

London Advertiser.

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TELEPHONE CALLS.
Business Office107
Job Department175
Editorial Department134
LONDON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22.

The Legacy of the Past.

The efforts being made by the finance committee of the city council to bring the estimated expenses of the year down to such a figure as shall permit the necessary work to be done without raising the tax rate, makes clear the legacy that has been left to us by the regime of the past—and especially of 1904.

As the city grows, its expenses necessarily increase. But it was thought that the growth in population and wealth which should bring in taxes without an increase in the tax rate, would increase the city's revenue sufficiently to meet any legitimate increase in expenditure. On a 23-mill rate, and including the extra 6 mills that come this year from South London—this should give us \$35,000 more.

But it does not appear that our expectations will be realized. The financial balance sheet of the auditor shows that while we may estimate \$42,739 increased revenue from all sources, the appropriations asked for by the various boards and committees, after they have been carefully pared down by No. 1 committee, will call for about \$32,000 more than our increased revenue will allow. If no further paring can be done this would mean the advance of the tax rate to 23½ mills.

Now, the fact appears that, leaving out the necessary increase of expenditure caused by the year's growth of the city, a large portion of our outlay this year is for expenses incurred—or which should have been incurred—in previous years.

The policy of the past has been to postpone everything possible—even though postponement made the cost higher in the end—in order to reduce the estimates for the year. Streets that should have been repaired have been left severely alone; defective sewers have been allowed to get worse; culverts and other public works that should have been constructed have been turned over to next year's council. Any permanent improvements for which a debenture issue could provide have received a fair share of attention, with the result, of course, of increasing the amount to be appropriated yearly for the debenture sinking fund.

Of course, there have been some exceptions. Albert street, fronting Mr. Beck's factory, has been fairly well macadamized, and a new sewer constructed—out of the general fund. St. James street, Wellington street, and part of Richmond street, surrounding Mr. Beck's residence, have been properly graveled, rolled and curbed—out of the general fund. Similar treatment was given a block on St. James street, fronting the residence of last year's chairman of the board of works, and a culvert constructed on Malvern street, which will also benefit the same gentleman's property. Apart from these, however, street improvements have been sadly lacking.

But there comes a time when needed repairs and improvements can be no longer delayed, and the council finds itself confronted with expenses which should have been met by its predecessors. This seems to be the condition of things this year; and even worse. The estimates of the year 1904 were cut down to so low a figure that it was found necessary to spend about \$10,000 more than was appropriated. Even at that, necessary work was left undone. So that the council this year has not only to do work that should have been done in the past, but has to meet an overdraft as well. It is fortunate that certain items of revenue last year exceeded the estimate, so that the actual overdraft is only \$4,636. To this must be added nearly \$5,000 overdraft of the Board of Education.

There are other items for which 1904 is responsible, but for which 1905 must pay. The Nurses' Home, under contract, should have been completed last July. It will not be done for a month or more. Part of the extras are credited to 1904, but there will be at least \$500 more to meet this year, together with something like \$300 towards furnishing.

The repairs to the market house will cost about \$3,700. These are made in consequence of an arrangement entered into last year, by which the tenants were to pay more rent in return for improvements to be made. They commenced paying the increased rental at once, but the repairs were left to be saddled on the council of 1905. Again, at the beginning of 1904, a large fire occurred, in which the chief was killed and several firemen injured. It was recognized that some consideration should be allowed the victims of the disaster and their families. This was last year's debt, and should have been paid last year. But the matter dragged along, and the council of this year will pay about \$1,500 more on last year's account.

