

Suburbs Join With City in Effort to Speed Big Works Plan in Greater Winnipeg

Representatives of Municipalities Involved Meet at Legislative Buildings and Make Arrangements for Immediate Investigation of Possibilities for Early Start on Sewage Disposal System as Jobless Relief Undertaking.

Going on record as favoring a modern sewage disposal system for all of Greater Winnipeg, representatives of the municipalities involved, meeting at the legislative buildings, Friday afternoon, made arrangements for an immediate investigation of the possibilities of an early start on such a project as an unemployment relief undertaking.

In order that there be as little delay as possible, a committee of engineers was named to meet right away and submit estimates of construction and operating costs.

A second committee was named to "examine the cost of such a scheme" and to suggest such steps as are necessary to finance the proposal by or with the assistance of the provincial and Dominion governments.

The engineers' committee consisting of Thomas Brereton, for Winnipeg; F. W. Pearson, St. James; J. D. Ruttan, Tuxedo; J. W. Battershill, East Kildonan, and Roderick McKinnon, chief reclamations engineer for the province, will meet with representatives of the municipalities who are best acquainted with the sewage systems of their respective localities, and will submit a report.

They will report to the finance committee consisting of Mayor R. H. Webb, Alderman E. D. Honeyman, Mayor F. R. Dowse, of St. Boniface;

Reeve David Allen, of East Kildonan; Reeve Ronald Hooper, of St. James; Reeve George Elsey, of St. Vital, and W. C. McKinnell, supervisor of suburban municipalities for the bondholders.

When Right Hon. R. B. Bennett visits Winnipeg shortly it is expected that the finance committee armed with the engineers' reports, will be in a position to submit to him a definite proposal for Dominion co-operation with the province and municipalities on the sewage scheme as an unemployment relief project employing thousands of men.

Resolutions calling for appointment of these committees were moved by Reeve J. S. Lamont, of Assiniboia, and seconded by Alderman Edwin Hansford, of St. Boniface, and passed unanimously after the matter had been discussed by the meeting.

Montgomery Presides

Dr. E. W. Montgomery, chairman of the provincial board of health, was chairman of the meeting. Hon. R. Hoey, minister of health and public welfare, represented the government. The proposal for a single sewage disposal system for the greater city that would end pollution of the Red and Assiniboine rivers was submitted to the meeting by Alderman Honeyman. He pointed out that in Winnipeg alone \$3,000,000 a year was spent on relief with little to show for the money spent. It would be

SUBURBS JOIN CITY IN BIG PROJECT TO PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT

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much better if a public works programme was carried on which would mean an investment of lasting benefit.

Reeve Finkelstein, of Tuxedo pointed out the necessity of having a concrete plan for a sewage disposal system, with the shares to be paid by each municipality definitely known, before the municipalities could endorse the proposal. The meeting decided that it could proceed with the investigation without asking the municipalities to commit themselves at this time.

The engineers' committee in preparing its estimates will have plans already worked out as a basis for their investigation, such plans having been prepared in accordance with the report made by W. S. Lea, engineer of Montreal.

Discussion at the meeting brought out the international aspects of the problem of ending pollution in the Red and the Assiniboine rivers, and it was decided to invite the Dominion sanitary engineer to sit in with the committee.

It was pointed out that a court decision at Fargo, North Dakota, recently specified that that city, subject to consultation with its rate-payers, should act as soon as possible to construct a sewage disposal plant and end pollution of the Red river at that point.

Reference also was made to the cities of Brandon and Portage la Prairie, discharging sewage into the Assiniboine river.

1,500 TO GET WORK AS SEWAGE PLAN APPROVED

Ottawa Agrees to Finance Municipal, Provincial Shares

Within the next two or three weeks, 1,000 to 1,500 unemployed Greater Winnipeg men will go back to work as a result of the federal government approval, announced Saturday, of the Greater Winnipeg sewage disposal plan.

The federal government will, according to the announcement, contribute 40 per cent. of the cost of this year's programme and will loan to the provinces the shares payable by the province and municipalities.

