ASEPTO PREMIUMS FURNISH THE HOME

Doll Bargains

During the past two weeks we have sold several hundred dolls. Owing to the splendid values we have been giving and the big demand for dolls our first consignment was nearly gone before our second shipment arrived.

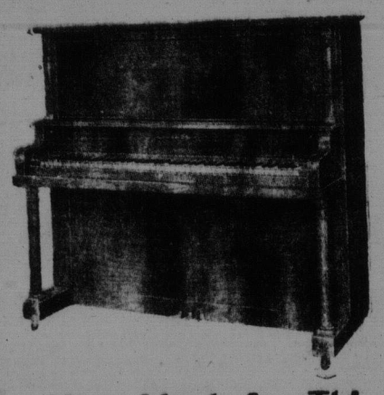
Today we are offering what we believe is the best doll value ever shown in the Province.

Beautifully dressed dolls ranging from 25cts. to $5.00.
Nice undressed dolls from 25 cts. up.
Undressed kid from 25 cts. to $2.50.
Nice fat mamma dolls $1.00.
A few comic dolls going at 10 cts.
Dolls Houses from 50 cts. to $1.00.
A few sets doll's furniture still on hand.
Don't forget our twenty per cent. discount given in coupons.

ASEPTO LIMITED

Cor. Mill and Union Streets

A Piano at Your Own Price



Brand New Ennis Piano

—Mahogany, double veneered throughout, full iron frame, repeating action and overstrung bass scale. Boston fall and full swing desk, continuous hinges. Full scale, 7 1-3 octave. Length 4 ft., 10 in. Height 4 ft., 7 in., Width 2 ft., 8 in.

Make an Offer—Read On Carefully

Bid Any Bid

How Much for This $350 Ennis Piano?

We have secured control of the Ennis pianos in this province and in order to properly introduce them to the public we make this novel and extraordinary offer. We know it's the surest, quickest and best way to get people to come to our store—to learn our business methods, to get acquainted with the superiority of our instruments—to know us as the really reliable music house.

The Highest Bid Gets This Piano

It's on exhibition in our store—examine it, until then you cannot comprehend the excellence of this offer. Inspect it carefully and forward your offer in a sealed envelope. Bid a figure that will make it seem like a present from us, but at the same time figure on bidding just a little higher than somebody else. It's like an auction sale only better—it gives you a chance to thoroughly investigate the proposition—gives you plain figures and facts and we'll stake our reputation on the genuineness of this offer.

Some Things to Remember

The date and hour of receipt of envelopes will be plainly marked on same, and in the event of two or more offers of the same amount received, preference will be given the first received.

"So Bid Early"

Only one member of a household can compete.
The highest offer gets the piano. There is no reserve.
Messrs. John P. Lynch, Manager International Harvester Co., and Edwin A. Ellis, Jeweller, Germain street, have kindly consented to open the envelopes and judge the contest.
Mark plainly on corner of envelope "Offer for Ennis Piano."
All offers will be considered as cash, but to give everybody a chance we will add six per cent. to the offer that requires time.

THIS CONTEST CLOSES AT NOON SAT., DEC. 16

The piano will be on exhibition every day at our show rooms.
If explanation is not sufficiently clear call at our show rooms or write and we will take pleasure in extending every courtesy. COME.

COUPON

The following is my sealed offer for the celebrated Ennis Piano:

Offer ..... Name .....

Street Address .....

P. O. Address .....

The C. H. Townshend Piano Co.

53 GERMAIN STREET, ST. JOHN, N. B.

TAX ON IMPROVEMENTS TO BE REDUCED 50 PER CENT.

Common Council in Session Last Evening Adopted Report of Special Committee, Recommending Reduction in Section of Land Tax – Ald. Keirstead Makes Bitter Attack on Engineer.

At its meeting last evening the Common Council adopted the report of the special committee on the land tax, providing that after Jan., 1913, the tax on improvements, including all buildings and superstructures, be reduced 50 per cent., and after that as rapidly as possible, until the tax on improvements disappears, and providing that land, exclusive of buildings, shall be assessed at twice the true value thereof, to provide for revenue lost on account of the decrease of taxation on improvements; also providing for the eventual abolition of the tax on personal property, and the creation of a permanent taxation court.

