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TORONTO NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

TORONTO, May 4, 1892.

Toronto's city treasurer has prepared the civic estimates for the current year. The Globe of last Friday says they will, of course, be submitted to the usual pruning process, and considerable reductions will be made. The total amount of general taxation called for is \$2,382,748 or 15½ mills on an assessment of \$151,158,600. The first draft last year called for \$2,572,050, or 17½ mills on an assessment of \$146,860,000. Last year the rate was cut down to 16½, and this year it is expected that it will not exceed 14½, or two mills less than last year. The principle of pay as you go is adopted in the estimates to a great extent. The statement shows that by far the largest item of expenditure, more than a third in fact of the taxes collected, is on account of interest and sinking fund on the public debt. The debt charges, inclusive of school, library and street railway debts, are \$811,291, an enormous sum, in addition to which a considerable portion of the \$600,000 of local rates to be raised goes for interest on the debt. The total amount for all purposes, local and general, to be raised by taxation is \$2,982,748, while the revenue from licenses, street railway and telephone percentages, waterworks revenue, and so forth, amounts to \$741,907. The total revenue on current account will therefore be \$3,724,655. In the final revision by Council this will be reduced to \$3,500,000 as near as may be. The principal items of increase are \$120,000 from the street railway, a new source of revenue, \$35,000 from the Telephone Company for the use of the streets, also a new item. The principal decreases are \$7,000 in license fees due to a reduction in some classes of licenses; \$3,000 in Police Court fees and fines owing to the new method of letting drunks down more easily and possibly also to an improvement in public morals, and \$3,500 in registry office fees, due to the inactivity in the real estate market.

The general uncontrollable expenditure is a class of expenditure authorized by outside boards, such as the police commissioners and school boards over which the Council has no control. This uncontrollable expenditure increases year by year, and when the debt charges are added to it, this class of expenditure foots up to over two-thirds of the general expenditure. While this is true yet no one will find fault with the provision of \$6,000 for the newly-established and highly-successful technical school, which closed its first term last Friday. The debt statement of Treasurer Coady—a very painstaking and able officer who began at a bottom rung of the ladder in office work and reached the top through sheer ability and integrity of purpose—is very simple and complete. The general debenture debt is \$10,792,368, the city's share of locals \$2,216,779, and the private share of locals \$5,431,002; a grand total of \$18,440,149. There are sinking funds on hand of \$2,707,000, so that the net debt is \$15,733,149. The waterworks debt, \$3,685,509 is revenue producing, and the charges for it do not come out of the rates. The net debt chargeable to general taxation is \$8,794,640.

The News of last Saturday takes occasion to tell its readers that Toronto does not show up well in the vital statistics for 1890, just issued by the Ontario Government. Of the eleven cities in the Province only one—Ottawa—had a higher death rate than this in the year named. The average for the whole number was eighteen per thousand, while here the rate ran as high as twenty-one, and add that with a situation for the most part high and dry, and a large body of water on its front, it should be the healthiest instead of one of the most unhealthy cities in Ontario. But, by neglect of sanitary requirements, much is done to nullify the advantages given it by nature. Allowing the continued existence of thousands of open privy pits in crowded sections of the city is of itself sufficient to turn the scale against it and give to Toronto a reputation it would not have if its sanitary arrangements were as good as the natural situation of the city.

The annual meeting of the House of Industry (city poorhouse) was held on Friday last. The report of the secretary stated that until improved sanitation was introduced it would be impossible to accommodate the increasing numbers that sought admittance. Applications for outdoor relief for the past year were 1,913. . . . The relief granted cost \$11,228, or \$1.31 per

capita. The treasurer's statement showed a large debit balance overdrawn at the bank. The supplementary grant from the city last year proved inadequate to meet the requirements of the board, which was much hampered in consequence of a heavy burden of debt from the previous year. . . . The report of the visitation and outdoor relief committee showed that the total number of persons receiving assistance during the year, including 1,133 casuals, was 8,676. . . . Thirteen thousand five hundred and fifty pounds of groceries, and 50,638 loaves of bread were distributed at a cost respectively of \$648 and \$4,555, a slight decrease in the total of the previous year. Drink and improvidence are given as the principal causes of the distress. Forty per cent. of those relieved were able and willing to work, but unable to secure employment. Twenty-seven and a quarter per cent. represented themselves as coming from outside the city.

