

ANXIOUS TO KNOW MEMBERSHIP RULE

Question Causes Lengthy Debate When Veterans Take It Up.

MANY ISSUE WARNINGS

Different Viewpoints Are Expressed, But No Conclusion Reached.

Membership in the G.W.V.A. formed yesterday afternoon the centre of a long discussion, which is being continued this morning. It had been pointed out by the Dominion secretary, Robert M. Stewart, that there were about 3000 associate members in the G.W.V.A. A member had tried to postpone the discussion to what appeared to him might be a more opportune moment. Comrade Peart, Hamilton, stated that he represented a thousand members who desired to know the facts as to the status of those who had not been over to France. Finally the floor was opened to discussion of Comrade Robinson's motion to grant membership privileges only to those who could prove that they had either been over to France or who could prove that they had tried their best to get over there and had failed. He asked that the general business of the day be suspended to consider the motion, and was upheld by a two-thirds majority. Comrade Robinson, the vice-president of the Dominion executive, stated that he realized that the membership restrictions embodied in his motion might prove a hardship to many who could not prove their claim in this respect. However, there were 80,000 men in the C.E.F. who had never left Canada. If these men were to join the association, where would it be? The term "veteran" needed interpretation. He knew men from his own battalion who had never left Britain.

Opposed to the motion, Comrade Flinn of Prince Albert, seconded the motion of the vice-president. Comrade Peart of Hamilton, was a "France man." However, he was opposed to the inroads of the politician. It was only reasonable to believe that if the association did not take the associate members in hand the politicians would. They would hoard in a great harvest of votes from these people by asking them to join associations under their thumb, and get all the lead ewings and the innocent people who tried and couldn't get over. Was the paring advice of the member for Hamilton.

Let All Join. J. Conroy, district secretary of the association for Toronto, expressed his conviction that the association should accord the privilege of membership. At this juncture about six men were on the floor at one time to get the next chair to speak. Comrade Fryer, a veteran of other campaigns, who had been unable to get to France, stated that the politicians would get the association under their thumb, and under the meaning of the resolution proposed by Comrade Robinson, and if that really did happen a coalition would be formed which would kill the G.W.V.A. He warned the meeting of these dire possibilities.

KEEP PUBLIC OPINION ON SIDE OF VETERANS

The unreasonable attitude of certain elements of the G.W.V.A. is responsible for the growing loss of public support. This is the opinion expressed by the president, Comrade Col. W. P. Purney, who addressed the convention at the Technical School yesterday morning. Much was needed at the hands of the government, but nothing could be demanded unless the association retained the confidence of the public.

"Sometimes," said the speaker, "men act thoughtlessly. But there is a wide margin between a thoughtless act and an act of self-constituted authority." Colonel Purney believed that the time would come when the returned man would govern the country. This, however, would be a long time, and he would be a highly civilized. The association was harboring men who were unreasonable, who were not patriotic, and who had earned the title of agitators. Time was now ripe to cure this tendency.

"I will no longer tolerate this state of affairs," said the speaker, "and I am here to try my best to bring about a change in the general situation. It is necessary for the association to have an official standing with this association and all connection with it to restore public confidence."

