

LONDON, ONTARIO, FRIDAY, JULY 13, 1923.

TO SWIM OR NOT TO SWIM—LET PEOPLE REPLY

CITIZENS ALL CLASSES
DISCUSS SUNDAY SWIM
IN THAMES PARK POOL

Mayor Announces Petition in Circulation To Open Civic Swimming Pools on Sunday Is Being Largely Signed—Rev.

Dr. MacGregor, Writes of Ministerial Alliance Stand.

ALL SORTS OF OPINIONS—TAKE YOUR CHOICE

One of the most interesting questions which the council may be called on to decide is that at present being asked from one end of the city to the other.

"Shall there be bathing in Thames Park and other civic controlled swimming pools on Sunday or not?"

Opinion on both sides is being expressed very freely, many taking the stand of Mayor Wenige, who adheres to his statement that the pool should be kept open on Sunday, and who states that a petition to this effect is being circulated and is receiving many signatures.

Acting Mayor Peter Watt suggested this morning that the pastors of some of the richer congregations in the city should get after those members who indulge in golf on Sunday and who are able to leave the dust and grime of the city behind on the Sabbath while they enjoy themselves elsewhere. These people should be asked to forego their pleasures as well as the laboring man and his family.

Rev. Dr. MacGregor, in a second letter, further elucidates the stand of the Ministerial Alliance on the question, while the Mothers Club are also in favor of keeping the pools closed.

Many representative citizens expressed their opinions to The Advertiser this morning on the question, a few of the remarks being as follows:

Go After Sunday Golf.

Acting Mayor Peter J. Watt challenges the London Ministerial Alliance to go after the Sunday golfers. "Who no doubt are big pew-holders," he adds "and good contributors to the church but do not always grace the church with their songs of praise."

The acting mayor delivered a spirited retort today to members of the clergy who replied to his initial condemnation of the closing of the Thames Park bathing pool on Sunday.

"Going around with a sanctimonious face to pick the faults of others may be the true idea of Christianity," he declared to The Advertiser. "But I would say it was very hard on the face. I can remember once I have passed the three-score and ten years, 61 years of which I sang in the church choir, and I feel that I am none the worse for bathing in the pond on Sunday afternoons as I did frequently as a boy."

"I do not seek any controversy with the clergy or the Ministerial Alliance but I will say this that when the Ministerial Alliance plucks up sufficient courage to go after members of their congregation who play golf and other games on Sunday and not round the boys and girls at the swimming pools, I may change my opinion and be willing to apologize if I have said anything to hurt their feelings or have misjudged them."

Not Over Says Mayor.

Just before he left this morning for Cleveland, Ohio, where he is attending a gathering of former Londoners who are coming back in August, Mayor Wenige assured the Advertiser that the question involving the civic bathing pools had not been brought to a close. It is his belief that a petition, signed by at least 5,000 bona-fide taxpayers, and the representation to the members of the public utilities commission at the next regular session of that board, dealing their own representatives to open the pools on Sunday.

"There are hundreds of signatures already obtained," the mayor explained. "And the question is still going round the round and the factories and all places where citizens are gathered together. We expect that we will have thousands of signatures of the commissioners who have evidently acceded to the pressure brought upon them by the Ministerial Alliance. We look for at least 5,000 names."

Drake Favors Open Pools.

Ald. Gordon Drake, ward three, lines up behind Mayor Wenige and Ald. Watt.

"Have the pools open Sunday by all means," he declared. "That will not keep the children out of Sunday school or church. They can still go to school or either or both in the hour or so at the civic pools. I say leave them open."

Detective Nickle.

"I don't think I am in a position to express an opinion on the matter of Sunday bathing," declared Inspector of Detectives Tom Nickle this morning. "Go and see some of these citizens who are running the town and perhaps they will tell you what they think."

Chief Is Silent.

"You can't draw me into the controversy about Sunday bathing," stated Chief of Police Birrell. "It seems to me that it is a matter for the public utilities commission to settle between themselves. The police have nothing to do with it, and personally I would not care to express an opinion."

Magistrate Gladman.

"Any expression of opinion on my part, regarding the advisability of opening Thames Park bathing pool on Sunday would not fit in with my office," said Deputy Magistrate Gladman. "Who knows but that some day someone may appear before me charged with a violation of the Lord's day act, and then if I expressed myself now, it might come back on me. I do think, however, that it is a question of whether the municipality will co-operate with the churches in this matter. That seems to be the crux of the whole matter."

