

County Council January Term 1882

The Council of the Municipality of the County of Pictou met on the 10th inst. and opened with prayer. The roll being called, 19 members answered to their names.

The resignations of Couns. John McRae and Robert Willis were received and the returns of precepts for new elections being opened, showed James C. McKay elected without opposition for No. 17 and John J. Stamberg elected for No. 8 by 68 out of a total vote of 113. Mr. Stramberg and McKay were therefore sworn and took their seats.

The Warden said their first business before the council is the appointment of, Standing Committees, when John McDougald, Hugh S. Fraser, and D.J. Meikle were appointed Committee on nominations.

The com. on nominations subsequently reported the following Committees:

Finance, Jno. McDougald, Hugh S. Fraser, Rodk. McDonald, A. McMillan, R. McDougall

Roads and Bridges, A.J. McKay, R. Maxwell, John McDonald, D. McLeod, W. Smith

Public Property, Donald Fraser, J.C. McKay, R. Bannerman

Assessments, S. Archibald, C.R. Fraser, J.D. Fraser

Licenses, S. Archibald, J. Ferguson, W. Stevenson

Poor, Jas. R. Collie, J.R. McDonald as McDonald

Auditors, Donald Gray, Esq., Stellarton, and Jas. McRae, Pictou

The Warden read over the list of Petitions for Roads, previous to their being handed to Committee, and observed that it was never deemed necessary to read out petitions except in Committee, unless any Councilor prevent called for a reading of the same.

The Warden directed the special attention of committees on Road and Bridges and Assessments to be very explicit in their instructions to Town Officers. A good resolution was passed last year regarding the Assessment of widows, minors etc. but it is found that it has not been properly attended to. It would be better that the resolution was passed; had been given to Assessors along with their other instructions. The committee should see that resolutions of Council hearing upon the Statute Labor service are fully carried out.

The clerk observed that more care is needed on the part of Overseers of roads. Returns had come from some districts, with no names except those of the Overseer and one man. In some instances, overseers had refused to certify work being done, and in others it was very doubtful if any work was done at all.

The Warden read a letter from Henry Poole, Esq. offering a number of suggestions on the best process of making common roads, Mr. Poole's recommendations are:

1. Slightly around the surface, putting the hardest material in the centre.
2. Take care to have the material used as much as possible of similar consistency and of uniform grate.
3. Do not mix large and small stone in the same spot either break the large to the size of the small, or put the large together and the small together.
4. Water worn and rounded stone will not bind without suitable material.

5. Broken stone of uniform size will always bind if –
6. The surface of the road to be mended is first picked over.
7. Holes in a clay road should not be mended with large stones for new holes will soon form on both sides of the stones.
8. Never throw grass and roots on the road and –
9. Never apply to the surface the fine silt, etc, taken out of drains.
10. If good material is not handy, it is better to throw the drain stuff aside and merely level the road with a pick.
11. Do not make drains deeper than absolutely necessary
12. When deepening a drain have the grass growing on each side of a new drain.
13. Slope the sides of a new drain.
14. If a drain is deep enough and the inclination sufficient to allow the water to run freely let grass continue to grow in the bottom.
15. At the bottom of hills endeavor to slightly cant the road to one side in order that the water may not follow down the groove cut by the horses feet on a stretch of level road beyond where it might lodge and spoil an otherwise well made and good piece of road.

Coun. Smith suggests further that every spring overseers should turn out their men to make repairs needing immediate attention. It would save a great deal of trouble and expense afterwards.

J.D. Fraser. There are no doubts man valuable suggestions in the papers just read and would agree to see them go abroad, through the papers, but as a general rule, these making roads had to be governed according to circumstances.

R. McDougall thought if these rules were published for the guidance of overseers it might be very hard for some to comply with them. Would like to see, as well, all the items of expenditure of road moneys published, particularly the Provincial Grant.

R. Maxwell. That could be done by the Councilors of the several districts giving all needed information to their constituents. On motion of S. Archibald, seconded by R. McDougall, it was resolved that the Council receive Mr. Poole's suggestions with thanks, and recommend the same through the press, to the favorable attention of the country.

S. Archibald introduced the matter of fully reporting the proceedings of Council for the information of the people. The county having three papers is favorably situated for that purpose.

Warden observed that the Council was held satisfied with the report given last year; and as he sees that notes are being taken of the proceedings, has no doubt the Council will provide fair remuneration for that service. Other Councilors expressed their opinions that the business should be published through the three county papers; when the matter was left in abeyance for the present.

The Warden read the list of appeals against assessments, and stated that there were but few of them this year.

