

ST. BONIFACE CIVIC STAFFS TO BE CUT

City Council Also Decides Increase of Tax Rate by Three Mills Necessary

Police, Firemen, Office Clerks To Be Discharged on June 30

A drastic reduction in the staffs of the civic departments of the city of St. Boniface and an increase in the tax rate of three mills was finally decided upon by St. Boniface council last night after a heated discussion in an effort to reduce the year's estimates.

The staff reduction, affecting only the civic employees, is nevertheless one of drastic proportions. It was planned out. It means that four firemen, or one-sixth of the fire-fighting force will be discharged; that two policemen, or one-sixth of the force, will be let out; and that two from the

treasurer's department, and one from the secretary's department will go.

These employees will be discharged on June 30, but will be given an extra month's wages to bid them over while seeking employment elsewhere.

Tax Rate Climbs
The tax rate, which stood at 40 mills last year, will be raised to 43 mills. It is estimated that the staff reduction will effect a saving of \$7,800 this year.

Decision to reduce the staffs was reached when a vote was taken on Ald. MacLean's motion, who argued that "if a salary reduction goes through, we will not have 100 per cent. efficiency."

There were only two dissenting votes that of Ald. Murchison, who proposed an amendment to the motion, and Ald. Berube, who felt that it was dangerous to cut the police force staff.

Suggests Wage Cut
Ald. Murchison's amendment, that a general reduction of 5 per cent. in salaries of all civic employees be made instead of an "unemployment cut," did not meet with approval.

"We have got to show the people that we're in real earnest," said Ald. Leslie, "and that we are driving a hard bargain to hold the estimate down."

Ald. Pelletier asked: "Which is best—dissatisfied employees working with a salary reduction, or satisfied employees, who are left after the staff reduction?"

Ald. Suffield countered with: "The city clerk says that demoralization will creep in if the staffs are reduced. But there will be more demoralization if the government steps in and fires the entire civic staff, and replaces it anew."

When it was first suggested by Ald. MacLean that three members of the police force be let out, Mayor Walsh raised the question of inadequate police protection.

"We need protection," his worship said. "The men are working overtime now trying to keep order, and the police department has brought in a substantial revenue. By all means, keep the police department up to standard."

"Why not put the sergeants on patrol work, and let the chief of police do the sergeant's duty about the police station?" asked Ald. MacLean. No one answered this.

Ald. Suarez came forward with a suggestion that met with general disapproval. "Why shouldn't the aldermen agree to a 50 per cent. reduction of their indemnity," he said.

Pleads for Victims of Axe
R. MacRorie, of the Canadian National railways, made a plea to council on behalf of the members of the civic staffs who were about to become jobless.

"Surely some other means can be discovered than this drastic staff reduction," Mr. MacRorie pleaded. "The staff reduction will mean nothing more than a black eye for the city of St. Boniface."

"But we've got to take drastic action," said the aldermen in unison. "We are getting nearer to the administrator every day."

"I've heard that one for the past 20 years," Mr. MacRorie, who is a taxpayer, shot back. "Reduction of the mill rate is good propaganda for election, but this staff reduction is bad advertising for our city," he ended.

Ald. Suffield: "We are not levying nearly enough as it is."

Ald. Pelletier: "We've cut off everything—sidewalks, sewers, and all those things."

Ald Suffield: "We have a deficit of \$3,000 to face this year, and the government levied more than expected—\$9,600—making a total deficit of \$15,000."

Ald MacLean: "Every department I've mentioned in my motion is over-stuffed—there's no question about it. Two or three policemen cut off the force won't hurt the morals of the city. We've no right to increase the tax rate and leave the staffs uncut."

Ald. Doucet said that he was not prepared for action yet, and that the matter of staff or salary cuts could be brought to a head after the year's budget has been planned.

"Oh, no!" exclaimed Ald. MacLean. "For four years I have brought up a motion to reduce the staff of the treas-

April 1930

HIS FIRST C...



