

COUNCIL SEEKS

FURTHER ADVICE

Mr. Humphreys' Request for Independent Inquiry is Held Over Pending Solicitor's Report.

NORTH VANCOUVER, Sept. 19.—Accompanying his recommendation that the council render their assistance towards obtaining an independent inquiry by the municipal inspector into recent happenings in connection with the financial affairs of this city, and incidentally the conduct of the city treasurer's department, Mr. Humphreys at Monday evening's meeting of the council submitted a sworn declaration, the gist of which has already been published in *The World*, alleging by inference that the recent public inquiry was not an impartial one. Mr. Humphreys' sworn statement made before a notary public infers that a prejudicial feeling existed against him, and for this reason he is asking for an independent inquiry.

Instead of filing the statement, as was at first proposed, the council have referred the matter to the city solicitor for his opinion, owing to the discovery of subsequent losses which may result in the re-opening of the council's inquiry.

To Mr. Humphreys' declaration that he had made remarks at the recent inquiry which were untrue, Ald. Foreman said he was ignorant of it and he would like Mr. Humphreys to come through with the proof.

As far as offering the position of city treasurer to Mr. Shepherd, an assistant in the office, Ald. Foreman said it was perfectly true. He had been approached by several ratepayers who wished the treasurer relieved of his position. Ald. Foreman said he would introduce a motion to this effect in the council if the aldermen would support him.

Mayor Hanes did not consider a new investigation into the financial affairs of the city would have any bearing on Mr. Humphreys' dismissal. That had been passed by the council. In connection with the advice which the council had received from the solicitor in respect to the city's position as to recovering the smaller amounts missing, namely, \$91 from the ferry receipts, \$40 shortage in the cash and the amount contained in the three registered letters, the mayor stated the solicitor believed they could be recovered by suit.

In regard to the allegation that he had kept his property out of the tax sale by placing I.O.U.'s in the city till Ald. Wright said he was perfectly willing to have another investigation, when he had nothing to fear in the explanation he could make.

Ald. Barclay said he had received money from a friend in Manitoba to pay taxes in North Vancouver. About the time of receiving the money he had a death in his family and he had to go east. During his seven weeks' absence the money laid in the bank here and when he went to pay the money into the city hall he found that interest to the amount of 80 cents had accrued. This was a matter between the treasury department and the taxpayer—his Manitoba friend—solely.

There will be no action taken by the council until the solicitor makes his report. In any case some of the aldermen are not disposed to interfere in the least with an independent in-

quiry being held, although they are not disposed to assist the treasurer in getting it.

More Money Is Missing.

The thief or thieves who robbed the treasurer's vault in the hall on the night of August 14th has shown by subsequent discoveries that he was well acquainted with city hall methods and apparently had access into the city hall office. The mayor last evening made known the fact that on the morning following the robbery three registered letters, containing cash to the amount of \$5, \$16 and \$24 were taken either from the city clerk's office or from the treasurer's on the morning following the robbery.

It is understood that Mr. Collins and Mr. Humphreys brought the mail from the postoffice that morning and it was being segregated in the clerk's office when the news of the robbery was announced. Minor matters were forgotten in the excitement of the moment and the loss of the money in the registered mail was not discovered until about three days later, when the tax receipts were being written up. The cheques contained in registered letters received that morning were not molested. The police are working on the matter now.

To Purchase War Bonds.

A special committee composed of Mayor Hanes and Ald. Foreman have been appointed by the city council to ascertain from the treasurer the amount of sinking fund the city has available to invest in Dominion war bonds.

The city has, at present, about \$196,000 deposited in sinking fund accounts but in January, 1918, \$180,000 of this has to be paid out.

Practically all the city has available for the purchase of war bonds is a portion of the proceeds of the recent sale of treasury notes, amounting to approximately \$217,000.

Resolution is Endorsed.

The North Vancouver city council Monday evening adopted a resolution, initiated by the Nanaimo city council and addressed to the government in petition form, which has for its purpose the internment of all alien enemies in the Dominion of Canada and the re-internment of all alien enemies who have been released.

It is alleged, in this petition, that large corporations have employed these aliens and at the same time refused employment to Canadians, the result being that while Canadians are shedding their blood on the battlefields of Europe for the protection of their homes these alien enemies are allowed to benefit in a material way as well as enjoy all the freedom and protection as do loyal subjects in Canada.

Many Applications in.

Applications for the vacancies which will be created in the city treasurer's office on the 30th of this month by the retirement of the present staff were opened and read at Monday evening's city council meeting, and were referred for consideration to a special meeting of the council to be held this afternoon at 2 o'clock.

There were 27 applications for the combined position of treasurer and assessor, 34 for positions as assistants and 14 for stenographers.

No Audit Yet.

City Auditor W. C. Lambertson in reply to a request from the city council stated in a letter read at Monday evening's meeting that he was unable to make an audit up to date for the reason that no entries had been made in the city treasurer's books from June 30 with the exception of those in the ferry cash book.