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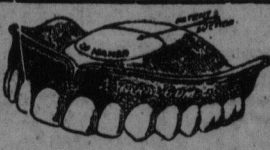
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County Approved Commission For Housing Scheme

Warden and County Secretary Authorized to Sign Papers for Securing \$125,000 for Building Purposes.

After a long debate the county council yesterday appointed a Housing Commission to build houses in Lancaster under the Dominion Loan scheme.

Councillor O'Brien moved that a housing commission be appointed to be composed of the following: Alex. Wilson, Harold Mayes, Daniel Murphy, Louis Simms and John A. Barry.

Mayor Hayes said the object of the fund was to provide homes for returned soldiers and workmen—real homes and not the kind of houses often put up for speculative purpose. There had been disquieting reports that regulations adopted by the government with good reason could be set aside, and that the commission could build almost any kind of a house. The city commission had decided to stick closely to the government regulations. Would the county commission adhere to the regulations, or had they any intention of building two-flat houses?

The Warden said it was the intention to follow the Moncton plan. Councillor O'Brien—"Subsequent resolutions will explain all the plans."

Commissioner Bullock moved the council go into committee to discuss the matter, and this was adopted.

Councillor Jones wanted a statement from Councillor O'Brien and Councillor Bullock setting forth the respective plans of the city and county. He said it was intimated in the press that the city commission could not get anywhere, while the parish councilors were said to be going ahead.

Councillor O'Brien said the people in the parishes were not thin-skinned, and did not take everything in the papers as gospel. The county councilors were not responsible for the slowness of the city authorities. Nor were they responsible for the fact that

the city commission could not secure building lots at reasonable prices.

Secured Information. The County Councilors had interviewed the government at Fredericton and had secured all the information available there. They then went to Moncton, where they found the commission was putting up some duplex houses—two houses under one roof. Each house was now owned by one family, but he did not see why a man and his son might not own the two houses. If there was a leak in the roof, over the partition, there might be trouble as to who was responsible for repairing it.

Councillor Bullock—"Is it the intention of the county to put up houses for rent?"

Councillor O'Brien said no; the houses would be occupied by persons who would make monthly payments on them.

Councillor Bullock said a large proportion of city applicants wanted loans to build two flat houses on sites of their own selection. But this was not what was contemplated by the Dominion scheme.

Councillor Hayes wanted to know whether the municipal would bear the overhead expenses, or would they be charged against the house. There would be collectors' fees, etc.

Charged Against House. Warden Golding—"In Moncton all the overhead charges, architect's fees, etc., are charged against the houses."

Coun. Bullock said the city commissioners found building lots in the city held at prices of \$75 and even \$600 in undesirable sites. This was much more than they could allow for land. The architect's estimate for building houses in the city was much more than the amounts available under the act.

Councillor Jones—"Have you figured out the equivalent in rents of the payments that will have to be made by would-be owners?"

Councillor Bullock said in addition to 5 p. c. of the amount of the loan the owner would have to pay for insurance, rates and taxes and guarantee to keep the houses in repair.

Councillor Fisher said he was willing to take some risk even if the municipality went ahead and built houses and found they could not get as good a price as expected.

Taking the Risk. Councillor Bullock said some risk would have to be taken anyway. The city only had two applications for the houses they proposed to build on the West Side. However, they intended to see if the demand for houses was as big as was represented. No man earning more than \$3,000 could buy one of the houses under the act.

Councillor O'Brien said they wanted to reach out and get the man with a big salary to buy their houses. A man getting a salary of \$1,000 couldn't be expected to pay \$200 a year.

Councillor Jones—"What laboring man in St. John can afford to pay \$250 or \$300 a year?"

Councillor Thornton said there was a lot of misinformation about the housing scheme. In Moncton the commission was building on lots owned by applicants; all lots of 50 foot frontage. They were not building flats in Moncton, or any houses for rents. Each side of a duplex house had to be owned by the occupant. In Moncton on the smallest house the payments would be equivalent to a rent of \$28 to \$30 per month. And Moncton was a city of comparatively high wages.

Councillor O'Brien said the houses quoted at \$28 and \$30 were B class—houses of 6 and 7 rooms.

Councillor Howard said if there was going to be any risk the parish getting the benefit should bear the whole responsibility.

The committee rose and the council then adopted Councillor O'Brien's resolution appointing the housing commission.

Councillor Bullock moved that the housing commission be instructed to report to the county council quarterly by meetings in writing. This was adopted.

Councillor Bullock moved that the warden and secretary be authorized to sign the papers in connection with taking over \$125,000 for building purposes.

Councillor O'Brien—"That's only as

PLANS FOR NURSES' NEW HOME GIVEN THREE MONTHS' HOIST

County Councillors Consider New Tenders for Building But Decided to Defer Action for Another Three Months —The New Figure for Completed Building Was \$161,071.

The matter of erecting a nurses' home is again up in the air. The county councillors were in session for three and a half hours yesterday. In committee they received the report from the hospital commission, presenting a new set of tenders and recommending that B. Mooney and Son be given the contract for \$161,071.

After a long argument the committee adopted a motion giving the matter the three months' hoist. Later when the matter came up in council, Councillor Bullock, who moved the three months' hoist, had disappeared, and Councillor Thornton said: "Well, Councillor Bullock wouldn't stop to see his resolution through the council, for one, will not move the adoption of a report from the committee of the whole."

Councillor Carson—"Then the hospital question will be where we left it at the last special meeting." Nobody disagreed and the council hastily adjourned.

