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 Toronto, Ont.

**THE GAS PLANT LOSSES.**

Those who will take the time to analyse the civic budget as submitted by the Council last night, will notice that one of the reasons for the increase in the rate this year is the loss on the gas plant, amounting to over \$16,000, and this year up to June 15th, when it is to be closed down, to about \$5,000. This makes a total of over \$21,000, which is equivalent to a mill and a half. In other words, the increase in the tax rate for the present year of one and three-quarter mills is practically all made up by the deficit on this utility.

There seems to be, in face of the heavy losses which have been sustained, amounting since the plant was taken over to more than \$38,000, no other alternative as a matter of sound business than to close the plant. This may cause a hardship to some, it is true. It may be that they will find difficulty in getting the natural gas company to connect them up, but we feel certain that no council would be entitled to carry on a loss annually, which must be paid by all the people, out of their taxes, to keep going a plant whose total number of users is small.

As previously pointed out, and as stated by the Mayor last night, the history and failure of this plant should not be held up as an argument against the public ownership of utilities. Conditions which have arisen to throttle the plant have been of an unusual nature and could not have been prevented whether under public or private ownership. Failures occur, too, with companies and plants not infrequently. Their losses are often heavy.

Furthermore, while this one particular utility has been a source of loss there are other publicly owned enterprises such as the Hydro, which has been a splendid success. Conditions must be taken into account in a fair treatment of these matters.

What the future of the plant may be no one can see, but it is evidently the policy of the present Council to close the operation and keep the system in as good condition as possible, against whatever may develop in the next few years. There is one obvious fact, that the municipality would be violating all sound principles if it were to continue to operate the plant with a yearly loss which of course includes interest and sinking fund, of \$16,000.

**LACROSSE NEWS**

A well attended and enthusiastic meeting was held last night at Power Glen Hotel, Western Hill, when a number of Lacrosse loeers gathered together and organized a team, which will be known as the "West St. Catharines Club". The following officers were elected to hold office for the season of 1919:

Honorary President—Major McArthur  
 Vice-President—Jack O'Brien  
 Gen. Manager—W. Anderson  
 Secretary—K. Cunningham  
 Treasurer—Wm. Sheahan

It was moved by "Bill" McCarthy, seconded by W. Sheahan, that an invitation be extended to Ald. Westwood and Frank Dixon to attend the next meeting which will be held on Monday evening March 31st, at Power Glen Hotel and an hearty invitation is also extended to all supporters of the "West St. Catharines" team as important business will be transacted.

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**ESTIMATES**

(Continued from page 1)  
 given the privilege if they are fit. Children's Shelter.

Ald. Westwood also spoke of the estimate for the Children's Shelter stating that it was found necessary to add an addition to the building to provide accommodation for the children. He said a compliment to the members of the committee who he said were working every minute of the day in the interest of the children. When the new addition is completed it will provide for any increase that may take place within the next ten years or more.

Ald. Riffer spoke of the Railway and Industrial estimates saying that with the prosperity that is almost sure to come it behooves the members of that committee to get busy and he expected that they would have their hands full before the year was over. He felt that the committee was going to get good results along the line of securing new industries. There are a number of manufacturers who are agitating for a reduction in the tariff but until that is settled they will not make a move towards branching out.

**Other Committees.**  
 Ald. McDowell in the absence of Ald. Nash gave a brief outline of the expenditures to be made by the Parks, Cemetery and Civic Improvement Committee and Ald. Dakers spoke of the amounts that would be expended by the Market, Buildings and License Committee. Ald. Rose in speaking of the estimates of the Conservation Committee said it was not a spending Committee.

In speaking of the officials salaries Mayor Elson stated that the Council took the view that increases should be granted wherever possible for these officials gave worthy service to the city, but with the increased expenditures from outside boards it was found impossible to grant any increase except in two or three cases. In not granting an increase to all, the Council did so with much reluctance and it was not because of any lack of confidence in the officials.

