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JOHN CAMERON, President and Manager.

London, Saturday, Dec. 31.

CITY FACTORIES, FIXED ASSESSMENTS AND TAX EXEMPTIONS.

A good deal has been said in the present municipal campaign about the tax exemptions, or fixed assessments, which have been extended to various manufacturers in London. It has been with reluctance that our civic authorities have acquiesced in the principle of exemptions, because it is not always possible to apply it equitably. The trouble has been that the aldermen, though averse to the principle, have been compelled to resort to it in order to protect the interests of the taxpayers, while the manufacturers have sought for it because their competitors in other cities, being exempted from taxation, in whole or in part, had a distinct advantage over them in point of ability to produce and market their wares.

If London could prevail upon other municipalities in Ontario and Quebec to retain taxes on machinery and personal property, or, what is much the same thing, to refrain from granting fixed assessments, it would be easy for our municipal authorities to tax manufacturers up to the limit. If all cities and towns were agreed not to coax manufacturers from other places by offers of free buildings, free land, partial or complete exemption from civic taxation, no one would welcome the stand more than would the average alderman in this city.

We have, however, to face the facts and to meet them as best we can. We desire to retain the factories now established and to see established other manufacturers, provided they can be brought here without sacrificing the general interest. This was the motive which impelled the City Council to offer the Grand Trunk \$100,000 bonus and a fixed assessment if it would concentrate all its car shops here and guarantee that an average of 500 men would be constantly employed. It would have pleased us all better if the Grand Trunk Company, conceding the splendid situation of London as a railway center, had agreed to bring all its shops west of Toronto to London without a bonus. But so long as this company, or any other company, knows that it can obtain certain advantages elsewhere we may expect to have to make some sacrifice to attain what seems most desirable.

It is true that the McClary Manufacturing Company, of this city, a few years ago, bought out the Burn-Robinson Company's machinery and stock, and brought it from Hamilton to London. By this means the McClary Company was able to add to its works and increase the number of its employees by engaging in the production of all kinds of pressed tinware, brass, etc. It was convenient for the company so to do, because it already had its works here. But if the McClary Company had chosen to take the works to Woodstock, St. Thomas, or any one of a dozen other places in the Province, and have been rewarded by a bonus, free water and tax exemption. In some cases, even a factory building was offered, rent free, for a term of years! Reid Bros. & Co. pursued an identical course when the firm, a year or two since, established its featherbone corset factory in this city. It preferred a concentration of its interests in London, where the expense of management could be minimized, to a substantial bonus and tax exemption offered it by St. Thomas and several other cities. Stevens, Clarke & Stevens, boot and shoe manufacturers, have also been subjected to coaxing by the neighboring municipality, and so it has gone on all along the line.

The Legislature has moved in the direction of preventing the granting of bonuses, but it is difficult to restrain competing municipalities from trying to boom themselves. If tax exemption of every kind were denied, Ontario manufacturers, it would place some of our employers of labor at a serious disadvantage, and might result in the transfer of machinery to other provinces. An instance of this is found in the bonus given to Messrs. Glendinning & Co., the rich Montreal stove manufacturers, by a suburb of that city. The company has been voted \$25,000 in cash, free land and complete immunity from payment of taxes. It thus has a distinct advantage over local competitors and a very decided advantage over the manufacturers of Western Ontario. Not only does this rival to the McClary Manufacturing Company enjoy these privileges, granted, it is alleged, on a business basis, but it can obtain better terms in its purchase of coal and iron and other raw materials. The McClary Company sells one-third of its entire output to customers living east of Kingston, so that this Montreal company, enjoying the privileges enumerated, is one of its principal competitors. To meet its rival the McClary Company some time ago had in contemplation the establishment of a branch factory at or near Montreal. Instead of doing so, however, the McClary Company has been moved to extend its works here, and to give employment to 50 or more additional

hands. Two considerations influenced the company in this step:

1. The fact that the members of the company all live in London, and are interested in many ways in building up and improving this beautiful commercial metropolis of the West.