ENTITLED TO LARGER NUMBER OF DELEGATES

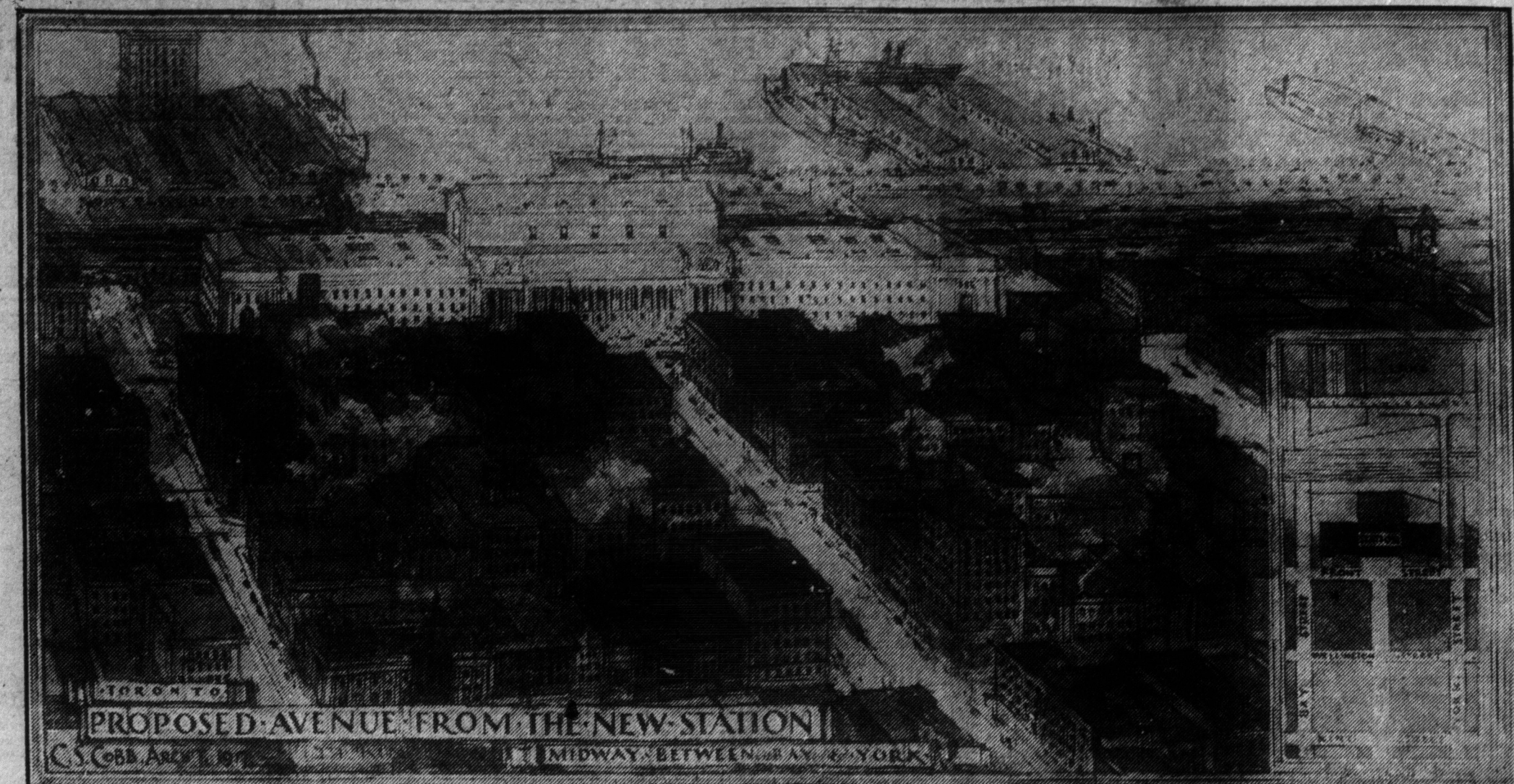
The Toronto delegation to the G.W.V.A. convention represented not only 5,000 members but also five fully accredited branches with an independent per capita tax for each branch. Comrade Fletcher took this stand at the opening of business at the convention yesterday at the Technical School. He resented the ruling of the president that the five branches be considered as sub-branches. He won the day, and the delegation was increased from eight to seventeen members.

Comrade Maxwell, of Winnipeg, a member of the Dominion executive, stated that the Winnipeg delegation, if considered along the same lines, should have 22 representatives on the floor. It really had only ten delegates.

PRESS IS BEST FRIEND

Veterans Decide Not to Exclude Newspapermen From Business Meetings.

