

# The Union Advocate

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NEWCASTLE, N. B., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12 1916

NO. 16

## CIVIC AFFAIRS DISCUSSED BY T. I. L.

### C. E. Fish, for Mayor; and Ald. Hayward, Stables and Stuart, for Re-Election, Tell What They Stand For.

The mass meeting to hear the discussion of Town affairs by the retiring Council, prospective candidates, and other citizens, held in the hall Monday night, 10th inst., was fairly well attended. Another will be held next Monday night in same place, when all the candidates will have been nominated. All electors, ladies and gentlemen, are especially invited to be present.

The chair was taken by Rev. S. J. MacArthur at 8:30.

Rev. S. J. MacArthur was the first speaker. He spoke of the great drain of the war and the great need for the utmost conservation of manhood and all other resources if we were to win the struggle. The Nova Scotians were endeavoring to develop power electrically at Split Rock on the Bay of Fundy, which would be available for Newcastle. All who live in the town should take the deepest interest in public affairs. President J. M. Troy then took the chair.

The minutes of two last meetings of the League, March 9th and 11th, were read and confirmed.

Mr. Troy stated the object of the meeting—to get an expression of opinion on Town Affairs. This was under the auspices of the League, as well as the recent public meeting which was addressed by Rev. W. R. Robinson and Secretary Rev. W. D. Wilson of the Dominion Alliance. It had been a very important meeting and had doubtless helped in formation of the Prohibition bill now being prepared by the Local Government.

The Alliance wish to have Prohibition granted directly without the expense of a referendum. Until we get something better we must enforce the Scott Act. The Scott Act had almost invariably succeeded. It is brought in by the will of the people and can only be repealed in the same way. It wants enforcement behind it, as would the proposed new law. The town should be fairly well satisfied with the present Council. They had had a hard row to hoe. They had had difficulty with inspectors, but that was happily over. The incoming Council should collect the default taxes. It is unfair to them who pay to carry the burdens of those who don't. The citizens should make the best possible selection for next Council.

Mayor G. G. Stothart.

Mayor Stothart said he had tried to live up to his promises. The Scott Act enforcement and collection of taxes, etc., as best he could. Re-enforcement of the Scott Act—a man had applied last year who came along the early part of this. This man seemed to think that the people did not want the Act enforced, and he apparently let things slip a little. So the first two or three months of this civic year passed, hurting us so far as collections went also. It came to the point that he had to be asked to do better or resign. There was then a little change of dog taxes, and we have in mind the installation of a system which should bring results in this department.

Regarding our Public Works Department. I feel that with the proper attention much greater efficiency could be reached in the management of this part of Town affairs. Nothing would improve our town better than good streets. We have the most essential part of equipment for building roads, and this has not been used for years. I refer to the Rock Crusher, that cost us nearly \$2,000, that rendered us such valuable service in the building of Pleasant St. some years ago. If this plant cannot be used to advantage, it should then be sold before it rusts out, and becomes an entire loss, and the proceeds applied to the extension of our sewerage system.

This however should not be necessary, but with a definite plan a certain amount of rock could be crushed each year, and permanent repairs made to our roads, instead of cringing on unsuitable material, which means the spending of our money without securing anything.

Allow me here to quote a statement made by Earl Gray on returning to London after ten years office as Governor General of Canada. Every Canadian knows that Canada one day will be the most prosperous and the most wealthy part of the British Empire. If Canada can keep her judiciary pure, her politics clean, and her administration honest, there is nothing under heaven

to prevent her from one day becoming the controlling factor of this great Empire of Nations." Is not this prospect a glorious one, and should not every town and city strive to bring about its fulfillment, that the heritage left our children may be a nobler one because of our lives and efforts? Can we not have the united efforts of the citizens of this town to make it known as a model town of clean streets, clean morals, sober men, clean administration, with the wheels of industry continually humming. In fact, the best ever? We can do it. Will we?

Before closing I would like to call your attention to our statement of assets and liabilities, for the year ending December 31, 1915. For years, I have had a longing for an opportunity to re-adjust this account of Assets and Liabilities, as to my mind it did not give a fair showing of the standing of our town. The success of a Banker is in the good statement he can show the public, and then success of the town will be aided materially by our being able to show a good statement, and when we have it may not let it be published.