By agreeing to loan the provincial and municipal shares, the federal government has cleared away the last obstacle to the commencement of the project, according to civic authorities.

Total Cost \$4,000,000

Estimated cost of the whole project is \$4,000,000, and the estimated time for completion is two years.

Announcement of the federal government's decision was made by Hon. T. G. Murphy, minister of the interior, at Ottawa, Saturday.

Following a conference Saturday between the Dominion government and representatives of the province, Hon. W. R. Clubb, Manitoba minister of public works, who sat in on the discussions, made the following statement to the Free Press:

Following a conference between the Dominion government and representatives of the province of Manitoba, it was announced that the Dominion government had approved of the Greater Winnipeg sewage disposal plan and recognized it as one to which the Dominion was agreeable to contribute 40 per cent. of the total cost and had definitely agreed to assist to the extent of its power, which, however, was limited to the present fiscal year.

To Loan Shares

"It would, therefore contribute 40 per cent. of the cost of this year's programme, estimated at \$2,000,000 and would loan to the province the shares payable by the province and the municipalities."

News of the federal government's action was received with extreme gratification by Winnipeg aldermen, all agreeing that the way was now clear for an immediate start on the project. Some estimated the number of men needed at 1,000. Others set the mark at 1,500.

Disappointment that the federal government had agreed to contribute for the present fiscal year

Dominion City People Join in Man Hunt; Two Suspects Caught

Dominion City, Man., June 24 (Special)—A determined daybreak trailing over southern Manitoba grain lands and rural roads resulted in the capture by R.C.M.P. Constable Archie Batchelor, of Emerson detachment, soon after sunrise, Sunday morning, of two men alleged to have robbed the Red and White store here, owned by Charles Stinson.

The captured men are John Hallem and Tony Melynk, both said to come from St. Boniface, who are being held in custody in the Emerson gaol. They will be charged with entry and theft of goods, principally cigarettes, sweaters, shoes and gloves, valued at about \$75.

Mr. Stinson and his son were awakened about 3:30 a.m. Sunday morning, by the noise of the entry of their store, and saw two men, said to be the pair later arrested, making their way with the stolen

goods across the railway bridge into the bush just outside town.

They telephoned the Mounted police detachment at Emerson without delay, and while the police were on their way to Dominion City they, with other residents, kept guard over the bush. Young Stinson after a while saw the two men leave the bush and proceed northwards.

Within an hour Constable Batchelor reached Dominion City, and immediately took after the men in the direction they had gone along the road north, with the support of several cars of local residents. Nine miles out of Dominion City the motorcade spotted the pair, who are said to have dropped the packs of stolen goods they were carrying, and started to run.

The constable and his assistants, however, were fresher than the pair after their long trudge, and soon overtook and captured them, later conveying them to Emerson.

When R.C.M.P. C...



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SEWAGE PLANS

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only, was voiced by Ald. E. D. Honeyman, chairman of the special committee on the sewage disposal project.

Sure of Further Aid

"Everything is satisfactory," he said, "with the exception of limiting the contribution to this year. However, we will meet that difficulty when we come to it. I have no doubt the government next year will assist in the same way."

Ald. John Blumberg, who is acting-mayor, while Mayor John Queen is in Ottawa, declared the work would start within the next two weeks. "I'm mighty glad to get that information," he replied, when informed of the federal decision, Sunday night.

Some tenders, it is understood, have already been called, and the present action will open the way for tenders on all the work to be called within a week or 10 days.

Mayor Swings Pick To Start Winnipeg's Big Sewage Plant

Aug 1935

Construction of the \$4,000,000 sewage disposal project, upon which more than 1,500 unemployed men are expected to get work in the next two years, was launched Tuesday morning by Mayor Queen with all the pomp and ceremony befitting the occasion.

Swinging a laborer's pick, the mayor "turned the first sod" for the huge interceptor which will carry the sewage across Winnipeg to a disposal plant in Old Kildonan for treatment. The little ceremony took place at the corner of Main street and Pritchard avenue in the presence of representative citizens and a considerable number of passers-by.

