

Read report of the City Clerk covering the nomination papers of William Lithgow, Esq., for the office of Alderman for Ward No. 1, he being the only candidate for said office at the election April 30th, 1902.

The City Clerk declares William Lithgow to be duly elected an Alderman of the City of Halifax.

Read report of the City Clerk covering the nomination papers of D. H. Campbell, Esq., for the office of Alderman for Ward No. 2, he being the only candidate for said office at the election held 30th April, 1902.

The City Clerk declares D. H. Campbell duly elected an Alderman of the City of Halifax.

Read returns of the City Clerk, covering the nomination papers of George A. Taylor for the office of Alderman for Ward No. 3, he being the only candidate for said office at the election held 30th April, 1902.

The City Clerk declares George A. Taylor duly elected an Alderman of the City of Halifax.

Read returns of the City Clerk, covering the nomination papers of E. W. O'Donnell, Esq., and Andrew Hubley, Esq., for the office of Alderman for Ward No. 4; also read the returns of the presiding officers at the several polling booths in said ward for the election of an Alderman for said ward, showing Andrew Hubley to have received 302 votes and E. W. O'Donnell 241 votes, giving Andrew Hubley a majority of 61 votes.

The City Clerk declares Andrew Hubley duly elected an Alderman of the City of Halifax.

Read report of the City Clerk covering the nomination papers of William H. Cawsey, Esq., for the office of Alderman for Ward No. 5 of the City of Halifax, he being the only candidate for the office of Alderman for said ward at the election held April 30th, 1902.

The City Clerk declares William H. Cawsey, Esq., duly elected an Alderman of the City of Halifax.

Read report of the City Clerk covering the nomination papers of Charles W. Hayward, Esq., and Isaac Creighton, Esq., for the office of Alderman for Ward No. 6, also read the returns of the presiding officers at the several polling booths in said ward at the election for Alderman held April 30th, 1902, which show as follows: For Charles W. Hayward 494 votes; for Isaac Creighton 295 votes, giving Charles W. Hayward a majority of 199 votes.

The City Clerk declares Charles W. Hayward duly elected an Alderman of the City of Halifax.

Read returns of the City Clerk on the question submitted to the ratepayers on the subject of giving a bonus in aid of Shipbuilding industry. The returns of the presiding officers at the several polling booth show that the vote in favor of giving such bonus was 2,799, against it 226. Filed.

ELECTION RETURNS.

OFFICE OF CITY CLERK, April 30th, 1902.

To His Worship the Mayor and City Council:

Gentlemen,—Pursuant to the provisions of the City Charter and the Acts in amendment thereof in respect to the election for Mayor and Aldermen, I have the honor to submit the following returns of the elections for Mayor and Aldermen held on the 30th day of April inst. I have made separate returns in respect to the election for Mayor and for the election of an Alderman for each Ward, attached to which separate returns are the original nomination papers of the various candidates:

ELECTION FOR MAYOR.

Ward.	Sec.	For Adam B. Crosby.	For Charles S. Lane.
ONE	A	65	122
"	B	93	103
TWO	A	164	167
"	B	130	159
THREE	A	90	78
"	B	103	83
FOUR	A	164	106
"	B	149	116
FIVE	A	156	124
"	B	157	162
SIX	A	196	202
"	B	176	205
		1643	1627

Majority for A. B. Crosby..... 16.

FOR ALDERMAN.

Ward No. One, William Lithgow by acclamation.
 Ward No. Two, Daniel H. Campbell by acclamation.
 Ward No. Three, George A. Taylor by acclamation.

Ward No. Four,	Sec. A.	Sec. B.	Totals.
Andrew Hubley.....	146	156	302
Edmund W. O'Donnell.....	125	116	241
Majority for Andrew Hubley....			61

Ward No. Five, William H. Cawsey by acclamation.

Ward No. Six	Sec. A.	Sec. B.	Totals.
Charles W. Hayward.....	246	248	494
Isaac Creighton.....	161	134	295
Majority for C. W. Hayward....			199

PLEBISCITE ON BONUS TO SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRY.

	Yes.	No.
Are you in favor of the City of Halifax giving \$100,000 to aid in establishing upon the shores of the Harbor of Halifax a yard for building the hulls of iron and steel ships adequate to the construction of not less than twenty thousand tons dead weight capacity annually.....	2799	226
Majority in favor.....		2573

Respectfully submitted,

H. TRENAMAN, City Clerk.

RECOUNT OF VOTES FOR MAYOR.

OFFICE OF CITY CLERK, Halifax, N. S., May 6th, 1902.

His Worship the Mayor and City Council:

GENTLEMEN,—I have the honor to report to you that Charles S. Lane, Esq., one of the candidates in the recent civic election having requested a recount of the ballots cast for Mayor at the said election, I proceeded in accordance with law to make a recount of the votes polled. There were present at the said recount which took place on the 5th and 6th days of May inst., the two candidates for Mayor, Adam B. Crosby, Esq. and Charles S. Lane, Esq., and their agents respectively, Mr. W. B. A. Ritchie and Mr. F. H. Bell and Mr. L. Fred Monaghan whom I appointed to assist me.

As soon as I ascertained the result of the poll I declared to be elected Mayor of the city for the ensuing year, Mr. A. B. Crosby, the candidate having the highest number of votes.

I found the result of the Poll to be as follows :

Ward.	Sec.	Crosby.	Lane.
1	A	65	122
1	B	93	103
2	A	165	167
2	B	130	159
3	A	90	78
3	B	103	83
4	A	164	105
4	B	153	116
5	A	158	124
5	B	157	164
6	A	199	207
6	B	175	204
		1652	1632

Majority for A. B. Crosby 20.

A record of the proceedings at the recount is appended hereto.

Respectfully submitted,

H. TRENAMAN, *City Clerk.*

Read report of the Laws and Privileges Committee in re Census matters.

Filed.

CENSUS MATTERS.

COMMITTEE ROOM, CITY HALL, Halifax, N. S., April 25th, 1902.

Your Committee on Laws and Privileges beg to report that they have had under consideration a letter from W. H. Wiswell, County Clerk and Treasurer, covering a letter from A. Blue, Special Census Commissioner, in re Census matters; and that they caused a map of the City of Halifax to be sent to the Census Commissioner, which conveyed the information called for by his letter.

Respectfully submitted,

R. T. MACILREITH, *Chairman.*

Read letter from E. P. Allison, covering account for taxed costs in suit Hart vs. the City of Halifax.

Moved by Alderman Rogers, seconded by Alderman Campbell, that the matter be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts for report.

Moved in amendment by Alderman Geldert, seconded by Alderman Archibald, that the account be paid.

Names being called for, there appeared :

For the amendment.	Against it.
Aldermen Geldert, Archibald, Robertson, Campbell, Barry, Spry—6.	Aldermen Lamphier, O'Donnell, Martin, Rogers, Creighton, Hawkins —6.

The Deputy Mayor gives his casting vote in favor of the amendment and declares it carried.

