

THE CITY FATHERS AND THE HIGHER LEVELS.

Some Interesting Correspondence

65 Pennywell Road,
March 29th, 1920.
Editor Evening Telegram

Dear Sir,—Would you please publish the enclosed copies of correspondence with the City Council, with the idea of showing what considerate (?) Citizens we have at the head of City affairs. It seems to be absolutely futile to expect anything from them, and Citizens not only have to put up with annoyances from natural causes, but must submit to nuisances created by the Council in the City Limits.

The accompanying letters have drawn but one response from our City Fathers, therefore, I presume it was beneath their dignity to take any notice of such a straightforward eulogy (?) or it may possibly be, that they have no defense to make to the statements contained therein. But while no official reply has been made, I have been informed verbally by the Secretary, that both the Sanitary Supervisor and his Worship the Mayor, have visited the scene under discussion, and have both reported, they found no cause for complaint. The day on which the visitation was made, was one of the finest during the winter, the sun shining brightly, with a slight breeze from the west, and because no ashes were being blown around it just follow that none blew previously, and therefore, the complaint was without justification. My protest was made owing to the fact, that ashes and filthy paper were blown from this dump during a North West Gale, therefore, to verify my statement a visit should have been made while a North West Gale was blowing, and not during a slight westerly breeze.

I am not surprised that the Sanitary Supervisor made such a report, because no doubt the condition of this section of the town was not up to his expectations. Owing to the position this highly intelligent gentleman occupies, no doubt he is often brought in contact with more filthy surroundings than he found here, therefore, he found no reason why others who are not accustomed to such filth should protest. With regard to the Mayor's report, it certainly was not what was expected, but as there are intelligent animals who can be taught almost anything a human knows, there are others of a lower order from whom we expect nothing but a grunt.

But while these intelligent gentlemen found no cause for complaint, the City Engineer, so I have been verbally informed, has reported on the matter and confirmed my statements as to its being a positive nuisance, and a menace to the health of residents of this part of the City, in fact, his statements were much stronger than mine, and condemned the practice in forceful terms, with the result, that Mr. C. P. Ayre representing the Owners of the property, promised to have the nuisance attended to, but to date no steps have been taken, and occasionally a load of refuse is still thrown here.

I do not wish to unnecessarily bother the Owners of the place, seeing it is to be used in a good cause, but unless something is done before the warm weather comes, I will be forced to take the necessary steps as stated in the last paragraph of my letter to the Council. Thanking you for space.

I am,
Yours faithfully,
H. DAWE.

(COPY.)
65 Pennywell, City,
February 18th, 1920.
The Municipal Council,
City.

Dear Sir,—During the Winter you have been making an "Ash Dump" on what is known as "Coady's Premises," Pennywell Road, now owned by the Trustees of the Methodist College. Recently during a northwest gale this section of the road was literally smothered with clouds of ashes and filthy paper from this dump; every time a door or window was opened a shower of dust was blown in the house, in fact, it was blown through windows and doors while closed with storm doors and storm sashes also fastened, such was the force of the wind. The snow for a distance out the road was blackened with filth and ashes, and I, as a resident of this section of the Road, most strongly protest against a recurrence of this nuisance. As long as ashes is being thrown here, we are sure to have the same trouble repeated whenever a northwest gale is blowing, and I feel sure, you only require this matter brought to your notice to have same remedied.

Trusting you will give this your serious attention, I am,
Yours very truly,
(Sgd.) H. DAWE.

(COPY.)
65 Pennywell Road, City,
March 3rd, 1920.
The Municipal Council,
City.

Dear Sir,—With further reference to my recent communication re Ash Dump, I would like to point out, that although the matter was referred to the Sanitary Supervisors, no action has been taken. Am I to understand from this that you refuse to have anything to do with it? Is the Sanitary Supervisor responsible for his own actions, or does he take his instructions from the Council? Everybody in this section of the Road is complaining of this nuisance, although none but the writer has made an actual protest. Is it necessary to have a protest signed by every Resident of the Road before you take action? How well either of the City Councilors would like to have an ash dump opposite his dwelling, and every time the wind blew from that direction he was showered with filthy ashes? You certainly have some consideration for the rights and comforts of Citizens to allow this nuisance to continue?

During a recurrence of the nuisance already complained of, Ayre & Sons' Grocery Express delivered goods along this Road with the result, that the parcels were in a filthy condition and the ashes had penetrated the packages, consequently, the groceries are being returned as unfit for use.

If a further recurrence of this nuisance is occasioned through your neglect in attending to this matter, I give you warning that I will take action against you for damages and inconvenience caused thereby. I am,
Yours faithfully,
(Sgd.) H. DAWE.

(COPY.)
March 5th, 1920.
Mr. H. Dawe,
65 Pennywell Road.

Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 3rd inst., and to state there is nothing new in having a dump on Pennywell Road, as it has been there for many years. Nothing has been received, so far, to warrant the Council in believing that it is a nuisance, in any shape or form. Meanwhile the City Engineer has been asked to investigate the matter.

Yours very truly,
J. L. SLATTERY,
Secretary-Treasurer.

(COPY.)
65 Pennywell Road, City,
March 8th, 1920.
The Municipal Council,
City.
Gentlemen,—I am in receipt of your

favour of the 5th instant, and note you wish to convey the idea that the Ash Dump under discussion has been in this locality for many years, and that so far you have received nothing to warrant your belief that it has been a nuisance. That all depends on what proof you require, and whether you consider the statements of others of the same value as your own, in the light of the above statement that this ash dump has been in this locality for many years. I can assure you, that this particular dump came into existence only during the present winter, and since the Premises has been taken over by the Trustees of the Methodist College, I am not aware of the existence of any other dump in the neighbourhood, therefore, in my opinion, you either do not know what you are talking about, or your statement is an absolute falsehood, and certainly does not reflect credit on your standing as trustworthy citizens in control of Civic affairs. Even if it were true, as you state, that a dump has been here for years, is that sufficient justification why the nuisance should be continued to the annoyance of citizens? Because your predecessors in office may have done things not beneficial to the welfare of the City, is that sufficient excuse for your line of conduct during your term of Office? Is that your idea of progressiveness and modern improvement to copy what our forefathers did in pre historic days?

If citizens go on the outskirts of the City to live in order to get away from the filth of the slums, is it necessary that you collect this filth and deposit same in front of their doors. Have you no consideration at all for the health of your City? You ask us as citizens to co-operate with you in keeping the City clean by cleaning up back yards, etc. Are you doing what you ask others to do in this respect? Part of the dirt deposited in these dumps is probably the sweepings from the dirtiest slums of the City, which when dried to spread by the wind for the benefit of nearby residents. Is that your idea of combating disease and keeping the City healthy? We hear a lot these days of child welfare: Is your method of dealing with this filth conducive to the health of children living in the locality of these ash dumps? In my humble opinion it is quite the opposite.

Since your last Council meeting I have been asked by the Sanitary Supervisor what objection I have to this dump. My objections are plainly set forth. Is it not sufficient cause for objection and protest that I am expected to submit to your filthy way of dealing with refuse of the City? Would Mayor Gosling have any objection to a dump being made on LeMarchant Road opposite his dwelling, and getting the benefit of its contents whenever the wind blew from its direction? Has Mayor Gosling any more rights as a Citizen than I have, because he happens to live on LeMarchant Road. The age of class distinction and autocracy has passed, and the sooner you get this fact in your craniums the better for all concerned.

When I first wrote you in this connection it was in a noncomplaining spirit, as I felt sure that as soon as the matter was brought to your attention you would take steps to have same remedied, either by discontinuing the dump, or scattering and covering the deposits as made, or by screening the ashes before depositing same. But I can see plainly from your indifferent attitude that nothing is to be expected from such fathead Autocrats as some of you appear to be, and who, in my opinion, hold the welfare of the City second in importance to that of your own prominence in Civic life. It is a great disappointment to me to discover such indifference to the health of the City, and utter disregard of the rights of private individuals in such a body of citizens composed of men of the calibre of our amiable physician J. Sinclair Tait, our congenial and affable citizen Mr. I. C. Morris, and our upright, levelheaded, independent citizen Mr. J. J. Mullaly, but it appears to me as if they are all dominated by the superior influence and greater will power of an autocratic Mayor, who like others of his ilk has failed to learn the lesson given autocracy during the past five years.

What, may I ask, is the reason for your persistence in depositing this filth in front of our doors to our inconvenience, annoyance and detriment, especially during the present epidemic of Influenza, when everyone is trying to do all possible to avoid contracting this disease? Are you so disinterested in and indifferent to the health of citizens that you ignore my request in this connection with such despicable callousness? It is quite bad enough to be forced to wade ankle deep in mud when crossing Water Street in the Spring, or being blinded and choked with dust when this mud is dried and blown about by the wind during the Summer, but to be subjected to this filthy nuisance during the time the ground is covered with snow, when everything is supposed to be clean, is, to my mind, past ordinary human endurance, and instead of the City Authorities being the protectors, they are actually the perpetrators of this outrage.

For your information I beg to advise you, that unless the depositing of this filth is immediately discontinued, I will institute proceedings against the guilty parties, whether you or the owners of the Property on which the

dump is located, to secure an injunction against you for the discontinuance of this nuisance.

Yours very truly,
(Sgd.) H. DAWE.

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After all, cooking should be looked upon as a hobby, rather than a task. Is there not a real pleasure in concocting new dishes, or even in cooking a steak or chop perfectly.

Even the girl most ignorant on the subject, by dint of following with perseverance a course of cookery instructions, may, in the course of a little time, develop into an excellent cook.

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