

AUTOMOBILE CONCERN WANTS TO LOCATE FACTORY IN BERLIN

Communication Received at Council Meeting Last Evening Was Referred to the Industrial Committee--Routine Business Transacted

While considerable business was transacted at the Council meeting last evening, the adjournment was not oratorically inclined and an adjournment was made shortly after ten o'clock.

An important communication was that from an automobile firm in Toronto with reference to the location of a factory in Berlin. The Industrial Committee will take the matter in hand.

A number of complaints regarding errors in assessment were received and referred to the Assessment Commissioner.

Several requests for the opening and improving of streets were referred to the Board of Works.

Matters of importance were dealt with in the Committee reports, all of which were adopted without discussion.

Ald. Scidling complained of reckless automobile drivers and the complaint will be considered by the Police Commission.

Council will hold a special meeting on Monday evening next to discuss the opening of Eby Street and the Walker Bin proposition.

Mayor Schmalz presided and those in attendance were Reeves Amussen, Dietrich, Rohleder, Aldermen Kranz, Mills, Pieper, Waterhouse, Schilling, Little.

Property Damaged. Mrs. Susannah McDonald wrote regarding damage to her property on Peter Street, caused by the construction of a storm drain and asked to have the damages assessed and paid without further trouble.

A Probable Industry. An automobile concern wrote asking what inducements Berlin would offer for the establishment of a factory in this town.

Poles on Streets. Manager Richmond of the Bell Telephone Company asked permission to place poles on David and Roland Streets.

Communications. Communications were received as follows:

Division Superintendent Smith of the Bell Telephone Company wrote regarding the company's franchise in Berlin, which expires on May 26th. The letter stated that a meeting would be arranged between the Council Committee and a representative of the company.

Isolation Hospital Plans. The Board of Health submitted plans for an isolation hospital for scarlet fever patients to cost \$3,000, one for diphtheria to cost \$3,000 and one for smallpox to cost about \$700 or \$800, and asking Council to provide money for the erection of the same.

Wants a Refund. A. L. Bitzer wrote requesting a refund of sidewalk tax for Michael Wagner which was claimed to have been wrongfully collected. The latter also asked that Mr. Wagner's garbage tax be struck off, and there was no garbage collected from the skating rink of which Wagner was proprietor.

Error in Assessment. The Anther Furniture Co. wrote that owing to an error in business assessment they were asked to pay \$8.58 in excess of the proper figure, and asked to have the matter adjusted.

Closing of Furniture Stores. Edward Lippert and the Canadian Furniture Manufacturers, Limited, being a majority of the majority of the furniture dealers in Berlin, asked that a by-law be passed fixing the time of the closing of the shops for the sale of furniture.

Over Assessed. Arden E. Both complained he had been assessed for 16 feet more frontage than he had called for.

Street Extension. Peter Bogdonowicz and six other residents on Zoller street, asked that Pinke Avenue be extended to Zoller street and properly graded and also that Zoller street be widened and graded.

Cemetery Committee. Your Cemetery Committee begs to recommend that the Chairman be instructed to procure estimates for a small building in the cemetery for the caretaker, such building to be of such dimensions as this Committee sees advisable, also that the Chairman get estimates for gate entering cemetery.

Board of Works. 1. That the Engineer's report be adopted except that the cement walk on the east side of Heins Avenue from Joseph street to Frank's Lane be made five feet wide instead of our feet.

2. That a five foot cement walk be constructed on the west side of Heins Avenue from Joseph street to Victoria Park on the initiative.

3. That the following accounts be paid:

M. Zinkina, Inspector, \$ 15.40
G. Hoffman, stone, 1.25
Carl Damman, contractor 235.54
Paysheet, 502.15

\$844.35

Mr. Huber expects to be out again this week, when he will continue making preparations for the event.

The Necessity for Adequate Fire Escapes on Our Schools

An Interesting Article Regarding the Danger From This Source, and the Life-Saving Methods Adopted in Other Cities.

Are the Public Schools of Berlin properly equipped with fire escapes? According to a number of citizens who were interviewed they are, and according to a number of others they are not.

The question of proper life-saving devices is one over which there has been a deal of controversy, and in view of this the following illustrated article from the Winnipeg Saturday Post dealing with fire escapes, proper and otherwise, will be of considerable interest to our readers.

The illustration shows a new style of fire escape which has been adopted in the New York City fire department.

