

MORNING STAR

THE MORNING STAR

TRURO, N. S. MARCH 4, 1912

City Hall Project Should Be Divorced From Speculative Opera House Scheme

Truro People Should Think Twice Before Investing \$7.45 Each in a New Picture Show Business, Whilst New Indus- tries Languish for Want of Capital

The Town Council wants to borrow \$56,000.00 and a poll is to be held to-night asking the Local Legislature now in session at Halifax to empower the Council to go into the money market and make the loan.

Forty-five thousand dollars of the amount is for a proposed civic building, with a public hall attachment—a public which it is said, will seat not more than 750 people.

Eleven thousand of the amount is to retire maturing debentures, that is to pay back money which the people of Truro, on the advice of their council, borrowed years ago.

While LUNN'S WEEK has never seriously opposed the civic building project, it has opposed a building of that kind with public hall attachment.

We are not begging quarter.

Not at all.

All we ask is a square deal.

Our opposition to a public hall, with opera house attachment, if you will, is based on the light of history.

For years Daniel Gunn struggled with the problem of trying to finance a house of amusement.

We say Mr. Gunn's experience is a matter of history.

He never made one cent. He first invested in the old Conversorium and afterward in Gunn's Opera House.

He met with two losses by fire, and on the second occasion did not rebuild a house of amusement.

The lot on Inglis street that his building occupied is now in part occupied by Oak Hall, clothing store, and G. H. Johnson, jewelry store; the balance of the lot is vacant awaiting purchaser.

Now, if there is money in a house of amusement, public hall, as the Council is trying to make the Ratepayers believe, why did not Mr. Gunn continue it the business, or why did not some person, say F. G. Spencer, purchase the lot and erect a public hall or place of amusement.

Or if not F. G. Spencer, some other person, say the Mayor, who is a public spirited man looking for investments that will serve the people, and pay the dividend that is the rightful heritage of the man who invests his money for the benefit of the public?

Mayor Stuart has invested in that way.

He was one of the originators of the Eastern Hat and Cap Company, and is a member of the firm of W. G. Reid & Co., Wholesale Jewellers, which, it is said, are negotiat-

ing for the purchase of the old County building on Victoria square, with its fire proof vaults.

This building, it is said, can be purchased for \$1,500.

If so, and we know the figures are correct, why does not the town purchase it? To do so will save the ratepayers of Truro assuming a debt, the difference between \$45,000 and \$1,500—\$43,500.

Returning again to the question of Mr. Gunn's venture it can be said, that conditions in respect to places of amusement, public halls if you will, are much different now than then.

In Mr. Gunn's days there were no Nickel shows.

The prices in those days ranged from twenty five cents to one dollar fifty.

To-day in the "Nickels" one can see pictures of the art of the best actors for five or ten cents, and time is not far distant when the voices of the actors can be heard, by means of the phonograph which Edison has about brought to perfection.

London, Montreal, and New York, say the days of the big show, are a thing of the past, that the cheaper shows are here to stay.

We fancy Truro is getting all the entertainment it wants to day at the lower price.

If the Town theatre is coming, a private venture in this town will be depreciated in value.

The assessment of the "Orpheum" Hall on Inglis Street will be less next year; with no compensating value in the new scheme.

Another point in connection with Mr. Gunn's venture: In his day when the Devil's Auction, the London Gaiety Girls, and the Adamless Eden, were announced to be put on delegations in the interest of morality, so it is said, were appointed to wait on the Council and ask that the shows be suppressed, and in some cases the delegation succeeded.

Now supposing the lessee desires to put on shows of that nature, will the Ministerial Association, the moral leaders of Truro, consent that he be permitted to do so, especially when their properties are to be mortgaged to provide a play house where such may be exhibited.

In fact, there is so much to be said in opposition to this public hall proposition that it would fill ten daily issues of this paper.

Enough, we think, has been said to put the case fairly, and let the vote be given with a fair knowledge of the facts.

THE MORNING STAR

To be published every day except Sunday, by the LUNN PUBLISHING CO. Subscriptions, \$3 00 per year in advance. Single copies cents. Office, Inglis Street, Truro, N. S.

C. W. LUNN, Editor and Proprietor.

TRURO, MARCH, 4 1912.

The Morning Star.

This is but the temporary beginning of a daily edition of LUNN'S WEEKLY.

It is to be known as the MORNING STAR and hopes are entertained that in the very near future the paper may be published each morning of the week, Sundays of course excepted.

This is but an attempt to realize a cherished desire of the Editor of LUNN'S; one that he has harbored for many years.

The idea is, that when the people of Truro wake up each morning, they may have placed in their hands a newspaper giving, at least, a bulletin of what happens while they slept.

The political fealty of the MORNING STAR will be announced later. It is hoped the paper will be able to commence regular publication in the course of a few days.

Not the Thing Wanted, After All.

EDITOR MORNING STAR:

SIR: The chief consideration that reconciles most of those who favor a new civic building, to the large expenditure, both on capital account and upkeep, which latter will involve an annual expenditure of well on to \$4,000.00, as was demonstrated by Mr. Albert Black, is the hope of getting a Theatre or Academy of Music, of which they will be proud.