The Clerk intimated that he had received returns of precepts for alteration of road from Glengarry station to W.B. road, pent road for W. and A. Chisholm, and Dr. Urquart, and pent road from main road Lorne to McQuarrie's plaster quarries. The returns are insufficient and withal had not come in until the 4th January. The law requires all road returns to be advertised 30 days before the roads can come before the

Council for confirmation. Councilors McDonald, 17, and McLeod 18 having urged the needs of the petitioners, papers were referred to com. on roads and bridges.

The Warden hoped committees' reports would be completed in good time. It is advisable that reports are sometimes hurried through without receiving the consideration they are entitled to. Adjourned to 2 p.m.

Afternoon

The Warden stated that his attention had been specially called by the Judge of the County Court to the want of arrangements for lighting the Court House. Court business could be got through on shorter terms if building were lighted so as to admit of evening sessions. The clerk informed the Council that he had caused a survey of the Court House to be made a few days ago by competent mechanics; and the result of their inspection is set forth in the following letter:

Pictou Jan. 9, 1882

David Matheson, Esq.

Dear Sir: - At your request we have made a plan of the new court house to ascertain the condition of the building at the present time

1. We find that the sills are entirely rotten and that the building has commenced settling in several places and consequently the plastering and other finish is commencing to show the effects of a decayed foundation.
2. We would recommend cutting out all the wood work say for 18 or 20 inches above the stone foundation, and building up the whole with good sound brick laid in hydraulic cement mortar.
3. To accomplish the above the whole of the base boards with pedestals, caps, and cornice connections including pedestals and column base moldings & c. along the whole of the two main fronts to be taken down. As this wood work is almost gone it will not be fit to put up again, so that all this part will have to be replaced with new material put up in the best manner including all repairs required in the columns with the base and capitals of the porticos of main front entrances with landing and steps to same repaired also new stairs from side walk of street to main building.
4. The whole of the four side walls will require two, and all new wood work three coats of paint, with doors and windows painted as may be specified when the contract for work is entered into.
5. The deck or flat roof now covered with Warner's composition (felt and gravel) is in a decayed condition and is not to be trusted in warranting the safety of the building and would recommend that the present material be all stripped off and that instead the whole of the deck roof including the whole of the deck roof of portico be covered with best quality of roofing tin, likewise to have all the iron spouts and conductors repaired when found necessary.

Yours truly,

ADAM MCKEAN

HUGH HENDERSON

The letter was passed to Com. on Public Property.

Coun. Archibald referred to the Act. of Incorporation of the "Hill" cemetery Co., Upper Settlement, W.R. and moved in accordance therewith that the appointment made,

at a meeting of the inhabitants of the district, of John Fraser, Elder, Daniel Fraser and Robt. Anderson. Trustees, be confirmed. Passed.

Adjourned to 10 a.m. to-morrow

Wednesday Forenoon

Council met and opened with the usual manner. Roll called and 24 councilors answered to their names. Minutes read and confirmed. Members absent yesterday forenoon were excused in showing cause.

A petition signed by twenty-five of the principal business men of Pictou town, was read and set forth:

“That the captains of many of the steamships which make regular trips between Montreal, Quebec and other ports, and Pictou, are accustomed to carry on their private account and as greatly reduced freightage, large quantities of goods from Montreal and other ports to Pictou aforesaid; which goods are sold here and disposed of by the captains of such steamships with the County of Pictou. That the persons who purchase goods from such captains are principally traders, who are in consequence of the small charge for freight, enabled to sell at much lower prices than other merchants; That the said captains have been carrying on the trade referred to, several years. They are not ratepayers of this County and do not in any way contribute to the assessments: That they have not been charged any fee for licenses, nor have they asked for or obtained licenses as transient traders. Wherefore your petitioners pray that your worshipful body will cause the matter to be investigated, and fix a license to be paid by such persons and cause such other proceedings to be taken as may be necessary to prevent such illicit trade or to oblige the persons carrying on the same to pay license as transient traders, so that they may contribute to the funds of the municipality.

A brief but lively debate ensued, in which Councilors J. McDougald, S. Archibald, J.D. Fraser, Dr. McGillivray and W. Smith argued the principle of Free Trade on the abstract merits as well as in its application to the subject of the petition. Referred to the Committee on Licenses.