Read report of the Laws and Privileges Committee re Mrs. Reilly's claim and in the matter of Smith vs. the City of Halifax.

REPORT LAWS AND PRIVILEGES COMMITTEE.

COMMITTEE ROOM, CITY HALL, Halifax, N. S., April 28, 1902.

His Worship the Mayor and City Council :

Gentlemen,—The Committee on Laws and Privileges beg leave to report as follows :

MRS. REILLY'S CLAIM.

Mrs. Reilly claims \$250 for extra work performed by her late husband, W. F. Reilly, Clerk of Works. Your Committee find that Mrs. Reilly was paid the amount of six months' salary after her husband's death, and beg to report that they feel they would not be justified in recommending any further grant, could they do so legally, which they cannot.

SMITH VS. CITY OF HALIFAX.

Your Committee reported to the Council on this matter on March 11th last, and the report was referred back to the Committee for further consideration. The Committee have again considered the subject, and find no reason for departing from the recommendation made in their former report.

Respectfully submitted,

R. T. MACILREITH, *Chairman.*

Moved by Alderman Geldert, seconded by Alderman Robertson, that said report be adopted. Motion passed.

Read report of Laws and Privileges Committee in re providing scales at the foot of Young Street for the weighing of coals, etc.

COAL SCALES.

COMMITTEE ROOM, CITY HALL, Halifax, N. S., April 25th, 1902.

Your Committee on Laws and Privileges beg to report that they have had under consideration a report from the City Works Commission re scales at foot of Young Street, Richmond, for the weighing of coal; and also a letter from the Minister of Railways and Canals in reference to the same matter; and have to report that no suitable site can be found at the foot of Young Street for the location of such scales.

Respectfully submitted,

R. T. MACILREITH, *Chairman.*

Moved by Alderman Rogers, seconded by Alderman Martin, that said report be adopted. Motion passed.

Read report of Tax Committee on Government contributing to civic taxation.

GOVERNMENTS' CONTRIBUTING TO CITY TAXES.

COMMITTEE ROOM, CITY HALL, Halifax, N. S., April 25, 1902.

Your Committee on Taxation beg to report as follows:

They have under consideration a letter from R. L. Borden, M. P., covering petition of the City of Ottawa re Imperial, Federal and Provincial Governments contributing to City revenue for Municipal services, and that by leave of Council granted by resolution on the 24th day of January your Committee on Taxation have presented petitions to both the Local and Dominion Governments on the lines followed by the City of Ottawa asking them that these governments should contribute either by fixed bonus or annual grant a sum towards defraying the cost of the Municipal services from which they derive a benefit.

R. T. MACLEITH, *Chairman.*

Moved by Alderman Geldert, seconded by Alderman Archibald, that said report be adopted. Motion passed.

Read report of the City Works Commission re application of George E. VanBuskirk for grant of water lot at foot of Morris Street,

WATER LOT MORRIS ST.

CITY WORKS OFFICE, Halifax, N. S., May 2nd, 1902.

The City Council :

Gentlemen,—Your Commission beg to report that they have under consideration the accompanying resolution of Council referring to the report of the Laws and Privileges Committee in re Application of George E. Van Buskirk for grant of water lot at foot of Morris Street to the City Works Commission to protect the interests of the City and to preserve the City's rights at the foot of Morris Street.

Your Commission, after consulting His Honor the Recorder, have to report that in their opinion the City has no power to interfere with that portion of the lot in front of the property at present held by Jacob Miller, and in line with Morris Street.

R. T. MACLEITH, *Deputy-Mayor and Chairman.*

Moved by Alderman O'Donnell, seconded by Alderman Barry that said report be adopted.

Moved in amendment that the City Clerk write the Department of Marine and Fisheries of the Dominion Government stating the objections of the city to granting said lot to any person, and to protest strongly against any such grant being made.

Moved by Alderman Geldert, seconded by Alderman Martin, and passed.

Read report of Committee on Public Accounts recommending sundry accounts for payment.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

COMMITTEE ROOM, CITY HALL, May 9, 1902.

To His Worship The Mayor and City Council :

Gentlemen,—The Committee on Public Accounts beg to recommend for payment the following named accounts, all of which have been certified and found correct, viz: Halifax Herald, advertising, \$18.00 and \$11.25—\$29.25; Chas. Putman, bill posting, \$14.00; Blackadar Bros., advertising, \$21.48; T. C. Allan & Co., stationery, blank books, printing, etc, Stipendiary Magistrate, \$3.00, City Assessor, \$23.75, City Recorder, \$53.95, Police Dept. \$15.03, City Auditor, \$11.05, City Treasurer, \$31.90, City Clerk, \$121.90, City Collector, \$75.20—\$345.78 Total \$410 51.

R. T. MACLEITH, *Chairman.*

Moved by Alderman Campbell, seconded by Alderman Robertson, that said report be adopted. Motion passed.

Read application of George Henry Jost, trustee of Mary Noble, for commutation of common lot.

Moved by Alderman Rogers, seconded by Alderman Campbell, that the same be referred to the City Works Commission for report. Motion passed.

Read report of Committee on Public Accounts re County Assessment.

COUNTY ASSESSMENT.

COMMITTEE ROOM, City Hall, Halifax, N. S., April 30, 1902.

To the City Council:

Gentlemen,—Your Committee on Public Accounts beg to report that they have had under consideration the Estimates prepared by the Municipality of Halifax County for the year 1902 chargeable to joint account of City, County and Dartmouth, and beg to report thereon as follows:

That they appointed a sub-committee consisting of the Chairman and His Honor the Recorder, who appeared before the County Council, which was then in session, to bring to the attention of said Council the inequality in assessment which exists between the City and County and the City and Dartmouth, and also to point out that the City does not consider itself liable under Chapter 73 of the Revised Statutes, 1900, to contribute any portion of the interest on Court House Loans or the Sinking Fund nor to pay any portion of the Printing, Stationery and Book Accounts, nor any part of the Clerk and Treasurer's salary.

Your Committee also decided to ask the Municipal Council to appoint a sub-committee to act with them for the purpose of interviewing the Government with the object of having the Government grant toward defraying the expenses of the Court House increased. The joint Committee waited upon the members of the Government, who promised to give this matter favorable consideration.

The joint Committee also brought to the attention of the Government the large increase in the costs attending criminal prosecutions and the Clerk of the Crown accounts; and the members of the Government promised to remedy this matter by placing the law as to witness fees back where it stood a few years ago.

Your Committee find that while real estate and personal property in the City of Halifax is assessed up to its full value and in many cases in excess of the full value, real estate and personal property in the Town of Dartmouth and in the County of Halifax outside the City and Dartmouth, especially in the case of the County assessment, is not assessed on an average at anything like its proper value.

Your Committee think that it would be in the interests of the City if a fixed sum could be agreed upon to be paid the County by way of bonus for say a period of ten years, and unless the County would be willing to make some such arrangement as this resort should be had to arbitration as set out in the Assessment Act.

