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Emphatic Protest By Citizens Against Great Increase In Estimates

Likely To Be Material Reduction Before Expiry of Time Tonight

Strong Addresses to Mayor and Commissioners By Prominent Business Men Who Attend in Body After Conference in Board of Trade Rooms—Question of Administration of Justice Touched on

Emphatic protest against any increase in the city assessment, from a large delegation from the board of trade representing, according to one of the delegates, one-half of the assessment, found the commissioners in a receptive mood this morning and there appeared to be a feeling that before the time limit expired at midnight there would be a very material reduction in the estimates.

The speakers put forward by the delegation spoke principally against any new expenditure for permanent work in the streets while others, too, voiced protest against the full increase proposed in the police department. The meeting did not break up until 1:20 o'clock and the commissioners had no opportunity to meet in council to consider the case made out but they will probably be in session for the greater part of the afternoon and evening, beginning at 3:30 o'clock.

Apart from the very strong protest generally against the assessment increase this year some very interesting suggestions were made by prominent citizens who appeared with the delegation, and Mayor Frink expressed pleasure at their visit. He said that during the first year of commission government noon committee meetings had been held regularly but these had been discontinued during the last year which was a matter for regret as the plans for the year's work might have been more carefully considered and better matured if discussed by the commissioners together.

The estimates were open for re-consideration until midnight and if the majority of citizens felt their interests imperilled he thought some of their suggestions might be carried out. In the course of a stirring address, James F. Robertson referred to the release of many prisoners on suspended sentence. "I am an old man," he said, "but if I were younger I doubt if I could stand peacefully and see this disgrace go on. What encouragement is it for policemen to arrest the same boys year after year, take them to court and have them released on suspended sentence. This has been done until these same boys have grown up to become a menace and were able last summer to take the part in the riot in which much of our property has been destroyed. You can have no police reform until we get reform in the administration of justice."

right this year and he thought the present police protection might be sufficient. Captain D. F. Pidgeon of the Divisional Ammunition Column, said the time was inopportune for expansion. Some hundreds of citizens would tramp a good many muddy roads in the next few months and those left at home could manage to walk over the streets as they had been for several years. He was satisfied to leave his wife and family to the protection of the present police force, provided an efficient head was secured. (Continued on page 2, first column.)

W. H. Barnaby said he quite approved of holding the meeting at the board of trade in the interests of the larger taxpayers and business men. Outside of the taxes many citizens were contributing generously to various funds and the burden threatened to become too heavy. It must be remembered that other citizens were going away to the war and their taxes would not be available. It was admitted that so long as the war went on—business would show a falling-off. In the meantime he thought the city should pursue the same policy of retrenchment rather than expansion, as adopted by private business men and enterprises.

Taxation generally was high in St. John and the burden should not be increased. Manufacturing enterprises would be kept away and people driven to make their homes in the suburbs and other cities. The directors of his concern had considered the matter carefully and were of the unanimous opinion that taxation should be kept down this year. The streets might get along all right.

WEATHER BULLETIN. Issued by authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Stewart, director of meteorological service. Synopsis—An area of high barometer with a moderate cold wave is moving towards the Great Lakes from Manitoba. The weather continues fairly cold in the western provinces and the maritime provinces, and comparatively mild in Ontario and Quebec.

Maritime—Increasing east and north-east winds, light snowfalls tonight and Saturday. New England forecasts—Unsettled to night, slightly colder in the interior; Saturday, fair; moderate variable winds, lay of at least a month is now probable.

EDMONTON MAN NEW POLICE CHIEF

Appointment of David Simpson as Successor to Chief Clark Was Made This Morning

David W. Simpson, late of Edmonton, was this morning appointed chief of police by the city council at a salary of \$2,000 a year. Mr. Simpson arrived in the city yesterday and will take up his duties at once.

The appointment was not made unanimously, as Commissioner Potts wanted further information as to qualifications, and held out for the choice of some local man. He voted against the resolution, but it was supported by the other commissioners.