You will find that for years our liabilities show greater than our assets, when such was not the case. We have the record of having a very high tax rate and I believe this is true, but we need not show a deficit when we have a surplus.

Now let us analyze this new statement on page 28 of our annual report, to which I may add is the exact form that I prepared for the Auditor.

The first item you will note is the Properties and Plant per schedule, and to provide for depreciation of Plant, we have started an account where an amount can be written off each year. To begin with, we have taken off 1 per cent. The need of a proper depreciation of Plant is obvious.

The second item, you will note is the Sinking Fund of \$19,621.59. This is deposited in the Royal Bank of Canada and bearing interest at 3 per cent, a very good arrangement indeed.

While the third item is the Current Account, which bears interest at 3 per cent, a very good arrangement indeed.

The next item is Unpaid Taxes of \$21,011.89. Of this amount \$8,704.85 are defaulters for 1915. The remaining \$12,307.04 are defaulters of 1914 and previous years. Heretofore, these have been taken in our statement at the full value while we all realize it will not be possible to collect for all. To provide for this, we have set aside an amount of \$2,241.65 to allow for a probable loss. The balances due on Water and Light show a slight increase over last year. These we understand are accounts recently contracted, and will shortly be collected.

And you will note the absence this year of \$4,297.70 under the heading of "Anderson Loan." Since there are no further monies to be collected on this account it is needless to carry it as an asset.

The last item, cash needs no explanation, which gives us a total of \$212,367.51 for our total assets.

Now as to Liabilities. We have the regular accounts, Schools, Board of Health, etc. Also note a substantial balance to the credit of the Canada Temperance Act.

The next item is our Debentures, which total \$189,000 against which we have a Sinking Fund of over \$19,621, leaving our net bonded indebtedness less than \$170,000.

Now after setting aside \$1,566 for depreciation of plant, \$2,241.65 probable loss on taxes we have a surplus over and above our Liabilities of \$7,092.59. Is not this a much more creditable showing than a deficit of \$15,000 or \$17,000? This will help outsiders to think more favorably of our town and with a readjustment of our tax rate and a proper course of advertising, many may be induced to select Newcastle for their home.

We have everything on the March 1st to make a city, excepting the people, and efforts should be made to increase our numbers.

Due to lack of experience in civic affairs, I have not accomplished, this year, as much as I had expected, but have the needs of our town for next year well in hand and if you, in your good judgment see fit to elect me as your representative at the Town Council for the ensuing year, I will do my utmost to enforce the laws of our land, conserve our resources, and practice economy. Never in the world's history has this been required to such a degree as now when we are losing so many of our best men in this terrible war.

I take this opportunity of asking you all to vote for me on Election Day.

Ald. James Stables.

## Newcastle Boy Makes Supreme Sacrifice

### Samuel Regan, 28th Field Battery, Killed in Action April 1st.

The sad intelligence of the death on April 1st, on the field of battle of Gunner Samuel Regan was received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Regan, of Newcastle this morning.

This is the second of Newcastle's brave heroes who have made the supreme sacrifice, and while the blow is a severe one to his wife, his parents and sisters, it will be with a thrill of pride and honor that his memory will live within them that his death was a glorious one, paid while in the service of King and country.

The sorrowing mother of this young hero, received a letter from him only five days before yesterday, in which he told her he had been in one big engagement, and said that by the time she would get his letter, he expected to be in another. The message of this second battle was death, the memory of which will long live in the minds of his many young associates of peace-time. He enlisted here with the 28th Field Battery under Major Crocker, and when heard from last was "Somewhere in France."

At the time of enlisting he was married to Miss Edith Bell, of Nelson, N. B. who after the departure of her husband, moved to Waverley, Mass. where she is now residing. Her many Newcastle friends will extend to her their deepest sympathy.

## Newcastle Man Released in Bellingham

### No Evidence Against John Brooks in the Famous Bellingham Robbery Case

Last month's newspapers of Bellingham, Wash., tell the release of John Brooks, the royal estate dealer who was arrested by Skagit County authorities last September as being one of the men suspected of holding up a train on the Great Northern between Bellingham and Burlington and murdering two men. He has been released, there being no incriminating evidence against him—nothing for which to place him on trial.

