

THE UNION ADVOCATE

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JOHN S. SCOTT,
Editor and Manager.

THURSDAY, APRIL 19th, 1917

EDITORIAL

It is a good thing that Newcastle is at last waking up. Prospects have not been any too bright for the town. We have been in a rather way. Our roads are in a shameful condition with seas of mud everywhere. We certainly need good roads—permanent roads that will hold up heavy traffic, and that will not have to be repaired piecemeal and in the most expensive manner, every little while.

We need decent pavements to replace the old, worn-out, board sidewalks which with their slippery-flop planks, and dangerous holes, are a constant menace to the lives and limbs of pedestrians. An adequate sewerage system is an imperative necessity. Scores of citizens are compelled to put up with unsanitary conditions, because they cannot get sewerage service, and as a result of these conditions the town is in a disgracefully unsanitary state which constitutes a grave danger to the people of the whole community. If Newcastle does not do something to remedy matters along this line, some day a frightful epidemic of disease may strike the town and take an enormous death toll.

A crying need is an efficient, economical water pumping station which will not require so much of the town's revenue to be wasted in fuel. There is also an urgent, insistent demand for the proper kind of an electric light and power system. The town is not half lighted at night when the street lights are burning, and for a good part of the night practically all the street lights are turned off. Electric motive power can be had, although there is a big demand for it, and it is badly needed.

While things look bad at present, there is a bright ray of hope ahead, and it looks as if everything is going to come out alright. Great things may be expected from the new town council which will shortly come into control of the town's affairs. Mayor-elect Morrissey has promised the people that he will "do something" for the town, and the emphasis and fervor which he put into his promise on Tuesday night is convincing assurance that he will keep his word. Newcastle undoubtedly needs men who will "do something," and young, energetic, enthusiastic, capable men like Chas. J. Morrissey are the kind the people want. They are the kind the people want to take charge of affairs and give them sidewalks and roads and sewers and good street lighting and electric power, and many other things which the ratepayers want and should have. Most of the men behind Mayor Morrissey as Aldermen are young, all are progressive in their views, and all have committed themselves to a general program of progress and improvement. Some of them have had previous experience at the council board, and as there is a lot of business ability represented by the membership of the new council, the people now have every reason to hope for and expect an appreciable improvement of conditions generally in Newcastle during the next year, which will lift the town out of the slough of despond into which it has sunk by force of circumstances, and make of the community a busy, bustling, progressive, healthful, beautiful and prosperous town.

One of the town's difficult financial problems is the collection of default taxes. In the town report for 1916 the sum due the town for the year on this score is given as \$9757.75. How to collect these taxes has always been a hard nut for the town fathers to crack. In fact the nut has never been cracked, and every year a large balance of default taxes is carried forward as an asset. These taxes ought to be collected of course. Old methods have proven ineffective. Evidently some new "stunt" will have to be tried out. What seems to be a very simple means of getting all our default taxes paid up, is suggested by a circumstance in connection with Tuesday's elections. In order to vote in the civic elections on Tuesday citizens paid default taxes to the amount of \$400. In other words the election may be said to have collected \$400 for the town. If one election collects \$400 it is a matter of using simple arithmetic to reach the conclusion that seventeen elections would collect \$6800. The obvious solution of the heretofore insoluble difficulty of collecting default taxes is simply to have not one civic election each year, but a dozen or more—as many as may be required to collect the sum due.

What's the sense of having only one election a year, anyway? Why the people only begin to get warmed up when the thing is all over, and they have to wait a whole year for further excitement. In the meantime they lose interest and when election time rolls around again it takes a lot of energy to get them worked up to the point that puts any spirit into a contest. An election every month or so would keep the ratepayers "on their toes," as the sporting writers say, all the time, and there would be lots of fun. We certainly ought to have more excitement than usually characterizes an annual election. In-

terest should be stimulated to the extent that all classes of citizens would be interested. As it is now an election is of no interest at all to car undertakers, whereas frequent elections might result in good business for them if candidates and their friends got roused up to a proper pitch of excitement and determination to win.

And then monthly or semi-monthly elections would be fairer to candidates. Under present conditions a candidate really has no decent chance to get off fine speeches or make extensive promises, or properly abuse his opponents. And what is an election without oratory and promises and personal abuse? The people expect—or rather they hope for, and have a right to expect—these elements of interest in a civic election, but no candidate can do himself justice along these lines with only a week or so to get himself in condition. Candidates need reasonable time to groom themselves up for an election, and with elections always on the tapis, as it were, they would have a fair chance to show their real class.