The report of the Treasurer was read and referred to Assessment; and finance Committees. The Treasurer says the accounts of collectors are as well as the average of other years. And with the exceptions of Sections 9 and 15 the balances due are comparatively small. The collector of No. 15 appointed at the Jany. Term removed from the section and his successor having but a short time to do his work, should be excused. Collector's accounts for 1880 and previous years have seldom it ever been so well paid up. The Collector of No. 3 paid up for \$606.80 for '78 and '79. Owing to the death of the collector for section 19, whose natural kindness and charitable disposition prevented him from compelling poor people to pay their taxes, and his failing health for the past year or two, there is a balance due on the section for 1879 and 1880, which may be mostly recovered if promptly looked after. The Provincial Hospital for the Insane account for the last quarter has not come to hand. The sum of \$240.00 due from the relatives of insane patients requires attention more than any other item in the accounts. During the past two years, the municipality has received payment for only two of all the patients maintained by it in the Hospital. The sum of \$215.80 is due altogether from friends and relatives of sundry patients to the Municipality. Attention is invited to an item of expenditure from which no benefits derived. As the law stands numbers of jurymen are summoned to attend the Supreme Court sittings whose services are not

required. This last item has occasioned the Municipality within two years an unnecessary loss of \$147.60.

Thursday Forenoon

The Committee on Roads and Bridges reported, upon which, at this and subsequent sessions, road petitions were disposed of as follows:

CONFIRMED

Pent Roads – For T. McKay, Lynch, Fr. R; Henry Auld, Piedmont; Mrs. A. & J. Haggart, Piedmont Valley; Wm. Sutherland to intersect J. Humphrey's road; J.A. Meikle, Went. Grant; J. Campbell and others to Hardwood Hill School House; J. and W. Patriquin, River John; extension Hardwood Hill road to 2nd Division Scotch Hill.

Public Roads – Back Settlement to shore road, Lismore, extension of road at Watervale through lands of Jno. Fraser, Greenville Settlement to Sherbrooke Road, Sandy cove road to Bayview Cemetery, J.S. Fraser to locate the road according to report of committee of 1842.

NOT CONFIRMED

Road from Upper Pictou road near River John to line between J.B. Gammon and J. McCabe, pent road for J. Murray and D. McLeod Hardwood Hill. From main road to Railway Station, Stellarton was deferred to May Term. Alteration at Hardwood, Hill through lands of D. Cameron and J. Douglas was withdrawn by consent of parties interested.

Committees to lay off roads were granted – Peter Ross and others for alteration of road from Middle River to Millbrook, Jas. Cameron and others, alteration Black Brook road to St. Mary's Daniel Robertson and others alteration Kenzieville to Avondale, George Saunders and others Highfield farm to Drummond road, Prince Albert St. to Greenwood St. Westville, East River St. Mary's to County line, alteration road at Dalhousie Mtn., Donald McLean R. Hill for Pent road, alteration road at Reid's Brook Little Harbour, extension main road P. Island easterly to be recorded, road at Vale Colliery, pent road for R. McLeod Lorne, petitioner to pay land damages, concord to W. Branch E. River road, pent road, A. McLellan, w. river, pent road J. McCulloch and others Went. Grant, Carmichael's road to Cape John road.

Petitions for Committee's - D. McIvor, and others St. Mary's to B. River, Jos Langille and others R. John brook road to McNabs road, from Westville to Green Hill, D. McDougall and others Bailey's Brook to be made into a separate road district – were not granted.

Petitions of Robt. and others Battery Hill for widening road, and of inhabitants of R. John for defining road limits, were deferred to May Term.

W. Rae P.T.G. was relieved from paying land damages ordered last term

Private Statute Labor – Was granted to W. McDonald, Bayview, S. McDougald, Piedmont, G. Sutherland, Fox Brook, Jno. McKenzie M.R., D. and J.S. McKay, Stellarton, W. Purvis Plymouth, E.R.W. McRae P.T.G., W.J. Blaikie, W.R.R.D. McGlashen Linnessy, J.McLean, Bailey's Brook, half, R. Rogers H.W.Hill, D. McGillivray B.B. half, W. McKenzie F.G. Jno.McLean, W.B.R.J., J. Cummings Blue Mt. A. McKenzie, Went. Grant, R. McLeod, W.R.S. Sutherland Loganville, A. McKenzie Scotsburn, A. McPhie F.R.C., C. Clark W.R., D. C. McDonald Sunny Brae half, J.D. Cameron L.B. , J.A. Campbell St. Pauls E.R., R. Morrison B. .R., Jas. McDonald W.R. ,

James McDonald B. B., Jas. McLeod White Hill half, W. D. McDonald, U. Hope'll, H. Murray M.R.H. McDonald Ponds, G. Murray Car. R., Jno. McDonald Hopewell, t. Cameron Rocky Mt. J.S. McCabe L.B.T. Green Greenville St. Mary's, Duncan Wood Garden Eden, J. Coming Greenville, D. McLellans Fox Brook, W. Grant, F.G. C. Gillis E.F. River, S.R. Fraser L.B., J.D. Campbell Moose River, J.D. Meikle R.J.M. and J. Patriquin, R.J., A. Campbell McL. B., Jno. Sutherland 2nd Div. Car., A. Sylvester Alma, W. and T. Fraser B., half, A. Grant, Stellarton, H. and A. Munro south Pictou, G. McLeod Rocklin, W. Cummings Piedmont Valley., J. Horn Fr. Mt., half, and J. Wagner E.Fr. R.

