

THE CEMETERY – RETIREMENT OF MR. BUTCHER.

Councillor HANSFORD submitted the following report of the Cemetery Committee. Your committee have received the following letter from Mr. **Henry BUTCHER**, the Cemetery Lodge, West-street: "I desire to terminate my contract with the Council for the superintendence of the Cemetery, to take effect on Saturday, June 10th next. I wish to express my sincere thanks for the great kindness and consideration which I have always received from the members of the Council, from yourself, and from those officials of the town with whom my work has brought me into association. Under the terms of my contract, the men employed at the Cemetery are engaged by me, and my arrangement with them will cease on June 10th. Having regard to their experience and long service, I trust it may be possible to continue their employment"- and recommend that the resignation be accepted with much regret, that Mr. BUTCHER be thanked for the faithful and courteous manner in which he has carried out his duties on all occasions for so many years, and that they be authorised to take the necessary steps to fill up the vacancy.

In moving the adoption of the report, Mr. HANSFORD said all those who had had the pleasure or the misfortune to come in contact with Mr. BUTCHER would testify to the extreme courtesy with which he treated all comers. The Cemetery had always been kept in beautiful condition, and had been greatly admired by many thousands of visitors. It was always a great pleasure to anyone to go there. He was very sorry to see an Alderman laugh. Alderman SWEETMAN said he couldn't see the pleasant side of going to the Cemetery.

Alderman HANSFORD: Well I do (laughter). To go into the Cemetery and see how beautifully it was arranged and how beautiful all the flowers looked, ought to be a pleasure to anybody. Mr. BUTCHER felt he had done as much work as he ought to do, and that he would like to take things easier. He did not like being confined there for so many hours. The Committee therefore had no alternative but to accept his resignation. With regard to the latter part of the report he believed it was the privilege of the Cemetery Committee which acted as a Burial Board to appoint a successor to Mr. BUTCHER should be left to the Cemetery Committee.

Councillor THIRKELL seconded. He was extremely sorry that Mr. BUTCHER was leaving, and quite agreed that it would be impossible for the Cemetery to look better than it had done under his care.

Councillor HAYDEN said, in his opinion the latter part of the recommendation would be very controversial. The Committee might be justified in taking the preliminary steps in obtaining a successor, but he should object to the Committee appointing someone and merely reporting to the Council what they had done. He would like to ask if that was the reading of that resolution.

The Deputy Mayor said it was.

Alderman SWEETMAN said he agreed with Councillor HAYDEN. It was quite a new proposition that was brought forward by the Cemetery Committee. The Cemetery Committee as a Burial Board had no right to take any appointments. When Mr. BUTCHER was appointed in the place of Mr. MEW, he believed the Committee received applications and made a recommendation to the Council, and that was the course that ought to be pursued at the present time. He would like to ask the Chairman

of the Committee whether there was any idea of altering the regulations which had existed for so many years. He did not agree with the present regulations altogether . he thought the wisest plan would be to amend the recommendation, so that the appointment of the successor to Mr. BUTCHER would be made by the Council and not by the Committee.

Researched & typed by
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