

the Greeks termed the people
the words of a witty Frenchman
clamor of the market-place may be as
grave a menace to independence as the
favor of the throne."

J. G. Richter presided in the after-
noon. The delegates held their annual
dinner at the Tecumseh House last
evening, when E. C. Fox, president and
general manager of the William Davies
Company, Toronto, was the speaker.

"NOXIOUS" LEGISLATION

Phillip Pocock and T. W. McFarland
were among the interested auditors as
Major Cronyn paid his respects to what
he considered confiscatory hydro legis-
lation.

"It amuses me," said the speaker,
"to hear the capitalist abused in this
Canada of ours. A few individuals
there may be whose ill-gotten wealth
is alike an instrument of oppression
and an object of envy, but the great
aggregations of capital in Canada are
owned by a vast array of men and
women who, by their hard work and
prudent economy, have been able to
lay by something for a rainy day. These
savings are entrusted to our financial
institutions, such as banks, insurance,
mortgage and trust companies, or are
invested in real estate or other securi-
ties. The law with which I quarrel is
that which repudiates the third of the
cardinal principles laid down over 700
years ago, in the great charter of the
people, 'the right to hold, to pledge
and to deal with private property.'"

"You will deem me rash, indeed, in
the face of all that the hydro has ac-
complished and in this City of London
to venture to call into question any
of its legislation. May I assure you
that the colossal nature of that enter-
prise compels one's admiration, and I
am certain the work of its late chair-
man, Sir Adam Beck, whose untimely
death is a national calamity, will, long
after we are dead and forgotten, shine
forth as one of the greatest in our his-
tory. I am not a penny of loss to
me by the law which, rather, I am like tens
of others, distinctly a
For these very rea-
sons, we can, without heat or
to point out what was

OF COMMISSION

which incorporated the
Commission of Ontario
municipalities entering into
with the commission were
empted from the obligation
the private companies oper-
their territories 'unless the
shall otherwise order or
is left owners of private
the tender mercies of the
and when these owners,
they were being crushed by
sought the courts to test
constitutionality of the new law, a
measure was passed to the
at leave of the attorney-
must be first obtained before
was entered. Again in 1914
mission was further protected
back when it was enacted that
should have authority to grant
restriction restraining the construc-
maintenance or operation of any
the location and mode of con-
of which had been approved
commission.

prevent any possibility of mis-
standing, permit me to say my
is not intended as an attack,
or indirect, on hydro. If all Gov-
at undertakings were conducted
the same thoroughness and zeal,
m of public ownership would
be silenced. My quarrel is with
islation just cited. If the hydro
en compelled to acquire by pur-
or arbitration those private com-
operating in the fields it entered
ould have been called perchance
a thrilling increase, but would
ch a course have been more con-
with that British Justice and
ay about which at times we hear
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associations, such as the Bureau
municipal Research, backed by an
intelligent public opinion—unafraid
to make itself heard—much can be done

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"I mention
Pearse, "because
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"The debenture
schools at the close of
\$19,683,777.19 and of this debt \$11,097,
663.93 was in serial debentures and the
balance of \$8,586,113, after deducting
sinking funds in hand for redemption,
was in sinking fund debentures. The
per capita expenditures on school ac-
commodations in 1914, which was the
peak years, was \$5.47, the highest in
Toronto's history. At the present time
it is \$2.55 per capita.

Mr. Pearce stated that by revising
the type of school building and such
serious items, for instance, as the
ventilation, locker accommodation,
using copper cornices instead of cut
stone and similar items, they have been
able to very considerably reduce the
cost of construction, while at the same
time having schools of a higher stand-
ard and quite as permanent in char-
acter as formerly. In the new Jarvis
Collegiate Institute pupils' lockers,
which are quite essential in high
schools, have been installed in the
partition walls, thereby reducing the
cubic volume of the building, very con-
siderably.

