

JOHN S. FRASER TO THE ELECTORS OF WEST KENT

The Telephone and Telegraph Companies, too, Should be Compelled to Bear Their Share of Municipal Taxation.

If you will take an ordinary carpenter's rule and measure the number of inches of each railway crossing the County of Kent, on Shackleton's map—and bear in mind that the scale of the map is 3.4 of a mile or 60 chains to the inch—you will find that—County of Kent, on Shackleton's map miles.

The Grand Trunk about 37 miles.
The Michigan Central about 39 miles.

And the Erie & Huron and the Lake Erie and Detroit River about 82 miles of railway in this county.

If, then, the Legislature would permit the municipalities to assess these railways at the sum I suggested in my former letter, \$7,500 per mile, less than half the value, we would have—The Grand Trunk assessed at \$277,500.

The Canadian Pacific at \$277,500.
The Michigan Central at \$292,500.
And the Erie & Huron and the Detroit River and Lake Erie at \$615,000.
Or a total assessment of \$1,165,000.

The average rate of assessment, if we place it at 15 mills or 1.5 cents on the dollar, and that should be low enough to suit the railway companies, would give the sum of \$21,937.50 which the railways would annually have to pay towards assisting the people to pay their taxes.

This would amount to about two-thirds of what the County Council levies each year.

Now, the share of the Erie & Huron and Lake Erie & Detroit River Road would come to 49,225, which would be less than four per cent. of the amount of the municipal bonuses alone given to this road, to say nothing of the Government bonuses it received.

Another circumstance which lends additional weight to the argument is the fact that the vast majority of the shareholders in these railways reside outside of Canada, receive and spend the net earnings of the roads outside of Canada. They are practically in the position of non-resident landlords, enjoying the fruits of the thrift and industry of Canadians, while we patiently submit.

It would probably not be quite fair to the railroads to apply this rule to those roads that are distinctly colonial in character, where the surrounding country has not been developed and settled, as have been the frontier counties of Ontario.

Some of them are practically in the same condition as to traffic that the Grand Trunk and Great Western were twenty-five years ago, while one of them, at least, the Canada Atlantic, carries in immense volume of freight. The railroads passing through the thickly settled portions of Ontario, however, have all the advantages that the railroads have in those States of some reason for taxing them here that exist there.

They have heretofore escaped through the apathy of the Ontario Legislature.

It is time for a change. It may be said that the railways are very powerful corporations and that they will resent with all their force as the movement grows any attempt to remove the immunity they have enjoyed.

That every candidate and member who ventures to place himself on record either in the coming election or in succeeding contests will be met with their bitterest hostility.

If this should be the result then it

will be time for the taxpayers in the Province to determine whether the railway corporations have already become so strong that they can dictate to the Province the laws it shall make and the fair proportion of taxation they will allow to be collected.

The telephone and telegraph companies, too, have been having a very easy time of it.

They make very large profits. Take the Bell Telephone Company as an instance.

Incorporated in 1880 with a capital of \$500,000.

The capital increased in 1882 to \$2,000,000. Increased again in 1892 to \$5,000,000, and now they have a capital before the Senate to increase their capital stock to \$10,000,000.

At the commencement they obtained a charter allowing them—just as the telegraph companies had previously been allowed—to place their poles and wire upon the highways of the municipalities.

This saved them the trouble of purchasing any right of way, otherwise they would have had to purchase not only the ground upon which their poles would be placed but also the strip of land between the poles.

Without this strip of land they would not have the right to stretch their wires from pole to pole, as every man owns not merely the surface of his land but the right to all the space above it.

The Legislature was generous to them. One would think that having received this franchise as a gift, and when they were making money faster in proportion to the capital invested than any individual or corporation in the whole of Canada, they would not seek to evade payment of their fair and reasonable share of taxes.

Well they contend that their switch boards and telephone instruments are personal estate and therefore under sec. 39, sub sec. 2, of the Assessment Act are not assessable and this contention has been upheld by the Courts.

Then as to the land occupied by their poles and wires, they do not own that, do not even lease it.

Application has been made to all the township municipalities to ascertain what amount, if any, is assessed in their several townships against these corporations.

This year two townships only have ventured on an attempt at assessment at small amounts. The telephone company will of course object, as they generally do.

Even in the towns and cities the company claims that their poles and wire should only be assessed at what they would bring as ordinary poles and wire and not as a part of a very profitable business, and so far they have been upheld in this view. That does not seem any more reasonable than it would be to assess the piston, the cylinder, the crank, the slides and the shaft of an engine separately instead of the whole as combined, forming a complete engine.

All doubt should be removed as to the cities and towns, and as to the township municipalities, each township should be allowed to assess both the telephone and telegraph lines at a reasonable sum.

Even at the scrap-iron rate, that is the poles as ordinary poles, and the wire as ordinary wire, apart altogether from their value, as portions of most profitable plants, the G. N. W. Telephone Company, the Canadian Pacific Telephone Company, and the Bell Telephone Company should be assessed at about \$200 to the mile of their lines, respectively.

