



SALARIES RAISED BY CITY COUNCIL

Efficiency of Service Should Be Paid for, Say Aldermen.

SIMPSON ON WAR PATH

Went After Controller Church for His Attitude on Raises.

"I move that there be no salary increases this year," said Controller Church when the city council went into session yesterday to dispose of the estimates. He pleaded hard times. He expected the increase in the pay of the police.

"Efficiency in civic business is the first consideration," said Ald. Hiltz, referring to the tax rate. "I would prefer a 20-mill rate and get efficiency rather than an 18-mill rate and get a deficit. The rate we fix this year should clean up everything. The bulk of the taxes is paid by men who care more for efficiency than the amount of the tax rate. I would rather vote Commissioner Harris \$12,000 a year than see him pick up and go," said Ald. Hiltz on the matter of salary increases.

"And what I say about Mr. Harris applies to the other heads of departments. Those men are away above the average. We want them to feel that they are appreciated. For every employee of the city there should be a living wage for himself and family. I believe in a minimum wage."

"I will support the motion to strike out all increases of pay," said Ald. Smith. "While Controller Church is generally wrong, his right this time in opposing salary increases is correct. Mr. Spence enquired if the \$427,300 deficit of last year was to be covered when the debentures for local improvements were sold, and Controller McCarthy assured him the deficit would be so covered. The alderman opposed the increases in salaries to heads of departments."

"At this time former Controller Ward took a seat in the council chamber and he was applauded and applauded to have recovered his health."

"The taxpayers are quite willing to make \$15 the minimum of pay to the employees of the city," said Mr. Graham declared, also favoring paying every official as much as he was worth.

Then Controller Simpson opened fire. "The audacity and presumption of Controller Church astounds me," he said. "He moved in the board of control for the large salary increases and now he moves here to strike out all increases."

"I rise to a point of order," Controller Church expostulated.

"Sit down," thundered Ald. McBride, pounding with the gavel. The controller sat down.

"When I tried to get a minimum wage of \$16 per week, Controller Church fought me," Controller Simpson explained, "and when I tried to get the minimum up to \$18, Controller Church again fought me. He is not sincere in his motion now to strike off all increases. He is two-faced. His motion if adopted, would mean I can make \$13.50 or \$14 a week would be robbed of the little 50c a week now recommended. There is nothing fair

NEWS FROM THE CITY HALL

about Controller Church's motion. It is not decent nor humanitarian. Toronto salaries were voted down by big majorities, and the list of recommended increases were then taken up item by item. The first was that of Corporation Counsel Geary, whose salary is \$8000 and an increase of \$1000 was recommended. Ald. Dunn stated that the arrangement with Mr. Geary when he was appointed, was a good one. He gave \$1000 if he made good. The alderman declared that Mr. Geary had made good, and moved that he be given the \$1000.

Secretary Smith of the Oakwood B.L.A. states that the coal given away in charity in the Earlscourt district during the winter months, in dollars runs into the thousands. The conditions in the residential streets are in no way improved. Many of the downtown streets have been closed for some weeks, and it is hoped that some of the ward seven streets will soon receive a preliminary sprinkling of oil.

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GRASS FIRE SCARE IN EARLSCOURT

Firemen Arrived in Time and Succeeded in Beating Out Flames.

NEW COAL CLUB SCHEME

W. H. Smith Has Suggestion for B. I. A. — Scout Troop Inaugurated.

The residents of the Silverthorne district of Earlscourt were stirred up by a grass fire which broke out at 2 o'clock, when the grass in the vicinity of the bush at the head of Gilbert avenue was set on fire. The Earlscourt reels were speedily summoned and the fire was quickly extinguished. The fire started in the immediate vicinity of the ruins of the houses destroyed last week.

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STREETS ALERED BUT NOT SWEEPED

Ward Seven Merchants Want to See the Sweepers Busy.

DR. HOPKINS IS BETTER

Has Recovered From Accident and Resumed His Practice.

