

# The Carleton Observer

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## OPINIONS DIFFER AS TO SCHOOL

Much Discussed Problem Again Aired By Citizens With Divergent Views

As the editor has very kindly given me space for another letter, I will try to discuss matters regarding the location of a new school building, as well as the building of a large annex and remodeling the present house, and I shall try as in all my former letters, to keep to the straight path of truth, with an eye single to the facts without bias of clique or party, leaving; continuing the discussion in such a conservative, moderate and dignified way as will compel the attention and thought of all those who sincerely desire something to rightly guide them in coming to a proper decision. The usefulness of any man at the council boards of the nation, province, county or even the school district depends in large measure on moderate, tolerant, unbiased views and expressions relating to the matter in hand and with all due regard to the various pros and cons, who marks out a course aimed to give the greatest good to the greatest number.

At a general meeting on July 22 it was decided to build a new school house on the present school house lot. The first thing to make sure of is "will there be any objection by the Board of Education or Inspector to the selection of this site for a large, new building because of the fact that half of this lot next the railway is an undrained swamp," so called. Regulation 11 of the school law says "The school house shall be located at a distance from all sources of malaria such as swamps and stagnant water—also away from the dust of the street—it is indispensable that the ground be thoroughly dry and if not so naturally that it be well drained" and Reg. 12 states that schools having gardens attached should have from two to five acres as local conditions may permit, and separate playgrounds are required for boys and girls. Reg. 14 says "rough or wet grounds are to be rendered as smooth and dry as nature of soil will permit." Therefore it must be concluded that this site cannot be filled and graded up with a gravel top. It is no use to gloss this matter over by saying that it can be done all right and will not cost much. The drains must be well laid so as to permanently care for the seepage water from each side and the back of the lot and also through the centre, connecting with a school sewer to the river. Then figure on the balance of your tender for the job—having measured the grounds—the rock dirt or gravel filling and grading, and let us know what you will do it for and make a dollar on your contract. Of course it can be done if the district is willing to pay the bill.

Next, the ground turns out badly for a foundation, remember you must provide security for a very large, heavy building, so that the walls will not settle and crack. No proper testing of the ground has been made, although a test pit was dug last fall about 18 or 20 feet deep, striking gravel there. This is not enough evidence along this line. Nowadays it is not usual to get basements far into the ground, in order to be well lighted and ventilated and kept dry and healthy, there should be at least as much wall above ground as below. To get the best results from hot air furnaces the basement should be around 12 feet deep. That would mean on a good foundation the walls need not go more than 3 or perhaps 10 feet into the ground. But if a wall must be built on down 8, 10 or 12 feet further, it means a very large additional expense. It is to be regretted that this ground was not thoroughly tested last fall by a competent person who could have supplied conclusive evidence now on this matter.

But if it is decided to go ahead and build here, no matter what the expense, then let us consider the placing of the building. There is just about room to build between the present school house and the south line. Is it wise to do that, or remove or tear down the present building so as to locate the new house about the center of the lot? It would be difficult matter, perhaps impossible to run school during and fall while building operations were going on. Then the old house would take up so much of the grounds. No doubt it could be moved and might be placed on the other school ground north of the school garden and made useful as a community building, being near the public picnic, ice rink and ball grounds. The school garden might be moved to some other convenient place and a community flower garden established. A sym-

ing pool and gymnasium could be put in and rooms fitted for young people's activities. Women's Institute, debating club, public library, etc. It would seem to me to show a lack of ordinary wisdom and intelligence to tear down this building for all useful material that might be obtained would not begin to equal its value standing. It has a very attractive and striking outside appearance and could be made sanitary and comfortable by re-flooring, plastering the walls down to the floors and steel ceilings.

