

SCORES THE MAYOR FOR TAX RESOLUTION

Claims He Was Anticipating Work of the Assessment Committee.

VENTILATING HIS VIEWS

Committee Had Busy Session Over Evils of the Unearned Increment.

When the special committee on assessment reform met yesterday afternoon, Chairman Ald. Ball assailed the Mayor for introducing resolutions to the board of control dealing with assessment reform. He strongly resented the Mayor's action and declared that he overstepped the bounds of decency in interfering with the work of the committee. It was a slur on the committee for the Mayor to introduce the resolutions. The board of control had appointed the committee for the very purpose of dealing with assessment reform.

The Alderman did not feel hurt by the invasion of the prerogatives of the committee, but thought that it was incongruous for the Mayor to interfere. Last year there was the greatest difficulty in getting the Mayor to attend any meeting of the committee and he seemed more given to ventilating his views than putting them into action. If the committee was to do anything it did not want two or three reports and have the whole thing muddled up before it reported to the council. The Mayor probably thought his action would make a stir, but the Alderman guessed no one would feel hurt. There was a right and a wrong way of doing things and the Mayor had taken the wrong way.

Committee Concurred. The committee concurred with the Alderman's statement. When discussing the unearned increment tax the committee was treated to a very fine address by Robert Palmer on land taxation in other countries. Mr. Palmer, who is a citizen of Toronto, returned after more than 20 years absence in Australia and South America, contended that in Buenos Aires and Sydney the municipalities were far in advance of Toronto in assessment methods.

In these countries the local taxes were derived from land values and not from the value of buildings, improvements, business and incomes free from all local taxation. He said the taxes in Toronto still remained a very antiquated system, corresponding to no known principle of political economy, nor adapting themselves to the most elementary conceptions of equity and public interest. He did not believe in an increment tax, but in a decrement tax, which would be a tax on the value of the land, and not on the value of the buildings.

Share of Profits. Ald. Ball and Ald. Gibbons favored a method by which the city would share in the profits from the sale of land. The property would be sold rather than to place added tax on the property as it increased in value.

Commissioner Forman thought that half a mill should be granted for the purchase of central properties to be leased for building purposes. This would be a growing income. He was not in favor of purchasing residential property.

Walter Willison addressed the committee on the merits of increment taxation.

WANDERED FROM HOTEL WITH MEMORY GONE

Police Found Ohio Lady in House at Mimico With Mind Complete Blank.

Attacked with amnesia while on a visit to the city, Mrs. A. M. Williams, of Columbus, Ohio, wife of Supervisor Williams of the Pennsylvania Railroad, Penn., with her 3-year-old son, wandered away from the King Edward Hotel, where she was staying, and was later discovered by the police in a Mimico home, where she had called for a drink. Her mind was a complete blank. Noticing her peculiar behavior the occupants of the house communicated with the police, and Mrs. Williams was removed to the reception hospital. Her identity was established by letters and railway tickets found in her possession.

Mr. Plummer of the Pennsylvania branch here, has taken charge of the unfortunate woman's affairs and has communicated with her husband.

ELECTED OFFICERS.

The sessions of the Methodist Women's Missionary Society came to an end yesterday, when the opening services were conducted by Mrs. P. L. Brown. Reports of district organizers were given by Mrs. Hoover, of Locust Hill, Mrs. Thomas Coom of Markdale, Mrs. F. L. Brown, of Orillia, and Mrs. W. J. Logan, of Meaford. Mrs. J. B. Willmott, president, and Mrs. J. W. Graham, first vice-president, were re-elected by acclamation.

CHARGED WITH BURGLARY.

Private Edward Remison, attached to a local unit at Pelawawa Camp, was taken into custody yesterday afternoon at the request of the local police. He is wanted here on a charge of entering a house on Erie terrace and stealing a diamond ring and other valuable jewelry. Detective McConnell left last night to bring the man back.

