

City Council.

Present Method of Collecting Taxes on Trial.

Ald. Taylor Would Do Away with the Percentage and Fine.

And Ald. Parnell Says It Saves the City Half a Mill.

Firemen Petition for a Higher Scale of Wages—Want Billiard and Pool Licenses Reduced—Extras on the Aerial Truck.

Last night's council meeting was just a natural business meeting of the aldermen, devoid of any excitement, but full of hard work. There were three absentees—Ald. Marshall, Ald. J. Heaman and Ald. Skinner—of whom are under the weather. The aldermen present were Pritchard, Taylor, O'Meara, Douglas, Powell, Carrothers, W. Heaman, Garratt, Armstrong, Cooper, Dreaney, Bennett, Nutkins, Parnell, McCallum and the mayor.

During the evening Ald. Dreaney asked the mayor what was new in the Grand Trunk carshop matter.

"The position is in no way changed by what happened in Toronto," replied the mayor.

The result of the aldermanic trip to the fire hall during the day was to be seen in connection with the fire hall repairs mentioned in No. 3 committee's report.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Communications bearing on taxes were received from Jane Bugler, Elizabeth Hoskin, Marietta Carr, Daniel O'Hearn, O. Richards, David Smith, Eliza McKee, Mary Grey, No. 1.

Mrs. H.A. Boomer applied for a grant to the Conventual House, No. 2.

P. B. Richards, a blind man, had his taxes charged against his property.

F. Bright applied for position as engineer of steam roller, No. 2.

Walter Richards wrote asking for information re deposit required for use of agricultural hall by Robin Hood Drill Corps.

Mr. Richards was present and asked whether, if the drill corps deposited \$30 for the use of the hall, other bodies were to be given the use of it during the summer months.

The matter was ultimately referred to No. 2 committee with power.

Mr. Ed. Horsman and others petitioned for a reduction of the billiard and pool table license, which is now \$40 on each table.

Ald. Carrothers spoke in favor of the petition, and pointed out that the tables in club rooms were not taxed, and were kept going all night in consequence.

The communication was sent to No. 3 committee, to bring in a bylaw.

The city firemen petitioned to have the wages of the men graded as follows: First year men, \$450; second year men, \$500; third year men, \$600; foremen, \$700; department foremen, \$800. The present scale is \$400, \$500 and \$550, No. 3.

James Mason applied for entrance to the Aged People's Home, "I came to London over 40 years ago," said he, "and except for about twenty years, have ever since been a resident here."

Granted.

The council was requested by the School Board not to grant the use of the City Hall to outside parties on the night of the board's meeting. Filed.

W. H. Heard applied for the use of the City Hall on Wednesday, March 18, for the Fruit Growers' Association of Middlesex, who desire to meet Mr. A. H. Pettit, the director of the Ontario Government's spraying experiments. Granted.

W. A. Howard, on behalf of the C. P. R. Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, applied for a rebate of amount paid for use of the City Hall. Granted.

The Free Library Board submitted the following estimate of the expenditure of the coming year:

Amount overdrawn, \$37 01; interest on debentures, \$1,000; sinking fund, \$339 56; salaries, \$1,950; special assistance, \$100; light, \$275; heat, \$300; rent of telephone, \$25; furnishings, \$350; binding, \$250; printing catalogues, etc., \$400; cars, stationery, and office supplies, \$200; periodicals, \$400; books, \$1,241 44; total, \$7,888.

NO. 3 COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

In the absence of Ald. John Heaman, the report of No. 3 committee was read by Ald. Garratt. There were eleven clauses in all.

The first discussion arose over the recommendation of the committee to pay \$7 50 to A. Isaac for cleaning water carts prior to storing them away last winter. The work was ordered by the engineer.

Ald. Garratt mentioned that the assistant engineer had stated that the work had been ordered.

"What right has he to certify to anything?" asked Ald. Carrothers.

Ald. Cooper and Ald. Pritchard opposed the payment, and Ald. Dreaney stated that the work had been done, and the man ought to be paid.

The clause was adopted.

Progress was reported on the ques-

tion of a public abattoir pending legislation on the matter.

Clause 4 empowered the fire chief to call for tenders for the yearly supplies for the department, according to a list submitted therewith.

"Read the list," said Ald. Pritchard.

"It would take two weeks," said Ald. Garratt.

"That is just the way," said Ald. Pritchard, as the clause passed, "things go through here without us knowing what they are."

