

THE WEEKLY ONTARIO

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BELLEVILLE, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, JUNE 24 1920.

MORTON & HERITY, PROPRIETORS

DEFER BUILDING OF COLEMAN WARD SCHOOL

Lowest Tender Was \$164,000—Discontent Among High School Teachers Arouses Trustee Woodley to Some Straight Talk—Col. Ponton Criticizes Contract With School Architect.

Coleman Ward School will not be built for the present, so the Board of Education, decided last evening. The tenders for the erection of the building were starting, the lowest being \$164,000, without furnishings and equipment. There were three bulk tenders, two on a commission basis and two tenders on part of the work.

Mr. F. S. Deacon, chairman of the Sites, Building and Repairs Committee, presented a recommendation that the City Council be requested to make a grant of \$50,000 in addition to the \$100,000 already voted for the school.

Mr. O'Flynn said the advance was enormous. "It seems to me better to defer building for a year. Things cannot be worse next year. This will strengthen our hands with the public. This would not prevent the school being built. Supposing we are a little crowded, but we could afford to be." The board should look at this very carefully.

Mr. H. McGinnis seconded the resolution.

Attack on "Agitator"

Mr. Woodley thought the High School staff could not be satisfied unless their full demands were satisfied. Their minds change every little while. "I believe there is an agitator somewhere. The School Management Committee is suspicious of who that man is. I tell you I'm not going to meet again to discuss the question of High School salaries. As far as I am concerned it is settled. I will not meet again to discuss any other item but the other thing. We should not lose our heads. We have enough taxes to pay. Most of the High School staff do not pay taxes and when they please pack up their duds and get out of town, leaving us to pay the taxes."

Mr. McGinnis said there had been too much secrecy in the board. "Don't be dictated to by the School Management Committee."

Mr. Elliott favored delay for a year. The bond market was not good today.

Mr. McGie thought the work should be deferred, but not necessarily for a year. So did Mr. Woodley.

Mr. W. R. McCreary was not in favor of going on with the work with the great increase in the cost of building. He was surprised at the size of the tenders. He moved that the matter be referred to the Sites Committee for further consideration.

Dr. O. A. Marshall found engineers and contractors believed that building would be more expensive next year, owing to the rush of work deferred this year.

Mr. Deacon said the work could be proceeded with by leaving off one unit. He did not think labor would go down.

The amendment lost and the resolution of Col. Ponton carried. No date was set for the work to begin.

Discontent at High School

A tornado of letters from teachers of the High and Public school teachers swept up to the Board of Education. All called for larger increases and expressed dissatisfaction with the action of the School Management Committee's action as to appointments and salaries.

The High School teachers are not satisfied with the action of the School Management Committee as to contracts relating to the month's notice. The Board decided to make no change.

The School Management Committee reported a decision to make the following changes in the High School salaries: A. E. Thrasher, \$1,800 instead of \$1,700; Mr. Wilson, \$1,800 instead of \$1,700; and A. A. Affleck, \$2,000 instead of \$1,900. But this was not considered satisfactory.

Mr. F. E. O'Flynn read the recommendation of the High School teachers, re salaries as compared with last year's salaries and the salaries offered this year by the board.

What Teachers Want

P. C. McLaurin \$3000 \$2500 \$2800
W. W. Knight, 2500 2000 2200
G. A. Bunton, 2400 2000 2200

A. A. Affleck, 2300 1700 2000
Miss Libby, 2100 1650 1700
Miss Hitchcock, 2000 1500 1600
Miss Haycock, 2000 1500 1600
D. M. Clarke, 2100 1650 1700
J. J. Wilson, 2000 1500 1800
S. Luty, 2000 1500 1800
A. E. Thrasher, 2000 1500 1800
Miss Young, 1800 1400 1500
E. P. Milburn, 1800 1500 1700
A. Moss, 1800 1100 1200

Mr. Sincclair moved that the matter of High School salaries be referred to the school management committee to report back to the board. If a quorum is not possible, the committee will have power to act. Personally he favored going farther than had been.

Mr. H. McGinnis seconded the resolution.

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Principal MacLaurin, also sent a communication in the matter of teachers' salaries.

East Belleville playgrounds committee asked for one hundred dollars grant. The grant was made.

Architect's Contract Unsatisfactory

A temper arose over the contract signed with Architect Jarvis relative to the proposed Coleman ward school.