The sewerage farm operations is another illustration of how the council of 1905 will have to suffer for past mismanagement. During the mayoralty of Dr. Wilson, the council took \$7,500 out of the sewer debenture fund to repair the streets. While this was possibly allowable under a legal technicality, it was a violation of the spirit of the law and of business principles. Had it not been done the filtration beds would have been completed. As it was, only two beds were constructed, and partially filled with coke. During the winter of Mr. Beck's first year, owing to the coal famine, much of this coke was taken out and burned in the city buildings. That was pardonable under the circumstances. The unpardonable thing was that the coke has never been replaced. And the council of 1905, to avoid legal troubles, if for no other reason, must pay out of its general fund what Mr. Beck's council took from the sewerage fund. While the

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LEVER BROTHERS LIMITED, TORONTO, CANADA.

engineer asks for \$5,000, the allowance of \$2,000 by the finance committee is in itself a small item. Perhaps, by another legal twist, this may be taken out of the sewer maintenance fund, which will be on a par nearly with the action of the council that took sewer money to repair the streets.

Add up all these items; add thereto, for work on city streets and other public improvements, which should have been done in the past—perhaps \$8,000 more—and we find the council of 1905 saddled with about \$25,000, in addition to its ordinary expenditure, and which it owes entirely to the unbusinesslike methods of the past few years.

Even on the reverse side of our finances—in the matter of revenue—the council of this year is at a disadvantage. Take one illustration alone. Our waterworks department contributes a good sum to our annual revenue. This year, while the revenue of that department is greater than ever, the surplus turned over to the city will be less than last year. The reason is that all the expenditure on capital account, except the balance due on the pumps, will have to come out of what is received from the consumers. For the last three years, a large portion has come from the sale of debentures. These debentures are all exhausted. Consequently, this year, \$13,000 will have to come out of ordinary receipts to provide for extension of services—as large a sum as was taken from this source during the past three years combined.

It is a good policy in municipal affairs to make each year pay its way; in fact, the law calculates upon this being done. We expect that the council of 1905 will try to follow this course. The various boards and committees say they want to do this, and for this reason they are all asking for more money than they got last year. The Hospital Trust wants \$4,000 more; the Board of Education something like \$7,000; and so on. But while this may justify some increase in the year's expenditure, it must be remembered that the council of 1905 will not only have to pay its own way, but to provide a large sum to meet the deficiencies and neglect of past years. It must be remembered that whatever the tax rate of this year may be, from a mill to a mill and a half of it will go to defraying expenses for which the past three years are either directly or indirectly responsible.

Before and After.

When the Conservative party in Ontario was searching for political capital during its 32 years in the wilderness, it pretended to find an issue in the Government's mode of purchasing supplies for public institutions. Conservative newspapers and politicians made a show of virtuous indignation, election after election. The people were told that these supplies should be purchased by tender and in open competition; that the Government's system was one of shameful favoritism—a boycott of Conservative merchants—a source of political corruption. As late as December last, our local contemporary was in a high state of moral incandescence over this question. Here is what it said:

"These supplies are purchased without tender, without any kind of supervision or inquiry extending to the majority. That such a system opens the door to gross corruption goes without saying. It enables a merchant, who gives liberally to the cause, to unload on the Government goods that he finds stale or unseasonable at the highest prices of new and standard goods. It provides a method of raising funds for political emergency and for the general elections when they come off.

"Can be doubted that out of the profits of this trade, legitimate and otherwise, a fund of \$25,000 could be raised to fight a battle every four years."

Well, the Opposition became the Government, and what happened? In London, at any rate, the Asylum custom was quietly transferred the day after the election to Conservative merchants. The Conservative Club drew up its little list of the party stalwarts who were to get their slice of this "bribery fund." Not a Liberal merchant has seen a dollar of Asylum money since Jan. 25. A system which before that date "opened the door to gross corruption" is thankfully accepted by the Conservative party. Office makes a sudden change in the point of view. There are lines of supplies for asylums and similar institutions which cannot be purchased with advantage under the contract system. The prices of these fluctuate from week to week, and the merchant would have a much stronger incentive for padding off "stale or unseasonable goods" if his selling price was fixed by contract, than if he were paid the current market price, which assured him a fair profit. Liberals will have no complaint because this system is continued and because the benefits have been transferred to Conservatives. We believe the Conservative merchants of London, who are on the patronage list, will give good value for the money, and we do

not believe they will be parties to corrupt dealings. Charges were made against Liberal merchants without the least justification, and not a single case has been cited of exorbitant profits, or dishonest business methods. No one begrudges the Conservative merchants their turn at the public crib.