Of the items chargeable to the joint account of the City, County and Dartmouth, the City at the present time pays about 171 parts, the County 38 parts, and Dartmouth 11 parts. If the valuation of the County and Dartmouth were placed at a fair and reasonable figure the proportion paid by the City of Halifax would be very considerably reduced.

Your Committee would, therefore, recommend, that a Committee should be appointed by the Council for the purpose of interviewing the Government at a future day, to be arranged for, and also to meet with any Committee the Town of Dartmouth or the Municipal Council may appoint in order that this vexed question of assessment between the City, County and Town of Dartmouth should be finally and satisfactorily settled.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

R. T. MACLEITH, *Chairman.*

Moved by Alderman Geldert, seconded by Alderman Campbell, that said report be adopted. Motion passed.

Read letter from Rev. Robert Laing, President of the Halifax Ladies' College, offering to sell a strip of land to be taken from the College property for the purpose of widening Harvey Street.

WIDENING HARVEY STREET.

HALIFAX, N. S., 8th May, 1902.

To the City Council of the City of Halifax :

GENTLEMEN,—At a meeting of the Board of Governors of the Halifax Ladies' College held 2nd May, 1902, the following resolution was passed and ordered to be sent to the City Council :

"Whereas, numerous appeals have been made to members of this Board and to the public, through the press, to have Harvey Street widened by a strip of land to be taken from the College property. It is agreed that such strip of land about 8 feet wide be offered for sale to the City for the purpose named upon conditions to be agreeable to the Board and that the price of said strip of land be left to Arbitration."

ROBERT LAING,

President Halifax Ladies' College.

Moved by Alderman Geldert, seconded by Alderman Robertson, that the same be referred to the City Works Commission for report. Motion passed.

Read Annual Report of the Committee on Charities for the civic year 1901-2. Filed.

Read letter from the Deputy Mayor covering a copy of a letter from the Secretary of the Union of Canadian Municipalities and a copy of its objects and work.

UNION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES.

MAYOR'S OFFICE, Halifax, N. S., May 9th, 1902.

To the City Council :

Gentlemen,—

I have to transit herewith copy of a letter from the Secretary of the "Union of Canadian Municipalities" to the President of the Union; also an interim report of the progress of the "Union of Canadian Municipalities," and a copy of its objects and work.

It was the intention of His Worship the Mayor to prepare a full report on this Association and the benefits to be derived from membership therein; but owing to his illness it was impossible for him to prepare such a report.

Yours faithfully,

R. T. MACREITH, *Deputy Mayor.*

MONTREAL, Feb. 3rd, 1902.

MAYOR HOWLAND, C. M. G.,

President Union Can. Municipalities,

Toronto, Ont.

Dear Mr. President:

A slight illness has delayed my reply to yours of the 29th and 31st Jany. Taking the latter first,—the call of Fort William for assistance in its steps to acquire part of Kakabeka Falls for its light and power requirements,—I am in favor of supporting them in a demand for the right of expropriation of whatever portion of the waterfall may be sufficient to amply secure their future needs in

both light and power. The right of expropriation outside the corporate limits is not unusual. I think Boston has it, for parks indirectly under the Metropolitan Park Commission. In fact it is very frequent for parks. Quebec cities have sometimes power to own roads and other property outside their limits. But in any event, such expropriations are in the spirit of present day doctrine in the authors on municipal affairs. Vested rights, of course, ought to be respected, but expropriation respects them.

I am asking the County of Waterloo to send you their petition to Parliament also re level crossings.

Next, taking up your letter of the 29th, I beg to make the following:—

INTERIM REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE UNION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES.

At the successful convention of August last in Toronto, there were present the representatives of 55 towns and cities, including the principal ones in Ontario, and Halifax, St. John, N. B., Winnipeg and Westmount; while New Westminster and Vancouver formally, and several other places informally had expressed their intention to be present, or their concurrence.

In Resolution No. 9 of the Convention these Municipalities, under the phrase "already members" were recognized as charter members. Nevertheless the following have since expressly confirmed this recognition by transmitting special resolutions to the Secretary, by forwarding payment of fees, or both:—Toronto, Fort Erie, Petrolia, St. Henri, Ottawa, Winnipeg, Kingston, Cornwall, St. Lambert, Westmount, Hamilton, the County of Victoria, Ont., the County of Oxford, Ont., Tilsonburg, Walkerville, Woodstock, Fort William, Township of York, County of Kent, County of Waterloo, County of Halton, and New Westminster, B. C., Montreal, Verdun, and Ste. Cunegonde are shortly expected, making twenty-six, of which eight are new.

So many special replies, in my opinion, show that the membership roll is sound. The necessary slowness of deliberative bodies, and the disturbances of election period, are to be taken into calculation. The entire roll in immediate sight is therefore sixty-five, and when it is considered that each of the sixty-five is a great community, the power of the Union is very satisfactory. An element of strength is the adhesion of most of the principal cities of Canada, the rest of which may in time be duly expected. The Province of Ontario has naturally been the backbone of the movement, having been the scene of the first Convention, but there are signs that the other Provinces can be brought to do their share. To this end the Provincial Executives should be looked to, and I have recently appealed to them to act. Mayor Arbuthnot, of Winnipeg, First Vice-President for Manitoba, has just written, undertaking to communicate with the towns and other municipalities of his Province. No doubt the other Executives will soon be heard from.

The funds of the Union thus far received have been small, \$126.35 in all, of which \$23.30 has been expended. The contribution of Toronto, \$50.00, should be added, as it has been used towards the printing and distributing of the Report. Though the receipts have been small, there is still a good deal to collect, and we shall do quite well for the present with a few hundred dollars. Collecting has been postponed until the membership was ascertained, but can now be proceeded with. To save expense during the experimental stage, the present Honorary Secretary-Treasurer has transacted all the business personally, with the assistance of typewriting paid for as required. A safe and prudent financial course during the present year is necessary, although I think that a limited sum should not be grudged for important services, such as occasional attendance at Parliament, or printing circulars advantageous to our members, even if the sum in hand be somewhat exceeded; special expenses in support of any particular municipality ought to be understood as being borne by the municipality. We do not seem in a position to undertake regular law expenses this year.