The New York Fire Chief characterized the fire as the worst in the history of New York. Only three upper stories of a ten story factory building were destroyed, but 142 lives were lost. That portion of the building where the loss of life occurred was devoted to the manufacture of shirt-waists, and the rooms were closely packed with operatives, sewing-machines, and highly inflammable material. The elevator service was cut off almost in the beginning of the fire, and the single fire-escape, lead-

ing to a sunken courtyard, was of practically no assistance to the imprisoned operatives, scores of whom were forced to fling themselves from windows seven or ten stories above the ground, to meet their death on the pavement—or remained within a prey to the flames.

One of the survivors gives a graphic description of her experiences with the fire-escape, which was supposed to afford a means of climbing down to safety, but which proved such a broken reed upon trial.

She was found by firemen hanging, half-unconscious, to a spike in the rear wall of the building opposite the third floor landing. She had fallen from the fire-escape at the ninth floor, but a pointed spike caught in her clothing and saved her life.

"When I first heard the alarm," she said, "I was paralyzed with fear. I was too weak to run. I half crawled to the back window and I remember I was crying bitterly as I raised the window."

"Flames were roaring out of the windows below, but I knew I had to go down the narrow fire-escape, and I clambered out. As I did so I looked back and saw many girls rushing toward the window I had gone through. I was glad they were coming and I stopped crying."

"I felt I had to get down ahead of them. The iron steps of the ladder were hot and getting hotter as I went down. I had taken probably three steps downward when the first of the girls rolled out of the window above me, crashing down on me and I lost my balance and felt myself falling. I remember, I was almost glad of it before I lost my senses."

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The Spiral Fire Escape in Use in Winnipeg Public Schools.

DISCHARGE FOREMAN AND VOTE ON ABOLITION OF COMMISSION

Investigation Committee Submitted Report at Meeting Last Evening--Council Will Await Action of Commission Before Adopting Report

If the Sewer Commission does not discharge its foreman, Albert Rickerman, the Town Council will submit a by-law asking the ratepayers if they are in favor of abolishing the Commission.

This was the impression conveyed at the Council meeting last evening, when the special committee appointed to investigate the charges against Rickerman submitted its report.

The members of the committee felt that in view of the circumstances the Commission should have no hesitancy in discharging Rickerman. It was recommended that this council place itself upon record as being opposed to the action of the Sewer Commission, believing that it is in the interest of the public that Mr. Rickerman should be discharged from his present position.

We would further recommend that the ratepayers of Berlin be given an opportunity of expressing themselves at as early a date as possible by a by-law to abolish the Sewer Commission, and that the time is too short to submit such by-law at the next voting on by-laws.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

FRED ROHLEDER,
JOHN R. SCHILLING,
WM. PEEPER,
C. KRANZ.

Ald. Scidling thought that it was in the interests of the public that Rickerman should be dismissed. If the Commission played a high hand and refused to discharge him the onus of the matter should be on the Commission, and that the time is too short to submit such by-law at the next voting on by-laws.

Mr. Rickerman after a good deal of hesitation pleaded guilty to the following charges:

First--That while in the employ of the Corporation of the Town of Berlin as foreman of the sewer Commission he had undertaken private contracts in working hours.

Second--That on such private contracts he made a profit on the laborers engaged on such contracts.

Third--That whenever he supplied local plumbers with laborers from the men under his charge he made a profit of from 2 to 3 cents per hour for each man employed.

Fourth--That he made a profit on material sold to private parties.

He pleaded not guilty to the charges of selling a bag of cement belonging to the Sewer Commission, claiming that the bag in question was his own cement. He produced two witnesses who testified that the cement belonged to him.

In reply to the charge of not keeping proper time of men employed under his charge, he said he could

in the proposition, but nothing had come of this. Recently another attempt had been made under what seemed to be most favorable auspices. What had become of this movement? The Board of Health was going about the matter in the wrong way, Mr. Utley was convinced that the reverend gentleman had the right solution. He believed that there were not more than twenty in Berlin who would require to be treated at such an institution, and the buildings proposed by Mr. Oberlander would be quite sufficient for this purpose. Mr. Oberlander had a simple solution of the problem. He had made a practical experiment on his own accord and found it a success. He had gone to Germany and while there had studied the methods of the existence in that country, and had returned with a good plan for Berlin.