Thursday Afternoon

The Warden invited the attention of the Council to the important matter of Railway Land damages. At the last Term, arrangements were made for the issue of Debentures, the first of which fall due on the 31st October next. The sum required to meet the same will be about \$7,100,000, for which the Council is to provide. The law authorizes the appointment of this tax to the several sections in greater or less sums according to the benefits derived from the road. On motion of Wm. Smith, seconded by R. Maxwell, that a special Committee be appointed for so apportioning the damages to the several sections, the Committees on nominations retired and prepared a report naming S. Archibald, J.Rad. McDonald, J.C. McKay, J. McDougald, R. McDougall, Wm. Smith, and A.J. McKay; and also recommend that same Committee arrange the proportion of County assessment. [???] borne by the Towns of Pictou and New Glasgow for the current year, and that the Clerk notify said Town Councils to meet this committee on Monday next at 2 p.m. Adopted.

Friday Forenoon

J. Ferguson asked the Council to take order for the repair and proper efficiency of the harbor life boat, which he said, belongs to the County. Referred to the committee on public property.

The report of the commissioners appointed to lay off Stellarton into a Police district, with affidavit appended showing that the report had been advertised according to law, and the petition of rate-payers that such police district be confirmed by this council, were read, and on motion of J. McDougald seconded by J.C. McKay, the report was adopted and the prayer of the petition granted.

Friday Afternoon

The grand report of the term, so far being that of the committee appointed at last May Term on the matter of Eastern Extension Railway damages, was read.

For the costs incurred by the County in contesting its liability for the payment of said damages, the Provincial Government have allowed the sum of \$1373.67 out of which the committee paid Wallace Graham for costs of appeal at Halifax and Ottawa \$408.89; S. G. Rigby, balance of account for constructing suits for county, \$454.22; D. Matheson, copying papers, discount on cheques & c. & c., \$17.55; former committee of council, expenses to Halifax, &c, &c. \$36.00; present committee to defray expenses for advertising, printing and issuing debentures, \$162.01; total \$1073.67 leaving a balance of \$800.00 which has been paid over to the county treasurer for the legal expense hitherto paid by the county, after providing for the payment of outstanding claims on account of these railway suits, and sites providing for the expense of issuing the debentures for the settlement of the Railway damages.

Pursuant to the resolution of the council, Debentures were issued on the 31st day of October 1881 under the supervision of committee. After consideration with experienced financial parties the rate of interest was fixed at six per cent, and the debentures were offered by public tender. Nineteen tenders were received, that of the Pictou Bank for the whole amount at a premium on three per cent being the most favorable was accepted. The total amount of the debentures issued is so as follows:

(Here follows a tabulated statement showing nine debentures for \$4500 due on the 31st October in each year from 1882 to 1890 inclusive, and seven debentures for \$3150 due 31st October 1891, - total \$43,650. The amount, including interest due each year will be 7119, 6849, 6579, 6309, 6039, 5769, 5499, 5229, 4959, 3339, - total \$57,620.)

All the railway damages awarded have been paid except the eight parties whose certificates amount in all to \$297.57 (and interest) to meet which the Pictou Bank held at 1st Dec, 1881, the sum of \$375.19. Appended hereto is a detailed statement, showing the numbers of names and the amounts of the certificates (paid and unpaid) issued for the railway damages, and a detailed account of the certificates redeemed by the Pictou Bank, and all transactions connected therewith, up to 1st Dec, 1881, and also a complete list of the numbers and amounts of the Debentures issued, and the interest annually accruing thereon.

(Signed)

Robert McNeil
John McDougald Committee
Donald Fraser

The Auditors certificates is appended, as follows: - We have examined the accounts, vouchers and Documents hereto annexed and find the same in accordance with the foregoing report.

Donald Gray
James McRae Auditors

Pictou Jany, 1882

173 certificates amounting to \$38,343.32 were issued on the appraisalment of lands taken for right of way, dated August 10th, 1876, and payable one half on the 10th Aug., 1878. These, with interest accrued, had all been paid by the Pictou Bank takes the Debenture for \$43,650 at 3 percent interest allowed Oct. 31st, to Dec. 1st \$218.25 – total \$45,177.73. Deduct \$44,802.56 above, and there remains a balance, as stated in the report of \$375.19, in the bank to the credit of the County, to meet certificates not yet claimed.

