

THE HAMILTON TIMES

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 10, 1909.

THE ASSESSMENT.

Every now and then we hear complaints about the inequalities of the assessment of city property. Sometimes the complaint is that the assessment is too high, and generally these complaints reach the Court of Revision in the shape of appeals. On the other hand, we have requests from the Trades and Labor Council and others to have the assessment rolls published, the inference being that many properties are not assessed high enough, and it is thought that the publication of the rolls would enable the public and aldermen to see whose properties were escaping the just taxation. From the complaints we have received and from the feeling that crops out at times, we have little doubt that there is good ground for entertaining the belief that, while some properties may be assessed too high, the reverse is more often the case. Property has risen in value the past few years, but the assessment has not been raised in proportion—some, we believe, have not been raised at all. When an assessment is too high the owner has the remedy in his own hands in an appeal to the court, but when the assessment is too low there appears to be a lack of municipal or legal machinery to have the matter set right.

The Mayor and Chairman of Finance might give this matter their serious consideration, now that the civic exchequer is so low. It may be that these properties properly assessed enough money could be raised to pay all the city's expenses without raising the tax rate. Would it be possible for the Finance Committee to devise some means whereby the assessors' valuations could be proved by investigation to be correct or otherwise? When we find properties assessed for perhaps one-half their selling value, it looks as if something should be done to find a remedy for these inequalities. Mayor McLaren and Ald. Peregrine might talk this matter over.

TO SUPPRESS "GRAFT."

Considerable interest is manifested in the Act which the Government is to introduce this session with the object of preventing "graft" in the shape of "take-offs" or secret commissions. It is understood that the measure will affect both public and private business, and that it will closely follow the lines of the British Act of 1906 which made secret commissions a criminal offence. Briefly it is made an offence punishable with fine or imprisonment.

(1) For any agent corruptly to receive any gift or consideration for doing or not doing any act, or showing or not showing favor or disfavor, in relation to his principal's affairs;

(2) For any person corruptly to offer such gift or consideration to any agent;

(3) For any person to give to an agent, or for any agent to use, any false or defective receipt or other business document with intent to deceive the principal.

In commenting upon the Act, the London Times points out that "in the first place the bribe or commission must be given or received corruptly," and the false document must be used "with intent to deceive." In the second place, "any person employed by or acting for another" comes within the scope of the term agent. Thus, while a commission given or received only, and with the employer's knowledge, is not forbidden by the Act, a secret commission given with an improper motive is punishable, even in the case of a domestic servant or a workman employed in the meanest capacity. The passage of the Act is said to have had an excellent effect in Great Britain, and the feeling of distrust and insecurity created among those giving and accepting such secret commissions has had a deterrent effect out of all proportion to the convictions secured.

The London Times points out that a society was formed with the title of "The Secret Commissions and Bribery Prevention League," with the purpose of investigating complaints and instituting prosecutions where proper, and as the result of its work, these convictions are reported.

£30 fine and one month's hard labor, followed by deportation.—An emigration officer for attempting to bribe a ship's doctor to pass unethically emigrants. (£10 10s. costs).

Two months' hard labor without the option of a fine.—A coal dealer, member of a football club, for offering players money to play badly.

£50 fine.—The managing director of a printing company for giving a bribe to obtain orders. (£10 10s. costs).

£50 fine.—The clerk for receiving the bribe. (£2 2s. costs).

£10 fine.—A warehouseman for bribing a carman to carry parcels. (£10 10s. costs).

£10 fine.—A woman for trying to bribe a police constable. (£2 5s. costs).

£10 fine.—A grocer for sending a mess sergeant a bribe. (£12s. 6d. costs).

£5 fine.—A woman for attempting to bribe a municipal inspector with a view to his modifying certain regulations of the housing department (and costs).

£5 fine.—A coal merchant, for giving money to railway booking clerks (and costs).

£5 fine.—A traveller for offering a bribe to a hotel doorman for the names of visitors. (£10 10s. costs).

