

York County and Suburbs of Toronto

WHITBY DEVELOPS TAXES DECREASE

Many Civic Improvements Under Way — Mill Rate is Less.

COMMUTATION TICKETS

Movement to Get Special Rates, Toronto-Whitby-Oshawa.

James Rutledge, the Whitby barrister, who attended the railway conference of Lake Shore Municipalities as a delegate, at Bowmanville in February, 1890, is taking a keen interest in the movement for commutation rates between Toronto, Whitby and Oshawa. He believes that they are certain to be granted under the competition between the G. T. R., C. P. R. and the C. N. R., especially when the latter's electric line, the Toronto and Eastern goes on its hourly service.

Has a Perfect Grade. One of the great advantages from a commercial viewpoint of the new C. P. R. line to which attention was called was the almost perfect level run clear of the tempo grade at Scarborough Heights, which the Canadian Pacific and Canadian Northern lines possess.

It is claimed the grade is so slight that one locomotive can haul half a mile of loaded freight cars on the new line.

It was to skirt the heavy haul up the Scarborough Heights that the C. P. R. and C. N. R. turned northwest on reaching Whitby.

The C. N. R. will be able to avoid the Scarborough Heights for its freight trains on the main line, and at the same time to develop a steadily increasing passenger traffic straight along the lake shore with its electric road, as the Toronto and Eastern will serve Pickering, Dunbarton, Port Union and the whole district north and south of the Kingston road from Whitby to Highland Creek with quarter-mile stops.

Good For Motorists. Owners of motor cars at Whitby are keenly interested in the Dominion Government's plans for the construction of a great interprovincial highway which will include the Kingston road thru Whitby. It will help to build up the town as a residential place for Toronto professional men by rendering it pleasantly accessible by motor cars.

Whitby's tax rate has been struck at 21.07 mills. This will be eight mills less than the rate in 1912. It was 23 1/2 mills last year and is considered a very low rate for an Ontario town maintaining its own light and water works.

Water Mains Extended. The water mains recently been extended to the eastern and western limits of the town affording excellent water for domestic purposes and a good pressure for fire protection. The waterworks have cost about \$120,000. The water is drawn from the lake and passed thru a slow sand filter. This has given Whitby an abundant supply of pure drinking water which the provincial analyst has certified is free from disease germs.

New Public Library. Summer visitors have begun to arrive at Whitby. The new Carnegie public library opened here this month is very popular with the visitors as it is also with the residents. It is open daily.

The new swimming pool and gymnasium at the Whitby Ladies' College are proving a most popular attraction. The new pipe organ has also added to the attractiveness of the institution.

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EARLSCOURT GARDENS RUINED BY POULTRY

B. I. A. Will Ask Police to Have All Hens Cooped—Other News.

At a meeting of the B. I. A. in Hughes' school last night a provisional committee of three members, Messrs. Triggs, Connon and Bowden, with W. C. Davidson, secretary, was appointed to reorganize the defunct West Earlscourt branch. Messrs. Connon and Bowden were appointed to canvass for members, and the organization of another branch in the Silverthorne district was discussed. H. Parfrey, the chairman, said that the Rev. P. Bryce had offered the Methodist church in the Silverthorne district for branch meetings. It was decided to form the Silverthorne branch in the near future.

W. H. Smith reported excellent progress in the garden scheme and the goal club in the Oakwood and Earlscourt district, and stated that both matters have stirred up much interest in the neighborhood. He regretted, however, that a number of people allow their poultry to run loose to the detriment of their neighbors' gardens. He thought there should be a bylaw in force in the city and township to compel people to keep poultry from destroying other people's property.

Will Write Police. It is the intention of the secretary of the Oakwood branch to write to the police and ask if anything cannot be done to abate the nuisance.

Silverthorne P. O. A. T. Bowden, proprietor, corner Silverthorne and Kersdale avenue, was visited recently by Reeve Syme and members of York Township Council, with reference to a possible site for the Silverthorne district. The council was favorably impressed with the location. It was pointed out to the visitors that residents in the neighborhood have to get their mail at the present time at either Earlscourt or West Toronto postoffice. The distance to Earlscourt is two miles, and West Toronto one and a half.

Two hundred families are at present living in Silverthorne, and, judging by building operations, it is likely that double this number will be living in Silverthorne before the end of the summer.

An entertainment by the pupils of Hughes' school, Caledonia avenue, will take place this afternoon, when a program of plays, drills, sketches, etc., will be given.

The financial committee of St. David's Presbyterian Church, Harvey avenue, held a meeting in the church last evening. Rev. C. A. Mustard presiding. The secretary reported that about one-half the required amount for the fund of the new church has been raised.

NORWAY CONSERVATIVES' FIRST ANNUAL SMOKER

C. N. R. Guarantee Main Subject of Discussion—Interesting Speeches.

The Dominion Government's guarantee of the C.N.R. bonds was the principal subject of discussion at the first annual smoker of the Norway Liberal-Conservative Association, held in St. John's parish hall last night.

After apologizing for the absence of W. F. Maclean, M.P., who was detained at Ottawa, Herbert H. Bell said that it seemed to him that a great many of those who were criticizing the government's action had not studied the matter, in supporting the C.N.R. the Borden Cabinet was upholding the prestige of Canada just as it desired to do by voting thirty millions to the British.

