

BRANTFORD DAILY COURIER.

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THIRTEEN PAGES

SPLENDID ADDRESS ON THE PREVENTION OF FIRE

Board of Trade Last Night Listened to Expert Advice Regarding Matters Pertaining to Fires—Loss Much too Heavy at Present.

The regular meeting of the Board of Trade was held in the Council chamber last night. Present were President C. A. Waterous in the chair, Vice-President Reginald Scarfe, Secretary George Hatley, G. Scarfe, J. Muir, T. Hendry, K. V. Bunnell, E. L. Gould, J. P. Hoag, G. Pickles, G. Whitaker, Chief Lewis, J. Waller, W. Whitaker, A. P. vanSomeren, Mr. McFarland, G. Ireland, S. G. Read, W. W. Robinson, J. M. Young, Ald. Broadbent, G. Ellis, L. Waterous, Mr. Heaton and Mr. Walker of Toronto, who addressed the meeting, and others.

A splendid address was given by Mr. Heaton of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association in the interests of the Ontario Fire Prevention Association on the science and improvement of the methods of fire protection and fire prevention. Mr. Heaton gave a very interesting and instructive address dealing with fire prevention, as he claimed, one of the most important questions of the day, and the one that the local Legislature will soon be called upon to form an act in that direction. The speaker took up the question of national fire ways and gave a

Labor and Gospel Unite to Study What's What in Brantford

A committee from the Trades and Labor Council and members of the Ministerial Alliance held a joint meeting in the parlors of the Y.M.C.A. last night to discuss together social problems, especially the wage problem.

Rev. A. E. Lavell, chairman, submitted the following subjects for the discussion:

How can the Ministerial Alliance and Trades and Labor Council best cooperate?

Is speculation or chance a justifiable basis for housing a community?

Is direct legislation by the initiative, referendum and recall necessary to social well being?

Is speculation for profit good or bad for society as a whole?

It has been mentioned that houses being built in Brantford are unfit. What style of house is in mind? What is an improper house?

Is peace-work a curse to society?

What wages does a young woman require in Brantford?

Is a shorter work-day necessary to social advancement?

Is a minimum wage system justifiable?

It was decided not to discuss the questions as a whole but to confine the discussion to certain questions. How can the Ministerial Alliance and Trades and Labor Council best cooperate? Is a minimum wage system

DEWART THREW UP SPONGE AT LEGISLATURE'S ENQUIRY TO-DAY

Left the Chamber in a Huff, Followed By Proudfoot, the Man Who Made the Charges Against Premier Sir James Whitney and Mr. Hanna--It Was Some Row While it Lasted.

(Canadian Press Despatch)

TORONTO, April 30.—Blazing with indignation, in a voice that scarcely concealed his emotion, H. H. Dewart K. C., counsel for Mr. Proudfoot, before the committee on Elections and Privileges investigating the charges against Mr. Whitney, Mr. Hanna and Sir James Whitney, threw up his brief this morning and made a dramatic exit from the room, followed a few minutes later by Mr. Proudfoot.

The investigation had reached the stage where Mr. Dewart was leading George C. Taylor up to the telling of the payment of the \$500 to Mr. Hanna. At this juncture Mr. Nesbitt restated a lot of questions by formally admitting the receipt of \$500 for campaign purposes. This did not suit Mr. Dewart, who wanted to get light on the circumstances surrounding the contribution. The chairman ruled against him, and after a sharp discussion, in which a number of the members took a hand there were two appeals from the chairman's ruling, but he was sustained on a straight party vote.

Mr. Dewart held a short conference with Mr. Proudfoot and rising, started to make his farewell address. He was interrupted by the chairman, who apparently did not seem what was coming. Mr. Dewart finally got away, and after scoring the chairman's ruling and the attitude of the committee after the fair promises made by the Premier in the House, announced that there was no course open for him save to withdraw from the case.

Mr. Proudfoot followed in a similar vein, but plainly told the committee that this was not the end of it. They would hear from him again in the House. Chairman Ferguson started to put a question to Mr. Proudfoot but the latter curtly informed the chairman that he declined to be interrogated by him.