"It gives me a great deal of pleasure to stick the first pick in the asphalt and start work to insure better health and cleanliness for the city," he said, as he hit the pavement a resounding thump.

At a special breakfast earlier in the morning and at the actual ceremony itself, several addresses were made expressing keen satisfaction over culmination of efforts which resulted in a co-operative arrangement between the city and the two governments to construct a modern sewage treatment plant.

The interceptor, started by the mayor, will be constructed 40 feet below the surface of the ground. Shafts will be dug at intervals of about one-quarter mile, and space for the interceptor tunnelled from shaft to shaft. The street will only be torn up where the shafts are dug.

Happy Moment

This was a happy moment, Ald. Honeyman said. It was made possible by the co-operation of the municipalities and the government, and the whole-hearted support of the general public. The years of steady and sometimes discouraging effort to get some form of sewage treatment were referred to by Ald. Barry, one of the prime movers of the project. He was glad, he said, to see the start made in North Winnipeg.

The breakfast at the Royal Alexandra hotel was attended by about 50 persons. Present on behalf of the provincial government were: Acting Premier R. A. Hoey; Hon. J. S. McDiarmid, minister of mines and natural resources, and Hon. W. R. Clubb, minister of public works.

It was a happy thought that after all these delays and countless messages and trips to and from Ottawa the sewage disposal project was now an actual fact, the mayor said. Without the utmost co-operation from everyone concerned, including the two governments, it would have been impossible to have gone ahead with the scheme.

When he took office as mayor, he had been under the impression that all the spade work had been done, and construction would start in the spring at the latest. But events were to prove he had been under considerable misapprehension. The principal difficulty was negotiations with the federal gov-

ernment and arrangements for the financing.

Insofar as results were concerned, the provincial government was entitled to the most liberal thanks of the people of Winnipeg.

Queen Thanks Bracken

On many occasions, when very few persons knew about it, he had asked Premier Bracken to wire or write Ottawa on some phase of the scheme, and Mr. Bracken never failed to exhibit co-operation and consideration. Whatever criticism he might have regarding the provincial government, he must give it full credit for its part in putting over the deal.

The mayor also thanked the Board of Trade and the Winnipeg members of parliament for their assistance in negotiations. Last but not least, the Dominion government must be congratulated for its co-operation and liberal contribution of 40 per cent of the cost.

Speaking of the project itself, Mayor Queen said the route of the interceptor would start on Aubrey street, in the west, proceed along Wolseley avenue to Furby, along Furby to Broadway, thence to Main street. It would continue along Main to the sewage disposal plant to be located in one of the suburbs north of the city limits.

Feeder sewers would join the main interceptor at several points. One engineering feat would be the projection of the Mission, Orleans, and Hart street sewers under the Red river bed.

The start on the first mile of work was approximately one month sooner than expected, and the next two miles, he said, would likely be awarded to a contractor on Saturday.

Not only would the project give much needed employment to men out of work for years, but it would restore the river as an asset to the people of Greater Winnipeg. Across the line in Fargo-Moorhead and other places along the Red river, a lot of disposal plants were being installed, ensuring a cleaner flow of water from the south. Beautification of the river banks was the next step to take after purification of the water.

Federal Co-operation

The thrill of securing federal co-operation had been surpassed by the knowledge that Winnipeg was to get a modern treatment plant, and men were to get employment, Acting Premier Hoey remarked. In the final analysis, Ald. Honeyman added, Premier Bennett was responsible for the whole project. Without his assistance, it would have been impossible to have put it through.

Thirty years ago, aldermen were talking of sewage treatment plants, but the need was not so apparent then as it is today. F. J. C. Cox, president of the Winnipeg Board of Trade, stated. The present council had been practically driven to do something on account of bad river conditions, and he was glad to see they had made such favorable financial arrangements with the federal government. This was perhaps the most useful work done in the city for years, Col. G. C. MacLean, federal representative, said.