Notwithstanding that the Press has not yet been approached in any way for support or attention, a good deal of unobtrusive public interest has been aroused

in the Union. The time has now arrived for it to justify a part of its usefulness by action in Parliament and the Legislatures. It should, therefore, immediately arrange a vigorous programme. The Secretary, for his part, places himself at the call of the President for the purpose. The President has well remarked that,—“membership is most likely to be added in connection with some active question.” Some such questions have been started in our resolutions. Others come to us in the form of appeals by particular municipalities. I find that in replying to member's letters, my assurance “that the support of the Union is at their disposal for any objects within its proper powers,” is received with the greatest satisfaction. The case of the City of Hamilton before the Railway Committee on the objection to contribute to a railway crossing was one case in which the Union rendered such assistance. The town of Fort William, as above stated, calls for our help in its request about to be made to the Ontario Legislature for power to expropriate part of Kakabeka Falls for the light and power requirements of that growing town. The County of Waterloo asks similar support in its forthcoming appeal to Parliament to mitigate the level crossing nuisance by which one of the members of its Council lost his life in broad daylight on his way to the Council meeting. The Bell Telephone Co. bill will again be presented this session, and clauses oppressive to municipalities may have to be opposed. It is a pity that the great Companies do not try to come to a basis of understanding with the cities in place of entering into contests with them. It should be for the Union to define where the rights of both are to be respected. In the Legislature of Quebec, legislation is also in question involving franchise principles vital to municipalities, and in these the local Executive and members will try to do their part although the task may prove too heavy for much present success. Still, a brave fight sometimes produces unlooked for victories, and the sympathy of the people at least is with us.

To conclude, there are unmistakable indications in the correspondence of a feeling throughout Canada that the Union is undertaking to fill a remarkable need. It is incumbent upon us to rise to the occasion, and if we can now prove that we can do so, we shall, I think, have begun a new era for the people of the Dominion.

Yours, very truly,

W. D. LIGHHALL.

Hon. Sec. Union of Canadian Municipalities.

THE UNION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES.—ITS OBJECTS AND WORK.

The Union, formed last August at the Toronto Convention, now contains 75 members, including nearly all the principal cities of Canada and many towns and other municipalities. Its objects are:—

“First—The perpetuation of the Organization as an agency for the co-operation of Canadian Municipalities in all questions pertaining to Municipal Administration.

Second—In particular the guidance and improvement of legislation, both of the Dominion and the Provinces, upon municipal questions and the betterment of Municipal Government and the promotion of Municipal interests generally.

Third—The holding of Annual Conventions for discussion, information and resolutions on the above subjects.

Fourth—The securing of united action for the protection of individual Municipalities and Municipal interests as a whole against legislative or other encroachments of corporations.

The Executive Committee have acted on the conviction that it would best prove its utility by definite achievements and they now beg to report briefly the following results of several months hard work on their part.

FIRST—A Memorial was presented by the Union early in the Session to the Dominion Parliament protesting against the encroachments on municipal control of streets, through private bills by companies.

A similar Memorial was presented to the Ontario Legislature and one to that of Quebec. These notifications caused the modification of a number of such bills, and the wishes of the Union have been since frequently sought by the lawyers of Companies with respect to proposed bills. The Memorials have also acted as a notice that the Union will press this question until municipal control of streets is finally recognized throughout Canada.

SECOND—A number of bills have been directly modified or thrown out altogether by the direct action of the Executive. Among these are:—

(3). The Provincial Light, Heat and Power, Beauharnois Light, H. & P., the Pulp & Power Co. of N. America, before the Legislature of Quebec.

(4). The Maclean Telegraph and Telephone Bill for the general regulation of these businesses throughout the Dominion.

(5). The Government Telegraph and Telephone Bill for the same purposes.

(6). The Bell Telephone Co.'s Bill to increase its capital stock from \$5,000,000 to \$10,000,000.

The latter three bills deal with one of the most important questions in the country. On the representations of the Union the Railway Committee of the Commons postponed the Government and Maclean Bills till next Session, and the Government have meanwhile arranged with us that the whole matter shall be gone into thoroughly by a commission on which the Union shall be represented. Our aim will, of course, be to obtain full recognition of the rights of municipalities in control of streets, franchises, long distance connection, fair adjustment of rates, and other points. Concerning the application of the Bell Company to double its capital, the Union pressed strongly for its postponement also till the general legislation should be passed, as the Company has a virtual monopoly, and although the Senate was against us on the point, some important restrictions were inserted in its bill, namely:—

THIRD.—Eighty petitions and many telegrams from places of importance were sent to the Dominion Government concerning these matters at the call of the Union. The weight of this organization can be readily estimated.

FOURTH.—By the course taken on this question not only have municipalities generally been benefited, but the hands of our member the City of Toronto have been greatly strengthened in its individual battle for its streets against the Bell Company.

FIFTH.—Our actions have been largely directed also to secure all possible protection and benefits to the large number of small municipalities in the country.

SIXTH.—Our member the City of Montreal was supported with effect in the matter of the Terminal Company against it before the Railway Committee of the Privy Council. The Company had previously obtained a Dominion Charter which virtually amounted to a grant by the Dominion of the power to establish a local street railway in the City of Montreal. The Union were called upon to assist in opposing the operation of the grant, the principle of which was evidently a flagrant breach of provincial and municipal jurisdiction. The executive therefore, made a special point of assisting at the hearing and of supporting the representatives of Montreal Council by the presence of the Mayors of Toronto, Hamilton, Winnipeg, St. John, N. B., Westmount, Ottawa, and other places. All municipalities would have heard with strong disapproval of the forcing of such a principle upon any city. The Union's action had the desired result and was acknowledged by a resolution of the Council, of Montreal, thanking the Executive.

SEVENTH.—The next day before the same committee the Executive supported our member the City of Winnipeg in resisting an application by the C. P. R. to compel it to contribute to the cost of a subway for that railway under one of

the streets. The city, we regret to say, was condemned to contribute one-sixth of the cost, but will continue its resistance and Executive intend to lend it every aid in their power in the spirit of the special resolution of last year's Convention.

EIGHTH.—Our member the Town of Fort William was specially supported in its bill before the Ontario Legislature for the right to acquire part of Kakabeka Falls for its light and power and the result was favorable. The Executive has received from the Town a resolution of thanks.

NINTH.—The Executive endorsed and supported a petition by the County of Waterloo to Parliament against dangerous local crossings in towns and cities. This question should be pressed home, as it is a crying evil of increasing force.

TENTH.—The strength of the Union being readily recognized, and its composition respected by the various Governments and Legislatures, experience has quickly proven that if we can lend support and protection to individual towns from the want of which they have hitherto frequently suffered and which should be of great use in the future. While our courses are scrupulously non-political it can be seen that the recorded approval or disapproval of measures and men by such an association must necessarily have an influence. The Union has also produced a beneficial intercourse between the municipal authorities of various palces.

ELEVENTH.—Its operations have proved it an effective enemy of corrupting influences in legislation.

The Executive now feel that the Union has justified its existence. Convinced that if supported, far more decisive results can be attained, they ask for the hearty aid of all municipalities, expressed in the form of membership and prompt payment of the subscriptions.

The following is the scale of fees to be paid by members:—

Townships, Parishes and Incorporated Villages	\$ 2 00
Counties	5 00
Towns and Cities with a population under 10,000	5.00
Towns and Cities with a population under 50,000	10.00
Cities with a population over 50,000.....	25.00

No one knows better than an experienced municipal council that the need of such an institution has been very great. In the words of a distinguished member of the Canadian Bench, "It is absolutely necessary."

