

POOR DOCUMENT

MC 2035

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 1920

Scratch YES and VOTE NO

Warning to Tax-Payers:

The figures presented as to the cost of Permanent Paving, two-thirds of which is to be collected from the abutters in such streets as the Common Council may determine under the new paving bill sent to the legislature by the Common Council are not accurate or final. No contractor can be held to his tender after thirty days, and there has been a sharp advance in the price of asphalt since the City Engineer's estimates were submitted. A competent authority estimates from recent tenders that the cost of the most inexpensive type of pavement proposed, together with sidewalk and curb, amounts to \$606 per 40-foot frontage. What will it be for granite block pavement and at the increased scale of prices which must be met when tenders are finally awarded? The burden on City Road, Brussels street and Marsh Road property owners will certainly be unbearable and the injustice will not be confined to the tenant and landlord in the streets to be paved. Rentals in other sections of the city will quickly follow the sharp advance forced by the Special Abutters' Tax, and the poor man will pay and pay and pay. Make the adverse majority as large as possible and let us hear no more of this unjust tax. The only real paving progress can be accomplished by bond issue.

Kill This Bill !

Right at the heart of the city's progress and prosperity strikes the new Paving Bill sent to the legislature by the common council and which should be killed by the vote of the people on Monday for the following reasons:

- 1. It is Wrong in Principle:**
Streets used by the people of the city as a whole should be maintained by the people as a whole as are the schools, fire, police and other public services.
- 2. It Departs from Precedent:**
Already eight miles of permanent pavement have been laid and charged to general assessment and why should a group of property owners in these streets seek to impose the burden of paving remaining streets of the city on the abutters in these streets.
- 3. It Impedes Progress:**
Home building and expansion of industrial properties will be penalized by the special abutter's tax which is to be imposed at will of the common council on any street of the city.
- 4. It is Unworkable in Practice:**
Widows and the small property owners whose main income is derived from rentals, will find it impossible to make their property pay the increased tax of at least \$600 to \$1,000 on a 40-foot frontage and the city will be obliged to take over these properties or distribute the cost over the remainder of the street, making the burden unbearable.
- 5. It Increases Rentals Out of all Reason:**
When the special tax is applied the landlord must look to the tenant and on an average house it must mean an extra \$75 to \$100 a year. And this is in addition to what must be added to the constantly increasing scale of prices and rentals.
- 6. It is Inequitable in the Extreme:**
Under the proposed bill the owner of a house worth \$2,000 would have to pay as much per foot frontage as the owner of the most valuable house on the street. Therefore the law is unfair to the poor man and favors the rich while under general assessment every man pays in accordance with his means.
- 7. It is Altogether Unnecessary:**
The present Local Improvement By-law makes ample provision for abutters sharing in the cost of paving residential streets.

MARK YOUR BALLOT
THUS:

Civic Primary Election.

Second Monday in April
A. D. 1920.

FOR ALDERMAN OR COMMISSIONER

FREDERICK A. CAMPBELL
GEORGE FREDERICK FISHER
JAMES H. FRINK
WILLIAM L. HARDING
ROBERT JOHN LOGAN
S. HERBERT MAYES
HUGH H. McLELLAN
CHARLES T. NEVINS
JOHN THORNTON

Are you in favor of owners of properties abutting on streets proposed to be paved being assessed for a portion of the cost as provided for in Bill now before the Legislature?

YES

NO

Herbert E. Dantyer
Common Clerk

ON THE PLEBISCITE

"Good-bye, St. John"

"If, on my 200 foot frontage I am called to pay a special tax of \$3,000 I cannot do business in St. John," says one prominent resident in speaking of the proposed special tax on Abutters for Paving Purposes. He is not an enthusiastic admirer of Mr. City Booster. In fact he heartily concurs in the spirit of the following poem:

A Booster, who St. John would save
Went to Hell to see how it was paved;
Satan a compact with him did make
The very foundation of St. John to shake.

"Go forth, Mr. Booster," Satan cried with glee.
"You are the very ambassador for me.
The widows and orphans are our meat,
Let them pave the city's streets;
And if their payments you find slow,
To the poor house let them go.

What care we if hearts do break
We, their property will confiscate."
The next you'll find on "Booster's" list
To the man never to be missed
He who built a house with honest toil
Will even be Old Satan's honest spoil.

Boost his taxes; make him pave,
So he can for the Street Railway save
Oh, Mr. Booster, what a pity;
Between the rails should be paved by the city.
Can't you see you are very slow,
Giving property owners such a show.

He, who for old age did save
Should give up all to pave, pave, pave!
Let Mr. Booster and Satan roam
To cut the props from every home;
But they'll find they made an oversight,
For honest citizens can fight, fight, fight!

Let Mayor and Commissioners awake from their trance,
And make St. John "Booster" and Old Satan dance
Back, back to that secluded spot
Where the pavement is ever smooth and hot.

There are forty-four widows in Brussels Street alone who see nothing but the poor-house if the proposed tax goes into effect.

Instructions To Voters:

In voting for the Commissioners your ballot is good only if you scratch either six or seven names. If you wish to vote for Two Candidates, leave THEIR names clear on the Ballot and draw heavily with BLACK INK or BLACK PENCIL a line through the names of ALL the others.

THE PLEBISCITE:—If you are opposed to the owners of abutting property paying two-thirds of the cost of the pavement, one-half the cost of the gutter, curb and sidewalk on streets to be determined at will by the Common Council, say NO on your ballot by drawing a line through YES, leaving your answer NO clear without any mark thereon. A cross on the ballot will spoil it. Remember this. NOTE EXACT COPY OF BALLOT AS ABOVE. When you have expressed your preference for Commissionership and scratched YES, you have completed your ballot and struck a blow against Advancing Rents and Decreasing Population in St. John.