At Port, Yes! In City, No—

Howard R. Cluff, barrister, is opposed to Sunday bathing in London's swimming pools, claiming that it is only the thin edge of the wedge to further breaches of Sabbath observance.

"I think six days in the week is sufficient," he said. "It is all right to swim at Port Stanley on Sunday, for that is the only day many citizens are able to enjoy at the beach, but they can go to the swimming pools six days in the week. I do not want to appear Puritanical, but I still have some old-fashioned ideas, and I would not like to see Sunday observance flouted."

Sees No Harm in It.

"I can't see any harm in Sunday bathing," declared Edward H. Braund, barrister. "However, I do not think

O God of Little Kids

(After Rostand)

The Ministerial Alliance at London, Ont., gives seventeen reasons why the mayor should not open the city playgrounds on Sunday.—Daily Paper.

O God of little kids,
Who made their bodies prone to play
E'en on the holy Sabbath Day!

Who never shaped their pretty limbs to pews,
Or told the mayor why he should refuse
To let them play—
On any day—
When skies are blue and grass is green
And flowers laugh out from golden sheen!

Who certainly didst not supply
These seventeen curious reasons why
They should not play—
On any day—
When sunshine glids the garden sod
And every leaflet lips of God!

O God of little kids!
Convert thine anxious representatives
Tell them again
In words full plain—
That man—and most the little kids—
Were not created for a day
On which it is a sin to play—
That every gleam of happiness,
Thou dost approve—
And bless, and bless.

And on the whole joy-killing horde—
Have mercy! mercy! Lord!

—Alfred Buckley.

Ottawa, July 11, 1923.

Railway Men Say Swim.

Local employees of the Canadian National think Thames Park swimming pool should be open on Sunday.

William Mason of the road department says: "Certainly the kids should swim on Sunday. I do myself. If it is all right for people who can afford it to swim at Port Stanley or play golf at the Hunt Club on Sunday, why not let the kiddies have a dip in the swimming pool? The pool is there asking to be used."

"Cap" Logan, C. N. R. police constable, thinks that the pool should be kept open and says: "Why shouldn't they swim? When they're swimming they're not doing anything worse, and besides they are learning something worth while."

Bayley Huston, another railway employee adds: "Yes, let them swim. Most of us go to the pool on Sunday and a lot of it is not so easily justified as Sunday bathing."

Three Men on the Street.

After leaving the vicinity of the railway depot, The Advertiser asked their views on Sunday bathing.

J. W. Wardrop, accountant of Hobbs, Limited, says: "Yes, Sunday swimming is a fine thing. I suppose the pool should be kept open. I see no breach of Sunday observance in wholesome swimming, which the boys will get anyway. It is much better that their swimming should take place where it can be supervised and so this reason alone I favor keeping open of the Thames Park pool."

Sim Thompson, barber, 364 Richmond street, said: "I suppose the churches have something in their favor in wishing the pool closed. At the same time there are many people who can't manage a swim during the other six days. For these people I would say, leave the pool open and let them have their swim. Those who don't approve of the practice can go to the gymnasium and observe what they think is an ideal Sabbath."

E. A. Pocock, 318 Wolfe street, said: "Let them swim. If you want a puritanical Sabbath, stop the street cars, cut out Springbank, and stop people from going into the country in motors. Some people think that Sunday is not complete unless they are miserable and making others feel the same way."

The Voice of Labor.

Wanting the opinion of a few labor men, The Advertiser questioned three of London's prominent labor representatives, who replied as follows:

Rud Hessel thinks that "the kids should swim if they want to. They will swim, anyway, and what particular sin is there in it? I would much prefer to have children of mine swimming where they are supervised than taking a chance on some little-known swimming holes miles from any help in case of accident."

John Colbert.

"The Lord's Day Alliance people are hardly fair in asking that the pools be closed while at the same time they approve, or don't disapprove, of the operation of the Sunday or of Sunday outings to Port. The poor man and his family can't run to Port Stanley every time they

want a swim and for these people the swimming pools should be kept open. What is fair for one class should be fair for another."

Another Mould.

"The Ministerial Alliance are inconsistent. They wink when a swimmer permits his family to swim at Port. They would approve of a Sunday band concert which played 'Jazz' if they could cover their actions by saying that 'it is for charity.' When it comes to swimming it is the same way. The wealthy members of the congregation can swim from the summer homes at Port Stanley and its all right. When the poor man wants a swim in London it is all wrong."

