

CUTTING TIMBER ON CITY LANDS WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE OF OFFICIALS

Matter Was Revealed Yesterday When Commissioner Jones Presented Report of Survey of Lands Made by G. G. Murdoch—An Investigation Will Probably Follow.

That lumbermen have been for a number of years cutting timber on the city's lands at Loch Lomond without authority, but not without knowledge of the city officials, was revealed yesterday when Commissioner Jones presented a report of G. G. Murdoch on his survey of the lands in question. An investigation will probably follow.

Commissioner Jones said there was a great deal of trespassing and cutting on the city lands, and if some thing was not done soon the city would have no timber lands. He had a survey made by Mr. Murdoch which had cost more than was expected. Over 1000 acres had been surveyed, and it was estimated that over 100,000 superficial feet of timber had been cut in addition to those pilings and other logs. In some places a lot of pulp wood had been cut. Most of the timber had been cut in the last two or three years.

Mr. Murdoch's bill was \$2,024-\$1,043 for professional services, \$524 for labor and \$469 for board at Mrs. Barker's. An expenditure of \$800 had been authorized.

Commissioner Jones said it had been represented to him that the cutters of this timber had received permission from city officials and had paid certain money into the city treasury. One man had paid \$200, which was a small proportion of what he should have paid.

Commissioner Bullock thought the money was well spent, but said Mr. Murdoch should not have exceeded the estimate without notifying them. Commissioner Thornton said he could not see the object of the survey unless they took steps to bring the offenders to book. It was said the city had been buying lumber from parties who had cut on the city lands without permission. Some claimed they got permission from city officials.

Commissioner Jones said that was not news to him. A city department had bought lumber from a man who admitted he had cut on city lands. He proposed to have an enquiry. In one case a man came to the water department and asked for a permit to cut on the city lands, and the clerk made out a bill.

Commissioner Thornton—This is an acknowledgment of the right to cut. Mayor—it would appear so.

Commissioner Jones—The clerk had no authority.

Commissioner Thornton said they should have more information, and the matter was referred to the committee of the whole.

Commissioner Jones' report follows: About four or five months after I became commissioner of water and sewerage my attention was called to the fact that lumber was being cut on city lands by unauthorized persons, and that the city was not deriving any revenue therefrom. I learned, however, from the chairman of the board, that the city had been paid in by one individual who I have been informed has been cutting and removing lumber for a number of years, and that the payments made by him to the city represent only in a small degree the value of the lumber so cut and removed. The alleged offender, whose name I do not deem it proper at this time to disclose, claims he obtained from officials of this department authority for his act, and apparently feels that he is in no respect answerable for his conduct, or is in any way indebted to the city.

Mr. Murdoch in his report to me says:

"Pursuant to your instructions I beg to report having completed the survey of certain of the city's lands in the vicinity of Lower Loch Lomond and Latimer Lake.

"The lands surveyed were those known as the Wootton, McCart, Munro, Raymond, Donaldson, Cody, Grave, Yard, Johnston, Leitch, Waters and 'Powder lots, bordering on Loch Lomond, and Robertson Reservoir, comprising an area of approximately 1250 acres, and the Douglas, Drury and Abbot lots in and around Lake Latimer, containing about 420 acres, or a total area of about 1670 acres, subject to revision upon the platting of survey and calculation of those areas."

"As a result of the survey it was ascertained that considerable cutting has been done on portions of the city's property. The principal operation was on a portion of the Raymond property known as 'Donaldson Point,' a long peninsula projecting a half mile or so into Loch Lomond, situated opposite the Ben Lomond House."

"This point was well wooded with an 'excellent growth, chiefly spruce of good size which has been almost entirely removed; the quantity cut as roughly estimated by the Lumber Cruiser, who accompanied me on part of the survey, being in excess of one hundred thousand superficial feet, in addition to foot hooks, knees and other timber of considerable value."

"From the appearance of the stumps and tops, and information gleaned from residents, this cutting has probably all been done within the past two or three years. The timber taken

from this property was particularly 'valuable, owing to its proximity to the city, and the prevailing high price of stumpage."

"Another considerable operation has been carried on for the past two years, according to my information, and is still in progress, on the Drury property, lying on the southern shore of Lake Latimer. A large amount of valuable timber chiefly piling has been taken from this property. A few days ago a crew of men was operating in full force on the Drury lot, and unless those parties have authority to remove lumber from this property, the writer would recommend that steps be taken to immediately suspend operations, otherwise the property will soon become denuded of its growth of timber."

"A small amount of pulp wood has been cut on the rear of one of the 'Raymond lots, along what is known as the Range Road, but this was probably through inadvertence, the location of the boundary line not being clear."

"The lines of all the properties covered by the survey are now clear and distinct, and well marked. Some fifty iron monuments have been placed at the corners and should remain for an indefinite period."

"The city is the owner of some very valuable timber lands, particularly on the front part of Lot No. 3, between the rear and shore of Loch Lomond, and a portion of No. 2 along the western shore of Lake Latimer. The greater part of the other lots is covered with green lumber, and as most of this is growing rapidly, it is becoming of great value for the protection of the waterfront, but unless 'carefully guarded will become the prey of anxious lumbermen and will suffer the same fate as Donaldson's Point and the Drury land."

(Sgd.) GILBERT G. MURDOCH, Mr. Murdoch's report tells its own story and bears ample proof of the fact that the city's interests, either through careless ignorance or otherwise on the part of those in authority were, to say the least, unprotected and suffered without any authority from the Common Council.

On Union street, when it was paved, that the total bill for the frontage would be approximately \$10, but when he got his bill it was \$22.70.

He will have to write each of my tenants \$30 per year. Boosters say the city will pay the other third. Is my property not part of the city?