The reference of your able and keenly sarcastic Quebec correspondent, "Atlas," in his last week's letter to the fact that the Allan, Dominion, Beaver and Thompson ocean lines of steamers are in a position just now to dump immigrants into the Dominion at the rate of about 5,000 weekly, brings to my mind a very significant circumstance. On Friday last the House of Commons went into Committee of Supply and took up the consideration of the item of \$197,500 for immigration, which item was under consideration when the House rose the previous night. As reported in the public press during the evening, Mr. Somerville (of Brant) brought before the House an extraordinary letter in his possession, which, he said, showed how the expenditures on immigration had been made in years past. In the years 1886-7 the department gave an order for 50,000 German pamphlets to a printer in Berlin called Casper Hett. Casper Hett's account was for the amount of \$751.60. It was handed to the Queen's Printer to be audited, and even at the enormous prices paid at that time the Queen's Printer found the work was only worth \$434.74. Then the letter which he had in his hands was written by Mr. John Low, then secretary of the department, now the deputy head of the department. It was written to Casper Hett, and was dated January, 1887. The letter says: "The amount of your account as audited by the Queen's Printer was \$434.74, of which amount \$400 has been paid to you. . . . As respects the copyright, and referring to your letter which I received to-day, I do not see that it is necessary to make an actual registration of the copyright, but you might still assume it to be your property and we purchase it from you. You mention also that you would sell us the electrotypes of the entire German pamphlet. Would you kindly inform me at what price you value these. I ask this question because the amount of your account was originally \$750.60, while the audit of the Queen's Printer did not allow you more than \$434.74, making a difference of \$316.86, which is the amount I wish to pay you. Perhaps the electrotypes and copyright might be included in this amount; \$316 would be a little too high for the copyright alone of that pamphlet." Mr. Somerville said he had looked in the public accounts of that year and found that Mr. Casper Hett had been paid the full amount of his account, as Mr. Low suggested to him it might be arranged. There the House saw the spectacle of the man, then the secretary of the department and now the deputy head, instructing Casper Hett how to circumvent the Queen's Printer and cheat the Government of \$316. It was a deliberate fraud if it was true and was a fair sample of the way money voted for immigration had been expended. If the letter was genuine, and he had no reason to doubt it, Mr. Low was not worthy of the confidence of the Government. He asked Mr. Carling for an explanation.

Mr. Carling said it was scarcely fair to expect him to give an explanation of an affair six years ago. He thought Mr. Low ought to be given an opportunity to explain. Mr. Lister asked why the secretary of the department should assist in a piece of fraud upon the Government. This was only a piece of the wasteful expenditures which were made for immigration purposes. Mr. Bowell said the letter, which he had just examined, was an improper letter for any official to write, and the Government would take steps to see that their deputies do not write such letters, and they will take steps to see why the secretary of a department should write such a letter to extract money from the Government which should not have been paid.

Sir Richard asked the Minister of Agriculture if he would inquire into the authenticity of the letter, and inform the House if it was in the archives of the department. Mr. Carling replied that he would inquire and inform the House, after which the item was concurred in and the House adjourned. This incident re Deputy Lowe but emphasizes the ground taken by Toronto T. & L. Council as to the peculiar expenditure in respect of immigration for many years past. My friends often remind me that I am not of a poetical turn of mind—that, I am too matter-of-fact, in fact—but the following stanzas from the pen of "J. W. B." (Bengough) of Grip, in its issue of Saturday last, catches me on the hip exactly, and in which he tells its readers

THE LIE IS ENDED.
Enough! the lie is ended, God only owns the land;
No parchment deed hath virtue unsigned by His own hand;
Out on the bold blasphemers who would eject the Lord,
And pauperize His children, and trample on His word!

Behold this glorious temple, with dome of starry sky,
And floor of greensward scented, and tress for pillars high;
And song of birds for music, and bleat of lambs for prayer,
And incense of sweet vapors uprising everywhere.

Behold His table bounteous spread over land and sea,
The sure reward of labor, to every mortal free;
And hark! through Nature's anthem there rises the refrain,
"God owns the world, but giveth it unto the sons of men."

But see, within the temple, as in Solomon's of old,
The money-changers haggle, and souls are bought and sold,
And that is called an owner's which can only be the Lord's,
And Christ is not remembered, nor His whip of knotted cords.

But Christ has not forgotten, and wolfish human greed
Shall be driven from our heritage; God's bounties shall be freed;
And from our hoary statutes shall be torn the crime-stained leaves,
Which have turned the world, God's temple, into a den of thieves!

JAILBIRDS FOR CANADA.

SHIPPING YOUNG CROOKS FROM THE ENGLISH SLUMS.
LONDON, April 30.—Fifty stalwart lads, whose ages range from 13 to 17 years, have just started for Canada under the auspices of the Children's Aid Society, which defrays the cost of clothing and passage, amounting to about £13 for each boy. The majority of the youths will go direct to Winnipeg, whence they will be distributed themselves, it is understood, throughout the Northwest Provinces. Nearly all the boys have been inmates of industrial schools, either as a consequence of crime or parental neglect.