In some quarters the results of Tuesday's elections are regarded as a "black eye" for the Town Improvement League. It is undeniable that a good many citizens gloat over the results and predict that the T. I. L. will be heard of no more. The gleefulness of these people, we suspect, is somewhat premature. To many people, very naturally, the Town Improvement League is an organization whose merits do not make a strong appeal. That circumstance is not an argument for nor against the T. I. L. nor is it, in itself, a credit or a discredit to those who do not see fit to affiliate themselves with the League. No organization, policy, principle or man will meet universal approval. People differ in their intelligence, tastes, opinions, convictions, desires, etc., and it is well that such is the case. But such being the case it is not to be expected that all the people of Newcastle will see alike in estimating the need, or usefulness of the T. I. L. To those citizens who compose the T. I. L. its purposes justify the existence of the organization. They have a right to follow their convictions belonging to, and working for the objects of the League. Those who do not sympathize with the objects of the T. I. L. have a right to oppose it if they see fit to do so. In any event there is no reason for Newcastle people harboring ill-will towards one another over the matter. If they want the town to become a fit place to live in, intolerance begets intolerance, and Newcastle surely has enough bigotry, prejudice, meanness and ignorance to contend with already without adding these enemies to progress fostered by attempts to restrict the liberty of people who have a right to organize themselves for any legitimate purpose.

Whether the newly elected town council is a "wet" or "dry" council is a question which at present it is useless to debate. "By their fruits ye shall know them." Nothing is to be gained by charging the members of the new council with favoring violations of the Scott Act until by their official acts they show that they favor such violations. Whatever their convictions and attitudes may have been, it is only fair and just to assume that they will live up to the oaths of office which they will have to take, and until they permit or condone an unlawful act every member of the new council should be looked upon as conscientious occupants of the offices which they have taken. The oath of office of an alderman and mayor is not a trivial thing. Such an oath binds a man to honestly endeavor to enforce the provisions of the Scott Act, and no member-elect of the incoming town council should be accused of being dishonest in this respect, unless his conduct in office justifies the accusation.

"The verdict that was given on February 24th will only be emphasized no matter in what constituency the question is asked of the people." These are the brave words of Premier-designate Foster, who seeks a seat in Victoria county after having been defeated in St. John. This sort of stuff may be necessary to sustain Mr. Foster's courage, but Mr. Foster should not meanwhile forget that the people of the province are taking note of his unwillingness to "ask the question" in a some constituencies, and that the people of the province are fully aware of the reason for Mr. Foster's unwillingness to "ask the question" in the constituencies where he could, but will not, ask it.

ARE WE LESS LIABLE?

Raising its voice against an election during the war, the Manchester Guardian, perhaps the greatest organ of British Liberalism, says: "The task we have on hand is too formidable to permit of any distraction of mind or dispersion of energy by the nation. All other considerations must give way to the supreme necessity of united effort."

The case against an election during war—either in Britain or in Canada—cannot be more clearly stated. If our statesmen are to concentrate their energy upon winning the war, they cannot be permitted to be distracted by the task of winning an election. And, as Mr. Winston Churchill so forcibly put it the other day, any public man who at this moment nourishes any thought except that of waging war against the enemy by the most effective means should never be forgiven by his fellow countrymen.

In Britain the leaders of all parties shrink from the thought of a general election during this crisis of the war. Mr. Asquith, with that disinterestedness and self-effacement which have characterized him from the beginning, has time and again expressed himself as "against an appeal to the country under present circumstances." Mr. Bonar Law de-

clares that a war election would paralyze the nation's efforts.

What of Canada? Are our political leaders less patriotic than the leaders of Britain. Can we safely embark on an adventure from which the British people shrink as being fraught with peril to the Empire?

THE RIGHT SPIRIT

"Any public man who at this moment nourishes any thought except that of waging war against the enemy by the most effective means should never be forgiven by his fellow-countrymen."—Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill.

The spirit which prompted Mr. Churchill's declaration is one which may be fittingly commended to many of the politicians here in Canada. It is a noble challenge to every man in public life in any part of the Empire, and a scathing rebuke to those who are allowing ambition, partisanship or selfish interest to blind them to the issues of the war. Above all, it is a powerful indictment of the political gamblers who, oblivious to the perils of the struggle now reaching its climax in Europe, are scheming to plunge this country into the strife and turmoil of a general election.

AN UNCONSCIOUS TRIBUTE

In a despatch from Washington describing United States feeling on entering the war, Mr. Harry Anderson, the Toronto Globe's well-known political correspondent, says: "Cousin Jonathan is saluting Jack Canuck these days. Uncle Sam is looking northward for guidance and leadership."

