

WAGES THE BIG TOPIC FOR DEBATE

Public Debate on Employment Conditions Here of Great Interest

CITY 75% IDEAL

"Too Many Married Women Working Here," Declares One City Hall Speaker

Employment conditions in Belleville measure up 75.5 per cent. ideal, Mayor Hanna declared last night at the City Hall in reporting the findings of the judges, who included the Mayor, Mr. J. A. Higgins and Mr. F. H. Chesher, on the sixth debate of the "Know Belleville" series, conducted by Industrial Commissioner J. O. Herity and the Chamber of Commerce.

Labor was largely represented in the well-packed hall, the fair sex manifested their interest in public problems by their attendance in large numbers. Employers were quite prominent in the crowd.

The subject of employment furnished the debaters with plenty of ammunition, the topics being warmly discussed. The four speakers were able to impress their hearers with the sincerity of their remarks, based on their convictions.

Bridge street symphony orchestra, supplied music and Mr. H. Barrett led in the community songs. Mr. F. B. Smith occupied the chair. Mr. Herity discussed the problem of employment from the standpoint of the ideal city.

Problem of Wages

"In our rambles through our ideal city we are confronted with the ever-burning question of wages, wages in its restricted sense," declared its president of the Trades & Labor Council, Mr. G. E. Foster, in opening the debate. He championed the industrial situation as it exists and continued, "Wages depend both on the productivity of the labor and on the supply and demand of labor. Generally speaking the standard of wages in civilized countries tends to keep pace with the standard of living. So in our ideal city, the wages should be sufficient to enable all workers, not only to have the necessities of life, but to enjoy a reasonable share of life's comforts and pleasures, also means of self-improvement and to lay a little for the declining days of life.

Mr. Foster looked upon trade unionism as the characteristic feature of modern industrialism and traced its development from the earliest centuries. He dwelt upon the advantages of unionism and common rate, not only to workers but employers. A fair day's pay lends contentment and increases proficiency. The necessity for work at all seasons was emphasized.

"Until the recent depression the workmen of this city have enjoyed a fair and reasonable amount of the good things that have come to the labor world," said Mr. Foster. Conditions had improved during the recent years at the Steel Company. "I am told that conditions in other plants have improved likewise."

Ald. Adams, opening the negative, said that Belleville did not seem ideal in the matter of employment. There is not such a diversity of industry as would make it possible for a man to find a new job once he loses his. Every person and firm, he contended, was thinking only of himself or itself. There is an effort to bring industries here but a second factory had a finger in the pie and the result is lack of success. If we could standardize buildings during winter a great deal of material could be got out in readiness for construction once the season opened. As it is now there is too great a divergence in house construction here. With uniformity there would be steadiness of industry all the year round.

"The workers of Belleville seem to be varied in nationality and outlook. This proves lack of education. We have a number of foreigners. Contractors using unskilled labor have a temptation to use English-speaking labor to a disadvantage, as foreign labor may be made to 'sweat.' The Anglo-Saxon is prone to express his own idea.

"I contend that English-speaking labor will do the work as well as any other if they are given half the chance. Employers of labor have a tendency to consider their help as lacking brains. This attitude spells

lack of understanding.

Firebrands in Both Classes

Referring to unions, Ald. Adams said employers and employees both contained firebrands. These latter have had a great chance during the past few years owing to unsettled condition. But from now on labor will show that the interests of employer and employee are practically identical. Some retail stores in Belleville are paying very low wages, said the Alderman.

Take Advantage of Female Labor

Employers often take advantage of the fact that female labor is living at home and pay them little more than the cost of their clothes, little or nothing for their board.

Apprentices are kept at one job too long. They become proficient in one line but not in all lines of their craft. This is a poor thing for mechanics in the future.

"We have men working for twelve dollars per week in Belleville," he declared and asked: "Do you consider men can live on that?—No, but they do."

Recreation is one of the finest things a town can have. Dividends from ample recreation facilities will be in the form of increased efficiency and contentment.

Pay Best Wages Possible

Col. Marsh, speaking from the manufacturers' viewpoint said, "they are only too anxious to give their men the very highest wages it is possible to pay them and best living conditions."