"Is it true, as rumored, that \$3,000 was paid to the architect even before the contract was signed," asked Col. Ponton, when it was recommended by the Finance Committee to approve of the payment.

Chairman McGie said a special committee had been given power to draw up an agreement with the architect, Mr. Beaumont Jarvis.

Col. Ponton wanted to know why this action was taken without the board or the finance committee passing on this.

Mr. Elliott said there was one cheque of one thousand dollars issued by the sites committee. The architect asked for more and the chairman authorized the issue of a further cheque of \$2,000, making a total of \$3,000.

Mr. F. S. Deacon said the committee had followed the rules governing architects. Mr. Beaumont Jarvis was still due certain money, about \$500. His total fees will be \$5,000, but 30 per cent. is withheld until the school is built.

Col. Ponton thought it strange that 70 per cent. of the architect's fees should be handed over before the tender is let, not enough was withheld.

Mr. McCreary asked that the contract be laid before the board.

Mr. McGie thought the resolution of the board covered the signing of the contract.

Col. Ponton said that the committee was against the payment of the \$2,000 until the work was completed.

Mr. Deacon said the procedure was perhaps not technically correct, but it should have been before the board.

Mr. McGie produced a copy of the agreement.

Mr. J. Elliott said the board was legally bound to pay this amount of \$3,500 to Mr. Jarvis.

Not Businesslike

Mr. H. McGinnis urged that in future no monies be paid out without the authority of the board. The transaction was not quite businesslike.

Col. Ponton said the contract is not one such as the board should approve. The board should not pay \$3,500 when it is likely impossible to build the school this year.

"We are not bound by any architects' association or teachers' association. We are not going to be dictated to by any architects or teachers," declared Col. Ponton with emphasis. "I do hope the school can be built next year."

Mr. Sincclair asked how much would be owing to the architect if the work did not go on.

Mr. Deacon said \$3,500 or \$500 besides what has been paid.

Mr. Sincclair could see no course but to endorse the action of the committee, although he thought the matter should have come before the board.

Col. Ponton attacked the contract as not a satisfactory one.

Mr. Jarvis said if the work did not go on no more than \$3,500 would be his remuneration.

The board decided to approve of the payment of the cheques.

Will Sign Petition

The assembly room in Queen Mary School will be fitted up to accommodate the overflow of pupils from Grier St. if possible.

The members present were—A. McGie, chairman, H. W. Ackerman, H. McGinnis, C. F. Wallbridge, Dr. O. A. Marshall, N. D. MacFadyen, Col. W. N. Ponton, G. T. Woodley, T. Marshall, F. S. Deacon, F. E. O'Flynn, W. R. McCreary, D. V. Sincclair, J. A. Higgs, J. Elliott.

Portia Never Had Case With All These Angles

Miss H. B. Palen Appears as Counsel in Division Court

When Portia comes to the Division Court there is even-handed justice among the people of that race with whom Portia had to deal.

In brief, Mrs. M. Lebo procured a Dayton SScale from Pearl Abbo, who had purchased it from Sam Fine at 1112 Bloor St. west Toronto. Sam's Toronto place of business is said to be 155 Queen West, but down at 609 St. Lawrence street, Montreal, he had signed an agreement promising to indemnify Pearl Abbo, her heirs and assigns and executors if the scale were not as represented.

Now it seemed that the International Business Machine Company seized the scale from Mrs. Lebo because of a lien of \$57 and \$12 costs. In consequence Mrs. Lebo sued Mr. Fine for \$77. On the other hand, Mr. Fine held a chattel mortgage from Mrs. Lebo for \$40.

Through this mass of modern business intricacies, beside which Shakespeare's plot is simplicity itself, Miss H. B. Palen, as counsel for Fine, progressed this morning in the Division Court before Judge Morrison.

Finally His Honor solved the difficulty.

"The scale is worth about \$40," said Judge Morrison. "Let Mrs. Lebo discharge her chattel mortgage against Fine and keep the scale." Settled.