£2 fine.—A butcher for sending meals to a cook (costs included).

£1 fine.—A warehouseman's clerk for giving money to a railway carter to carry parcels. (Court costs and £10 10s. extra).

The British Act is not (and we presume the Canadian Act will not be) directed against commissions which are open and publicly stipulated, and which do not partake of the vice of secrecy which robs private principals or the country. It is only the underhand "grafting" of commissions which is for-

bidden and made a criminal offence. Under the British Act, servants in business houses and domestic servants are affected. It is an offence for an employee to secretly pocket a commission on purchases which he makes for the employer. In this way the odious tipping custom is reached; and the giver of tips can protect himself only by notifying the employer of the servant tipped. If the gift appears as a discount or other item on the face of the bill, there is, of course, no secrecy.

Unfortunately, even in Canada in private business there is more or less of this secret grafting by employees who have the recommendation or purchasing of goods for their employers, or who are in a position to influence the direction of the employer's business. No objection can be offered to a dealer "tipping" an employee if the tip, the amount of it, and the consideration be known to the employer; what the law is concerned with is the prevention of the growth of a system of wide-spread corruption among those who have the transaction of public and private business. It is the aim of the promised measure to provide against that. It will affect no proper business transaction, but it will be hard on a growing practice which is not far removed from theft.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Will Medicine Hat buy a hat stretcher with the product of that gas gusher? We can have "temperance hotels" without licensing them and charging them additional taxes.

Agitators are said to be working for another strike of the anthracite miners. Put it off for six months.

Thirteen men were killed in a railway collision in Peru the other day. Who said "13" was not an unlucky number?

This bitter war on the local power industry is not one of the "made-in-Hamilton" things of which honorable Hamiltonians can be proud.

As far as the legal phase of the power matter is concerned, Ald. Morris might as well try to "settle" by a plebiscite the direction of the wind to blow.

Ald. Farmer showed great good sense in his course on the power matter on Monday night, consequently he comes in for Herald abuse. He is complimented.

They say that since Mayor McLaren moved in the matter of police tipping, the most insidious romance could not tempt an officer even to "smell the mug" from the sidewalk.

The welcome accorded King Edward at Berlin was of the most cordial character, and contained no indication of the hostile feeling which some journals allege prevails there toward Great Britain.

Wonder whether Barnard, the holder of Hon. Mr. Templeman's seat, stolen by the forged Borden telegram trick, will feel easy under the gaze of honest members when Hon. Mr. Templeman enters the House?

The exports of the United States to India have in eighteen years increased from \$4,655,979 to \$11,886,858. In the same time the imports of Indian products into the United States have grown from \$20,804,319 to \$61,489,287.

Mr. J. H. Smith, P. S. I., is now the proud possessor of a gold-headed cane, the gift of admiring Millgrovettes, who have known him a half century of his professional career. Long may he live to sport this testimonial of esteem!

The recent United States court decision against the Wall Paper Trust is regarded as establishing a precedent that will make it hard for these illegal combinations to disregard the intention of the law. The day of the rule of the people is dawning.

British Columbia, like West Hamilton, regretted turning down a good representative by vote means. But British Columbia has been more fortunate than West Hamilton in that it has found a place for Hon. Mr. Templeman, and will still have his services at Ottawa.

It is somewhat amusing to find the Toronto Mail and Empire, the mouthpiece of the great Munbo-Jumbo Protection, denouncing the Customs authorities for levying duty upon the Yankee plans for Toronto's filtration plant, and attacking Mayor Oliver because he was willing to pay even 1-25 of the amount demanded.

The Government has intimated that the application of the C. P. R. for running rights over the Intercolonial, from St. John to Halifax, will not be considered save in conjunction with a similar request from the C. N. R. It is also believed that the G. T. R. will be included in any arrangement made, thus securing fairness to all the roads, and the best returns for the Intercolonial.