The committee trust that they will soon be able to commence arrangements for the Second Annual Convention, which is their object to make of practical benefit, and to that end they invite suggestions from municipalities.

They would also call the attention of members to their desire that the Union should be used as a bureau of information on municipal matters generally.

Montreal, April 1902.

OLIVER A. HOWLAND (Mayor of Toronto), President.

W. D. LIDTHALL (Mayor of Westmount), Vice Pres. and Hon. Sec.

Moved by Alderman Rogers, seconded by Alderman Robertson, that the same be filed and printed in the Minutes of Council. Motion passed.

Read report of Committee on Laws and Privileges in re Dry Dock Assessment.

DRY DOCK ASSESSMENT.

COMMITTEE ROOM, CITY HALL, Halifax, N. S., April 30th, 1902.

His Worship the Mayor and City Council:

Gentlemen,—

Your Committee on Laws and Privileges have had under consideration the resolution of Council passed January 29th, 1902, requiring your Committee to report on the Assessment of the Dry Dock during the past five years.

Your Committee went very carefully into this matter, and after hearing the City Collector, City Assessor and His Honor the Recorder, (Chairman of the Court of Appeal from Civic Assessment), find the following facts:—

That the Halifax Graving Dock Company from its inception up to the year 1897, enjoyed under various Acts of the Legislature of Nova Scotia certain relief from assessment; but that until 1897 no action had been taken by the Council under the latter part of Section 4 Chapter 23 of the Acts of 1881, and the five years' exemption from taxation which the Council might give under the earlier part of the section was granted. This section reads as follows:—

"The City of Halifax may, in addition to said subsidy, exempt such Company and its property from the payment of all rates and taxes assessed or to be assessed within the City of Halifax for a period not exceeding five years, and may for the purposes of assessment within said City permanently reduce the value of said Dock and property to one-third of their actual value."

At a meeting of Council held on 29th December, 1896, a letter was read from S. M. Brookfield covering a petition from the Halifax Graving Dock Company, Limited, asking that the property of said Company be relieved of taxation until such time as the nett yearly returns are sufficient to meet the debenture bonds of the Company; also covering a document signed by Robert Boak and others endorsing the application of the petitioners. This was placed on the Order Paper.

On January 18th, 1897, the letter from Mr. Brookfield and the petition from the Halifax Graving Dock Company, Limited, were taken up and on motion a Committee was appointed to consider and report on the subject matter of the petition. This Committee, through its Chairman, on February 1st, 1897, reported recommending that a license fee be imposed on the Dock proper, and that the valuation of the lands, buildings and machinery be taxed on the Assessors' valuation of \$35,000 at the current rate of assessment. A resolution was introduced by the Chairman of the Committee embodying this recommendation. An amendment to said resolution was moved, as follows:—

"Resolved, that the Halifax Graving Dock Company be valued at \$200,000, and that it be assessed at one-third that valuation for the purpose of taxation, for five years."

This amendment carried and a copy of it was sent to the Board of Assessors and to the Court of Appeal from Assessment.

At the time the petition of the Graving Dock Company for relief from taxation was presented to the Council the Assessors valued the property, dock and premises at \$500,000, and it was from this assessment that the petitioners craved relief. Under section 4 of chapter 23, above set out, the City Council had no power to fix the value of the Dock and property. They were only empowered for the purpose of assessment within the City to permanently reduce the value of the Dock and property to one-third of their actual value. In other words, the actual value of the Dock would be the value placed upon it by the City Assessors and on appeal by the Court of Appeal from Assessment, and when such value had been so fixed the Council might resolve to permanently reduce that value for the purposes of assessment by two-thirds. The valuation as found by the Assessors being \$500,000, the Council could have fixed the valuation under this section at one-third of \$500,000, viz.: \$166,666.00. Instead of doing this they took upon themselves to fix the actual value of the Dock at \$200,000.

i. e., they cut off \$300,000 of the Assessors' valuation, and then after fixing the actual valuation at \$200,000 they resolved to reduce the value of the Dock and property for purposes of assessment to one-third of the actual value as fixed by the Council. This proceeding was altogether irregular and illegal. The Graving Dock Company appealed in 1897 from the valuation fixed by the Assessors, viz.: \$500,000, to the Court of Appeal from Assessment, and the Court of Appeal, as appears from their Minute Book, acting under the resolution of Council previously referred to, decided that the Dock should be valued at \$200,000 and be assessed at one-third for purposes of taxation, viz.: \$66,000. The Recorder, who is Chairman of the Court of Appeal, agrees that the action of the Council was illegal, and further agrees that the Court of Appeal had no right to accept any resolution of the Council fixing the value of the property. Under the City Charter the function of the Court of Appeal is to fix the value of property to the best of its judgment. The action, therefore, of the Court of Appeal in fixing the valuation of the Dry Dock for purposes of Assessment at \$66,000 was also irregular.

The period for which this exemption was given expires this year and next year the dock and property will come under the general assessment law, unless the Council sees fit to grant further exemption. As the Dry Dock Company has been already assessed on the above basis this year and their property valued at \$66,000, your Committee cannot discover any means by which they can be compelled to pay an assessment on one-third of the actual value of their property. The result of the act of the Council in passing their resolution of February 1st, 1897, has been to deprive the City of Halifax of the sum of \$100,000 for purposes of assessment for five years, and so far as your Committee can find the City has no recourse against the Company.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

R. T. MACILREITH, *Chairman.*

Moved by Alderman Rogers, seconded by Alderman Hawkins, that said report be adopted. Motion passed.

Read letter from the City Engineer, announcing the death of the foreman of the City Blacksmith shop, Mr. Joseph Scriven.

DEATH OF JOSEPH SCRIVEN.

MAY 9th, 1902.

His Worship the Mayor :

Sir,—I beg to notify you, officially, that the position of Foreman of the City Blacksmith shop is vacant, in consequence of the recent death of Mr. Joseph Scriven.

Respectfully submitted,

F. W. W. DOANE, *City Engineer.*

Moved by Alderman Rogers, seconded by Alderman Martin, that said letter be filed and that applications for the position be advertised for. Motion passed.

On motion the Order of the Day is suspended to allow Alderman Geldert to introduce a resolution, and the following resolution is introduced :

Whereas, a vacancy has taken place in the representation of Ward Three in this Council by one of the Aldermen for said ward accepting a nomination for the Mayoralty at the recent civic election, and it is desirable that said office should be filled by an election;

Therefore Resolved, that said office of Alderman be and is hereby declared vacant, and that His Worship the Mayor fix a day for the election of a duly qualified person to fill the vacant office for the unexpired time, and that Aldermen Spry and Taylor be the presiding officers.

Moved by Alderman Geldert, seconded by Alderman Archibald, and passed.

The Deputy Mayor announces Wednesday, the 21st day of May, inst., as the time when such election shall be held.

The Deputy Mayor submits an address on retiring from the position of Deputy Mayor of the City of Halifax for the civic year 1901-2.

