

## TAX COLLECTION AND INSURANCE DISCUSSED AT CITY COUNCIL

The Railway Situation—Sewerage System and Disposal Works—View of Provincial Board of Health.

"That ratepayers shall be allowed the privilege of paying their taxes in advance, being allowed a discount at the rate of 5% per annum up to the time the taxes are due. The payment can be made on or after the 1st day of March and each ratepayer is allowed to pay any amount up to and including 75% of his payment for 1914."

The above was given as a notice of motion two weeks ago at the city council by Ald. Wallbridge and was seconded by Ald. Woodley. Last night it was discussed by council at some length and then left as a notice of motion.

When it was read last evening, Ald. Wallbridge said in explanation that it was not possible to say what taxes would be for 1915. Under the proposed system the city would not make anything, but the citizens at large would save. The reason only 75% was proposed as payable early in the season was given as this—that the amount of taxes will not be known until later on in the year and that the city would be borrowing more money than it needed.

Ald. Woodley—"If there is any money in the proposed change of collection, let the citizens have it, instead of the banks."

Ald. Smith raised the point whether paying in advance would not prevent an appeal.

Ald. Wallbridge said the collection would be based on the previous year's taxes.

Ald. St. Charles—"What are we paying in the bank now?"

"Six per cent."

Then he said it would not be any inducement for a merchant to part with his money. Could it be possible to allow 5% discount straight on the early payment and thus induce merchants to pay up their taxes?

Ald. Wallbridge said council was not in the banking business.

Ald. Woodley—"Can a man pay what is not due?"

Ald. Wallbridge declared that the collector said there was no objection to receiving money in advance.

Ald. Smith asked if there were any municipalities where taxes were thus paid.

Ald. Wallbridge did not recall any, but said the proposition was mere over a privilege.

Mayor Panter said to obviate the difficulty of appeals being prevented by advance payment, why not make the 5% discount per annum effective after the court of revision has completed its work.

On the Mayor's suggestion, the motion was left as a notice of motion.

INSURANCE

Mr. H. F. Ketcheson appeared before the council calling attention to the insurance on the city building.

Mr. Scott of the "Palace" has paid six months' excess insurance premium, owing to the use of the city hall as a theater. Mr. Ketcheson referred to the installation of a new heating system, and to the compulsory insurance of boilers. The company backs up the municipality up to \$10,000.

The Workmen's Compensation Act was noted in the matter of city

by the Workmen's Compensation Commission. The city cannot contribute to that fund. But insurance companies give partial relief at least. There is always risk of high salaries employees being killed however.

There was considerable discussion over these matters of insurance. The city hall was not insured sufficiently, thought Ald. Duckworth. There is, said Mr. Ketcheson, \$28,000 insurance on the building and \$2,000 on the furniture.

The premium amounts to at present \$150 for three years on \$30,000. The question of increasing insurance by \$2,000 on the city building was left to Ald. Duckworth with power to act and Ald. Duckworth was instructed to see that the city complied with the law compelling insurance of boilers.

The question of insuring workmen will be dealt with later.

The committee's reports were adopted.

ASPHALTIC PAVEMENTS WANTED

Petitions were received and referred to the clerk and assessor for perusal for asphaltic concrete paved roads.

ways on Victoria avenue from Front street, Campbell street from Front street, Pinnacle from Dundas, and Bridge east from Pinnacle.

ICE AROUND BRIDGE PIERS

Ald. St. Charles asked if the chairman of public works would not have the ice cut around the piers at the upper bridge and thus save the trouble and expense of another shifting.

Ald. McFee said he would take the matter up with the engineer.

WEST BELLEVILLE SEWAGE

Ald. Duckworth asked if anything had been done regarding the West Belleville sewage scheme and if the Provincial Board of Health had been consulted in the matter of disposal works and water filtration.

Engineer Evans replied saying that soundings had been made at the street corners in West Belleville but the levels had not been completed.

OBJECTION TO FILTER PIPE

The Provincial Board of Health has objected to the pipe from the proposed well on the island. The engineer said the complaint was made that in case of a break the filtered water would be contaminated. The engineer said he was going to write stating that the proposed pipe would not be a section pipe, but a gravity pipe in which there would be little pressure.

The problem of the railway entrance was brought up and the city engineer was questioned.