2. The City Council unanimously resolved to grant the company a fixed assessment of \$100,000 a year for ten years to come, thereby, to some extent, putting it on a level with its keen competitors in the East.

One does not need to concede the rightfulness of the system to acknowledge that, on the face of it, the aldermen effected a business transaction of a thoroughly defensible character when they met the situation in the only way open to it under all the circumstances.

The council had previously granted fixed assessments, without demur on the part of anyone, to other employers of labor, and in this instance it acted consistently as well as for what, it must now be conceded, is for the best interests of the taxpayers.

We are all anxious that the city shall boom, not in the sense of becoming inflated by land speculation, but by the steady progress of legitimately established and operated industrial enterprises. Let that be provided for, and the merchant, the land and house owner, as well as the wage-earner, will obtain a fair share in the incidental prosperity. But we have not reached the ideal method of taxation. It would emancipate all improvements, including buildings, stock and machinery from the control of the assessor and collect taxes on land values alone. The only loser from such a system would be the land speculator, who holds vacant property till his neighbors build up around him, then he steps in and collects the profits that their labors have rendered possible. We would discourage vacant lot holding and encourage the employment of labor by leaving machinery, stocks, factories, and dwelling houses untaxed. At present, however, we are confronted with facts, not a theory; and the system, not the men, must be blamed if equity is not always established by the operation of the law.

Toronto has taken a step forward in providing that for ten years to come stock in-trade and machinery in all factories shall be exempt from taxation. This places the manufacturers there in a better position than that occupied by the London manufacturers who have been conceded a fixed assessment on their buildings, machinery and stock in trade. Hamilton promises to follow the example set by Toronto. Woodstock recently secured the old-established Hamilton stove manufacturer of James Stewart & Co. by a free grant of land on which to erect buildings, a bonus to construct buildings, and exemption from taxes. It is with such opposition as that we are confronted, and which has been met by the council as we have indicated. Often, as Mayor Spencer truthfully pointed out at the mayoralty nomination, it is a question of whether or not we shall grant tax exemption for a few years, and induce capitalists to occupy vacant factory buildings, or have the buildings remain tenanted. That was done in the case of the Globe works, which were beginning to tumble to pieces, and which now are a hive of industry, employing from 80 to 100 hands. Is it better that they should be so operated, or that we should have sailed on the doors of the buildings "No tax exemptions?"

At the present time the attention of a number of manufacturers is being directed to London as a good business and railway center, and it will be for the incoming council and to rave against the city doing everything reasonable to induce the newcomers to invest their money and establish their industries here, but to be constantly watchful for opportunities to promote negotiations. We understand that the McCormick Harvesting Company, of Chicago, will be induced to establish a branch factory in London; that new car works will be set going; and that lead works, cut nail works, steel, saw, and tile works are among the possible additions to the industries of London. Ald. Gartshore has been in communication with the interested capitalists, and there are many reasons for the belief that good to London will, in the ensuing year, flow from the negotiations. We have faith in London. Would any taxpayer in London, no matter what his vocation, kick very hard if one or all of these proposed new industries could be established here on the same terms as those granted to Stevens & Burns, to the McClary Manufacturing Company, to the London Tool Company, to the London Furniture Company, to the Globe Casket Factory and other city factories? Honestly taking all the circumstances into consideration, it is not probable that an intelligent elector would raise a finger against the establishment of a new industry on such a basis.

THE POPULAR VOTE COMMENDED.

Municipal elections will take place throughout Ontario next Monday. In several places the principle of the referendum will be applied by requiring the people to vote on questions of municipal government. This plan has worked so well that every year it grows in favor, and when a proposition of more than usual importance is made the reference of it to the popular vote is considered the best way of dealing with it. Take the city of London, for instance. The questions as to assisting liquor traffic were all satisfactorily decided by the vote of the citizens. Next Monday the Londoners again will decide in the same way whether the city shall own its own electric light plant, establish a free library, close all bar-rooms at 7 o'clock p.m., every day in the week, and reduce the number of city wards from six to four. These are all reforms that would make for good, economical, and efficient government, and are likely to be carried. We in Montreal might study the propriety of popular civic legislation with profit and advantage. [Montreal Witness.]

