

AUTHORIZE TEN MEN FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

MAYOR'S MOVE TO HALT HIRING FIREMEN FAILS

Finance Committee Passes Drake's Motion Empowering Chief Aitken.

TRUSTEES ATTEND

Old maxims usually stand the test of time, as was amply demonstrated by last night's session of the finance committee. The oppressive calm pervading the marble halls of civic administration during recent weeks was rudely shattered when Mayor Wenige and Chairman Leonard Douglass concluded in a most hearty manner that their views upon matters pertaining to the fire department were not in accord.

And with Ald. Frank McKay, labor councillor from ward three, his lone support, Mayor Wenige went down to defeat in his move to halt indefinitely Chief Aitken's move to add ten men to his department. Perhaps the most significant development of the situation occurred when the mayor's opposition charged him with deliberate and irregular interference with Chief Aitken in the performance of his duties.

Exclusive of the chairman, Ald. Gordon Drake emerged as the most vigorous opponent of the mayor's plans in this regard, and his motion that the chief be directed to hire these men without further parley, passed after sharp combat. The passage at arms between the mayor and Chairman Douglass was particularly invigorating.

Members of the Collegiate Institute committee of the board of education, led by Rev. Campbell chairman, also agreed to disagree with the committee in several important and significant respects, and after a lengthy exchange of opinions and what not, the councillors told the visiting delegates bluntly but politely to go back and decide amongst themselves just where they proposed to put their high school before they could even expect them to resist their vote.

Ald. Edwin Smith proved a leading dissenter in this frame, remaining adamant in his determination that no vote should be taken in the city council unless the school board submitted comparative statements as to the probable cost of an addition to the Central Collegiate Institute. Mayor Wenige was always quick to speak in his reasoning that it would be necessary for the school trustees to define their locations before they could expect his opinion. Their choice of location would have a distinct influence upon the vote in the city council, he declared boldly in the face of the enemy.

"Die-Hards" Enliven Things. The "die-hards" from East London and thereabouts were the life of the party. Ald. Gordon Drake, who came from time to time that just as soon as the location was designated, the council would decide whether the money would be forthcoming.

It was Ald. Frank McKay who demanded that the committee have this information from the board. Such knowledge had been forthcoming in other years, he asked. He asked for it at the previous conference. He still wanted to know definitely where the new high school was going to be built, if at all. And the committee agreed with him, one dissenting voice being discerned above the bombardment. Ald. John Anderson of South London.

As on many another occasion, Mayor Wenige precipitated the fire department squabble, recommending that they defer any addition to the force, pending their final survey of the British Museum. He asked that the sum of \$10,000 be advanced for this purpose, but submitted that the council had yet to definitely authorize the expenditure, that we "Surely this money is not there for a joke," questioned Ald. Douglass. "We have not finished with the British report," the mayor retorted. "And I just want to infer, he calls this month, that 43 of them came in over the telephone, bearing out my original contention that we did not need the new switchboard."

"That might be an inference, but not necessarily correct," Ald. Douglass responded. "Chief Aitken has recommended the appointment of these men. He should know if he needs them, as the head of that department. If I thought that he was asking for them and did not need them, I would be the first to ask for his resignation."

"Good," returned the mayor. "I am glad that you interjected that remark. Last year the chief recommended that we purchase 1,000 feet of hose. Later we found that we could get along without further purchases in 1923, and we just made the purchase tonight. The same principle applies here." Ald. Anderson, in reply to a question, was told by the chief that it was still impossible to operate the aerial truck, owing to a shortage of men in the Central fire station.

Douglass Claims Interference. "There's your answer, Mr. Mayor," directed Ald. Douglass. "You can't have me bring it in for you." Ald. Douglass branded the mayor's action as "unfair," and the mayor questioned the chairman's right to introduce the question, stating that it was "none of his business."

"Whose business is it then?" asked Chairman Douglass. "It was a committee of the board of education, the committee having the supervision of the fire department. You directed my attention to this alleged act."

"I will bring it up in due course," promised the mayor, and after a smattering of comment here and there the discussion lapsed and finally died away momentarily with the appearance of the school board deputations.



