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ANNUAL REPORT OF FIRE CHIEF

During the Year \$225,000 Worth of Property Involved—Damage \$6,595.26 Covered by Insurance.

Out of \$225,000 worth of property involved in fires, there was a total of but \$6,595.26 damage, fully covered by insurance; in the city during the year 1931, according to the annual report of the fire chief which was presented to the city council last night. There were 60 alarms rung in to the department and the causes of the various fires included rubbish, chimney, electric iron, coal oil lamp, defective stove pipe, grass, brick furnace, gas boat, smoke scare, overheated furnaces, coal oil stove, automobile and overheated stove fires. During the year 9,000 feet of water hose, 600 feet of chemical hose and 200 gallons of chemicals had been used. The total expenditure of the department, including wages and various supplies, had been \$18,378.36. Twenty-six inspections of buildings had been made and fire alarm boxes, given regular inspection, had all been in good working order.

The chief noted in his report that there had been considerable improvement in the streets during the year and he hoped it would be carried on. Eighteen new hydrants had been put in and the work of the department had been thus facilitated. He recommended the extension of water mains and the provision of more hydrants in Westview where the number of residences was constantly increasing.

Equipment on Hand.
The equipment of the department on hand at the end of the year included two Seagrave trucks, one Ford combination truck, gas masks and two emergency hose reels, one at Third Avenue and Seventh Street, the other at Eighth Avenue and Conrad Street. There was 2,750 feet of rubber hose in reserve, some of which had been in use since 1911.

The chief formally thanked the fire committee and the mayor for co-operation during the year, the fire department for faithful service which had made such a creditable report possible and the police department for assistance on all occasions.

Speaking to the report, Mayor Rochester said it was a very creditable one and showed that the work of the department had been splendid and the apparatus was in good shape and improving all the time.

Longer Ladder.
Ald. Collier said that at a recent fire he had noticed that a 21-foot ladder had been used. This was not large enough and would not suffice in the fighting of fire which might break out on some of the larger buildings in the city. He moved that estimates be secured for a 45-foot ladder and that the building inspector and fire chief be instructed to make a thorough inspection of all downtown buildings.

In regard to the 45-foot ladder, the mayor stated that this matter had already been taken up and the purchasing agent had called for estimates. The motion regarding inspections was seconded by Ald. Montgomery and carried.

The report was referred to the Board of Works to take up the matter of extension of the water mains in Westview.

CITY IS OFFERED WATERFRONT BLOCK ASSESSMENT VALUE

Akerberg & Thompson Will Sell Lease and Buildings for Sum of \$25,000.

Akerberg & Thompson Co. have offered to sell to the city their 20 year lease on Lot 1, Waterfront block F, and the buildings on it for \$25,000, the city assessment valuation. The offer was received at last night's council meeting and was referred to the Finance Committee for report.

Mayor Rochester said he doubted if the company was entitled to sell the property which they did not own. If the city could get a title to it he would be in favor of buying but, as it was, he felt that it was merely a forerunner of the approaching Court of Revision.

RESUME OF THE RECOUNT

Rulings of Judge Given As a Guidance in Future Cases.

In connection with the recent recount, at which the press was not present, a resume of the proceedings has been secured, which will be a guide in future elections. The rulings of the judge were made on well established precedent with the exception of number 5:

1. Ballots which did not bear the initials of the deputy returning officer on the back were allowed.
2. Ballots marked on the back with an "X" but with no mark on the face of the ballot were refused.
3. Ballots marked with three or more "X" opposite the name of one candidate were allowed.
4. Ballots marked with ink or indelible pencil instead of black lead pencil were allowed.
5. Ballots marked with a red cross made by red pencil were refused. No authority for this ruling was given except on the ground of possible identification.
6. Ballots marked with an "X" on front of ballot opposite candidate's name and also bearing an "X" on back of ballot were allowed.
7. Ballots not printed or prepared by the returning officer and not bearing returning officer's stamp were refused on the ground that they were not proper ballots and contrary to Election Act.
8. Ballots prepared in part by the returning officer but completed on a typewriter, not bearing the printer's certificate on the back were refused under the Dominion Election Act on the ground that they were not uniform, did not bear the printer's certificate and were not printed.
9. Ballots with an "X" in the white space before the candidate's name or over the candidate's name were allowed under the Dominion Election Act.
10. Ballots with "X" opposite both candidate's names were refused on account of uncertainty.
11. Ballots with the name of the candidate written on the face of the ballot were refused because of the possibility of identification and as showing no attempt to vote in accordance with the Dominion Election Act.