Pages 139 & 140 are missing in the Pictou Minutes book

On motion of S. Archibald, who highly commended the Committee on the manner in which the report was prepared, seconded by J.C. McKay, the report was unanimously adopted and ordered to be placed on file.

It was proposed by some members that the report with all the papers attached be published in pamphlet form for the information of the public, when J.R. McDonald observed – Ah Mr. Warden the public will hear about it soon enough!

Saturday Forenoon

The committee on nominations recommended the addition of A.J. McKay to the committee on appointment of land damages and assessments, which was done.

The report of the committee on assessments was read on Saturday afternoon. The collector's roll of Sect. 11 is paid up in full.

There is struck off the other 23 collector's rolls a total of \$323.26, as impossible to be collected. The only subject of complaint which the committees note is that the rolls have been rather tardy in coming to hand.

This report with the discussions thereon brings the business of the council up to Saturday evening. The council yesterday was occupied with the reading of the reports of Com. on Public Property, Com on Licenses and Com. on appointment of railway land damages, the last two of which were disposed of, and the first named was laid over for consideration to day. The detailed report of proceedings will be resumed and confirmed in our next.

The committee on nominations recommended the addition of A.J. McKay to the committee on apportionment of land damages and assessments, which was done. Discussion came up on the number of representatives already on committee from the different divisions of the county, some of the councilors from East Pictou rather objecting to any action that might seem to favor too strong a representative from the west as against the east.

J.R. McDonald said the committee after the addition of McKay's name, will show but three members from the east, while there are four from the west side of the county. The recommendation being put to vote, passed unanimously, when McKay's name was added to the committee appointed Thursday afternoon.

Saturday Afternoon

The report of the committee on assessment was read. The collectors' roll of Sect. 11 is paid up in full. There is struck off the other 23 collectors' rolls a total of \$323.36, as impossible to be collected. These deductions will not be much comfort to the sections, as the sums struck off will be added to next year's assessments. The only subject of complaint which the committee notes is that the rolls have been rather tardy in coming to hand. In regard to the incomplete returns of the late collector of Sect. 19 for the years 78, 79, and 80, referred to "in the Treasurer's report, the Com. recommend the appointment of Alex. McDonald's son of the deceased to complete the collections of the rolls as of his own doings thereon at the May Term ensuing. The sums of 1.46, 15.58, and 12.05 – total 29.09. are struck off the rolls of No.19 for the years '78, '79 & 80 respectively. In the matter of appeals, exemptions are allowed, as follows:

Wm. Hayward County races for the current year; J.J. Sutherland Barneys River, a reduction of \$75.00 on valuation; Jas. D. Reid, Fr. River having been allowed a reduction in his assessment last May Term from 240 to 160, but have received no benefit there from in the school and poor rates, the same having been collected of him in full, is to be refunded in the proportion implied in the action of council cited; James McD. McMillan Cape John to be refunded \$3.57 caused by a mistake in the assessment roll; Widow McLean of W.B.R.J. to be refunded \$3.95 taxes paid last year; J.R. Chisholm a minor capoose river 22, to be refunded \$3.60; John Parks 14, valuation to be reduced \$200 on assessment of 1881.

The petitions of H. Johnstone, McL. Brook, and of Henry McIntosh, Merigomish were not granted. A notice of appeal from Acadia Coal Co. was handed in but no appeal papers, consequently no action could be taken.

Monday Forenoon

The committee on Licenses reported that very little business had been brought before them. Of 16 Clerks of License appointed last year only two have sent in returns. Jas. W. Crockett of Sec 18 reports having had nothing to do, having done nothing and having received nothing for it. The return of Sec. 5 is incomplete and unsatisfactory, and is to be sent back to be completed for next meeting of council. In reference to the petition of merchants of Pictou Town, reported in Wednesday forenoon's business, the committee pronounce the same very respectable signed and worthy attention, but as the case presents itself to them as one of gain to some if of loss to others, besides being invested with peculiar difficulties; the Com. do not see their way clear to recommend any legislation, thereon, by the council at present.