As a result of an intense study of
school planning Mr. Pearce stated that
it had been possible to accommodate
the same number of pupils in the new
Jarvis Street Collegiate Institute as in
the old High School of Commerce,
which was built in 1912 or 1914, accord-
ing to the old type of plans, although
the new Jarvis Collegiate is approxi-
mately 35 per cent. smaller in cubic
capacity. This economy of cubic capac-
ity is permanent, particularly in point
of view of heating and upkeep. Inci-
dentally, the cost per classroom for
school buildings had been decreased be-
tween 1920 and 1925 from \$16,600 per
classroom to \$7,500 per classroom. This
extraordinary drop in the cost was not,
of course, to be placed entirely to the
credit of the authorities, but, in his
opinion, Mr. Pearce thought that the
present school buildings are being
erected on a better type, more suitable
to present needs and with a saving of
20 to 25 per cent. on the old type of
construction. This saving is applicable
not only to the original cost of con-
struction, but to the cost of operation,
which is a very important feature.

TORONTO'S RATE

The school rate in Toronto this year
is 9.70 mills. Nearly two mills of this
is required to meet the debt charges
and there will be practically no allevi-
ation from this state of affairs for a
great many years. This abnormal situ-
ation was, however, an outcome of the
war, Mr. Pearce pointed out.

School buildings and equipment to
the value of over \$24,000,000 now exist
in the City of Toronto and the expendi-
tures last year for maintenance of all
this property was not over \$350,000, or
less than one and one-half per cent. of
the valuation. This percentage has
been found in many instances to be
inadequate, Mr. Pearce stated, but be-
cause of the present needs as regards
taxation they have struggled to make
this ratio meet needs as far as possible.

"There is, of course, in most public
bodies a tendency to capitalization
wherever possible," stated Mr. Pearce,
"but from an administrator's point of
view I think that this tendency should
be distinctly discouraged. While we
are carrying a heavy burden because of
the war, it is a difficult question to
decide as to whether we should con-
tinue to capitalize as much as ever we
can until the economic situation has
readjusted itself, or whether we should
attack a problem with greater determi-
nation.

"By complete pay-as-you-go policy I
mean to pay for building construction
in the year in which the construction is
undertaken out of the current year's
taxation," declared Mr. Pearce in dis-
cussing the matter of cutting down the
debt charges. "I know this would be
a very serious item for many municip-
alities, but the debt charge is such a
serious one for so many years that even
if the complete pay-as-you-go policy
were not fully accepted, but the exp-
enditure was spread over a shorter
period of years, I feel that it would be
in the better interests of the municip-
ality and the country as a whole.

"I know the present burdens of tax-
ation are pressing very heavily indeed
on our industries and that we are all
anxious to find some alleviation and,
while this suggestion of mine would
temporarily create a little higher

An account for \$26.80, being
penses of one of the city hall employees
attending the last meeting of the
ario Municipal Association, held in To-
ronto recently, was passed by No. 1
committee of the City Council last night
despite the fact that this employee was
not authorized to attend the convention.
Ald. Clift suggested this might estab-
lish a precedent, but the committee as
a whole thought it would not. The de-
partment heads will be warned, how-
ever, that in future no employee under
them is to be allowed to attend any
convention officially without first receiv-
ing the necessary authorization.

A request from Col. Gillespie for a
grant of \$50 towards the expenses of
the annual rifle competition, to be held
on the Cove ranges in October, for
school cadets of Western Ontario, was
sent on to the Council without any
discussion.

An insistent demand for the payment
of an account of \$1,000 in connection
with the alleged damage done to rail-
way tracks near the Cove bridge by a
broken water main last year was
turned over to the Public Utilities Com-
mission.

City Clerk Baker was authorized
prepare the annual statement of
activities, to be sent out to the electors
with the usual notices respecting
municipal elections.

City Solicitor Meredith submitted
draft of a ballot to be placed
the electors in December, asking
an expression of opinion on the
of using city money to purchase
uniforms, etc.

LABOR PLATFORM DECIDED

Local Executive De- cies To Be Se

The platform on
of the London Labor
the federal election
night by the execu-

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