Commissioner McLellan said that out of four or five applications, only one from St. John had any police experience. He believed Mr. Simpson would fill the bill. He then read the application from Mr. Simpson, written last November and followed this by recommendations from Mayor Armstrong, A. Ross Cuthbert, assistant commissioner of the N. W. M. P. at Edmonton, H. C. Taylor, judge of the Edmonton district court, E. B. Coyle, crown prosecutor, and A. C. Fraser, former manager of the Merchant's Bank at Edmonton. Among the good things said of the new chief was that he was well educated, had given good service as prosecutor of cases, and in the detection of a remarkably clever gang of forgers.

David W. Simpson is aged 40, six feet, three inches in height, and weighing 250 pounds. Until recently he was chief of the Edmonton detective force of eight men. He is a native of Banffshire, Scotland, and has been engaged in police work practically all his life. He has been in the Canadian west for twelve years.

Mr. Simpson looked over the ground yesterday in company with the commissioner and expressed a desire to take up the duties of his office at an early date. He has a wife and family in Edmonton.

LAW CASE MAY FOLLOW. Mention was made in the Times some days ago concerning the departure of a foreigner from East St. John, where he was conducting a little store. At that time little was known as to his reasons for going, but soon after he left his goods were taken by a local business house. He has now returned to St. John and has engaged legal advice in seeking to have restoration of the contents of the store.

THREE STEAMERS ARRIVE. The C. P. R. steamers Masacora, Rio Tiete and Milly arrived in port this morning in ballast to load for the British government.

BETTER PROVISION FOR SOLDIERS AT SALISBURY. Salisbury, Eng., Jan. 14—Owing to the condition of Larkhill Camp, members of the Fourth Brigade, consisting of westerners, among whom spinal meningitis originated, will be placed in Tidworth Barracks, near Salisbury.

Brilliant Dash By The British at Labasse; Gain of Nearly Mile is Made

Impetuous Attack Wins Strategic Point and Enemy Loses Heavily—Great Victories of Russians Over Turks—Stirring Fighting Reported by French War Office

Paris, Jan. 15—The Havas Agency has received the following from St. Omer, dated January 10: "The British, by an impetuous attack, stormed the strongly entrenched German position near Labasse at two o'clock this afternoon, after a vigorous preliminary shelling. This is an important strategic point, and its occupation represents an advance of one mile. The British losses were slight, but the Germans lost heavily. Many Germans were taken prisoners."

"In the Vosges, to the south of Senones, we repulsed the Germans after a spirited infantry engagement. We broke through their barbed wire entanglements and occupied their trenches. "Along the rest of the front there is nothing to report."

GREAT VICTORY OVER TURKS. London, Jan. 15—The correspondent of the Daily News of Petrograd, telegraphs:

"In the Olmy Valley the Turkish rear guard was completely destroyed and simultaneously, another Russian army routed the main Turkish force at Karasurgan. The Russians captured the entire supply of mountain guns which the Turks brought for the campaign, together with their ammunition. They also took the Turks' complete stock of field artillery, and all their cattle, both for slaughter and transport."

"The Russians also took a field hospital with 600 wounded Turks."

Paris, Jan. 15—The French war office this afternoon reported: "From the sea to the Lys there were yesterday artillery engagements, some of them quite spirited. We made progress near Lombardes and near Belceliers. To the north of Arras a brilliant attack by Zouaves resulted in the capture, at the lowest point, of the position of the enemy near the road between Arras and Lille."

"In this same region, at Targette and at St. Laurent, as well as at a point to the north of Andechy, in the region of Roye, our artillery secured the advantage over that of the enemy. German batteries were reduced to silence, two pieces of artillery were demolished, a depot of ammunition was exploded and field works in course of construction were destroyed."

