

COMMON COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD YESTERDAY

Placed itself on record as favoring Dominion Government Taking Over Harbor — Offer of Oil Shales Ltd. Laid Over Until Thursday.

The city council yesterday afternoon placed itself, by a unanimous vote, on record as favoring the taking over of the harbor by the Dominion government. The matter of accepting the offer of the Oil Shales Ltd. of one thousand tons of shale at the cost of loading it on the cars and freight to St. John was laid over until Thursday.

Mayor Hayes presided and Commissioner McEllan, Bullock, Hilyard and Fisher were present.

The Commissioner of Finance and Public Affairs reported payments for the month of September of accounts amounting to \$184,389.88 and recommended payment of the following departmental accounts for September:

Treasury \$ 376.29
Public Safety 1,905.86
Public Works 1,921.16
Water and sewerage 2,805.94
Harbors, ferries, public lands, 2,814.02

That the account of the New Brunswick Power Company for \$6,782.88, for street lighting from July 31 to September 30, be paid. Adopted.

The committee of the whole recommended that the Commissioner of Public Safety be authorized to contract with Samuel M. Ogilvie and Co., of Montreal, to furnish 50 police overcoats at \$35 each; that B. Mooney and Sons be granted an extension of thirteen and a half days on the time limit of their contract for paying on Main street; that the Commissioner of Water and Sewerage be authorized to sell to John Toner a cottage at Misepoc for \$600 and to lease the lot on which it stands for the sum of \$1 per year and a further ten acres at \$10 per year, lease subject to termination at any time on three months' notice; and to sell a cottage at Misepoc for the sum of \$40, the same to be removed; that the tender of the Ogilvie and Co., Contractors, Ltd. for pile bracing at the ferry, east side, for the sum of \$1,980, being the lowest, be accepted. Adopted.

The application of Walter Spencer for appointment as constable was referred to the mayor with power to act. Commissioner Bullock gave notice of motion calling for the issue of bonds to the amount of \$75,561. Main street paving, \$39,561, sheds at Reed's Point, \$32,500, ferry approaches, \$7,500.

Mayor Hayes said in his talk with Mr. Ballantyne re harbor commission the council had promised to place a proposition before the minister which he could lay before the government and move the following resolution:

"The City of St. John having spent large sums of money in developing the shipping facilities of the port and further expenditures being necessary to keep abreast with present day needs and having in view the national character of the port, we believe the time has arrived when the work should be undertaken by the Dominion government and would request that the government consider the question of taking over the city's interest in the harbor, not including the fishing privileges, the city to be compensated for expenditures made."

This was seconded by Commissioner McEllan and passed unanimously.

Mayor Hayes said the city had been offered one thousand tons of oil shale at the cost of bringing to the city, which would be about \$6 per ton.

Commissioner McEllan announced that he intended to use about thirty-five tons of this shale in his department, mixing it with coal in the ratio of 15 per cent of shale to 85 per cent of coal. Further consideration of the offer was deferred until Thursday.

DIED.

NORRIS.—On October 7th at the General Public Hospital, Ada L. wife of Robert Norris, 79 St. James St., leaving three sons and two daughters to mourn.

Notice of funeral in evening papers.

McALLISTER.—At Cumberland Bay, Queens County, N. B., on October 7, Elma, wife of James Leonard McAllister, leaving husband, father, two sisters and one brother to mourn.

Notice of funeral later.

DEAN.—Died in action, somewhere in France, Sept. 26th, Lieutenant R. Chester Dean, in the 25th year of his age, leaving to mourn father and mother, two brothers and one sister.

GARD OF THANKS.

Mr. Wm. Y. Beatty and family wish to thank their many friends for kindness and floral tributes in their recent sad bereavement.

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CROWD GREETED RETURNED MEN AT THE DEPOT

Heroes Who Are Back From France Get Very Hearty Welcome.

Union Depot resembled the White Way yesterday. Crowds flocked to the above place, to extend a hearty welcome to the men who returned last evening from the front, but blood-soaked fields of France.

Long before the arrival of the trains the crowds surged into the edifice; automobiles were on hand in large numbers, due to the kind consideration of Chas. Robinson, secretary of the Returned Soldiers' Committee, and to the owners of the cars, who generously placed them at the disposal of the returned heroes. Last evening's reception to the returned men was commented upon highly by the citizens in general, as the boys were given a good reception.

After awaiting in suspense, in which each minute seemed an hour, the special train bearing the one hundred and thirty-seven men, pulled into the station at 10:37 o'clock, amid the lusty cheers of those at the station.

Happy Scenes.