The discussion in the United States Senate of the International Waterways Treaty serves to illustrate to what political trivialities the great interests of that country are committed. Senator Smith, of Michigan, seems to be a good specimen of the typical sectional politician. It remains to be seen whether his kind will be numerous enough to destroy the treaty to regulate the international waterways.

The Herald recalls that the Times last summer was willing to trust the people. It always is. But the submission to the people of a by-law and contract already executed and acted upon is not a matter

for the glorification of municipal statesmen. No sane, honest man understanding the situation would think of voting for Default and Dishonor to be bound in a monopoly for 30 years at a higher price than he has secured supply, even if no dangerous litigation were to be involved.

One thing the British "tariff reformers" (protectionists) and their Canadian allies leave unexplained, and that is how Canada is to profit by the proposed duty on wheat unless the impost is so much more taken out of the British toiler. If the price of our wheat is made higher to the Briton by the duty, and we are to get the increase, the net result is to make British bread dearer. If we are not to get an increase, but have all, or part of the duty imposed deducted from the price, we are certainly not helped. Somebody must pay the duty. If the price be paid by it, the British workmen will be hit; if it be not raised, what is the advantage to the colonial grain-growers?

The advocates of Default, Default and Dishonor in the power matter do not find it very easy to support their pretence that there is no urgency for the pumps in view of their own case proved in court and the judgment secured, that "the water supply of the city of Hamilton is inadequate for fire purposes." And if that were not enough there is the letter of Engineer Sothman, of the Hydro Commission, stating that "the pumps, engines and boilers * * * have reached the period of their life at which it is very doubtful if any degree of liability can be placed in their continuous operation." Surely they dare not flout Sothman! And yet to serve their out-of-Hamilton interests they would place the city in prolonged peril.

Mayor McLaren protests that he has no hostility to the Cataract Company, which is made up of local investors, and which he concedes freely has done a great deal for the city's progress. He professes that he does not seek to injure it. He would only have the city take some power from the Hydro as "a check" on the Cataract Company. And all the time the Mayor knows well that if the city takes any power from the Hydro it must take all its supply from it (price unknown) and bind itself to it exclusively for thirty years. It means that he would deprive the local company (even though its price is much lower) for all that time from getting a dollar's worth of patronage from the city. That is a friend to local industries! That is a made-in-Hamilton sentiment!

The Anti-Hamilton power organ, the Herald, rages at Ald. Peregrine, whose clear and convincing arguments it cannot hope to meet. In trying to throw dust in the eyes of the people as to the great debt the Hydro scheme would place upon the ratepayers of the city to help Toronto to cheaper power, it says: He must know that the city's share of the cost of the transmission line would be paid for gradually in the price which the city would pay for power. Easy, isn't it? And does the organ not know that every dollar of that debt is a charge on the taxpayers' property, and that if the price for power is not lower than competitors' (and guarantee a price) the people won't buy it, the city will lose on what it takes for corporation use, and the taxpayer must make good?

OUR EXCHANGES

A Going Concern.

(London Advertiser.) Longboat's backers no doubt appraise him as a going concern.

Is Game.

(London Free Press.) The Cataract Power Company is making a life-and-death struggle at Hamilton.

A Forest Question.

(Toronto News.) If it will pay England to create new forests, will it not pay us to preserve ours?

Jack's Good Taste.

(Brantford Courier.) They have a "Jack the Huggler" in Hamilton. Strange what queer tastes some men have.

That Moral Obligation.

(Toronto Telegram.) Hamilton Spectator and Times are a nice pair to lecture the City Council on the principles of "honor" without the "u."

Silent Sufferer.

(Toronto Star.) A New Orleans policeman arrested his wife on a charge of disorderly conduct. Most of us fellows, however, who are not policemen, prefer to suffer in silence.

Waiting for John.

(Guelph Herald.) It must be pretty good work for the "rail" birds who are so patiently waiting for the beginning of that much-talked-of Patterson line here.

A Happy Idea.

(Toronto Mail and Empire.) Everybody will agree that the appointment of Mr. Clifford Sifton to represent us at Washington at the conference that is to be held on the subject of the conservation of our natural resources was a happy idea.