"We don't want one or two large factories. In time of depression, a whole city may be disturbed by the closing of one large factory, which is worse than ten small plants."

"Belleville is particularly favored in having at least 90 per cent. of its labor English speaking."

Col. Marsh wanted to know where there was a man earning as low as \$12. Labor is running about \$25 per week.

Diversity of Industry an Advantage Col. Marsh cited the large number of factories here to show the advantage of diversity of industry.

"The rate of wages in Belleville is on a par with that paid in cities of the same size."

While Belleville had several factories which were hit by depression, he knew that manufacturers were satisfied to get work to keep the men busy without making profits themselves.

When did we have a strike of any magnitude in Belleville? This argues co-operation between employer and employee, and speaks in favor of the small factory where an employer knows his men and they know him.

Too Many Married Women Working Ald. Ballinger thought the captains of industry and merchants were too fond of sending their money away from home. Had this money been spent in Canada we should not have idle factories in Belleville.

"There are far too many married women working here and too many men looking for jobs, because employers get their labor cheaper." Merchants owe a duty to the citizens to sell as cheap as possible, otherwise money will be sent out of the city.

"I am a Britisher and proud of it," the speaker declared. "Yet can you blame these seeds of Bolshevism when Britishers walk along the streets and see those foreigners earning their 40 and 50c per hour digging in sewers?"

Average Weekly Budget

"Forty cents an hour is in Belleville a pretty average wage. We don't know how the man can live on less than that. The weekly budget for a family of five, he figured at \$35.95. A weekly wage of 40 cents per hour amounted to \$24.00. Of course this does not include holidays, doctor's bills, clothes.

Ald. Ballinger thought 60 cents per hour the only fair wage. Another weekly budget was \$26.25 for a family of nine. "I would like some men to tell me how they live on 40c per hour."

"Labor unionism is open at all times to negotiation. Unless an employee gets enough to live decently, something may happen."

"I believe you could travel from the Pacific to the Atlantic and you could not find the means of recreation so poor as in Belleville."

Ald. Ballinger's dictum "Eight hours should constitute a day's labor," met with hearty applause. The ten hour day gives no time for recreation.

"I would like to see the employers of Belleville take their employees in to their counsels."

Mr. A. G. Davis moved, seconded by Mr. F. S. Deacon a vote of thanks to the chairman, debaters, Bridge Street orchestra, the judges, and Mr. Harold Barrett.

OUTSIDE FIRM GETS SCHOOL CONTRACT BOARD TURNS DOWN ALTERNATIVE PLANS COUNCIL'S O. K. AND FINANCIAL AID GIVEN

Carswell Contracting Company of Toronto Will Erect Coleman Ward School at a Cost of \$131,800—Eight members Voted "Yes"—Four "No"—Others did Not Vote or Are Away.

The Carswell Construction Company of Toronto, was last evening awarded the contract for the erection of a public school in Coleman Ward on North Front street for the sum of \$131,800, but not before efforts were first made to have the work postponed for a year, to have new tenders called, and to secure the job for a local contractor. The vote however, was strongly in favor of the Carswell Company and immediate construction. The Coleman Ward School has been the theme of discussion the last two years and Board members were getting tired of having it come up.

The absentees were: A. E. Bailey, Dr. O. A. Mahaffey, H. McGinnis, Frank Sharpe, George T. Woodley and C. Whelan.

Chairman McGie took the chair, the Secretary read the report of the Sites Building and Repairs Committee which recommended the acceptance of the Carswell tender of \$131,800. Mr. W. B. Riggs moved its adoption and Mr. W. R. McCreary seconded.

The only tenders discussed during the debate were: L. E. Allen, Belleville, \$123,888; T. Manley & Son, Belleville, 125,075; Carswell Construction Co. Toronto, 131,800.

Mr. Phos. Manley speaking with the Board's permission pointed out examples of his work in St. Michael's Church, the C.N.R. depot, the O.S.D. buildings and Quinte Hotel.

Col. Ponton voiced the minority sentiment in the Board. This favored delay in view of an anticipated big slump in the cost of building materials. He moved that the report be not adopted but that the work of construction be postponed a year.