MRS. J. D. DETWILER, who was elected president of the Faculty Club of Western University at the annual meeting held yesterday.

mayor had called him up and complained that the chief had refused to appoint a certain party because he did not like his father.

Ald. Smith branded this as a clear case of interference on the mayor's part, while Ald. Drake assented to the opinion that it made no difference to him who the chief hired or whether the chief had personal dislikes about the members of the families or members thereof.

Ald. Douglass declared that the council had ruled that the chief was boss, and he wanted the mayor to take up his individual charges against the chief. The mayor stated that he was ready to do so, but would present it when he saw fit.

Ald. Frank McKay interjected his own views, stating that from their partial consideration of the British report it could be concluded that much of its recommendations could be carried out already in the bylaws but never enforced.

"The city council is going to define the policy for this department," the mayor stated.

Drake Moves for Ten Men. "Who will dictate the number of men?" asked the chairman. "If we're going to allow the people to suffer through a technicality."

"Throw out the British report, then," volunteered the mayor.

"If you're going to do a similar strain, Ald. Douglass promptly moved the discussion out of order, as the mayor had stated that he had merely introduced the question and was making no further recommendations."

Ald. Drake protested. The discussion was not closed, he argued, promptly moving for ten additional men to the war clouds broke again. Chairman Douglass again challenged the mayor to bring in his latest charge against the chief. The mayor declined.

Ald. Douglass declared he would bring it in. "The mayor called me up about this man whom it was alleged the chief wanted to hire because he did not like his father," he declared. "Is that right, Mr. Mayor?"

"You go through with it," retorted the mayor. "I'm not blinking the question. You're doing that. When I'm ready I'll bring it in. I don't have to get the chairman to bring it in."

"You're right," was the rejoinder from Ald. Douglass. "You can't have me bring it in for you." Ald. Douglass branded the mayor's action as "unfair," and the mayor questioned the chairman's right to introduce the question, stating that it was "none of his business."

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Collegiate Committee Arrives. The trustees and their supporters, including Principal A. E. Miller and several ratepayers from East and South London peacefully penetrated the gathering. Trustees Bryden Campbell arrived early. Mrs. John I. A. Hunt arrived later. Trustee Fred Lawson followed and last, but not least, was the arrival of Dr. Grant, chairman of the collegiate committee.

Much time was devoted with the consideration of various reports submitted by the educationists showing the number of students in the various school areas and so forth. Chairman Douglass and his colleagues formed an automatic, if temporary, truce, and pored over these documents, asking many questions and receiving many answers. Much oratory prevailed on either side.

NEW POLICE WOULD PAY 70 PER CENT, BUCHNER THINKS

Home Bank Inspector To Confer on Scheme To Be Taken To Ottawa.

MANY IN DIRE STRAITS

U. A. Buchner, Home Bank inspector, will tomorrow confer with other inspectors at Toronto for the purpose of completing plans to submit before the government recommendations which, if carried out, he thinks will result in Home Bank depositors being paid as high as 70 per cent on their deposits.

Mr. Buchner states the inspectors and Home Bank committees intend to show that but for negligence on the part of Ottawa in 1918, \$8,000,000 in deposits would not have been put into the Home Bank. It is their contention that the government should be held responsible to this extent at least, and they are, therefore, asking that the full amount of \$8,000,000 be distributed among savings holders.

Another matter of importance which the inspectors shall consider is the disposal of Home Bank interests in the New Orleans Railway. This is one of the bank's greatest assets, and the price fetched by it will be learned with much interest by Home Bank shareholders and depositors.

Pending the findings of the commission investigating the Home Bank failure, thousands of depositors are in serious financial straits, and it has become essential that another advance of some kind be made to them. Mr. Buchner feels confident that the Liberal government will do its best to meet the situation and possibly vote a large appropriation to reimburse depositors for their widespread losses.

Mr. Buchner points significantly to the fact that when the house of parliament debated the question of appointing a commission of inquiry and cleaning up Home Bank affairs, the only members who voted against the proposition were Conservatives. The proposal of the Home Bank's failure is placed almost exclusively on the Conservative government, which had in its power the prevention of 70 per cent of the bank's losses.