The Committee appointed Thursday afternoon to apportion to the several sections and places in the county their respective shares of the E.E.R. Land damages annually falling due as specified in the report of Friday afternoon's business, recommended as follows: Polling district No. 1, outside of Pictou Town Limits pay 11 per cent; Polling district No.11, No.12, (outside of New Glasgow Town Limits) and No.22 to pay 1 ½ per cent each; Dist. No.5 and No. 24 to pay 1¾ per cent each; Dist. No.18 to pay 2 ½ per cent; Dist. No. 6 and 14 to pay 2 ½ per cent each; Dist.No.10 to pay 8 per cent; Dist. No. 2, No.4, No. 8 and No. 9 to pay 3 ¼ per cent each, Dist. No. 7 and No. 13 (outside of New Glasgow Town Limits), to pay 3 ¼ percent each; Dists. No 16 and No. 23 to pay 3 ¼ per cent each; Dists. No. 3, No. 19, No. 20 & No.21, to pay 4 per cent each; dist No. 15 to pay 4 ¼ per cent; the Town of Pictou and New Glasgow to pay 10 per cent each Dist. No. 17 to pay 12 per cent. All former apportionments to be cancelled.

Monday Afternoon

Jas. McDonald contended that the apportionment, as made by the Com., on the basis of present valuations, is not a fair one. Property will increase in value in those sections through which the railroad passes, and the basis of apportionment should be capable of being rectified from year to year by the assessment rolls. He considered it would be more equitable if the Committee had recommended a uniform rate per hundred dollars to be levied on every section.

J. Rod. McDonald said the Com. had gone back ten years, taken the average of the assessment rolls and fixed the percentages accordingly. If the land damages were to be levied on the basis of valuation year by year, it might stagger some Assessors on their oaths, as they might try to get their valuations squeezed down as small as possible.

John McDonald thought No. 17 was rated too high in proportion to other sections. Pictou town, for example, is rated ten per cent. on a valuation of \$400,000, while Sec. 17 on the same valuation is rated twelve percent, an apportionment which he does not feel to be consistent with justice.

J.D. Fraser thought the Com. had "arranged the arrangement" as equitably as it can be got at by figures.

J.R. Collie said if any section should be rated low; it is No. 4, as it is so situated as to be deprived of the benefit of all the railway lines.

Coun. Stramberg thinks section 4 derives more benefit from railroads than section 3, as it contains the town of River John with its wealthy mercantile firms, whose business is greatly facilitated by the railways, although they are at some distance from them.

On being put to vote, the report was adopted, Coun. J. McDonald, section 17, voting as emphatic "nay."

Coun. McDonald, section 17, was excused further attendance this term, having a subpoena to answer in Halifax.

Tuesday Forenoon

The Committee on Poor reported the returns in a much more satisfactory state than last year; some are arranged with great care and are models of neatness, but many overseers are too sparing of their paper, receipts being written on such small scraps that it is very hard to keep them from being lost; vouchers from each section-ought to be fastened together, and numbered, the numbers to correspond with the numbers of the returns. Sect. 4 return last year showed a balance in favor of the section of \$74.68 whereas the balance carried forward is 63.67, and there is an error of ten dollars in adding up the receipts; Sect 6 returns has no balance struck, and is to be sent back; in Sect 7 returns the auditor report some irregularities and the com. find it difficult to understand; in Sect. 24, there is \$29.55 charge against the section in 1880, but not accounted for in 1881 – this return is to be sent back. The overseers of Sect. 24 are required to pay on or before the 1st of November next, to the Clerk and Treasurer of Sect 21, the sum of sixty eight dollars for the support of poor of Sect.21.

No appeals or petitions have been received.

But few sections have complied with the bye-law of the municipality requiring overseers to lay before the council each year a correct statement of the number and condition of the poor in their several sections. The assessments to be levied the present year for the support of the poor are:

Sect. 1, \$350; 2, \$60; 3, \$340; 4, \$550; 5, \$130; 6, \$300; 7, \$430; 8, \$300; 9, \$500; 10, 200; 11, 150; 12, 225; 13, Churchville 120; Fraser's Mt, 80; 14, 60; 15, 60; 17, 300; 18, 450; 19, 100; 20, 160; 21, 250; 22, 40; 23, 700; 24. 100; - Total \$6,015.

The auditors having endorsed an objection on the return from Fisher's Grant, to the amount paid for board of J. Donahue, the Warden observed that one of the Fisher's Grant paupers boards at the expense of the section in one of the Pictou Hotels.

J.R. Collie said the committee had tried to investigate that matter, but were directed to mind their own business, as it was a matter for the section and not for the council to regulate. Warden, it is our business. If any irregularity exists it is our duty to rectify it, otherwise why are the returns brought here at all.

J. Ferguson wished it was in the power of the Council to do something to relieve Fisher's Grant. It is true that a pauper has to be boarded at a hotel in Pictou. Mr. Donohue is a man able to work but won't work, and is cute enough to maintain his standing as a recipient of the poor moneys of the Section. The railway terminus is the indirect occasion of the heavy assessment for the support of the poor in Sec. 1. There are no natives of the place on the list, with one exception.