"The press is the best friend the association ever had," was the report that Comrade Peart of Hamilton made to the resolution moved yesterday by Comrade Miller, Ottawa, to exclude the press from the business of the G.W.V.A. convention. This motion was seconded by Comrade Carey, also of Ottawa. We must have public sympathy if we are to get anywhere," said the Hamilton delegate. Geo. Murrell, central branch, Toronto, was against the motion, and it was lost by a huge majority.



PROPOSED AVENUE FROM UNION STATION TO KING STREET

The announcement by Sir George Bury, that every effort is being made to have the new Union Station finished early next year, lends additional interest to the above picture and plan. (In right hand corner) of the proposed new street midway between Bay and York and running south to the main entrance of the new depot. It gives a good idea, too, of the size of the building which extends from a few feet east of York street almost to Bay.

Those in favor of the project point out that the new thoroughfare would not only give direct access to the heart of the city, but would also have the effect of materially improving West King street as a shopping district.

The newly organized King Street Merchants' Association, which is very

PROPOSED AVENUE FROM UNION STATION TO KING STREET

much interested in the scheme, will meet shortly to consider it. To the southeast of the Union Station is shown the new harbor commission's buildings, surrounded by docks and warehouses, and to the west of this are also newly built docks and warehouses.

If the new street is run thru it would create an ideal hotel site which could be connected by tunnels with the station. If extended it would cut thru the Queen's Hotel property. But either corner would give it a better site than what it has now, if it blocked the way.

NEED OF CHARTER FOR ASSOCIATION

Point Made by Robert M. Stewart in Secretarial Report to Meeting.

TALK ALIEN QUESTION

Matter Taken Up Thoroughly by Dominion Executive, Says Comrade.

The report of the general secretary of the G.W.V.A., Robert M. Stewart, shows that the membership of the association has increased from 3,884 in April, 1917, to 25,000 today and that the number of branches has increased from 27 in the early part of 1917 to 125 represented at the convention. The Province of Ontario supplies 56 of the branches, Saskatchewan 18, British Columbia 16, Alberta 8, Manitoba 6, Quebec 6, Nova Scotia 8, New Brunswick 7 and Prince Edward Island 1.

Mr. Stewart, in his report, pointed to the need of a charter, a matter which was being given the closest attention. He praised the work of the organizing secretary for Ontario, W. E. Turley, and also that of MacNeil of Saskatchewan. The officials of the association had noted a tendency on the part of the government to meet the demands of the members with justice and impartiality. There had been a tendency in some quarters to damage the association, said the secretary, by statements to the press from those who could not be said to be responsible representatives of the G.W.V.A. This was regrettable.

Branch in London, Eng.

The secretary urged the need of a branch of the association in London, Eng. with the idea of keeping in touch with all comrades overseas. His final message to the convention was to militantly oppose all that was wrong and take up the cause of the returned man and of the soldier overseas and his family in Canada wherever opportunity might arise.

The points of the association, as shown by the secretary's report, showed a credit balance of \$8,970 over the disbursements, and the assets a surplus of \$10,929.23.

Alien Problem.

The agitation for a more definite explanation of the work of the Dominion executive relative to the alien and other important problems followed the address of the secretary. "Did the executive consider the alien question at all?" asked Comrade Peart of Hamilton. Comrade MacLeod, of the central branch of Toronto, expressed the opinion that the report was unsatisfactory. He would not like to take it back to his branch. If this was all the Dominion executive could show for the accomplishment of the year 1917-1918, he would move a vote of confidence, meaning a lack of confidence. Comrade Maxwell, of Winnipeg, replied that the alien question had been taken up very thoroughly by the Dominion executive. Comrade Lacey, of Earlscourt, stated that the real question at issue was why were the findings of the executive not incorporated in the report? Comrade Maxwell maintained that the executive had done its duty by the problem.

The president, Colonel Purney, expressed himself in accord with the specific objections to the report. The secretary then rose to point out that he had only recently taken up the matter, and that the retiring secretary, N. F. R. Knight, who had gone to the United States, had left no documents behind relative to the matter.