DR. MCGREGOR WRITES.

The position of the Ministerial Alliance on the Thames Park Swimming pool question is again elucidated in the following letter from Rev. D. C. MacGregor:

To the Editor of The Advertiser:

I know you want your paper to be absolutely fair in dealing with the issue we raised.

But I submit that your reporter has not been seized of the position that the Ministerial Alliance has taken in the matter. Evidently, he canvassed the city yesterday as to opinions on Sunday swimming and bathing, leaving the impression that that was the issue at stake.

I thought we made it abundantly clear that the question we were discussing was not "Is it right or is it wrong to swim on Sunday?" The question was "Should the city of London as a corporation put the facilities for amusement and recreation in its playgrounds at the disposal of the public on Sunday, and thus ally itself with those forces that tend to destroy the sanctity of the Lord's Day."

We are discussing the opening of swimming pools on Sunday, and the facilities for playgrounds. We contend that the relation in which the problem is discussed makes all the difference in the world.

I may be indifferent to a hole a rat may have dug in a pasture field. But if that hole is dug in a dyke, I am alarmed. I plug it up and I call the attention of the authorities to the danger of the whole country being flooded.

The Position.

Now our position is this: If you open the swimming pool on Sunday for the man who wants a swim, you cannot logically refuse to open the tennis courts for those who play tennis, the baseball diamond for those who play baseball, and the skating rinks in winter for those who want that form of exercise. If you provide for one you will sooner or later be called on to provide for another, and before you know it you will have a wide open Sunday.

The real issue is between our ideal of a Sabbath devoted to rest and to worship and a continental Sunday. The logical outcome of concessions we see in the action of the London (England) county council in opening the parks, etc., to all sorts of games.

BURGLARS ENTER
JEWELRY STORE,
RAID SHOWCASEW. J. Wray and Company
Loses Necklace and
Watch Case.

DISCOVER NO CLUES

Third Time Thieves Have
Stolen Valuables From
Dundas Street Shop.

Thieves stole a necklace and watch cases from the jewelry store of W. J. Wray & Co., 234 Dundas street, some time during last night, according to a report lodged with the police.

In order to get at the articles, a lock was pried off a showcase which sits outside the building. No trace of the thief could be found, and Mr. Wray would give no information as to the value of the articles taken.

The case from which the goods were stolen, while not a portion of the window of the store, is nevertheless very easy of access, being a small showcase in the entrance way from the street, in which various articles are from time to time displayed.

While this is the first time on which this particular case has been robbed, on two previous occasions thieves broke the large window and succeeded in getting away with several valuable pieces of jewelry.

The great metropolis today has a continental Sunday and it is interesting to make in this connection the opinion of one of the bishop of Zanzibar, who is visiting in London at the present time. "London," he said, "is as pagan as Zanzibar."

Our Sabbath is the dyke that protects our civil and religious liberties. In 1862 Abraham Lincoln said: "As we keep or break the Sabbath Day which is the whole case, we are really losing last best hope by which man has believed this, is it any wonder that we are trying to plug up the holes that are being dug in the dyke that we may not be overwhelmed by the flood of materialism and godlessness that threatens to destroy all that is best in our civilization."

Port Stanley.

The mayor quotes Port Stanley. We are glad he is with us. We wish he had been with us when the policy in regard to Port Stanley was being determined. We were protesting, but he gave us no support. But if the flood has broken through the bank at another point.

Both the mayor and secretary of the Chamber of Commerce are basing their whole case on the needs of "the poor workmen."

One imagines that the "poor workman" must be rather "fed up" with being made the argument for every inroad made on the sanctity of the Lord's Day. For him, excursion trains are run to Port Stanley on Sunday, for him street cars are run to Springbank on Sunday; for him it is urged the swimming pool should be opened on Sunday. One wonders what percentage of the patronage of the pool on the two Sundays it was open inroad made on the sanctity of the poor workman.

If I understand the workingman, what he wants is justice and fair dealing. If the above gentlemen had shown their practical interest and support when the churches and the Social Service Council were agitating for a minimum wage for girls; for mothers' pension; for the closing on Saturday night, etc., their present profession of interest in "the poor workman" would carry more conviction.

