

LONG DEBATE IN COUNCIL

Aldermen Decide Not to Change Building Restrict- ions at Present

DEPUTATIONS H E A R D

Legislature Will be Asked to Validate Catholic Hut Grant

Braving Spanish influenza, the members of Council met yesterday afternoon at 2.30, and continued their deliberations until after 8 o'clock last night.

Over two hours were spent in discussing Controller O'Neill's recommendation that the residential restrictions be relaxed in the district south of Bloor street from Parliament to Bathurst streets, to permit the erection of three-family apartment houses and the conversion of old residences into such apartments. Finally it was referred back, pending the report of the heads of departments on housing, by a vote of 12 to 9.

Two deputations, one in favor and one opposed to the project, were heard by the Council. Mr W. E. Turley and Capt. Marani objected on behalf of the returned soldiers and the men at the front. The city should, they urged, take advantage of the Government loan and build houses in the outskirts of the city under civic and Government supervision. Tenement houses were not wanted in the centre of the city, but homes without exorbitant charges through real estate speculation.

Mrs. Elizabeth Walker said that she had \$30,000 invested in city property, and this, her best year, yielded a profit of \$800. For two old residences in the centre of the city she had to use revenue from other property. There was a class in the city that had to be looked after in the centre of the city. A large number of small families had to be accommodated in the central district.

Controller O'Neill's Arguments.

Controller O'Neill alleged that the opposition had originated with the Toronto Housing Company, as it was to their advantage to keep rentals high. Last year they had raised their rents, and increased them again this year. Last year the company had a deficit, and this year provision had to be made for a sinking fund. If anything would affect the company it was low rents, resulting from ample accommodation, he claimed.

No property that he owned would be affected by the project, which he had advanced solely on behalf of the city. A hub population was essential to the city to stimulate downtown business and keep up the value of property. It was impossible at present values to erect self-contained houses any place in this central district. The bane of the city was not apartment houses, but rooming houses. Surely, he said, it was better to have three families in three apartments than three families in the one house.

Practically every member of Council gave his views on the subject. Ald. Plewman, Ald. Ball and Ald. Risk were among those who opposed it on social and health grounds, fearing that tenements with all the attendant problems would be created. Other members said that the drastic step was unnecessary, as the individual owners could obtain the right to erect such apartments on petition.

The Division.

The motion referring back the matter was carried on the following division:

For—Mayor Church, Controllers McBride, Robbins and Maguire, Aldermen Hiltz, Ball, Cowan, Risk, McMulkin, Gibbons, Plewman and Birdsall—12.

Against—Controller O'Neill, Aldermen Beamish, F. W. Johnston, F. M. Johnston, Ryding, Ramsden, Nesbitt, Blackburn and Sykes—9.

A recommendation to transfer the granting of garage permits to the City Architect was ruled out of order by Chairman Brook Sykes, and on vote was not considered in Council.

The by-law authorizing grading and salary increases was carried. It was decided to ask the Legislature to empower the city to assess an amount to cover repairs on local improvements. Radial service to the Island was referred, on motion of Controller Robbins, to the Transportation Commission.

A deputation appeared before the Council regarding the establishment of a drug store at the corner of Dundas and Jarvis streets, and the request was disallowed.

Glen Road Trestles.

Mr. A. W. Carrick and A. McMurchy headed a deputation requesting that the supports of the temporary trestle over Glen road be moved back of the sidewalk. In replying to the statement of Commissioner Harris that steel could not be obtained Mr. Carrick read a letter from a company stating that the order could be filled in six weeks. He urged that the narrowing of the view through the shorter span would endanger life. Controller McBride presented a motion ordering the supports to be placed behind the sidewalk, which failed to carry by 12 to 5.

Moved by Ald. Ryding and seconded by Ald. Gibbons, a motion asking the Provincial Government to relax regulations in order that liquor prescriptions might be filled by druggists during the present epidemic was carried without opposition.

Controller McBride, seconded by Ald. Beamish, moved that Judge Coatsworth be requested to submit to Council a copy of the proceedings of the arbitration between the civic employees and the city. This was carried, on Controller McBride stating that he would stand the expense, and would not use it on the floor of the Council, with only Ald. Plewman and Blackburn opposed.

The Catholic Hut Grant.

Controller McBride moved that the Legislature be asked to legalize the grant of \$15,000 to the Catholic Army Huts, and the suspension of the rules, and the motion was carried on the following division:

For—Mayor Church, Controllers McBride, O'Neill, Ald. F. M. Johnston, Beamish, Sykes, Birdsall, Ramsden, Ball, Ryding, Gibbons, McBrien, Hiltz—13.

Opposed—Controller Robbins, Ald. F. W. Johnston, Risk, Plewman, Blackburn and Cowan—6.

Ald. Brook Sykes gave notice of motion that he would move that department heads report on essential improvements that could be pro-

cutted at the earliest possible date after the conclusion of peace, to give employment to released soldiers.

The Council joined with the municipality of Saskatoon to petition the Federal and Provincial Governments to render medical assistance to men who had been found unfit through curable troubles by the medical boards of the military.