As I said in my letter of last week the bye-election for a representative to succeed the late H. E. Clarke in the Provincial Legislature took place in this city on Friday last and resulted as follows: Bigelow, Reformer, 4,934 votes; Kent, Conservative, 4,122 votes; Thompson, Labor Reformer (on his own account and without nomination or endorsement by the Trades Council) 480 votes; and Macdonald, Annexationist, 178 votes. Comments on Mr. Thompson's running is unnecessary other than to remark that when the regular nominees of organized labor were put in the field Mr. Chas. March polled 3,030 votes. I see by Saturday's World in which Mr. Thompson appears in an interview, that he is badly chagrined at the figure he cut at the polls and discharges his venom at men who had spent the best years of their lives fighting in the labor cause, and while he was unheard of except as a political partisan, and not then to any extent. I will give you the whole interview referred to next week, remarking meanwhile that Mr. Thompson was careful enough (or cowardly enough) not to refer to any particular person by name. He has a very good opinion of himself, however, and that is something.

QUEBEC NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

QUEBEC, May 5th, 1892.

In my last communication I gave your readers a description of the condition of our shoe workers. Lack of organization is the cause, and it is made more painfully apparent to them by the contrast of their present position with that of their better organized fellow workers in other lines. For instance, Silley Assembly 1007, composed of axemen or choppers, is at present stronger, both numerically and financially, than ever it has been in the past. That body has a scale of prices at which its members dispose of their labor and they have been able, for some two or three years past to maintain it. This spring, on the opening of work for the season, it was decided to inform the different employers that the members of that body would not work with any non-union men. In one case this intimation was disregarded and the men came out in a body, leaving a miserable remnant of four. The Executive Board of D. A. 20 intervened and a settlement was speedily arrived at, i.e., the four went out and the crowd returned to work. That scores another victory for L. A. 1007.

Another matter that commands serious attention at present is the very much talked of increase in municipal taxation, a proposition being on foot to increase the present rates from ¼ of a cent to ⅔ of a cent in the dollar upon the assessed value of property. Now, an increase of taxes already far too high by a further ⅔ is something more than serious. A pretension raised by some of the supporters of increased taxes was that they would have to be paid by the property holders or landlords. What wisdom in our civic body during the last decade of the nineteenth century! The fallacy of this pretension was aptly shown up by the Hon. Jno. Hearn, who certainly deserves credit for the stand taken by him at the last meeting of the Council. He is the alderman for Champlain Ward and one of the largest property owners in the city. He showed up in good style, and truthfully too, the fact that every cent of the increased rate of taxes would have to come out of the workmen's pockets, and that by the simplest possible process. The landlord merely raised the rent, nothing more. He himself, certainly did not seem desirous to do this, and he opposed the measure for all he was worth, and that means a good deal. But wonder of wonders, the two conflicting interests in the Council, temperance vs. the liquor interest, joined issues, and both supported increased taxation. Thibaudeau, the President of the Licensed Victuallers, was in favor of it, as well as Delisle, another dealer in wine and spirituous liquors, whilst Mr. P. Johnstone, of the Dominion Temperance Alliance, could see no other way to increase the civic revenue, so that reason would support it. Now, that's the kind of reform we are getting in Quebec. Clap on increased taxation. For God, for home and for humanity. I will wind up this paragraph by stating that there is not a single alderman or councillor at present in the Council who told his constituents at the last election that he would support increased taxation, and more, if any had the cheek to do it they would never be in the Council. If this question was put to a vote of the people, 98 per cent would be opposed to it. The remaining 2 per cent—well, there always are fools.

That ought to be enough about the municipal council. I will just give a rub to our Trades Council. If they were wide awake as they should be, they would have delegations from the different labor societies calling upon the Government, the labor unions petitioning them, and the general public as well. To do what? Well, to repeal the act granting an act of incorporation to that body known as the Quebec Board of Trade. There is no more use for it, that's the first reason. The second, it is favorably disposed towards increasing Montreal's trade at the expense of Quebec, by continually harping about the disadvantages that shipping labors under in our harbor. Third, our merchants who compose it do not keep in stock everything required in their line of business, thus driving local customers to a market whose merchants have more enterprise in their little fingers than our Quebec ones have in their whole bodies (Montreal). I will cite one article out of thousands, dimension iron. I could lengthen out this theme for any distance, but I won't tax your readers

URIM.

(Continued on page 5.)