The committee, which investigated the charges contained in the Corey affidavit, submitted a report, exonerating Ald. Kierstead; and there followed a remarkable scene. Ald. Kierstead said the investigation might have been more thorough, made a bitter attack on the city engineer, and censured the Mayor for not suspending the engineer, when he exhibited the Corey affidavit. The Mayor retorted indignantly, and Ald. Kierstead apologized.

Then, when Ald. Scully observed he was agreeable to having the report sent back and the investigation continued, Ald. Kierstead said he was well satisfied with the report, and did not think it should be sent back unless accompanied by a recommendation to the committee to score the engineer. However, the report was sent back, accompanied by a letter from Lockhart and Ritchie, who wrote the council saying they should have been heard. When the reporters attempted to secure the letter, Ald. Kierstead protested against it being made public at present, and the Mayor upheld him. Ald. Kierstead, however, told the reporters that the letter from Lockhart and Ritchie, who secured Mr. Corey's insurance, declared that their policy which had been criticized at the meeting of the investigating committee was all correct, and that Ald. Kierstead, though he might be an expert on life insurance, evidently did not know much about liability insurance.

Besides the mayor there were present Ald. Scully, Potts, McGoldrick, Green, Elliott, Smith, Kierstead, J. B. Jones, C. T. Jones, Wilson, Wigmore, Hayes, Russell, Elkin, Codner, Christie with the common clerk, the city engineer and Supt. Waring.

Committee's Report.

The report of the committee on the mayor's inaugural address dealing with the land tax was taken up.

Ald. J. B. Jones said there was a good deal of dissatisfaction with the present system of taxation. He said it has been suggested that the land tax should be applied in St. John and Ald. Kierstead had done a great deal of work in securing and collecting information on the experience of other cities.

After the adoption of the preamble of the report, section 1, providing for a 50 p. c. reduction of the tax on improvements was read.

Ald. McGoldrick and Elliott wanted information as to the operation of the proposed system of taxation.

Ald. Kierstead said the committee had secured information from the assessors as to the values of land and buildings. They found that in order to raise the necessary money for civic purposes, a reduction of 50 per cent in the taxation on buildings would necessitate the doubling of the values on land. They felt however, that if a careful investigation was made it would be found that there was much land not paying on a fair valuation and that the rate of taxation could be reduced. One of the principal reasons for adopting the land tax was that it would encourage building, and lead to the establishment of new industrial plants. Generally the value of an industrial plant was out of all proportion to the value of the site, and a reduction of 50 per cent. on the building and machinery would be an encouragement to manufacturers to come here.

Would Build Better Houses.

When a man built a house under present conditions he made it as plain as possible, but if there was an exemption of 50 per cent., he would put up a better house and add to the appearance of the city and the desirability of the locality.

Continuing, Ald. Kierstead gave instances of the good results attending the practice of exempting improvements from taxation as compared with the old practice of penalizing improvements.

Ald. Scully said 80 per cent. of the land on the West Side of the harbor was owned by the city. He wanted to know how the land tax would apply over there?

Ald. Kierstead said that only a small proportion of the city's land's on the West Side was occupied. The committee had made provision for a court to deal with the question of leasehold property.

Valuation of Land.

Ald. Hayes said that roughly the assessed valuation of land in the city was $5,000,000, and the valuation of improvements $10,000,000. He thought the proposed change would work out to the advantage of the city, because the doubling of the valuation of land would affect many lots on which there were no improvements. In view of the fact that the city owned a good deal of land, he had grave doubts whether the legislature would allow them to double assessment on the land.

Ald. Scully said there were many leaseholders paying only $1 a year to the city. Under the proposed change the city would put the leaseholders in an awkward position if it presented them with the fee simply in the lots.

Ald. Potts said the progress of the city had been held up by the leasehold system. Some men were paying exorbitant rentals to the big estates. The ordinary workingman had great difficulty in getting a home of his own; consequently when there were any difficulties in the labor market many workers left for other parts, and never returned.

Favored Few.

