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## CITY WILL DO STONE-CRUSHING

Vigorous Opposition to the Work  
Being Done by Contract.

Remedy That May Rid the City  
of Tramps.

Fire Hall Advocated for the North  
End—Measure to Secure Lower  
Postage Rates—Lord Minto To Be In-  
vited to Open the Fair.

The city council met last night and transacted a pile of business. The majority of the motions, of which notice was given at the previous meeting were carried through. The stone-crushing contract scheme received its deathblow, and some other matters were discussed vigorously. The proposed amendment to bylaw No. 71, whereby the city clerk will receive registration fees, was passed, and Secretary James Bell appointed to take the place of City Clerk Kingston during the latter's vacation.

Ald. Garratt put a motion which will, if carried out, prove a terror to tramps and idlers. He proposed that the mayor and chairman of No. 2 committee interview Sheriff Cameron with a view to securing an arrangement whereby stone could be broken by tramps and vagrants who are continually being sent to jail.

Ald. McPhillips' motion to petition the postmaster-general with a view to securing a cheaper rate for drop-letters met with the hearty approval of all, and the clerk will forward the petition.

### MANUFACTURERS' COMMITTEE.

Ald. Wilkey's motion to strike a manufacturers' committee, composed of Ald. Rumball, Jolly, Graham, Wilkey, McCullum, secretary of the committee, and E. N. Hunt, was discussed at some length. Ald. Wilkey thought the council had never taken the interest in the matter it should. He did not think the council could do too much for the manufacturers, notwithstanding many people were opposed to it. He instanced the Bennett Manufacturing Company, which was given ten years' exemption, when they first started here, and was a good investment. A committee such as he advocated might be of incalculable benefit to the city and cost nothing. He instanced Bradford as an example of what a manufacturers' committee was capable of doing. Notwithstanding the removal of the car shops and other industries, there was not a vacant house in that thriving city. London too works might have been kept here if the council had had a little forethought.

Ald. O'Meara protested against any more special committees. He thought three were enough. In this Ald. Douglass supported him.

### STREET COMMISSIONERSHIP.

Ald. McCullum's motion to appoint Robert Ironside to the position of street commissioner, was next taken up.

Ald. Pritchard moved that Mr. Ironside retain his present position.

Ald. Garratt thought the matter should go to No. 2 committee for consideration, together with Mr. B. Johnson's application for the position.

Ald. Parnell, in seconding Ald. McCullum's motion, spoke of Mr. Ironside as the best possible man for the position, and the city would be money in pocket. He pointed out that the great expenses last year were run up because there was no one whose special business it was to look after outside work. There was a division of authority, and

there never would be any satisfaction so long as the position was vacant.

In reply to the mayor, Ald. McCullum said it was not his intention to advocate an assistant for the engineer.

The Mayor—You understand that Mr. Kirkpatrick is to have full charge of the sewers?

Ald. McCullum—There are enough men there to do the work.

Ald. Douglass thought it was nothing more or less than some scheme to increase the staff, and asked Ald. Parnell why Mr. Ironside was not appointed street commissioner two years ago.

Ald. Parnell said he had always advocated that, and if it had been done the stone-crushing would not have cost so much last year.

The matter was referred to No. 2.

Ald. Garratt proposed that the north end of the city should be better protected against fire than now, and moved to empower No. 3 committee to have plans and specifications prepared, with the estimated cost of erecting a fire hall up north.

### LEGISLATION COMMITTEE.

The proposition of Ald. McPhillips to establish a legislation and reception committee came in for some hard knocks. Ald. McPhillips pointed out that the duties of this committee would be to look after legislation that would benefit the city, and work against the introduction by incorporated companies of legislation either by the Dominion or Ontario Governments that would be injurious to the city.

By way of illustration, he read a clipping from The Advertiser, stating that the street railway company had applied for an amendment to their charter. He had heard nothing about it, and if a legislation committee were appointed these things could be remedied.

Ald. O'Meara—"That would be a regular excursion committee, and a colossal bill of expense." He moved to insert a clause that no money be paid to the committee except by vote of the council.

Ald. Douglass said he had seen enough of special committees after the work of the hospital committee, which expended \$30,000 or \$40,000 more than they had any license to spend.

Ald. Plant did not think it was necessarily a jaunting committee, and said he was opposed to deputations of all kinds.

Ald. Winnett thought the scheme a good one. What was everybody's business was nobody's business. Legislation was often slipped through the house, which might be prevented, if looked after.

Ald. Jolly took the opportunity to tell Ald. Douglass that the hospital committee might easily be as proud of the past year's record as the board of works.

Ald. McPhillips' motion carried, Ald. Plant, O'Meara, and Douglass voting nay.

Ald. McPhillips' motion to memorialize the Ontario Government at the present session, praying that the municipal act be amended by reducing the property qualification of voters from \$400 to \$200 was carried.

Ald. Plant supported this motion, as he was of opinion that under the present qualification there was much injustice.

Ald. McPhillips' notice re consideration of the market improvements and local improvements was laid over.

