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Hampstead Borough Council.

Mayor—Councillor Ernest A. O'Bryen.

Deputy Mayor—Councillor G. W. Holtzapffel.

The usual fortnightly meeting of the Hampstead Borough Council was held on the 20th ult., in the Town Hall, the Mayor (Councillor E. A. O'Bryen) in the chair.

PRESENT:

Alford, R. G.
Balkwill, Miss M. E.
Billinghurst, H.
Blessley, V. H. le B.
Buckle, G.
Brown, H. C.
Candler, H.
Cunnington, C. W.
Cust, R. H. H.
Farmer, L., Ald.
Fraser, J. I.
Greenhill, T.
Hulls, C. H., Ald.
Hall, C.
Hanhart, N.
Higginson, C. J.
Holtzapffel, G. W.
Howard, F. G.
Hulls, H. M.
Humphreys, R.
Jupp, C. L.
King, C. B.
North, J. H.
Northcott, W. C.
Nunn, T. H.
Pritchard, C. F., Ald.
Payne, E. S.
Randall, T. Gurney, Ald.
Reiss, C.
Smith, H. R.
Snow, H. W.
Spriggs, W. J.
Woodward, W., Ald.
Warner, W. H.
Weaver, A. B.
Willis, R. J. J.
Wrentmore, J. H.

ABSENT:

Swinburne-Hanham, J. C., Ald.
Boden, J. W.
Channing, F. C.
Dyter, J. T.
Hamilton, W. R.
Neumegen, L.
Paine, G. H.
Phillips, A. S.
Randall, J. W. G.
Taylor, J. G.

King Henry's Road.

The Works Committee reported that in consequence of the decision of the Board they had further considered the question of the execution of the works which it was proposed to carry out with the assistance of the Board. In view of the fact that no provision for carrying out such works had been made in the estimates for the year, they had eliminated from consideration all works which, although desirable to be carried out in order to maintain the roads in a proper state of repair, it was possible to postpone in view of the existing circumstances, and had dealt only with those cases which were of great urgency.

They were of opinion that it was essential that King Henry's-road should be paved without delay; and therefore recommended that the portion of King Henry's-road from Primrose-hill-road to Adelaide-road be paved with slag tar macadam, 4½ inches in thickness, at an estimated cost of £1,332 12s. 6d.

The chairman of the Finance Committee (Councillor Northcott) moved as an amendment "that the recommendation be taken back until some definite reply be received from the Road Board," in respect to a grant aiding the expense of the repaving, etc., of such road.

The chairman of the Works Committee (Councillor Hulls) said he hoped the Council would not send their recommendation back, as it was absolutely necessary that the work should be done at once, and also that this was the best season of the year to do such work, viewit from an economic point of view. Eventually the amendment was lost, and the Committee's recommendation adopted.

Proposed works in Avenue-road and Hillgrove-road was still under consideration by the Committee, and a report thereon would be submitted to the Council at a later date, the estimated cost being £226 2s. and £365 10s. respectively.

Road Making Grants and the Road Board.

The Finance Committee reported that they had considered the reply from the Road Board to this Council's application for a grant towards the cost of paving various roads in the Borough during the years 1914-15 and 1915-16, estimated at £18,304, and stating that the Board are not, at the present time, making new grants in London; adding that they were waiting to hear the result of a Conference which they understood had been convened by the London County Council.

They had also received a report of the delegates appointed by the Council to attend the Conferences on the subject of grants by the Road Board convened respectively by the London County Council and the Wandsworth Borough Council—from which it appeared that resolutions of practically similar effect were passed at both Conferences.

The resolutions passed at the Wandsworth Conference were as follows:—

That this Conference of Metropolitan City and Borough Councils is of opinion that the improvement or reconstruction of the crusts of many of the roads in the Metropolis is urgently necessary in order to make them suitable for the requirements of modern traffic, and considers it inequitable that the expense thus involved should fall wholly upon the ratepayers in the areas affected.

That a Deputation be appointed to urge upon the Road Board the desirability of continuing the practice of making grants from the Road Improvement Fund direct to the Metropolitan City and Borough Councils, to enable them to carry out the road improvement works required.