This is allowing 28 poles to the mile, and they are worth \$6.50 each (those in Chatham, placed, cost \$10.00 each)—\$182.00, and \$18 per mile for a single wire—and they have more than that. The three companies altogether have about 500 miles of lines in the county. This would then give us

500 x 200 = \$100,000.00 of an assessment. Compared with the taxes then at the same average rate as the ordinary assessment and the county would receive \$1,500 a year from this source.

Can anyone deny that this would be fair? Can anyone suggest any reason why these companies should be exempt from sharing the common burden just the same as any ordinary individual would have to.

They were never organized as philanthropic or benevolent institutions and they don't do business in that way.

A few words changed in the assessment act would remove the exemption they claim.

Is it not time to make this change? 7th April, 1932.

JOHN S. FRASER.

CITY COUNCIL TO PURCHASE

Continued from 1st Page.

work was petitioned against. Mr. MacIntyre alone wanted the sewer. He should get relief.

Ald. Cowan moved that the report be referred back.

Ald. McKeeough said that he didn't wish Mr. MacIntyre to suffer any hardship but he wished to keep the city out of a law suit. He withdrew the clause of the report re the Emma street sewer.

In regard to the clause re granite walks, Ald. McKeeough said that the law in regard to taking initiatory steps had been changed, and expense would be saved if the ratepayers, where walks were to be put down by the council, would petition for the work.

Ald. Mounteer, chairman of the Parks and Cemetery committee, reported that the lot of the late Wm. Broadbent be transferred to J. W. White, as asked for.

That the committee be empowered to sell the large gateway, which had been down.

That new platform be put over the well at the caretaker's house, as the old one was rotten away.

The report was adopted.

Ald. Mounteer said that the committee were out of surveyed lots at the cemetery, and he would like the engineer to go out and restake the lots.

The Mayor said that the engineer was the servant of the city and all Ald. Mounteer had to do was to instruct the engineer to do the work.

Ald. McKeeough asked what was to be done re the \$400 which the Thomson electrical company claimed was due them.

The clerk explained that when the electric light plant was installed by the Thomson Co. that \$400 had been kept back on the recommendation of Gilbert Wilkes, the expert employed by the city to superintend the installation of the plant.

Ald. McKeeough said that the armatures burned out of the machines in 1898. After the purchase of a dynamo from the electric light company of this city, the armatures didn't burn out any more. Ald. Cowan didn't think that the Thomson Co. were entitled to the \$400.

Supt. Jones was heard. He said that in the fall of '97, after the electric light plant was installed by the Thomson Co. that \$400 had been kept back on the recommendation of Gilbert Wilkes, the expert employed by the city to superintend the installation of the plant.

Ald. McKeeough said that the armatures burned out of the machines in 1898. After the purchase of a dynamo from the electric light company of this city, the armatures didn't burn out any more. Ald. Cowan didn't think that the Thomson Co. were entitled to the \$400.

Supt. Jones was heard. He said that in the fall of '97, after the electric light plant was installed by the Thomson Co. that \$400 had been kept back on the recommendation of Gilbert Wilkes, the expert employed by the city to superintend the installation of the plant.

Ald. McKeeough said that the armatures burned out of the machines in 1898. After the purchase of a dynamo from the electric light company of this city, the armatures didn't burn out any more. Ald. Cowan didn't think that the Thomson Co. were entitled to the \$400.

Supt. Jones was heard. He said that in the fall of '97, after the electric light plant was installed by the Thomson Co. that \$400 had been kept back on the recommendation of Gilbert Wilkes, the expert employed by the city to superintend the installation of the plant.

Ald. McKeeough said that the armatures burned out of the machines in 1898. After the purchase of a dynamo from the electric light company of this city, the armatures didn't burn out any more. Ald. Cowan didn't think that the Thomson Co. were entitled to the \$400.

Supt. Jones was heard. He said that in the fall of '97, after the electric light plant was installed by the Thomson Co. that \$400 had been kept back on the recommendation of Gilbert Wilkes, the expert employed by the city to superintend the installation of the plant.

Ald. McKeeough said that the armatures burned out of the machines in 1898. After the purchase of a dynamo from the electric light company of this city, the armatures didn't burn out any more. Ald. Cowan didn't think that the Thomson Co. were entitled to the \$400.

Supt. Jones was heard. He said that in the fall of '97, after the electric light plant was installed by the Thomson Co. that \$400 had been kept back on the recommendation of Gilbert Wilkes, the expert employed by the city to superintend the installation of the plant.

ABOUT READY-MADE CLOTHES

Our Spring clothing stocks are now complete. To those who do not yet know the facts of T. & D. making a word or two of explanation on that head may not be amiss.

We have no comparative grades of workmanship in the factory. A fine suit gets more making than a low-priced one, but not better making. Seams must be straight and strong, edges perfectly finished, pockets accurately fitted in, pressing thoroughly done in every piece that leaves the benches. Materials vary with the price, elaborateness varies with the price, but the standard of work does not vary. Have we made this clear?

SOME TWEED BUSINESS SUITS

These suits are all made with four-button sack coat. Even the \$5 suits have a turned up cloth facing inside so that the lining can never sag into view. One-piece collars—you'll look in vain for a seam in the back of the collar, however cheap the suit.

