

THE WEEKLY ONTARIO.

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W. H. Morton, Business Manager. J. O. Herty, Editor-in-Chief.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 1919.



A "FREE" BRIDGE

In the municipal election campaign that has just come to a close we have been hearing a great deal about a "free" bridge across the Bay of Quinte. This was a recrudescence of the campaign inaugurated last spring to dispose of the bridge to us for \$72,500.

Let us examine briefly the nature of the "freedom" that we are to secure.

In the first place the "freedom" is not "free." It would cost as an initial payment of \$72,500. Upon that amount of money the annual interest charges, at current rates, would be \$4,350.

For the \$72,500 we would be handed over, not a new bridge, but a structure nearly 30 years old. The maximum life of steel bridges, when kept well painted, with everything tight and free from excessive vibration or corrosion, is about 50 years. Often steel bridges do not last the half of 50 years. We have been furnished with no reliable information as to whether this bridge can reasonably be expected to last one year, or five years or the maximum remaining period of twenty years.

Suppose we pay \$72,500 for the bridge and become responsible for the payment of \$4350 of interest each year, is that the end of our responsibility? Not at all. Our "freedom" would cost us still more.

During the season of navigation we would be obliged to keep a double shift of watchmen at the south end of the bridge to operate the swing.

Then there is the problem of maintenance. New plank floors must be laid at enormous cost. The steel work must be frequently painted at a cost of thousands of dollars. Defective piers must necessarily be repaired or replaced and steel work kept in repair.

Now that the bridge has reached the age of the down grade, the cost of maintenance must be a constantly increasing item, until the day when final collapse shall come. The cost of maintenance, wages of watchmen and interest charges from this time forward would reach a total of perhaps \$15,000 per annum. Are we prepared to assume such a liability? Is a bridge that might cost us that amount of money per annum a "free" bridge?

We are told that the bridge has cost the present proprietors more than \$72,500. There was the original mortgage of \$35,000, if we remember correctly, and various other items of repair and maintenance that have been added to produce the total mentioned.

Suppose a man, who knew little or nothing of automobiles, started out in quest of a car and came across another man who had a Ford that had been in use five years, which he was willing to sell for \$7,250. If the prospective buyer protested that the price was too high and that he could buy a new car for much less, the prospective seller could show him a list of bills for gasoline, expenses while on the road, repairs at the garage, new tires and repainting. He might in that way be able to show that the five-year-old Ford was really being offered below cost, at \$7,250 and was an investment that ought to be snapped up at once.

Suppose the prospective purchaser were sufficiently gullible and he actually bought the very much second-hand Ford at \$7,250. It would then be possible for him to travel "free" in his Ford from place to place. He would be "free" from the necessity of paying tolls to the livery men or the railways for his local traveling as long as his little old Ford held out, which might not be for very long.

Would "freedom" purchased at such a cost be worth while? To secure "freedom" from

the necessity of paying \$100 in tolls to the railways or liverymen he might place himself under the bondage of being compelled to pay \$2,000 or more per annum for salary to his chauffeur, painting, tires, garage bills and gasoline.

The Ford is a good car, even at the advanced age of five years, but such a thing is possible as paying too much, even for so excellent a car as the Ford.

THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION

The defeat of Mr. W. C. Mikel, by so decisive a majority, in his effort to capture the mayoralty, may well occasion surprise. As a candidate Mr. Miel had exceptional advantages. He was a prominent conservative in a city where the normal conservative majority amounts to several hundreds. His opponent was an active liberal and therefore hopelessly in a minority had the contest been strictly along political lines. Mr. Mikel is an eloquent and persuasive public speaker and is personally popular. He enjoys the prestige coming from genuine ability and success in his profession. In several fraternal orders, that are locally very influential, Mr. Mikel has been given high honor. He had the advantage of many years of active municipal experience and is undoubtedly one of the best posted men on municipal law in Ontario. He was in the election campaign backed up by a well organized committee and many influential friends who worked hard to the last.

Why then, in the face of all these immensely strong elements in his favor, did Mr. Mikel suffer so smashing a defeat?

It is true that he had in Dr. Platt a formidable opponent. The course taken by the mayor the past year had generally pleased the citizens. It was believed that he had tried to do his level best for the city. His record for straightforward honesty was beyond suspicion. He was a plain man of the people, without "side" or affectation. He made a fair and capable presiding officer and a safe administrator.