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TOO MANY PIGS' FEET

Nov 1938

Old Rags, Bottles and Bones Blamed for Sewage Troubles

By J. H. GRAY.

What is the matter with the sewage disposal plant? Why did the sanitary district have to discard \$38,000 worth of machinery and spend \$125,000 to get the system running? And why did the district not get a guarantee from the makers of the machinery that failed? The answer to all these questions is the kind of sewage that goes down the mains.

All solids — old rags, bottles, bones, pigs feet, discarded shoes and cows hoofs—to name only a few of the things that go down drains, have to be broken up or taken out of the system before the sewage can be treated. If it is not removed quickly it will clog the pumps.

There are two ways of getting it out, by the screening method or with comminators which grind it to fragments. When the former scheme is used, screens are installed at all pumping stations and they catch the stuff before it gets to the pumps. This has to be removed from the screens regularly and is quite malodorous. Thus, if the city had chosen the screen method, the people around 24 pumping stations would have had plenty to complain about.

Instead it chose the comminutor system. Instead of screens, the grinders were installed at the pumping stations. The comminutor system was relatively new but was so superior to the other that the engineers recommended it. The machine manufacturers would not guarantee that the machines would work because they did not know what kind of sewage Winnipeg would have.

Machines Break Down

The comminutor consisted of a perforated drum and a bar with sharp teeth. The drum revolved and when solids got into the teeth they were torn to pieces sufficiently small to pass through the perforated drum. That was the theory but when it encountered pigs feet in actuality it broke down. These extremely tough solids refused to yield or cut and the machines broke down.

Where the sewage was relatively free from solids, cloth and gauze, the machines worked satisfactorily. Where it was not, sewage backed up, became septic and gave off odors. The district forced abattoirs to install screens but still pigs feet, chunks of wood and sheep hides got into the sewers.

In the meantime the Chicago Pump company, which had a monopoly on comminutors, devised a stronger and tougher pump. Instead of cast iron, the drums were made of case-hardened sheet steel. The knives were of an extremely hard alloy and extra sharp teeth.

As the pumping stations were devised for small comminutors, it will cost about \$10,000 to change them to accommodate larger ones. Fortunately it will not be necessary to change the entire 24 stations. In some of the stations where the present-sized machines will suffice, the machines will be rebuilt with steel instead of iron parts.

Alberta Given Debt Proposal

By B. T. RICHARDSON

Edmonton, Alta., Nov. 3. (Special) — A definite proposal for refunding Alberta's debt has been laid before the Aberhart government by Harold B. Reed, head of the Municipal Bond Corporation of Los Angeles, Calif., it is learned.

Mr. Reed visited Edmonton within the past month, his expenses paid by the province. With J. J. Sousa, Calgary, unknown in Edmonton financial circles, Reed has returned to the United States and is believed to be promoting a refunding for Alberta in high financial circles. The details of his scheme were not disclosed and one official in position to know indicated that the government had little hope of securing satisfactory arrangements.

Plane Building Plans Incomplete

London, Nov. 3. (CP cable) — The Canadian Press learned last night that negotiations for building airplanes in Canada for the Royal Air force are still in the preliminary stage. Developments were possible in about a fortnight, it was stated.

An Anglo-Canadian agreement for the manufacture of military aircraft in Canada was announced Sept. 2 after a British mission to Canada headed by Sir Hardman Lever investigated the possibilities of placing orders for bombers and other craft directly with Canadian builders.

It was then announced two big aircraft manufacturing plants would be erected in Canada to furnish the planes. One would be built at St. Hubert airport, near Montreal, the other at Malton airport near Toronto.

Discussions were opened with a view to placing contracts with manufacturers at Vancouver and Fort William, it was also announced.

Fatal Fight

Sioux Lookout, Ont., Nov. 3 (CP) — Police Chief J. W. O'Brien, of this northern Ontario town, is investigating the death of Victor Berglund during a disturbance Wednesday on the outskirts of the town. Berglund was reported to have fallen and struck his head on a stump during a fight. An inquest will be held