**Victory Bond Investment**  
 City Treasurer Watt at the request of the Mayor gave a short outline of the Victory Bond Investment. He stated that the situation was that the City had been forced to deposit all the sinking funds with the Provincial Treasurer. Four per cent. was allowed on these funds until recently when the rate was raised to 5 per cent. on the sum of \$100,000 but there was \$200,000 which was only earning four per cent. There is a Bill before the House now asking for the release of this money and when that is granted it will mean the increased earning power of one per cent. From now on the city will be able to invest its money at a higher rate of interest.

We now have \$500,000 invested in Victory bonds for a period of 5 years and the increased earnings of this money will be tremendous.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Watt for his explanation and the committee then rose and on motion of Ald. Eagle and Westwood the report of the Committee recommending the adoption of the estimates was passed.

By-laws were then introduced and passed authorizing the levy of taxation for the city and school purposes and the collection and disposal of garbage for the year 1919 and for the collection of said taxes.

The Mayor was authorized to have a streamer bearing the words "Welcome Home" placed at the Western entrance of the Burgoyne bridge.

**"OUT OF THE SHADOW" IS BASED ON FAMOUS E. W. HORNUNG'S NOVEL**

Pauline Frederick's New Film Has Exceptionally Strong Role for Star.

There are few who have not read E. W. Hornung's powerful novel, "The Shadow of the Rope," which was published several years ago and which has enjoyed a phenomenal sale. This story has been pictured by Paramount under the title of "Out of the Shadow," and it will be shown at the Griffin Theatre Thursday, Friday and Saturday, with beautiful Pauline Frederick in the stellar role.

Mr. Hornung has told in graphic style the story of a young Australian girl who wed a man, is treated with fendish cruelty by him, and when he is slain in self-defence by a pianist of whom he is jealous, the bride is arrested for his murder. She is tried, but acquitted, and later her innocence is established when the slayer confesses.

The young woman then learns to love a strong man and their love romance ends happily for both.

Miss Frederick is supported by picked players, her leading man being Wyndham Standing. Others in the cast include Ronald Bryson, William Gross, Emma Campbell, Jack W. Johnson, Syn De Conde and Catharine Thomas.

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**MERRITTON**

The moving picture show in the Town Hall was largely attended last night, and a neat sum realized which will go towards the Memorial Fund.

A very interesting time was spent at the home of Mr. Samuel Moffat, when a number of his friends surprised him, the occasion being his 84th birthday. At the beginning of the evening an elaborate oyster supper was served. Rev. James Annesley, pastor of St. Andrew's Church, presiding, after which the time was spent in speeches, music, etc. One of the pleasant features of the evening that special mention should be made of was the fact that five of Mr. Moffat's friends, three 84 years of age and two at the age of 80 were present. At a reasonable hour the party dispersed wishing Mr. Moffat many happy returns of his birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Little, St. David's street, were at home to a number of friends on Tuesday evening, the occasion being the return of Gunner Harry Windmill, C. M. R., from overseas service. The evening was spent in a very pleasant manner in games and other amusements that go to make an event of this nature a huge success. Dainty refreshments were served, and at a reasonable hour the guests departed, wishing Mr. and Mrs. Little admirable entertainers.

Sunday being the last Sunday of the first quarter of 1919, every member and friend of St. Andrew's Church, in order to assist the managers, to meet their obligations are requested to hand in their full contribution for the quarter. Mr. Annesley will give an address on Longfellow's "Excelsior."

A meeting of St. James' Church congregation will be held at the home of Concellor Leroy Thompson, on Thursday night to make final arrangements for the robes which are to be purchased for the members of the choir.

"Cherry Glen," the old Hamilton residence at Lock 9, is receiving extensive repairs, which when completed will present a very neat appearance.

**THOROLD**

Miss Alexia Toms, of Thorold Township, is at present at Hagersville, attending the funeral of her grandmother who has passed away at that place.

Mrs. (Dr.) Leader of Wheatley, Ontario, is spending a few days the guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Fisher, Vine street.

The Ladies Aid of the Presbyterian Church will meet on Thursday afternoon at the home of Mrs. William Munro, Welland Street.

Miss Agnes Cartmell, formerly of the local post office staff has accepted a position at Martin Bros. sand, gravel and cement office, and has entered upon her duties.