This feeling for the leaseholders was only for a few people who own about one-third of St. John, and live on the fat of the land at the expense of the people.

Continuing Ald. Potts said the proposed change in the assessment law would leave the holder of freehold property in just the same position as he is now in regard to tax-paying, but would allow him to improve or extend his building without extra taxation. The principal effect of the change would be felt in connection with lands with no improvement on them. There was a vacant lot on Prince William street assessed on a valuation of $7,000. This property was worth $45,000 or $50,000, and under the new system would be assessed on a valuation of $100,000 and the proprietors would be obliged to utilize the land. Moreover no citizen of St. John created the land, and nobody was entitled to the unearned increment. Now under the cumbrous assessment system, which nobody understood, the man who starved on the docks was taxed on every cent he earned—a gross injustice.

He thought there need be no fear that the city of St. John would lose anything by taxing the land. The city had never handled its own lands in a business manner and should get rid of them.

Difficult Position.

Ald. Elkin thought the committee was making a bold move without knowing or understanding where they were going. St. John was in a different position from the western cities. Many corporations held lands in St. John, and it would not be fair to make a law confiscating their property.

The Mayor—The matter is of great importance, and deserves full consideration.

Ald. Hayes said he was in sympathy with the land tax and would like to see it put in a shape calculated to go through the legislature. But they should have more information. They were taking the tax off the leaseholders of city property, without providing any means of getting back at them.

Ald. Codner said he favored the land tax, but thought a fifty per cent. exemption on improvements, was too steep for a start. There were 200 or 300 vacant houses in St. John now. What then was the use of building more houses? As a leaseholder he would benefit by the proposed change, but the owner of his lot would get nothing for it.

The land tax would not increase trade, or bring in new industries. A matter of a few hundred dollars in taxes would not influence the decision of a manufacturer looking for a site.

As regards the lot on Prince William street referred to by Ald. Potts, he knew the estate had only had one offer to purchase since the big fire. He did not believe the lot would bring $7,000 today. If vacant lands were not paying enough, the assessors could be sent out to increase the assessment.

Ald. McGoldrick thought the legislature would not favor the scheme.

His worship—What does the committee mean by doubling the value of the land? Do they refer to the assessed or real value?

Ald. J. B. Jones—I think it is merely an assumed value.

Ald. Kierstead said it was not the intention of the committee to wrench the land from the leaseholders. The report had been made as simple as possible, and many explanatory clauses might have been added. The committee recognized that conditions in St. John were peculiar: there were cases where the landlords' taxes on a lot would be more than the leaseholder paid him in rent. And because of these conditions, the committee recommended the establishment of a permanent court to go thoroughly into the matter and deal with the difficulties which presented themselves

Meeting of Two.

The mayor remarked that it had been suggested that the question should be discussed at a public meeting. Some years ago citizens were asked for their opinion on the assessment laws, and two appeared.

The section was adopted on the following division:

Yeas—Potts, Kierstead, Hayes, Scully, Wilson, Russell, Green, Elliott, Wigmore, J. B. Jones, C. T. Jones.

Nays—Smith, McGoldrick, Elkin, Codner, Christie.

Section 2 recommending that personal property be exempted from taxation as soon as conditions will warrant, was adopted.

The next section recommended that the city secure power to expropriate lands for industrial purposes.

Ald. Elkin and McGoldrick thought this recommendation was too far-reaching, and would allow the city to confiscate private property.

Ald. Potts said it was to be hoped that the council would exercise judgment and common sense.

Ald. Kierstead said it was only intended that the power should be utilized in exceptional circumstances.

The section was adopted.

Creation of Commission.

The last section providing for the creation of a commission to deal with complaints which might be caused by the operation of the proposed assessment law was adopted.

The report of the committee which investigated the charges against Ald. Kierstead was then read, as follows:

Your committee find from the evidence that the said J. Whitfield Kierstead was not guilty of any wrong doing in his capacity as an alderman of the city as charged in the statutory declaration made by Mr. Corey all the charges therein contained being either disproved or satisfactorily explained.