Censure for the failure, however, will not be directed at any one government, although it is plainly implied that the failure of Sir Thomas White and his associates to inquire into the bank's condition precipitated the tremendous losses suffered by depositors all over Canada.

board furnish this information. Trustee Fred Lawson assumed the same attitude, stating that the city council would have to decide the educational policies of the city, not the school board.

"Well, then, there is no use wasting time," exclaimed Ald. Edwin Smith. "We can't have a location. There is no use talking further."

"No's running this thing any more," the councilor who was asked Ald. Anderson sharply, and the chairman rapped for order, halting an incipient outbreak. The McKay motion subsequently carried.

No Further Action. By unanimous consent the committee decided that no further action be taken in the proposed case. Ald. Douglass reported that the city solicitor had advised accordingly. Ald. Douglass voiced the opinion that his report should have been accepted in the first instance and they would have saved the expenses of court, etc.

Ald. Frank McKay stated that it was most unfortunate that the McKay motion had been selected for the test case. Ald. Douglass could not understand why this particular motion had been selected. City Treasurer James Bell recalled that he had advised that they select another company, but his advice had not been heeded by the council of 1923.

"You wouldn't have won had you selected them all," Ald. Drake advised. He reminded that he had consistently opposed the action during his nine years in the council, and promptly drew fire from Ald. Douglass, who contended that the motion to levy a school tax in East London had been supported by every member of the council, including Ald. Drake, exclusive of two members excused from voting.

Despite the heated exchange between Mayor Wenige, the committee recommended that further banking credit be extended to the L. & P. S. Railway.

Solicitor's Opinion Submitted. City Treasurer Bell stated that he did not see any difference whether they did so or not. The mayor submitted that their course was illegal and could be disputed and upset by any bona fide ratepayer.

Ald. Douglass stated that there was nothing in the statutes to legalize their action, but pointed out that, as the city's agents, the L. & P. S. commissioners desired their approval and consent.

City Solicitor Meredith's written opinion was submitted that the Western University bylaw, proposed for next election, whereby the annual grant would remain fixed at \$55,000 for ten years, would have to be validated by the Legislature. It was referred back for further consideration. The L. & P. S. was requested to submit regular quarterly financial statements, and also to reply to the council's request that the summer season be inaugurated May 1.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN WERE NOT CONSULTED ON UNION

Rev. John McNair Speaks Against Move at Anti-Union Meeting.

SEES MANY DANGERS

History and Growth of Idea During Past 25 Years Is Reviewed by Speaker.

Chief among the arguments which Rev. John McNair presented against church union to a meeting of the women's anti-union association in the city yesterday afternoon in the King Street Y. W. C. A. was his claim that the women of the Presbyterian Church, who formed a great bulk of the membership, had not been consulted on the issue. Women were not represented, Mr. McNair claimed, on the church courts by whom the decision to go into union had been made, and he declared also that the Congregational vote taken as long ago as 1913 was not at all representative of the thought and feeling in the Presbyterian Church at the present time.

The establishment of a political church, wielding an undue influence in a purely political way, and the abandonment of a spiritual union of one altogether organic were dangers which Mr. McNair saw drifting in the course of the proposed union. He stated that the Congregational vote taken in 1913 was not at all representative of the thought and feeling in the Presbyterian Church at the present time.

Women of the association were left in no doubt or uncertainty as to the history and progress of church union, as Mr. McNair reviewed in a lucid and compelling manner the steps taken from the first broaching of the subject, 25 years ago, to the present time, when the bill for the incorporation of the United Church of Canada, presented with the support of some of the leading men of the Dominion, is exposed to a barrage of opposition from equally brilliant, clerical lay and legal minds.

Warner Speaks. Trustee Warner, whose opinion on this matter is representative of the majority of the members of the board, said: "I think the board of education should be allowed to function in the way of locating a school without any interference. The correct procedure is for the council to grant the debenture issue after the board has explained about the location of a new school, and for the location of the school to be left in the hands of the trustees. Surely they are capable of deciding fairly a question to which they have given a great deal of time and work and on which they are advised by specialists."

"If the council say in effect, we will grant the debenture issue after we are satisfied with your location of the proposed school, and not before, then there might as well be no education, and there is simply an unnecessary duplication of work by the two bodies."