"As a point a mile and a quarter southeast of Soissons, the Germans yesterday attacked the village of St. Paul. They entered the village, but we lost no time in recapturing it. "In the region of Craonne and near Rheims, there were, yesterday, violent artillery engagements during the course of which the batteries of the enemy were frequently reduced to silence."

"In the region of Perthes, in the Argonne, and on the heights of the Meuse, there has been nothing important to report. "We have destroyed the foot bridges set up by the Germans over the river Meuse at St. Mehlis, and in the forest of Alfily we repulsed an attack upon the trenches taken by the January 8."

BULGARIAN TROOPS READY. Athens, Jan. 15—A Salonica report says that Bulgaria has mobilized about 60,000 fully equipped troops upon the Serbian frontier. The mobilization has been carried on secretly.

TURKS MARCHING TO CANAL. Cairo, Egypt, Jan. 15—The Turkish forces advancing toward the Suez Canal number 40,000 men. Their artillery includes many guns of the most modern type believed to have been sent to Turkey from Germany. British aviators made a flight of 86 miles and got these details.

BRITISH OPINION ON THE DACIA CASE

Times Says She Must Be Stopped—Daily News Has Different View

London, Jan. 15—The Times thinks that the government have no reason, on the whole, to be dissatisfied with the impression made in the United States by the interim report made by Sir Edward Grey to the note from the United States regarding British interference with American shipping.

"But looking at the many influences at work," it adds, "and the fact that on questions of foreign policy the American public may generally be counted upon to support the president without distinction of party, the situation still demands prompt and straightforward treatment and that the discussions between the two governments be confined to essentials."

The Times also discusses the transfer of the German steamship Dacia to American ownership and declares there can be but one solution, namely if she sailed, she must be stopped and the novel points of international law, which threaten to raise, must be brought to definite decision.

The Daily News contends that article 56 of the declaration of London is so vague that it is impossible to predict how a British prize court might interpret it.

It proceeds to argue the question raised by the Dacia as rather one of expediency for the United States government. It says that it is impossible that such ships, purchased by the Americans, should ever become converted into German cruisers. If they were, beside precipitating a new quarrel between Germany and America they would be shut up in German instead of American harbors.

The question of the purchase price reaching Germany, is not of great account, according to the Daily News. In fact, it says, it might be urged that of all ways of raising credit in America one of the most convenient to the British is the selling of German exports. The whole world, it declares, is suffering from a famine of tonnage and anything that brings more ships into activity is a relief from the terrible exploitations of the shipping rings and a state-owned American line, charging reasonable freight rates, might be a very considerable relief.

EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS ARE ESTIMATED ALL WAY FROM 20,000 TO 100,000

Sixty Villages And Towns Destroyed or Damaged

Some Amusing Letters He Hands Out to Canadians At Salisbury

AS MESSENGER OF CUPID TO CANUCKS

A MARRIAGE PROPOSAL

Who Will Wed Young Widow With Three Small Children?—"Baldy" O'Leary Tells of The Appeal of Canadian Pay and Separation Allowance

(Special to the Montreal Star from its Correspondent with the Continent.) Salisbury Plain, Dec. 27—"This," said John Wesley O'Leary, pushing back his rain-soaked steatite, "is my one and only way."

O'Leary, known from the artillery lines at Pond Farm, to the draughty huts at Larkhill as "Baldy," delivered the ultimatum with deep feeling. There was resentment in his tones. Below the mere words was the aggrieved expression of a trusting recruit who had been deceived. As the motion picture stage manager would say, his commission "registered in the spring of the eye."

"If this is war, then I'll take a job as organist in a church choir. Anything for a little excitement," he continued, pausing in the work of rubbing oil on a strap.

"Four months ago and more I joined up as any man who knew which side of a horse to climb on should—with the cavalry. And they've made me walk for miles every day. I haven't been on a pony since the day I enlisted. But that isn't the worst."

"I signed to fight. And what do you do? All day I've been out in the mudding ditches for water-work, with earthquake and fell from that to joining the engineers."