Ald. Scully said the committee had talked that matter over, and came to the conclusion that they had only been appointed to deal with the charges against Ald. Kierstead. If the council wanted further action, he had no objection to the matter being referred back to the committee. Some members of the committee thought some action should have been taken in regard to the engineer.

Reputation Harmed.

Ald. C. T. Jones said he had been in favor of doing something about the engineer. He thought the engineer had done great harm to the reputation of Ald. Kierstead, and that the engineer should be suspended or dismissed. The engineer ought at least to have made a public apology.

Ald. Kierstead thanked the committee, but said the investigation might have been gone into more thoroughly. Some witnesses had not been called—because the engineer had made such a full and frank confession. He added that it was Mr. Corey, and not himself, who suggested that he might be useful to the contractor in the matter of securing bonds. He had not mentioned this in his counter affidavit, because the third party who heard the conversation was out of the city at the time. He also had heard on good authority that Grey Murdoch had threatened Mr. Corey with refusing to pass his work unless he made the affidavit.

At the investigation Mr. Murdoch flatly denied that he had told Ald. Elliott that he had something in his pocket which would fix Kierstead. "Next day I met Ald. Elliott who told me the engineer had made this statement to him."

Ald. Elliott—I wish you would use my exact words.

Continuing, Ald. Kierstead said he greatly appreciated the action of Ald. McLeod and Wigmore in apprising him of the existence of the affidavit. Ald. McLeod had acted nobly. All kinds of pressure and intimidation had been brought to bear upon him, to prevent him signing the investigating committee report, but he had signed it after the Corey affidavit appeared. If something was not done with the engineer, the last rag of civic decency would be stripped from the body politic, and the city become a stench in the nostrils of the country.

Continuing, Ald. Kierstead said he was sorry he could not commend the course of the Mayor in the matter. The engineer had given His Worship a copy of the Corey affidavit, and His Worship should have suspended the engineer, until the charges were investigated.

Extreme Position.

The mayor—Isn't that an extreme position? It is not in my power to dismiss the engineer.

Ald. Kierstead—You could put up such a howl in the city——

The mayor—I don't howl in the city. This is the first time I have heard the mayor attacked in common council.

Ald. Kierstead—If I have said anything not right, I apologize.

The mayor left the chair and replied at length. He said he did not see that he had done anything not proper to his office. The engineer had showed him a copy of the affidavit of Mr. Corey. He said to the engineer that the charges might lead to an investigation. He got a copy of the affidavit, but thought no more about it till it appeared in the press.

Ald. Kierstead said he did not care about the personal question But the principle was very important. If the paid officials of the city were permitted to attack the aldermen who tried to discharge them for incompetency, where would they get to. He thought the mayor should have at once made him acquainted with the existence of the affidavit.

Ald. Elkin moved that the committee be instructed to continue the investigation.

Satisfied With Report.

Ald. Kierstead said he was satisfied with the report, and was not anxious to have the investigation continued.

The mayor—There's a letter here from Lockhart and Ritchie, who wanted to be heard.

Ald. Smith moved that the letter be read.

Ald. Kierstead said he would object to the letter being read unless he could bring in an expert from another insurance company.

Ald. Potts said the investigating committee's report was a milk and water affair, and it might be healthy to open up the matter again. He moved that the matter be referred back to the committee and all correspondence in connection therewith.

Ald. J. B. Jones said he did not consider the affidavits were a matter for the council. The question had simmered down to a misunderstanding between Ald. Kierstead and a contractor.

Ald. Russell said the committee should be discharged.

Ald. Potts' motion was carried by the casting vote of the mayor.

Objects to Resolution.

A communication was received from Percy Thomson objecting to the resolution providing that the city should have the right to buy out the New Brunswick Hydro-Electric Company at any time, and protesting that the city should not have the right to purchase until 32 years had elapsed.

Ald. Hayes moved that the question be reconsidered with the object of reducing the franchise to 35 years.

Ald. Potts moved in amendment that the communication be filed. He said a director of the company told him they were anxious to recall the letter.

This motion was adopted.

A sub-committee submitted a report recommending the re-organization of commission of three paid members to attend to pilotage matters in St. John. The report was adopted.

Board of Works Report.

