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In all cases of dispute the trustees of the High School shall submit a detailed statement of the receipts and expenditures of the High School for maintenance for each of the preceding years under consideration such statement to be certified by the auditors authorized under this act to audit high school accounts, and also a statement of the names, residence and attendance of resident, non-resident and county pupils for the same time each year of a like period, such last mentioned statement to be certified by the chairman of the board. The chairman shall also certify as to the amount of legislative grant received for the time under consideration and the referee shall deduct the amount so certified from the whole cost of maintenance of each high school in determining the liability of the county for the maintenance of county pupils.

The municipal council of every county shall levy and collect from the municipalities comprising the county, the sum or sums for which the county is annually liable for the proportionate maintenance of county pupils as certified to the county treasurer by the high school board.

Section 32. The municipal council or councils of every High School district shall levy and collect each year from their respective municipalities such sum or sums as the trustees of the high school may deem necessary for the maintenance of the high school in addition to that received from the county council and other sources under this act, and a further sum not exceeding \$500.00 in any one year if required by the trustees for permanent improvements, and said sum shall be levied by one uniform rate over the whole district.

As to grant for permanent improvements the act provides that all sums of money required, exceeding \$500, shall be raised by assessment on the ratepayers of the High School district. Provision is also made for an equalization of rates when the district is composed of more than one municipality.

Three classes of pupils attend the high school:

1st, Resident pupils—those whose parents or guardians reside in the district in which the high school, attended by such pupils, is situated.

2nd, County pupils—those whose parents or guardians reside in the county in which the high school, attended by such pupils, is situated.

3rd, Non-resident pupils—comprising two classes—(a) pupils whose parents or guardians do not reside in the county, city or town separated from the county in which the high school attended by such pupil is situated, or (b) pupils whose parents or guardians reside in a high school district of the county, other than the district in which the high school attended by such pupil is situated. The fees of 1st resident pupils are determined by the trustees of the school. Those of county pupils by the municipal council of the county, provided the fees are uniform and do not exceed \$1.00 per month, and continue the same for a term at least of three years, and those of non-resident pupils, by the board of trustees, provided the fees be not greater than the cost of maintenance, or less than the fee imposed by the county council.

The County Council of Oxford have adopted a petition to the Legislative Assembly praying for the repeal of Sec. 30, Chap. 50, Ontario Statutes, 1890, relating to construction and maintenance of bridges 100 feet in length or more. The act is referred to as unjust in its enactments and framed in such a manner as to cause litigation unnecessary expense and embittered feeling throughout the Province. The committee in charge of this matter have decided to interview the legislature while in session and have requested all county councils to consider the advisability of pursuing a similar course.

BONUSES AND EXEMPTIONS

*Prof. Shortt, of Queen's College,
Argues Against Them.*

BONUS ALL OR NONE.

(Kingston Daily News.)

SIR,—I desire in this letter to consider the bonusing question, mainly in so far as it affects the relations of the towns and cities to one another, and thereby the general business of the country.

No doubt many who might be prepared to admit the truth of the general position taken in the last letter, would still find a practical difficulty with regard to refusing a bonus to an industry which is quite capable of supporting itself, and is thus valuable to the city. "No doubt," it might be said, "this industry is quite capable of paying its own way, and in a properly regulated condition of things, should not be allowed to draw an extra profit from the civic purse. But for the very reason that it is able to pay its own way it is a desirable industry, and if we do not bonus it, some other town or city will, and it will be lost to us." Now, there is a core of truth in this difficulty, and the civic corporations which act upon it are not without a show of reason. But, when we look into the present effects and future tendency of such action, we find a condition of affairs which is demoralizing, on the one hand the municipal finances of Ontario (to go no further), and on the other hand the manufacturing industries of the Province.

The present system of peddling industries up and down the country in order to get the civic corporations to bid against one another, when once introduced and recognized, as we must acknowledge it to be, has no necessary or logical limit short of securing a bonus to every new industry that starts in the country. Moreover, it must lead to the granting of such an amount of bonus as will almost cover the whole value of the industry to the incorporation. So long as there is a margin of advantage left the corporation will consider it to its interests to pay part of that margin in order to secure the rest. Now it does not involve a very heavy drain on anyone's reasoning power to see that the principle is destructive of the very foundations of society.

