

The Chatham Daily Planet.

VOL. XIV.

CHATHAM, ONT., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1905

NO. 223

FRIDAY BARGAIN LIST

Silks

Shot Louise Silks in plain weaves and new check effects, very stylish and serviceable. in Navy, Green and Brown, regular \$1.00 value—Friday Bargain 73c.

Ribbons

Taffeta Ribbon, pure silk, in black, white and leading every shade 3 1/2 in. wide, regular value 20c a yard—Friday Bargain 16c a yd.

Linen Napkins

Linen Napkins in assorted designs, sizes 18 in. and 22 in. square, regular \$1.25 to \$1.35 a dozen, Friday Bargain 92c.

Table Linen

Table Linen, unbleached, 58 in. wide, in neat floral designs, regular value 30c a yd. Friday Bargain 23c.

Ladies Skirts

Ladies Skirts made of extra quality materials, stylish and serviceable in the new full pleated effects, Navy and black only, regular price \$6.50 each—Friday Bargain \$2.95.

Handkerchiefs

Embroidered Handkerchiefs in fine swiss make, extra fine muslin very prettily embroidered, regular value 15c each—Friday Bargain 13c.

Cushion Tops

Cushion Tops in tapestry, stamped jean, and Lithograph, pretty designs regular value 25c to 35c each—Friday Bargain 17c.

Roller Towelling

Roller Towelling, linen crash, 16 in. wide, good heavy firm weave, regular 9c a yd.—Friday Bargain 7 1/2c.

Shaker Flannel

Shaker Flannel, 28 in. wide, in splendid range of good stripes, a good weight, serviceable cloth, regular value 7c a yd.—Friday Bargain 5c.

Lace Curtains

Lace Curtains 3 1/2 yds. long, 60 inches wide, white Nottingham make, extra large size and extra good value at \$1.25 a pair—Friday Bargain 98c.

Ladies Handkerchiefs

Handkerchiefs, ladies size, pure linen, narrow hem, regular value a yd. 7c—Friday Bargain 5c.

"PAXTON SAVED CITY AT LEAST \$150"

—TRUSTEE WM. M. DRADER

"ROBERTSON HAD NO CONTRACT AT ALL"

—TRUSTEE GEO. S. HEYWARD

"BOARD DOES NOT--AND CANNOT--CONTROL PLANET"

—TRUSTEE DR. GEO. T. McKEOUGH

"TRUSTEES ALL ACTED IN CITY'S BEST INTERESTS"

—CHAIRMAN W. N. MORLEY

Informal Public Meeting of City School Board Deals Briefly With Mayor Cowan's Charges—Neither Paxton nor Robertson had any Contract With the Board—Chairman Morley and Dr. McKeough Submit Clear Statements—Other Trustees Unanimously Endorse Them—Every Action was Taken in the Best Interests of the People Who Elected Them—Mr. Drader Sorry Mayor Cowan's Expose Did Not Embrace Certain Acts of Mayor and Council in Which the People Would Have Been Deeply Interested.

"As a Board, and as individuals thereon, we court the very fullest and most minute enquiry and investigation into all our acts. We have never forgotten that we were elected by the people to promote and guard their interests, and it has always been our earnest and whole-souled endeavor to prove—each and all of us—worthy of that trust. We have ever acted in what we honestly and conscientiously deemed to be the city's best interests and for the public weal. Honest, thoughtful, helpful criticism and suggestion is always welcome—and appreciated. In vituperation and abuse we take no part. But we deem ourselves public servants, ready at all times to answer for our acts."

Such was the quiet and emphatic statement of Chairman W. N. Morley, of the Public School Board, at the informal meeting held in his offices this morning for the purpose of dealing with the drastic arraignment of his worship, Mayor Cowan, at the recent City Council meeting.

Both Trustees Paxton and Robertson were present and intimated that, as they had been specifically instanced by the Mayor, they deemed it wiser at the present time to leave the statement of the case in the hands of their colleagues, all of whom were present.

