

THE UNION ADVOCATE

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER
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Editorial

DEFAULT TAXES AGAIN!

The matter of the collection of rates and taxes by the Town of Newcastle; has for years been a bugbear to the Council; especially the committee having the supervision of this particular department. However, this year's Finance Committee are determined to make a clean-up of the large amount outstanding and the ratepayers are looking to them for results during 1923.

The amount of unpaid taxes as at January 1st, 1923 was \$38,045.05. Of this amount \$15,033.46 was collected and \$3,000.00 written off in 1923; leaving a debit balance of \$20,011.59 to which is added the unpaid taxes for 1923 amounting to \$18,256.95; leaving a total of unpaid taxes as at Jan. 1st, 1924 amounting to \$38,268.54 or \$223.49 more than it was at Jan. 1st 1923; with \$3000.00 written off as uncollectable.

From the above it will be seen that our default tax list amount is increasing instead of decreasing; until our town has come to the point that it is generally admitted that something must be done.

With a view to improving the situation; various suggestions have been advanced and no doubt the Finance Committee will seriously consider all such suggestions in the spirit in which they are given for the sole purpose of causing an improvement in this most vital and important matter. With a definite policy arrived at concerning the collection of default taxes and a Tax collector commissioned to proceed in the collection of amounts owing; we see no good reasons why a radical improvement should not result therefrom. If the Civic Authorities will make it plain unless taxes are paid the machinery of the law will be put into action the results will indicate clearly what can be done when it is distinctly understood by all that the Town means business. Hitherto, Town Councils have tried out the easier method of moral suasion refraining from drastic measures but this method has failed and as a result there has accumulated a large amount of arrears.

We believe that every tax payer should pay and if not—and it is at all possible for him to do so—he should be assisted by the machinery provided by law. The present Council apparently seems to be alive to the urgency of this default tax collection question and it is to be hoped that there will be no backing down until the state is reached when the amount of arrears is such that it is impossible to collect.

BOOST NEW BRUNSWICK

If we in New Brunswick—during the past fifteen years—had labored with a larger degree of energy to keep our province on the map we would not have been called upon to witness the present unsatisfactory condition to which our Province has drifted.

This down east land of ours requires only the energetic efforts of an ambitious people—not a fraction thereof—but of the whole half million of souls. Too long have we whined and whimpered and called for assistance without offering to help ourselves and it is now necessary for us to put forth a genuine effort which will inspire our people to roll up their sleeves and set about our task which undoubtedly will result in success. We all realize that New Brunswick's great need is capital for the development of industry and if such is not at hand our chief aim and object should be to induce this from a desirable source. This can not be had for the asking as the live and wide awake communities realize. We must show what we have and what we want; and if we correctly broadcast the great possibilities of our province there will be many to seek the many opportunities offered.

The people of this province have been altogether too modest in seeking to advance its interests and it is about time that we gave way to such an error and attempted to accomplish worthwhile things along correct business lines. We have an organization known as the New Brunswick Tourist Association which is already pressing hard for its welfare in other lands by seeking recognition of New Brunswick as a desirable place in which to live or spend a vacation. This organization is worthy of our heartiest support and co-operation for the good of our Province let us get behind it.

EDITORS MAIL

We are not responsible for opinions expressed by writers under this heading. Correspondents would oblige by writing legibly, and on one side of the paper only, name and address (not necessarily for publication) must always be sent. Correspondence should be as concise as possible.

Editor Advocate:

Your correspondent has many times lately been impressed by remarks in regard to conditions in our town in one phase and another all however, quite timely remarks and tending to the betterment of conditions generally.

A town election has recently been held, and if one is to judge by those who this year, are aldermen there is some good material in our council and naturally we shall expect good results. That there is abundant room for improvement in some, if not in all of the Departments, no one will question. Can't we have some improvements?

Your correspondent notes that there will soon be a change in our police force. We are certainly hoping for a big improvement. It is a difficult position to fill satisfactorily, but our people—many at least—have a sense of righteous indignation at the way in which the affairs of this department have been conducted. Give us a man or men who are live wires, but do not squander the people's money just for the name of policemen. We will not be satisfied with mere figure heads—give us men who earn their salaries.

Then again there is always more or less talk about our park, but unfortunately sounding brass or tinkling cymbal will not accomplish

much in keeping our park nice.

There is always a time in the early summer when a pretty thorough cleaning is given to this central spot, but after that—what? How does it look about the month of July or August or on to the end of the season? The fountain has been made the receptacle of a heterogeneous accumulation of paper, sticks, stones etc.; and the surrounding parts—Oh! my—it beggars description. Still there are any need for engaging the services of a high-priced man to take occasional spurts at fixing it up? Remember, the town is poor, and there are streets in the business heart of the town crying for permanent walks and clean gutters. For heaven's sake don't waste our money!

Once more, in certain sections of the town it has been the habit of a certain class to throw the rubbish from their little stores either on the side walk or in the gutters. That goes on month after month and no one seems to say "you must not" and when a gentle breeze or more boisterous wind springs up the bunches of paper go careering round and ultimately land on the premises of a more cleanly neighbor. Is there no by-law or "clause" to prevent this sort of thing, also is it not part of the duties of a not overworked chief of police to see that cleanliness and the laws of health along these lines are given at least some attention?

