

Utilities Commission Fight Brings Greatly Increased Price For Registry Office

TANGLE OF OLD REGISTRY OFFICE IS BROUGHT TO CLOSE IN COUNCIL

Refusal of Douglass To Back Public Utilities Brought Smaller Bid For Building—Protests Cause Tenders To Be Thrown Out—New Tenders Called—Protests Renewed.

UTILITIES OBJECTIONS BRING GOOD PRICE

Commissioner Philip Pocock expressed the opinion to the Advertiser this morning that the public utilities commission had been the means of the city council securing such a "handsome price" as \$10,500 for the old registry building at the corner of Talbot and Carling streets, saving the city \$3,000.

Had the commission not offered the council \$10,100 for the property and then protested strongly through the columns of The Advertiser when that price was not accepted, Commissioner Pocock believes that the council would have sold it for considerably less money.

Last night No. 1 committee of the council unanimously passed a recommendation to the council that the property be sold to the Imperial Oil Company for \$10,500 cash, the present building to be torn down and an \$8,000 or \$9,000 brick or stucco oil station be erected in its place.

A review of the whole question, shows that last January the public utilities commission wrote the council intimating its desire to secure the old registry office building as a sub-station, and asking the council to name a price.

Instead, the council called for tenders. There were two tenders received, one from Peter Glen of \$4,000, and the other from the public utility commission of \$10,100, payment to be made \$2,000 annually with interest.

Decline Offer.

Upon information of Ald. Douglass that he knew of a man who would purchase the property and erect on it a three-story office building, the council declined to accept the offer of \$10,100 by the commission.

Immediately upon the announcement that new tenders were being called for, the commission protested.

Information leaked through to the commission that the offer to be made by the man Ald. Douglass had in mind was to be in the neighborhood of \$8,000. For this and other reasons, which were quite obvious, the commission put in a second tender on the property of \$8,500.

The only other tender received at this time, and it remains a question whether such tender was made in writing was that of T. W. Scandrett of \$7,500.

No. 1 committee recommended to the council that Mr. Scandrett's offer be accepted, with the understanding that the site be used for the erection of an office building.

Then followed renewed protests on the part of the commission and The Advertiser.

Entered Protest.

There were addressed to the council prior to its consideration of the committee's recommendation a letter from Kent Campbell, requesting the council to put in a bid on the property; a petition of ratepayers in the vicinity against the disposal of the property to the commission as a sub-station; and a letter from T. H. Baker & Co. and Glen Bros., protesting against the sale of the property for the erection of an office building on the ground that such a move would shut out entirely from their factory plants natural light, which was so absolutely necessary to both of them. Messrs. Baker and Glen favored the sale of the property to the commission as a sub-station or else to some oil company as an oil station.

The result was that the council declined to accept the recommendation of Mr. Scandrett's offer be accepted, and gave instructions that tenders were to be called for a third time.

By way of protest against such action the commission decided in an informal way to withdraw from the bidding and declined to bid on a third tender. The commission felt that the possibility of the erection of an office building was exceedingly remote, and that the sale of both of its previous tenders had been in advance of any others received, the council should dispose of the property by accepting its price of \$8,500.

Only One Received.

The offer of \$10,000 made by Murphy, Gunn & Murphy, on behalf of the Imperial Oil Company was the only one received by the committee when the tenders were opened for the third time at the meeting of No. 1 committee last night. The seven members of the committee were unanimous in voting that the offer be accepted.

It may be that the end is not yet, however, since it is rumored this morning that a large manufacturing concern in the vicinity of the old registry building, and including some of the firms to sign the petition against the disposal of the property as a sub-station, will protest the sale to the oil company, not taking any more kindly to an oil station than to an electric sub-station.

MAYOR AGAINST TAXING SMALL IMPROVEMENTS

"Build Verandas and Better Your Homes," He Advises Citizens.

The abolition of increase in assessment for minor improvements, including the construction of verandas on small dwellings, would do much to increase business in the city, Mayor George Wenigke said today.

Mayor George Wenigke. He came out strongly this morning for this move and declared that he would take it up immediately.

"Tell the people that they will not have a detailed assessment tacked on for building verandas and improving their homes. They will then get busy and brighten up and improve the appearance of their homes. It will provide work for carpenters and some of the unemployed, and it will help businessmen. People should not be penalized for making the city brighter."

AMALGAMATION COMMENDED.

Canadian Press Despatch.

Montreal, Oct. 2.—The amalgamation is to be commended. This was the only comment Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor, general manager of the Bank of Montreal, had to make when seen this morning in connection with the amalgamation of the Standard and Sterling Banks of Canada.

CITY TO CO-OPERATE.

London will co-operate in fire prevention week this month. Though no appropriation was made this year for advertising and publicity grants it is likely that \$250 will be found in the fire department account to look after a fire prevention campaign. The fire department will also co-operate in educational work.



ALD. LEONARD DOUGLASS, chairman of the finance committee, who has been the central figure in the registry office tender tangle.

POCOCK IN FAVOR OF BUILDING DAM

Commissioner Expresses Pleasure in Action Taken by No. 1 Committee.

Commissioner Philip Pocock expressed himself as very much pleased this morning that in view of the action of No. 1 committee last night a bylaw would very likely be passed for the people at the forthcoming election in December in connection with the Springbank dam.

