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Bricks Without Straw

COOK'S ADDRESS TO THE ROTARIANS.

Thursday's luncheon of the St. John's Rotary Club, Chairman Rotarian General H. H. Cook, who is the Mayor of St. John's, was a very practical address in which he enumerated the many difficulties encountered by our City in these efforts to make ends meet, and the hardships under which they are operating, making it impossible to make any policy of necessary expenditures. The title of his address was "Bricks without straw" and is as follows:—

BRICKS WITHOUT STRAW.

President "Will" and Chairman "Tom" have some six or seven thousand bricks, a gentleman by the name of Pharaoh ruled over the land of Egypt. He was interested in the manufacture of bricks, and as far as can be learned, he had operated a considerable number of brick factories. He had a large dwelling in the land, the bricks of which, as I have already stated, was "nothing but straw" was the principal ingredient in the manufacture of bricks. It was impossible to manufacture bricks without straw.

Instructions were given to the overseer to speed up the output and use every persuasion. To do so every day, he provided with a "persuader" the ordinary "persuader" is a stout stick measuring about two feet long, with a heavy knob at one end and a long lash at the other. It was surprising what a quantity those overseers could get out of the Israelites with those "persuaders". The fact remains, gentlemen, that the Israelites had no straw, and one night Pharaoh skipped out for Palestine to Pharaoh, but that was another story.

Stubborn Coughs in a Hurry

It is a well known fact that a cough is a sign of trouble. It is a sign that the lungs are being irritated and that the body is trying to get rid of the irritant. It is a sign that the body is trying to get rid of the irritant. It is a sign that the body is trying to get rid of the irritant.

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GIN PILLS IN THE U.S.A. are the same as GIN PILLS IN CANADA.

Interest on the City Debt, amounting to (per annum)	\$87,155.55
Interest on Floating Loans (per annum)	14,586.00
Contribution towards upkeep of Fire Department per annum	14,000.00
Sanitary Department, collecting garbage, etc. (per annum)	84,000.00
Lighting Streets	21,000.00
Road Repairs and Oiling of streets	47,000.00
Sewerage Dept., repairs	13,000.00
Water Works Dept.	28,000.00
Upkeep of Bowring Park	10,000.00
	\$318,751.55

Taking this from the revenue we count upon receiving, leaves us roughly, something like one hundred and four thousand dollars to maintain the other services in connection with the city as well as unforeseen expenditure. What improvements can we expect? As I have said before, if you want improvements the money for them must be forthcoming. To have the money a considerable loan would have to be raised. The raising of money, as you know, means heavy interest charges and to pay these interest charges taxes would simply have to be increased.

On looking up our records I find that the present valuation of the City, as taken from the Biennial Appraisal, is assessed as follows on a rental basis:

Freehold property	\$745,000.00
Leasehold property	706,848.00
Ground Rentals	125,000.00
making a total of	\$1,577,098.00

On these valuations a rate of 16 per cent, minus a discount of 10 per cent, which is allowed for prompt payment, is charged. With regard to the valuations just mentioned I may say Government Buildings, Churches, Schools, Charitable Institutions and all such buildings are not included, they being exempt from taxation.

ROADS.

You may not be aware, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, that there are over fifty miles of streets in the city to be looked after, and these streets are not the narrow streets of the suburbs, but under the Act must not be less than fifty feet wide. In many cases they exceed this width. Further, you may take into consideration that there is more traffic over one city street in one day than there is on those of the outlying settlements in one month.

The Council receives from the Government towards the maintenance and upkeep of these roads the sum of \$5,807.00 annually, which, I may say, is the same amount received thirty years ago when the total length of the streets did not exceed eighteen miles. We have been, and are at present, asking the Government that this grant be considerably increased, because it must be borne in mind that St. John's is the metropolis of Newfoundland, and is used not only by all sections of Conception Bay and the Peninsula of Avalon, but by the Island at large.

In referring to this matter of road grants, I may say that past Govern-

ments have on many occasions allocated certain special grants for road purposes, and out of the amounts allocated the city of St. John's with its population of over thirty-five thousand people was never considered.

You all know of the demands that have been made from time to time for paving, re-surfacing or rebuilding of our city streets, and I know as well as you do that such things must be done if St. John's is to be made a modern city, in line with like cities in our neighbouring Dominion. But in this respect one thing must not be forgotten; St. John's is built upon a hill, and engineering problems which can be readily grappled with in Canada, cannot be so easily solved at a like expense in St. John's. This I think is too obvious to need further elaboration. In this connection also the clogging of the streets in order to keep down the summer's dust, until the streets are paved, is an utter impossibility.

NEW TERRITORY.

Under the 1902 Act, the South Side was included in the limits of the City. Previous to that time it was under the control and management of the Government, and it has been an expensive legacy which the city, by reason of legislation, has been unable to refuse. Since the 1902 Act a large area—chiefly north of the old city boundary—has been included within the limits and it has caused the present Board considerable anxiety because of various factors the most particular of which is the extension of water and sewerage system to this very thickly populated district, and from estimates given me by the City Engineer I find that to carry out these very necessary improvements there would have to be an expenditure of about three-quarters of a million at least.