But, faced as he was by all the powerful influences behind Mr. Mikel, he must surely have suffered defeat, had it not been for the glaring indiscretions of the journalistic campaign carried on in Mr. Mikel's behalf. Never have we known a municipal campaign in Belleville or anywhere else to compare with this in scurrility and inane abuse. It had no merit of cleverness or justification. It was merely pointless vituperation, uttered against a gentleman who had been for a year our chief magistrate and who was shown by the election to hold the respect and confidence of a large majority of our citizens.

We have now had three election campaigns in Belleville of this vilifying character and the people have shown by decisive votes what their opinion is of such apache methods. In the election of December 17, 1917, Mr. Porter, upheld in the same crudely offensive manner as Mr. Mikel was supported in the campaign just closed, was defeated by 51 majority in his own ward and by 151 majority in the city, a result without precedent. There was an attempt to carry on the same kind of a billingsgate campaign in behalf of Mr. W. A. Woodley in his contest for the mayoralty last year. Mr. Woodley protested. But it was too late. The mischief was done. He went down to defeat by 219 majority. And now Mr. Mikel notwithstanding all the powerful backing he had by a well equipped organization and the other influences mentioned has been defeated by a majority only one vote less than that recorded against Mr. Woodley.

These decisive results, against enormous odds, prove conclusively that the respectable people of this city resent newspaper bulldozing and election methods that might possibly pass muster at Cripple Creek or Dead Man's Gulch but are much out of place in communities that call themselves decent and civilized.

The attempt, also, to load up Mr. Mikel's candidature with an implied endorsement of the project to pay \$72,500 for the Bay Bridge, without so much as having an engineer's report as to its value, cost him many votes. Before the ratapayers turn over any such amount of money they want to see what we are getting for it.

It is little wonder that Mr. Mikel felt impelled, at last night's meeting, to repudiate the crusade of slurs and nasty insinuations that had been carried on in his behalf. Such an incubus was too damaging a load for any respectable candidate to carry.

It is to be hoped that these three outstanding rebukes, administered by the electorate of Belleville, will put an everlasting quietus on attempts to besmirch the reputations of honorable citizens, merely because they happen to be in the opposite political camp.

BETTER CONDITIONS

When Henry Ford adopts a minimum wage of \$6 a day for his employees, when a great Canadian store decides to give its employees an entire Saturday to themselves during the summer months, when a large American concern voluntarily agrees to adopt the six-hour day without reduction of wages, can it be said that the world is working toward a less frantic and more harmonious system of existence? At least we can point to these humanitarian tendencies and realize that they will be the things more talked about and more advertised than any other things in the home circles of the workers. And the manufacturers and other employers will not find it such an unpleasant reading, if they can realize what a great satisfaction must come through extending positive benefits to a large class of people.

Henry Ford might be called the father of the minimum wage on this continent. When he set a new standard of remuneration he did more than confer the boon upon his own employees, for he inspired thousands of other employers to adopt some scheme of profit-sharing. Not many strikes occur in the shops of Henry Ford and every generous action by any employer brings about a multiplicity of generous actions. For every industrial move toward labor, there appears to be a reward. Men and women are contented when firms are willing to extend a certain partnership to them. They are prosperous beyond their expectations, and modest prosperity spells peace of mind.

As for the firms that are not so fortunate as to be able to show the magnanimity of the most successful enterprises, there is something to be said. If it can be made clear that the right spirit exists, there is something wrong with the workmen who will not respond and endeavor to bring about the day when good intentions will be supplemented by material results.

CANADIAN COLONIZATION

Plans for colonization like most other "reconstruction" ideas, are kept well hidden under the bushel of blundering mole-ishness at Ottawa. Canada has less than a tenth of its arable land under cultivation, and millions of heard-earned Canadian capital is tied up in western land schemes, capital that may never be wholly recovered, but which will again become in some degree active when a forecast of future settlement is proclaimed.

The country cannot afford to go on borrowing money unless population is attracted, and while the immediate problem is one of resettling the returned soldier (if conditions are even as favorable as before the war, this is not going to be such a tremendous one), the minister of immigration should have ways and means of capitalizing the good feeling all over the civilized world toward Canada. In Britain, in France, in Italy, in the Scandinavian countries, in some parts of Russia, are the most fertile fields for the development of Canadian colonization plans. While it may be argued that there will be work for all in the home countries of prospective immigrants, there can be no serious doubt that thousands are going to "trek" for the new western world, a world where no wars have been in one hundred years, and of which they have heard stories of hope and wonder.