Before the committee began taking evidence this morning Mr. Nesbitt asked the chairman to permit him to ask some questions with reference to the alleged irregularities in the coal tenders. He did so at the request of Mr. Hanna.

This was refused by the chairman, who argued that they could not possibly widen the scope of the enquiry without getting permission from the House. If this question was to be investigated a charge would first have to be made in the House and then referred to the committee in the usual way.

Taylor's Evidence.

George C. Taylor was then called by Mr. Dewart and questioned with reference to the Central Prison contract. The business was transferred to the Taylor-Scott Company, now doing business in Palmerston. The agreement of the Central Prison contract was made with Mr. Hanna through Mr. Thorne. The intention was to settle the accounts with the Government from month to month. Mr. Nesbitt challenged Mr. Dewart's statement as to whether any matters were corruptly dealt with. It did not make any difference whether accounts were settled monthly or yearly. The chairman urged Mr. Dewart to get to the point as to how Mr. Taylor's claim against the Government grew from time to time.

Mr. Dewart—When did your differences with the Government start in connection with this contract?

Taylor—Almost from the beginning.

Mr. Dewart proceeded to read a letter from the Taylor-Scott firm to Mr. Hanna giving a statement claiming allowance for worn-out machinery, etc., and asking if this might be deducted from the next settlement, and asking if new machinery should be purchased and charged to the Government or if the Central Prison authorities would make the purchase.

Accounts aggregating \$600 were enclosed. This letter was dated July 9, 1907.

Mr. Dewart—As early as July 9, 1907, matters were in dispute with the Provincial Secretary's department.

Mr. Nesbitt—There is no evidence of a dispute. This is merely a claim which was settled, I believe.

Mr. Dewart—You wrote Mr. Hanna personally about this matter?

Mr. Nesbitt—Not necessarily personally. I wrote to him as Provincial Secretary.

Mr. Dewart produced a letter written by Mr. Postlethwaite referring to an interview between Mr. Hanna and Mr. Taylor. He wanted the witness to examine it in order to refresh his memory.

Mr. Nesbitt objected, but after a

CHESS BOARD OF WAR IS BECOMING INVOLVED

There is no Telling What May Happen—Russia and Austria are Growling at Each Other, and Little Montenegro Remains Firm.

(Canadian Press Despatch)

NEW YORK, April 30.—A cable to the Tribune from London says: Austria's threat to take matters into her own hands in the Balkans has declared a decision to proceed with the evacuation of Scutari is regarded here as an attempt to bring pressure to bear upon Great Britain, France and Russia, to induce them to accept the Austrian proposals at the Ambassadors' conference in London tomorrow.

Austria made her attitude quite clear at Monday's conference, but some of the powers represented were opposed to taking military action until Montenegro had had reasonable time to reply to the warning. The meeting was then adjourned until tomorrow, it being understood that if King Nicholas had not by then returned a favorable answer Austria would issue a very short ultimatum and act at once.

The only reply received up to the present, however, is the laconic note,

in which the Montenegrin Government declares that it cannot be bothered with politics during the orthodox Easter holiday.

Austrian diplomatic spokesmen, the ambassadors conference to-morrow may have a fateful issue. The attitude of Russia is perhaps the gravest element in the situation, as it is more doubtful that Russia has so far co-operated loyally with the other powers. This is indicated in a measure by the fact that she took no active part in the blockade, but delegated her ally, Austria, to represent her. The concert has now arrived at a point where it will be put to a crucial test. If it breaks down under the stress of Russian opposition to Austria, it is impossible to foretell the consequences.

Austria is meanwhile making urgent representations to Italy to join in the campaign, but Italy, it seems, is holding back at present. In this connection, it must always be borne in mind that King Nicholas is the father-of the Queen of Italy.