The board of works submitted a report asking that $500 be granted to carry on excavating operations for the year and that the bills and by-laws committee be instructed to prepare an act enabling the city to make arrangements for removing household garbage.

Adopted and referred to the treasury board.

The council then adjourned.

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DIED.

McELROY—In this city on the 12th inst., after a short illness, Ellen, daughter of the late Thomas and Margaret McElroy, leaving a sister and brother to mourn.

Funeral Friday at 8.45 o'clock from her late residence 610 Main street, to St. Peter's church for requiem high mass.

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New Home, New Domestic, and other machines. Genuine needles and oil, all kinds, and Edison Phonographs. Buyer will save money in my shop. Call and see. Sewing Machines and Phonographs Repaired. William Crawford, 105 Princess St., St. John.

FOR SALE—Lot of old lumber, such as sills, doors, joists, cedar posts, etc., to clear the lot for new theatre. Also 5 iron columns. Apply south side King Sq., R. M. Tobin, Contractor. 6ins.

FOR SALE—Horse, 5 years old; weight about 1,400, perfectly sound. Apply S. L. Marcus & Co., 166 Union street.

FOR SALE—A large number of new and second hand pungs, and sleighs, 50 ash pungs, 8 speed sleighs, 12 delivery wagons, 25 second hand sleighs. A. G. Edgecombe, 115 City Road, Tel. Main 547.

FARMS FOR SALE—Highly adapted to apple culture. We are only awakening to the wonderful possibilities of our New Brunswick orchards. Climatic conditions and soil not more favorable elsewhere, where land is 500 per cent. higher. Very many first class farms at extraordinary low prices. Several on easy terms. Free catalogue. ALFRED BURLEY & CO., 46 Princess street.

TIMBER—Separate cash bids received till December 30th for each lot heavily timbered farm, late Peter Chisholm, Stewarton. Subscriber not bound to accept. Before cruising write Rev. F. W. Murray, Stanley.

FOR SALE—One Carload of Ontario Horses, weighing from 1200 to 1600 lbs. Just arrived. Edward Hogan, Waterloo street.

THE MARITIME R. & B. EXCHANGE HAVE FOR SALE— Farms suitable for Cattle, Fruits, Poultry and Mixed Farming. We solicit your business to buy, sell, or exchange Realty and Business Chances. Public Warehouses for storing light and heavy goods. Furniture, etc., insured and advances made. J. H. Poole & Son, Realty and Business Brokers, 13 to 28 Nelson St. 'Phone M. 935-11.

FOR SALE—A pleasantly situated summer house in Rothesay Park. Apply to H. B., care of The Standard.

SITUATIONS VACANT.

MEN WANTED to learn the barber trade. We teach the trade in eight weeks. Constant practice. Proper instruction. Graduates earn from $12 to $18 per week. Write for full information. H. J. Greene Barber College, 734 Main street, cor. Mill, St. John, N. B.

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WANTED—First and second class female teachers for School Dist. No. 3. Apply, stating salary and references to F. S. Reid, Secy. to Trustees, Harvey, Alb. Co., N. B.

WANTED.—A second-class female teacher for District No. 10. Apply stating salary to W. H. McCracken, Secretary School Trustees, Armstrong's Corner, Queens County.

WANTED TO PURCHASE—South African land warrants. Highest prices paid. Apply to D. S., care of The Standard.

HELP WANTED—MALE.

WANTED.
Male Stenographer.

Apply by letter in own hand writing, giving age, experience and references, to Assistant Accountant, Dominion Atlantic Railway, Kentville, N. S.

SALESMEN—$50 per week selling one hand Egg Beater. Sample and terms 25c. Money refunded if unsatisfactory. Collette Mfg. Co., Collingwood, Ont.

AGENTS WANTED—To represent a well established old line life insurance Company in the cities of St. John, Moncton and Fredericton. Opportunities for agents in other parts of New Brunswick also. Good contracts will be given to the right men. Address Box N, St. John, N. B.

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"Are you in a position to sell Nursery Stock in your district during Fall and Winter months. We have a profitable proposition to make. There is money in this line now. Write Manager, Pelham Nursery Company, Toronto.

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