The United States has its hundred millions. It is doubtful if it again will extend its powerful magnet upon the far-flung shores of the old lands. Uncle Sam has just about as many children as he knows what to do with, and his task will be carefully to select and grade at his great sieve on Ellis Island. In any event it is not likely that this country will attract the Britisher as Canada will attract him. And the men and women of British stock are those whom Canada should first invite to become residents and citizens. They have a common inheritance and a common interest in the welfare of the Dominion. We want them in all branches, English, Irish, Scotch and Welsh, and we want them in all grades, business men, professional men, engineers, artisans and farmers, most of all farmers.

The solid peasantry of France would make great citizenship material for Canada, and there are sturdy branches of many races that would occupy our lands. Vast areas filled means vast cities and many factory wheels.

Canada, if it sees clearly, if it has men who can learn to love it for its truthness and clearness and great latent power for world good, may certainly come to claim the twentieth century for its own. The real, the last, the greatest opportunity for nation-building is to come to us.

"WET" AND "DRY" STATES.

A survey of the "wet" and "dry" situation in the United States, made by the Methodist Board of Temperance, shows that there are now 2,546 dry counties and 351 wet counties in that country, a gain for the year 1918 of 460 counties. During the year the drys won state-wide victories in Ohio, Florida, Wyo-

ming and Nevada, with a recount pending in Minnesota. There are at present 31 dry states, not including Texas, and the probability is that the federal constitutional amendment will be ratified before February 1, 1919. Fifteen states have already ratified the proposed constitutional amendment, and the following states, which have not thus far ratified, are considered certain to do so; Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming. The legislatures of all these states meet this month.

'Twas a cold day for last year's aldermen.  
 o o o o  
 Thirteen proved an unlucky number for four of them.

The general impression is that a strong council has been elected—one of the best in years.

Let 1919 be for Belleville a year of construction. Let us get away from patchwork and piece-work and adopt the permanent.

This year's council is mainly composed of practical men of affairs — just the type to deal with the affairs of the corporation in a business-like manner.

Mr. Jamieson Bone, a comparative newcomer to our city, and personally unacquainted with the body of the electorate, should be proud of the vote he took yesterday.

Strong constructive policies are needed in the Fire, Gas and Public Works departments. Three of the liveliest and strongest men should be chosen to fill the chairmanships.

A bridge that loads the community with a debt of \$72,500 and interest charges of nearly \$5,000 per annum is several miles away from being a "free" bridge. Better talk about something else for a while.

How did Ald. Hanna succeed in passing through a year's experience of council and retain sufficient popularity to come out at the top of the poll? Other aldermen will be anxious to learn Charlie's recipe.

Will the council of 1919 be big enough to turn from destruction to construction? We mean the destruction of Zwick's island, one of the city's most valuable assets for park purposes. Zwick's island gravel is a fraud and delusion when applied to our streets. We have too long tolerated the lackadaisical policy of carting out this worthless sand merely because it was convenient. Let's get away from it.

We would like to see the council of 1919 combine with reconstruction of the Fire Department a thorough inquiry into the system of fire insurance as it is applied to Belleville. The cost of our Fire department has increased by 100 per cent. in 8 years. At the same time we are multiplying pumps and other apparatus to reduce the fire risk. What do the ratapayers get back out of all this expenditure? Has it reduced our fire insurance rates by one cent? Not one. The only effect, so far, has been to increase the profits of insurance companies. And the companies and underwriters keep asking us to go on and do more. We pay out in Belleville yearly \$120,000 in fire insurance premiums and get back on the average about \$20,000 in losses paid. Paying out six dollars in order to get back one dollar may appear to be good business—to the companies, but where is the public interest served?

IN FLANDERS NOW.

(An Answer to Lieut-Col. McCrae)  
 (From Calgary Herald)  
 We have kept faith, ye Flanders' dead,  
 Sleep well beneath those poppies red  
 That mark your place.  
 The torch your dying hands did throw,  
 We've held it high before the foe,  
 And answered bitter blow for blow,  
 In Flanders fields.  
 And where your heroes' blood was spilled,  
 The guns are now forever stilled,  
 And silent grown.  
 There is no moaning of the slain,  
 There is no cry of tortured pain,  
 And blood will never flow again  
 In Flanders fields.

Forever holy in our sight  
 Shall be those crosses, gleaming white,  
 That guard your sleep.  
 Rest you in peace, the task is done.  
 The fight you left us we have won.  
 And "Peace on Earth" has just begun  
 In Flanders now.