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THE SUBURBS, ANNEXATION AND FIRE PROTECTION

The suburbs continue to be visited by fires. Family after family is being rendered homeless in a night. There is no water supply, no fire brigade, no steam pumps or even firemen. But, worse than that, according to The Telegram, no building bylaws. Read this, from its Monday issue:

FAIRBANK, April 13.—That there is great need of legislation whereby York Township Council might be enabled to regulate the erection of buildings in the township, it is apparent when one notes the habits of builders in crowding many houses in small lots. One case in particular might be cited, when a builder is at present erecting eight houses on a forty-foot lot. This will greatly restrict the size of the yard area, and the privies will be almost within reach of the back door of the houses.

This utter lack of building restrictions is being taken advantage of in other places, too, and the council is endeavoring to have a stop put to it by obtaining legislation to prevent it in future.

The legislature has refused the appeal of Reeve Syme of York Township that Toronto be compelled to supply water and drainage to the suburbs. Mayor Hocken says he will take up the question later, perhaps. In the meantime nothing will be done. Only Runnymede proposes to incorporate as a village on the borders of ward seven.

It seems to The Toronto World that the one way out is for the city to make a reasonable proposal to take over the township between the city and the Huber, between St. Clair and Eglinton west of Dovercourt road, and up to St. Clair on the east side, at a fixed assessment for the three years, giving them, in the meantime, water extensions on a local improvement tax, connecting them, in the meantime, with the police, fire and health protection that the city provides. The greatest danger to the city from future annexation is the class of building, such as The Telegram describes, coming into the city later on in great quantity. Surely, in self-defence, the city ought to make a reasonable annexation proposal forthwith. The sooner the problems are tackled the easier it will be for the town. Congested suburbs of inflammable buildings are the hardest of all to digest.

Annexation solved all these problems in the past, and we know of nothing to take its place. A city that ignores its suburbs, that refuses responsibility for them, that does not help them in their municipal problems, does not deserve to grow like Toronto is growing.

Toronto is advancing as a city. Its real estate is growing into immense proportions, factories and people are coming here from the four quarters, and some of the papers, some of the aldermen, regard this ring of live, hustling humanity about the city as a curse.

The Telegram so regards them, and has told them so repeatedly. It has no plan for the problem; it is too busy fighting what it calls the land grabbers, and by blocking the annexation, say of the district north of Danforth avenue, it has added a thousand dollars a year an acre, for the past six years, to twelve hundred acres or more of land that the owners won't butcher because The Telegram allows them to sit on it under the heaviest kind of township taxes, and at the same time prevents the little owners who are building homes, who want water and fire protection, and sewers, from getting them by way of annexation.

Who are these land owners that won't butcher their land, and who enjoy the special protection of The Telegram, and who ineffectually block every effort to cure suburban conditions by the one available recourse, annexation?

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YOUTHS CHARGED WITH BURGLARY

Trio Will Be Taken to Schomberg to Stand Trial.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY FOR RICHMOND HILL

John H. Sanderson Elected President at the Inaugural Meeting.

A Horticultural Society was inaugurated in Richmond Hill on Monday night, and about thirty members were enrolled. The officers elected were: president, John H. Sanderson; vice-president, J. Dunlop; secretary, W. J. Allan; treasurer, J. W. Hillman; and a number of other officers.

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FINE CATTLE SHOW AT THISTLETOWN

First Spring Fair Attracted Banner Attendance Yesterday.

COMPETITION WAS KEEN

Single Carriage Horse and Harness the Most Popular Class.

All the dusty roads radiating from Thistle town in the aged iron trail class with the presence of the street carriage horse and harness. The first prize was awarded to Mrs. R. Boyes of Woodhill, New York.

The fair itself was voted one of the best held by the society, and many fine specimens of horses and cattle were on exhibition. The class that produced the best of the present of the street carriage horse and harness. The first prize was awarded to Mrs. R. Boyes of Woodhill, New York.

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