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**SECTARIAN ISSUE INVALIDATES GRANT**

**Catholic Army Huts Deprived of \$15,000 on Legal Grounds.**

Provincial Secretary McPherson's office was converted into a lethal chamber yesterday, and there, against the vigorous protests of Controller McBride, the civic grant to the Catholic Army Huts was effectively chloroformed. The ceremony looked like an emergency meeting of the city hall lodge, or a Russian soviet strangling an orthodox hostess with the kitchen towel. At all events, the Catholic Huts grant was as dead as a bogus cheque of the Ontario License Board, when the executioners dispersed.

The court of lord high executioners comprised Controller Robbins and Maguire, in addition to Mayor Church, City Solicitor Johnston and Finance Commissioner Bradshaw as well as the following city members: Hon. W. D. McPherson, provincial secretary; George Gooderham, Mark Irish, Tom Hook, E. W. J. Owens, Col. Price, John Russell and Hon. Tom Crawford.

For a time there was little disposition to talk. But Tom Hook started the apology that the sectarian nature of the grant had not been detected till after it had been made.

Then some others went on record, and so the poor sectarian che-e-lid was put to sleep for good. Controller McBride afterwards said he would have used strong language, but for the strictly religious nature of the ceremonies.

The conference was putatively between the board of control and the city members, but they were all prepared before hand to drop the request for legislation to validate the grant of \$15,000 to the Catholic army huts.

City Solicitor Johnston told the conference the grant was made without council having the legal power to make it. The instruction of council was to seek validation.

Not Sectarian. Controller McBride: Why were we not able to make a grant to this organization the same as the Salvation Army, the Italian Red Cross or the Belgian fund?

Hon. W. D. McPherson: They are not sectarian.

Controller McBride: The Catholic huts are not sectarian. I ask is it fair that Catholics should help to pay for other grants and be turned down themselves?

Controller Robbins: They are K. of C. (Nods and head shakes all round the room).

Controller McBride: What are K. of C.? This organization is the Catholic Huts Association. It is not sectarian.

Col. Price, M.L.A., who has returned from the front, said he had seen no Catholic huts there, but only church, Army, Y.M.C.A. and occasionally the Salvation Army. (More head shakes).

Mark Irish, M.L.A.: This is the only jar in all the grants made by Toronto. I am opposed to it because of the sectarian issue in it.

Controller McBride (witheringly): Cut it out! I want to say you are going to open a wide gap that has been practically closed for years.

There was great relief in the legislature when it was announced that council would not apply for validation. Many members were afraid to go on record, and there was talk of finding means to divide the house if the item was allowed to remain on the city's legislative bill of fare.

**CITY WANTS TO BE HEARD BEFORE COMMONS ACT**

A letter was sent to Sir Thomas White, acting premier, by the mayor, yesterday asking that no action be taken in regard to the consolidated railway act until the municipalities were given an opportunity to make a protest against it.

The mayor wrote in part: "For some years past the city of Toronto in common with certain other municipalities throughout the Dominion, has been seeking to have parliament restore to the municipalities their rights over the public highways, which were seriously affected by the Dominion parliament in 1902 by a special act incorporating the Toronto and Niagara Power Company.

"In 1917 the commons inserted in the revised railway act certain protective provisions which the senate refused to approve. In 1918 certain senate amendments were made, which not only fail to protect municipal rights but further menace them. The bill was not rectified by parliament of 1918.

"On behalf of the city of Toronto and other municipalities, I request that prior to the consideration of this bill by the commons or any of the committees thereof, you give this city and others interested, an opportunity to present to your government our protest against the betrayal of the rights of the people, contemplated by the said act."

**SCORE'S GREAT ESTATE SALE.**

This is the ninth day of Score's great Estate Sale. The "Balacava" overcoats at the special prices are selling rapidly. As one customer said yesterday: "These coats sell themselves; when a fellow gets one on his back he doesn't want to take it off, again." And then there are the guaranteed Indigo dye Irish blue serge suitings, the Scotch tweed suitings, the West of England suitings. Great stocks of the finest qualities all "tabled" at special Estate Sale discounts. A wonderful opportunity. Choose quick. R. Score & Son, Limited, 77 West King street.

**EIGHT-HOUR DAY MEETS CONTROLLERS' APPROVAL**

Commissioners Wilson, Chisholm, Chambers and Harris laid before the board of control yesterday a report on the proposed eight-hour day for all employees in their department. The cost of the inauguration of the system would total \$247,000. Even with this increase it is believed that this year's tax rate can be kept down to 301-2 mills on the dollar. No action was taken by the board pending the printing of further copies, but the controllers were unanimous in their approval of the scheme.