Wedding Bells

SKINNER—THOMPSON

At Bancroft this afternoon at two o'clock a pleasant event took place when Miss Isabella Mary Thompson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Thompson of Montague Valley, was united in marriage to Mr. Arthur James Skinner of Belleville. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. M. C. Wilson at the Methodist parsonage. The bride wore blue tulle and georgette with hat to match. She was assisted by Miss Maud Musclow of Musclow, who was dressed in blue silk and wore a hat to match. Mr. John Sutherland of Musclow, did honors for the groom. After the ceremony the bridal party repaired to the home of the bride's parents, Montague Valley, where a wedding dinner was spread before them. Between sixty and seventy-five guests attended the function. Mr. and Mrs. Skinner were the recipients of many beautiful gifts. They will, after a short honeymoon, take up their residence in Belleville on Catherine Street. The bride is well and favorably known in this city and the groom is a popular young barber in this city. The best wishes of hosts of friends are extended to the happy young couple.

FINAL DRAFT OF STATIONS FOR METHODIST MINISTERS

Bay of Quinte Conference Held Final Session at Whitby Last Night and Stationing Committee Brought in Report

The report of the Stationing Committee, with the final draft of stations for Methodist ministers in the Bay of Quinte Conference, concluded the final session of the Conference at Whitby last evening. A proposal to move (Capt.) Rev. John Garbutt from Simcoe Street Church, Ontario, to George Street Church, Peterboro, aroused considerable opposition and finally was abandoned.

Following are the stations in Belleville and adjoining districts:

Belleville District

Belleville (Bridge Street), Solomon Cleaver; Belleville (Tabernaacle), Wesley Elliott; Belleville (Holloway Street), Alfred H. Foster; Point Anne, J. H. Beck; Sidney, Thomas Wallace; Bayside, Herbert H. Mutton; West Huntingdon, Geo. C. R. McQuade; Foxboro, Stillman A. Kemp; Plainfield, Francis W. White; Cananfont, Jas. S. McMullen; Shannonville, Wesley W. Jones; Rossmore, to be supplied.

Napanee District

Napanee (Trinity), Sidney J. Shorey; Napanee (Grace), W. Pomeroey Rogers; Deseronto, Richard Bamforth; Morven, R. C. Tait; Newburgh, Enoch B. Cooke; Odessa, to be supplied.

Cobourg District

Cobourg, J. S. Iverson Wilson; Port Hope, C. Sincclair; Appeltz; Canton, George W. Marvin; Wellesville, Wm. A. Banner; Camborne, Capt. Ernest Harston; Baltimore, Clarence C. Washington; Grafton, Centreton, J. N. Lovelace; Rosemeath, Henry A. Bunt; Alderville, Frank J. Joblin.

Campbellford District

Campbellford, Capt. H. B. Kenney; Norwood, Allen J. Terrill; Havelock, Edgar O. Seymour; South Drummer, E. W. Catley; Stirling, W. R. Archer; Rawdon, James Batstone; Seymour, John J. E. Glover; to be supplied.

There was no cessation today in the battle between the Unionists and Nationalist factions which kept Londonderry terror-stricken for some days past. During the night the rival factions made additional barricades from which they kept up a continuous fire. At times the shooting reached the intensity of volleying.

St. Columba Catholic Institute was attacked by rifle fire last night and a Catholic named McKenna was shot dead in Bishop street, on which the college is located. Numerous other casualties are reported.

They Will Try to Meet Faith Healer

Some of Belleville's Ill Going to Toronto.

The fame of James Moore Hickson, the faith healer, who is to be at St. James' Cathedral, Toronto, on Thursday and Friday, has reached here and it is expected that four or five of Belleville's sick will be taken to Toronto in the hope of meeting Mr. Hickson. One of them is a young child, another is a person who has been blind.

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TAXPAYERS DISCUSS 1920 ASSESSMENT

Sheriff Morrison Says Court of Revision Extended Time for Appeals In Order to be Fair to All—Public Works Should be Restricted, Suggests Mr. W. B. Deacon

The question of assessment and expenditures was taken up at an informal meeting in the City Council Chamber on Tuesday afternoon at four o'clock. Mayor Riggs had called a number of taxpayers together to discuss the situation. Mayor Riggs explained that the council was desirous of keeping the assessment in such a condition that the tax rate would be low, so that the city might not get a black eye as far as manufacturers and prospective industries are concerned.

Chairman Gives Views

Sheriff Morrison, Chairman of the Court of Revision, declared property should be assessed so that it would bring a six per cent investment.

City Assessor J. A. Kerr stated that no property in Belleville was over assessed.

Manager Arthur Jones, of Molson's Bank, said there was little or no money made in renting property today.

Mr. Morrison stated that the ownership in Belleville was not large. The court was allowing about ten per cent increase on the 1919 assessment.