"DR. McKEOUGH SPEAKS.

The Trustees seemed to hold themselves in admirable check. While it was very evident that a strong sentiment of indignation permeated their deliberations, what they said was generally moderate and well-considered—but very emphatic. Dr. McKeough, one of the managers of McKeough School, and generally accredited by street rumor with being the "influence that the press would not go up against," made the following statement:

"I am more particularly interested in the uncalculated, unvarnished and most unjust charge made against Trustee Robertson.

"The facts are as follows:—We required some repairs in the McKeough School. The Board requested Trustees Robertson and Paxton to examine and report. They did so, and stated that the repairs would possibly amount to \$50, and that it would be almost impossible to ask for tenders as it would be difficult to be sufficiently exact in the specifications.

"The managers then got permission to have the repairs made, and visited the school together, accompanied by Messrs. Paxton and Robertson. At that visit Mr. McArthur suggested that the work be given to Mr. Walters, an old resident of North Chatham. Knowing from personal experience that Mr. Walters was a skilful and excellent workman, I agreed with the suggestion, as did also Mr. Heyward and Mr. Morley, the other managers. Mr. Walters did the work. At the last meeting of the Board he presented his account, which was less than \$50, and in due time obtained his cheque, and informed me to-day that he got it cashed himself. So far as I know, Mr. Robertson had nothing whatever to do with the transaction.

"As regards 'graft,' I have known Mr. Robertson intimately for many years and have never met a more honorable and upright man, a man, I believe, above the slightest shadow of suspicion as regards any dishonorable act.

"As regards the charge against Mr. Paxton: after the contract was let, the general management of the addition to the Central was left to the managers of that school, and being away on my holidays at the last meeting of the Board, I am not so familiar with the incident referred to, but from what I can learn, if the transaction was technically incorrect, I feel sure that both the managers and Mr. Paxton were quite

innocent of any wrong doing, and they acted in the best interests of the city, and by his inspection, the work was vigorously prosecuted and possibly a hundred dollars saved to the city.

"Both Mr. Robertson and Mr. Paxton have been most useful and helpful men on the Board. Practical and skilful mechanics, they have simply been invaluable and have given time and advice unreservedly and unstintingly. So far as the charge against the press is concerned it is too absurd to notice. The only other specific charge I have ever heard Mr. Cowan make against the Board was the sale of the Queen street property, and The Planet condemned that in several strong editorials. Besides The Planet has for years argued the doing away of the ward system in our elections.

"It seems to me that such language as the Mayor made use of the other night detracts from the dignity of his honorable position and is not necessary for the accomplishment of his scheme. He should take himself more seriously and speak with more sense of the responsibility of his position. Such intemperate and irresponsible talk from the chief executive officer of a prosperous city will not encourage respectable citizens to undertake any of the onerous duties of its government."

MR. MORLEY'S STATEMENT.

Chairman Morley said the Paxton case came more particularly under his jurisdiction and he had no hesitation in making public the full facts.

"When I consulted our solicitor, Mr. G. R. Dickinson, K. C., relative to the drawing of the contract for the work on the Central School," said Mr. Morley, "he informed me that if that it would be necessary to appoint a clerk of the work. This we found to be a somewhat expensive luxury and I expressed the hope that the managers would have been able to dispense with it and thereby make a saving for the city. We wanted the work pushed vigorously and a clerk of the work has sometimes a tendency to prolong his position by dragging it out—at least, our past experience has not been most fortunate. When the Central was built we had a clerk of the work; with the result that we have to-day no plans of our sewers and no particulars of the construction of the building. As a result, I suggested to Mr. Paxton that he give the matter some of his attention, having a knowledge of the construction of buildings, and have him look it over, saving thereby at least \$100 to \$150 on a clerk of the work."