"I have been greatly impressed," he said, "with the strength of opinion that seems to exist among representative citizens that having regard to the fall in prices there is a possibility of saving a large sum of money by waiting a little while."

He admitted the need of a new school and asked "Would it be possible to obtain the use of a wing or part of Albert College to tide us over a season, to see if prices will come down as anticipated?"

Chairman McGie, opposed delay. It was accommodation that was required he said.

Drop in Building Costs. "I am confident the school will be built in the near future at a much less cost," declared Mr. C. M. Reid, seconding Col. Ponton's motion. "I don't think we are unwise in delaying construction. I do not believe we need such a big school as this in Coleman Ward. You have got to build additions to the new schools in the near future. About a six room school is all you require."

Trustee McCreary stated that 70 children are going to Queen Mary School who should stay in Coleman Ward. Many are also attending Queen Victoria School. There would be enough children to fill eight rooms. He looked for a drop in prices, but he hoped that the Board would look more to the health of the children than to so-called economy.

Mr. J. Elliott—"I cannot justify myself in giving away \$8,000 if the recommendation is accepted." He favored calling for new tenders if necessary in order to save money. He did not like giving the contract to outsiders at a higher figure.

The committee was sincere. "It is no time for delay. It is time for action," said Mr. McCreary warmly. Mr. F. S. Deacon had enough faith in Belleville to put up a big school. He found on his trip to the States that frame buildings are being put up to tide communities through, and rich children are going to them. New York is not letting contracts, and a drop in building prices is confidently expected.

"Talk about Grier Street School! The Judges' finding on the local situation was as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Ideal, Local, Means of employment. Values: 250, 180, 100, 75, 100, 72, 100, 75, 83, 50, 40, 100, 80, 50, 50, 50, 150, 115, 10, 554, 468, 16, 1122, 620.

East Hastings voted dry by a majority of 2243 on April 13th, so Re-turning Officer J. E. Johnston of Tweed, announced late yesterday at the conclusion of the official count. Sixty-five per cent of the votes cast were in the dry column. The totals were: Yes, 4883, No, 2649.

The balloting by municipalities stood: Hungerford, 12, 698, 503; Tweed, 3, 376, 204; Elzevir, 3, 251, 130; Madoc Tp., 7, 646, 125; Madoc Village, 2, 351, 99; Tudor & Cashel, 3, 154, 49; Limerick, 2, 49, 15; Dunganon, 2, 97, 47; Mayo, 1, 49, 14; Carlow, 2, 61, 35; Monteaigle, 3, 164, 47.

Yes majority 4883 2238

CRAIG AND DE VALERA MEET FACE TO FACE

BELFAST, May 5.—The Belfast Telegraph says today that Sir James Craig, the Ulster Unionist leader, and Eamon De Valera, had an interview today in Dublin, and discussed Irish affairs. Sir James has called a special meeting of the Ulster party in Belfast tomorrow to discuss the situation, the newspaper adds.

It is officially stated that the Southern Irish Parliament has been summoned to meet at Dublin on June 28. The Northern Irish Parliament will meet at Belfast on June 7.

Mr. Elliott seconded the amendment of Col. Ponton, which lost. Mr. Elliott contended that a local firm should be given the contract.

Mr. Deacon did not think the lowest tender was accompanied by a certified cheque.

The recommendation was thereupon adopted, those in favor being: T. Marshall, McCreary, McGie, Higgins, McFadyen, Riggs, Sinclair, Wallbridge and Borbridge; the opponents—Ponton, Elliott, Reid and Deacon.

Mr. H. W. Ackerman was in the chair and Mr. H. Pringle had gone out.

Requisition for \$140,000 The Board decided to requisition Council for the proceeds of \$140,000 debentures for the school. A committee was chosen to wait upon the mayor and Aldermen.

Chairman McGie last evening presented the requisition for \$140,000 for the building and equipment of the school, the Board being satisfied to accept the proceeds of the sale of the \$140,000 debentures, he explained to the City Council.

Ald. Ballinger was surprised to hear that a Toronto firm was awarded the contract. There was so much unemployment in Belleville that it would be appropriate that local men should get the work.