Competition Is Good.

(N. Y. Journal of Commerce.) When it is working freely it necessarily results in the largest production attainable under existing conditions, and the largest production means the largest profits and the largest wages measured by what they will bring from the common store of wealth. It means low prices, it may mean low wages in dollars and cents, but it means the most

abundant production and distribution and consequently the greatest return of that for which capital and labor are expended. Dollars and cents are not what we are working for, but those things which dollars and cents are used in exchanging. The ultimate return is not money, but the things which are sold for money and bought with money, and it is to be measured by the share of these things obtained by each one.

A Villainous Act.

(Toronto Globe.) According to the statements in the Judge Fraick episode in Hastings county a provincial license official secured a young man under 21 years of age, but apparently over that age, and treated him to whiskey in order that the hotel-keepers could be prosecuted for selling to a minor.

It Will Be Obedied.

(N. Y. Journal of Commerce.) Suppose it were possible that there could be a general suppression of competition and in each industry or trade there could be what is delusively called co-operation for controlling production and price, artificially adjusting supply to the maintenance of high prices and high wages instead of letting it respond to demand and allowing the relation between demand and supply determine prices and wages, what would be the result of putting this into effect? Continually lessening effort, diminishing production, stagnation of progress and general impoverishment in the midst of possibilities of abundance. Fortunately the natural law is too strong and cannot be generally defeated or evaded, but in so far as some succeed in thwarting it for their own immediate benefit they are robbing others and inflicting injury upon the industrial and commercial community as a whole.

Good Advice.

(Ontario Municipal Journal.) The recent municipal elections show some very encouraging features.

One is the increasing desire to keep party politics out of municipal affairs. Citizens should not vote for a mayoralty candidate because he is a Liberal or a Conservative.

The candidates that get the vote should be a good citizen. Not necessarily a good party man. Unless in an exceptional condition of affairs, he should have served in the council.

He should be a business man. He should have an absolutely untarnished record.

But whether he is a Conservative or a Liberal should be entirely forgotten for the time.

Why should a Liberal or Conservative, as such, make a good mayor or councillor?

Party politics are bad enough in provincial elections, where they mean nothing.

But in cities they are an absurdity and a curse.

This feeling, unfortunately, is gaining ground.

The more rapidly it dominates every municipality, the better for Canada.

Hamilton was strongly party in the municipal elections.

But a candidate, who said, "Give Government is Business, 'Not Politics," was selected.

Ald. McLaren is Mayor, and party rule has been defeated.

Other municipalities show the same trend.

All should follow this: "Let it be so."

SAN JOTTINGS.

The patients think they have been favored by the weather man this winter, as there have been so few cold days, and the last severe winter months will soon be past.

Several new patients have come in lately, making the number now 32.

On Friday evening most of them assembled in the dining room at 8 o'clock for an oyster supper, which was nicely served. It was given by a patient who was leaving. A short programme, followed with an address showing in what esteem the donor was held. Everybody enjoyed everything to the fullest extent, and they certainly did, judging by the laughter and applause that accompanied the songs, speeches and son-

nets prepared especially for the occasion, with guitar accompaniment.

A number of selections on the gramophone were given in the infirmary during the week. It might be satisfactory to the generous givers of the gramophone to know how much pleasure it gives to the patients. It is a fine instrument, and there are so many good records that they can listen to solos, quartettes and hand music almost as good as the original.

The weekly service was conducted by Rev. S. B. Russell.

Visitors: A. G. Lamont, St. Catharines; A. G. Glennie, Mrs. J. D. Wilson, Mrs. P. D. Cramer, St. Burnside, Russell, A. B. Orl, etc.

Donations: St. Hilda's Chapter, clothing; Miss Oliver, marmalade; Mrs. P. D. Cramer, magazines; Miss Wilcox, jelly, fruit and tomatoes; Mrs. F. H. Stanton, knitted shawls and bed socks.