DEPUTY MAYOR'S RETIRING ADDRESS.

MAYOR'S OFFICE, CITY HALL, Halifax, N. S., April 30, 1902.

Gentlemen of the City Council:

Having had to perform for a considerable portion of the year just closing the duties of the Mayor, owing to the regrettable absence, on account of illness, of His Worship, I availed myself of the opportunity thus afforded me of securing an insight into the internal workings of our civic machinery, and I now feel it to be my duty to bring to your attention what appear to be weak spots in our methods, to make such suggestions as I think, if adopted, would bring about improvements, and to touch briefly upon some of the matters which engaged your attention during the past year.

FINANCES AND TAXATION.

First, let me say a word about our finances and rate of taxation—I am happy to be able to inform you that the Act dealing with our funded debt and providing a sinking fund for the reduction of the same, which unanimously passed this Council, was adopted without amendment by the Local Legislature. The Provisions of this Act, as you are aware, are most stringent, and, if they are carried out to the letter, good must unquestionably come from their enactment. The fair credit of our City, as a result, will be placed on a sound basis and when next we have to go into the money market for the purpose of borrowing, which should not be for years to come, we will find investors looking with a great deal more favor on our bonds and debentures. We have already derived some benefit from the passage of this Act in that we have been saved the cost of advertising for short loan made a few weeks ago for the sum of \$13,000.00 required for steam roller, street fund, and dry dock subsidy, by being able to award it to the trustees of our sinking fund without any charge whatever for the effecting of the loan. At the same time being permitted to invest our sinking fund in our own bonds at par we are able to do better for sinking fund than we otherwise could. We have also been able to purchase at par a number of old City of Halifax bonds bearing 6 per cent. interest.

As to the estimated expenditure for the coming year, it is perhaps needless for me to point out to you that if the expenditure over which you, gentlemen, have control had not been increased by the extra amount asked for by the Board of Health (\$1,500.00), School Board (5,500), County of Halifax (\$500.00), Provincial Exhibit on (\$671.00), and the first instalment with interest payable in connection with the visit of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales (\$670.00), your total assessment would have been the sum of \$397,567.00. As the amount levied by way of license fees on banks, incorporated companies, etc., in lieu of taxes and by way of poll taxes amounts to \$40,500.00, the amount to be assessed on real and personal property for the coming year is \$357,067.00. The assessment roll just returned by the Assessors show the valuation of real and personal property to be \$21,413,400.00. It is therefore apparent that if it had not been for the increased amount required as before set out, our tax rate for the coming year would have been \$1.68 per \$100.00, and this, notwithstanding the fact that you increased the sum appropriated to the Board of Works \$5,000.00 for street service.

Had you taken the total amount to the credit of the Unexpended Balances Account, which you could have legally done and which has been done on many previous occasions, the rate would have been further reduced by seven cents, making it \$1.61 per \$100. In 1903 a considerable sum will be added to our property

valuation, as the Sugar Refinery (now exempt) which the Assessors this year valued at \$300,000.00, and the Dry Dock, which so vitally affects our citizens, and \$500,000 (now assessed at \$66,000.00) will both come under our general assessment Act, the period of total exemption in the former case and partial exemption in the latter case, expiring next year.

By practicing strict economy the expenditure can be surely kept within the present limits, if not slightly reduced, and with the above addition to our assessable property the rate should be very materially decreased for the year 1903.

During the year just closing you have had the Assessment Act under review, and the report of the Special Committee which you appointed to go into the matter of assessment and, if possible, to devise some method by which the burden of taxation might be more equitably distributed has filed a report which should have the early consideration of the incoming Council, and which should, at least, if fairly and conscientiously dealt with, form a basis for a full discussion and consideration of this vexed question.

The Council, if it so desires, may also have the benefit of the full and valuable report made within a few months by the Commission appointed by the Government of Ontario.

That the present Act bears heavily on Manufacturers the Council has recognized time and again, and in trying to afford relief to this class has followed the admittedly pernicious system of passing special legislation. As it appeared to be impossible at the time to agree on any general law which would treat the real estate owner, the retailer, the wholesaler, the manufacturer and the professional man with equal fairness, and it was undoubtedly advisable, if Halifax is ever to amount to anything, to encourage by all means the establishment of large industrial concerns in our City, the special Legislation seemed to be the only way out of the difficulty; but now the whole question should be taken up and grappled with, not with the idea of benefitting one class of our people over any other, but with the sole object in view of doing that, irrespective of class, which appears to be in the best interest of our City.

As the question of taxation is one which so vitally affects our citizens, and one in which it seems to me they should have a voice, and as any reform to be effective must in a great measure overthrow the present system, I would like to impress upon you, gentlemen, the desirability of dealing with the matter before the Assessors begin next year's assessment.

In order that the taxpayers should fully understand the effect of any changes we may propose and have a practicable example of the way the change will effect them individually, I would suggest that the Assessors when leaving with the taxpayer the notice under the present Act should also be required to leave a statement showing what the individual's taxes would be under whatever changes the Council proposes. Our citizens could then either attend before the Committee of the Legislature prepared to discuss the proposed Act clearly and practically, or, if an opportunity were given of taking a plebiscite, the question could be voted on intelligently.

While on this question of taxation, I desire to call attention to the sum assessed each year to pay the City's portion of the amount chargeable to the joint account of the City, County and Dartmouth. This matter is fixed by the Assessment Act, Chapter 73 of the Revised Statutes, 1900, and the amount for which the City is liable is calculated as follows: On the completion of the annual assessment in every City and Town the Mayor or other presiding officer is required to transmit to the Clerk of the Municipality of the County of which the City or Town before it was incorporated formed a part, a statement in writing showing the amount of the valuation of property and income in such City or Town upon which the rates for the current year are intended to be made, and the Clerk of the Municipality of the County on completion of the assessment is required to transmit to the Mayor or other presiding officer of every City and Town a statement in writing showing the amount of the valuation of the property and income in such Municipality as assessed, and also as soon as the sum is fixed by the Municipal Council a statement of the amount required for County purposes. The

Clerk of the Municipality is then required to add the amounts of the valuations contained in the statements transmitted to him by the Mayors or other presiding officers of the Cities or Towns and the valuation of the property and income in the Municipality, according to the Assessment Roll, and from the total valuation so ascertained and from the amount required for County purposes he is required to compute the rate per centum upon such total valuation necessary to produce such required amount. After doing this such Clerk is required to transmit to the Mayor or other presiding officer of such City or Town a statement in writing showing the amount apportioned to be paid by such City or Town for County purposes, and on receipt of this the Councils of the Cities and Towns are required to rate the respective Cities and Towns for this amount; and when collected the sum so rated must be paid over to the Municipality. The Act further provides that the Council of every Municipality, City and Town shall annually, at the meeting at which its annual officers are appointed, appoint a Committee of its members, not exceeding five, to be called "The Arbitration Committee," and after doing this such Council is required to refer to such Arbitration Committee, and such Arbitration Committee is given power on behalf of its Council to adjust the following matters:—(a) The objects of Municipal expenditure which are for the joint benefit of the Municipality and the Cities and Towns; (b) the proportion of such expenditure which, having regard to a uniform standard of assessment shall be borne by the Municipality and the Cities and Towns respectively. In the event of such Arbitration Committees failing to agree on the above matters the Act provides for the appointment of three arbitrators to whom such matters shall be referred and whose award shall determine them. One of such arbitrators is appointed by each Council and a third chosen by the arbitrators so appointed. If any Council neglects or refuses to appoint such arbitrator, then such appointment is required to be made by the Governor-in-Council on behalf of such Council and if the two arbitrators fail to agree on a third the Governor-in-Council is required to appoint one, and the decision of such arbitrators, or any two of them, is final.