Both the Bellingham Argus of the 18th ult. and the North Bellingham Sentinel of the 24th, refer with indignation to Mr. Brooks' six months incarceration without any justification. Mr. Brooks used to live here and is well known on the North Shore. Everyone will be glad to hear of his innocence.

Act Inspector who knows his business. He has not been asked to collect taxes. In St. John one-third of the voters are disqualified for non-payment of taxes.

Shortly after election, continued Ald. Stables, he had been interviewed by a hotel man who offered to put an auditor on his books and give him 25 per cent. of his net profits. If he would not enforce the law against him.

Ald. Stuart.

Ald. H. H. Stuart spoke as follows: Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, It is with pleasure and confidence being a stranger to most of you in 1908, I received only 20 per cent. of the total vote polled, but as you came to know me better and as, without changing its meaning one particle, I made my platform plainer, you gave me a larger vote each year until in 1911, I became one of the representatives at your Council Board, and continued to be such for three years in succession, and again in 1914-1915.

As soon as I was elected, I began to redeem my pledges, and I trust I have succeeded in satisfactorily doing so.

In the Council on Sept. 28, 1911, I moved, seconded by Ald. T. W. Butler, who had long been in sympathy with the idea, the following:

Resolved That this Town Council of the Town of Newcastle prepare (or co-operate with the Union of N. B. Municipalities or any County, City or Town in the province of N. B., shall, upon a majority vote of its qualified ratepayers, have the power to reduce or abolish wholly, in part, or in whole, the property taxes on real estate, or any one or more of these, and raise its revenue by means of a Land Tax with or without a Poll Tax

and with or without a system of business licenses."

This was passed unanimously.

On Oct. 12, 1911, as one of Newcastle's delegates, I moved a similar resolution in the Union of N. B. Municipalities. It was seconded and loyally supported by Ald. Butler of Newcastle and Potts of St. John, and carried.

On March 21st, 1912, however, the Council reversed its decision, by a vote of 5 to 1. Ald. Butler and Geo. Stables being absent, and refused to send the resolution to the Legislature.

On the same date, I moved for a new and thorough valuation of the town, but got no second.

The Secretary of the Union of Municipalities did not present the resolution, which had carried by a large majority, to the Legislature.

In the Maritime Board of Trade, in August, 1913, I moved what was practically the same resolution as was presented to the Union of Municipalities. It met with much favor, and an amendment was carried asking the Legislatures to appoint commissions to examine into the whole system of Municipal Taxation. The provincial governments failed to respond; but they will have to grapple with the question and settle it some day.

In 1912, you returned me with a larger vote than ever, and I continued to urge my platform upon the Council, on May 16th moving the following, which was seconded by Ald. Doyle:

Resolved That in the opinion of this Town Council there should be made before the time arrives for next assessment, a new and complete valuation of all the Real Estate, Personal Property and Incomes of the Town;

That such valuation should be made by an independent assessment expert, or experts, from outside the Town;

That it is expedient to spend any amount up to \$1000 to pay the necessary expenses of such valuation.

In order to get section 2 passed we had to eliminate the words "from outside the Town."

This amended, the resolution passed without division.

Three ratepayers—all ratepayers, but one a non-resident—were nominated by the Council, but only the non-resident (County Councillor L. Doyle) was willing to act. So, no valuation was made, and the old-fashioned, stupid, unjust assessments continuing to be annually thrust upon us.

On Feb. 19th, 1914, I endeavored to have \$1000 placed in the estimates for a new valuation, but was outvoted.

On Feb. 12, 1913, I moved to ask the Legislature to enable the Town, upon a majority vote of its qualified ratepayers voting, to:

1. Reduce the poll tax to \$1.00 flat regardless of the amount of total assessment.
2. Reduce the assessment on Buildings and other improvements of Real Estate by 25 per cent. for 1914; by 50 per cent. for 1915; and to nothing for 1916 and each year thereafter.
3. Exempt all incomes up to \$400.
4. Exempt personal property and substitute therefor a Business License.
5. Abolish the property qualification for office of Alderman.
6. Abolish the property qualification for office of Mayor.
7. Abolish income qualification for voting and allow all persons who pay poll tax, as well as all those who pay any other form of tax, to vote.