Ald. Utley was satisfied that the day the Council bought the property out in the country they would kill the chief interest which was being put forth to combat tuberculosis in this community. He felt sure that if Mr. Oberlander was given a chance he would stamp out the disease in Berlin.

If the responsibility for such an institution were given to the Board of Health or to a Committee of the Council what would happen? Where would the 25th Band be today were it not for the support given it by individual enthusiasts? Where would the Hospital be, were it not for the efforts of the ladies who had the work at heart? The providing and building of the sanatorium should be allowed to remain with an enthusiast who would put his whole heart and soul in the work, and make it a success.

Ald. Kranz thought there should be no friction in the matter. He suggested that Mr. Oberlander might be induced to take an interest in the new proposition.

Ald. Utley replied that he was sure Mr. Oberlander would not consent to have the sanatorium located in the country, since visits from friends and plenty of company were half the cure.

Reeve Rohleder suggested that he property might be purchased and a trust formed in which Mr. Oberlander and others could interest themselves and assume control.

The question was discussed briefly, it being decided that the Council should visit the property under discussion before arriving at a decision.

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Respectfully Submitted

The Standard Oil Company has been declared a trust and the Court orders it to be dissolved. The water in the stock should help some in the dissolving process.

Lightning striped a Quebec man of his clothes. Such being the case we can all have our own valet.

It's up to the Sewer Commission.

Real decent of the Weather Man to get this rain over before the big ball game tomorrow.

J. C. Judd is London's New Magistrate. He should make a good Judd-ge.

Brantford minister says that jail is no place for boys. And in this statement the boys will agree with him.

BIRTHDAY PRESENTATION

Mr. Edwin Weinstein Remembered By His Friends--Presented With Signet Ring.

A party of about 30 young people assembled at the home of Mr. Ed. Weinstein No. 10 Grove Street on Saturday evening in honor of his birthday anniversary. About midnight a dainty lunch was served after which Mr. Michael Hock read the following address and presented Mr. Weinstein with a beautiful signet ring.

Mr. Edwin Weinstein:

It devolves upon me in the name of the gathered friends a great pleasure to congratulate you on your birthday anniversary. To myself it is a source of immense pleasure to be made their mouthpiece on this occasion since my sincere delight may make some amends for my many short comings. I am addressing you as our friend our dear trusted and very much tried friend, for how often have we not tried your temper and your forbearance.

Dear Edwin we will ever keep your image enshrined in our hearts and shall look back to the past not as an abode of penance, but rather of pleasure since your kindness and your amiability have so rendered it. Our friendship having been illuminated by your patient gracefulness, the little we offer you is rich in love and gratitude. Please accept it and with it our united hopes that your life will ever be as happy as you made ours. We will wish you health wealth prosperity and many happy returns of the day.

Signed on behalf of your gathered friends.

UMPIRES FOR OPENING GAMES

Fitzmaurice at St. Thomas, Smith in London and Dichter in Berlin.

President Ferguson, of the Canadian League, has assigned the umpires for the opening games as follows:

May 17, 18.

At St. Thomas--Umpire Fitzmaurice.

At Guelph--Umpire Smith.

At Berlin--Umpire Dichter.

May 19, 20.

At Hamilton--Dichter.

At London--Smith.

At Berlin--Fitzmaurice.

May 22, 23, 24.

At London--Smith.

At St. Thomas--Fitzmaurice.

At Hamilton--Dichter.

Final instructions have been issued to the umpires. President Ferguson's last word being to the effect that rowdy ball playing would not be tolerated. Umpire Dichter arrived in Hamilton yesterday.

In all the cities great preparations are being made for opening day. Chances Elliott has a big parade planned for in St. Thomas, and will be given a chance to ride in the band wagon when he comes here on Friday, the Hamilton club having engaged the 13th band to lead the parade, and to perform at the ball park during the afternoon, while the mayor and controllers have been invited to assist in the ceremonies. Jas. J. McCaffery, president of the Toronto ball club, will be in attendance, and will bring up a large delegation of Toronto sportsmen who are pulling hard for Knotty Lee to enjoy a successful season.--Hamilton Spectator.

The clubs have been given until June 1 to weed out their extra men and get down to within the salary limit.

Matty Killalea, the Hamilton third baseman, is authority for the statement that Manager Kane of Brantford, has two good men in Orcutt and Barry, both college players of ability. Barry was signed up by the Boston Americans and sent to Jersey City in the Eastern League but needed more experience. This was two seasons ago. Orcutt is another who is highly regarded.