Looks for Million Reduction

At the present rate of reductions, the assessor said he looked for a reduction of a million in the city's assessment. Five hundred parcels of land have changed hands. He contended that the increase in assessment of over 10 per cent was proper as the raise was for two years instead of one.

"Today the assessment is as far behind present values as the 1919 assessment is behind the 1920 assessment."

The assessor said he went to the registry office and had a complete record of local sales.

The Court of Revision was not working on equalization and the assessment was now getting into worse shape than before. People won't allow one to make a perfect assessment if that were possible.

"I do claim the 1920 assessment is better than that of a year ago," said Mr. Kerr.

Sheriff Morrison claimed the houses of Belleville were assessed beyond value. They should be assessed on a par with lands.

No Investment in Property

"Tell me one property," he asked, "that has been sold as an investment. Everybody wants a home and the price goes up. That's the reason for the big prices paid for property. Is any man with brains going to build houses today?"

Ex-Mayor H. F. Ketcheson said he was told that building costs would continue high.

"The opinion of many is just the opposite," declared J. J. B. Flint. Prices are apt to come down and some things have already declined. Should Reduce all, Says Assessor

The assessor thought that as some had got large reductions the Court of Revision should go over the entire rolls and reduce everyone's assessment whether appeals are made or not. A large part of the taxpayers are appealing and those who do not should be similarly treated, where he had assessed over the ten

per cent increase, otherwise one man might be paying 45 mills and the other 35 mills.

Mr. Morrison said it seemed as if Mr. effort had been made to make a farce of the Court of Revision by having the rolls confirmed on short notice. That was not fair and for that reason time for appeal was extended.

Ex-Ald. W. B. Deacon told of his assessment being boosted sixty per cent. If others were getting reductions he did not like sitting still.

Mayor Riggs thought the court should have longer time to do their work. There should be an equalization commission.

Claims Increase Not Justified

Col. W. N. Ponton asked—"By what amount the 1920 assessment differed from the 1919 assessment?" He was told \$1,700,000 increase. Col. Ponton—"Would any man say this increase was justified? The black eye had already been given if there had not been a court of revision to check this assessment. The total assessment increase does shock the conscience."

Rate of Assessment in 1919

Mr. Kerr said that sales in 1919 showed that Belleville assessment was only \$55 on the \$100. So 25 per cent increase was justified. The actual increase averaged 26 per cent. Col. Ponton claimed recent sales were abnormal. "Let us get on our feet. This is a transition year." The City Council was responsible for the rate and not the Court of Revision.

Mr. Burrows claimed Toronto and London assessments were lower than Belleville on residential parcels of property. People could not make six per cent revenue from their houses.

Col. Ponton—"We have to thank the assessor for marking it up. If the Court of Revision has found a moderate way out of the difficulty, they are to be thanked."

Mr. H. F. Ketcheson said tax rates could not be expected to stay low if the city is to be kept decent.

Time to Cut Out Expenditure

Mr. W. B. Deacon declared—"I think this is a year in which we should sit tight in spending money. I don't believe this is a year to build a school in Coleman Ward. East Bridge Street pavement should not go on even if the people want to pay for it for the annual charges on the city's share would be \$3,600. The road is good for several years. "I am told we owe the banks half a million dollars. July 1st is not yet reached."

The council collectively seem to have lost their heads in spending money this year.

Mr. Flint said the situation was serious.

Ald. Hanna pointed out the city's share of work yet to be undertaken this year: Sewers—\$17,710.05; Walks—\$14,096.67 and pavements, \$76,110.78.

The meeting then adjourned. Those present were the Mayor, J. A. Kerr, Ald. Hanna, Ald. Doyle, Ex-Ald. G. N. Simmons, C. H. Vermilyea, H. F. Ketcheson, W. B. Deacon, A. Jones, S. Burrows, J. J. B. Flint and Sheriff Morrison.

Late Sydney Twinning

The funeral of the late Sydney Edward (Jack) Twinning took place on Tuesday afternoon from the home of his parents, Bettes Street. Rev. Rural Dean Swayne officiating. There were many beautiful floral tributes to the memory of the deceased. The bearers were four boy friends: Lewis Dutton, Fred Symons, Alexander Wardhaugh and Charles Orrill. The burial was made in Belleville cemetery.

Several picnickers lost in Michigan could not find their way out for several days.

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