants \$11,827.61.

The grants made to the villages during 1923 under the county road system expenditure were also included in the statement presented and were as follows: Watford \$1,438.22; Arkona, \$468.62; Forest, \$2,767.63 (1922 grant); Forest, (1923) \$1,760.62; Oil Springs, \$467.92; Theedford, \$504.27; Petrolia \$3,294.67; Alvinston, \$1,125.67.

Grant to Towns
When the by-law to provide for making grants to the towns and villages under the highway improvement act was read in committee of the whole deputy reeve Burnley of Plympton remarked that in his opinion the towns and villages should only get 100 per cent refunded on the amount expended and not an additional subsidy of 25 per cent.

Reeve Mason Spearman of Theedford, in his maiden speech, couldn't see eye to eye with deputy reeve Burnley and said that the allowance was small enough without any curtailment. If the roads in the villages were not maintained the people would be forced to leave their vehicles outside the limits and walk in.

Reeve Barrett of Point Edward could not see that the 125 per cent was too much and said that the amount received by the village he represented had always been expended as designated by the superintendent.

Reeve Duncan Smith of Plympton referred to the village of Watford which he said would be getting in all 165 per cent for 100 per cent expended, by reason of the government subsidy on a payment. He thought the grant to that village should be cut down to 85 or 90 per cent of the amount expended.

Reeve Connolly of Watford spoke in defense of his municipality and pointed out that the county had re-

ceived a 60 per cent subsidy on the provincial highway through that village for three years and as no discrimination had been shown during that time he did not think it would be fair to do so now.

An amendment was offered by Reeve Smith and seconded by deputy reeve Burnley that Watford be allowed 90 per cent of the amount expended but the amendment was defeated.

Deputations
When a deputation from Sombra headed by Victor Green, last year's reeve of that municipality, had presented a request for a road linking up the county highway in Kent county—an extension of about six miles—deputy reeve Burnley again arose and remarked that if Sombra wanted anything they came to the county. He asked why they did not do the same as the township of Plympton, go ahead and build the road. Ex-Reeve Green, in reply, said that if that plan was adopted the township would not get the 40 per cent subsidy and that was what they were after. Deputy Reeve Burnley added that they could get a 20 per cent grant if the work was carried on by the township.

A delegation composed of G. G. Moncrieff and F. W. Hay, appeared on behalf of the Charlotte Eleanor Englehart hospital Petrolia requesting a grant of \$2,000 for which they would undertake to care for all the county patients possible.

John Wilkinson, secretary of the children's aid society addressed the council in support of a request for a grant and George N. Boyle, former representative of Dawn spoke briefly recalling his association in the council and wishing the 1924 body every success. While he knew that the levy in the county was not as heavy as in other centres of the council could reduce the taxation in any way it would be a popular move.

Before adjourning at noon the council took up the first and second readings of a grist of bylaws including one to provide for the payment by the county of one-half of the cost of a new steel and concrete bridge over the Whitebread drain on the border between Lambton and Kent counties.

By resolution of Reeve Connolly of Watford the name of deputy reeve Warren of Enniskillen was added to the standing educational committee. This name was omitted by the striking committee in the report presented Wednesday.

Many Bylaws
The report of the finance committee recommended grants of \$50 to the Salvation Army, \$100 to the Canadian National Institute for the Blind; \$75 to the women's institute, and that no action be taken on the request of the manager and matron of the house of refuge for an increase of salary. The report was adopted without discussion.

First and second readings were given to the following bylaws: granting \$75 to the women's institutes of the county; granting \$10 to the sick children's hospital; granting \$1,200 to the union and township agricultural societies to be divided equally; appointing William Harper a member of the board of education for Watford for three years and Thomas Truman a member of the board at Petrolia for two years; Dr. J. P. Hubbard Sr., a high school trustee for Forest for three years and John Huey a member of the county board of audit; granting \$50 to the Salvation Army rescue home; granting \$25 to each of the public libraries complying with the regulations; fixing the rate of pay for grand and petit jurors at \$4 a day with 13c a mile for mileage and \$500 to the Children's aid societies. Another measure was put through the preliminary stages to grant \$80,000 for use on the county good roads system for the year and to provide for borrowing that amount. The council adjourned at 5 o'clock.