PROVISION FOR BRITISH HEROES

(Canadian Press Despatch)

LONDON, April 30.—In addition to the supplementary annuities announced yesterday by Premier Asquith for the families of Captain Scott and Dr. Wilson, the British Government will pay the following:

To the widow of Petty Officer Evans, in addition to the regular admiralty allowance of about \$75, an annuity of \$60 and 75 cents a week for each of her children until they reach the age of 18 years.

The Government of India, as an employer of Lieut. Bowers of the Royal Marines when he started with

the expedition will give to his mother and sisters \$500 a year.

The premier in sending this notice to the Lord Mayor remarks that the annuities will leave room for equitable augmentation from the Mansion House and other funds which total \$278,800.

The family of Captain Oates of the ill-fated expedition who perished when he went out on the blizzard because his hands and feet were frozen is not included in the official grants. His widow and two children for this is that the family is wealthy.

CHANGES IN LICENSE ACT

It is Believed that Amendments Will Go Into Effect in May.

The belief in official circles is that the amendments to the liquor license act, under which barrooms will be opened until 8 a.m., will go into effect almost immediately. The effect will be to open the barrooms until 8 a.m., and under ordinary conditions the amendments would come into force on that date. From present appearances, however, it will at least be several days later before the lieutenant-governor will be able to pass on them after the House is again called.

It is probable that another clause may yet be added to the bill by which the authority would be granted to bring the new rules into force at the time, and following this the new licenses for the coming year would be issued on the understanding, so that present indications point to the revision of the bottle trade of hotels, the shortening of the hours of sale in the mornings and the elevation of the license becoming operative at once.

IS FLYING TO EDINBURGH

(Canadian Press Despatch)

LYONS, France, April 30.—Jules Vedrines, the French aviator, started at 4.37 this morning on his aeroplane on a flight to Edinburgh, Scotland, a distance of approximately 930 miles.

VILLACOUBLAY, France, April 30.—Vedrines alighted here with his aeroplane at 8.10 a.m. to refill his tanks. He took wing again at 8.35 towards the north.

MALLEABLE FIRE LOSS WAS \$28,000

The loss at the recent fire at the Malleable Iron Works, which is now being adjusted by experts, will be a great deal higher than was at first thought. A loss of \$18,000 on the machinery alone was placed yesterday by the adjusters, who it is expected will finish their work to-day. The buildings are this morning being

gone over. Local insurance men were somewhat shocked to learn that the damage had been placed at so high a figure, as it was thought the damage would not be over \$15,000 at the most.

The appraisers finished this afternoon and their estimate of loss is about \$28,000.

NOTICE

Conservatives Ward Two.

A meeting will be held at Conservatives' headquarters (old Masonic Hall), on Wednesday evening, at 8 o'clock, for the purpose of electing a ward chairman.

G. H. RYERSON, President.

Buying Furniture.

Mr. G. L. Goodwin of the Y. M. C. A. is in Berlin to-day concerning the purchase of furniture for the new Y. M. C. A.

STRIKE WOULD BE SERIOUS

Entire Building Trade in This City Might Be Tied Up.

In the event of the carpenters going out on strike by the sanction of the building trades council it is said it will cause a walkout of practically all the tradesmen connected with the building trade with the exception of the brick layers. The brick layers, however, it is said, are also contemplating going out.

The Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and the Brotherhood of Carpenters are amalgamating, and in the event of their striking the laborers working in the building trades, belonging to the American Federation of Labor, are bound to go out also. The laborers receive 25c per hour and are now out for 27½c, a nine hour day and twelve o'clock on Saturdays. The walk out would affect 120 laborers. The laborers have appointed a committee.

A meeting of the carpenters will be held to-night.

WERE CAUGHT WITH THE COODS

Four Farmers at Oakland Were Caught Illegally Fishing.

For some time complaints have been made to the Game and Fisheries Department about parties spearing fish in the creek in the vicinity of Oakland, and the case was put into the hands of Game and Fish Inspector Henry Johnson and High County Constable Fred Kerr. The pair made the unsuccessful attempt to catch offenders, but their efforts were fruitless. Last night the two officers took a round about way to the creek and caught four men red handed who took to their heels when they caught sight of the officers, but as they were well known to the officers and in that vicinity returned and gave themselves up and handed over all their paraphernalia.