Now, as regards to the other site on the other side of the street where the school garden is, there would certainly not be so much street dust carried in to the building owing to the generally prevailing winds blowing from north west or south west. Very little of the basement need be underground and I think if a competent man were employed to go into this matter he would recommend a flat basement that would carry the building well above the street level and a sub-basement for hot water or steam heat, fuel and closets. The first could be used for play rooms, science and domestic work and boys' manual training, which is a mighty feature in school work today. The sub-basement need only be partly underground. There has been no testing of this ground for foundation data. There is a sewer running through the grounds now, but if a new one had to be put in it would not cost as much as one from the other lot. Then the play grounds are already levelled and need only a coat of gravel to prevent the showers making it wet and slippery. Owing to the present surface being so level and dirt rolled so hard the rain cannot readily escape. Possibly a building here might not be quite as imposing as on the other lot but the people may not wish to invest too much in the outside appearance. A few parties may object to having a school house so near their homes, but if the children have ample ground on which to play they will not be objectionable in any way. True, they would have to cross the street frequently but that obtains in all towns and cities. Some folks seem to have the idea that a "nigger in the woodpile" wishes to have the latter site chosen so that some interest, big or little may bubble up the other lot for a mere song. But the trustees can put the price on building or lot and I don't think can sell without the people's consent. There are those who would like to see a new house because of some money benefit to them, and others would like to have a large annex to the present house, thinking that their chances would be better to make a dollar. Others fear a heavy tax bill. But many are earnestly desiring to know what would be the best thing to do in the long run, all things considered.

The annex plan of providing class rooms in all, with the whole top for extra rooms or an assembly hall, the old part to be floored, plastered and metal celled, making it warm and sanitary, old house raised and basement deepened, closets and two new furnaces, one under each part will not cost so much now but would not do for many years. The fact that so many of our influential ratepayers have no children has a powerful bearing on the whole question.

J. STERLING KING, Secy.

### ANOTHER CORNER HEARD FROM

I often talk a lot and yet say but little. Many times I would have been better off had I kept still. This may be one of those times, but since reading the different articles in your paper in regard to the present conditions of school equipment and the building of a new school house I have had to use some suppression to keep still, and at last, have to give way.

I never have had much of a voice in public questions of our town, yet I have quite deep convictions which if I could have them put in action, some things would be different.

Now I wish to say at the first I fail to see in the articles touching condition of the present school building, its equipment any sane agreement set forth that would necessitate building a new school building and thus plunge the town into a debt, the burden of which the poorer rate payers would feel for years to come.

Furthermore, in my judgment it is very poor policy and unwise to publish broadcast over our country, into the hands of so many that read the news of our little town, such deplorable conditions of one of our most im-

I am quite sure you all will agree that the case of which was gold because the works were inferior, or were clogged with dirt?

Would we discard and sacrifice our potato house and build a larger one, if we had land space to enlarge our present one at much less cost than building new, or would we vacate our \$10,000 home and build one to cost \$50,000 just because a few things had gone wrong with the fixtures, or the wife not attended to reading the Ladies Home Journal or social clubs, and let the home get filthy, or children not increased on our hands, so we could not accommodate them? I think your answer would be "No." Not unless we had more money than brains.

But I hear you saying these are private affairs and dealing with school building is a public affair. Exactly so, but in my mind if we would not consider the public in general and (the poor especially) in handling their means as good stewards we are not fit to be stewards.

It might be good for us to read the Golden Rule once a month anyway; better once a week. I saw an article in one of our S. S. quarterlies not long since which suits our present day very well. A gentleman was walking down the street and on either side of him a little boy. They were wrangling and striking at each other. A bystander asked of the gentleman, what was the trouble with the two boys. "Oh," he said, "just what I am afraid is wrong with this old world. I have three cocksnuts in my pocket and they have found it out and now they are fighting to see which of them will get two." Now if you think this worth printing and it won't take up space that could be better utilized, in next issue perhaps I might give you my views as to what I would do with old watch, potato house, home or school house.

Thanking you, I am yours,

L. A. WARD

## NEW COUNCIL HAS ITS FIRST MEETING

Will Undertake to Carry On With the Same Amount as Last Year

The inaugural meeting of the 1923 town council was held on Monday evening and was presided over by His Worship Mayor McFarland. All the members were present. The session was opened with Scripture reading and prayer by Rev. Thomas Pierce who also gave a short address to the Board. The mayor addressed the members, outlining some of the things he hoped to see done during the year.

The treasurer's report showed collections of \$114.60 for the month of January with expenditures of \$4,232.34.

The general budget for 1923 was made up as given below and the total sum was the same as that of last year.

