

from outside the council for that purpose. I need not here enter into any detail of the many particulars to which retrenchment is both possible and desirable; but I unhesitatingly express my conviction that, when unnecessary items of expenditure are lopped off, and extravagant outlays curtailed, and the mere luxuries of officialism sharply reduced, the council's ordinary income will be found amply sufficient to meet its liabilities without the assessment of any annual tax.

(6) If, however, through the contraction of its yearly receipts, and notwithstanding the exercise of such wise economy as the board of a company of shareholders would employ in the management of its finances, it should become requisite, in the more or less immediate future, to supplement the council's ordinary income, I would agree to a moderate tax on the profession—always providing the educational bodies, having and using the right to speak and to vote in the council, by their representatives, on questions involving the expenditure of money, agree or are compelled to assess themselves proportionately. The certainty that, in future, an assessment on the electorate will necessitate a liberal contribution from the schools will probably have the effect of making the appointees, while they remain constituent parts of the council, much more economically inclined than they have been heretofore, and will thus tend to obviate the necessity of either assessments or contributions.

(7) In no case would I agree to the reinstitution of the penal clause known as section 41 (a), which, in 1891, was surreptitiously engineered into the Ontario Medical Act by the present council, and which, together with the assessment clause, in spite of the determined opposition of the council, was suspended by the Legislature last spring, and remains a dead letter, unless restored and put in force by the men whom you and your professional confreres throughout the province are now about to elect.

(8) I believe that the law never contemplated the council becoming the holder of real estate for the purposes of speculation, and that the sooner the council can disembarass itself of its Toronto property the better. I do not, however, think that the property in question should be recklessly sacrificed. I would advocate its being placed in the hands of a real estate agent, and sold as soon as a price is offered which approximates anywhere nearly to its cost. Having relieved itself of this incubus, the council, for less than half the sum it now annually pays as interest on the mortgage, would probably be able to lease its present accommodation; or, failing this, it might proceed to erect, in a less expensive locality, an unpretentious structure, suitable to its wants, and easily within its means.

(Sgd.) JOHN H. SANGSTER.