There are many other matters on which your correspondent would like to give an expression of thought, without the slightest desire to "knock" our little town, but with the strongest desire for an all around bettering of conditions. Let there be a "long pull, a strong pull and all pull together."

Yours for
BETTERMENT

To the Mayor and Town Council,
Town.

Gentlemen,
When the Advocate and the Leader were read to me, regarding my taxation I could not help but view with hopelessness and discouragement the unchanging conditions of the affairs of the town of Newcastle. Council may come and council may go, but we are in the same old groove for ever!

Be assured gentlemen of the council it is not your refusal of considering my taxation that disappointed me the most, although it is of a very vital interest to me. But it is the manner in which you have arrived at the decision; not only without giving a reason for such an action, but by passing the buck to the assessors. Shifting responsibility! The same old way I have received for the last two years, from the assessors to the council and from the council to the assessors. And here we are again.

For the life of me I cannot see why sane sensible men seek public office without having the courage to administer justice and act with out prejudice and with sincerity. "The Leader says Ald. Armstrong said 'that if the council started making reductions they would have requests right along from others'; which clearly shows that there are many complaints hanging in the balance and that the council have not courage enough to face the ordeal and go into the root of the evil, instead of scratching the surface and shifting responsibility.

Gentlemen of the council did it ever occur to you to investigate these claims and find the reasons for the complaints? Surely there must be some just reason for almost general dissatisfaction. Did it ever occur to you gentlemen of the Council to take the tax list and look up all the ratepayers individually and find out where real grievances may be made, which may increase the revenue of the town and decrease the rate. Isn't the question of taxation the most important

Spring Time Is Dress Time

Soon we will be able to go about without coat or wrap, adorned in a Summery Dress, crisp and new—breathing the very air of Springtime. Women who come to CREAGHANS will find an assortment of Dresses that are sure to please.

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tant of all civic questions? Is it not one of the most important fundamentals for the success of any town or community? Is it not a question that deserves the attention of those who are at the helm of civic affairs?

No matter how intelligent are the assessors unless they have a basis of knowledge to work upon they cannot give satisfactory assessments and I am confident that they have not as I can judge by my own case and others of my acquaintance. Guess work is detrimental to the prosperity of our town and it is time that all ratepayers should wake up to these facts. The Leader further says "let them go to the proper people, the assessors—and submit a statement." Let me inform you gentlemen of the Council that I can do so and more—I can give a public accountant's sworn statement. While this action may remedy my case for the present but what about the future?

Gentlemen of the Council, in the best interest of the town of Newcastle and to all its citizens; for its future prosperity and welfare you must devise means of knowledge to the assessors whereby they can base their assessment on facts and not on guess work. Why not make it compulsory for all business and retired men to furnish statements. Employers to furnish report of wages; revise the valuation of real estate, let us put our taxation on a sound business basis. There is nothing wrong in the system of our taxation, the wrong is in the distribution of such taxes. The wrong is in the lack of basis for working out the proper solution. The wrong lies in the lack of courage of those who offer themselves to public office to perform their duty with justice to themselves and others.

Gentlemen of the Council, my advice to you while you still have the enthusiasm of beginning is to resolve that you should go to the bottom of things and unearth the root of evil and adjust it for the all

time to come. If you are looking for a better town, better place to live in—do not scratch the surface only. Listen to all the complaints—call the complainants and listen to their reasons.

There is not a self respecting citizen that does not wish to contribute his share of the current expenses of the town, but it must be done with justice and for value received.

Yours truly;
A.D. FARRAH.

THE HOLIDAYS

Will the fact that May 24th falls this year on Saturday change the holiday to June 3rd? This question is now being asked by many who would like to know which day it is proposed to observe. The matter of the weekly half-holiday during the summer months might just as well be decided on at the same time.

A Splendid Laxative For the Baby

Mothers should constantly be on guard to keep baby's bowels working freely and his stomach sweet, for nine-tenths of the ailments from which little ones suffer are caused by derangements of the stomach and bowels. Baby's Own Tablets are a splendid laxative for the baby. They are mild but thorough, contain neither opiates nor narcotics, and are absolutely guaranteed to be safe and efficient for either the newborn babe or the growing child. By their action on the bowels and stomach they drive out constipation and indigestion; break up colds and simple fevers and make the dreaded teething period easy. The Tablets are sold by medicine dealers or by mail at 25 cents a box from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

Robin Hood week in Newcastle will be held on May 21st and 22nd at the Empress Theatre. "The wonderful story of Robin Hood" will be shown on the screen. Watch further announcements.



Robin Hood's Merry Men of History are replaced by Happy Housewives of To-day

Robin Hood brought joy and gladness to thousands in the days of Richard the First even as Robin Hood to-day in countless thousands of Canadian Homes. What household duty gives such genuine pleasure or creates more real happiness for Mothers than a successful bake-day?

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