

# SEEKING PROBE OF RETIREMENT

## Council Urges Reinstatement of Cost of Living Com- missioner

### WANT BAN ON ALIENS

#### Opposition Is Declared to Using of Union Station by Railways Be- fore Opening of Viaduct.

Sir Robert Borden will be memorialized by the City Council, according to a resolution passed yesterday, for the reinstatement of Cost of Living Commissioner O'Connor, or, if this is not considered advisable, for a public statement of the cause of his resignation.

The motion was as follows:

"Moved by Ald. Sykes, seconded by Ald. Ball, that, whereas, it has been reported in the public press that Mr. O'Connor, Cost of Living Commissioner for Canada, has resigned his position, and that the same has been accepted, and whereas, in the opinion of this Council, representing the citizens of Toronto, the loss of Mr. O'Connor's services at this time is not in the interests of the people of Canada, be it resolved that this Council memorialize the Right Honorable Sir Robert Borden, Premier of Canada, for the reinstatement of Mr. O'Connor, and in the event of the same being not considered advisable that a public explanation be made through the press of the cause that led up to Mr. O'Connor's resignation."

#### To Make Aliens Conform.

A motion by Ald. F. M. Johnston that the Police Commissioners be requested to notify all persons, other than British subjects conducting business in Toronto that their licenses will be cancelled on July 1st, if in the meantime they have not become naturalized, caused quite a discussion and was finally set aside as a notice of motion until the next meeting.

Controller McBride strongly supported the motion and held that aliens were not only snapping their fingers at the military authorities, but disobeying the civil laws. British subjects had been forced to sell out their businesses and enlist, while foreigners grew rich.

Alderman Plewman said that the motion should be well considered, as hasty action might make the Council a laughing stock if the Police Commissioners acted upon it.

"If the police acted upon this every American citizen carrying on business in Toronto would have his license canceled," said Ald. Plewman. "There are several kinds of aliens: enemy aliens, neutral aliens and allied aliens."

A motion asking that a by-law be drafted requiring citizens to combat the tussock moth was referred to the Parks Committee.

#### Using the New Station.

Rising to a matter of privilege Controller McBride denied the statement in a recent editorial that he had suggested a conference of the parties concerned in reference to allowing the railways to use the new Union Station without the viaduct. He said the suggestion had been made by the Mayor, and Controller O'Neill, whose name was coupled with his own in support of the proposal, was not even at the meeting of the board at which the discussion took place.

Controller O'Neill said that he had always opposed any deviation from the order of the Railway Commissioners, while the Mayor made the following statement:

"The city is banking on the viaduct order. After a conference a year ago with the Harbor Board and the Board of Trade, the city decided that they should stand by the viaduct order in its entirety."

#### Wants City to Buy Coal.

Ald. Ramsden read a letter from an ex-coal dealer, Mr. J. S. Dewar, urging that the city purchase 100,000 tons of coal so that the people would not have to go down on their knees to the present "coal barons." He said that the difference between buying by the long ton and selling by the short ton would save no less than one ton in every ten.

By-laws to authorize the levying of a thirty and a half mill tax and to provide for the collection of the same were passed, although Ald. Weir objected to the first instalment being collected two weeks earlier this year. The people, he urged, should receive some consideration, and they had not yet recovered from paying their last coal bills.

Ald. Honeyford criticized a recommendation of the Board of Control that the City Solicitor be instructed to institute action against the Canadian Oil Companies, Limited, for a declaration of rights of the parties in connection with the oil-filling station at the corner of Delaware avenue and Bloor street. The Council decided to continue the action.

Ald. Blackburn gave notice of motion to introduce a by-law to fix the water rate at 15c net per thousand gallons for those purchasing metered water.

#### Cultivation of Vacant Land.

Mr. Norman Somerville, representing the Toronto branch of the Resources Committee, and Mr. W. H. Alderson, President of the Rotary Club, were spokesmen of a deputation that appeared before Council, asking that a by-law be passed enabling the use of vacant land for

cultivation on notice being sent to the owner and on no objection being received. On their suggestion a by-law was passed embracing all the vacant land in the city and making effective the Vacant Land Cultivation Act.

The recommendation of the Board of Control, that a fee of \$1 be charged for each permit issued for the using of portions of parks for sports was referred to the Parks Committee, on motion by Ald. McBrien.

The proposed change of location of St. Nicholas' Anglican Church at the Island was referred back to the Parks Committee.

A by-law in connection with the extension of Applegrove avenue was given the first reading and referred to the Property Committee in order that a deputation opposing it might be heard.