### GOOD WORDS FOR AID. SOUTHCOTT.

The resignation of Aid. S. J. Southcott, of No. 3 ward, was read by the city clerk, and on motion accepted. Ald. Parnell and McPhillips, in speaking of the motion, regretted that so promising an alderman should have been compelled to retire from the council. Both aldermen were pleased to hear of his promotion and wished him every success.

Alfred Hall and Henry Williams, two draymen, petitioned for the remission of a \$2 fine imposed by the police magistrate for an alleged infraction of the city bylaws. They protested against the prosecution, and claimed unfair treatment at the hands of the police.

They claimed, would not allow them to produce evidence of their innocence. On the day they were alleged to have left their horses and drays unattended at the dray stand, they were not near the place, and an affidavit to this effect accompanied the petition.

In advocating compliance with the request, Ald. O'Meara thought the bylaw would stand remodeling, and said that he knew many draymen who found it hard to support their families without paying fines.

Ald. Douglass thought it was time for a change. When the bylaw was passed, years ago, the fee was fixed at 25 cents. Draymen now had to travel twice the distance, and received no more money.

The matter was referred to No. 1 committee with power.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS.

No. 2 committee recommended the payment of \$20 to A. Irvine, towards Mrs. Holborne's funeral expenses, and the calling for tenders for repairing watering carts and for a new galvanized steel tank watering cart. Adopted without discussion.

The first item to create discussion in the board of work report was a recommendation to pay Contractor Gould \$106 for lumber left in the sewer on Ann street, under the C. F. R. track, in accordance with the order of the street inspector. The account will be paid.

Re the Salvation Army, the committee reported that there was no bylaw existing which prohibited the Salvation Army from holding meetings on the street corners, and that the army could hold meetings on the street if they wanted to.

The clause recommending that the city council advertise that ratepayers requiring permanent improvements such as roads, sidewalks, etc., under the frontage tax system are requested to send in their petition to the city clerk not later than 15th April and also that the city will pay one-third the total cost of all such improvements was proposed by Ald. Jolly. He contended the city should not pay one-third of the permanent improvements. By this principle the poor man paid for a third of the rich man's improvements.

In the case of sidewalks he argued that any persons desiring a permanent walk should be exempted to the amount of a plank walk. He had been informed by the city solicitor that the frontage tax system could not be introduced without legislation.

Ald. O'Meara couldn't see it this way, and claimed that the poor people were equally benefited. If the owner of a small property wanted improvements the rich man had to pay a share of it.

The engagement of Architect J. M. Moore to examine the city hall with the engineer and special committee brought up the old story that there were enough engineers round the city hall now. It was pointed out that the view of what had been said regarding the building and the late accident, that it would be just as well to have an outsider.

Ald. O'Meara didn't think it was necessary to build a new one, he said all right, and if the sins of the aldermen didn't wreck the building, he was sure that any amount of jumping

around wouldn't do it. The recommendation to secure Mr. Moore was adopted.

### HOSPITAL COMMITTEE.

The report of the hospital committee was adopted without much discussion. It recommended that the contractors for heating and plumbing go ahead with the work.

### STONE CRUSHING CONTRACT.

The proposal to accept the tender of W. J. Craig for crushing and delivering stone (his own crusher to be used) at \$4, and also that the city shall have the option of accepting Craig's tender at \$8.50, for supplying, crushing and delivering stone, was knocked on the head. The city will do its own work in this line.

Ald. Pritchard asked if that were the lowest tender, and Ald. Douglass replied that there was one for \$2.65, but this was for crushing stone with the city crusher. He moved that this be accepted.

Ald. Parnell moved that no action be taken in the matter, and that the work be done under the supervision of the engineer. He was a strong advocate of day labor wherever practicable, and this was one of the occasions where the city should do its own work. Under proper management it could be done cheaper than contractors' prices, for if it paid them it would pay the city money that might have been better employed. If the work were given to contractors there was nothing to prevent them crushing it in the quarries or anywhere they wished, and thus rob the poor laboring classes of a chance of employment in the city. (Applause from spectators.)

Ald. Douglass, chairman of the board of works, accused Ald. Parnell of making a song about nothing, and asked how it was that he (Ald. Douglass) could lay down macadamized roads for 10 cents per square foot last year when the year before they had cost Ald. Parnell 19 cents.

Ald. Parnell said that might be. There were hundred ways in which that could be done. The streets were narrower, and it would all depend on how great a depth of stone were used.

Ald. Douglass said the streets were the same width and the work had been done the same way that Ald. Parnell did it. He believed in paying fair wages, and accused Ald. Parnell of trying to make capital out of that fact.

"The workmen know me," he continued, addressing the sixth ward alderman, "they know I paid fair wages. I have paid out more money in one month than you have paid out all your lifetime. I paid out \$12,000 in one month when I was contracting. I'll put up \$500, and the speaker warned up as he said it, "that I can do any work as cheaply as you can."

