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LONDON, SATURDAY, JAN. 2.

THE WATER BYLAW.

The success of the test well on Horton street is a valid argument for postponing a decision on the water question.

Engineers who have had experience with artesian wells say that possible water in unlimited quantities can be found in the neighborhood if proper methods are adopted. Several of the largest industries get their water supply from this source; two wells, sunk on the property of the London Electric Company, have a flow of 400,000 gallons a day, which is only 100,000 gallons less than the estimated yield of the Kilworth springs.

It is claimed that an artesian well system would be very much cheaper than purchasing springs and piping the water for miles, and that it would effect a reduction in water charges, which are admittedly high in London as compared with other cities.

The well-drilling operations now being carried on are rapid and not expensive, and the feasibility of the plan can be determined in a few weeks, so that even if it failed and the city had to fall back upon another scheme, relief would be afforded before the dry season.

At any rate some of the largest taxpayers and leading citizens take the responsibility of advising that the bylaw be defeated in order that the artesian well experiment may be completed. If it can do the half of what its promoters hope and believe, the city can well afford to put up with some delay and inconvenience.

The water in sight, under the commissioners' plan, measures 1,200,000 gallons per day, which is just enough to restore the street sprinkling and lawn services and supply the railways. In two or three years, more water would have to be found, unless the north branch and the Kilworth springs yielded a greater flow than is apparent on the surface, or unless the meter system were adopted in the meantime to check the waste of water by consumers. While two of the present commissioners have always favored spring water, there is no assurance that their successors two or three years hence will not attempt to foist river water upon the citizens, under the plea of urgency. This is why the river water advocates are so zealously championing the present bylaw. They fear that artesian wells may prove a success, and permanently solve the problem.

IS ENGLAND OVERCROWDED?

The population of England is steadily increasing despite the stream of emigration, and sociologists are asking whether the country is overcrowded, in view of the present volume of unemployment.

England and Wales in 1901 contained 35,526,075 people—an average density of 556 per square mile, as compared with 348 per square mile in Massachusetts, 407 in Rhode Island, 250 in New Jersey, 187 in Connecticut and 152 in New York. In 1900 the entire United States bore a population of a density of only 25 to the square mile. The English-Welsh density increased in ten years from 497 to 556, a gain of 59 persons per square mile, while in the same period the United States' density increased but 4½ persons.

Even more striking are the figures regarding London. In 1881 the metropolitan district contained an average of 10,735 persons to the acre; in ten years it had increased to 12,715 persons per acre, and in 1901 its density was 14,844 per acre. The largest percentage outside of strictly urban areas in the United States is that of the District of Columbia—4,645 to the square mile; the London metropolitan district density is 8,497 to the square mile.

What is considered a greater menace than London's congestion itself is the steady tendency toward increase. The natural multiplication of population and what is called the "city drift" are not alone responsible for this, but it is largely due to the withdrawal of productive lands from cultivation and their absorption into great landed estates or parks. So that while the population increases, the supporting area decreases. One proposed remedy is to restore to use a certain percentage of lands held as private parks, and good results are expected also from the Small Holdings Act which is designed

to encourage men of small means to purchase land. State-aided emigration is also suggested, but the British colonies have no room for any large number of city-dwelling immigrants, though there is an unlimited demand for those who know something of farming.

Meanwhile it is satisfactory to know that the aggregate of wealth in Great Britain is growing as fast as the population. As long as that is so, and a great portion of the country is out of cultivation, it cannot be said that the country is incapable of supporting its inhabitants. The problem is to secure a more equitable distribution of wealth and this the British Government is endeavoring to do by its programme of social reform.

MR. BECK ON POWER AND WATER.

Our local contemporary has argued that Mr. Beck is infallible on the power question; but it insinuates that he is not to be trusted on the water question.

There is one great difference between Mr. Beck's power policy and his water scheme.

There was no means of testing his power project before the city was committed to it. His water scheme, however, will be put to a test before the city is asked to adopt it.

The municipality has entered into a contract to buy Niagara power, and has assumed enormous obligations, without assurance that the undertaking will be successful. But the citizens are not asked to take Mr. Beck's water scheme, like his power scheme, upon faith.

It strikes one that if Mr. Beck is not fit or competent to deal with the problem of London's water supply, or if his views on it are not even entitled to consideration, he is scarcely qualified to handle the far bigger question of Niagara power. The Free Press must take either horn of the dilemma.