Our contemporary takes its stand on solid ground. But it mistakes the vote in regard to electric lighting. That question will not be settled by Monday's vote. A special vote by the freeholders will alone settle that. The opinion of all the electors on the propriety of civic ownership of electric lighting, however, will be ascertained, and that is a step in the right direction.

THE CITIZEN CANDIDATE.

Ald. Gartshore, the citizen candidate for the London mayoralty, is a thorough-going Canadian. He was born in the town of Dundas, where his father was for many years a manufacturer, being a pioneer in the production of steam engines in that part of Ontario. At an early age the junior Gartshore deemed it wise to leave his native town, and look for an enlarged sphere for his talents. His inherited shrewdness and discrimination very naturally drew him to London. Having accepted a position of trust with the McClary Bros., he speedily demonstrated the possession of a business acumen and push that strongly commended him to his employers. An able and faithful employee, it was natural that as the business grew the firm should advance his fortunes, and for years Ald. Gartshore has been one of the moving spirits in the development of the large manufacturing concern.

Though ardent in business, Ald. Gartshore has never been a selfish citizen. He was for many years an officer of the Seventh Battalion, and when the regiment was ordered to the Northwest to aid in suppressing the rebellion, he promptly responded and proved one of the most capable as well as one of the most popular officers in the expedition. The Citizen Candidate, believing that when he had served his country for a prolonged term, and had honestly earned the high rank of major, withdrew from the old Seventh. But his ability as a citizen soldier so commended him to the militia authorities and to his fellow-countrymen that when the cavalry troop of this district was reorganized a year ago he was offered the command, and after passing a most creditable examination was promoted to the rank of colonel.

Of the coming mayor's municipal record little need here be said. Returned at the head of the poll as one of the representatives for No. 3 ward two years ago, Ald. Gartshore at once took a front rank in the promotion of the city's interests. This year, his fellow members saw fit to appoint him civic finance minister, a most responsible position, as well as one demanding a great deal of earnest attention. That his work at the board has been honestly, conscientiously and on the whole successfully performed, is made evident by the utter lack of criticism of his actions. When his acts have been called in question, indeed, his opponents have been compelled to misrepresent them in order to make their point, as he has again and again demonstrated on the public platform.

With a past record unassailable, and with all the qualities necessary to make an efficient, level-headed chief magistrate, it does not astonish us to hear that the consensus of opinion is that Ald. Gartshore will be elected mayor for 1893 by a very decisive majority.

SQUEEZED OUT.

Several columns of letters on both sides of the 7 o'clock closing movement, on mayoralty and aldermanic affairs, are held over through lack of space. We are always willing to oblige our friends, but there is a limit to our opportunities. However, the questions at issue have been well threshed out. Stories circulated and innuendoes indulged in privately may very well be disregarded by voters. Let the taxpayers select the best business men offering to conduct their business.

POLLING begins at 8 a.m. on Monday and closes at 5 p.m. Let every elector vote as early and as often as he or she is entitled to register.

A WORD WITH VOTERS.

Send men successful in their own business to manage civic affairs. The city is a co-operative company, and the mayor and aldermen are its directors. Do joint stock companies select the unbalanced shareholders to conduct their affairs? Why should the city do so?

The Free Library bylaw should be indorsed by the electors.