"Mr. Paxton expressed his willingness and generously assumed the somewhat arduous work. We had no contract with him, nor was there any understanding whatsoever that he should receive any remuneration therefor. After the work was completed, it was such a splendid job, and Mr. Paxton had spent so much time upon it, that we urged him to accept a gift of \$25 from the Board in gratitude for his services. There was no intention to do anything dishonorable, and I believe that \$25 was one of the best the Board ever spent."

PAXTON SAVED CITY \$150.

"You cannot put that too strongly," added Trustee W. M. Drader, "I have looked over the work and say without hesitation that Mr. Paxton's services in that one contract alone saved the city five or six times the amount which we asked him to accept. He went over the work on the construction, on the addition and on the plans and had no idea of ever being paid a cent for it."

HOW ABOUT THE MAYOR?

"I am very sorry," continued Mr. Drader significantly, "that when Mr. Cowan undertook the job of regulating the conduct of everyone else, he had not turned the searchlight for a few moments on the civic conduct of the Mayor of this city and his own body. I think the people would have been somewhat animatedly interested in the result."

"I suggest that we leave that matter for later consideration," put in Dr. McKeough.

"Quite right," added Mr. Drader, and the somewhat significant comment was closed.

Mr. Benson vigorously endorsed what had been said by the Chairman and Mr. Drader concerning Mr. Paxton's position. Mr. Paxton, he declared, had been invaluable to the

Board and the city and had saved them money time and again. He had urged Mr. Paxton to undertake the supervision of the contract in question and he had done so with not the slightest intimation of receiving anything for his services.

MR. HEYWARD SPEAKS.

Mr. Heyward said he exceedingly regretted the Mayor's conduct. He believed Messrs. Paxton and Robertson were two of the most valuable and zealous trustees the city ever had, and their presence at the Board was very helpful while building operations were in progress, both being practical men. He was assured that, no matter what lapses might have occurred—and such things were always possible even in the best regulated institutions—the trustees ever aimed to perform their duties with efficiency and integrity.

MR. McARTHUR ANGRY.

"Such reckless and unfounded statements as were made by the Mayor deserve an indignant refutation," was Mr. McArthur's strenuous comment. "He should certainly be made to answer for them. The Board saved the citizens much money and secured splendid work by their actions and I stand right by it. The preparation of plans and specifications for the work would have cost the whole job, which, when completed, cost less than \$50, to say nothing of the cost of advertising and other incidentals."

THE C. C. I. BOARD.

Chairman W. S. Richards, of the Collegiate Institute Board, when interviewed said smilingly, "We have the glad conscientiousness that our hands are clean. I have the greatest confidence in my colleagues and in the work of our Board, and would be delighted to see any investigation of its conduct and proceedings inaugurated. If there is the slightest dissatisfaction I earnestly hope this will be done."

MAYOR TO CONFRONT BOARD.

"If there is anything wrong with the C. C. I. Board, or its manner of conducting public business, the public should promptly know it and the trustees should be equally promptly penalized," was the vigorous comment of Colonel J. B. Rankin, chairman of the committee on Internal Management. "If, on the other hand, statements and imputations have been made which are utterly without foundation in fact, then it is due the Board, and the public whom they represent, that those responsible for them—on failing to produce substantiation—should be called upon to withdraw them. I do not think it an occasion for making speeches or giving interviews. People do not want talk; they look for action. With this in view I am suggesting to the chairman, Mr. W. G. Richards, that he call a special meeting of our Board and ask the Mayor to be present with a view to dealing fully with any insinuations or charges that have been or may be then submitted."

NEVER MENTIONED THE MAYOR.

"I see that it is reported in one of the local papers that Mayor Cowan is exercised because he believed the School Board were out in a body to oppose his re-election next year," said Chairman Morley at the end of the conference. "It is, of course, very childish, but it is only fair to remove his anxiety. I never even heard a member of the Board allude to him or his aspirations—not even a suggestion as to the position of the trustees or how they might vote. We had our own important duties to perform as trustees and not spend our time in municipal gossip and plans. So little attention have we paid to him or his ambitions that I really cannot remember ever have heard them even mentioned."