THE MINOR MONEY BYLAWS.

The object of the tuberculosis bylaw is to spend \$5,000 to make provision for incurable and emergency cases. The plan is to purchase several cottages in the vicinity of Victoria Hospital for this purpose. The Muskoka consumption hospitals take only curable cases. Even if the Provincial Government decides to erect consumption sanatoria, it will be necessary for the city to provide local accommodation for incurable patients. Considering the inordinate growth of hospital expenditure in the city, it is a reproach that no provision has been made for this class of unfortunate, but it is a humane duty the municipality should not neglect longer. There is every reason to believe that if the bylaw is adopted, the remainder of the necessary funds will be raised by private philanthropy.

The sum of \$5,000 is asked for playgrounds, and a similar amount for swimming baths. No argument is needed to prove the moral and physical value of playgrounds. It is a pity the city did not long ago begin to set aside spaces for this object, and for park purposes. Swimming baths under proper supervision will be a boon to the boys, especially. The drownings last summer led to the prohibition of swimming in the river. The boys could not be more innocently and healthfully occupied, and their elders owe it to them to afford them this pastime under conditions of absolute safety.

NEW ZEALAND'S SECOND BALLOTING.

New Zealand is the first English-speaking country to try second balloting where no candidate received a majority of the votes cast on the first ballot. The occasion was the parliamentary general elections held recently. As the question of reforming the election methods is engaging much attention in England just now, the result of New Zealand's experiment will be of special interest.

The colony is following the German system, which provides that where no candidate secures an actual majority of votes there must be a second balloting between the two candidates obtaining the highest number of votes. Strong objection was made to the new law, as originally drafted, on the ground of expense, but this was finally met by the Government bearing \$200 of each candidate's outlay in the second balloting.

There were two clauses of the bill as it first passed the popular chamber, which came in for such vigorous opposition that they were finally eliminated. One of these was to the effect that a candidate obtaining a lead of 500 votes on the first ballot should be deemed to have secured an absolute majority. This was rejected by the legislative council. The other, which was popularly called the "gag" clause, provided that any candidate or other person appealing by voice, pen or type to the electors in the interval between the first and second balloting, with a view to influencing the election, should be liable to a fine of \$1,000. This clause was received with so much disfavor by the public that, though it passed the upper chamber by a majority of one, when the measure went back to the House of Representatives that body withdrew it.

No other country could furnish a

Wife and Children Left Penniless

Safeguard them against this terrifying contingency with our Life Rate Endowment.

Same rate as ordinary pay-till-death policy, with this difference—after you reach a certain age policy can be cashed for full death-claim value. Booklet if interested.

London Life POLICIES
GOOD AS GOLD

W. A. Winterstein Inspectors
Geo. McBroom Ordinary Branch
F. J. Maine, Supt. Indus. Branch.

better test of the second balloting system for the guidance of the British people than New Zealand. Like the United Kingdom, the colony has three distinct political parties—Free Trade, Protectionist and Labor. Many friends of electoral reform in Great Britain, however, favor proportional representation rather than the second ballot. The latter system, they claim, leads to log-rolling and corrupt bargaining between political factions.

The party "slate" is not cutting much figure in this election.

Our local contemporary shows grave symptoms of water on the brain.

It looks as though the water bylaw would be drowned in the Horton street well.

If local manufacturers can find plenty of good spring water by boring wells, why can't the city do the trick?

It is a happy new year for half a million aged poor people in Great Britain, who become recipients of state pensions.

If electors are unable to make up their minds on the Sunday car question, it is not for want of advice from both sides.

Mr. Parsons explains that he is standing for the majority as a means of presenting his views on municipal questions. This is the right of every citizen, but it would be unfair to disallow Mayor Stevely's claim to reelection. One good term deserves another.

One would think that the citizens who have interested themselves in the well-drilling experiment were a gang of rogues and grafters, judging by the fury of the river water organ. They ought to have the thanks of the community for taking an interest in a public question. What harm will be done, beyond postponing for a very short time the solution of the water problem?

ZION RELIGIO LITERARY SOCIETY

Half-Yearly Election of Officers Last Evening.

At a meeting held last evening by the members of Zion's Religio Literary Society, in connection with the Latter Day Saints' Church, Maitland street, the half-yearly election of officers took place.