SICK AND TIRED OF LIFE.

Thomas Martin, a middle-aged man, died yesterday morning in the Western Hospital from self-inflicted wounds in the throat made by a knife while ill and dependent with appendicitis. After committing the deed, Martin walked to the hospital, where his illness was discovered.

AFTERMATH OF STREET FIGHT.

During a row on Niagara street recently, Joseph Dunlop, attached to the band by someone and had his head smoothed with a flat iron. Yesterday in the police court Steve Sysoy and John Symonish, John Lewis and John Lewis were committed for trial on a charge of wounding.

BOARD VETOES PROPOSAL TO TAX THE BACHELORS

Mayor Thinks People Are Taxed to Death Already and Bachelors Spend Most.

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STICKS TO HIS OPINION.

In answer to some strong criticism that has been leveled at Chief Inspector Cowley, for the statement made that he has refused to allow the Toronto school children to contribute to the Overseas Tobacco Fund, the inspector states that while he has not refused, and while he is strongly in favor of the fund, he would never favor such a collection in the schools.

ORDINATION OF PRIESTS. His Grace Archbishop McNeil this week will ordain to the priesthood a number of young students of the Augustine Seminary. The ceremony will take place in St. Michael's Cathedral. Rev. Father James Sheridan of Uptergrove has been transferred to Port Credit, and Rev. P. J. Flanagan, who has been assistant priest at the church in Uptergrove, will become pastor of St. Columbkille parish, Uptergrove.

DELEGATES TO OTTAWA. The following left last evening for Ottawa, as representatives of organized labor, to take part in the labor conference on conscription, and the high cost of living: J. Corcoran, representing the International Brotherhood of Workers; Vice-President W. G. McKelvey, International Bookbinders; J. H. Kennedy, International Sheet Metal Workers; and T. Stevenson, of the District Trades Council.

COMMITTED FOR TRIAL.

According to the evidence of Alfred Gardavich, Louis Gunderson robbed him of \$220 and a watch on Sept. 1916. Yesterday Gunderson came up in the police court on a charge of theft and was committed for trial.

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HUGE SUM CLAIMED FOR PROPERTY DAMAGES. The Dominion Bank appeared yesterday before Judge Winchester, who is the sole arbitrator as the claimant against the City of Toronto and the C. P. R., for \$137,000 damages, alleged to have been sustained by the bank when the grade separation work on Yonge street, North Toronto, was completed. The bank claimed that this grading destroyed the value of their bank site at the corner of Yonge and Bloor streets to the extent of \$87,000, and a business loss of \$50,000, caused by the diversion of traffic during the work and the grade of Yonge street.

The chief witness for the bank was J. W. B. Walsh, the manager of the Dominion Bank.

NO DEFINITE CHARGE LAID AGAINST TEACHER. As there have been no definite charges laid against Principal Morrison, of Pope avenue school, according to chairman of the board, Miles Vokes, the board will take no action at its next meeting. Mr. W. E. Raney, K. C. who is acting for those arrayed against Mr. Morrison, is to be notified to that effect. It is understood that Principal Morrison has also consulted with the legal firm of Watson, Smoke & Smith, who have advised him that he can take no action unless some definite statement against him is made.

The program to be given by direction of Maestro Carboni at Columbus Hall Monday evening in aid of the Great War Veterans includes several numbers rarely given in Toronto. Four tenor soloists and four contraltos will feature the program with such masterpieces as the "Aria de la Semiramide," "L'Air de la Reine des Huguenots," and other equally notable examples of the French and Italian masters.

DISMISSED HIS ACTION. Justice Masten in the assize court yesterday refused to allow Alfred E. Freeman's motion for postponement of trial on a plea of sickness and subsequently dismissed his action against Eric M. de Sherbinn, for the recovery of \$1000, alleged to have been advanced on certain Porcupine lands.

Jule and Jay J. Allen Present

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