The economic relations of society are not its only relations. It is not pretended that the money, which is paid for articles in exchange, is the true measure of their importance to the individual or society. Yet, it is their commercial value only which can be justly demanded or granted on economic grounds. It would be an easy matter for the bakers and butchers of this city to prove that their goods are of much more benefit to the citizens than the money which they receive in exchange for them indicates. Such being the case, they might demand that, in addition to the money which they receive in exchange for their goods, they should receive a bonus from the city funds, seeing that without their goods the citizens would perish. But every one who renders a useful or necessary service to the community is in a similar position. The acknowledgement of such claims would mean the making of civic life impossible. No attempt is made to deny the value and importance to a town or city of manufacturing establishments. But to make this a basis of bonus-granting, and especially of civic competition for industries, is fatal to the very grounds of civic life.

Observe further the unnatural effect which this civic competition has upon the location of industries. One of the most important con-

siderations in the starting of a new industry, which may expect to be self sustaining and a benefit to the country, should be the natural fitness of the place in which it locates for the making of the articles to be produced. Under the civic competition which bonusing produces, local fitness or unfitness becomes a matter of secondary importance, and industries are frequently planted in places where they have no natural or economic right to be. The subsequent killing out of these by industries more naturally situated involves the disturbing conditions of over-production or the final loss to the country of the misdirected capital. Nothing at present leads to so great a waste of the country's resources, both civic and private, as competitive bonusing; and all forms of bonusing lead to this. So soon as the basis of production passes from the want of the people for the goods to the want of the municipalities for the industry, economy is thrown to the winds and there result over-production, disturbance of the labor market, the locking up of capital in unproductive forms, the alternate inflation and depression of real estate values, and, in fact, a general disturbance and insecurity of values which immensely retards the progress and welfare of the country.

Observe too, how this system of bonusing discounts the future at a ruinous rate and leads to the perpetuation of its own evils. As I have already pointed out, every bonus, whether in direct money grant or tax exemption, adds to the rates of the taxpaying citizens. But it would also add to the normal rate of any other industry seeking to establish itself without the aid of a bonus; hence very few industries will be willing to establish themselves in this way. When they ask for a bonus, therefore what can the authorities say? To refuse it is virtually to say to the promoters of an industry: "We will not give you a direct subsidy out of the city funds, nor grant you exemption from taxation, but we will even make you help to pay for the subsidies given and the exemptions granted in the past." Is that sort of treatment likely to attract profitable and self-sustaining industries, or is it likely to encourage those which are already established to extend their borders and increase their taxable property?

I might continue to develop the details of the bonusing evil in its general effects on the country, but surely what I have already pointed out will convince those open to conviction that even though we may seem to be losing by the refusal to grant bonuses in any shape, it is at most but our share of loss due to the prevalence of this evil in the country, and does not give us any claim to increase it by our action. Further, by abandoning this system we shall put ourselves in a reasonable position for the reception in the future of good, sound industries which are able and willing to bear their own proper share in the general expenses of the city, and we shall be placing no obstacle in the way of the normal expansion of such self-supporting industries as we have.

Yours truly,
ADAM SHORTT.

A committee, appointed by the county council of Middlesex to investigate the irregularities in criminal justice accounts, reported at the December session that they had obtained verbal statements from High Constable Schram, Squire Jarvis and Constables Allen and Graham, and were satisfied that certain accounts contained, without a doubt, grave irregularities. The committee believed that in the interest of the county, legislation should be obtained to remedy the evils, and recommended that steps be taken by the county council to have inaugurated a new system, whereby criminal justice may be more efficiently and economically administered by the appointment of one or more salaried police magistrates. They further recommended that a committee be appointed to wait on the Legislature of Ontario, at its next session, to obtain the legislation required to make the reforms recommended.