This is a great day for the Honorable James Pliny Whitney. His troubles haven't begun yet.

The average age of the Japanese Generals now in the field is 57, and the commander-in-chief is the oldest of them.

Russia has raised an internal loan to continue the war, but no amount of money will put an end to her internal troubles.

Perhaps the public will today learn Mr. Borden's opinion of the Northwest school question. He entered Parliament in 1896 as a supporter of the Manitoba coercion bill.

Not a Toronto member of Parliament attended the Toronto meeting on Monday night to protest against the school clauses of the autonomy bill. Where was the Honorable George Eulas Foster?

The amended school clauses in the Northwest autonomy bill show that the Government has been reasonable and conciliatory. While the minority are permitted to have separate schools these are left absolutely under the control of the Legislature, and must conform to the public school regulations, except during one-half hour of the day, when religious instruction is permissible.

Chicken Not In It.

[Boston Transcript.]

Water—"Mr. Wicksy didn't seem to think much of the soup; he wanted to know if we called it chicken soup because a chicken had waded through the hot water."

Landlord—"The idea! And what did you say to that?"

Water—"I gave him to understand that no chicken had been anywhere near that soup."

The Lost Angel.

[Chicago Record.]

He called her his guardian angel once, but he calls her that no more; At night their little ones turn play to welcome him at the door, and he must carefully pick his way 'O'er the toys that litter the floor.

He called her his guardian angel once, when neither of them foresaw What the future years had in store and when

Her little word was his law; He called her his guardian angel then, but at present he calls her "maw."

Great Relief.

[Chicago News.]

As the pedestrian passed the deserted lot, seven masked men sprang out and began to pummel him unmercifully.

"Help! Help!" shouted the pedestrian. "What are you trying to do with me?"

"Rob you!" retorted the leader of the wicked gang.

"Thank heaven! I thought you were going to give me a college initiation."

Not for Him.

[Chicago Record-Herald.]

"Say, Dusty."

"What ain't goin' to change me name?"

"Not fur."

"Me parents christened me Emerson, but it won't do. It ain't fur me after dis. Call me anything you please, if it ain't Emerson. Look at dat paper, it says 'Emerson's' works cheap."

dat's wot the Emersons do I quit dat circle from now on."

CLARK'S POTTERY WARE. Canadian Goods, put up by a Canadian, for Canadians and others. First-class in every respect. W. Clark, manufacturer, Montreal.

Dye

With Maypole Soap

Maypole is a cake of soap that dyes and washes at the same time. A household word in England. No mess, no trouble, no streaks. The tired woman's best friend—an Economical Home Dye.

MAYPOLE SOAP

Made in England, sold everywhere. See for Colors—see for Black.

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It Costs no more.

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Cures Deep seated Colds Coughs - Croup - Bronchitis - LARGE BOTTLES 50c MEDIUM 50c TRIAL SIZE 25c

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will be a happy, healthy summer, if mother starts NOW to feed

Nestle's Food

Just add water—no milk. Always ready for use.

Sample (sufficient for eight meals) sent free to mothers.

THE LEEMING, MILES CO., Limited, MONTREAL.

Grandfather's Cure for Constipation.

Put, if you will take your Exercise in an Easy Chair, there's only one way to do that, and make a Success of it.

Because, —there's only one kind of Artificial Exercise for the Bowels and its name is "CASCARETS."

Cascarets are the only means to exercise the Bowel Muscles, without work.

They don't Purge, Grip, nor "upset your Stomach," because they don't act like Cathartics.

They don't flush-out your Bowels and Intestines with a costly waste of Digestive Juice, as Salts, Castor Oil, Calomel, Jalap, or Apertient Waters, always do.

No. — Cascarets strengthen and stimulate the Bowel Muscles instead.

These are the Muscles that line the Food passages and that tighten

up when Food touches them, thus driving that Food on to its Finish.

They are the Muscles that turn Food into Strength through Nutrition.

Well, —a Cascaret acts on your Bowel Muscles as if you had just Sawn a cord of wood, or Walked ten miles.