—Edna Jacques

IN HIS MAJESTY'S SURROGATE COURT OF THE COUNTY OF HASTINGS

In the matter of the Estate of Peter Daley Atkins, late of the Township of Sidney in the County of Hastings, Farmer Deceased.

NOTICE is hereby given that all persons having any claims or demands against the late Peter Daley Atkins, who died on or about the Twenty-second day of November, A. D. 1918 at the City of Belleville in the Province of Ontario, and who at the time of his death had a fixed place of abode at the Township of Sidney in the said County of Hastings, are required to send by post prepaid or deliver to the undersigned Solicitor, herein for Frank Percy Atkins, Charles Murney Atkins and Fred Daley Atkins, the executors under the will of the said Peter Daley Atkins, their names and addresses and full particulars in writing of their claims and statements of their accounts and the nature of the securities, if any, held by them.

AND take notice that after the 4th day of February, A.D. 1919, the said executors will proceed to distribute the assets of the said deceased among the persons entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims of which they shall then have had notice, and that the said executors will not be liable for the said assets or any part thereof to any person of whose claim they shall not then have received notice.

Dated at Belleville the 2nd day of January A.D. 1919.

A. B. Collins,  
 Union Bank Chambers,  
 Belleville, Ontario.  
 Solicitor for said Frank Percy Atkins, Charles Murney Atkins, and Fred Daley Atkins.  
 4th, 9, 16, 23, 30.

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PAYS 1,000-FRANC FINE EACH NIGHT  
 Paris Travelling Dance Hall Scores Enough Patronage to Square the Courts

Paris, Jan. 11.—Paris is laughing over its travelling dance hall. It changes its location every night. Sometimes it is in a theatre, next in the basement of an office building, the following night in some private house, and then in a restaurant. The proprietor pays a thousand francs fine each night, which is raised by an admission charge of twenty francs for each male patron. Word of each night's location is conveyed to the dance-hungry by taxi drivers. Restrictions against public dance halls still hold, yet they dare to call Paris a wicked city.

Our January

the watchdog.  
**MEN'S DEPARTMENT**  
 Hanson's Sox,  
 Boys' Tweed Knit  
 Scotch Knit Shirts  
 Stanfield's Head  
 \$1.50 and \$2.00  
 Men's Wool-line  
 Men's Work and  
 Best Values in  
**CHINA AND JAPAN**  
 See our Jardine  
 Fruit Sets from  
 Special line of  
 Best Laundry Soap  
**LADIES' DEPARTMENT**  
 High Grade of  
 Ladies' Gloves,  
 clearing at  
 All our Hats are  
 Flannelettes, spe  
**SMALLWARE DEPARTMENT**  
 Children's Hose,  
 Ladies' Hose, sp  
 Cashmere Hose,  
 Ladies' Hand Ba  
 Children's and L  
 Ladies' Brushed  
 A good line of B  
 Children's and I  
 Feather Pillows \$1  
 10/4 White or G  
 11/4 Flannelette  
 12/4 Flannelette  
 Bed Comforters  
 Striped Gingham  
 Plaid Gingham  
 Cushions filled w  
 Tables of Dress  
 Lace Curtain GO  
**SPECIALS IN RE**  
 Ladies' White Fl  
 Ladies' White C  
 trimmed for  
 Sweater Coats, a

**McIN**  
 Que Incub and Brood  
 are the best in the  
 pay you to invest  
 before investing in  
 dorsed by the lead  
 and Poultry Journal

**W. HANCOCK**  
 Belleville

FOXBORO  
 Foxboro, Jan. 14. 19  
 Cold weather, snow  
 vival meetings hav  
 town and we expect  
 for six weeks yet.  
 The Ladies' Guild  
 terian church met on  
 8th at the home of M  
 The report for the  
 for the congregation  
 preparations made  
 which it is expected  
 the 14th of Feb.  
 Lunch was served by  
 The annual meetin  
 terian church was h  
 room on Wednesday  
 at 8 p.m. Reports  
 from the various o  
 of the retiring manage  
 elected. An adjourn  
 essary to receive r  
 Board of Trustees at  
 Both our local pas  
 on Forward Movem  
 Sabbath, Mr. Carr  
 ston and Mr. Kemp  
 Mrs. Geo. McCullo  
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 for some weeks w  
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 that recovery will b  
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 A load of hay w  
 corner of the Madoc  
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 After being re-load  
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 formance in front o  
 where it remained  
 ing afternoon.  
 Sweet and pa  
 Graves' Worm Ext  
 capable to children  
 work surely and pr