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SHEA'S

THURSDAY,
FEB. 11, 1909May Mantion
Patterns 10c
All New Styles

Our Winter Clearing Sale

The Clearing Sales of this store have always been merchandising events that have appealed in the strongest way to the buying public of all this region. The sale now going on has been far beyond our expectations and is the best we have ever conducted. About 10 days more of it and we will be through with it. Bargains will be better than ever for that time. Don't pass by the good offerings we are making. Thursday will be a great day.

BIG SALE OF LACES AND INSERTIONS—Thousands of yards of Laces and Insertions, Vals, Fancy Laces, French Cluny, etc., etc., in a great variety of widths; worth from 8c to 15c; all on sale to clear at per yard **5c**

DRESS GOODS AT 50c—\$1.00 VALUE—Black Panamas, Brown Panamas, Black and Brown Taffetas, Navy Espingles, Black Sicilians, Brown and Navy Sicilians and many other weaves; a range of cloths that sell regularly for 75c, 85c and \$1.00; to clear at per yard **50c**

Women's Coats, worth \$15 to \$18, to clear at each \$8.95
Children's Coats, worth \$6.50 to \$8, on sale to clear at each \$3.95
Women's Suits, black and colors, full \$10.50 value, to clear at each \$7.50
Women's Skirts, every wanted shade, very latest styles, worth \$3.95, for \$2.50
Women's Skirts, Broadcloths, Serges, etc.; \$6.95 values for \$4.50
Women's Marmot Stoles, wide capes; worth \$8.00, on sale for each \$4.95
Marmot Stoles, worth \$5.00, finished with tails, on sale for each \$2.95
Women's Waists, print, lustre and sateen, white and colored, 75c for 39c
Women's Waists, made of cotton goods, embroidered delaines, lustres, dark colors, odd sizes, \$1.15 and \$2.00, to clear at 69c
Elegant White Lawn Waists, with new long sleeves, pointed cuffs, prettily trimmed; Shea's best value each \$1.00

NEW TABLE LINENS ON SALE

A big special purchase of Tableing, full bleached and every thread pure flax, full 2 yards wide and the most elegant patterns we have ever shown.

\$1.15 Damask for 90c **\$1.25 Damask for 90c**
\$1.50 Damask for \$1.20 **\$1.75 Damask for \$1.45**

Table Cloths, with border all round, hemmed and also hemstitched, with napkins to match, equally low prices. This is a splendid Thursday bargain.

\$1.95 Cloths for \$1.50 **\$4.50 Cloths for \$3.50**
\$2.50 Cloths for \$1.75 **\$4.00 Cloths for \$2.95**
\$3.50 Cloths for \$2.50 **\$5.00 Cloths for \$3.95**

Dress Skirts

A sale in Dress Skirts that should attract many. Come and see the graceful design, the new gored skirt with fitted circular folds and self and large button materials; are in all wool Cheviots, Venetians and Serges, in navy or black; all sizes.

Regular \$6.50 and \$7.00 Sale \$4.50

Taffeta Underskirts \$4.49

Pure Taffeta. Silk Underskirts, black, navy, brown, grey and wine. Full skirts in pleated and circular flounce with dust frill; all sizes; \$6.00 and \$7.00, sale price **\$4.49**

\$3 "Heatherbloom" and Moire Underskirts \$1.98

Another sale of this popular Underskirt, genuine Heatherbloom, in navy, brown, or green, in plain and self stripes, made in the new close-fitting hip style, also pure silk moire Underskirt in black, green or navy. Full skirts and trimmings, also dust frill. Regular \$2.50 and \$3.50, sale price **\$1.98**

\$5.00 Underskirts \$3.95 **\$1.75 Underskirts \$1.29**
Moire Heatherbloom and Italian Underskirts, taffeta silk flounce, with full pleatings and dust frill, new close cut hip style, all sizes, in black only, \$5, sale price **\$3.95**

Navy and Black Italian Sateen Underskirts, made in full style with pleatings and frills, a good wearing serviceable skirt for early spring wear \$1.75, sale price **\$1.29**

\$1.25 Sateen and Moire Underskirts 79c
About 8 dozen only in the lot, so be early. They are made in all sizes, in black and navy sateen and moire, large full skirts with accordion pleated flounce and frills, a splendid good wearing serviceable skirt for spring wear. Regular value \$1.25, special sale price **79c each**

Ask to See the New **Directoire Underskirt** Special Value at **\$2.50**

FINCH BROS., 29 and 31 King St. W.