It was desirable that the Metropolitan Borough Councils should assist in obtaining the attendance of a deputation to the Road Board, as suggested, by supporting such resolutions; and therefore recommended that this Council do support the resolutions above set out, and that the Road Board be informed accordingly.—Adopted.

Public Analyst and Food Adulteration.

The Public Health Committee reported that they had had before them the report of the Public Analyst upon the articles analysed by him under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts and the Rag Flock Act, 1911—it appearing that out of a total of 138 samples of food analysed 8 proved to be adulterated, viz., 6 of milk, 1 of pork pie, and 1 of sausage, the latter two samples containing a small proportion of boric acid as preservative; 1 sample of rag-flock was analysed and proved to be a good and wholesome sample.

Metropolitan Boroughs Standing Joint Committee.—Bills.

The General Purposes Committee reported that they had carefully considered the circular letter from the Metropolitan Boroughs' Standing Joint Committee, forwarding copy minutes of the quarterly meeting held on 27th April last, and asking that its recommendations on the following items in respect to eight coming Bills in Parliament set out in the minutes be brought to the notice of the Council, viz.:—Metropolitan Councils (Expenses of Association) Bill; Underground Workrooms Bill; Local Government (Qualification for Office) Bill; Housing of the Working Classes Bill; Sewers (Exemption from Rating) Bill; Vaccination Acts (Repeal) Bill; Disorderly Houses Bill; and Conferences of Metropolitan Boroughs.

The Committee were in full agreement with the action of the Metropolitan Boroughs Standing Joint Committee in respect to the above eight bills, and recommended that the Committee's action in each case be approved, and that the Town Clerk be instructed to ask the member of Parliament for the Borough (Mr. J. S. Fletcher) to oppose or endeavour to obtain an amendment of the various bills as set out in the Committee's lengthy report and recommendations.

Non-Provided Schools of the Metropolis.

That, in connection with the power delegated to them by the Council at its last meeting, they had appointed Messrs. Councillors Candler and Spriggs to attend the Conference convened by the Islington Borough Council for Thursday, the 21st inst., to consider what steps (if any) should be taken to safeguard the interests of the Non-Provided Schools of the Metropolis.—Approved.

Dangerous Points.—Suggestions.

The Works Committee recommended that with reference to the letter from Miss Hoare, of North End House, North End, calling attention to the dangerous crossing at Jack Straw's Castle where four roads converge, owing to the large amount of motor traffic, especially on Sundays and fine days, and suggesting that the danger might be considerably lessened and the traffic better regulated if a refuge were erected at that point—Miss Hoare be informed that after careful consideration the Council does not consider it advisable to erect a refuge as suggested by her.—Adopted.

That with reference to the letter from Dr. H. Macnaughton-Jones, of 34 Frognal-lane, again calling attention to the extreme danger of the turning into Frognal from the top of Frognal-lane, owing to the view being obstructed, and suggesting that signals or notices should be erected drawing attention to the danger—Dr. Macnaughton-Jones be informed that in the opinion of the Council the multiplication of signs has a tendency to diminish their value, and they should, therefore, only be used in cases of great danger, and that it does not consider that the proposed site comes within that category.—Adopted.

Proper Numbers.

The same Committee reported that their attention had been drawn to the fact that in the preparation of the Register of Voters, difficulties had arisen owing to the irregularity or absence of numbers to houses in various roads, the difficulty being more marked where a road was in more than one ward, or where a portion of the road had been transferred to Hampstead under the London Government Act, 1899.

They were of opinion that it was desirable that the premises in the roads in question should be properly numbered; and therefore recommended that the London County Council be requested to issue Orders for the proper numbering of the premises in the following roads, viz.:—Frognal, Frognal-lane, and St. John's Wood Park.—Adopted.

Mr. Mortlake Mann's Complimentary Benefit.