Tenders will be called for the following work: The old hook and ladder truck repaired at a cost not to exceed \$100, the hose wagon at No. 3 hall repaired and painted, the estimated cost of work being \$25 and \$35 respectively.

Clause 6 read: That the engineer be instructed to prepare plans and specifications for rebuilding the shed in the rear of No. 1 fire hall, and for the erection of a stable at the back of the addition built for accommodation of aerial truck, and that the committee be instructed to call for tenders for the proposed works and report.

Ald. Cooper and O'Meara contended that the work was not necessary.

There was a lengthy discussion on the clause, and Ald. Carrothers hinted that Ald. O'Meara and Cooper wanted the money expended on a fire hall in the North End.

"Why, I should think you would favor a fire hall in the North End," said Ald. O'Meara, "because if the brewery was to burn down, what on earth would you do?"

"I can do without a brewery better than Ald. O'Meara can do without a hall," retorted Ald. Carrothers.

The clause was referred back.

Clause 7 empowered the committee to call for tenders for a soft water tank and force pump for No. 2 fire hall, and also for the construction of a top floor in the hose room and a concrete floor in the stables, the cost not to exceed \$250.

This met with similar opposition, but ultimately was carried.

Clause 8 recommended the payment in full of the Waterworks Company's account for the aerial truck. The contract price was \$2,992 27, but \$117 50 in extras has swelled the account to \$3,109 77.

The "extras" engaged the attention of the aldermen for awhile, and finally Ald. Powell moved that the contract price be paid, and that the "extras" be referred back for fuller information.

Ald. Cooper seconded.

In reply to a query by Ald. Parnell, Ald. Garratt read the report of the mechanics—Messrs. Fairbairn and Yates—who were detailed to examine the truck. The report was very satisfactory.

There was a long discussion, and no one appeared to have ordered the extras, which were referred back. The original price will be paid.

THE BOARD OF WORKS.

It was 10:15 when the aldermen finished with No. 3 committee's report.

Ald. Parnell, chairman, read the Board of Works' report.

As the mover of the following clause: "That a report be made to the committee to ask for tenders for the purchase of a gravel pit of at least one acre of ground," Ald. O'Meara desired to answer some insinuations that had been made against him by the Evening Press.

When he made a similar move in 1884, there was the same storm of abuse, but by the city owning its own pit, the price had been reduced from \$10 25 to \$5 00, and the price of screenings delivered south of Dundas street, \$3 30, and there had been a saving to the city of \$30,000 since that time.

The clause carried.

It took just five minutes to adopt the report.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Ald. George W. Armstrong, chairman, read the report. Accounts amounting to \$3,773 20 passed without discussion.

The council sent back to committee the account of \$23,000 of Dr. McCallum and J. M. J. for examining Maggie Murphy for insanity.

The committee had reported adversely because the examination had been ordered by a private individual, the mother superior of St. Joseph's Hospital, and the council was equally divided as to whether the account should be paid.

Ald. Parnell asked that the petition of C. Morton, re sewer rate, which the committee recommended to be filed, urging no power, be referred back for a fuller report. The city engineer reported that the case was a peculiar one, and the city auditors, according to the mayor, thought that the case was a hardship, and while the assessment doubtless fulfilled the letter of the law, it did not fulfill the spirit, and Mr. Morton was obliged to meet a great deal more than the value of the sewer would warrant.

The clause was referred back to No. 1 with power.

The account of George Heaman for \$105 75 for water cart repairs came up, and there was a recommendation to refer back to No. 3 committee.

Ald. O'Meara pointed out that Mr. Heaman had the engineer's order for the work, and could collect the amount in court.

The account will be paid.

OTHER BUSINESS.

Ald. Parnell reported progress on behalf of the special committee re expenditure.

Ald. Pritchard insisted on having a report on the expenditure in connection with running the steam roller last year. If it was not in by next meeting there would be a row. "We have two engineers," said Mr. Pritchard, "and they are too lazy to prepare a report."

Ald. Taylor pressed his motion looking for a change in the present method of tax collection. He asked that no rebate of 3 cents on the dollar be allowed to those paying their taxes in full, and that the first installment, and that the fine of 5 cents on each dollar be not charged to those who were slightly behind in their payments.

Ald. O'Meara supported the motion.

Ald. Armstrong favored the continuation of the present method.

Ald. Parnell went into figures to show the immense advantage the present method of payment of taxes was. He showed that the method made a clean saving in bank discounts averaging \$2,751 51 each year. To prove that the people took advantage of the rebate by paying their taxes on the first call, he mentioned that two-thirds of the taxes last year were paid on the date of the first installment. If continued, the plan would save the city half a mill on the dollar.