The engineer was sent for, and Ald. Parnell asked him what the price for stone was in 1896, 1897 and 1898. The engineer could not remember what the figures were in 1896, but in 1897 they were \$5.60 per cord; in 1898, \$5.51. He attributed the increase to some extent to the employment of more men than were really necessary.

Ald. Winnett thought it a queer proceeding that after the city had been put to the expense of obtaining facilities for the work that the same members should now want the work done by contract.

Ald. O'Meara wanted to know if the council were aware that there were 30 or 40 human stone crushers now at work up north. They only charged \$3 per cord, and the city had to pay \$2.50 per cord for stone, that would be only \$5.50, and it could be delivered for the other \$1. In this way there would be more men employed, while the cost would be no greater than having it done by machinery.

Ald. Parnell's motion carried.

### FINANCE COMMITTEE.

An account for \$12 from William Bernard was questioned. The mayor explained that this was for two young men whom the street railway company had brought here to work during the recent strike, but who, when they learned the state of affairs, had not gone to work, and having no money, they came to him. He had provided for them until they heard from friends. The account was ordered paid, but not without a protest from Ald. Jolly, who thought the car company should pay it.

The committee recommended that the letter of D. C. Macdonald re distribution of medals to veterans of 1866 and 1865 by his excellency the governor-general, be referred to the Western Fair board. The representatives to the board from the city council were given charge of the matter, and will endeavor to have Lord Minto open the fair here this year.

### NOTICES OF MOTION.

By Ald. O'Meara—That at the next meeting of the council the motion of Ald. Wilkey re special committees be reconsidered.

By Ald. McPhillips—Motion that in future the city engineer be instructed not to award any contracts for work to any person without first consulting the member on No. 2 committee for the ward in which such work is to be done.

By Ald. Plant—That bylaw 779, providing for the observance of a civic holiday be changed so as to make it the first Monday in August instead of the third Monday.

By Ald. McPhillips—Whether or not it is advisable that a drop or catch net be furnished to the city fire brigade, and that the question be referred to No. 3 committee.

By Ald. Winnett—That the proposal to get new clocks for the council chamber and city clerk's offices be referred to No. 1 committee.

By Ald. McPhillips—That the chief of police of the city and secretary of the police commissioners furnish this council with the amount to the credit of the police benefit fund, showing the total amount paid in and out of same, and inform this council by way of agreement and authority a reward of \$500 be offered for the apprehension of the alleged slayer of the late P. C. Toohy. Has the reward been claimed by any person? If so, by whom and on what grounds?

By Ald. Pritchard—That for the better protection of the lives and property of the public, the London Electric Street Railway Company be compelled to so regulate the running of their cars when crossing Talbot street on Dundas, also King on Richmond street, and Clarence street on Dundas, that they shall come to a full stop before proceeding to cross the street, and that the engineer be instructed to carry out these instructions.

By Ald. McPhillips—That Ald. Winnett be placed on No. 1 committee, in place of Ald. Southcott, resigned, and that Ald. Reed be placed on the hospital committee in Ald. Southcott's stead.

### OTHER MATTERS.

On motion of Ald. Parnell the engineer was instructed to interview the street railway company, with a view to having a guard put at the south end of Victoria bridge, where a car recently ran off the track, and to have the approaches to other bridges protected where necessary.

Ald. Dreaney and Plant asked by whose authority No. 2 committee had interfered with the street railway matter. In the opinion of both aldermen the committee had exceeded their powers.

A request for better service in the southeastern portion of the city was referred to the board of works.

A communication was received from Dr. W. H. Moorhouse and several city physicians asking the council to make provision in the bill now before the Legislative Assembly to enable members of the medical profession to become eligible for election to the position of hospital trustees, as they, as citizens and taxpayers, deemed it unfair and unjust to be debarred from privileges accorded to other citizens.

Ald. McPhillips spoke in favor of medical representation, and hoped the council would act in accordance with the request.

Ald. O'Meara moved in amendment that the law respecting the hospital trustees be amended so that one active physician be elected to the trust by the whole vote of the people. This carried.

Mr. Bartram's letters to the de facto mayor and council, re reward for finders of false alarms to the fire station, the city clerk and registration fees, and one stating that the city clerk should pay his own law costs in the litigation now pending in the courts, viz., in Kingston vs. Sims, were read and filed.

The petition to Lord Minto, asking that legislation be enacted whereby government officials shall pay income tax, was approved, and will be forwarded to the governor-general.

The petition of A. W. Jones for the use of the city hall for a public meeting, to be held under the auspices of the Social Labor Party, was granted on the usual terms, viz., that they pay all expenses.

Ald. Jolly ventured the suggestion that as Mr. Bartram was one of the persons interested, it might only be a match to issue another writ, if the hall were granted free of charge.

Mrs. E. Livingston, of Wharncliffe road, applied for remission of taxes. Her case was an urgent one. She is 75 years of age, infirm, and without any means to support herself except \$4 per month from a small cottage. Mr. R. A. Jones, of West London, supported her claim before the council, and her petition was granted.

The application of two aged people for admission to the home was referred to the mayor.

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