FUNERAL OF LATE JOSEPH GRIFFITH

Well Known Railwayman Passed Away at Home of Daughter Early Sunday Morning.

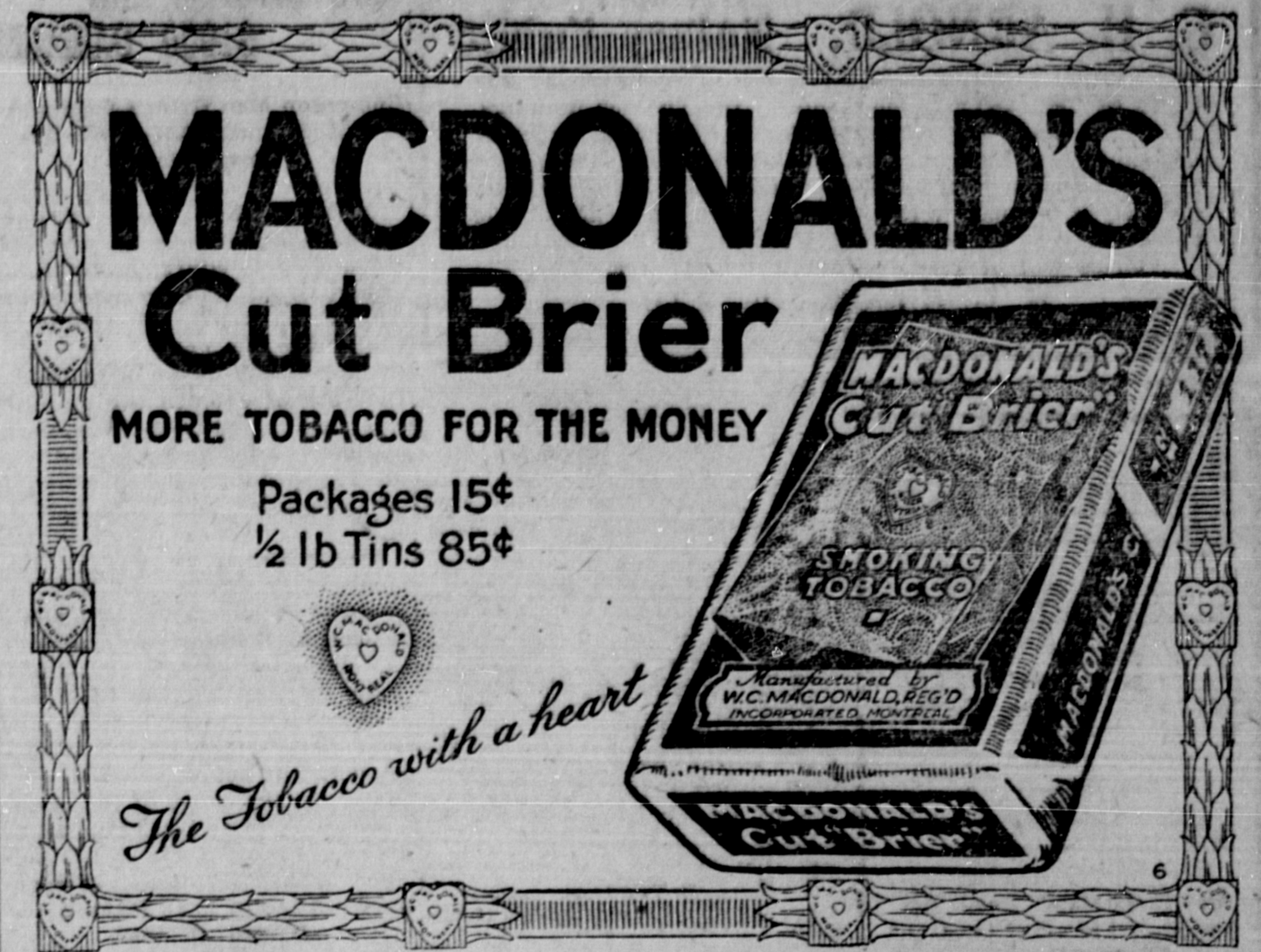
The funeral of the late Joseph Griffith, whose death occurred at 5:45 Sunday morning at the home of his daughter, Mrs. A. S. Dunbar, Clapp Apartments, took place this afternoon from the B. C. Undertakers' Parlors, interment being made in Fairview Cemetery. Rev. Dr. H. R. Grant officiated and there was a large attendance of friends to pay their



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last respects to the deceased who was widely known in the city. The pallbearers were Joseph Greer, Andrew Abbott, Peter Johnson, William Sweeney, Joseph Williams and Robert Halpern.