Ald. Powell asked Ald. Taylor to let the motion go to No. 1 committee for a report.

After some further talk the matter was referred to No. 1 committee.

Ald. Armstrong pressed his motion for a report from the assessment commissioners as to the number of persons ranking as voters who are assessed as tenants and who ought to be assessed for income, and thus pay statute labor, and also to give a full list of all persons who are defaulting tenants.

Ald. Armstrong disclaimed any political motive, and the motion carried.

Ald. Nutkins moved that the Western Fair supply the council with plans of the new buildings at Queen's Park. Carried.

Council adjourned at 11:40.

Pure Baking Powder, 20c per pound, at Anderson & Neill's Drug Store. ywt

The Cold Snap.

Dr. Talmage Draws Striking Lessons from the Prevailing Weather.

"Who Can Stand Before His Cold?" the Text.

A Reference to Human Icebergs—How the World May Be Warm—The Great Gospel Fireplace.

Washington, D. C., March 17.—The freezing blasts which have swept over the country, at the time we expected spring weather, make this sermon especially appropriate. Dr. Talmage's text was Psalm 147, 17: "Who can stand before his cold?"

The almanac says that winter is ended and spring has come, but the winds and the frosts, and the thermometer in some places down to zero, deny it. The Psalmist lived in a more genial climate than this, and yet he must sometimes have been cut by the sharp weather. In this chapter he speaks of the snow like wool, the frost like ashes, the hailstones like marbles, and describes the congelation of lowest temperature. We have all studied the power of heat. How few of us have studied the power of frost? "Who can stand before his cold?" This challenge of the text has many times been accepted. Oct. 19, 1812, Napoleon's great army began its retreat from Moscow. An army of Arctic blasts, with icicles for bayonets and hailstones for shot, and commanded by voice of tempest, marched after them. The flying artillery of the heavens in pursuit. The troops at nightfall would gather into circles, and huddle themselves together for warmth; but when the day broke they rose not, for they were dead, and the ravens came for the morning meal of corpses. In the middle of December, 1771, at Valley Forge, eleven thousand troops were, with frosted ears and frosted hands and frosted feet, without shoes, without blankets, lying on the white pillow of the blanket. Oh, the frigid horrors that gathered around the American army in the winter of 1771! Valley Forge was one of the tragedies of the century. Benumbed, senseless, dead. "Who can stand before his cold?" "Not we," says the frozen lips of Sir John Franklin and his men, dying in Arctic exploration. "Not we," answer Schwarka and his crew, falling back from the fortress of ice which they had tried vainly to capture. "Not we," says the abandoned and crushed decks of the Intrepid, the Resistance and the Jeanette. "Not we," says the procession of American martyrs returned home from American sepulchres. "Not we," says the millions of the earth, the pillars of ice, the pillars of the Matterhorn. The largest glaciers of the world are galleries of ice. Who can tell of the suffering of the winter of 1853, when the cold wind of Germany penetrated to the winter of 1853 in England, when the stage rolled on the Thames and temporary houses of merchandise were built on the ice? Or the winter of 1821 in America, when New York City was a frozen lake, and the heaviest teams crossed on the ice to Staten Island?

One-half of the industries of our day are employed in battling inclemency of the weather. The furs of the north, the cotton of the south, the wool of our own fields, the coal from our own mines, the wood from our own forests, all employed in battling these inclemencies, and still every winter, with blue lips and dead in value to capture. "Not we," says the abandoned and crushed decks of the Intrepid, the Resistance and the Jeanette. "Not we," says the procession of American martyrs returned home from American sepulchres. "Not we," says the millions of the earth, the pillars of ice, the pillars of the Matterhorn. The largest glaciers of the world are galleries of ice. Who can tell of the suffering of the winter of 1853, when the cold wind of Germany penetrated to the winter of 1853 in England, when the stage rolled on the Thames and temporary houses of merchandise were built on the ice? Or the winter of 1821 in America, when New York City was a frozen lake, and the heaviest teams crossed on the ice to Staten Island?

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JAMES D. WILSON, M.D.—OFFICE AND residence, 50 Stanley street, South London. Phone 973.

DR. ENGLISH—OFFICE AND RESI- DENCE, 688 Dundas street. Telephone.

DR. JOHN D. WILSON—OFFICE AND residence, 390 Queen's avenue. Special attention paid to diseases of women.

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