Brother J. Winegarden was re-elected president of the society. Vice-president, Sister Pope; second vice-president, Brother J. Judkins; secretary, Brother Phillipon; treasurer, Sister L. Gray; Rep. of Lib. Commission, Brother Herb Talbot; Organist, Sister L. Pope; chorister, Sister E. Gray; press correspondent, Brother W. H. Willis; janitors, Brother and Sister Martin; Mirror editor, Brother Farthing; assistant editor, Brother F. Gray; auditors, Brother Phillipon and Hardy; critic, Sister Hardy.

It was also fully decided to hold the usual weekly meetings on Fridays in future, instead of Thursdays, as heretofore.

GRAND SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY

Twelve Hundred Methodist Boys and Girls in Parade on New Year's Day.

The morning of New Year's Day opened with a keen northwester, which lessened somewhat the attendance at the Methodist Sunday school rally, especially from the more distant schools. Despite this fact there were some ten or twelve hundred boys and girls in the procession, which left the Armories promptly at 10:30 a.m. Each school had its large Union Jack, and some schools in addition had a very handsome school banner. These, with the innumerable small flags carried by the scholars, made a very brilliant display.

Headed by the Salvation Army band the procession marched along Dundas and up Wellington, the proposed route being changed because of the cold, and the head of the procession was filling into the church before the last scholar had left the Armories. The body of the church was filled by the scholars, one or two schools being compelled to sit in the gallery. The remaining space was occupied by friends of the various schools.

Mr. Wm. Jeffries, the superintendent of the Wellington street school, made a very efficient chairman. The superintendents of the fourteen schools, as well as several of the city ministers, occupied seats on the platform.

The Services.
The service opened with the doxology and a short prayer by Rev. Dr. Hammon. Greetings were received by telegram from similar gatherings in Winnipeg, Montreal and Ottawa, and to these replies were sent from the gathering.

It was a patriotic service, and the hymns were all of a patriotic nature. The first speaker was Rev. S. T. Bartlett, secretary of Sunday Schools and Epworth Leagues. His subject was "The Bible and the Flag." The secret of Britain's greatness was the union of these two forces. The Bible followed the flag, and the flag followed the Bible, and wherever these two went blessings abounded. In closing, Mr. Bartlett gave some interesting statistics regarding the Sunday school work.

A Patriot.
Mr. C. B. Keenleyside then spoke. "A patriot," said the speaker, "is one who loves his fatherland, and shows his love by obeying its laws. What is our fatherland? We claim Canada as our home, and speak of its greatness and material resources, but while this is well enough in its way we do well to remember that a nation's greatness rests upon the quality of its people rather than its material resources. And you, boys and girls, by becoming good men and women, will make Canada the great nation that God meant it to be. But we have another fatherland, the land of the All-Father, God. We pray, 'Thy kingdom come.' But we must do more than that; we must obey the law of our fatherland. There are two primary laws: 'First, to Obey the Lord thy God with all thy heart,' and second, 'Love thy neighbor as thyself.' To be true citizens of our fatherland we must love God and our fellowmen." The singing was led by a large choir chiefly of scholars from the First Methodist Church, led by Mr. C. E. Toney, leader of the school choir, and Mr. Craig, the church organist.

WRECK AT GULL LAKE

One Man Killed and a Pembroke Lady Injured in Accident to Train.

Gull Lake, Sask., Jan. 2.—The Pacific express was wrecked four miles west of here, a broken rail being the cause. The diner and tourist cars were thrown down a 25-foot embankment, on a new division complete a month ago. One passenger was killed and three injured. The train crew escaped injury. The main line was obstructed for sixteen hours.

Charles Tanby, aged 40, a resident of Omaha, Neb., traveling home by way of the coast, was thrown through a window and killed. Miss G. Dewar, of Pembroke, Ont., received a slight cut on the top of the head and her right arm was bruised.

Battle Creek Toasted Corn-Flake Company Stock Attractive.

IT IS JUST AS GOOD TO HOLD AS THE FLAKES ARE TO EAT.

The London Stock Company are offering today a few shares of Battle Creek Toasted Corn Flake Company, Limited, stock. This company has had many competitors with poor imitations of Kellogg's Corn Flakes to compete against during the past two years, but now hold the market with the best Toasted Corn Flake ever produced. Read what consumers say of it:

W. H. Rust says: "You 'Sweetheart of the Corn,' is as was the sweetheart of my youth."
Wm. H. Bowker says: "Kellogg's Toasted Corn Flakes tells the breakfast like 'Sterling' tells the silver."
The stock of this company paid 10 per cent in 1907, and 15 per cent in 1908, and will be sought at \$150 per share before very long.