It was finally decided to accept the report of the secretary so as to avoid further discussion, and to show that the members were satisfied by the explanation of the secretary, and to also ask him to prepare a report more definite in its treatment of the work of the Dominion executive.

FIGHTERS AT FRONT EXPECT SUPPORT

"The man behind the man behind the gun," the munition worker, and even the "munitioneer," the women who, forced to stay away from the actual fighting her men folks are engaged in, "over there," are the very mainstay of final complete and decisive victory for the allied forces.

Their own flesh and blood rely on them for the munitions which are not only to blast the way thru to Berlin but the downfall of Prussianism, but which if supplied in sufficient quantities, may save the lives of thousands of the gallant boys in the trenches.

To refuse to submit any difficulties that may arise between employer and employee to an independent tribunal of conciliation and arbitration, can be nothing less than a crime against the state and against kith and kin.

If the munition workers were to fail down and stop producing, the war would have to come to an end, as far as the allies are concerned, and the Hun would soon be not only outside our gates, but in our very homes. Munitions, and more munitions still, are required, to permit the allies to pursue their present march to victory, if the munition worker fails to do his or her whole duty, even if by doing so he or she is put to some inconvenience and suffering, the boys at the front are lost.

The munition board is putting these facts before the munition worker and the public in general and urging all of all difficulties that may arise, by conciliation or arbitration, and reminding all and sundry that unless "the man behind the man behind the gun" does his part, the war will be left to the mercy of the enemy.

PENSIONS OFFICIALS INVITED TO SPEAK

Some of the delegates to the G.W.V.A. convention now being held in Toronto are anxious to hear Major Buchanan and other members and officials of the board of pensions from the platform. These have already been invited to address the convention which is taking place this week. A delegate yesterday afternoon wanted to know what was the idea of taking up the time of the convention with lectures from government officials.

ENTERTAIN VETERANS HERE FOR CONVENTION

Last night the delegates to the G.W.V.A. convention were the guests of the York district auxiliaries, Carlton street clubhouse, and attended the performance of "General Post" at the Royal Alexandra. The hostesses of the enjoyable event at the clubhouse comprised the executives of the auxiliaries of every branch in the York County district. Mrs. Waldron of the West Toronto branch and the chairman of the entertainment committee, and Mrs. Rowarth, president of the whole auxiliary, presiding. The feature of the occasion was an address by Nursing Sister Davis, one of the first 100 sisters who left Canada in 1914 for France. At the conclusion of her address the members rose to their feet and sang, "For She's a Jolly Good Fellow." All the cake and other edibles which remained at the finish of the tea were sent to the central convalescent hospital on College street for the wounded and invalided soldiers.

FIRE AT OLD FORT.

Fire broke out on the C.P.R. siding at the old Fort last night at 7 o'clock, in 500 tons of hay which was stored there. The damage amounted to \$400.

CHAPERON FOR EACH GROUP OF GIRLS

Mrs. Galbraith is Well Satisfied With Camp of Flax Pullers.

Mrs. Galbraith, 1530 West King street, gives an interesting story of the camp which she organized near Drayton for girls who are to pull the flax crop there. "It was absolutely my own idea," she said, "and the way in which I thought about it was when two girls came to me from Belleville. They had signed up for the 15th, but when they arrived they were told that the camp was not ready and they went to an hotel. I thought it a pity that they had to do this, and I knew, too, that there had been a good deal of dissatisfaction among the berry-pickers, who only received six dollars and a half a week and had to go to the canteen for their food."

Mrs. Galbraith then started out to get girls and succeeded in gathering 120. The company took the girls out in private cars and gave them military tents, so that they could give one to every four girls, every group having a matron and a chaperon. There is no canteen in the camp, the organizer believing that if the girls did their own catering, cooking and the rest, they might save some money. "The camp is delightfully situated in a clump of trees and a stream runs near what the girls bathe and do their washing."