REDMOND CONTROL. Attempt to Commit Irish Party to Obstructionist Tactics.

Dublin, Feb. 9. The national convention of the United Irish League was opened at the Mansion House to-day under the presidency of John Redmond. The attendance was immense, the delegates from all parts of Ireland and Great Britain aggregating about 2,000.

Opening the proceedings, Mr. Redmond emphasized the importance of the occasion. He said: "Ireland's good name is at stake, and Ireland's capacity for self-government will be judged by the conduct of this assembly. Therefore everyone who speaks should weigh his words carefully."

An attempt to tack on to the resolution pledging the support of the convention to the Irish party an amendment instructing the party to "oppose and embarrass the Liberal Government by every means in its power," because of Premier Asquith's refusal to make home rule an issue in the general election was defeated.

It became apparent early that Mr. Redmond was in control of the convention, and the speeches of the Sinn Féin charging that the party was too friendly with the Liberals were shouted down. William O'Brien was given a distinctly hostile reception when he opposed Chief Secretary for Ireland, Birrell's land bill. He was constantly interrupted. At one stage of his remarks one of his supporters, Eugene Crean, M. P. for Southeast Cork, rushed to the platform, apparently with the object of assaulting Mr. Redmond, but after a sharp scolding he was hustled away.

Mr. Redmond's resolution urging the acceptance of Mr. Birrell's land bill, subject to the necessary amendments, was adopted, with only ten dissenting votes.

STUDENT'S FUNERAL. Tribute to the memory of a beloved student was paid yesterday afternoon when the students of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons, Toronto, attended the funeral service at the college over the remains of the late S. R. English, of Harding, Man., who died after only four days' illness. The service was conducted by Rev. Dr. Murray, pastor of Erskine Presbyterian Church, and the musical portion was under the direction of Mr. M. L. Kappel. Beautiful floral emblems were placed on the casket; by the "Class of Dentals, '11," the faculty, the

Xi Psi Phi fraternity and friends of deceased. The remains were taken last night to Harding, Man., for interment. Mr. James Brimacombe, of the college, accompanied the body to Harding, where deceased's parents reside.

P. C. Alex. English, of this city, an uncle of deceased, attended the service in Toronto.

JACK BINNS Gets a Reception in Home City as Though He'd Won a Marathon.

Peterboro, Eng., Feb. 9.—Jack Binns, the wireless telegraph operator on the steamer Republic at the time of the collision with the Florida, was given a rousing reception in his native town after his return. He was met at the railroad station with bands playing "See the Conquering Hero Comes," and the Mayor extended him a welcome. A procession of carriages headed by the bands made a triumphal progress through cheering crowds to the Guildhall, which was packed with leading citizens, who cheered wildly when Binns, his sweetheart on his arm, entered.

The Mayor said: "Your pluck and courage have excited the admiration of the whole world. Some men are decorated for the slaughter of thousands, you have saved thousands by your gallantry. We present you with this address as a permanent record of your bravery. Your fellow citizens are very proud of you."

A bill limiting damage action appeals from jury verdicts will be introduced in the Legislature.

An appeal in the case of Stephen Swyrda, who is to be hanged at Brampton on Thursday, has been refused.

GLOBE OPTICAL CO. Thinking of Glasses? Think of Us! **GLOBE OPTICAL CO.** 111 King East Opposite "Waldorf." **I. B. ROUSE** Proprietor.

Tribute to the memory of a beloved student was paid yesterday afternoon when the students of the Royal College of