Ald. Woodley questioned as to the lower tenders.

Mayor Hanna—"The school is urgently needed. I am sorry however to see it going away from local contractors.

Ald. French proposed leaving over the question.

Ald. Adams opposed delay as did Ald. Ballinger.

Later in the evening Council passed a resolution in favor of the granting of the requisition.

Frankford Store Reported Burglarized

Word has reached the crown authorities here of a robbery at the grocery store of Mr. J. B. Lowery at Frankford last night. The grocery was broken into and some articles taken. Several thefts during the night are also reported at Madoc village.

Becomes Head Miller

Pembroke—J. L. Smith, Thamesford, Ont., has succeeded to the position of head miller for the Pembroke Milling Co. Ltd., rendered vacant by the illness of Frank Charlesworth. Mr. Smith has had experience in some of the largest mills in the west.

WEST HASTINGS MAJORITY FOR "DRY" ONTARIO WAS 3,204

Table with 3 columns: Rawdon Twp., Marmora & Lake Tp., Marmora Village, Deloro Village, Bancroft Village, Faraday, Wollaston Tp., Herschell Tp., Bangor, Wicklow & McClure. Values: 894, 138, 217, 84, 167, 193, 37, 52, 221, 50, 98, 25, 157, 108, 39, 9, 85, 59.

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PAVE MARKET WITH CONCRETE TO COST \$4,000

Council Decides on This Improvement as a Necessary Expenditure

THANKS TO MR. DENYES More Petitions from Residents For Sewer and Pavement Work

The south side of the market square will be resurfaced with asphalt concrete from Front to Pinnacle streets. This will cost about four thousand dollars.

On motion of Ald. Bennett, seconded by Ald. Ballinger, the city clerk was last evening instructed to forward to Mr. H. K. Denyes, M.P.P., for East Hastings the council's thanks for the interest he has taken in securing shrubs and trees to be used in beautifying the parks and boulevards throughout the city.

Ald. Bennett moved, seconded by Ald. Wensley that the request of the Board of Education for \$140,000 for the erection of the Coleman Ward School be granted and that a bylaw be prepared at once authorizing the construction. The resolution carried.

Octavia street residents petitioned for a sewer on north Catharine St. to Octavia street. Grove street residents living between North Front street and Strachan and Parks streets asked for an asphalt concrete pavement. These petitions were referred.

Obituary

MISS JENNIE MCCOMB. Miss Jennie McComb passed away in Toronto on Tuesday. She was a daughter of the late James McComb of Hillier, was 48 years of age and had lived in Toronto for twenty years. She had been ill for some weeks. The remains will arrive here on Friday via C.N.R. and be taken to the Wallbridge family plot in Belleville cemetery. Mrs. J. F. Wallbridge, of Massasauga, is a sister of deceased.

HONOR ROLL

The Honor Roll for Grier St. School for May follows: First—Eather McQuigge, Mary Mangold.

Second—Edith Looker, Tommy Pedder, Viola Vance, James Wood, Edna McCreary, Jack Royle.

Third—Marguerite Akey, Lizzie Humphry, Marie Harkins, Leo Noakes.

Class A—Douglas Flindall and Bernard Potter, equal, Helen Gibson, James Tebworth, Ernest Caddick.

First Book—Irene Hedger, Godfrey Scott, Ross Weese, James McQuigge, Fred Humphrey.

Second Book—Vivian Michaud, Eric Naylor, Arthur Looker, Jesse Mason, Verna Gibson and Harold Petre, equal, Osborne Hales, Donald Duncan, Tommy Miller.

REPORT OF BAYSIDE SCHOOL FOR APRIL. SENIOR IV.—Faye Demill, Gladys Joblin, Doris Forge, Lorne Hunt, Elsie Hunt, Elgie Joblin, Lee Malory, Lorne Donaldson, Charles Donaldson, Kenneth Down, William Malory.

SENIOR III.—Everett Jeffrey, Frank Wannamaker, Allen Malory, Evelyn Phillips, Nellie Jeffrey, Arnold Bonisteel, Gerald Hall, Gerald Down, Irene Fair, Hazel Wannamaker.