The report reads in part as follows: "In the case of watchmen and other isolated positions we are of the opinion that it should not cover, and if your board and council adopt an 8-hour service, existing latitude should be permitted to the heads of departments in requiring longer service in positions of class named.

"Based upon the operation of the regular maintenance service of the year, the increased cost of instituting the shorter day is estimated as follows: Street cleaning, \$37,000; parks, \$20,000; property, \$5,000 and works, \$121,000."

The commissioners are of the opinion that the increased individual efficiency, induced by the shorter work day, should accomplish, averaged over the whole year, a measure of work equivalent to that now performed in the nine-hour period.

It is recognized that so far as employees on civic car lines are concerned no additional service could be rendered in the shorter day by reason of their working on a schedule.

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**Girl's Unpunctuality Leads To Amorous Swain's Arrest**

The failure of a young lady to be on time at an appointment to go to a party resulted last night in Augustus Hartwick, 208 East Dundas street, being arrested, charged with a breach of the Ontario Temperance Act. Hartwick had an engagement to meet a young girl at the corner of Queen and Victoria streets last night. The young lady was late in meeting Hartwick, who was walking up King down the street. Plainclothesman Ward noticed something suspicious bulging out of Hartwick's pocket, and approaching him found he had a large bottle of whiskey under cover. Hartwick was then taken into custody.

**ARCHITECTS RESENT AMATEUR JUDGING**

**Will Not Submit School Designs to Board of Education.**

The Ontario Association of Architects have written to the board of education protesting against appointing five members of the board to determine the merits of designs for two new schools. They recommend that the judging of the merits of the various designs be placed in the hands of those who thoroughly understand drawings, and who can accurately estimate the suitability of any building that may be erected from them. Usually two architects and some other expert acquainted with the special requirements of the proposed building are appointed to advise the proprietors of the relative merits of the designs.

"Now, by the action of the board, this recommendation is disregarded, and a committee of five members of the board are appointed to determine the merits of the designs. Of course, this means that, unless the matter is reconsidered and amended, the best men in the profession will be no more."

The Toronto Chapter of the Ontario Association will call on its members to refrain from participation, and will draw the attention of the Ontario Association, the Royal Canadian Institute to the facts, for the purpose of having like action taken by these bodies, to which the members of the chapter automatically belong.

**HIGHLANDERS HOLD EUCHRE.**

A happy event took place at Foresters' Hall last night, when some three hundred men of the Highland battalions and their friends enjoyed a euchre and dance. The sergeants of the 48th Battalion were host. Sgt.-Major Kurtzmann and Sgt.-Major Lambie were in charge, and Mrs. Kurtzmann was convener of the women's committee. All returned men and members of the 15th, 32nd and 34th Battalions and companies of the 18th, 35th, 55th and 74th Battalions, were made welcome. Most of the men were in uniform. The band of the 48th Battalion and an orchestra supplied spirited music, and light refreshments were served.

**Canadian Red Cross Takes Charge in Siberia**

By W. E. Playfair. (Delayed). Vindivostok, March 4. (Delayed). The desperate condition of enemy prisoners and returned Russian prisoners in Siberia is now occupying the attention of the British and Canadian authorities, and proposals are now under consideration by which the Canadian Red Cross would assume charge of the situation. Five carloads of supplies have already been shipped for the prisoners, but immense operations are necessary to relieve 200,000 enemy prisoners and 3000 returned Russians. The British Red Cross unit in Siberia has been demobilized and the Canadians are carrying on the work.

**LONDON WANTS NEW MEDICAL BUILDING**

**Government, However, Refuses to Promise the Large Grant Asked for.**

A deputation representing the Western University, London, which was supported by representatives of the Ontario Medical Association, made application yesterday to the government for a grant of \$150,000 to be used in connection with the construction of a new medical building. The deputation, which was received by Premier Hearst and Hon. Dr. Coady, minister of education, was represented by Dr. Braithwaite, president of the Ontario Association, and Hon. Dr. Rosch, chancellor. Mayor Somerville, chairman of the board of governors, and Bishop Fallon, they were introduced by Sir Adam Beck.

The university has private bequests in sight totaling \$400,000, which may be used for purposes deemed advisable, and the city council of London has made a grant of \$100,000 towards the construction of a medical building.