GENERAL BUDGET	
Water assessment	\$2300
Streets	1500
Miscellaneous	700
Salaries	500
Police	200
Poor	200
Cemetery	200
Discount	200
	\$4000
WATER BUDGET	
Debitures	\$1000
Improvements	300

### THE METHODIST W. M. S.

The W. M. S. of the Methodist church held their monthly meeting on Tuesday evening in the school room of the church. There was a good attendance and two new members were received. After the usual opening and routine business the matter of the annual Birthday Party was discussed which will be held the latter part of the month the date not yet finally being decided upon. There followed the study period, chapter five of "World Friendship Inc." being taken up. After closing, a dainty luncheon was served, or being the hostesses. This society in conjunction with the "Ever Ready" class of the Sunday school intend giving a sacred concert on Good Friday evening when the young ladies class will put on a sacred drama entitled, "The Challenge of the Cross." Further notice will be given later.

### THOMAS HALLETT

On Sunday afternoon, January 22 the funeral of Thomas Hallett was held from his home at Lower Windsor. Mr. Hallett had been a resident of Lower Windsor for upwards of 50 years and was held in high esteem by all those who knew him, and the sym-

ptoms of the entire community go out to those that are left to mourn. Mr. Hallett leaves behind him Mrs. Hallett, who at the present time is in rather feeble health, also three sons, Sanford and Douglas at home, Moody at Waterville, and one brother residing in Colorado. Also five daughters: Mrs. Woodford Frouser, Fort George, B. C., Mrs. Wilmet Melvin, Lower Wakefield, Mrs. Herman Downey, Mainstreet, Mrs. William Boyle, Smyrna, Me., and Miss Lavina Hallett residing at Wakefield.

The funeral service was conducted by the Rev. W. J. Alexander, pastor of the Coldstream United Baptist Church, assisted by the choir from the Coldstream church.

### OPPOSITION CONVENTION

There will be a convention of the Provincial Opposition Party in St. John on Thursday, February 20, at three o'clock at the Seamen's Institute, Prince William street.

The matter of export policy of the party will be discussed as well as the leadership. The convention will be open to all party friends both men and women and it is expected that all who can will make a special effort to be present at this convention.

Extension	1500
Interest	450
Fuel	350
Salaries	350
Lights	50
Chief and Firemen	100
Discount	100
	\$4100

On motion J. F. Murdoch was employed as fire chief with a salary of \$75 and it was reported that a fire company is being organized. J. E. McCollom, H. J. Alton and J. S. King were appointed assessors for 1923 and H. J. Alton and J. E. McCollom were appointed revisors.

The question of F. E. Sayre's claim of excessive taxation was discussed and it was decided to carry the matter to the Supreme Court if refusal to pay was persisted in.

The representatives to the County Council reported that a committee had been appointed by the County Council to confer with the town council of Woodstock on the matter of county assessment and report at the June meeting of the county council.

R. B. Higerman was appointed auditor.

An act passed in 1903 gave the Lieutenant Governor in Council the authority to lease or sell the waterpowers of the province and also the power to incorporate companies to acquire such water powers and expropriation rights.

The Grand Falls Water Power and Boom Company having successfully evaded the fulfillment of their obligations for ten years, their policy of procrastination was taken up and faithfully carried on by their worthy

successors. The Grand Falls Power Company, Limited, whose charter was confirmed by an act passed by the Legislature, in 1905. The only provisions in this act were similar to those in the act of ten years previous, plans to be approved by the Federal and Provincial Governments before commencement of work. Having found this clause so effective in the previous charter, it was deemed advisable by the Legislature to have this same safeguard incorporated in the act.

Lacking action on the part of the company and to make assurance doubly sufficient legislation in this matter, an act was passed in 1906 confirming the act of the previous year.

After thirteen years of unparalleled patience, on the part of the people, and inaction on the part of the company we find a credulous Legislature granting further favors to the company even to the extent of expropriation rights covering the Commons Land of the Town of Grand Falls and also an extension of time for the commencement and completion of work.