While Mama Bear was begging for peanut born at the City Park zoo early this year, ti stump in the bear pit. He got up part of excited, as he had never been so high up in know how to get down. He called to his mar begging for peanuts, so he very gingerly start the help of his little sharp tigers reached the awful experience for the little baby bear. Th and there were quite a number of little boys antics of the little cub.

urer's department, and each time it has been defeated because the question was left over until after the planning of the budget."

So, certain civic employees will be duly notified that their services will not be required after June 30.

ALEX. SMITH, FAMOUS GOLF PRO., DIED SUNDAY

Was Winner of United States Open Title in 1906

(Special United Press Despatch to Free Press by Free Press Private Wire.)
New York, April 21.—Alex Smith, famous professional golfer, died in a private sanitarium in Baltimore Sunday, it was announced at the Westchester Country club at Rye, today.
Smith had been undergoing treatment for some months. He was the professional at the Westchester club. While Smith won the United States

open often won t cago. Herd in 1906 Miss. One ments Collet for he States
Forn Kille
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Mr. ber c Scott! He v Cross 28th

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ST. BONIFACE ADHERES TO STAFF CUT PLAN

May 1930

Council Decides Reduction in Police and Fire Departments Must Take Place

During a brief and business-like session last night, St. Boniface council decided that the staffs of the police and fire departments must be reduced, according to its previous decision. After reconsideration of the matter, asked delegations of citizens, it was finally deemed advisable to adhere to the decision to curtail the civic staffs.

The fire department will be decreased by four firemen whose services will be dispensed with immediately, and who will be paid up to July 1. It will be left to Chief William Thompson to his discretion in the lay-off, and to arrange it so that the most competent men will remain on the brigade.

Aldermen MacLean, Vanelslander, Leslie and Murchison took exception to the recommendation of the police commission that a 62-year-old police sergeant, who has been on the force for 27 years, be let out. Two men must be taken from the police force, and it has been definitely decided that one considerable, youngest in seniority, will be discharged.

Ald. Vanelslander was in favor of giving him a pension, if his job is to be taken from him. "Although we have no pension fund for civic employees," he said, "we can make an exception, and vote him a special pension."

"He should be left on the force," Ald. MacLean said. "He is still quite capable of giving good service as a policeman, and can handle his job as patrolman quite efficiently."

Ald. Leslie believed that a job in some other civic department could be found for the police sergeant. Ald. Murchison was the first to make a motion that the sergeant's case be considered before July 1, the date set for his discharge.

It was finally decided that Ald. MacLean's amendment to the motion, that the police commission be recommended to keep the sergeant on the force, was the best plan, and when put to a vote, carried 5-3. Aids Murchison, Suffield and Leslie opposed the amendment.

be undertaken by the Canadian National railways' radio network, and will be picked up by CNRV.

No matter at what hour the big dirigible comes within reach of Canadian broadcasting stations, the story will begin, arrangements having been made for the air to be free at any moment the vessel is sighted. The R-100 is expected to leave England May 25, and should arrive on Canada's shores on May 27.

QUARTER MILLION TO ATTEND SHRINERS' MEET

Winnipeg Party Will Leave Here June 6 for Monster Gathering at Toronto

Over a quarter of a million visitors are expected to attend the monster Imperial Shrine ceremonial which will be held in Toronto during the week commencing June 9, and it is anticipated that more than seven miles of trains will require to be drawn up in Toronto's railway yards to supplement the available hotel accommodation.

Winnipeg Shriners, exalted nobles of Khartum Temple, will travel east by the official Winnipeg train booked to leave the Union station and run over Canadian National lines June 6. The train will stop at Port Arthur where they will take the lake route via Sarnia.

Besides the official train, other Shrine parties will travel in private cars to the ceremonies, and some plan to make the journey in their own automobiles.

Arrangements have been made for five other special trains which will pass through Winnipeg from western United States cities. Other contingents are expected to come north from southwestern states, passing through Winnipeg on their way.

On Friday evening, Khartum Temple will meet in the Royal Alexandra hotel and induct 40 novitiates into the order. Many of these will join the official "caravan" jaunt east. A banquet will precede the ceremonies.

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