Two witnesses were on the stand yesterday when the potato enquiry was resumed before Mr. Commissioner McQueen in the Municipal Council chamber. Peter J. Hughes conducted the case for the government and there was no opposing counsel present.

The sessions were rather tame, Mr. Hughes finding no difficulty in getting before the Commissioner any and every item he submitted.

At one stage during the afternoon session Mr. J. B. Daggett, former secretary for agriculture, who was on the stand, entered a mild protest that Mr. Hughes was not quite fair in his method of examination, stating that it was unfair to expect him to remember all the minute details and dates of transactions taking place fully four years ago, particularly when Mr. Hughes had before him documents.

After some further evidence regarding details of the items in the Waite statement the court took recess for dinner.

Afternoon Session.

When court resumed in the afternoon Mr. Hughes continued to question Mr. Daggett as to the Waite statement. Witness said that one item of \$2,257.14 represented a draft made by Mr. Waite through a bank in Cuba. Potatoes had been sold at 32.35 cents per barrel as spoiled, or 3,325 barrels in all. More might have spoiled than the statement showed, as the only ones accounted for were those which were dumped, there was a cost for dumping. An other 1,000 barrels of spoiled potatoes might have been dumped out without cost. Witness thought Mr. Waite was "absolutely straight."

The potatoes shipped by the Mineola were, he thought, sold as a result of the sale of the potatoes, which really effected through a firm of brokers in Havana. He thought shipment of 1,500 barrels to Besaleau under date of February 22nd, 1919, was made in his name and went forward on the Mineola.

Before borrowing the \$3,000 from Mr. Donovan, he said he had the Waite statement. The item on that statement showing a payment of a draft of \$400 and a later payment of \$2,257.14, he said, was written in by Mr. Waite after the statement had been sworn to. Witness paid the \$400 draft from his own funds first and later borrowed the \$2,257.14 from Mr. Donovan. Part of this was used to pay Boyce's claim and the remainder was applied to the Waite loss. Witness did not remember Mr. Donovan might have paid for the potatoes in connection with the trip to Cuba came out of the \$3,000 borrowed, or out of his own personal funds, he probably had the money.

What the Mineola Cargo Realized.

From the Mineola cargo between \$500 and \$600 was realized. Part of this was used to pay Boyce's claim and the remainder was applied to the Waite loss. Witness did not remember Mr. Donovan might have paid for the potatoes in connection with the trip to Cuba came out of the \$3,000 borrowed, or out of his own personal funds, he probably had the money.

Asked regarding the sale of "culls" to Mr. Donovan, witness said he did not recall that, as a government transaction, but as a private matter. He could not say for sure if the "culls" sold to Donovan had been paid for by the government or by Mr. Donovan himself. He said he had been asked to sell the "culls" to Mr. Donovan and he had done so. He said he had been asked to sell the "culls" to Mr. Donovan and he had done so.

Witness said Mr. Atherton had been sent to make a final settlement of the Smith claim at his request, although he did not pay him. He then referred to certain accounts of the Smith firm over which there had been dispute and which witness had caused to be reduced. Mr. Smith had agreed to accept a certain sum to cover a number of unpaid bills. Some of the bills being shown to witness, witness said they had not been paid so far as he knew.

Shipments Turned Out Badly.

Regarding the returns from the shipment sent Cuba on the Mineola, witness said he had gone to Cuba to see if the situation there was as represented to him. The shipments on both the Mineola and the Irma Bentley had turned out badly. When all accounts in connection with the cost of shipments, etc., had been made up there was a shortage approximating \$3,000.

Borrowed \$3,000.

Witness then produced a sworn statement by R. G. Waite, of Cuba, which witness said was substantiated by the government which he had never put in and never intended to put in. He had received a letter from Mr. Waite to the effect

TWO WITNESSES ACCUSED ALL DAY AT POTATO PROBE

Evidence Yesterday Continued To Show That Every Person Who Had Anything To Do With the Sale of Surplus Potatoes To Cuba Lost Money—Secretary J. B. Daggett Goes Minute-ly and Frankly Into Details of the Transaction

—William Cruikshank Tells of Discounting the Smith Note.

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Cruikshank gave the paid note to witness, and witness delivered it to Mr. Smith. He did not know whether the note was in existence when the statement was made to the Public Accounts Committee. No members of the opposition party at the Public Accounts Committee asked witness any questions about the transaction, but government members did question him to some extent. All such questions he answered fully.

Mr. Daggett was here today said to allow the evidence of William Cruikshank to be taken.

Mr. Cruikshank Called.