In sections 5 and 6 I was asking for Newcastle only the conditions that obtain in elections for the Dominion House of Commons, the Provincial Assembly, and the City Council of St. John. Section 7, I think, is also law in St. John. Section 3 asks for much less than the exemption allowed in St. John, Halifax, and many other places, and in St. John, I understand, the poll tax is only \$2.00.

If sections 1, 2, 3 and 4, or any of them had been adopted, the tax on land would have had to be increased. That would have made it harder to hold land idle, and would thus have led to closer settlement and therefore made it possible for more people to have the use of the water and sewerage systems.

Ald. Miller and Mackay favored half of section 2, but the majority would agree to was to reduce the poll tax to \$5.00. This was passed by the Legislature and has since been the law.

On Feb. 19th, 1914, I moved, seconded by Ald. W. H. Belyea, who was strongly sympathetic, sections 2 to 6 of the resolution that had been brought out the year before. That to abolish the Tax on Improvements was lost only by the casting vote of Mayor Morrissey, the vote being:

Yes—Ald. Belyea, Mackay and myself.

No—Ald. Miller, McGrath and Falconer, and the Mayor.

The other sections were also lost. On Feb. 17, 1915, in the present Council, my similar resolution did not get even a second. But I do not believe that their action in this respect truly represented the wishes of the majority of the people of Newcastle.

## LAST MEETING OF TOWN COUNCIL

### Very Complete Report of Chief of Police Finley

#### ---Ald. Creaghan Not to Offer for Re-Election---New Assessor Appointed

Town Council met in special session last night, Mayor Stothart in the chair. Aldermen present—Doyle, Hayward, McGrath, Stables and Stuart.

A communication to Mayor Stothart was read from Lt.-Col. P. A. Guthrie giving the following resolution passed by the Provincial Recruiting Association at its meeting held in Fredericton, March 15th, 1916:

"Resolved that in the opinion of this Association, the Dominion Government, the Local Government, and all Municipal and civic governing bodies should give preference to returned soldiers in their appointments, and that, in case of employment of civilians during the war, such appointments be only temporary, and that no single man, eligible for military service, who is not enlisted, be given any position by any such governing body."

The Mayor said that personally he was in favor of the resolution, and recommended that it be received and adopted.

Moved by Ald. Stables that the resolution be received and adopted and placed on file. Carried.

Mr. C. E. Fish's resignation as an assessor in consequence of his having offered for the Mayoralty, was read, and on motion accepted.

Ald. McGrath moved that the Town Clerk's salary be \$1200 per year from January first, 1916. This was seconded by Ald. Doyle and carried.

Following bills were passed:

Finance	
N. S. Leader	\$102.80
A. E. Shaw	10.50
Union Advocate	9.50
	\$122.80

  

Public Works	
E. Dalton, for fitting up Police Magistrate's room	\$39.00

I have always voted against any exemption of taxes on the value of land, among other instances, objecting to the fixing of the valuation of the land bought by the Radio Syndicate for \$12,000 or \$15,000 at only \$4000. And when the Assessors valued the Radio property for school taxes at only \$15,000, when it is worth, at the very least, \$115,000, thus (supposing all other property were valued correctly) robbing the Town of \$1,000 school taxes, I voted against paying their bill, and did not agree to their reappointment to office.

I have tried to have new streets opened where needed, for instance, between George and Pleasant streets, and have always voted that new streets be as wide as possible.

As a member of the Finance Committee for each of the four years I have served at the Board, I have endeavored to keep my pledge to work for good public service and economical administration.

On the Petitions Committee I have decided impartially in all cases without fear or favor.

As a member of the Industrial and Publicity Committee I have endeavored to make Newcastle as well and widely known to the outside world as possible.

During two years on the Police Committee and two years outside, I have always supported the strictest and most impartial enforcement of the Scott Act, and shall, whether in the Council or not, continue to do so, until a more satisfactory measure is obtained.

I am still in hearty sympathy with the program of the Town Improvement League.