The Battery section, situated in the East End of the City, is very thickly populated and is another district that has created a problem which the City has not yet solved but which in the very near future will have to be. To install water and sewerage there, is well nigh an impossibility. A Rev. gentleman has on many occasions called my attention to the very insubstantial state of the place, and I assure you, some day, unless steps are taken to remedy conditions in the district to which I refer, an epidemic is likely to occur. It is almost inevitable with conditions as they are. And, gentlemen, the old family slogan will then again be heard, "Blame the Council!"

Thanks Gin Pills for excellent health

An ex-alderman of the city of Hamilton tells an interesting story.

"I have been unable to rest at night with pains around my kidneys and through the small of my back, at times so bad that I was unable to rise from bed without assistance. The trouble so affected my kidneys that urination was at times difficult, and at other times so frequent as to cause me great inconvenience. I started on a course of Gin Pills and before I had taken half a box I felt relief. Before I had completed the second box the pains had left my back and I felt quite restored and well again. I attribute my present excellent health entirely to Gin Pills."—J. S. Lillis, Hamilton, Ont.

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SHOW ROOM Section

its object, the Council has not been as successful as it might have been thought. A similar attempt was made by the Dominion Co-operative Building Association for the erection of houses on Merrymeeting Road, and we all know what the result of this experiment was.

Referring to the 1100 un-sewered houses; if we were to-day to consider the erection of a thousand new houses to remedy conditions, the minimum cost would not be less than fifteen hundred dollars each, and one thousand houses at \$1500 each means an outlay of one million five hundred thousand dollars, not taking into account the cost of sites and removal of the old buildings. Now I ask you: are you or any of the taxpayers prepared to tax themselves with this object in view?

While on this particular part of my subject, I think I should make some reference to the question of sanitation. At the present time the upkeep of the Sanitary Department costs the city over \$30,000 per annum for maintenance of the Department, Collection of Garbage, Removal of Night Soil, and General City Cleansing. We are asked on every hand: "Why is not this abominable system of night collection done away with?" True, if the houses I have just mentioned had water and sewerage installation there would be no need of it, but with a growing city and houses unfit for installations, and the addition to the city of such places as the Annex (to which I have previously referred) where not one house has these necessary facilities, and where in fact the connections are not available, how can we abolish the system?

The Sanitary Department has a staff of some sixty sweepers, teamsters and general men; twenty-six horses, twenty-five ash carts and six night carts. This Department, I may say, would cost considerably more but for the fact that the soil when collected is brought to the Sanitary Station and dumped into the Reservoir from whence it finds its way into the waters of the Harbour.

LEGACIES.

Although none of us are so callous as to look forward to the decrease of our friends or relatives to obtain the legacies which will ultimately be ours, we all are, as individuals, legally empowered to refuse such legacies, and the obligations which they sometimes entail. The city of St. John's, however, is a legatee which by reason of legislation that amounts in many cases to force majeure is unable to re-

fuse the legacies bequeathed, which legacies are to-day an unthought and expensive burden on our citizens.

ST. JOHN'S A MODERN CITY.

Gentlemen, I have lived long enough and have travelled enough to know what St. John's should be if you would term it a modern city. It would be, if in the past decades we had the same public spirit which you, Rotarians are now trying to create, but this spirit in my opinion has been lacking, and being lacking, you must admit nothing can be done without a beginning. "Rome was not built in a day." We can only hope that by persistent efforts on the part of organizations such as yours, that civic spirit will be engendered and the near future will see these many problems boldly faced and ultimately solved. Both past and present Councils on every hand have been criticized severely for laxity in not inaugurating civic improvements.

During the past months a number of speakers addressed the Rotary Club, and with very few exceptions they have all "sandbagged" the Municipal Council. The only speaker that had a word of praise for the Council, and stated that conditions were better to-day than he had ever known them to be, was our friend, Dr. "Tim" Mitchell. His words were like manna to a hungry soul. I have prayed for "Tim," and I may add that I have prayed for the others also. If my prayers are answered "Tim" will be alright, the others need not worry about their overcoats or Jaeger Underwear, they will not need them.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I say on behalf of the present Council and future Councils, give us the money and we'll give you a City; we cannot make Bricks without Straw.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded His Honor for his practical and informative address.

Included in the guests were Sir M. P. Cashin, J. A. Young, T. A. MacNab, P. E. Outerbridge, R. G. Ash, P. J. Cashin and C. P. Taylor.

Ball buttons of nickel trim a two-piece frock of jersey.

Handkerchiefs in dark shades are bound and initialed in white.

For evening gowns and capes metal brooches are very chic.

A dance frock of taffeta has a yoke and bouffant skirt of tulle.



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