MAPS OF HOUSES IN CITY

Mr. J. W. Evans, said he was preparing plans for the Railway Commission. One plan shows how many factories and houses have been cut off by the present railway arrangement. The railways are asking for ratification of the present plans. Ex-Mayor Wills, Mr. Porter and the engineer will put up a heavy opposition.

RELIEF FOR WORKING MEN

Ald. Platt asked if there was going to be any relief for work for men who are in need of it in accordance with the tenor of the Mayor's inaugural address. People are calling his attention to it. Mayor Panter said he had hoped to see that work could have gone on at Zwick's Island. But it would be useless to do any work in this line as it is not certain whether the Provincial Board of Health would sanction it.

Mayor Panter asked if the engineer could promise the plan of West Belleville Sewage by the time of the next meeting.

Mr. Evans said he would endeavor to do so.

Those present were Mayor Panter, Ald. Wallbridge, Smith, Woodley, McFee, Platt, Duckworth, Earle, McCurdy and St. Charles.

Protect the child from the ravages of worms by using Mother Graves' Worm Exterminator. It is a standard remedy, and years of use have enhanced its reputation.

## GERMANS SAY PURSUIT OF RUSSIANS IS AT AN END; CLAIM 100,000 CAPTURED

### CONFLICTING VERSIONS ARE PRINTED

## COL. SEELY QUALIFIED

French Recommended Appointment to Canadian Cavalry Brigade.

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LONDON, Feb. 23.—The British newspapers print two conflicting versions of the recent battles by which the Germans drove the Russians back over the East Prussian frontier, but they are inclined to accept the Russian version that the Russians fell back in orderly fashion, fighting an effective rear guard action.

As against this is the renewed German claim of 100,000 prisoners and a staggering array of captured munitions. It is noted, however, that Berlin says: "The pursuit has come to an end," and British observers say this means that another costly German rush has failed short.

Frederick Rennet, The Daily News' correspondent at Petrograd says: "Since Baron Burian was given control of the Austrian Foreign Office, with his policy of close co-operation with the German General Staff, the process has been noticeable of the merging of the German and Austrian forces in the east into one army."

In the last official records of the fighting it is shown that the Austrians are in the Hussars, and mostly were about 18 years old. This interchange of troops gives the appearance of unity to the enemy's joint strategy, which is not borne out by the actual situation.

Across the entire length of the eastern front the idea of out-flanking either end of the Russian line is wholly out of the question; but, possibly, remains an effective obstruction.

"The German movement in the north has ceased its aggressive character, and apparently aims at fastening its troops among chosen defensive positions above the Bobb river and westward of the Ossowiec, especially in the curve of the Bobb west of its junction with the Marev. The Rus-

sians are now attacking this position and have moved against the Germans farther west on the road above Ostrolenka to the Prussian frontier.

"The distribution of reinforcements was greatly impeded by the snow, but the men have now reached their assigned positions. Snow on the branch lines proved a heavy handicap during the first retirement, when the strength and enveloping character of the German advance was realized. The only track which remained serviceable throughout was the main line through Wirballen, which has engineering protection against snow drifts, so as to keep traffic with Europe open during peace times, but on the trains which attempted to bring troops across the branch lines, almost all came to a dead halt against the dead masses of snow. The men had to climb down and wade forward."

"The infantry usually took about three days to cover a distance which in the open season would require only twelve hours. Motor wagons in the countryside, away from the main line, almost all failed in the snow."

"Operations in Galicia are developing into a most interesting situation. The Austro-German combination is making a determined effort on the River Dunajetz, south of Lwow, to seize the railway at Zulkivsk. Three broad infantry assaults were beaten back Saturday with heavy losses. At the other end of Galicia the Austrians in great numbers have occupied Stanislau. They are the army which is recently hovering near Roumania. They are measuring their strength in this region for a struggle over the control of the upper valley of the Stryj."

"The Russian position to the Carpathian passes grow stronger. They hold firmly the Dukla, La Bortch and Uszok passes, in the northwest, and after sharp fighting they have taken the heights to the southeast of the Tuhholko pass, on the Munkacs Stryj road."

LETTER FROM "TED" YEOMANS.

Written on Eve of Departure For Sea Coast of France

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Devises, Feb. 5th, 1915.

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