When the councillors were in committee Dr. Walker submitted the report of the joint meeting of the hospital commissioners and finance committee, recommending the acceptance of a new tender by B. Mooney and Son for the following sums:

Building (all trades) \$148,368
Tunnel 2,116
Elevator 6,917
Engineers and architects' fees 7,670

Improvements Needed. \$161,071

Councillor Bullock said the report came from the hospital commission, though the finance committee had agreed to bringing it before the council. He was as enthusiastic as any, but it was a question whether they should not give the project the three months' hoist. Perhaps they would not be able to do better next spring, but there was certainly great dissatisfaction with the city's assessment system, and the increased expenditures. He finally moved the three months' hoist.

Councillor Jones seconded this. He said the hospital would presently have to be extended and the hospital should have preference over the nurses though the latter certainly did not have proper accommodation.

Councillor Fisher said his thoughts ran on the same line and he moved that the finance committee and hospital commissioners be authorized to look for new tenders to be submitted to the quarterly meeting in January, so they could go ahead with the work in the spring.

Councillor Hayes said the previous speakers voiced his sentiments from the standpoint of assessment. He thought they had put a limit of \$161,071 on the expenditure. However, he would like to hear Mr. Agar's views, as he knew both sides of the question.

M. E. Agar said the building was wanted or it was not. The hospital commissioners had decided that the best way to enlarge the hospital accommodation was to move the nurses from the main hall and build a home for them. He did not see anything to be gained by waiting for a new tender to see a reduction of prices or wages. Whatever might be the future plans for the hospital the first step necessary was the provision of a nurses' home.

If the county was not going to assume the responsibility they should say so, and perhaps something could be done by appealing to private generosity, which should do more for the hospital anyway. If they asked contractors to make another tender, they would say it was absurd. If the county would stand by the vote of \$161,000 they could put up the building, and provide satisfactory accommodation. The balconies and porches were not absolutely necessary.

Winter Work. Councillor Thornton said he did not think the work could be done satisfactorily this winter. He did not favor putting another \$30,000. Some delegations had told them that they would not object to paying more taxes to put up a Nurses' Home; the same people were now coming to City Hall, kicking about the increase in taxes. He had not brought up the matter of a new Court House because he thought the Nurses' Home was more needed.

Councillor Carson said the Hospital Commission should be authorized to go ahead if it could get some things they could keep the cost down to the amount previously voted. But the work could not be done satisfactorily after snow flew.

Mr. Agar—"If we kept the cost down to \$161,000 by leaving out improvements, would the Council be agreeable?"

Councillor Jones—"I wouldn't—I have had a lot of complaints from taxpayers since the last meeting."

Mr. Agar—"The Hospital Commissioners are not responsible for all the increases in taxes."

Councillor Jones—"But we have got to respect the taxpayers' complaints." Councillor Hayes said that while they must give consideration to this point a private offer of \$30,000 for hospital improvement was conditional on the building of a nurses' home. Moreover, the Marine Department proposed to spend \$82,000 on improvements to the hospital. He therefore moved in amendment that the Hospital Commissioners be authorized to proceed with the construction of the Nurses' Home, minus \$2,000 for shower baths, \$4,000 for balconies, and \$2,000 for an elevator. Councillor Shillington seconded the motion.

More Information. Councillors Jones and Thornton wanted more definite information as to the state of the government proposal to spend \$62,000 on the hospital.

Installation. We asked for \$300,000. Councillor Bullock—"You'll find it all you will get."

Councillor Bullock's motion was adopted.

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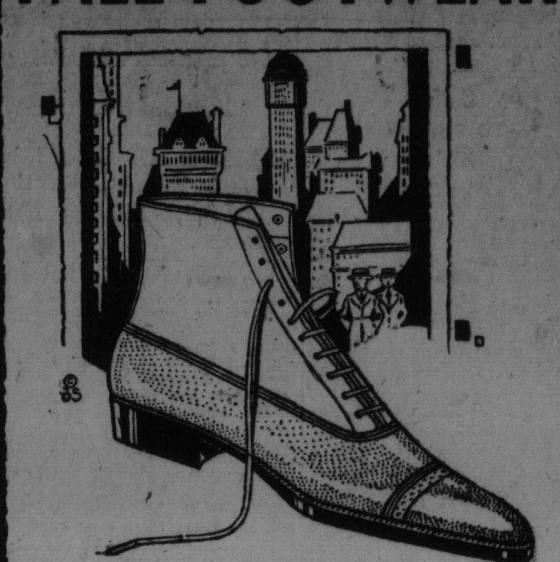
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Chas. Currier, of Dorchester, Mass., to await the Resurrection morn. The death of Miss Florence Davidson. The death of Miss Florence Davidson, East St. John, occurred yesterday about noon, after a lingering illness. She leaves besides her father, William H. Davidson of British Columbia, three sisters, Laura of Wakesfield, Mass., Winnifred of Lynn, Mass., and Marie of Melrose, Mass., and one brother, Frank of Millard, N. B. The body will be taken to St. Martin's on the noon train today.

Obituary. Sebastian Mersereau. Hoyt Station, N. B. Sept. 8.—On Monday, September 1st, Mr. Sebastian S. Mersereau, of Juvenile Settlement, passed away after suffering for several months from cancer of the throat. Mr. Mersereau was 68 years of age, and for over 30 years was a faithful member of the United Baptist church of Patterson Settlement. He was a faithful companion and a loving father. He leaves to mourn his going a wife, a son, Andrew, and two girls, Mabel and Stella, all whom are at home, also four brothers and two sisters residing as follows: Andrew, of Seattle, Wash.; Ben, Dan, of Patterson Settlement, Tom, and Mrs. Laddie Mersereau, of Russellburg, and Mrs.