The late Mr. Griffith was 71 years of age and was a native of St. Catharines, Ontario. He had been in the city for the past ten years, the most of which time he spent in the employ of the Grand Trunk Pacific and Canadian National Railways. Prior to coming here he was at Winnipeg as a conductor on the Canadian Pacific Railway. He was formerly a member of the Royal Arch Chapter, A. F. & A. M., Duluth, and also belonged to the Brotherhood of Railway Conductors.

Mr. Griffith is survived by his widow and one daughter, Mrs. A. S. Dunbar, both of whom reside in Prince Rupert.

There were floral tributes at the funeral from Mr. and Mrs. Jack Venables, Mrs. E. Stilwell, Mrs. R. J. D. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. J. Pitts, L. J. Marren, Tyee Lodge No. 66, A. F. & A. M., Lipsett & Cunningham, Tsimpsean Lodge, A. F. & A. M., Kaiten Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, Mr. and Mrs. D. H. McDonald, Mr. and Mrs. P. J. McCormick, Mr. and Mrs. J. Ryan, Mr. and Mrs. T. Mooney, Miss Ryan, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Farley and Mr. and Mrs. George McNeil.

CITY MUST PAY SINKING FUNDS

Head of Victoria City Administration Discusses Financial Difficulty.

Victoria city has a deficit of \$350,000 and the new mayor and council are looking for ways and means of carrying on and liquidating that debt. It was the debt which they had incurred which made the last mayor and council put up such a strenuous fight for provincial aid to municipalities. A Victoria paper discussing it says:

Proposals to introduce taxation of improvements in Victoria are almost certain to be brought before the City Council before it has got through its present financial difficulties, stated Mayor William Marchant yesterday, but he will strenuously oppose such a movement.

"Not only will I advise the Council against acting favorably on any plan to tax improvements but I will vote against it and use every means in my power to defeat it," said the Mayor with emphasis.

Mayor Marchant said that with an improvement tax in effect the city could probably add something like \$100,000 to its annual income, but he was convinced that property owners were already bearing too heavy a load.

Oppose Land Tax Increase.
"I shall resolutely oppose any attempt to increase the tax on land," said the Mayor. "I shall also oppose any suggestions of a sales tax or income tax, because these fields have already been combed clean by the Provincial and Federal Governments. I feel that the only way to ease our load and pay our obligations is to cut down on our present expenditure and perhaps increase

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some of the service charges now being levied. I am determined that the present City Council shall pay its way. The city is today saddled with a deficit of \$350,000 which has been accumulated by previous administrations. We cannot attempt to pay that all off, and I am not sure whether we shall be able to pay back the sinking funds that were diverted in 1920, but I know that the present Council will not divert any of its funds, no matter what may be the situation.

There is a proposal afoot to reduce salaries in all city departments including the schools.

The Man in the Moon SAYS:

MARY had a little house
The rent was rather high
And every day the landlord called
Poor Mary heaved a sigh.

THERE was a rent in Mary's house
It made her very sore.
For everytime she went abroad,
Another rent she tore.

"Oh hang the rent and landlord's too,"
Quoth Mary in a passion,
"I skimp my clothes, I mend my hose,
But cannot keep in fashion."

THE most useful thing there is about a man is his Saturday pay check.

IN these days of cash business, it is difficult to get credit for good intentions.

YOU can never tell a woman's age by the clothes she wears.

THERE was a young couple that figured on the cost of a cradle as part of the marriage expense, but that was a long, long time ago.

NOW that people are setting out to economize, let me suggest that we all try not to waste words.

SISTERS are all right, says Jimmie, especially the other fellow's sisters.

No one minds a person knowing it all, but when it comes to having him tell it all, that is another story.

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