

Read letter from Col. E. P. Leach, R. E., C. R. E., *re* deposit of money before permission can be obtained to open street.

Moved by Alderman Eden, seconded by Alderman Hubley, that Col. Leach be notified that the deposit of five dollars referred to is required by a City Ordinance, and it is not advisable that the city should be a party to the violation of any of its own Ordinances. Motion passed.

Read returns of weighers and measurers of Coal for January, February and March. Filed.

Read City Treasurer's Cash Statements "General" and "Water" for the month of March.

Moved by Alderman Foster, seconded by Alderman Mosher, that the same be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts. Motion passed.

Read petition residents Seymour Streets for an electric light.

Moved by Alderman Foster, seconded by Alderman Butler, that the same be referred to the Works Department for report. Motion passed.

Read petition of residents of Gottingen Street for an electric light on Gottingen Street north of North Street.

Moved by Alderman Mosher, seconded by Alderman Eden, that the same be referred to the Department of City Works for report. Motion passed.

Moved by Alderman Foster, seconded by Alderman Eden, that the Department of City Works be requested to report on the advisability of placing an electric light at the corner of Uniacke and Gottingen Streets. Motion passed.

Read application of Widow of George R. Saxton for compensation for services rendered by her late husband during the years 1893 and 94 as Janitor of the Gerrish Street Engine House.

Moved by Alderman Redden, seconded by Alderman Eden, that the same be referred to the Board of Fire Wards for report. Motion passed.

Read letter from Her Excellency The Countess of Aberdeen *re* Canadian Fund for founding Victorian Order of Nurses in Canada.

Moved by Alderman Foster, seconded by Alderman Creighton, that the same be referred to the Jubilee Committee. Motion passed.

Read letter from Samuel M. Brookfield asking for the payment of the Arbitrators' fees in the matter of Inglis Street extension.

On motion the same was placed on Order Paper for consideration with No. 22 thereon, viz: Award of Arbitrators *re* expropriation of property for extension of Inglis Street, &c.

Read report City Engineer *re* asphalt sidewalk Pleasant and Inglis Streets. Placed on Order Paper.

Read address of His Worship the Mayor on the occasion of his retiring from the Council.

To the Members of the City Council :

Gentlemen,—The time having arrived when by the order of events it becomes necessary for me to vacate the high position which the partiality of my fellow citizens has bestowed upon me, I feel that it would be proper for me in retiring, to take a glance at some points in civic matters which have undergone a change since I had the honor of being elected Mayor of the City for the second time in April, 1895.

I am almost tempted at the outset to go a long way further back, to the date when I first took my seat in the City Council as an Alderman in May, 1875, Matthew H. Ritchey, Esq., being first magistrate, Henry Pryor Stipendiary and William Sutherland Recorder. The retrospect is indeed clouded with some sadness, but it is to progress and advancement in civic affairs to which I prefer to call your attention at the present moment. In the year mentioned, 1875, our total civic debt was a trifle under a million and a half of dollars. It now stands at \$3,157,516.67, which total includes as before the cost of the water works and the public schools.

There is a great deal of looseness of thought and looseness of language in discussing this matter of civic debt. The increase of the debt is not necessarily an evil; it certainly does not of itself imply either waste or extravagance. It will be conceded at the outset that no community, possessing proper ambition and self respect, can be content to lag behind while the rest of the world is making progress, and it will be further admitted that improvement cannot be made without money. When public opinion becomes clamorous for any civic improvement, the first question to be asked by the Mayor and Aldermen, the representatives of the people, is, whether the proposed work or project is really required; next what it will cost, and finally, and chiefly, whether the community can afford the expense. If these questions can be answered satisfactorily, there need be no hesitation about the matter. Nor does it affect the argument, as has been frequently shown, that all civic improvements are not of a kind that yield an immediate money return. The advantages to be derived from good streets and pavements, from sewers, fire protection, electric lighting and the like, though real and indeed in modern days indispensable, are yet in their nature not subjects for commercial valuation. The successive additions to our civic debt since 1875 are all detailed in our annual civic reports, and as these are public property, open to all who have any curiosity to be informed, I need not specifically refer to them. When I had the honor of taking my seat for the second time as Mayor in May, 1895, the total amount of our civic debt was, including schools, \$2,756,166.

During the years 1895 and 1896 the following sums were expended for the purposes mentioned. It is gratifying to know that in most cases the cost of the works enumerated was within the appropriation.

1895.