ALL ALIKE.

"You must do your best," said Mrs. Pemith to the new cook. "My husband is very particular about the way his food is prepared." "Yesum," said the new cook, sympathetically; "ain't these men all alike? Now, you take my husband; I never was able to cook anything to please him in all my life."

TO THE ELECTORS

LADIES and GENTLEMEN--

Your Vote and Influence Respectfully Solicited for the Re-Election of

SAMUEL STEVELY

AS MAYOR FOR 1909

ALABAMA "DRY."
Mobile, Ala., Jan. 1.—With the passing of the midnight hour last night prohibition became effective through-out Alabama. A number of social clubs have been opened and charters for these places will now be in great demand. In these clubs drinks will be dispensed to "members only."

Before the doors of the saloons were closed last night whiskey and beer were given away in large quantities.

The Danube River was frozen to the bottom in 1236 and remained so frozen for a long time.

Every Voter HAS A VOTE ON

Sunday Cars

THE CITIZENS' COMMITTEE RELY ON EVERY MAN

To Do His Duty

Your Vote and Influence for

U. A. BUCHNER

For Water Commissioner

VOTE FOR

Dr. Wyckoff

FOR

School Trustee

Geo. W. Armstrong

Requests Your Support for

ALDERMAN 1909

Your vote and influence respectfully solicited for

T. H. JAMES

GROCER

AS ALDERMAN FOR 1909.

VOTE FOR

EX-ALD. SCARLETT

For Alderman for 1909

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ROBERT PARSONS

FOR ALDERMAN

One year ago Alderman Parsons was elected to the City Council, and in a businesslike manner he served on the finance committee. Mr. Parsons is, as citizens well know, a thorough business man, and is willing to sacrifice a portion of his time for the interests and welfare of the City of London, and should get the hearty support of the electors at the polls on Monday. Mr. Parsons dislikes politics in the council, and absolutely refuses to go on any slate. He is for the people all the time, and one of London's ratepayers.

Your vote and influence respectfully solicited for EX-ALD. JOSHUA



D. A. Stewart

For Re-Election As

Alderman for 1909

Your Vote and Influence Respectfully Solicited by

YOUR VOTE

and Influence Respectfully Solicited by

Joseph Lawrence

AS ALDERMAN

1909

I am not in favor of city hospitals or other public buildings being built by the aldermen, and I will do all in my power to prevent the city finances from being squandered as at present. Ex-Ald. O'Meara, who sat in the council 18 years, says: "Unless something is done the city will be in the hands of a receiver in five years."

A. J. MORGAN

FOR ALDERMAN

VOTE FOR YOUNG BUSINESSMEN!

A Greater and a More Progressive London.

"Equal Rights and Fair Play to All!"

50u-xt

VOTE FOR

James Donnelly

As Alderman for 1909

VOTE FOR THE RE-ELECTION OF

DR. W. J. STEVENSON

FOR ALDERMAN.

VOTE FOR THE RE-ELECTION OF

Dan Ferguson

For Alderman

VOTE FOR

ALDERMAN J. H. A. BEATTIE

FOR RE-ELECTION FOR 1909.

Your Vote and Influence Respectfully Solicited for

Wm. J. Craig

—AS—

Alderman for 1909

VOTE FOR THE RE-ELECTION OF

Chas. E. Moorhead

As Alderman for 1909

Your vote and influence respectfully solicited for EX-ALD. JOSHUA

GARRATT

For re-election as

ALDERMAN FOR 1909

Your Vote and Influence Respectfully Solicited for the

RE-ELECTION OF EX ALDERMAN

Neil Cooper

FOR 1909.

Your Vote and Influence Respectfully Solicited for

J. H. Saunders

For Re-Election As

ALDERMAN for 1909

YOUR VOTE AND INFLUENCE RE-

SPECTFULLY SOLICITED FOR

JAMES H. JEFFRIES

AS ALDERMAN FOR 1909.

ELECTORS OF LONDON TOWN-

SHIP.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—As I have the honor of being nominated as a candidate for Council for 1909, and being the only candidate resident of St. Patrick's Ward, I respectfully solicit your vote and influence. I remain, yours truly,

Geo. E. Hudson

YOUR VOTE AND INFLUENCE RE-

SPECTFULLY SOLICITED FOR

EX-ALD. JAMES FITZGERALD

AS ALDERMAN FOR 1909.