CAREFULLY drawn statistics of 4,000 criminals who have passed through Elmira Reformatory, New York, shows drunkenness clearly existing in the parents of 38.7 per cent., and probably in 11.1 per cent. more. Out of 71 criminals, whose ancestry Rossi was able to trace, the father was a drunkard in 20, and the mother in 11 cases (43.6 per cent.). Masse found that on an average 41 per cent. of the criminals he examined had a drunken parent. Dr. Laurent, in his valuable work on the habits of the Paris prisons, asserts that drunkenness alone, or combined with some other neurotic condition, is to be found almost constantly in the parents of criminals; and Dr. Tarnowski, who has made careful inquiry into the mental and physical condition of the prostitutes in her native land, found an alcoholic parentage in no less than 52.66 per cent. of the 150 women of this class whose family histories she was able to follow.

Awful! Awful! There is danger here! A terrible phantom is brooding near, in breath, with no human look, with no human breath. He stands beside thee—the haunter—Death. If there is one disease more than another that comes like the unbidden guest at a banquet, it is Catarrh. Insidiously it steals upon you; "with no human breath" it gradually, like the octopus, winds its coils about you and crushes you. But there is a medicine, called Dr. Sago's Catarrh Remedy, that can tear you away from the monster, and turn the seamy side of the point of the reaper. The makers of this wonderful remedy offer, in good faith, a standing reward of \$500 for an incurable case of Catarrh in the head.

John Friend, People's Confectioner.—Re-modelled store and lunch rooms; business on more extensive scale. Everything best quality. Cooked hams always on hand 117 Dundas street.

Vote for the peace and prosperity of our beautiful city.

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My baby boy, 6 months old, broke out with eczema. The itching and burning was intense; the eczema spread to his hands, feet, face and head, until he was nearly covered; his torturing agonies were pitiable to behold; he had no peace and but little rest night or day.

He was under treatment at different times at two hospitals and by seven doctors in this city without the least benefit; every prescription of the doctors was faithfully tried, but he grew worse all the time. For months I expended about \$25 per week for medicines, and was entirely discouraged. I purchased CUTICURA, CUTICURA SOAP and CUTICURA RESOLVENT and followed the directions to the letter. Relief was immediate, his sufferings were eased, and rest and sleep were entirely restored, and in a short time he was entirely cured, and is now as clear a skin and as fair a boy as any mother could wish to see. I recommend every mother to use it for every Baby Humor.

MRS. M. FERGUSON, 86 W. Brookline street, Boston.

Cuticura Remedies. The greatest skin cure blood purifier, and humor remedies of modern times, instantly relieve the most agonizing forms of eczema, psoriasis, and all other eruptions, constantly and infallibly cure every species of itching, disfiguring, itching, burning, bleeding, crusty, and pimply diseases and humors of the skin, scalp and blood, with loss of hair, from infancy to age, whether simple, hereditary or hereditary when all other methods and best physicians fail.

Sold everywhere. Price, CUTICURA, 75c; SOAP, 25c; RESOLVENT, 50c. Prepared by the POTTER, DRUG AND CHEMICAL CORPORATION, Boston.

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A GAIN OF A POUND A DAY IN THE CASE OF A MAN WHO HAS BECOME "ALL RUN DOWN," AND HAS BEGUN TO TAKE THAT REMARKABLE FLESH PRODUCER.
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Men's Heavy Tweed Pea Jackets only \$3 95

Boy's Heavy Tweed Pea Coats only \$2 75, worth \$4 50.

Men's Heavy Tweed Overcoats \$5 to-day.

14 yards Heavy Tweed Suiting for \$1.

TO-DAY

Iridescent Serge Dress Goods worth \$1, to-day 69c; 54 inches wide.

Broche Dress Goods, all wool, worth 75c, to-day 35c.

Black Dress Trimmings worth 35c, 40c, and 50c per yard, to-day 10c.

The best Linen Handkerchiefs in London for the money. Our price 2 for 25c.

Beautiful All-Linen Towels 30c pair, worth 40c.

TO-DAY

Heavy Shaker Flannels, plain colors, only 6½

Heavy Black Fur Boas, regular bargains, to-day at 50c.

Great Big Heavy Cloth Shawls, \$5 ones for \$3 75, \$4 ones for \$3, \$2 ones for \$1 50.

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ALL DAY

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