

POOR DOCUMENT

MC2035

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 1920

THE PAVING QUESTION

To the Editor of the Times:

Sir:—Being a property owner in City road, and one that is opposed to the abutters' tax, I wish to show to the citizens who will have to pay the extra tax and will use my own property to prove my statement.

I have a house with sixty-four feet frontage on City road. I have three tenants, each paying \$15 per month. This property has paid me five per cent. for twelve years. Using the contractor's figures that were tendered for this work, and my experience as a builder, it would cost, with interest, \$1,500 per foot per year.

Mr. Agar told one of the abutters on Union street when it was paved that the total bill for his frontage would be approximately \$10, but when he got his bill it was \$22.70.

If this unjust tax becomes law, I will have to raise each of my tenants \$30 per year. Booster say the city will pay the other third. Is my property not part of the city?

You compare Montreal with St. John. The truth of the matter is that abutters in Montreal have not paid for any pavement yet. It has only been suggested, and in Halifax the street railway pays for the car tracks. The actual cost for a double track, seventeen feet wide, with one foot for foundation with granite blocks, would be \$85,000 per mile, so the abutters' charge is very light. In St. John the street railway only pays \$5,000 per mile.

If this paving bill becomes law, abutters on Brussels street, March road, Haymarket square and Douglas avenue will all have to raise the rents of tenants to meet the extra cost and very likely the landlords on the other streets will take advantage of this on account of scarcity of housing and raise their rents

accordingly and the poor tenant will have to bear the full burden, and property owners on streets already paved will go scott free, and not the man on the side streets as represented. Perhaps this is what boosters call "passing the buck." The tenant or poor taxpayer would only have to pay an increased tax of about fifty cents per year, if done by general assessment.

Now, Mr. Booster, would it not be a

more commendable Easter spirit for the business men and members of the Noble 17 to say we are with the poor tenant and will bear some of his burden.

This is only the entering wedge of the abutters' tax and other streets will follow. Yours may be the next.

Wasson's Drug Store and others.

Doctors Recommend

Bon-Opto for the Eyes

Physicians and eye specialists pre-

scribe Bon-Opto as a safe home remedy

in the treatment of eye troubles and to

strengthen eyesight. Sold under money

refund guarantee by all druggists.

Wasson's Drug Store and others.

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