The promising deputation that its request would be taken into careful consideration, the premier pointed out that the University of Toronto was the provincial centre of higher education. It would have to receive first consideration. He asked the deputation to put its request in writing, and to include what provision was in sight for maintenance. Further, he said that the government was now endeavoring to arrive at some means for further assisting scientific education. There were many projects soon to require the support of provincial funds, and this made it necessary for the government to be exceedingly careful in passing upon grants.

The various speakers pointed out to the government the advantageous location of the London University in the serving of a large section of the province, and, moreover, that it was to the univer-

**LABOR NEWS**

Tuesday, March 18, has been set as the date for the huge unemployment parade to Queen's Park.

The Toronto Railway Men's Union has received 60 new members the first ten days of March.

The Shoe Workers' Union at Brampton is growing apace. There are two shoe factories in the district.

At a well-attended meeting of the Women's Labor League, held in the Labor Temple last evening, a Domestic Employees' Union was organized with an initial membership of fifty. Miss Dempsey of Chicago, and Frank Watkinson, of the Carpenters' Union, addressed the meeting. The aim of the union is to secure better living conditions for the members. It has been suggested that a standard wage of \$15 a week be required to be paid to domestics who live out or \$40 a month for those who live where they are employed.

The officers of the union will be elected at the meeting next Wednesday evening.

Alex. Dunbar, 572A College street, was arrested last night by Acting-Detective Bain on a charge of theft. Dunbar is charged with theft of \$2 from Kathleen Bulland, of 553 Perth avenue.

**JEWELRY EMPLOYE CHARGED.**

Irving Walker, 83 Belhaven road, an employe of Kent Brothers, jewelry store, at 144 Yonge street, was arrested yesterday afternoon by Detective Newton on a charge of theft. Walker is charged with stealing gold and jewelry from the store. He was arrested while disposing of the alleged stolen goods, and was allowed bail of \$300 last night.

**FIRE MARSHALS' POWERS WIDENED**

**Government Measure Gives Them Greater Scope in Investigating Fires.**

Bills were introduced in the legislature yesterday by Hon. Howard Ferguson to amend the Ontario parks act and the Ontario mining act.

Hon. Mr. Lucas moved the second reading of his bill to amend the fire marshal's act which proposes to increase the powers of fire marshals in conducting investigations into fires and enforcing the removal of causes considered contributing to fires.

Mr. Proudfoot was of opinion that there should be a limit of the fire marshal's power and that investigations should be conducted by the crown attorney. He wanted to see fair play. He did not expect too much efficiency or fairness from the government officers, backed up by the insurance companies.

The house went into committee on the bill.

A general discussion of the character of fire investigations followed.

Mr. Elliott expressed the opinion that the fire marshal should not conduct himself in any way that would give assistance to the insurance companies, but strictly to discover proofs of arson.

Mr. Proudfoot pressed his objection to the large powers of fire marshals. They are clothed by the act with powers as great as superior court judges. Such powers should at least be exercised by men who understand the rules of evidence. His own experience of fire marshals led him to believe

**WOMAN FOUND ASPHYXIATED.**

Jennie Young, aged 35 years, was found asphyxiated in bed in a rooming house on West Charles street at 9 o'clock last evening. The door to the room was fastened and the post to a gas stove was turned on. Miss Young was last seen alive on Saturday. A roomer in the house unlocked the door last night and found the woman dead. The condition of her body, the police say, made it clear that she had been some time. The remains were removed to the morgue.

**IRISH-CANADIAN BATTALION.**

The organization committee of the 208th Battalion Association met last night in the office of Colonel Lennox, to complete the organization of the association and as far as possible under the conditions.

Mr. Dewart learned that P. R. Powell, Parry Sound, has applied for the right to develop electrical power on the French river, likewise the Imperial Paper Mills of Canada and E. Bruce Pratt, Cleveland, O. The government has had correspondence on the subject of French river power development with W. A. Carlyle of the British-American Nickel Corporation and the Hydro-Electric Commission.

Mr. Dewart also learned from the government that the following private

**K. OF C. BLANKETS MISSED.**

Jay Patterson, a soldier, was arrested last night by Policeman McBeth on a charge of theft. Patterson is charged with stealing military blankets from the Knights of Columbus soldiers' hut on West King street.

**GUILTY OF ABORTION CHARGE.**

Charged with supplying drugs which would procure an abortion to a young girl, Mrs. Louisa Simmons was found guilty by a jury in yesterday afternoon's sessions, and was remanded in custody until Friday by Judge Coatsworth.



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