You compare Montreal with St. John. The truth of the matter is that butters in Montreal have not paid for any pavement yet. I am practically free of the city, and in Halifax the Street Railway pays for paving the car tracks. The actual cost for a double track, with sidewalks, with one foot for foundation with granite blocks, would be \$85,000 per mile, so the abutters' charge is very light. In St. John the Street Railway only pays \$5,000 per mile.

If this paving bill becomes law, abutters on Brunswick street, Marsh Road, Haymarket Square and Boulevard, will all have to raise the rents of tenants to meet the extra cost, and very likely the landlords on the other streets will take advantage of this, on account of scarcity of housing, and raise their rents accordingly, and the poor tenant will have to bear the full burden, and property owners on streets already paved will go scot free, and not the man on the side streets, as represented. Perhaps this is what boosters call "passing the buck."

The tenant or poor tax payer would only have to pay an increased tax of about fifty cents per year, if done by general assessment.

Now, Mr. Boosters, would it not be a more commendable Easter spirit for the businessmen and members of the noble 17 to say we are with the poor tenant and will bear some of his burden.

This is only the entering wedge of the abutters tax, and other streets will follow. Yours may be the next. The members of the Paving League want the different streets paved at once by general assessment at the coming civic elections.

In conclusion I may say that six or seven miles of principal streets have already been paved by general assessment, and I don't think to ask property owners on those dirt roads to bear the burden, especially when those streets are trunk lines and used chiefly by the general public.

Thanking you, Mr. Editor, for your valuable space, I am,

Very truly yours,

EDWARD A. PARKIN,

22 Meadow Street

Doctor Noticed Big Change In Him

When Asked What Brought About Improvement Simply Answered, "Tanlac."

"I've seen some remarkable statements of what Tanlac has done for people, but never one that equaled my own experience," said James Freeman Dumphy of 83 Elmwood Street, St. John, N. B., to the Tanlac representative recently.

"While I was in France, I contracted chronic rheumatism as the result of exposure and damp weather," continued Mr. Dumphy, who was two years overseas with Strathcona's Horse. "I used to have awful pains in the hips and legs and my limbs ached so much at night that I used to cry out. I underwent special treatment in five hospitals, but got so bad at last that I could neither bend nor walk and could scarcely feed myself. I underwent all kinds of treatment, including medical electricity, hot baths and violet rays, without getting any better and I was giving up all hopes of ever being well again."

"It was one of the nurses at the hospital who suggested that I should try Tanlac. She herself had used it with great benefit and she thought it might help me too. I got a bottle, and strange as it may seem, that medicine did what all the other treatment had failed to do. It wasn't very long before I was crawling around the ward. The doctor noticed the change in me and asked me how it was. I showed him the bottle of Tanlac and told him I was taking it. 'Well, if Tanlac that is doing you so much good you had better try some more of it,' said the doctor, and he gave me an order on the druggist to get it. I took six bottles in all and improved all the time. Inside a month I could walk around and today I am able to go to work. I am practically free of the rheumatism now and feel simply fine. I owe a debt to Tanlac that I can never repay, and am glad to give you a statement of what it did for me."

Tanlac is sold in St. John by Ross Drug Company, and F. W. Munro, under the personal direction of a special Tanlac representative—Advt.

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If this paving bill becomes law, abutters on Brunswick street, Marsh Road, Haymarket Square and Boulevard, will all have to raise the rents of tenants to meet the extra cost, and very likely the landlords on the other streets will take advantage of this, on account of scarcity of housing, and raise their rents accordingly, and the poor tenant will have to bear the full burden, and property owners on streets already paved will go scot free, and not the man on the side streets, as represented. Perhaps this is what boosters call "passing the buck."

The tenant or poor tax payer would only have to pay an increased tax of about fifty cents per year, if done by general assessment.

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In conclusion I may say that six or seven miles of principal streets have already been paved by general assessment, and I don't think to ask property owners on those dirt roads to bear the burden, especially when those streets are trunk lines and used chiefly by the general public.

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Eyes Human and Spiritual

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BANK CLERK FOUND DEAD IN BASEMENT

Body Found by Watchman of Branch Bank Yesterday Afternoon—Bullet Through Heart.

Montreal, April 4.—With a bullet through the heart, C. S. Davidson, 22 years of age, whose address the police were unable to discover last night, was found dead in the basement of the branch of the Bank of Montreal, at 2345 Notre Dame street west, at 4.30 yesterday afternoon.

The discovery was made by Charles Baker, watchman of the building, who in making his rounds, glanced into a small room used as a storeroom for books and papers. Davidson was lying on the floor beside a chair. There was no blood on the floor and there was no blood on the body. Davidson having died from an internal hemorrhage.

A revolver was found on the floor beside the body and several cartridges were found in his pockets. There was a small sum of money and other personal effects in his pocket. Nothing in the room was disturbed nor was there any evidence of Davidson having done any work there during the afternoon.

No details could be obtained by the police of the St. Henri station, where he was found, as to how Davidson had entered the building yesterday, though the bank was closed for business.

A bird of Africa that is well known for his sweet and continuous song. It is to be found even in the Orange River Colony, which is otherwise devoid of song birds.

The wet flat lands of Ecuador produce a vine yielding a fruit which, when dried, forms a sponge superior to animal sponges.

"Takes the Wet out of Rain."

SCHOOLBOYS COAT

What the Boy Needs

Your own boy needs this coat which defies rain and rough usage. Fine for school and messenger boys.

Ask your dealer

Tower Canadian Limited, Toronto

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Windsor

Coast-to-Coast Service

Let's mean father who has his whiskers amputated just because the baby likes to pull them.

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