At the clubs, in the hotel lobbies, in the streets, in the offices and stores, wherever one hears the problems of preparation and organization discussed, problems of recruitment, of training, of equipping, of medical and nursing service, of censorship, of patriotic endeavor in all lines, the determining question seems to be, "Well, how did Canada handle it?"

To equal Canada's effort the United States, in proportion to population, would have to recruit, train, equip and send overseas approximately 475,000 men within the next seven weeks. To maintain the rate of Canada's effort it would have to raise 5,000,000 men within the next thirty months and send over 1,000,000 overseas. Is it any wonder that Canada's achievements have evoked constant expressions of amazement and admiration from the United States? Any wonder that the people of Canada are getting tired and sick of hearing professional politicians decry their country's contribution for purposes of party?

AN INDUSTRIAL CENSUS

The Government has decided to take an industrial census of Canada this fall. A postal census of manufacturers for the year 1915 was taken last year, forms being mailed to over 55,000 names. This census showed that the total product of manufacturers in 1915 was \$1,392,516,954, compared with \$718,353,603 in 1905.

The industrial census that will be taken will, of course, be much more thorough and elaborate. At present an industrial census is taken at the same time as the census of population, etc., is tabulated. This has proved in the past unsatisfactory and incomplete. The chief reason is that the census enumerators have too much work and too many forms to fill out and are not men specially trained for the task. An industrial census, it has therefore been decided to divide the census work. The regular census of population, origins of the people, etc., along with the agricultural census, will take place as in the past, every ten years, the next census being due in 1921. The industrial census will be taken by special enumerators and mid-way of the ordinary census, but also every ten years. This will have the advantage of not throwing all the work of a decade on the branch at one time. In addition to the decennial industrial census there will likely also be an annual postal census so as to keep the figures reasonably up-to-date.

OUR TRADE INCREASED

There appears to be ample evidence to justify the statement that the Canada-West Indies trade agreement which was entered into in 1912 as a result of negotiations carried on by Sir George Foster has been the means of increasing the trade between the two countries to a considerable degree. The latest report of the Trade and Commerce Department, just issued, shows that the effect of the treaty is conspicuous in the imports of certain articles of Canadian produce into the islands that are parties to the agreement. The latest West Indies figures available are those of 1915 and they show that from 1912 to 1915 the imports from Canada to the Barbadoes, British Guiana, and Trinidad, the three largest colonies involved, have been increased 85 per cent. while the imports from the United States during the same period have been only 6 per cent.

The preference has greatly benefited the trade with Canada in articles such as boots and shoes, butter, cheese, condensed milk, cordage, fish, lumber, oats, paints and colors, paper, potatoes and soap.

The four products which have been particularly affected by the treaty have been fish, flour, oats and lumber. In these products there has been a remarkable transference of trade from the United States to Canada. From 1912 to 1915 the exports of fish from Canada to the West Indies increased 52 per cent. while the American export of the same articles decreased 35 per cent. The increase in Canadian flour exports to the West Indies was 195 per cent. while the American exports decreased 64 per cent. The Canadian export of oats increased 63 per cent. The American decreased 53 per cent. In higher there was an increase in Canadian exports of 28 per cent. and a decrease in American exports of 66 per cent.

Letters to the Editor

(Editor's Note:—The columns of The Union Advocate are open at all times, when space is available, to correspondents who may desire to express their opinions thereon on questions of public interest.

Opinions differing from those held by The Union Advocate will be given space as freely as those with which this paper agrees, and letters from correspondents are published with the distinct understanding that the opinions expressed in such letters are not necessarily those of The Union Advocate.

Letters which in the judgment of The Editor, are unreasonably offensive to anyone, will not be published. No letter will be published without the signature of its author.

To the Editor of the Union Advocate:

Sir:—Please give me space in your paper for a few lines in regard to our Parish Accounts. I gave this Alms-house Account to the reporter up at the Council, he overlooked it in some way. I don't know why. I sent this same report to Mr. Stewart after the election, and he never printed it. I will tell him he had a right to print it, he was paid for doing so. To begin with we had to our credit last year the amount \$340.76

Proportion county expenses to help keep the Alms House \$77.41
Order to Simon Kingston for Order to Leary \$12.00
Paid to Mrs. John Murray \$94.39

After paying this bill we had to our credit the amount of \$246.27. Then adding the \$75 to the \$246.27 that we are taxed this year for.

\$246.27
75.00

We have to our credit \$321.27.