For some years this matter of assessment between the City and County has been the cause of much dissatisfaction; first, in respect to which objects of Municipal expenditure are for the joint benefit of the County and City, and secondly on account of the inequality which exists between the valuations in the City, the Town of Dartmouth and the County.

In 1887 a Committee of the City Council was appointed to meet with a Committee of the County Council, and that Joint Committee after several meetings recommended that for the year 1887 and future years the City should pay 9-11 of the amount estimated by the County Council for the items mentioned in the Estimates for 1886, omitting "Hospital for Insane," "Revisors and Assessors" and "Sundry unpaid accounts and bounties."

The question came up again in 1890 and a conference was held in May of that year between representatives of the City and County, when it was agreed that the following items in the estimates for 1890 should be struck out of the amount payable by the City of Halifax, viz:—"Postage and expressage," "Warden and Councillors' pay," "Election expenses," "Salary of Stipendiary Magistrate," "Contingent Fund," "Auditors," "Constable." The disputed items of "Clerk and Treasurer" and "Printing and Stationery" were allowed to stand for that year, the City not to be precluded from questioning the same in any subsequent year. This agreement was to stand as a basis on which the estimates should be prepared of charges in common between the City and County for three years from that date. After said three years should elapse neither party was to be precluded from questioning any of the items. Under this agreement the City was required to pay 9-11 of the expenditure under the following heads:—

County Jail,
Court House,
Yearly interest on Court House,
Coroner's Inquests,
Grand Jury and Secretary,
Petit and Special Juries,

Crown Witnesses,
Sheriff's Accounts,
Criers and Constables of Courts,
Clerk and Treasurer of County,
Revising Jury Lists,
Printing and Stationery.

The question next came up in 1899, when another conference was held between the City and County representatives at which meeting the representatives of the City protested against the City paying 9-11 of "Court House Expenditure and interest thereon," "Sheriff's accounts," "Printing and Stationery" and "Salary of Clerk and Treasurer." The result of this conference was that the portion of the salary of the County Clerk and Treasurer payable by the City was reduced from \$1,300 to \$400, and the further consideration of the other items in dispute were deferred for the year.

Until this year nothing further was done in the matter. It comes up now afresh, owing to the largely increased amount which the County is asking for this year. Last year the amount asked for was \$9,500.00. This year the amount is \$11,157.70—an increase of \$1,657.70. When the first agreement was reached in 1887 the proportion which the valuation of real and personal property in the City of Halifax bore to the total valuation of the City, County and Dartmouth was about 9-11. Last year the valuation of real and personal property in the City amounted to \$21,350,000; in the County \$2,326,000; and Dartmouth \$1,929,950.

The new Council at its first meetings should appoint the Arbitration Committee provided for by the Assessment Act, and the Committee, when appointed, should ask for a conference with a similar committee of the County Council, and not only consider the questions as to what items are properly chargeable in common to the City and County, but should also insist on something being done to more nearly equalize the valuation of property in the City, County and Dartmouth. At the present time property in the County, in many cases, is not assessed at 50 p. c. of its fair value, while property in the City is assessed to its full value and in some cases over its full value. If this course is pursued, I am satisfied that the proportion of this assessment payable by the City will be largely reduced.

CITY CHARTER AND ORDINANCES.

Next in importance to the civic debt and taxation comes the laws—the Charter and Ordinances of the City and the rules and procedure of the Court which more particularly is charged with the punishing of the breach of these laws and ordinances.

At the present time it must be clear to every one of you, gentlemen, that the Charter under which we are working is in a most unsatisfactory condition, containing as it does many sections which are repugnant one to the other, and having been so often amended entails an endless waste of time upon persons trying to discover what the law really is. An attempt was made two years ago to revise the Charter and as so revised it was sent to the Legislature for enactment; but up to this date the Legislature has taken no action. Some effort should be made during the coming year to deal with this matter.

As to the City Ordinances, they should be carefully revised and printed in order that our citizens might have some knowledge of them. Ignorance of our ordinances on the part of our citizens, through no fault of theirs, has in the past been the cause of very much friction and annoyance, and in many of the cases which have come to my attention this annoyance to the citizens would have been avoided had he known of the existence of some one or other of our ordinances which he had unintentionally violated. The same remark made as to the repugnancy of sections of the Charter applies with even more force to the repugnancy existing between the ordinances.

At the present time the City fails in many cases to secure convictions where convictions ought to be secured owing to neglect to prove the ordinance. It therefore be well if a clause were added to our Charter requiring the Courts to take judicial notice of the City Ordinances.

DUTIES OF OFFICIALS.

One other matter which should be enquired into is the duties of the City Officials. At the present time the duties of some of the officials as set out in the City Charter clash and a Committee should be appointed to take up this whole question and report thereon to the Council.

BUILDING ACT.

The Building Act in its present shape is practically unworkable and violations are occurring every day, which, owing to the Act in force, cannot be dealt with. It should be carefully revised.

Following our laws, I suppose the subject which ranks next to importance is our

STREETS.

On all hands we hear complaints about the streets; but unless the Street Appropriation is very materially increased thoroughfares cannot be very much improved. Halifax at the present time has a street mileage of 100½ miles with an appropriation of \$25,000.00 to keep them in repair. To any one at all familiar with street work the smallness of this amount for so large a surface must be apparent. In the City of St. John, with a population about equal to ours, the street mileage is about half of the mileage here, while their appropriation amounts to \$40,000.00. I am convinced that a comparison of the street service in the two Cities must convince anyone that we at least get full value for every dollar of our street expenditure. In this connection I am glad to be able to report that the bill which unanimously passed this Council authorizing the creation of a permanent fund for the performing of street work in the early spring before the appropriation for the year becomes available was passed by the Local Legislature. This year the good effects of that Act have already been apparent, as under it we were able to begin operations on the first of April, which otherwise would have had to be started on the first of May.

Closely allied to this question of streets is the matter of the

TRAMWAY TRACK.