Crop Not Ready. The girls contracted to work from July 15 until September 1. On the 15th, owing to weather conditions, the crop was not ready, and Mrs. Galbraith explained to her workers that this could not be helped. "If you were engaged to pick berries," she told them, "and on the 15th they were as green as grass, you could not pick them."

A few of the girls who were short of money were at first a little dissatisfied, said Mrs. Galbraith, "but everything is all right now. We gave them a perfectly wonderful concert on Monday night, and made about a hundred dollars, which was a good bit for a small place. We gave it to the Red Cross of the village."

"Were you perfectly satisfied that everything was all right when you left?" Mrs. Galbraith was asked. "Absolutely. It's a wonderful camp. I'm so proud of it. I cannot speak too highly of the treatment the young ladies received from the company. The fields are some distance from the camp, and the company got military trucks to call for the girls and take them over every morning. They built individual tables for every group of eight, and a stove for each tent, and provided two field-stoves for general cooking, and did everything possible."

On the subject of lack of chaperone for the girls when she left, Mrs. Galbraith said there were about thirty married women in the camp. How she first became interested in the work was explained when Mrs. Galbraith said she had been matron in two munition plants, the Russell Motor and the Laundry Machine. She is preparing another camp of girls, this time for the potato-picking.

The final word about the Drayton camp was that "the work started today and now everything is quite all right."

DAMAGE FROM WATER.

Fire broke out in the premises of the Kean Manufacturing Company last night and set off the sprinkler system. The loss from fire was slight, but the water from the sprinklers did considerable damage before the firemen could turn it off.

PICKED UP TWO MEN.

Two men who did not give their names were rescued by the life-saving crew yesterday afternoon when their sailboat capsized near Coatsworth's Cove. The men were none the worse for the experience, and their boat was towed to Ashbridge's Bay.

GOVERNMENT HELPS TORONTO REGIMENTS

Officers representing most of the Toronto militia regiments, were present at a conference held yesterday afternoon in the office of Brig.-Gen. Sir Henry H. Pallat.

Col. H. C. Blockford, officer commanding Toronto military district, attended the conference and announced that the government would supply ammunition free for the members of militia units who went to the Long Branch rifle range this summer for musketry practice and would also pay the transportation expenses. In regard to aid to the militia in other ways, financial help for general regimental outfit, Col. Blockford said he would do all he could in this direction with the Ottawa authorities. A splendid example had been set by the regiments in Toronto and Hamilton in keeping up the regular drill seasons. He assured the militia officers that Major-General Mewburn, minister of militia, was very favorable to the militia regiment and did not want to see their work disrupted.

NEW HOUSING COMPANY WILLING TO BUILD

The medical officer of health, Dr. Hastings, has received a proposal from a local company to erect a large number of low-priced houses. Before doing so, however, it wants to hear what the city has to offer in the way of inducements. The company is prepared to erect the houses whether it receives any assistance or not, but if it is forthcoming it will be in a position to build on a more extensive scale.

Automobile COLLIDES WITH MOTORCYCLE

J. Bodkin, 20 Rusholme Park crescent, sustained a compound fracture of his left leg when the motorcycle which he was driving collided with an auto driven by H. Pooler, 25 Westmoreland avenue, at the corner of Dovercourt road and College street last night. Dr. McEadden was called and he had Mr. Bodkin removed to the General Hospital, according to eye witnesses, the collision was purely an accident, and no arrests were made.

TORONTO YOUTH DROWNED IN CREEK

St. Catharines, July 28—James Dorman, aged 15 years, of Toronto, who came from that city Saturday night to keep in the production campaign by working on the Alexander Graham farm near Doree Falls, was drowned yesterday afternoon in the Beaver's Dam Creek while bathing. He got into a deep hole beyond his depth. A small boy also, unable to swim, who was with Dorman at the time gave the alarm and the body was recovered a few hours later.

GIRLS AT CONFERENCE.

Discuss Problems of Work While at Summer Camp.