That's why Cascarets are safe to take continuously in health; and out of Health.

Because, they move the Food Naturally, digesting it without waste of tomorrow's Gastric Juice.

They thus work all the Nutrition out of it before it decays.

Thus will you ward off Appendicitis, Constipation, Indigestion, —and other things besides.

Druggists — 10 Cents a Box.

You can try Cascarets FREE before you buy. Write for Free Sample and booklet, "The Curse of Constipation," best ever printed on the subject. Address Sterling Remedy Company, 374 St. Paul Street, Montreal.

During the months of March, April and May the Wabash will make sweeping reductions in the one-way tourist rates from Canada to Texas, Old Mexico, California, Nevada, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Arizona, Utah, Washington and British Columbia. Also round trip tickets on sale daily at greatly reduced rates to the South and West. There is nothing more assuring to the traveler than his knowledge of the fact that he is traveling over the Wabash system, the great winter tourist route to the South and West. For full particulars address J. A. RICHARDSON, district passenger agent, northeast corner King and Yonge streets, Toronto.

WABASH RAILROAD SYSTEM.

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Carpet House: 128 and 130 Carling Street, London.

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HIGH-GRADE AXMINSTERS—After our special clearance sale of a large number of our Axminster Carpets there is five or six lengths left, ranging from 60 to 90 yards in each. Handsome colorings of greens, red and lawn are included in the selection. All have borders to match. Regular price is \$1.50 yard. To be cleared out at **\$1.23** (made and laid).....

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Another line of Brussels, with borders to match. All the best colorings to choose from. Regular price \$1.25. Made and laid for, per yard..... **\$1.10**

Another very special bargain in our \$1.35 Brussels Carpets. The best imported Brussels Carpets. Regular price \$1.35. Made and laid for..... **\$1.25**

Veranda Shades

Veranda Shades, any width, from 4 to 10 feet. Prices range according to width.

A Royal Booklet.

The Grand Trunk Railway System are distributing a very handsome booklet, descriptive of the Royal Muskoka Hotel, that is situated in Lake Rosseau, in the Muskoka Lakes, "Highlands of Ontario." The publication is one giving a full description of the attractions that may be found at this popular resort, handsomely illustrated with colored prints of lake and island scenery, the hotel itself and many of the special features that may be found there. It is printed on fine enameled paper, bound in a cover giving the appearance of morocco leather, with a picture of the hotel and surroundings on same and the crest of the hotel embossed in high relief. A glance through this booklet makes one long for the pleasures of summer and outdoor life, and copies may be secured gratuitously by applying to E. De la Hooke, city ticket agent, London, or to J. D. McDonald, D. P. A., Toronto.

Women of the Spanish aristocracy have given jewels valued at £15,000 to make a new crown for the reputedly wonder-working silver image of the Virgin in Seville Cathedral.

Ouzon, colic, diarrhoea, and other troubles are quickly relieved by Vapo-Cresol tablets, ten cents per box. All druggists.

The stroke of a lion's paw is the third strongest force in the animal world. The first is the blow of a whale's tail and the second the kick of a giraffe.

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About 1,000,000 telegrams are sent over the world's wires daily. In 1903 the total was 364,848,474. England sent 92,471,000. United States was second with 91,391,000. Germany, Russia, Austria, Belgium and Italy followed in the order named.

CANADIAN PACIFIC

Tourist Sleeping Car Service

Without change for Northwest and Coast points, leaving Toronto at 1:45 p.m. on Monday for Winnipeg, Tuesday for Vancouver, Wednesday for Winnipeg, Friday for Winnipeg, Saturday for Vancouver, and from North Bay, connecting with train leaving Toronto at 1:45 p.m. on Sunday for Vancouver, Thursday for Vancouver.

Fully equipped with bedding, cooking range, etc. Porter in charge. For use of first and second class passengers. Moderate berth rates.

Time tables and full information from E. FULTON, London, or write C. E. FOSTER, D.P.A., Toronto.

WABASH RAILROAD SYSTEM.

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Newest Designs. Just Arrived.

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