All-wool Halifax Tweed, dark colors, a gray mixture or a brown & gray mixture check Good farmer's satin linings \$5.00

All-wool Tweed, dark green check, or gray mixture with brown hairline stripe and red cross check. Sleeves have one-button vent.....\$7.00

Dark green check, made with double-stitched edges and

one-button vent in sleeve.....\$8.00

Wide mixture stripe with brown cross-check. A natty pattern \$9.00

Two styles, both made with two-button vent in sleeve. An indistinct gray stripe with red cross stripe, and an olive green ground with red mixture. The latter has double stitched edges.....\$10.00

Overcoats

A swaggar garment for Easter and Spring wear. Men's plain fly-front coat of gray cheviot, cut very full and of good length. Made with raised seams, single stitched edges, good farmer's satin linings, self-collar and glassade sleeve lining. Sizes 35 to 42 inches.....\$7.00

Men's Overcoats of imported tweed, in the latest pattern, gray with fine light stripe. Cut in straight sweeping lines, very loose yet perfect in "set"—a strikingly stylish garment. The cloth has a plaid back and the coat is unlined with full self facings. Silk velvet collar, bellows pockets, glassade sleeve lining in matched colors.....\$12.00

THORNTON & DOUGLAS Liquidation

CHRIST CHURCH

Easter Vestry Meeting—Best Financial Report in the History of the Church.

The annual Vestry meeting of Christ Church was held in the S. S. Hall last night, when the wardens presented their financial report, which was most encouraging, showing that the income of the church was about \$5,800, leaving a surplus, after meeting all current expenses, of some five or six hundred dollars, which will reduce the floating indebtedness to about sixty dollars.

The rector, wardens and vestry clerks were heartily congratulated on the great financial progress made, and all present expressed themselves as delighted with the condition of affairs in the church.

Ald. John Waddell was re-elected people's warden, and the rector appointed H. Dennis as his warden. Mr. McCosh referred to the faithful services of Mr. Pritchard, the retiring church warden, who, he said, could not find the time necessary to devote to the office. He expressed regret at his withdrawal.

Judge Woods and M. Wilson, K. C., were re-elected lay delegates to the synod.

The Advisory Board were re-elected, with the names of J. C. Pritchard and

Prussian Oil

Is doing its work in this province where ever introduced as thoroughly and surely as it has been doing all over the Maritime Provinces and New England States where it is in universal use curing the ills that people are subject to.

Aches and Pains, Bruises and Sprains, Coughs and Colds, Bronchitis, Asthma, La Grippe, Burns and Scalds.

very quickly when used as directed. Many people in London, St. Mary's, Thomas, Ridge and Chatham, testify to its wonderful curative powers and say it is the best medicine they ever had in the house, etc. Use it and prove it.

Sold by Druggists and Dealer

Mr. Davey added. The committee on music was re-elected, with the name of W. G. Richards added.

The Glebe Land committee is composed of the rector, Mr. W. H. Harper and Mr. W. E. Rispin.

Dr. R. V. Bray was re-elected vestry clerk.

The rector feelingly referred to the sudden death of Mr. A. Heyward, who had filled the position of church warden for some years, and a resolution of sympathy was passed.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Ladies of the Guild and of the Missionary Society, and to the ladies who had so tastefully decorated the church on festival occasions.

UP late nights, endless engagements, generally run down? Take "The D. & L." Emulsion of Cod Liver Oil. It will tone up your system and make you feel yourself again. Made by Davis & Lawrence Co., Ltd.

Hope is like the sun, which as we journey toward it casts the shadow of our burden behind us.

This is it

MELCHERS

Red Cross

Canadian Gin

The Only Pure Gin

that is matured for years under Government supervision.

Finer

than any imported Gin

Because its Old.

Bolvin, Wilson & Co.,
MONTREAL
Distributing Agents.

RESPONSIBILITY!!

It is said that the reason the Anglo-Saxon race leads the world is because they are willing to shoulder responsibility.

Sit to us for your portrait and your responsibility ceases—until time for payment comes.

We will take all responsibility. If we do not produce thoroughly first-class work, payable never comes, for we will not accept money for poor work.

All we ask is a chance to show you what we have already shown others—that we CAN and WILL do good work—if you let us!

Westlake Bros., Fifth Street, Chatham

WILLIAM FOREMAN & CO. WILLIAM FOREMAN & CO.

A Short Chat

We would be delighted to have you come in and have a short chat on the styles and fabrics for this season, you'll find it will be both profitable and entertaining, that is if you wish to know and to see the correct fabrics and how the garments are made this spring. Every new fabric for spring and summer wear are to be found here, many of them extremely new and most of them strictly exclusive.

New Weaves

Rich Broadcloths, Voiles, Sublimes, Crepe de Paris, Crepeline, Cheviots, Venetians, Comeline, Deer Skin, Panné Cloths, Empfir cloths Bairretz Cloths, Swine Cloths, Eolienness, Shan Tung Pongees, Panné Cloths, Ripley Finished Satin Panné Cloths, All-wool French Organdies and numerous Staple Weaves.

William Foreman & Co.