Sitting in groups under the trees beside the lake, or on the shady side of the veranda of the White House, Longford, Lake Couchiching, girls from London, Bradford, Hamilton, Peterboro, Toronto and elsewhere have just finished a delightful two weeks' conference, led by Miss Broad, general secretary of the Boston Y.W.C.A. This is the first time that such a program has been put on for city girls alone, and the eager enthusiasm which marked the discussions of subjects bearing on the life of the employed girl, showed that there is a great need for such opportunities for considering the needs of girls and their responsibilities.

SCAFFOLD WAS NOT PROPERLY INSPECTED

Coroner's Jury Investigates Death of Frank Baird.

The inquest into the death of Frank Baird, 171 Grange avenue, which occurred at the Western Hospital on Sunday, July 21, was held last night at the morgue under Coroner Dr. R. Hopkins. Baird was injured August 15, 1917, when employed by Joseph McCausland & Son, Nelson street. He was painting at the John Inglis Co. on Strachan avenue when the scaffold collapsed. He was admitted to the Western Hospital on the same date and remained there until June 1, 1918, when he left and went to his home. He was taken ill and went back to the hospital on Friday, July 19 and became rapidly worse and died two days later.

The jury found that death was due to the fall and added a rider to the effect that the scaffold was defective and should not have been used until it had been properly inspected. Mrs. Baird, the first witness, told how he had been brought home and had never got any better and on the advice of Dr. Cotton he was removed to the hospital again on Friday, July 19 and he died on the Sunday following.

Superintendent's Evidence. Dr. H. C. Tomlin, superintendent of the Western Hospital, when called, stated that Baird was admitted to the hospital on August 15, 1917. He read from the emergency admission cards that when admitted he was suffering from a fractured right arm and possibly spinal concussion. Dr. Tomlin produced a certificate signed by Baird and his wife testifying that Baird left the hospital against the advice of the doctors. Dr. J. S. Cotton, of the Western Hospital, stated that he first attended the dead man about September 10 last, when he assisted at an operation on the left wrist. He stated that Baird had really been admitted suffering from an injury to his spine. Dr. Cotton attended him three times at his home. On July 4 the man complained of feeling weaker, and his pulse was also much weaker. When he saw him again on July 18 he had changed greatly and he advised him to go back to the hospital immediately. He believed the cause of death was due to the injury received to his bladder, kidneys and spine, caused by his fall. Death had not been hastened by Baird's leaving the hospital.

H. Macaulay, a painter, employed by Joseph McCausland & Son, was working with Baird at the time of the accident on a scaffold at the John Inglis Co. at a height of about 35 feet. The pole supporting the scaffold broke and Baird fell on his back and he was paralyzed five minutes after the accident. Macaulay went to the hospital with him and remembered seeing the hospital authorities that Baird had fallen on his back. Macaulay stated he was the foreman on the job and was responsible for the erection of the scaffold.

STOLEN CAR DESERTED ON KINGSTON ROAD

An automobile belonging to F. Mooney, 504 West Queen street, was stolen last night from in front of his home by two men who drove the machine as far as Kingston road, where they upset the car and made a safe getaway. The police are on the track of the men; however, up to a late hour last night no arrests were made.

BOYS HAD QUARREL.

Arthur Donnitto, 100 St. Patrick street, aged 9, was taken to the Children's Shelter last night after having injured Harry Eamans, 86 St. Patrick street. The boys had a quarrel and Donnitto threw a pail of hot water over Eamans, badly scalding him. Eamans was removed to the Hospital for Sick Children.

H. HERMAN ARRESTED.

Harry Herman, aged 16, was arrested yesterday afternoon by Detective Levitt charged with the theft of a motorcycle from the Canada Cycle and Motor Co. He was allowed out on bail of \$200.

TORONTO PROMPTLY PAYS TAX BILLS

In Spite of War, First Instalment Larger Than Ever.

COLLECT RATES EARLY

Over \$40,000 Saved by the Policy Inaugurated by Finance Commissioner.