While the Tramway Company succeeded in securing a Charter which left the City little else to do than sit still and say nothing, I have come to the conclusion that by vigorously exercising the few powers over that Company which we do possess we can force them to keep their road-bed in a far more satisfactory state than it is kept in at the present time. I have gone over the whole system with the City Engineer and almost from one end to the other the road-bed failed to come up to the requirements of the Company's Charter. The Company is now making repairs, and if these are not done satisfactorily the new Council should take this question up and deal seriously and vigorously with it and exercise all the powers which they possess in the interests of the citizens. The Company should be required on all portions of the line where there is a double track to pave two feet outside the rails, doing a portion each year, and as the distance from the curb to the portion of the street paved by the Company would be an average about nine feet the City should pave that portion of the roadway, thus saving macadamizing the streets once or twice every year through which a double track runs. The same course should be pursued at all turnouts.

Of course this work could not be all done in one year without a large expenditure of money, and therefore it would be well, as it would be work of a permanent nature, to do a small portion every year.

PURCHASE OF SUPPLIES.

Another matter which has come to my attention several times is the system in vogue of purchasing supplies for the different civic departments, and after investigation I have reached the conclusion that it would be more in the interests of the citizens if the supplies for all departments were purchased by one department by tender and contract. This matter was referred to in the Annual Report of the City Controller and Auditor to the City Council of the City of Montreal in 1900, wherein he says, dealing with the two largest spending departments, viz: the Works and Water Departments:— "In a general way I take the liberty to recommend that the following system be adopted in both departments, viz: that all material purchased be paid for from special appropriation, and that the employee in charge

"of the workshop or yard where material is received or stored be under the direct control of the Finance Committee, and that he be instructed to deliver the material in quantities only as it is required for the different works in course of construction. The present delivery book indicating as it does the value of the material and the place and nature of the works for which it is required, will serve as a basis to calculate the expenditure upon the different appropriations which buy it as the material is being used, instead of having it charged immediately after the material was purchased, as was done hitherto." It seems to me that the system set out by this gentleman, while it unquestionably would be of great advantage in the two departments referred to, could with almost equal benefit be extended to the purchase of all supplies. Instead of tenders for coal, for example, being called for by the Works Department, City Prison Committee, Charities Committee, Health Board and Commissioners of Common it would be better if these different Committees, would report to one Committee the amount of coal they required for the year and that Committee would ask for tenders for the whole amount. The cost of advertising by more than one department for tenders would be saved, and a larger amount being specified lower prices might be obtained. This applies with equal force to all supplies which are common to two or more departments.

The course now followed of disposing of condemned supplies such as hose, tools, &c., namely: of selling the same at private sale to one or another of the junk dealers, should be discontinued. Such condemned supplies should be collected in some one place and sold either yearly or half-yearly at public auction to the highest bidder.

HIGH WATER SERVICE.

Another question which has engaged the attention of the Council from time to time is the High Water Service. We have had several reports on this question from the present City Engineer, Mr. Doane. Mr. Keating also reported on it, and lately we have had before us a report of Mr. Howe to the Board of Fire Underwriters. All these gentlemen seem to agree that Spruce Hill Lake is at the present time taxed to its fullest capacity and that if another service pipe were brought into the City the lake would be run dry. This is a very important matter to all the consumers of water on the High Service and one which the Council ought to deal with at an early day.

THE CITY BEAUTIFUL.

Before closing I just wish to refer for a moment to the remarks we repeatedly hear and articles which we often see in the press referring to the appearance of our City. While bituminous coal is so generally used it will be perhaps impossible to prevent our buildings looking dingy; but the dirty appearance which our streets sometimes present can be overcome to some extent by our citizens burning waste paper, etc., thus preventing it getting on the streets to be blown about by the wind. As it is impossible for the Works Department, owing to the small street appropriation which they have at their disposal, to clean the streets more than three times in the run of a year, it is incumbent on the citizens, if they desire to give a tidy appearance of our City. While bituminous cleaning brigade by allowing as little rubbish as possible to get on the streets.

I would like respectfully to call attention to the possibilities of improvements which may be made in Halifax by the creation of lawn spaces and judicious planting of trees, shrubs and vines about our public buildings, schools, residences, etc., and also about unsightly buildings and sheds. In a few years, by quite inexpensive planting, the former class of buildings would be improved in appearance, while the latter would be entirely hidden from view and the surroundings made to look attractive to all classes of the community. The Corporation itself, having it in its power to do planting on a more generous scale than individuals, should do some work of this nature, thus setting an example to our citizens and cultivating the public taste so that our City might develop along more artistic lines.

And while referring to this matter of the tidy appearance of our City, I would like to call attention of the public advertising which is permitted by tin placards, hand-bills, etc., wherever a fence or building can be found on which to tack or paste them. An ordinance should be prepared controlling and restricting public advertising of this nature as far as possible, and certainly dealing with it in so far as public places which belong to the whole community are concerned. Such advertisements are always offensive to good taste, often injurious to public morals and depreciative of property values. The remedy would seem to be to license one or more bill-posters and to prevent or prohibit any others from doing any posting within the City limits. This is the course followed in many other Cities.

SHIP BUILDING.

The most important matter which has come before the Council during the year just closing is the ship-building project. At the last session of the Legislature authority was taken to enable the City, if they saw fit, to grant a bonus of \$100,000.00 for the establishment of a yard for the building of iron and steel ships anywhere on the shores of Halifax Harbor. This question was submitted to a plebiscite and resulted in an overwhelming majority of the people approving of the granting of a bonus to such an enterprise. The next step in this matter will likely be the choosing of a site for the location of the yard. The site is subject to the approval of the Ship Building Commission and the City Council, and when it comes before you I am sure you will give it that attention which so important a matter demands.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, I desire to thank you, gentlemen, in the first place for the honor which you did me in electing me to, as it turned out, (owing to the regrettable illness of His Worship the Mayor) the responsible position of Deputy Mayor; and, in the second place, I desire to thank you for the hearty assistance you always rendered me in performing the somewhat onerous and responsible duties of that office. I feel satisfied that some of the measures, at least, which we have adopted during the year just closing are steps in advance and must redound to the credit, future welfare and prosperity of our City; and this is the best reward that he who serves his fellow-citizens faithfully can desire for his work.

R. T. MACLREITH, *Deputy Mayor.*

Moved by Alderman Rogers, seconded by Alderman Hawkins, that the same be printed in the Minutes of the Council. Motion passed.

Alderman Hawkins, with leave of Council, now submits the following resolution:

Resolved, that this Council desire to place on record their appreciation of the retiring Aldermen at this the last meeting of this expiring Council. It is with regret we part, and we wish to convey our best wishes for the future welfare and prosperity of all.

Moved by Alderman Hawkins, seconded by Alderman Rogers, and passed unanimously by standing vote of the Council.

The Deputy Mayor tenders to the retiring members the Council's expression of good-will.

The same was replied to by Aldermen Archibald, O'Donnell, Chisholm and Creighton.

Moved by Alderman Robertson, seconded by Alderman Campbell that the Council do now adjourn. Motion passed.

Council adjourns 10 o'clock.