Under an act passed in 1911 all the property, rights, privileges, and franchises of their predecessors, the Grand Falls Power Company, Limited and the Grand Falls Power and Boom Company, Limited, were vested in a company with a more appropriate name: The Grand Falls Company, Limited, the "Power" and "Boom", in this case, being wisely omitted.

The Legislature dealt even more generously with this company than with the others for, though demanding a deposit of \$50,000, no time was set for the commencement of work and while giving them all rights, held by their predecessors, they failed to make them responsible for their liabilities and consequently taxes to the amount of \$150,000 were lost by the county of Victoria.

After five years of possession by this company, in which time not one dollar had been expended in construction, the Legislature, with a fund of patience apparently inexhaustible, passed an act in 1916 extending the time, to the company, for the commencement of work until one year after peace had been declared. This company, according to the established custom, made no attempt to commence work, even though the time limit expired. Yet we find that in 1921, long after peace had ceased to be a virtue, a super-lent Legislature extending the time for commencement of work a further period of two years.

This last extension expires on the first of May, 1923, and after reading the above, is there a resident of this province but who should ask that this matter be dealt with differently and for the benefit of the people rather than to suit the purposes of the present holders who certainly have no intention of carrying out their obligations.

GRAND FALLS BOARD OF TRADE

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Eager For Power Development States Their Case—A Few Historical Notes

To enlighten the general public as to why we oppose any further extension being granted to the present holders of the charter controlling the rights to develop the Grand Falls power, we submit a brief history of the movement from its first inception down to the present time.

Although the matter of developing this power and erecting pulp mills had been discussed over thirty years ago. The first legislation, in connection with this project, was enacted in 1895 when a company was incorporated by a federal charter, under the name of The Grand Falls Power and Boom Company. This company was also incorporated under provincial charter, in the same year. The only proviso in connection with this charter was that the plans must be approved by the Governor General in Council before the company commenced work. (In the light of subsequent events this stipulation was quite superfluous.)

The stage now being set and the "farce" ready to start the curtain rises for the second act, passed in 1898, which was an act to extend the time of development for three years; the company to expend within that time the sum of \$50,000 in actual construction, but during that time the company made no attempt to carry out its obligations.

Notwithstanding the inaction on the part of the company, we find a compliant Legislature, in 1901, incorporating the same company and attaching conditions as follows: "That they commence work and expend before March 1903, the sum of \$50,000, the sum of \$50,000 otherwise the powers granted to become null and void." In this case as in previous cases, nothing was done.

The Legislature, taking time by the forelock, did not wait for expiration of the time, above mentioned, but in 1903, passed an act authorizing the leasing and development of the water power at Grand Falls, and demanded from the company a deposit of \$50,000 as a guarantee of good faith, this deposit to be declared forfeited and to become part of the revenue of the province, if the terms of the agreement were not adhered to by the company.

In spite of the non-fulfillment of their promises, on the part of the company, a generous Government failed to take advantage of this clause in the act and, as yet, the revenue of the province has never been augmented by the forfeiture of this deposit.

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The Grand Falls Water Power and Boom Company having successfully evaded the fulfillment of their obligations for ten years, their policy of procrastination was taken up and faithfully carried on by their worthy

Former Carleton Co. Woman, Aged 85, Dies in Vancouver

On December 5, a very enjoyable dinner party was given in honor of Mrs. Lizzie Holmes, at the home of her son, Fred Holmes, Vancouver, B. C., it being the occasion of her birthday.

Mrs. Holmes made her own birthday cake, and also presented each guest with a dainty gift of her own handwork. She received many useful presents from her friends. Those present were: Mrs. Augustus Nicholson, Mrs. G. W. Jamieson, Mr. and Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. W. L. Moore and three visitors recently from New Brunswick, Mrs. Od-

bur-Trafford, Mrs. John Perley and Miss Leota Peterson.

Mrs. Holmes has since died, passing away on December 31 from paralysis. She formerly lived at Connell. There is left one son, Fred, with whom she lived.

Very few potatoes are being hauled this cold weather and the price remains the same as it has been for the past five months. Hay is wanted at \$10 per ton and oats readily bring 45c. Eggs and butter both are scarce and will readily fetch 40c per dozen and per pound respectively.

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### PRODUCE PRICES

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