"Down in the muck with a shovel for ten hours. Then I get back and become a bally chambermaid to a raw young officer. I'm not mentioning any names, but his commission is as new as the air he is ashamed of it."

"And I thought we would be mixing it up with the Germans somewhere around the suburbs of Berlin by now. Never again! That's all."

Clear Weather Hurts Him. The rain began to patter on the canvas of the tent. Baldy listened. "Now I feel better," said he. "I knew there was something wrong. Every time it stops raining here, it seems as though there was something missing. Honest, from what I've seen of this country, I can't get the Kaiser at all, at all. He's never been here in winter or he'd never want to capture the place. The worst thing the English could do would be to wish it on him for about three months every year."

"There's a lot of things we can't understand. How for instance, can you explain to me how people can grow up and be so mighty decent in a climate like this? Honest, if I lived here two winters I'd have a grouch that would last all through the summer. But these English people who never know what a real down-below-zero winter is are just fine."

A Fine Joy-Fest. "Look what the mayor of Salisbury has done. Were you at his party last night? Finest little joy-fest I ever saw. First there was a concert, then a supper, and on top of that a dance. I didn't know there were so many nice girls in that burg. The mayor mobilized them, over. He told me all about it. First, he sent out word that he wanted 150 girls to help entertain as many Canadians. Dig that! He got them, he pretty nearly had to call out the police reserves to keep them away. Three hundred and twenty enlisted! He had sent out ten invitations to each battalion—see colonel, the men who got them—and then he had to double the number of men you dance with the girls. We sure had had broken it open."

Montclair, N. J., Jan. 15—James Hutchings of Pittsburgh, shot and mortally wounded his wife, Ida, then blew out his own brains today. He had followed her here from Pittsburgh, where she rejoined him a month ago after a reconciliation. It was said he notified her that he was coming, a bill he refused to live with him.

Some of the newspapers announce that Pope Benedict is deeply grieved. He paid an unusual visit to the Santa Marta hospital, where injured people from the earthquake region are being cared for. His Holiness spoke to each patient. He consoled them by saying that he would entrust to the clergy the task of seeing their relatives and by imparting to all the apostolic benediction and distributing gifts.

Girls Buried in School Ruins. London, Jan. 15—Rescuers working by torchlight toiled all night amid the ruins of Vezano, but the work is necessarily slow. Firemen from Rome are centering their efforts about the girls' school in which so many of the pupils are buried. They succeeded in recovering one living child and one body.

The Alps Shaken. Genoa, via Paris, Jan. 15—The earthquake was felt in the Italian valley clear to the Swiss frontier. No loss of life is reported there. The Alps trembled and detached numerous avalanches. An avalanche was seen falling from Mount Blanc. Some Italian troops reported that they felt the shock and saw avalanches fall from Mount Rosa, near the Italian frontier, twenty-seven soldiers were overwhelmed by an avalanche and three were seriously hurt.

Find 450 dead, so far, in Sora. Sora, Italy, via Paris, Jan. 15—Many soldiers have arrived here to assist in the rescue work and guard property. The houses have not all been deserted but most of those still standing threaten to collapse. More than 60 bodies have been taken from ruins and large numbers of injured have been rescued. Bread and other provisions are being served liberally to the survivors. The military authorities are working at rescuing.

Santa Barbara, Cal., Jan. 12—Nine distinct earthquake shocks were felt here last night. The only damage reported was the settling of a brick building in a town near here. The shocks, the heaviest in several years, were felt for some distance along the coast.

MORTALLY WOUNDS WIFE AND KILLS HIMSELF. Montclair, N. J., Jan. 15—James Hutchings of Pittsburgh, shot and mortally wounded his wife, Ida, then blew out his own brains today. He had followed her here from Pittsburgh, where she rejoined him a month ago after a reconciliation. It was said he notified her that he was coming, a bill he refused to live with him.

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