

MAY GIVE WORK TO FOREIGNERS

City Council Extends Privileges to Subjects Under Treaty With Britain.

Sewer Workers Complain that Half Pay Is Not Enough for Sustenance.

Civic employment is to be extended beyond actual British subjects to citizens of countries "such as have similar privileges by special treaty" by resolution passed by the City Council last night. By the addition of a phrase to that effect, the council rescinded to a certain extent its resolution of March 27.

The action was taken when Mr. S. Gintzburger, consul for Switzerland, pointed out to the council that a treaty of friendship had existed between Great Britain and Switzerland since 1855, whereby Swiss subjects were to be admitted to the territories of Great Britain and Ireland in the same way as British subjects and British citizens vice versa in the case of Switzerland.

Not having received a satisfactory reply to his former protest, the consul took the matter up with his government and the bringing forward of the treaty was the result.

"Your resolution," he said in a letter last night, "distinctly contravenes the treaty concluded and ratified by the governments of the two nations, and I must respectfully request your honorable body to pass a proper resolution excluding the citizens of Switzerland from the operation of said resolution."

On a motion of Ald. McBeath and Ald. Crowe the change was made.

Half Time Rule.

The council heard protests from sewer workmen against the half-time rule which has just gone into effect on the ground that during the winter they could not get enough money out of two week's work a month to keep themselves.

One man said that they would only get about nine days' work on the average, with \$27 as the wage. It would be impossible to keep a family clothed and himself in bodily strength on that. He also protested that they had had enough hardship in being made to move into the city last year because of the rule against residents of other municipalities, although they had bought homes in other districts.

Mayor Baxter, in promising that the council would give the protest due consideration, said that the council was going to weather the financial stringency as well as it could. While not speaking for the board of works, he thought that the system of half-time should be extended to other work besides that on sewers.

Chairman Crowe of the board of works, agreed that it would be more economical for the city to keep the same men on sewers all the time, but so many men with families to support came asking for work that something had to be done. Ald. McBeath expressed the hope that the matter would be reconsidered.

Endorsement of a petition to Premier Borden and Premier McBride for action in keeping down the price of food at the present war crisis was given unhesitatingly by the council. The City Council of North Vancouver having passed a resolution in the matter, sent it to Vancouver for support. It was said that there was no cause for the rise in prices.

Ald. Rogers asked Mayor Baxter

later if the council could do anything to keep down the price of sugar in the city and the mayor replied that the council could do nothing. The ratepayers could help, he said, by not buying so much.

All Volunteers Included.

A suggestion was made by Ald. Hepburn that the half-pay privilege granted to civic employees who volunteer for active service, apply only to those already enlisted was withdrawn by him on opposition being expressed by other aldermen. Ald. Hepburn thought that the privilege might be abused.

Before the city takes action in the courts against the Municipality of Burnaby over the water question, another attempt at an amicable arrangement will be made. The city solicitor asked for instructions last night since Burnaby had practically invited a lawsuit. The trouble is over the selling of water to South Vancouver at a lower rate than the city has been supplying it to that municipality, although Burnaby gets water from the city supply.

Ald. McBeath was in favor of starting a friendly action to ascertain the true interpretation of the agreement. Proposals were then made as to a conference but it was shown that Burnaby was not concerned about having one or not. The mayor and Ald. Kirkpatrick, chairman of the waterworks committee, will represent the city.

While a clause in a committee report authorizing the Coal Harbor plans to be sent to Ottawa passed the council, Ald. Hepburn intimated that he did not want the city engineer to think that that would be the last that would be heard of the plans. "I intend to take them up later," said the alderman. "Because the department at Ottawa approves of them does not mean much."

A modification in the system of tax discounts was suggested by Mr. George R. Gordon, president of the Central Ratepayers' Association, in a letter to the council which was referred to the finance committee. He advised a sliding scale of discounts starting with 10 per cent. up to Sept. 15 and dropping one per cent. each month until Dec. 15. In that way the defect of the present system, whereby if a man could not avail himself of the first discount and then waited a whole year to pay the full amount was obviated.

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union through its president, Mrs. Lydia Macpherson, protested against the desecration of the Sabbath by the selling of fruit and also against the presence of women in cigar stands. These matters, advised the mayor, had already been attended to by the police and license commissions.

A further protest by the building owners and managers against the enforcement of fire-gong regulations was referred back to the fire and police committee which last week decided not to change the bylaw.