Miss Laura Cross of Kingstone has arrived in town to spend a few weeks as a guest at the home of her brother, Elmer Cross, Pine street.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Cross, Pine street, have purchased a farm in Grandham Township, and will move to that place the early part of next week.

Magistrate D. J. C. Munro is spending the day in Toronto on business in the interest of the town.

A very pleasant time was spent on

Tuesday night when a large number of friends surprised Mr. and Mrs. S. Smith at their home, Beaverdams, the occasion being the 50th anniversary of their marriage. Friends were present from St. Catharines, Merrittton, Welland and Fonthill. During the evening a very suitable address was read and Mr. and Mrs. Smith were presented with a handsome chair, after which a sumptuous supper was served. Various amusements, speeches, etc., were juggled in until a late hour when the merry party dispersed to their respective homes reporting having had a most pleasant time, and wishing Mr. and Mrs. Smith much joy in a number of years to come.

Friends of Mr. John H. Thompson



Article No. 18  
 Cut out for Reference

editor of "The Post" will regret to hear he is confined to his home through illness.

Major T. C. Keefer of Ottawa was in Town on Tuesday. Mr. Keefer is a grandson of the late George Keefer, C. E., who, with Mr. Merritt, built the old Welland Canal.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Cutbertson, have returned to their home in Byron, Ohio, after a pleasant visit spent with their daughter, Mrs. F. H. Tripp on Mill street.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Porter and family have returned to Thorold after a six months visit to the coast. They will settle again in town.

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**Creating Opportunities for Employment**

BESIDES helping to distribute employment through a chain of Employment Offices, the Government has developed plans to create opportunities for employment.

Briefly, these plans cover the following phases:—

**1. Public Works**

During the war, many important Public Works have been held up. The Minister of Public Works, has his plans and preparations made to proceed with the more necessary of these in the near future. This Committee has also been in touch with Provincial Governments and Municipalities, with a view to impressing upon them the necessity for similar action. The building and public works programme now in sight will provide employment for many returned soldiers and war-workers.

**2. Railway**

During the past four years, a great deal of work necessary to keep our railways up to standard has been postponed. Some millions of dollars must be expended on improving road-bed, constructing bridges, buildings and other improvements. Vast quantities of ties are being got out this winter. Equipment of various kinds must be secured. The Minister of Railways states that as soon as weather conditions will permit, some thousands of men will be absorbed in various railway undertakings. The supplies and materials required will also provide employment.

**3. Shipbuilding**

The shipbuilding programme arranged for by the Government will provide employment for many men during 1919. It is expected that arrangements will be completed to keep the shipbuilding yards in active operation throughout the year. The Government recognises that this ship construction is one of the best means of providing suitable employment for many skilled and other workers.

**4. Export Trade**

The Government has established a Canadian Trade Commission. This Commission has an office in Canada and a "trade mission" overseas. Through this trade mission it is anticipated that Canada will secure an important share in the business of providing materials and manufactured products required for reconstruction work in Europe. A short time may be required before final details are completed and definite results are announced. The business so secured will be distributed through the regular channels of trade and thus afford extra opportunities for employment.

**5. Housing**

The Government has set aside the large sum of \$25,000,000 to be loaned through the Provinces in order to encourage the building of workmen's houses. When the season for building arrives, this work should give employment to many hundreds of men both in construction work and in the supply of materials.

**6. Land Settlement**

The Government, as already explained in a former announcement, has developed plans to help soldiers to become farmers, providing land, granting loans and giving training and supervision where necessary. It is expected that a large number of returning soldiers will take advantage of these opportunities. The scheme will involve the expenditure of some millions of dollars, a good deal of which will find its way into building materials, supplies, machinery, etc., all of which will assist in providing employment.

**7. Road Building**

The Government now has under consideration the question of joining the provincial governments in financing the construction of public highways. Should a favorable decision be reached, a large field for employment opportunities will be opened up. Regardless of Federal action, provincial governments are preparing their own road-making programmes.

The Government is alive to the necessity for providing employment opportunities, and stands prepared to assist in every way possible. If corporations and private citizens will join in this feature of Repatriation Work, Canada should have little difficulty with the employment problem.



**The Repatriation Committee**

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