Mr. Cruikshank sworn said he had occupied the position of Deputy Provincial Treasurer from June, 1915, until May, 1918, succeeding the late George N. Babbitt in that office. Prior to that he had been in the office of Mr. Babbitt for a matter of some six years. Asked as to the procedure covering payments of accounts he said applications for payment usually came to him first from the different departments and in the case of the potatoes they went first to the auditor general, who sent them to witness for the necessary warrant. They then went back to the auditor general for certifying the warrant and then came back to witness when the cheque would issue.

He had no particular recollection of payments made to B. Frank Smith but the departmental applications would show if there were any such. He had heard of a letter of credit being given to the bank at East Florenceville on account of Mr. Smith but had no direct knowledge of such a letter. He was in the office of Mr. Babbitt in 1914 when the potatoes were shipped to the British government and for Belgian relief. His office had had nothing to do with the surplus potatoes as such. Payments made on that account he thought were made by the same methods as other accounts. In 1915 when he was deputy provincial treasurer, Hon. Dr. Landry was his chief and was the minister in charge of the department. In that fiscal year he knew of no returns coming from potatoes shipped to Cuba. It was the ordinary practice to close the books of the province between November 10th and 15th, from ten to fifteen days after the close of the fiscal year but in that particular year the books were kept open longer to get the potato returns. He must have had instructions from Hon. Dr. Landry to close his books open. He had not discussed the potato matter with Dr. Landry until the time of the final settlement.

The Matter of the Note.

He thought Mr. Daggett had intimated to him that a note would be given to close the potato transaction. He did not agree to endorse the note as his own responsibility but had consulted Premier Clarke about it. Mr. Clarke said it would be a satisfactory settlement. Witness had also consulted Hon. Dr. Landry who returned the same reply. He then asked Manager Hawkins of the Bank of Montreal if the bank would discount such a note and was informed that it would. Witness told Mr. Hawkins the note would be in the vicinity of \$30,000. Dr. Landry must have given him the idea of the amount.

Endorsed and Discounted.

When he received the note he endorsed it "The Government of New Brunswick, W. W. Cruikshank, Deputy Provincial Treasurer." The receipt was dated October 31st although he did not receive the note until December 22nd. The receipt was so dated to bring the transaction in line with the close of the fiscal year. The note was discounted the same day he received it.

No Knowledge of RePayment.

The note matured on March 6th, 1916. Witness met Mr. Sumner on the street either in St. John or Fredericton and Sumner asked him when he required the \$33,000. Witness knew what was meant and told Mr. Sumner the due date of the note. The next he knew of it was when he received a telephone message from the Fredericton branch of the Bank of Montreal that the note had been cashed. The amount corresponded with the amount of the note due so witness went to the bank, drew a cheque for the amount of the note and paid it. He did not think he called the attention of any member of the government to the fact that he had paid the note. When he received the note he gave it to Mr. Daggett. He had no knowledge of the repayment of the amount of the note to Mr. Sumner and had never been given the particulars of the Cuban potato business. B. P. Smith had not paid him the sum of \$2,447.75 on account of over-payment.

Mr. Daggett Recalled.

Mr. Daggett recalled and asked about the sale of "culls" said he paid to the shippers of the potatoes any sums he received from "culls," less the cost of shipment. No arrangements had been made by which whole carloads of potatoes were to remain unpaid for until after they had been sold. Part of the quantity of surplus potatoes came as the result of a mix-up. Witness had no direct dealings with the would not accept potatoes unless they were matured and for a time shipments were very light. He was then afraid some of the shippers would fall down on the job and told B. P. Smith he depended upon him for the greater part of his supply. He did not know when Mr. Smith started to ship but he did know that after shipments started from Mr. Smith and the others they came faster than he could handle them and in the end he had more potatoes than he required for the government and Belgian gifts. Most of the potatoes he received came from Mr. Smith.

Mr. Daggett was then examined briefly regarding charges for rent and warehouse in the City of St. John. He charged had been made for the British or Belgian potatoes but after those shipments had been completed and the surplus potatoes came in a charge was made. Letters from Mr. Daggett to the then mayor, Dr. J. H. Frink, and to Mr. Daggett from J. V. Russell, then commissioner of harbors and ferries, were identified and it was coming to the court until this morning at eleven o'clock.

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PRINCESS ENGAGED.

Paris, Oct. 8.—A despatch received here today from Luxembourg, announces the engagement of Princess Charlotte, eldest sister of the reigning Grand Duchess of Luxembourg, to Prince Felix of Bourbon de Parme, a brother of the Austrian Emperor.

Died from Influenza.
Among the deaths from Spanish influenza in Montreal military district were Sapper W. A. Hull, Woodstock; Sapper W. M. Weldon, St. John; Sapper Dugas, Madawaska.

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