If you should desire me to again represent you, I shall, as hitherto, do my best to make and keep Newcastle a clean, sober, prosperous town, in which there shall be equal opportunity for all citizens, without regard to race, sex, religion or previous social conditions.

Mr. Troy.

The chairman regretted no other of the Aldermen were present. Whether or not they thought it not last three speakers had given three worth while, he did not know. The fine address. He was glad they were offering for re-election and thought that the town would honor itself to re-elect them.

He was sorry that Mayor Stothart was leaving the Council, but his excuse must be accepted.

Mr. Fish's card appears in both papers. He has had much experience in financial matters as a P. E. a County assessor for years and a town assessor. The meeting would be glad to hear from him.

C. E. Fish.

Mr. Fish was glad to have the opportunity of advertising his candidate.

(Continued on page 4)

Police

Stothart Merc. Co.	\$32.25
Light & Water	
Melvor & Landry	\$ 2.95
W. J. Hogan	85.95
Can. Gear Works, Ltd.	26.22
Can. Gear Works, Ltd.	229.50
Inverness Ry. & Coal Co.	37.95
Inverness Ry. & Coal Co.	48.13
Can. Gen. Electric Co.	17.28
	\$448.98

Ald. Hayward of the Police Committee said that it was necessary to appoint a new assessor. Were there any returned soldiers capable of taking the position?

His Worship thought there were none.

The Police Committee then recommended the appointment of S. A. Russell as assessor vice C. E. Fish resigned. Carried.

The following report from the Chief of Police for March-April 11, was received and adopted and ordered published:

Newcastle, N. B., April 11, 1916.

To the Mayor and Aldermen of the Town Council.

I beg leave to submit the following report of the Police Dept. and C. T. A. work done from March 16th to April 11th, 1916.

Arrests for drunk, 2; Arrests on warrant for pointing revolver at Indian police at Eel Ground, 1; Disturbance in house quelled, 4; Telephone calls responded to, 8; Doors found open and secured, 1; Owner of horse unfit for work cautioned, 1.

C. T. A. Report

Violations of C. T. A. reported to court, 6; result—convictions, 3; cases before the court, 2; searched ticket Miramichi under warrant seizure made, 1.

Search warrant procured from Magistrate returned not executed on account of not being able to procure a constable with proper assistance to execute same within a reasonable time. I also searched 1 C. T. A. freight shed ten times and found nothing.

I have not been able to accomplish as much as I hoped to on account of not being able to procure a constable when required to serve papers and would suggest the appointment of another reliable man for that purpose.

Respectfully Submitted,  
W. H. FINLEY,  
Chief of Police and C. T. A. Inspector.

Supplementary Report April 11, 1916

Re dog license, 200 receipts for payment of dog license money have been ordered for two weeks, but have not been received from the printer as yet, but I purpose to start in about May 1st to collect the license, and at the same time to take a census of children of school age who are residents of the town, with the full name and address of such children, notifying the parents or guardians of the existence of the Compulsory School Act and of the intention of the authorities to enforce the same. So that at the beginning of the next school term, we will be in a position to know the number of children absent from school who should be there, their full names and place of residence as well as full names and address of parents or guardians, so as to be able to get in touch with them as soon after the beginning of the term as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,  
W. H. FINLEY,  
Chief of Police.

To the Mayor and Town Council, convened.

Chief Finley said that policemen and constables being liable to sickness, there should be a good, reliable extra man appointed to be on call.

Master of new constable was laid over for the new Council.

His Worship complimented Chief Finley on his report. It was the fullest and most business-like he had seen. Anyone at a glance can see what the Chief is doing. His thoroughness is appreciated by the Council and the citizens.

The Mayor asked if any Aldermen were going to offer for re-election. He would regret to see too few of the old Council re-elected—more than half, at least. The installation of new sewerage, the motor-driven pump, the electric day service etc. could be better superintended by old men than new ones.

Ald. Creaghan, who now took his seat at the board, announced that he would not be a candidate for re-election. He might not have done all he wished but had always done the best he could. He thanked the Mayor and Aldermen for the kindness and courtesy they had shown him.

Adjourned.

Chief of Police and C. T. A. Inspector.

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