I would ask our Alms House Commissioner what we want this amount for when we would have to recruit, train, equip and send overseas approximately 475,000 men within the next seven weeks. To maintain the rate of Canada's effort it would have to raise 5,000,000 men within the next thirty months and send over 1,000,000 overseas. Is it any wonder that Canada's achievements have evoked constant expressions of amazement and admiration from the United States? Any wonder that the people of Canada are getting tired and sick of hearing professional politicians decry their country's contribution for purposes of party?

I hope our present Government will give us good officers. Men who are capable of looking after the jobs they are appointed for. We have a lot of very poor men in office. The first place our Road Supervisor does not look after his business. The section of the district I live in, there has been no road master at all these last two winters. Then there is in Napan section from the Church up to White's, no one in authority to break this road, nor yet to take down fences. The man who wants the roads fixed has to break them. There are different other things through the parish, which are served the same way. I might say a few words in regard to our taxes, so the people will have an idea of why they will be so high this year. In the first place we have to pay four thousand dollars to the two hospitals. Through some error we ought to have been taxed for two thousand last year, one thousand to each, so we have to pay the two years in this present year. Then there is the thirty thousand bond that we didn't pay any to, we have to pay our share of it this year. Then we have a portion of the \$35,000 bond this year too. So this is the reason our taxes will be very high. I am sure that no one will kick about paying high taxes as long as they are used for good use. It is easier to pay than fight. Some people had the story that I was bought at the last election. The Government cannot buy me as easy as Fleming bought the lumber lords. The money we got was our own. It was only a bait. I didn't take the bait as it was too bitter to swallow. I was the only man who handled road money that worked openly against them. I didn't care which way the election went, I was bound to help to kick the corrupt crowd out. They were 9 years trying to make a road law and failed then in their dying hours. They made a great policy only in their minds, and tried to deceive the people, but thank God he gave them a snubber, one they will never forget. We have saved the province from corruption and disgrace.

There is one other matter I will refer to, is the appointment of a good man to look after our bridges and build them. While I have no fault with Mr. Deacon, he was a good man for the job, but he had a good term at it. I might recommend Mr. James Hill of Chatham. He is one of the best men we can get, one quite capable of the office. As I

RAILWAY EQUIPMENT

Active steps are being taken by the Government to prepare for next fall and winter transportation problems in order to prevent a repetition of the car congestion of last winter, at least so far as the public owned roads are concerned.

An Order-in-council has been passed authorizing the purchase of 50 more locomotives, 25 for the Intercolonial and 25 for the N.T.R. They are of the Mikado type for heavy freight work. The successful tenderer was the Canadian Locomotive Works, Kingston, at a cost of \$47,750 each. The next lowest tender was \$55,000 per locomotive more. The company is to deliver ten locomotives a month, beginning October 1. Another order for 50 more locomotives of the same type will be placed shortly.

Larger orders for freight cars are also being placed, although they are difficult to obtain either in Canada or the United States. Canadian firms, at the present time, are working on orders for 1,000 box cars, while 1,000 coal cars have been purchased in the United States. The coal cars will be used to help solve the coal shortage problem. During the fiscal year just closed there were 88 engines added to the Government railway equipment. This included 28 second-hand locomotives purchased from the N.T.R. contractors, 50 heavy freight engines and ten big passenger Moguls.

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WHERE THE GOOD GOODS COME FROM

know by some experience I had with him. What difference what side of politics a man is, as long as he is a good man. Some people think we will get no money to make roads, but we need not fear, we have good men in power and I hope and trust they will give us good honest officers, men who will be able to get around the roads and see that there is good work done for the money they handle. We want a man who has experience in roadmaking.

Hoping I have not taken too much space in your valuable paper.

Yours Respectfully,
DONALD WATLING,
Watling's Office,
North's Co. N. B.

April 17, 1917.

A NEW PLAN DEvised

Reorganization of the methods of tabulating Canadian agricultural census is being effected at the present time. Heretofore the Dominion Government made an annual census, while each of the provinces has its own system of compilation. The methods of gathering the figures, differed widely, and the results were often at variance. The outcome has been confusing and has made Canadian statistics of doubtful veracity. This has frequently resulted in harmful confusion on the part of foreign countries trading with Canada, with consequences hardly beneficial to Canadian producers. Mr. R. H. Coats, the Dominion statistician, under the direction of Sir George Foster, Minister of Trade and Commerce, has been working for some time on a plan by which the Dominion and the Provinces will co-operate and coordinate in the collection of agricultural statistics. The Dominion will collect certain figures and the province other figures, and these will be exchanged. A conference recently held in Ottawa with the statisticians of the Quebec and Ontario Governments reached an agreement subject to the approval of their Governments. Mr. Coats will leave shortly for the West to consult with the Western provincial authorities in order to ensure their agreement with the plan.

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