

and in that event will have to pay a far larger price for them than it will receive under the proposed sale, to say nothing of the expenses of further expropriation and further borrowing. Moreover there are other lands available for the Chair Company nearby, and there is therefore, so far as I can see, no good reason why a majority of the Council should be so anxious to dispose at a loss of the land the city already owns. It has held it for sixteen years and now proposes to part with it at its original cost, although it has presumably increased in value substantially meanwhile.

I am quite convinced that not one of the aldermen who voted for the sale would have done so if he stood, as a private individual, in the same position as the city does.

There seems to be a tendency to convert the city into a sort of business enterprise, to make it a nursing hospital for every lame duck or needy or greedy individual or corporation that appeals to it for assistance to help out purely private business objects at the expense of the taxpayers, not one in hundreds of whom will ever receive directly or indirectly any benefit whatever from such schemes.

The credit of the city has, I believe, been materially impaired by burdens undertaken in aid of similar projects. It is not, of course, the mere additional burden thus imposed which affects the credit of the city; it is the fear on the part of lenders that it will be repeated again and again, and that it is becoming a habit on the part of the city to be seduced into such transactions.

If Halifax is well adapted for manufacturing concerns, then they neither need nor deserve gifts from the pockets of the taxpayers, but on the other hand if it is not, then any aid the city may give cannot ensure their success.

It is a well known fact, and city representatives would do well to remember it, that the great manufacturing industries of Amherst and New Glasgow have thriven exceedingly well without bonuses or assistance of any kind from these towns, other than perhaps lower valuation for a limited period for water rates and possibly assessment purposes, and that only in a few instances at most. In many respects Halifax is perhaps more favorably situated than either of those towns for business purposes, although the action of the City Council in voting gifts and bonuses and exemptions suggests that its opinion is unfavorable to Halifax in contrast to the towns named.