SEATS ON SALE TO-MORROW MORNING

The supreme musical comedy, B. C. Whitney's "Isle of Spice," with a cast of 75 people, plays here on Monday night next. Seats go on sale to-morrow morning. This is the original production of "The Isle of Spice" with the same cast and company that opened the Detroit Opera House this season. Secure seats early and get good positions.

Ladies and Gents...

If you are going to paper any of your walls or use Wall-paper of any kind just please listen a moment.

Did you ever think that a firm twenty years in the business could give you some pointers on what to use and what not to use on your rooms? Did you ever think that a firm who has made a success of the Wallpaper business should know paper shades and patterns to use on your rooms. Did you ever think that there is such a firm in Chatham (one) where you can get this experience for the asking without cost. It is surely worth something as experience is a great teacher. Now we ask you to bring the size of your rooms to us and we will fix them up to suit any one that has good taste and will give you value for your money and satisfy you with a good selection of seasonable goods. Our Fall stock is now in shape for your benefit.

WHY NOT BUY AT THE BEST PLACE

SULMAN'S BEEHIVE

INHUMANITY

A Serious Case Reported to Humane Officer McGregor who is Investigating the Facts To-Day

Humane Officer James McGregor is to-day investigating a case which, if the reports concerning it are true, is one which cannot be too severely dealt with.

Yesterday a complaint was made at the Police Station that a number of cattle were put out to pasture in a field adjoining the southern limits of the city with no water to drink. It is claimed that the cattle are never watered and have to exist on the evening. Expert cattle men say it is dew which falls on the grass in the possible for cattle to live in this way, but it is nothing less than torture to make them do it. During the hot weather they must have suffered untold agony.

The case may not be as bad as it is depicted, but it is worthy of investigation of the Humane Officer. Further developments will follow to-morrow and prosecution will be made if warranted.

MISTAKEN

"The Mayor says the press was gagged and did not criticize the School Board's actions," said the Savage editor of the "Growler" yesterday morning. "I wish it distinctly understood," said he, "that this widely read publication growled fearlessly at the School Board at the time of the sale of the Queen street property and on other occasions."

SAD DEATH

Much sympathy is felt for Mr. Martin L. Chapman, baggage man at the G. T. R. station, for the loss of his wife under most distressing circumstances. The funeral will take place to-morrow morning at ten o'clock from the residence, West street.

LANDMARKS

When the company's workmen were tearing up King street in order to lay the pipes to carry the steam heat they stumbled upon an old brick sewer near Forsyth street. It is supposed that it was used by the old "Chatham Arms," an inn which stood near the spot in the early days. The required permission was given to break it in order to proceed with the work in course of construction.

Thos. Stone & Son.

A CLEAN-UP

BARGAIN SALE

25 per cent. reduction on all Baby Carriages, Co-Carts, Refrigerators, Blue Flame Oil Stoves, Hammocks, Lawn Mowers.

They must go; we want the room. Come and get a bargain.

WESTMAN BROS. Big Hardware

Made To Measure Clothing \$12.00 to \$25

NOW IS THE TIME...

To order your Fall Suit or Overcoat, come in and look at our range of samples for Fall, consisting of Worsteds, Serges, Cheviots and Tweeds—any color or Pattern you wish—Browns, Greys, Blacks, Blues or Mixtures. Styles—Single Breasted, Double Breasted Sacks, 3 or 4 button, Single Breasted Straight Front, Cutaway Frocks, Prince Albert, Tuxedo or Full Dress. In style, nobby and thoroughly up-to-date in cut, graceful and fashionable, with special care as to fit.

In workmanship—honest down to trifling details. Leave your measure at

Masse & Co., Opp. Grand Opera

OUR ADVERTISEMENTS PAY.