P. Fraser said that the case of Fisher's Grant was similar to that of every other locality in which there are public works. Samuel Archibald did not think the Overseers of Sec. 1. could take Mr. Donohue, an able-bodied man and make a pauper of him.

The Com's report was adopted.

The Committee on Public Property reported everything in good order about the old Court House and jail, the repairs ordered last year on that and the County building and premises having been properly executed; the locker and keeper of the County building hereafter to keep the halls and stairs swept and clean, and to be paid therefore out of the rent funds of per annum; broken glass to be replaced in the dilapidated market building on which no further outlay is to be made; the ice or lifeboat to be repaired and to be kept in a convenient place near the railway station ready for service when required the sum of five dollars from county building rents to be allowed for repairs. The statements made in the report published in Tuesday's proceedings as to the condition of the court house are found to be reliable, and the com. recommend that a practical man be appointed to estimate the cost and consult with the commissioners of public property who will receive tenders. 1. For securing the foundation, 2. replacing all decayed wood work on outside and finish and repairing the roof etc. 3. for lighting the building with gas, strict regard being had to economy on all their transportation upon which they are to report to the May meeting of council; that meanwhile three hundred dollars be assessed on the county for such expenditure as may be found necessary to prevent the building from going to destruction. The New Glasgow Court House, lockup and market are intolerably good condition, the stairs of the former to be repaired and ten dollars to be expended on that and other repairs. The lockup and public grounds at Westville are in good order. An appropriation of twenty dollars is needed to improve the drainage of the building and water closet of the River John Lock-up which is otherwise in good condition. D. Marshall of New Glasgow is referred to the Commissioners of public property in New Glasgow for information as to the sale of the old Court House. The occupants of all public buildings paying rent remain as last year.

The report as above was adopted and a resolution moved by S. Archibald, seconded by R. MacDougall, passed – That the Committee on Public Property open up negotiations with the New Glasgow Town Council, as to the taking charge of market building for the benefit of town and country, and report to the May meeting.

In reference to the proposed renovation of the Court House, Councilor Bannerman, who, as one of the Committee had not signed the report, said he had personally inspected the foundation but did not think it in so bad a state as represented.

J.R. McDonald, Sec 11, said there is an unusually large assessment this year on account of railway damages. Any expenditure that can reasonably be dispensed with ought to be avoided under the circumstances. It would be advisable to defer the introduction of gas for the present. Other members expressed opinion to the effect that the building will be repaired by pulling it down after a few years and erecting a new and superior edifice.

Tuesday Afternoon

The report of the Committee on nominations on Town Officers was read and adopted.

Councilors D. Fraser and R. Maxwell, having subpoenas to answer in Halifax, were excused from further attendance this term. The Section lists of Town Officers were taken up, one by one, and confirmed.

The supplementary report of Committee on Roads and Bridges was read and adopted; five hundred and nineteen Statute Labor returns have been made to the Clerk and fifty one of the number issued, are still waiting; among the most prominent errors in the returns are exemptions on account of ill-health, some are not properly certified, more not numbered and not showing clearly whether labor was actually performed or not. The Committee recommend that the order of last year, requiring returns to be handed to the party who issued them, be strictly observed; and that the instructions be received so that persons receiving them cannot be mistaken, as, to their duties; that the exemption clause in favor of persons holding commissions in the volunteer force be struck out of the instructions; and that no district be excepted in making a return, special reference being made to there being no return from limit No. 312 Halifax Mining Company; every surveyor of highways and Commissioners of streets shall under penalty of eight dollars on or before the 1st of December, make a return to the Justice or Councilor from whom he has received instructions of the labor performed by each person showing the commutations and fines received, the expenditure hereof and the money then in his hands which latter shall at the time be paid over to the person issuing the returns; that all applications for private Statute Labor be recommended by the Councilor of the Section, and as a general rule that this privilege be not extended to the same person two years in succession; that it be incumbent in applicants to state the number of days for which liable; that the Statute Labor instructions be issued in each section by the Councilor or Justice of the Peace appointed for that purpose on the first Saturday of April in places to be advertised, and the persons appointed shall, when the work is appointed shall when the work is performed, have the return made to him correctly filling in and he shall have the same filed with the Clerk of the Municipality in time for the January Term; that the surveyors of highways be particular in calling for such instructions on the day above named; and that 600 copies of these orders be published in sheet form to be supplied to overseers with instructions.

A resolution was passed on motion of J.D. Fraser, seconded by W. Stevenson – That the report of the road and bridge committee shows a deficiency of fifty one statute labor returns. Be it therefore ordered that the delinquent overseers of the several districts make a return to the Clerk of Council before the May Term, and in default thereof they be proceeded against as the law directs.

