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WHAT "BENTHUM" CAN DO.

Mail and Empire, Feb. 27: "It is well known that underhand methods are being worked for all they are worth with a view to defeat the scheme for civic electric lighting. A good deal of pressure in that direction is being put upon our municipal representatives. In the case of a private corporation such an offer as that made by the Bertram Co. would be accepted in a very short time."

Mail and Empire, March 28: "The inhabitants of this city are at present favorably considering the idea of having an electric plant of their own. One that is started the cent per hour per horse-power will vanish into thin air."

If the Mail and Empire's assertion in regard to underhand methods and the use of pressure to cut off the civic electric light scheme was correct on Feb. 27, it certainly is equally correct to-day.

The pressure, in fact, is coming to be greater now than it was a month ago. It is becoming more forcible as the polling day draws nigh. The Mail and Empire has experienced the pressure. It has succumbed to the underhand methods. It tells the story of its own capitulation in yesterday's issue. "There is little to be gained (in establishing a civic plant) except as a matter of sentiment, as the contract price offered is admittedly as low as the city can produce the lights for themselves." The Mail and Empire has all along argued in favor of the city operating its own lighting plant, not only because a direct saving would be effected, but principally because the citizens individually would get the benefit of cheap light. "The one cent per hour per horse-power will vanish into thin air."

The pressure that has been brought to bear upon the Mail and Empire must have been enormous to make the editor stultify himself by saying that a reduction of from five and ten cents per horse power to less than one cent is merely "sentiment." The Mail and Empire is preparing to flop, has already flopped, on this question the same as it has flopped in a hundred others. The readers of the journal referred to are lacking in self-respect if they do not resent the insult to their intelligence. A newspaper is in its dotage that imagines it can blow hot and cold on the public just as it pleases. The more the Mail and Empire now argues against the city lighting plant, the more will the citizens be disposed to install it, because it is as plain as day that the paper has succumbed to the pressure of the friends of the company that wants the contract.

"Sentiment!" Is it sentiment to save \$30,000 a year?

Is it sentiment to break up the electric and gas monopoly that causes us to pay double prices for our light and power?

Is it more sentiment to regulate a company that "uses underhand methods," and brings to play "a great deal of pressure upon our municipal representatives?"

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

NO. III.

We continue to-day our investigation into Public School matters. We are pleased to be able to state that public interest is becoming much aroused, and when the demands of the school board are laid before the council sharp opposition may be expected. It is not too much to state that the estimates for 1895, as adopted by the school board for 1895, stand at \$474,155.50. This amount, including \$61,000 for additional accommodation, leaving the net amount for the year at \$413,155.50, as against \$286,277.96 in 1894 and \$397,148.59 in 1893. We are not able yet to give the high school figures, because the high school reports are only in manuscript and we have not yet received permission to make extracts or analyze them. Being public documents, relating to public property, we have no doubt but that within a day or two we shall be able to secure them. It will have been seen that the salary bill ran as follows:

1889	.....	\$216,479.89
1890	.....	252,486.41
1891	.....	272,052.53
1892	.....	294,304.00
1893	.....	305,023.70

The salaries of officials ran as follows:

1889	.....	\$ 9,000.00
1890	.....	12,888.95
1891	.....	12,863.18
1892	.....	15,320.00
1893	.....	15,539.00

The pay of occasional teachers:

1889	.....	\$29,919.27
1890	.....	43,092.72
1891	.....	44,654.74
1892	.....	25,276.97
1893	.....	47,361.81

The pay of kindergarten teachers:

1889	.....	Unknown
1890	.....	\$11,319.06
1891	.....	17,007.16
1892	.....	20,490.16
1893	.....	23,966.61

The pay of caretakers:

1889	.....	\$16,097.17
1890	.....	20,182.94
1891	.....	22,037.21
1892	.....	22,276.97
1893	.....	24,103.43

Superannuation allowances come to about \$1700 all the way through.

We would like our readers to figure up the increase in the above items themselves. It will be a healthy and invigorating exercise and will correspond to the growth of the tax rate.

What have we got for this expenditure?

The next question is: How many children at school?

1889	1890	1891	1892	1893
First Book	12,148	12,289	10,113	9,574
Second	4,142	4,087	3,591	3,107
Third	3,559	3,587	3,591	3,107
Fourth	3,527	3,527	3,527	3,527
Fifth	1,049	1,049	1,049	1,049
Total	28,395	28,501	25,981	25,368

Notice here decrease in pupil forms, increase in senior forms. What is the reason? Perhaps the undergrowth may account for some of it in the First Book. Where is the great increase of school children, calling for all the increase of

BUILDING SOCIETY. FRAUDS

APPOINTMENT OF AN INSPECTOR FAVORED BY LEGISLATORS.

Mr. McKay's Bill on the Subject to Be Considered by a Select Committee—Fight Between Public and Private Schools—A Large Increase of Crime Last Year—Inspector's Report.

By great persistence Mr. McKay of Oxford yesterday got his bill for the appointment of a Provincial Inspector of building societies through the second reading, in face of the opposition of three Cabinet Ministers and a number of the members. In addition he persuaded the House to appoint a select committee to consider the bill. In the morning the second reading of the bill was taken up. Mr. McKay explained that, while he believed the existing societies were doing business on a sound basis, the very success with which they were attended caused him to feel that the government should take steps to see that the business was conducted with integrity and for the benefit of the public. He pointed out that the bill was not intended to interfere with the existing societies, but to provide for the appointment of an inspector to see that the business was conducted with integrity and for the benefit of the public. He pointed out that the bill was not intended to interfere with the existing societies, but to provide for the appointment of an inspector to see that the business was conducted with integrity and for the benefit of the public.

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