Smith Scored. The suggestion of Alderman Edwin Smith, that the board bring back to the public school a plan of location to the Central Collegiate building, as an alternative plan to the building of another unit, meets with the unanimous criticism of the board. They point out that for two reasons, this is out of the question; first, because the provincial department of education is opposed to it, and second, because the local board of education believes the present building is large enough to allow of the most efficient work.

Many of the trustees who were on the board at the time of the building of the new collegiate, and who, though opposed to the plan, were opposed to the union system of extending the Central Collegiate, have since come to appreciate the point of view of the department and are rather at a loss to understand why the alderman is still looking at the question from his early viewpoint.

Obituary. WILLIAM MARTYN. The funeral of William Martyn, for many years a well known contractor, who died at his home, Brick street, on Sunday, was held yesterday afternoon at 3 o'clock, at Woodland Cemetery. The Rev. Murphy of Wortley Road Baptist Church officiated.

The pallbearers were four sons and two son-in-laws, C. Martyn, F. O. Ed. John, and Glenzie and William James.

MRS. MARGARET PARSONS. The death occurred on Wednesday, April 30 of Mrs. Margaret Parsons, widow of the late Walter Parsons, at her residence, 10, Komoka, in her 75th year. She had resided in this vicinity for 48 years and during her life time made many friends.

She is survived by six sons, Dr. D. C. Parsons, city; G. G. of Sarnia; Charles of Lambeth; W. G. of Edmonton; H. L. of New York; K. E. of Beaverdam, Wisconsin; two daughters, Mrs. D. G. A. Blackwell, Regina; Mrs. Alex. MacDonald, Komoka; five brothers, H. H. Powell, Brantford; I. N. Chicago; David and Calbert, and James of Richmond, Miss. Two sisters also survive, Mrs. Cunningham and Miss Sarah Powell of Richmond, Miss.

The funeral will be held on Sunday from her residence, at 3 o'clock, at Woodland Cemetery. Rev. Graham of Komoka will officiate.

CONDITION IMPROVES. The condition of Joseph Frezeli, popular commercial traveller, who has been confined to St. Joseph's Hospital with neuritis for a number of weeks, was reported improved at that institution today.

BREACH OF BYLAWS. Three violators of the highway traffic bylaws paid \$25 in police court today, while fines of \$2 each were imposed on two citizens for breaches of other city laws.

LAMBETH BROTHERHOOD REPORTS FINE YEAR. The annual meeting of the Men's Brotherhood of Lambeth was held yesterday. The retiring president, Dr. Colling, reported a very satisfactory year.

"No, it is not," rejoined Ald. Anderson. "We want the summer schedule, not to know about their committee on tickets." "You can't expect them to run seven or eight extra cars down there with no passengers," Ald. Drake admonished.

Belgian Premier Visits England

Associated Press Despatch. Brussels, May 1. — Premier Theunis and Foreign Minister Thomsen left Brussels for London shortly before noon today. They will be guests of Prime Minister MacDonald at Chequers Court over the week-end and discuss with the government the proposed program for a reparations settlement.

TRUSTEES PRAISE BRITAIN PLAN TO CUT COUNCIL

Majority Also Contend That Board Should Have Free Hand in School Placing. SMITH IS CRITICIZED

An especially fine argument in favor of that part of Dr. Brittain's report, in which he recommends doing away with the ward system of the election of aldermen and the reduction of the number of aldermen from twelve to five, is the general opinion of the board of education in regard to the question of the finance committee of the city council last night on the high school question.

The general opinion of the board is that the action of placing of a school should be left in the hands of the school board without any strings attached to their action. There is a question of the part of the trustees to read between the lines of the majority of the finance committee words to this effect: "If you don't locate the school in the ward system, the city which is desired by the majority of the council then your chances of getting the debenture grant through are slim."

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HIGHLAND PARK WOULD BECOME PART OF LONDON

Ratepayers' Association of the City South End Invites the City Council to Next Meeting.

DECIDED LAST NIGHT

Residents Plan 24th of May Celebration, Which Will Be Great Event.