When the Laurier Government went out of power it left many obligations, and the C.N.R. was one of the most onerous. The speaker said that the C.N.R. could be given a guarantee for \$45,000,000. The line would have to be taken over eventually, as no safeguards existed. The people were getting absolutely no security, he said, and the contract was not worth the paper it was written on. He urged the Ontario Government in securing the hydro-radicals for the province.

E. S. H. Henry, M.L.A., and J. A. Macdonald also spoke. A musical entertainment was also given.

THORNHILL

The Mineral Spring Sanitarium is being renovated and electric lights and motors are being installed. The grounds have been greatly improved, and Dr. Langstaff of New York has arrived to receive patrons.

The dust nuisance still continues to annoy the women of the village who are engaged in the annual spring cleaning, the clouds of lime particles making it almost impossible for cleaning to be done with any satisfaction. Residents are wondering why the commission does not use the oil sprayer on the roads and allow the dust to some extent.

The annual meeting of the Women's Institute will be held at the home of Mrs. J. E. Francis on Thursday, for the election of officers.

YORK TOWNSHIP

The York Township Council will inspect roads and bridges in the east end of the Township today.

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VICTORIA LODGE HONORS A. B. RICE

Presentation to Secretary of Masonic Temple Company, Limited.

NEWS OF WARD SEVEN

New Encampment of I.O.O.F. Will Be Inaugurated Soon.

At the regular meeting of Victoria Lodge, A. F. & M., last night, W. Bro. A. B. Rice was presented with a cabinet of silver by the Masonic Temple Company, Limited, on behalf of the shareholders. W. Bro. Rice has acted as secretary-treasurer since the formation of the company, and the presentation was a small mark of appreciation of the way he has discharged his rather onerous duties. A few attendances of the brethren from both Stanley and Victoria Lodges was present, and a full musical entertainment was provided. The presentation was made by R. W. Bro. Hopkins responded to the toast of "The Grand Lodge of Canada" and E. W. Bro. Shopp, the first W.M. of Victoria Lodge, made the presentation on behalf of the company. W. Bro. Rice responded in his usual happy vein, and thanked the brethren for their token of appreciation.

New Encampment. Oddfellowship in West Toronto will take another step forward this evening, when a new encampment will be instituted, with thirty charter members as the primary enrollment. There are over 100 members of the I.O.O.F. living in West Toronto, but up to the present no encampment has been formed. The committee in charge have been fortunate in securing the auditorium of St. John's Parish House for the institution ceremonies at Canton Toronto, No. 7, under the command of Capt. George H. Elson, will exemplify the patriarchal degree. The new lodge will be known as "Peerless Encampment."

The Keele street firemen enjoyed their first game of bowls on the lawn at Postal Station D, on Keele street, last evening. The attractiveness of the little plot of green in the centre of Ward Seven's busiest section has often been commented upon by outsiders, and to the work of the curator of the postoffice, James Devins, much of the credit is due.

Laying Pavement. Considerable progress has been made with the work of paving High Park avenue, from Humboldt avenue to Dundas street, and the concrete foundation is now laid for a considerable extent. Several of the large holes in the roadway between Dundas street are also being repaired with asphalt.

VERNON CASTLES ARE REAL DANCERS

New York Artists Gave Fine Exhibition to Massey Hall Audiences.

ATTRACTIVE PROGRAM

Gracefulness Marked Every Evolution of Society Entertainers.

A decided novelty was the program introduced at Massey Hall yesterday afternoon and evening when Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Castle gave a series of modern dances. The principals were assisted by a company of professionals, and by a very fine orchestra and competent colored orchestra under the direction of James Reese Europe.

The one-step was performed by Mr. and Mrs. Castle and the best piece of waltz by Jane Ott and Hottel Herr. The fourth number was the tango in costume by Mr. and Mrs. Castle. Other numbers were the maxixe, half and half, gavotte, polka and other older dances.

All the numbers were executed in what was probably as perfect a manner as the nature of the dance permits. Precision and accuracy of step and position were conspicuous features, along with the tempo of the music there was never a false or unbalanced move. In contrast to prevailing fashion was the graceful manner of carrying the arms, which never obtruded at ugly angles or in straight unsightly lines. The tango, danced by Mr. and Mrs. Castle, is something far different to what is commonly seen under that name and would probably be scarcely recognized by many of its votaries. There was none of the ugly dipping which seems its ungraceful feature and nothing else that would seem to make it objectionable.

The evening performance was presented to a much larger audience than that of the afternoon, and one of the most interesting items was the contest for the silver trophy, competed for by some dozen couples out of the audience.

After several trials, in which the contestants were reduced, first to four couples, then to two, and eventually to one Mr. and Mrs. James Snydman were declared the winners. Mr. and Miss Stewart coming a close second. The winners are invited to go to New York for the championship contest, in which all winners in the towns in which Mr. and Mrs. Castle have performed in their American tour will appear. The expenses of the winners will be paid by the company.

The contest aroused great enthusiasm among the audience, the raising of the results of the vote eliciting round after round of applause.

Mr. Castle during the evening gave some suggestions on his art, alleging that his only reason for setting himself up as an authority on a standard of dancing was the success that had attended the exhibitions of himself and wife.

One of the most unique features of the evening was the performance on the combination drum and other instruments, combination going thru marvelous evolutions, and getting wonderful effects from his possession of the instruments. Mr. Castle also proved himself an expert performer on the combination.

FOREST FIRES IN MAINE. PORTLAND, Me., May 19.—Smoke from forest fires, both in southern Maine and along the Canadian border, partially obscured the sun today. At Wells' Farm buildings owned by Willis Batchelder were burned.

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