Petition for roads were granted besides those reported in Thursday's proceedings, as follows; Street in Westville to be known as College Street; I. McCabe and others

Pages 143 & 144 are missing from the Pictou Minutes Book

(Munro and Gammon Road) River John, alteration at Wentworth Grant was ordered to be placed on file in the Clerk's office. The Amount sued for and recovered of Labin Langille by the Overseer of road limit 43 to be refunded, the certificate of Hugh Baillie showing that he performed his work in section 4 on that he be credited for extra work this year.

A memorial signed by the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary of the Pictou Agricultural Society and by the President of the New Glasgow Society, was received and read showing that by a Statute of the Nova Scotia Legislature, the Province is divided in Agricultural districts for the holding of Agricultural Exhibitions and that one of these districts consists of the Counties of Pictou, Antigonish, and Guysborough; that the selection of the County in which the Exhibition of the said district in 1882 shall be held will depend largely upon the amount of prize money offered by the respective Counties; the memorialists therefore pray the Council to grant such a sum for prize money, on condition that the Exhibition be held in Pictou County, as may

deemed prudent. And they believe that a large proportion of the money so granted will remain in the County; that between \$700 and \$800 will probably be furnished by the Province; and that the sum supplemented by the Council and further increase by gate money, contributions from other Agricultural Societies and from incorporated towns will form a handsome prize fund sufficient to secure the location of the Exhibition in Pictou County. The memorialists further state their belief that the constituencies represented by the members of Council, will, with their well-known patriotism, heartily endorse the action of the Council in any appropriation that may be made for the object specified. The petition created a brief discussion, but no action was taken upon it.

Wednesday

The Auditors report the Treasurer's books, accounts, and vouchers correct, the balance cash on hand 1st Jany. 1882 being \$3739.94. The County's liabilities, Dec 31st, 1881 are: Debenture No. 2 payable this year \$2000, accounts 1881 unpaid \$319.76, do 1880, \$88.94, Presentments Grand Jury previous to County Incorporation unpaid \$2795.77. Road damages for previous year \$853.34, School money unpaid Oct. last \$615.88, Lunatic Asylum to Dec 31st, 1881, \$2700.54, Queen's Evidences \$9.00, Jurymen \$12.00, Appeals \$73.31, road board service to be expended \$145.98 – total \$9,615.44.

The assets are – cash on hand \$3739.94 due from Town of Pictou \$2234.09, Collectors 1881, \$2360.14, the same for previous year \$341.34 less then 3 per cent commission, Insane patients \$240.98, struck from rolls in May to be added in 1882, \$59.70. Total, \$8894.98, leaving a deficit of \$720.46.

The Committee appointed last year to make enquiries in reference to the erection of a County Poor House, reported that they had corresponded with similar institutions elsewhere, but the information obtained had not come to hand in time to enable them to offer any definite recommendations, and asked an extension of time to May for further consideration of the matter passed.

The indebtedness of the County: Dec. 31st, 1881 is – for excess of liabilities over assets, per report Treasurer and Auditors, \$720.46, Accounts 1881 herein ordered to be paid \$2995.99, fines, penalties, etc., transferable to road and bridge service account, \$207.24, - total \$3923.60. Estimates for service of the year 1882, - County Clerk for salary, stationery, postage, \$500, County Treasurer for salary and postage, \$425, Auditors \$40, Sheriff \$130, Jailors at Pictou \$200, at New Glasgow \$200, at Westville \$100 at River John \$60, Clerk of Market, Pictou, \$40, New Glasgow \$30, Revisers \$175, Assessors \$500, Collectors \$750, Warden and Councilors \$500, Public Buildings insurance, fuel, repairs, etc. \$700, Printing, Stationery and postage, etc \$250 road damages and committees, \$500, bushing ice \$100, board and bedding for prisoners \$600, Exhibition Grounds balance of amount voted last year \$200, Civil and Criminal prosecutions \$500, Municipal Elections etc. \$200, Contingencies \$300, old debt and interest \$21.20, Schools, \$10,115, Debentures and Interest railway damages, \$7119 – total to be assessed on the County this year \$33,454.

The portions of County Assessment to be paid by the towns of Pictou and New Glasgow, including their percentages of Railway damages are respectively \$3438.30 and \$2529.50.

John McKay and A.M. Fraser, Esqrs. are appointed to make an examination as to the ability of the relatives of D. McIntosh, a patient in the Lunatic Asylum to support him.

The report was adopted, and the Council adjourned till May next.

Robert McNeil Warden

D.W. Matheson, Mun. Clerk

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Pages 147 & 148 is missing from the Pictou Minutes Book