His worship Mayor Wenige and members of the city council are to be invited to attend the next regular meeting of the Progressive Ratepayers' Association of Highland and Manor Parks, to discuss with the ratepayers the question of annexation. The parks sub-division is situated in Westminster Township, and for many years the residents have been dissatisfied with the administration, and in view of recent restrictions imposed, this action is contemplated by the ratepayers, the majority of whom are in favor of the district becoming a part of the city of London. This action was decided upon at the regular meeting last night.

At the next sitting of the Westminster Township council representatives of the people will be present to attempt to complete arrangements with the council for the paying of the ratepayers' taxes in July, August, instead of December as is now the stipulated time. Collection of taxes in the month of December imposes a distinct hardship on a great many ratepayers, and it is hoped the deputation will be able to arrive at some equitable arrangement with the council.

Plans for the 24th of May celebration are practically completed, and the entertainment promises to be the greatest yet staged in this progressive community. The committee in charge are sparing no efforts to make the affair a tremendous success. All races are to be open, and the baby show is open to the school section only. Many new and novel features are to be introduced, and a good time is assured for all who attend.

Much other routine business was disposed of, and no unfavorable comment was heard regarding the beautiful memorial erected to the fallen, and unveiled by Col. Hill, of the C. R. R. last Sunday. All members were unanimous in declaring it a credit to the district.

BOAT TRAIN SERVICE TO PT. EDWARD BEGINS

Northern Navigation Company Arranges To Take Care of Summer Patrons.

The spring and summer boat train service of the Northern Navigation Company at Point Edward will begin within a few days, according to an announcement made at the divisional offices of the C. N. R. today.

Each Tuesday and Saturday, commencing May 3 and up until June 17, C. N. R. train No. 17 will have one extra coach for boat passengers to Point Edward dock. Each Monday and Friday, starting May 9 and continuing until June 20, train No. 17 will have one extra coach for boat passengers for points east.

After that date the regular boat train service between Toronto and Point Edward dock will be commenced. The boat trains are through and fast trains making connections with all the steamers of the Northern Navigation and afford excellent service for pleasure seeking tourists.

POLICE FINES SHOW SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE

Jump \$1,330 Over Last Year's Total, City Treasurer Reports.

London's police receipts since the first of this year total \$9,257.75, according to an official statement today from City Treasurer James Bell. This is an increase of \$1,330.15 over the collections at the Carling street station for fines and fees during the corresponding period of 1923.

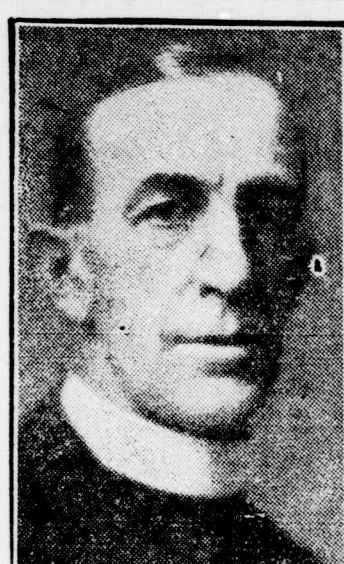
Should this record be maintained consistently throughout the year, the police department is going to finish with a handsome surplus to give back to the city council.

DOMESTIC DIFFICULTIES AIRED IN POLICE COURT

The family troubles of W. E. Lampman were aired in police court this morning by his wife, who told the court that her husband failed to support her.

Lampman declared there was no work coming in to his shop and pleaded not guilty. He objected to his wife and children visiting his shop, while counter charges were laid by Mrs. Lampman.

"You'll have to stop quarrelling," declared the court, adjourning the case for two weeks in the hope that a settlement would be arrived at between man and wife.



REV. DR. SEAGER, provost of Trinity College, Toronto, who will be in London tomorrow evening to address a mass meeting of the men of the Church of St. John the Evangelist.

NOTED SPEAKERS EXPECTED IN CITY FOR HURON SYNOD

Executive of Church of England in Canada and U. S. Pre-late To Come Here.

STARTS MAY 12

Among outstanding speakers who will address the Synod of the Diocese of Huron at its 67th annual meeting which commences Monday, May 12, are representatives of the public life of Ontario, the executive of the Church of England in Canada, and the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States.