JUNIOR III.—John Hannah, Kingsley Joblin. SENIOR II.—Gordon Jeffrey, Geo. Rush, Harold Bonisteel, Edna Hannah, Harry Rush, Fred Thompson.

JUNIOR II.—Edith Harry, Howard Hall, Laura Wannamaker, Alice Fair, Judson Mallory, Blake Hunt, Victor Hannah, Walter Down.

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GETTING AWAY FROM CIVILIZATION THE IDEA. VICTORIA, B.C., May 4.—To get as far from civilization as possible in the novel plan of three daring adventurers who are fitting out a small vessel here with the object of cruising to the South Sea Islands.

Stanley Menhnick, "Buck" Taylor and Alex. Allott are the principals. They have purchased the "Saucy Lass," a 40-ton schooner with a sealing record behind her.

LLOYD GEORGE WINS LONDON, May 5.—The Hastings election brought about by the resignation of Laurence Lyon, formerly of Toronto, who was adjudged a bankrupt resulted as follows: Lord Eustace Percy, Coalition Unionist, 11,685.

R. Davies, Labor, 5,437. A. Blackman, Liberal, 4,210.

JURY DECLARES BABE HAD LIVED AND WAS SLAIN

Conclusion of Inquest Into Discovery of Dead Infant Brings Verdict

MYSTERY UNSOLVED None to Say How, When or Where Child Came to Its Death

That the babe whose body was found in a state of decomposition on March 27th last in a building in the rear of 305 Pinnacle street, had lived, and had met a violent death was the opinion of the jury who wound up the case last evening without reaching any decision as to the guilty person or persons. Sgt. Detective Trusich has been working on the case a great portion of the time since the discovery.

The jury said that owing to the condition of the remains there were no marks of violence that could be discovered.

"How, when, where and by what means" it came to its death does not appear from the evidence submitted; the verdict stated and concluded: "We are, however, of the opinion that death resulted from violence by some person or persons unknown."

A number of witnesses were examined last night before Coroner Dr. Boyce.

The case now becomes one of the unsolved mysteries.

254 Killed During Year

Brockville—A total of 254 persons were killed and 2,330 injured during the year ending December 31, 1920, on Canadian railways, according to the sixteenth report of the board of railway commissioners for Canada, tabled in the house by the minister of railways. During the year ending December 31, 1920, 2,993 accidents were reported to the board.

Workers in Suspense

Oshawa—Those who have been expecting work on the Provincial Highway have not yet received any word as to when the work will be resumed, and they are now beginning to wonder if any work will be done this year or not, says the Pickering News. This suspense is giving many considerable worry, as they are afraid of being unable to secure work except at much reduced wages. It is almost certain that when work is resumed that the wages that will be paid will be less than that paid last year.

ONLY SKILL OF PILOT SAVES LIVES OF THREE

GRAND MERE, Que., May 5.—Falling here from a height of 4,000 feet, the coolness and resourcefulness of Captain W. R. Maxwell, pilot of a Curtiss seaplane, saved from certain death the lives of himself, the mechanic of the plane, Romeo Vachon, and a passenger, William M.E. Bowden. All three escaped with slight bruises and a shaking up.

The plane ran into an air pocket at 4,000 feet and went into a tail spin, dropping swiftly. Captain Maxwell managed to bring the plane out of this dangerous position, but he was then so low that the machine crashed into trees, rendering himself and his passenger unconscious. The mechanic got off safe free and brought assistance.

Captain Maxwell is a Hamilton man and is looked on as one of the most skilful pilots in Canada.

WELL DRESSED YOUTH CHARGED WITH VAGRANCY

A well-dressed young man from Montreal, who declared in court today he was "broke" was taken from a G.T.R. train by Special Officer Maker on a charge of not paying his fare. There had been a report received that he was wanted at Brockville when Mr. Maker made the arrest. He called up Brockville and asked if they wanted him there. The reply was in the negative. So the young man was allowed to go with a warning.

CASE WAS DISMISSED

A wages case was slated for police court today but as the complainant did not put in an appearance, the case was dismissed by Magistrate Masson.

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