The workingman does not forget that he owes his legal right to one day's rest in seven to the Lord's Day act. That act was put on the statute books of Canada after seven years of agitation by the Lord's Day Alliance and the churches. Sir Wilfrid Laurier gave that measure the support of his government because, as he said, he wanted to save Canada from a continental Sunday. That is the issue before us today.

It is interesting to note that those representing the institutions that have special responsibility for the training of the youth of our land—the home, the church and the school—the logical outcome of concessions we see in the action of the London (England) county council in opening the parks, etc., to all sorts of games.

D. C. MACGREGOR,
St. Andrew's Manse.

CAUSES FLUTTER IN SOCIETY.

Irene Castle, who created quite a sensation by filing a suit for divorce against her husband, Robert E. Treman, while in France. After a hurried voyage overseas, her husband managed to effect a reconciliation. Mr. Treman is now on his way back to the United States, but without his charming wife, however.

Results of Examinations
St. Angelo's Music School

The following is a list of the examination results of St. Angelo's College School of Music which is in affiliation with the Toronto Conservatory. Practically 100 per cent of the students were successful in all the different branches of music, piano, violin, vocal and theory, while a great number obtained honor standing.

A. T. C. M. Piano.
Pass—Rita Doyle, Margaret Cook, Margaret Fallon.

Junior Piano.
Pass—Margaret Fallon, Bertha Gilles, Margaret Cook.

Junior Harmony.
Pass—Margaret Fallon, Bertha Gilles, Margaret Cook.

Primary Harmony.
First-Class honors—Marion Mitchell, Ruth Thompson, Jean McNaughton, Sheila O'Hara, Angela Forristal.

Primary Rudiments.
First-Class honors—Marion Mitchell, Ruth Thompson, Jean McNaughton, Sheila O'Hara, Angela Forristal.

Elementary Rudiments.
First-Class honors—Kathleen Keller, Heloise Coles, Edward Oren-dorf, Helen O'Donnell.

Honors—Lenore Smoothy, Margaret Hutchinson, Julia McCaughy, Rose Sansone.

Pass—Ruth Thompson, Rowena Smoothy.

Divided Among Three.
Three departments, the city treasurer, the city clerk's and the city auditor's will be treated practically equally in the division of the sum of \$430 which will be divided among three clerks; in the second instance the sum of \$430 will be divided among three clerks; in the third instance the sum of \$430 will be spread among three clerks. The city engineer's department would be allotted about \$564 for five employees.

At a special session of the Irish Picnic Association, held at the Port Stanley Hotel, Thursday, Aug. 23, the resignation of Fire Chief John Aitken was accepted by the committee.

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MAYOR DEFENDS
SALARY INCREASES
AS RECOMMENDEDWenige Believes Something
Accomplished for Benefit
of Underpaid Clerks.

DRAKE PROTESTS

Alderman Warns Assessment
Officials May Quit as
Pay Is Low.

Mayor Wenige today defends his city hall salary increases recommended at last night's caucus, aggregating roughly \$3,200. And he submits that something has been accomplished that has long been overlooked at the city hall—an equalization of the pay sheet for the direct benefit of the underpaid clerks.

Always Three Courses.
"There are always three courses that may be pursued," Mayor Wenige stated; "I always choose the middle course and as a result my recommendation will be for an expenditure of \$3,200 instead of the entire \$5,000 as set in the estimates for this purpose all of which members of the council have proposed to spend."

But while he proposed to spend the "sick and tired of this monkeying around about the wage question," Ald. Drake sounds the warning that "the first thing they know they will be having the assessment commissioner and his assistant quitting their jobs."

"And I don't know where we are going to find someone to do their work for the money that some of the council propose to give them," he adds. "If this money that even \$3,000 would be little enough for the commissioner, to say nothing of the \$2,600 as recommended by the mayor. The thing is, is it fair to ask some one there last night to defend the assessment authorities, someone from their office."

The mayor explains that all those who were recommended by the department heads for increases have been cared for in some manner although the amount of the increase is slashed, in many instances 50 per cent. Mayor Wenige states that a complete equalization of the lower-paid clerks was accomplished.

Mayor Wenige recommends a \$500 increase for Harry Bennett who was elevated to the post of assessment commissioner early in the year, bringing his salary to \$2,600. His assistant, Arthur Glass will be raised from \$1,600 to \$1,800, the mayor's program.

Three outside assessors, W. J. Gray, Fred England, and A. B. Barr are set for \$150 increases with minor increases for two clerks in the department.

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