Sewers, 16855 ft.....	Cost	\$66,223.87
Catchpits, 54	"	2,160.00
Curbing, 828 ft.....	"	550.00
Gutters, 8038 ft.....	"	3,700.00
Asphalt Sidewalk, 2297.71 sq. yds.....	"	2,238.85
Paving Water St., 1,3774.43 sq. yds.....	"	51,171.30
Water Mains, 7226 ft.....	} Appropriation	\$10,000.00
Services, 6370 ft.....		
Hydrants, 11.....		

1896.

Lockman St.,.....	\$118,007.59	
Quinpool Road,.....	15,000.00	
Catchpits, 49.....	1,960.00	
Curbing, 2064 ft.....	1,335.64	
Gutters, 10546 ft.....	4,956.50	
Asphalt Sidewalk, 9433 sq yds.....	5,700.00	
Paving Water St., 2335 sq yds.....	7,806.51	
	{ 3.34	
	{ 1895—3.66	
Concrete Sidewalks, 753.14.....	about 1,500.00	
Water Mains, 17242 ft.....	} Appropriation	25,000.00
Services, 7632 ft		
Hydrants, 12.....		

Sewers, 9876 ft.	45,188.97
Water Rates reduced by meter from 20 cents per 1000 gals. to 15 cents per 1000 gals.	
Memo. of debt incurred and application of money borrowed :	
1895 borrowed	\$157,650.00
1896 "	235,000.00
	\$392,650.00
Sewers,	85,000
Pavements,	95,000
Dry Dock Subsidy,	10,000
Water Extension,	35,000
Chemical Engine,	2,650
Engine House West St.,	5,000
Widening Lockman St.,	115,000
" " Quinpool Road	15,000
New Exhibition Bldg.,	30,000
	392,650.00
City debt at 1st. May 1895, including \$253,400 for Schools,	2,756,166.67
Of which Water Dept. owed,	990,266.67
City debt at 1st. May, 1897, including \$262,100 for Schools,	3,157,576.67
Of which Water Dept. owes,	1,025,266.67
Sinking Fund of 1882,	63,603.80
" " 1896,	5,106.85

In taking my leave of the City Council it is needless to say that the Corporation and the City itself have my best wishes for their further welfare and prosperity. Though not the place of my birth, Halifax is an important part of my native land, the City wherein the most active years of my life have been spent and with which my chief material interests are identified. There are several important projects connected with the City at present under consideration and you may rest assured that it will be my aim and my pleasure to co operate with the Civic government, to the best of my humble ability in the endeavour to bring these projects, with all others that may be wisely suggested, to successful completion.

It gives me great satisfaction to be able to say that my intercourse with the members of the City Council during my late term of office has been of the most pleasant character. I feel bound to add that good conduct and assiduity in the discharge of their responsible duties, during the time alluded to, have been the rule with regard to the numerous officials employed in the service of the City.

DAVID MCPHERSON.

Halifax, 29th April, 1897.

Moved by Alderman Foster, seconded by Alderman Mitchell, that the same be published in the Minutes and in the annual Civic report. Motion passed.

Moved by Alderman Butler, seconded by Alderman Redden, that the Order of the Day be suspended to allow Alderman Butler to introduce a resolution. Motion passed.

The following Resolution is now introduced:

Resolved, That the City Engineer report to this Council as to the requirement of placing an arc light on Morris St. between Robie St. and South Park St. and if he deems it necessary to make arrangements for placing of same."

Moved by Alderman Butler, seconded by Alderman Redden and passed.

The Council now proceed to elect two Citizen Garden Commissioners in place of W. F. Pickering and Thomas M. Power whose terms of office expired in April last.

To fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of one Commissioner

the following gentlemen were nominated, viz: Michael Dwyer, H. D. Holloway, W. F. Pickering and Frank Power.

On the eighth vote being taken there appeared for Holloway 1, Pickering 9, Power 5.

His Worship the Mayor declares W. F. Pickering elected a Commissioner of Halifax Common.

To fill the second vacancy the following were nominated. Thomas M. Power, Frank Power and Michael Conroy.

On the vote being taken there appeared for Thomas M. Power, 10, Frank Power 3, M. Conroy 2.

His Worship the Mayor declares Thomas M. Power duly elected a Commissioner of Halifax Common.

Moved by Alderman Mosher, seconded by Alderman Mitchell, that the Council adjourn. Motion passed.

Council adjourns 11.50 o'clock.