"Notwithstanding the relatively high tax rate with which citizens were confronted, incident to war conditions," says Finance Commissioner Bradshaw, in a report to the board of control yesterday, "the results of the collection of the current year's taxes at the first instalment period, will, I am sure, be very gratifying to you and to the taxpayers generally throughout the city."

Mr. Bradshaw further explains that the amount of taxes collected this year is \$20,267,737, an increase over last year of \$3,888,406. Although only 48 per cent, or \$9,712,817 was required to be paid in the first instalment, the amount actually collected was \$11,931,825.

Constitutes a Record. Continuing Mr. Bradshaw says: "The success of this first collection constitutes a record. It would appear to indicate that (1) a generally favorable condition prevails throughout the city in all classes of business, industry and finance; (2) there is a prosperous body of citizen taxpayers; (3) the tendency for taxpayers to take advantage of the discount allowed (approximately 7 per cent, per annum) for payment of the second and third instalments is becoming stronger; and that (4) the succeeding instalments, due later in the year, will be satisfactory."

Business and Income Tax. For the second time Mr. Bradshaw says business and income taxes have become due, and been collected with the first instalment, so that this procedure may be regarded as an established fact. Its permanence is amply justified by the results.

The fear expressed by some that the setting of a date two weeks earlier than in 1917 for payment of the first instalment would result in a smaller collection and prove inconvenient to taxpayers has proved groundless. Taxpayers are beginning to appreciate the financial advantage accruing to them thru an early collection. They had the first instalment this year deferred for one month, they would have had to bear the burden of \$40,000, which represents an interest charge of 6 per cent on the \$40,000, of money borrowed for current expenditure. A similar amount, if saved for the taxpayer next year if the first instalment of taxes is paid by the middle of May instead of the middle of June as in this year, would be a considerable saving. Mr. Bradshaw urges that this economy be effected. A continuation of the present system requires that one-half of the year's current expenditure be paid out before any portion of the tax revenue is received, whereas it is obvious that there should be a endeavor to make the period of income coincide more nearly with that of expenditure.

Overdue Taxes. The amount of overdue taxes (exclusive of those of 1915) still unpaid is no less than \$2,215,000. This represents revenue which should have been received in 1917 and in previous years to meet the current expenditure then incurred. Not having even yet received it, the city is compelled temporarily to borrow funds therefor, which means for the time being, an additional interest burden for the general body of taxpayers.

Under the present Assessment Act, property cannot be brought to sale for arrears of taxes until between one and five years after default has taken place. By that time, Mr. Bradshaw points out, the arrears have accumulated with interest and costs to such a formidable sum that there is a tendency for the owner to lose heart, and not infrequently he is forced to part with his property. It is believed that it would be in the interests of delinquent taxpayers, and the city generally, if the act were so amended that it would be impossible for more than one year's taxes to be in arrears. As the growth of the city proceeds, prompt payment of its revenue is tax becomes essential. Yet the amount in arrears is assuming greater proportions, the number of delinquent taxpayers is steadily increasing, and the volume of clerical work entailed is becoming very burdensome, so that unless progressive methods are adopted, there is the possibility of a situation arising which may prove embarrassing. It is, therefore, suggested that representation be made to the provincial assessment commission, which, it is understood, is to deliberate this fall, that legislation be enacted which will permit the city to facilitate the collection of overdue taxes.

ONTARIO TO OBSERVE ANNIVERSARY OF WAR

Sunday, August 4, the fourth anniversary of the declaration of war, has been set aside by proclamation of the lieutenant-governor, at the request of the Dominion government, as a day to be observed in commemoration of the entrance of the British Empire into the war for liberty and civilization. The proclamation urges the solemn observation of the day by the calling of public meetings throughout the province at which the following resolution is to be submitted and adopted: "That on this fourth anniversary of the declaration of a righteous war, this meeting of the citizens of the Dominion government, as a day to be observed in commemoration of the struggle in maintenance of those ideals of liberty and justice which are the common and sacred cause of the allies."

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