A police court case will follow in due time as a result of the vigilance of the officers.

SIR CECIL IS VERY POPULAR

Britain's New Ambassador to Washington is Democratic Enough.

(Canadian Press Despatch)

NEW YORK, April 30.—A despatch from Washington, says: Sir Cecil Arthur Spring-Rice, K.C.M.G., the new British ambassador, made a formal call on the acting secretary of state, John Bassett Moore, yesterday. He rather shattered precedents by calling at once, although his acquaintance with Prof. Moore dates to the time he served in Washington as secretary of the embassy.

Mr. Moore declared that plans for the formal presentation of the new ambassador to the President have not been arranged, but that his credentials probably will be submitted the latter part of the week.

The new ambassador is a strikingly democratic person and said he expected thoroughly to enjoy his mission to Washington. One of his first visitors, he said, was the new Austria-Hungary ambassador, Dr. Constantin Dumba, who has just arrived in Washington.

"Both of us have just come from Stockholm, where we were close colleagues for some time," said Sir Cecil. "It was delightful to meet an old friend on my arrival here."

Regarding the report that Alfred Mitchell Innes, councillor of the British embassy, is to be transferred from Washington soon, Sir Cecil said that Mr. Innes is on the list of promotion, and that the chances are that he will soon be appointed minister to some post, although he had no intention of leaving the Foreign Office. He intimated that Mr. Innes would have leave of absence soon.

Obituary

The Late Mr. Muirhead.

The death occurred at Kilarney, Manitoba, April 14, 1913, Alfred Muirhead, Brantford resident, William Edward Muirhead, at the age of 68 years, 11 months and 26 days eldest son of the late William Muirhead, the first Mayor of Brantford. Mr. Muirhead leaves two surviving brothers, Tom of Emerson, Manitoba, Alfred of Morris, Manitoba and one sister, Mrs. James K. Wye also of Morris. To mourn his loss are his wife and three sons, William of Edmonton, Alb. doat wodar dowad dooat doat, Alex, near Kilarney and Pruson living with his mother at Kilarney.

CHAIRMAN'S RULING

Chairman—The committee control the procedure here this is not like a court of law.

Mr. Rowell—Quite true, and it is the undoubted right of the members of the committee to dissent from such an attitude. If the counsel for the defence admitted the charges in the terms of the charges it would be different. The charge is admitted but the committee are to be left to draw their conclusions of the matter without having in their possession the essential facts surrounding the case. The member for Centre Huron who has preferred these charges is entitled to fair dealing—to a fair trial—and he is being denied that if he is not permitted to go into the facts surrounding the payment of the \$500.

Chairman Sustained.

Mr. Gowman appealed from the chairman's ruling and a straight party vote was recorded sustaining the chair.

Mr. Dewart to Mr. Taylor, the witness—"Did Mr. Hanna ask for any other contributions except this \$500?"

Mr. Nesbitt—"If object. This is not relevant and it is impertinent and the question should be stricken from the records."

The Chairman sustained Mr. Nesbitt.

Another appeal was taken from the chairman's ruling and he was sustained as before.

"Now let us get ahead again," said the chairman.

Mr. Dewart—"I regret very much, Mr. Chairman, that your action compels to take the action I am compelled to do."

Chairman—"Now Mr. Dewart, I don't want you to make a speech."

Mr. Dewart—Excuse me, Mr. Chairman, I am not going to make a speech, but I must ask your indulgence while I make a statement. In my view of this case the question I asked the witness is one of the utmost importance, so far as my client is concerned. My learned friend has deliberately made certain admissions with the view of shutting off an opportunity of getting at the facts in the case, and your rulings make it impossible for me to get the facts before the committee. It is apparently the deliberate intention of the committee to prevent—

Chairman—"Order! Order!"

Chairman—"Now stop right there. You are not to be permitted to abuse the committee."