The concert organized for the benefit of Mr. Mortlake Mann, and given at the Hampstead Conservatoire on Thursday evening, was a great success. Many artists kindly gave their services, and the programme arranged was one full of interest and entertainment, and was cordially approved. Mr. Walter Browne during an interval stated that Mr. Mortlake Mann had been seriously ill, and he was undergoing an operation that, though not dangerous in itself, would necessitate two or three months rest. The success of that concert would do much to relieve the anxiety of his convalescence, and he would be very grateful for the enthusiasm shown. Mr. Browne thanked the audience for their support, the organizers for untiring efforts, and the artists for their interest and valuable services.

The programme opened with a piano solo, then followed a selection of songs, recitations, etc., all of which received hearty applause. To Mr. Wilfred Essex was accorded the heartiest reception, and his splendid vocalisation was encored several times. His fine voice and artistic rendering of attractive songs gave great pleasure, and his was one of the great successes of the evening. Another belonged to Mr. Lawrence Folker, and he too was encored. He sang "The Blind Ploughman" in magnificent style, and his deep bass voice was heard to the best advantage. Mr. Charles Cruikshanks was delightful with his masterly recitation, "Trouble in Amen Corner," which was followed by "a string of chestnuts," and each story bettered the other. Miss Sylvia Mortlake, who acted as accompanist, sang "My Advice," and Miss Violet Fisher also added the attractive song "Little White Town." Miss Dorothea Crompton's pleasant voice was displayed particularly well in her second song, "Where the Bee Sucks," and she was well applauded. Miss Cladys Harrison, who danced gracefully, was encored and presented with flowers. Two duologues by Miss Gertrude Taylor and Mr. Charles Fry were very amusing and of course well done, and Mr. H. B. Denham displayed his extraordinary magical skill with some wonderful card tricks and other mysteries. Two bouts of fencing reminded one of Mr. Mortlake Mann's skill on similar occasions. Miss Rita Bennell and Miss Ruby Muir did some good work with the foils, and Sergt.-Major A. O'Dwyer and Mr. Archie Cobble had a brilliant encounter with the sabres. Another amusing item was a Pantomime Act by Mr. D. L. Murray and Mr. F. Lindsay, and Mr. Sydney Folker's dramatic recitation "The Aristocrat" revealed his fine elocutionary powers and histrionic ability. This completed the programme, which everyone enjoyed, and which it was satisfactory to learn was a financial success.

Mr. Walter Browne was the stage manager, and Mr. George Dawson the acting manager. Miss Muriel Herbert assisted as accompanist.

Sacred Concert.

A sacred concert, in aid of the Jubilee Fund of Abbey-road Baptist Church, was given on Thursday last, under the direction of Mr. Clifford Knight, organist of the church. Mr. Edgar Smith was at the organ, and Miss F. W. Holloway at the piano.

Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise" was skilfully rendered, and the choir, admirably trained, proved themselves quite efficient in interpreting this beautiful work. Every chorus was given with good taste and expression, and the details, which display more than anything else the quality of the previous training, were excellent. The solos were beautifully rendered, the tenor by Mr. Lloyd Huws, the soprano by two members of the London College for Choristers. The good taste and nice feeling displayed enhanced the effect throughout. The second part of the programme included two choruses for male voices, and solos by Miss C. Comerford Finch and Mr. Comber Smith. The lady vocalist, who possesses a contralto voice of beautiful quality, sang "Eye hath not seen" and "The Lord is my light," with such expression and sympathy that an encore was demanded, and she responded with an exquisite reading of Liddle's "Abide with me," with organ and piano accompaniments. Mr. Comber Smith is a vocalist who always wins the goodwill of his audience. His baritone voice is musical and sympathetic, and his method leaves nothing to be desired. He sang the recit. and air, "Thus saith the Lord," "But who may abide," from the "Messiah," with infinite expression. The tenor solo and chorus, "Great is Jehovah," completed the programme, which was enjoyed and appreciated by a fairly large audience.

Police Constable Purnell Acquitted.

Mr. Francis Purnell, the police constable of Hampstead, who last year was charged with having committed wilful and corrupt perjury, was last week acquitted of the charge, when the trial was concluded at the Old Bailey on Tuesday before Mr. Justice Rowlatt after three days' hearing. The verdict of "Not guilty" was received with applause.

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