County Fathers Take Up Education Matters and Hear Reports of Progress

Asserting that the present system of administering rural public schools placed a premium on economic waste in view of the small attendance in some of the schools, Henry Conn, public school inspector for West Lambton made some interesting comments on education generally, following the presentation of his annual report at the semi-annual meeting of

the January session of the Lambton county council Friday afternoon.

As an example of a contributory factor to the situation he cited the case of the township of Plympton which had one trustee to every seven pupils. Then in the matter of secondary education the rural municipality had no direct representation.

The council made a grant to the Sarnia collegiate and technical school but did not have a representative on the board. Each municipality, Mr. Conn contended, should be responsible for the education of the pupils within its boundaries.

No improvement in the standard of rural education would come until some change was made; until there were strong trustee boards upon which would fall the responsibility. Mr. Conn also pointed to the fact that from 60 to 70 per cent of the teachers in rural schools changed their posts every year and the loss by the irregular attendance of pupils as two other factors entering into the rural education problem.

Rural Schools
Picking up Mr. Conn's remarks about more representation of the county deputy reeve Thomas Burnley of Plympton, tossed up the quip that the county "had darn little to say in school affairs anyway."

Reeve Duncan Smith of the same municipality also came to bat on the question of the number of trustees in Plympton and asked the inspector if sixty trustees were working for nothing how much cheaper could the services of six be obtained.

Statistics in Mr. Conn's report showed that 105 schools and departments were in operation in 1923 with 3,506 pupils enrolled as compared with an enrolment of 3,606 in 1922. There was an average attendance of 84 per cent. Teachers employed in the urban schools of the inspectorate totalled 17 and in the rural schools 88. There were 58 changes in teachers during the twelve months and the average salary paid was \$1,044. The average cost of educating pupils a day in the rural schools was 32.6c and in the urban schools 27.6c. The total estimated value of the school buildings in the inspectorate was placed at \$444,750.

J. J. Edwards, public school inspector for East Lambton also submitted a report for the past year. Figures compiled therein showed that there were 118 teachers employed in the inspectorate and the average salary was \$1,026. There were fewer changes in teachers during 1923 than in the previous year and the total enrollment of pupils was 3,248. In the remarks the report set out that new school buildings were much needed in several centres as well as improvements and additions to the school libraries.

Agriculture
The district representative of the Ontario department of agriculture, W. P. Macdonald, tendered a report on the activities of the department during 1923 in which references were made to the growth of the school fairs from year to year—the 1923 fairs had over 8,000 entries—an advancement in the co-operative marketing idea and the farm labor problem. Concerning the latter the report showed that 54 men had been placed on farms during the year through the office and mention was made of the splendid progress of some Hollanders who had been brought in.

County Printing
The Petrolia Printing and Publishing Company was awarded the contract for the county printing for 1924 upon the recommendation of the printing committee. The contract price was not announced. The report was read by deputy reeve Shaunessy of Petrolia.

Hospital Grant
The report of the public buildings committee recommended that the changes advocated in the county court house be left in the hands of the chairman of the committee for further inquiry. The council adopted the report. The changes involved a re-arrangement of the jury boxes, prisoner's dock, etc., in order to provide more accommodation.

The Charlotte Englehart hospital of Petrolia will receive a grant of \$1,350 from the county under the condition that it care for county patients as previously outlined, according to the report of the finance committee which was adopted. The

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grant recommended for the Sarnia general hospital was \$800.

"No action" was the recommendation of the legislative committee in connection with a resolution sent forward by Welland County petitioning the government to assume all the cost of provincial highways. A similar report was submitted on a resolution from Ontario county concerning the proposal to establish steam plants for the generation of hydro power, and from Hastings county asking that the counties be protected to some extent against liability in damage suits.

High county constable R. J. Whiting again appeared before the council in connection with his re-appointment to the post for 1924 and requested that the finance committee consider increasing his automobile expense allowance. He added that if re-appointed he would continue to give his best services for the county.

Prior to adjournment the council went into committee of the whole on bylaws and prepared for the third and final readings on Saturday.

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