Mr. Dewart continued to charge the chairman's rulings as unfair, despite the "fair promises of the Premier in the House that the fullest opportunity would be given to probe the charges."

Like a Thunderbolt.

"Under the circumstances it would be grossly unfair to my client to continue longer to act in the case, and I am therefore compelled to withdraw the case."

Mr. Dewart's announcement fell like a thunderbolt.

The chairman quietly stated that he regretted that Mr. Dewart had seen fit to take such action.

Proudfoot, Too!

Mr. Proudfoot—Mr. Chairman, I desire to prove certain charges. I have retained counsel for that purpose, but I find that we are practically where we were in the public accounts committee. I endeavored there to go into certain matters, but was refused permission. I brought the matter up in the House, and was assured by the Premier that the matters in dispute would be fairly dealt with by this committee.

Chairman—Very properly, too.

Mr. Proudfoot—I regret to disagree with you. The committee, I am not going to find fault with them. Possibly they consider they are following the proper course, but it is impossible for me under such circumstances to establish my charges. I must therefore decline to further attempt to prosecute the charges here, but gentlemen this is not the end of the matter. I am not abandoning the position I took in the House. I intend to again bring the matter up in the House and of course the House may deal with it in the same way, but I have nothing further to say now."

Mr. Proudfoot proceeded to leave the room when he was stopped by the chairman—"I want to ask you a question, Mr. Proudfoot. Do you maintain—"

Mr. Proudfoot—"I decline to be interrogated by you at all, Mr. Chairman."

CHAIRMAN'S RULING

Chairman—No, you are not going to make a speech. You are here as a matter of privilege, and if you cannot proceed regularly I will ask the committee to reconsider the question of counsel and go on and investigate these charges without counsel, which they are quite competent to do.

Some Cross-fire

Mr. Dewart—Does Mr. Nesbitt admit the charges as outlined by Mr. Proudfoot that this payment was illegal, corrupt and subversive of good government?

Chairman—How can this witness answer such a question? That is a matter for the committee to determine.

Mr. Nesbitt—I admit on behalf of Mr. Hanna that he received \$500 from Mr. Taylor, and am prepared to admit that Mr. Taylor says it was corruptly received.

H. Munro (Glengarry)—As a member of the committee I must say that this matter is one of the utmost importance, and we should have the fullest information on this point.

J. C. Elliott (Middlesex)—It is quite impossible for the committee to arrive at a proper conclusion in this matter unless they are in possession of the facts surrounding the payment of this money.

Chairman—It may be your view, Mr. Elliott that it is corrupt; it may be to the other members that it was quite proper. The members are quite likely to hold different views on this question. The committee won't arrive at a conclusion any easier by wrangling over it all day. You may appeal from the ruling of the chair if you wish.

Mr. Elliott—I submit that my view like the view of any other member of the committee should be determined by evidence as to the facts surrounding the payment of this money.

Chairman—I would not like to reflect on your intelligence by the assumption that you would not be able to arrive at a conclusion with such evidence as you have before you, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott—I don't propose to enter into a discussion with you, Mr. Chairman as to my intelligence.

T. Marshall of Monk, contended that it would be a grave mistake to allow the report to go broadcast in the press that this committee have declined to thoroughly investigate a matter of this kind.

C. Bowman—If the ruling of the chairman is logical, then the evidence of the committee is illogical. The Premier admitted the payment of the \$500 in the House and this committee was appointed to investigate the circumstances. Now you rule that questions cannot be asked relating to the facts.

Chairman—What the Premier admitted in the House is not evidence here.

T. W. McGarr argued that the admission having been made of the receipt of the \$500, there was nothing further to investigate on this point. We have the evidence and it is for the committee to pass judgment on the facts.

Rowell Protests.

N. W. Rowell K. C., leader of the opposition rose to his feet at this point. "It was not my intention to take any part in the work of this committee Mr. Chairman but your ruling is so unusual—unprecedented in any court of law, that I must protest against it. No person knows better than the counsel on both sides that the circumstances surrounding an act of this kind are essential to

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