

COUNCIL ESTIMATE TORONTO TAX RATE

Long Session Ends Without Arriving at Any Definite Conclusion.

CATHOLIC ARMY HUTS

Motion as to Grant is Lost, Despite Spirited Backing.

Despite what at times became acrimonious discussion, the business was conducted in a very efficient and thorough manner, due in no small degree to the excellent knowledge of the parliamentary rules by Ald. Hiltz, the chairman of the committee, and his firm enforcement of them.

Cont. McBride and Maguire made fighting speeches on the K. C. Army Huts grants and Ald. Ramsden brought his long experience and rhetorical accomplishments to bear in support of the proposition. At times the debate degenerated into a mere discussion of religious sects, with Ald. Baker defining the same.

Fully half the council took the opportunity to speak on the subject and displayed more or less oratorical powers. Cont. Robbins was attacked by Cont. McBride for displaying ingratitude to the overseas men and he replied in like terms, the discussion becoming exceedingly warm at this juncture with both men standing on their feet and Cont. McBride demanding that his colleague retract a statement, which he considered to be a direct insult.

The mayor and the controllers expressed appreciation of the work of the finance commissioner and the heads of departments for their co-operation during the years of war.

A pleasant feature of the opening of the meeting was the welcome extended to Lieut. Col. B. S. Peakes, V.C., D.S.O., etc., of the 116th.

Mayor Church in speaking on the revenue said that prior to Mr. Bradshaw's regime municipal revenue had been a deficit in the revenue, and this had been abolished. Mr. Bradshaw is left alone he will get down the tax rate to 20 mills by the next year. When I leave this office I have the honor of occupying I am going to leave it in good condition, I save hands off the revenue, leave it to the commissioner.

Cont. McBride strongly contended that the city should pay as it goes. "We are paying dearly for the mistakes in the past and we must not do anything today for which we shall be sorry."

Toronto's tax rate will be approximately 23 1/2 mills on the dollar for 1919. Only 12 million additions totaling \$14,481 were permitted. Cont. Maguire's motion to put the war expenditure of \$1,451,485 into the 1919 budget was defeated 18 to 8 in the morning until 12 at night the estimates were discussed. The rate was struck at 11:59 p.m.

Ald. Hiltz took the chair on the committee of the whole. Cont. Maguire, in opening the estimates debate, complimented the finance commissioner and heads of departments for the way they had kept down their expenditure estimates. In 1914 the revenue was 15 1/2 million, it is now twenty millions, or six millions in excess of the provincial revenue. The controller also extolled the Canadian National Exhibition directors for the work they had done last year in presenting to the city \$95,000. He spoke feelingly of the late Col. W. K. McNaught, who, he said, was really a father of the exhibition.

high and business schools, which ought to be charged against the rate. The schools, he said, were full of Americanisms and frills and fads. If the matter was submitted to the people they would not vote one cent to the school board until a reorganization of their building department took place. Controller Maguire's amendment was carried, as was also Controller McBride's.

Council Fees.
Ald. McMullin asked for a reduction of the \$12,000 estimate for council fees, new costs and legislation. The solicitor's department stated that since the first of January, \$890 had already been spent. Controller McBride asked that the amount be allowed to stand.

Cont. McBride claimed that if there was not so much overlapping in the medical, health department, the city would be saved \$200,000. Discussion on the subject was brought up by Ald. Cowan asking if there was any overlapping of the social service department and the health department.

Cont. Maguire firmly supported the grant. He absolutely denied the statement alleged to have been made by Col. Price at the last year's campaign that for over 150 miles in France there was not one Catholic but (Cont. McBride: "He never was in France.") "At that time there were eight," said Cont. Maguire. He proved that the charter members of the organization were not all of the Catholic faith, but that such men as the premier of Canada and many other prominent men were numbered among its members.

Ald. Ramsden said a dead end was made on Ald. Beamish last year because he supported the Catholic Huts. Ald. Ramsden said he had no objection to soldiers being given a Bible or even a rosary, which was nearest to the heart of the Catholic men. Cont. McBride believed that a Catholic boy had as much right to receive the rosary as he left for the great beyond as any Protestant had to receive the Bible. "I will vote as I think right, not as I am told behind locked doors, I will be a man, not a rat."

Those voting for the grant were Mayor Church, Cont. Maguire, McBride, Ald. Sykes, M. Johnston, Morridge, Ramsden, McMullin, Whetter, Bal, Hiltz, Ryd, Ing and Birdsall. Against, Ald. Cowan, Blackburn, Baker, Williamson, Cont. Robbins, Ald. W. Johnston, Honeyford, Winnett, Maher, Nesbitt, Miskelly, McGregor and Plewman.

Ald. Ball and Hiltz introduced two motions to increase the estimates \$25,000 for roadway and asphalt repairs. Both motions were lost.

Cont. Maguire was very much opposed to spending \$50,000 on an experimental activated sludge plant on Morley avenue. Cont. McBride moved that no further expense be incurred on sewage disposal until same has been duly authorized by the board of works and board of control. Carried.

Estimate Too Low.
Cont. Maguire contended firmly that there were many items of revenue which were estimated below the amount which should be expected, and reasonably expected of them. He asked that Mr. Bradshaw be allowed to explain his position in connection with the revenue.

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WILL SAVE DAYLIGHT IN POLICE COURT, TOO

There was plenty of confusion in the police court yesterday morning when the police court did not open until 11 o'clock Toronto time. The magistrates refused to conform with the daylight saving, and the result was that the police department had the prisoners in the cells down below, and they had to wait an extra hour before they were tried. Persons answering summonses to court also waiting in the corridor an extra hour. Magistrate Denison said yesterday that in future the court would open at 10 o'clock local time, and that the police were in future to insert on all summonses issued, for the party or parties to either attend morning or afternoon court according to Toronto time.

SCORE'S GREAT ESTATE SALE NECKWEAR SPECIALS.

We have one hundred dozen of Spitalfields silk ties—ready for importation—that go into the big sale lots at very attractive prices for today and tomorrow—silver grey and black stripe—silver grey with pin head spot—black with blue—cardinal and green—black ground with stripes of mauve, emerald green, navy and orange—regular \$1.50 for 95c, and another lot nicely assorted, regular 75c for 45c—R. Score & Son, Limited, Tailors and Haberdashers, 77 West King street.

CHRISTIAN MOTHERS.

About two hundred members of the Christian Mothers' Society of St. Helen's parish heard an interesting address on "Social Service," by Mrs. Emma O'Sullivan, at this week's meeting. The sum of \$50 was voted to St. Mary's Maternity Hospital, Bond street. It was also decided to make a donation to St. Elizabeth Nurses' Association.

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JAPAN ABOLISHES DUTY ON WHEAT AND BARLEY

Ottawa, March 31.—The commercial intelligence branch of the department of trade and commerce has received a cablegram from A. E. Bryan, Canadian Trade Commissioner, Yokohama, Japan, that the duty on wheat and barley has been abolished by the Japanese government, while the duty on flour has been reduced to 75 cents per bushel. This is equivalent to about 37 1/2 cents duty on 123 1-3 pounds of flour.

ONE DEAD FROM GAS; COMRADE UNCONSCIOUS

Charles Frierman was found dead and N. Armstrong in an unconscious condition in their bedroom of a house at 211 1/2 East Queen street, yesterday. Armstrong was removed by the police to St. Michael's Hospital. Last night he was in a semi-conscious condition but is expected to recover. Gas was escaping from a defective gas stove being used in the room by the men to prepare the breakfast. The body of Frierman was removed to the morgue, where an inquest will be held.