Commissioner Pocock declared himself as very much in favor of the dam as being a distinct advantage to the city both from a scenic and pleasure point of view.

"What proposition," asked Commissioner Pocock, "could be more attractive to the students of the University of Western Ontario than a beautiful river along from the foot of Dundas street to the point near Springbank where the dam is to be put?"

"We are setting out to be a university city and justly so, for I believe that greater possibilities lie in that direction for the city of London than in any other. The university already has 500 students. In another year or two it will have 1,000 or more."

"Then another thing," pursued Commissioner Pocock, "the dam will be equipped with lift gates, electrically controlled, allowing different from the old dam with its stop logs, which necessitated a week of difficult and dangerous hand labor to take out and put back in again. By means of the new style of gates the river can be 'emptied' in a few moments, thus disposing of any sewage there might be."

Women the world over, she declared, abhorred vengeance and detested war. In this connection, she referred to the request of the Italian government that no attempt be made to revenge her slain husband.

You men, Mrs. Swanwick declared, "must act for the women's millions of the world. You must see to it that the security you have promised in the past will this time be different."

Nine delegates participated in the closing debate today. Mr. Bouchard, as his countryman, Aristide Briand, had done yesterday, emphasized the contention that international problems must be solved before all of the causes of the war can be really eliminated. In conclusion he declared that the United States participation in the league.

SEES \$5,000 DAMAGES IN DEATH OF DAUGHTER

Miles McDougall of the Mincey Indian reserve has instituted a \$5,000 damage action to be tried at the supreme court sittings on Oct. 13 against Dr. W. H. Woods, Mount Brydges, and S. R. McVittie, principal of the Mount Elgin institute.

The plaintiff alleges that the defendants were negligent in the blood transfusions have been found to be highly successful in cases of anemia if properly conducted. The new system of transfusion which the Toronto General hospital has introduced will likely be carried out at Victoria hospital, Dr. Clegg stated yesterday.

Mr. McVittie denies that McDougall did not know about the matter, while Dr. Woods, in his statement of defense, asserts that the patient's death was not caused or hastened by any conduct on his part. Both defendants ask that the action be dismissed.

DEMPSEY IS BEST CANUCK, COUNTY SCHOOLBOY CLAIMS

Who is the greatest man in Canada? According to a pupil in one of the London township schools, Jack Dempsey is a "knockout" compared to any other man.

The youngster, who recently wrote the essay for competition in the school fair, declared that Dempsey is the greatest Canadian that ever lived, and is apparently under the impression that the U. S. champion mauler hails from the province of Ontario.

OPEN TUCK SHOP.

A tuck shop is to be opened in the store and postoffice at the University of Western Ontario in a few days. It is expected that a stock of sweaters for the girls and tobacco for the men will be installed. Athletic goods, sweaters and pennants will also find a place in the store, it is said.

COMPROMISE FAILS TO SUIT AUSTRALIA

Commonwealth Makes Plain Her Objection to Interference With Rights.

IMMIGRATION PLAN

Associated Press Despatch.

Sydney, Australia, Oct. 2.—The consensus of opinion here with regard to the compromise arrived at with Japan over the arbitration protocol at Geneva is that Australia is opposed to any interference with Australia's sovereign rights.

The Morning Herald says that Australia will not allow the League of Nations to dictate its immigration policy.

The decision reached was probably to save the face of Japan," the Herald adds. "It is important to note that the clause in question reserves arbitration protocol permissive, not mandatory. We hope the league will think twice before exercising its option in the matter of interfering with Australia's sovereign rights."

To bring the immigration question within the purview of the league would probably lead to the dissolution of the league itself.

The Daily Telegraph says the cable terms of the agreement arrived at in Geneva are insufficient to enable that power to pass judgment thereon, but if the agreement was made subject to any sort of compromise, the Australian delegates made a fatal mistake in accepting it. "There is no room for compromise," the Telegraph declares.

The compromise is a mere device to sanction any action directly or indirectly, which impinges on the sovereign rights of the Australian people."

CONCLUDES WORK.

Associated Press Despatch.

Geneva, Oct. 2.—The fifth assembly of the league of nations today solemnly concluded its work of peace by the unanimous adoption of a resolution urging the governments to ratify the protocol of arbitration and security, providing for the pacific settlement of international disputes.

All of the fifty-two governments represented in the assembly subscribed to the resolution, which was divided into two parts. The first recommended to the earnest attention of all members of the league the adoption of the protocol which provides in addition to clauses covering arbitration and security for the preparation for an international conference for the reduction of armaments. The second part asks that all of the countries accede at the earliest possible moment to the covenant of the league of nations.

The memorable debate before the league, which closed with the adoption of the resolution, ended, the dramatic note of a woman's plea for peace forever banished, because "its first victim is always the child."

The words of Mrs. Helen Swanwick of Great Britain, the last of the delegates to mount the rostrum before the voting. In introducing her, President Moffat declared: "You will all agree with me that the world has it is most fitting that a representative of the world's womanhood should be the last speaker to adhere to our ancient motto."

Mrs. Swanwick spoke gently and in low tones, and her voice carried to every corner of the huge auditorium. She sketched the woes caused to humanity by war. Women the world over, she declared, abhorred vengeance and detested war.

In this connection, she referred to the request of the Italian government that no attempt be made to revenge her slain husband.

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Bedtime Stories.

The Neighborhood Gets Up.

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS

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