

April 1/1946.

SUBMISSION HALIFAX MEMORIAL LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Mr. Donald Crowdis representing the Halifax Memorial Library Committee was present in the Council Chamber and when called upon to address the Council remarked as follows:

"Our Committee speaks for 35 organizations in the City and we have agreed that the war memorial for Halifax should be in the form of a library. There are two other members of the Committee here and I will call on them for a short talk on this matter.

Miss Gilroy then addressed the Council as follows: "A library is the best supplement to a school system. School children are being educated at a cost of \$20.00 per capita. We want .70¢ per capita to pay for a good library service. The Provincial Government will pay one half of the annual maintenance cost if it services the County as well. The City would only have to pay about .35¢ per capita. You get a good book collection on all subjects to readers. A constant supply of good and up-to-date books is an essential point in a good library. You need a good trained staff. We will have about 90,000 in Halifax when the population settles down. We should have two books per capita for the staff of about 25 to 35 people in the library. One third of the books would be for boys and girls. There will be technical books for men and women working in these fields to keep them up to date in their jobs. There are books on every kind of hobby. The library should be in the centre of the town on street level. The cost of a library seems very large but books give returns to the business men of the community. I feel it would pay dividends in dollars and cents."

Mrs. Fletcher Smith then addressed the Council as follows: "We have been running in Halifax for eight years a children's library and we have the positive proof of how necessary it is here. We have a room 15 x 25 feet long and about 1800 books. We service about 600 children. It is absolute bedlam in that room. We have a new register this year and we have put in 600 names in that register. We reach 26 public schools and that takes in Halifax, Fairview, Dutch Village Road and the Prefabricated districts. I think that it is a proven fact that a children's section in a library is a necessary unit for good in any community. We lay great stress in our education system and books are no doubt a part of the education system. We started out from nothing and we have had to do very little advertising. If we could get more books we could not house them. You can see the need for a children's section in a library."

Mr. Crowdis then addressed the Council as follows: "The matter of a war memorial has been in the air for several years. The feeling is mostly in favour of a library. A campaign was decided upon to raise the bulk of the money. The cost would be about a half million dollars for a city of this size. The cost of maintenance will be about one half because the Provincial Government will pay half if this is part of the Regional Library Scheme."

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It was moved by Alderman Ahern, seconded by Alderman Coffin that (1) Council go on record as approving the principle of a library as a War Memorial within the Regional Library Scheme (2) Legislation be secured to enable the City to underwrite the expenses of the campaign for funds and (3) Legislation be secured to enable the City to make up any deficiency that might exist after the canvassing is completed.

The motion was put and passed unanimously the following Aldermen being present and voting therefor:

FOR THE MOTION

Alderman Adams
Ahern
Breen
Burgess
Coffin
DeWolf
Doyle
Walker

LEGISLATION RE AIRPORT

His Worship the Mayor stated that the citizens are anxious to secure an Airport as good, if not better than the one on Chebucto Road. "It occurred to me to secure authority to allow us to acquire by purchase or expropriation suitable land outside the City limits and appropriate any monies from the sale of lands as a result of the City-Army deal."

Alderman Batson arrives 4.30 P. M.

Moved by Alderman Ahern, seconded by Alderman DeWolf that this legislation be obtained. Motion passed unanimously the following Aldermen being present and voting therefor:

FOR THE MOTION

Alderman Adams
Ahern
Breen
Burgess
Coffin
DeWolf
Doyle
Walker
Batson