

# MORNING STAR

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## City Hall Project Should Be Divorced From Speculative Opera House Scheme

### Truro People Should Think Twice Before Investing \$7.45 Each in a New Picture Show Business, Whilst New Indus- tries Languish for Want of Capital

The Town Council wants to borrow \$56,000.00 and a poll is to be held to-night asking the Local Legislature now in session at Halifax to empower the Council to go into the money market and make the loan.

Forty-five thousand dollars of the amount is for a proposed civic building, with a public hall attachment—a public which it is said, will seat not more than 750 people.

Eleven thousand of the amount is to retire maturing debentures, that is to pay back money which the people of Truro, on the advice of their council, borrowed years ago.

While LUNN'S WEEKLY has never seriously opposed the civic building project, it has opposed a building of that kind with public hall attachment.

We are not begging quarter.

Not at all.

All we ask is a square deal.

Our opposition to a public hall, with opera house attachment, if you will, is based on the light of history.

For years Daniel Gunn struggled with the problem of trying to finance a house of amusement.

We say Mr. Gunn's experience is a matter of history.

He never made one cent. He first invested in the old Conversorium and afterward in Gunn's Opera House.

He met with two losses by fire, and on the second occasion did not rebuild a house of amusement.

The lot on Inglis street that his building occupied is now in part occupied by Oak Hall, clothing store, and G. H. Johnson, jewelry store; the balance of the lot is vacant awaiting purchaser.

Now, if there is money in a house of amusement, public hall, as the Council is trying to make the Ratepayers believe, why did not Mr. Gunn continue it the business, or why did not some person, say F. G. Spencer, purchase the lot and erect a public hall or place of amusement.

Or if not F. G. Spencer, some other person, say the Mayor, who is a public spirited man looking for investments that will serve the people, and pay the dividend that is the rightful heritage of the man who invests his money for the benefit of the public?

Mayor Stuart has invested in that way.

He was one of the originators of the Eastern Hat and Cap Company, and is a member of the firm of W. G. Reid & Co., Wholesale Jewellers, which, it is said, are negotiat-

ing for the purchase of the old County building on Victoria square, with its fire proof vaults.

This building, it is said, can be purchased for \$1,500.

If so, and we know the figures are correct, why does not the town purchase it? To do so will save the ratepayers of Truro assuming a debt, the difference between \$45,000 and \$1,500—\$43,500.

Returning again to the question of Mr. Gunn's venture it can be said, that conditions in respect to places of amusement, public halls if you will, are much different now than then.

In Mr. Gunn's days there were no Nickel shows.

The prices in those days ranged from twenty five cents to one dollar fifty.

To-day in the "Nickels" one can see pictures of the art of the best actors for five or ten cents, and time is not far distant when the voices of the actors can be heard, by means of the phonograph which Edison has about brought to perfection.

London, Montreal, and New York, say the days of the big show, are a thing of the past, that the cheaper shows are here to stay.

We fancy Truro is getting all the entertainment it wants to day at the lower price.

If the Town theatre is coming, a private venture in this town will be depreciated in value.

The assessment of the "Orpheum" Hall on Inglis Street will be less next year; with no compensating value in the new scheme.

Another point in connection with Mr. Gunn's venture: In his day when the Devil's Auction, the London Gaiety Girls, and the Adamless Eden, were announced to be put on delegations in the interest of morality, so it is said, were appointed to wait on the Council and ask that the shows be suppressed, and in some cases the delegation succeeded.

Now supposing the lessee desires to put on shows of that nature, will the Ministerial Association, the moral leaders of Truro, consent that he be permitted to do so, especially when their properties are to be mortgaged to provide a play house where such may be exhibited.

In fact, there is so much to be said in opposition to this public hall proposition that it would fill ten daily issues of this paper.

Enough, we think, has been said to put the case fairly, and let the vote be given with a fair knowledge of the facts.