Synod commences, as is the usual custom, with divine service in St. Paul's Cathedral, and on this occasion, Very Rev. Warren L. Rogers, B.D., dean of Michigan, has been asked to speak. On the Tuesday following there will be a banquet for laymen and clergy in the Smallman & Ingram dining-room, at which Hon. John S. Martin, minister of agriculture in the provincial government, will be the guest of honor. "How the Church Could Help Build Up the Province." On this occasion also an address on "The Influence of Christianity in World Affairs" will be given by Rev. Canon (Gould) D.D., general secretary of the M. S. C. C.

The two notices of motion included in the convening circular have to do with the diocesan budget and the superannuation fund. Ven. Archdeacon Doherty, treasurer of the synod, is submitting a motion whose first clause provides that all sums of money be raised during the year for extra-parochial objects should be included in the diocesan budget and apportioned among the congregations of the diocese.

The motion is to request Canon XXXVI, and substitution for it a new canon with this provision. Archdeacon Doherty will move also that for the purpose of apportionment the diocesan budget, the congregations of the diocese shall be divided into three classes, that of congregations whose basis of apportionment is under \$2,000, \$2,000 or over but less than \$3,000, and congregations whose apportionment is \$3,000 or over.

Another clause of the motion provides that every congregation in the diocese shall have the right to appeal to the executive committee for reduction in its basis of apportionment, under certain specified conditions.

The motion with reference to superannuation, by Rev. R. J. Seton-Adamson, deals with a matter previously discussed on the floor of the synod. He would amend and substitute by setting the age limit for superannuation at 65 years, instead of at 70 years.

DR. SCHRAM'S CONDITION IS REPORTED IMPROVED

Authorities at St. Joseph's Hospital reported today that the condition of Dr. John Schram, who underwent a serious operation at that institution a few days ago was slightly improved.

Due to the pressure of business Dr. Schram delayed the operation for some time.

MANY OVERSEAS BOOKINGS. Harry McCallum, C. P. R. city passenger agent, stated today that bookings to Europe were numerous and that many local people were leaving within a few days for the old land.

Loew's Theatre and The Advertiser want to choose by public ballot the most popular business girl in London.

GIRLS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE. Any girl, of any age, employed in office, factory or store in London is eligible. She may be nominated by friends or by herself. All names must be given in writing to Manager Fred Jackson of Loew's Theatre.

\$100 IN PRIZES. The most popular girl will receive fifty dollars; the second and third on the list, twenty-five dollars each.

HOW TO VOTE. Ballot forms will be given away at every performance in Loew's Theatre until Saturday, April 26. During the week of April 28 all ballots are to be deposited in the ballot boxes at the theatre, and a special film will be shown every day giving glimpses of London girls in offices, stores and factories.

Results of the voting will be announced on Wednesday, May 7.

O'HARA IS GIVEN ROUSING WELCOME BY GRAND PATRONS

Noted Irish Tenor Appears in Concert Program at Local Theatre.

FEW IRISH SONGS

Fiske O'Hara, the noted actor-singer from Ireland, starred in an enjoyable concert program at the Grand Theatre last evening. Mr. O'Hara can always be counted on to arouse enthusiasm in his audience, and last evening's performance was not an exception.

The numbers were almost all vocal selections sung by Mr. O'Hara and by his talented assistant vocalist, Donna Calina. Patricia Cleary (Mrs. O'Hara) rendered a humorous sketch "Bits of Life," which was well received.

The songs sung by Fiske O'Hara were not all Irish. There were many of that variety sung, chiefly as encores when the audience refused to be satisfied, but for the most part the program was composed of vocal numbers, the theme of which was not connected with Ireland. There were those which Mr. O'Hara has sung before in past successes, many classical numbers and old favorites, but the performance was designed to accentuate the artist's vocal abilities rather than his character acting.

Miss Calina and Mrs. O'Hara achieved a triumph which almost equalled that of the famous Irish tenor at last night's performance. The former won the admiration of the audience by her splendid soprano voice, and the latter by her interesting dialogue and character acting.

There were only two numbers on the program for Miss Calina, but the auditors demanded more. Her performance of "The Rose Tree" pleased so much that she was permitted to leave without adding an encore. When she appeared again in the second half to