But examination of the plans establishes the fact that, notwithstanding the enormous expenditure proposed, we shall not even secure that much benefit.

The proposed building is too narrow, being less than 50 feet inside, while the late Opera House was 60 feet wide, and was found to be far too narrow.

The present scheme, if carried out, cannot but result in disappointment; and will stand in the way of a proper building being erected by private parties.

The location of the audience chamber upstairs, involving as it must, fearful consequences in case of panic, is another serious objection.

The lot is exceedingly roomy. Why was not an audience chamber planned on the ground floor, where it could so

easily be done, and have the Town Offices in a two-story wing on Prince street?

Has the building been sacrificed in order to furnish a garden for the delight of dwellers on Young street? It would seem so.

After providing sufficient space on the East side to guarantee and protect the window lighting for the new building, it appears there is only fifty-two feet left, if the pet idea is insisted on, of throwing all the land outside the building line of the Fire Hall into the street, and some into a garden.

Another very decided defect in the plans is that the seats do not rise quickly enough; but of course in this the architect was handicapped by the offices underneath, thus demonstrating the advantage of having the Opera House on the ground floor. Another objection is, that while the stage is too narrow, it is also too long, owing to the necessity of extending the building to get room for the council chamber which had to be put under the stage in order to get height for it. On the whole the present plans are so defective that the only remedy will be to vote the proposition down.

OPERA HOUSE.

DON'T STRANGLE THE BOOM BEFORE IT GETS TO TRURO

Editor Morning Star:

Sir—That is one aspect of the civic building proposition that strikes me as deserving of more consideration than it appears to be receiving, and that is, that if we succeed in getting a boom on in Truro, we will need heavy expenditure to provide additional street, sewer and school accommodation, and as the capacity of the Town to borrow is limited, the very considerable addition of \$45,000 to our debt for our civic building may handicap us in our efforts to obtain the heavy loans that will be required to meet the enormous expenditure that may be needed for anything like a considerable extension of the Town.

PROGRESS

OUTSIDE APPLAUSE SHOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM THE CIVIC CHAMBER

Editor Morning Star:

Sir—One of the present objections of the Y. M. C. A. for the civic home, is the noise they are subjected to, both above and below.

It behooves us to beware lest a similar nuisance be created in the new civic building.

The Y. M. C. A. building is deafened in the upper floor probably as well as the new building will be, and yet the noise is a nuisance.

Is the proposed building likely to be much, if any better? It will doubtless be used every night and be subject to the tremendous applause of enthusiastic audiences.

Let the Council beware lest they find themselves getting out of the frying pan into the fire.

Yours, PRUDENCE.

Little Questions For Ratepayers to Discuss

The proposal to expend \$45,000 on a civic building is now fairly before you, except, that it is not clear why the dimensions have been so curtailed. Is there any good reason why the width of the building should have been sacrificed to the idea of a flower garden on Young Street?

The cost of the heating apparatus for the proposed building is not included in the cost of the building, so far as we can observe. Is it intended to make the heating apparatus a charge on current revenue?

The heating appliances in the Fire Hall on young Street would have to be discarded and new and larger apparatus installed, in case the new civic building project goes through. This will reduce the accommodations of the Fire Hall which are already limited.

If the cost of the new building is placed at \$45,000 without the heating appliances, why not say so? Why shove that feature aside? Surely, the heating apparatus, though installed in the Fire Hall, will cost money, and should have been added to the estimate.

Has anybody seen F. C. Spencer's proposal to lease the proposed theatre? Like E. C. Cribb's appointment, it may have a string to it, somewhere, and may never be confirmed.

There is a very well circulated rumor, that "a plant" which yielded evidence in a whiskey convict, was the work of a local McNamara. This story should be investigated. It won't do to convict men on manufactured evidence. Like murder, the truth in whiskey cases is bound to come out.

In a very few years the County of Colchester, will remove the Jail buildings to a site nearer the Court House. The purchaser of the old County Building will then have an opportunity to get another bargain. See that, don't you?

The proposal to construct a public hall for the accommodation of F. C. Spencer, is as shortsighted as it is expensive. Spencer and others are engaged in constructing a chain of theatres, and are bound in a short time to include Truro. Why put up a building for them at public expense when it is known that they must shortly be compelled to erect a structure for themselves. In such a case the new building would add to civic revenues, not being exempt, and it would add to the boom which somebody says is coming this way.

The claim is made that the School Commissioners have butted in this time to prevent the new Town building project from going through. Well, what would you like to have them do? Suppress the need for school accommodation until the vote was taken, and then make their demand?

It would appear to us that they have played fair, and had no cards held in reserve.

There is too much property already in Truro that is ex-

empt from taxation. To add \$45,000 worth to the amount is simply increasing the burden.

It is reported from Halifax that a Truro concern is applying for fixed assessment not to exceed \$5,000. The Manager of the concern confessed to carrying \$30,000 insurance on the property. That suggests a real valuation of \$50,000. That means another burden of \$45,000 added to the already heavy load of the taxpayers.

Every man who votes to night should insist on seeing that his vote is properly recorded. Tell the Town Clerk and his assistants how you want to vote, and then see for yourself that they put the marks in the proper column. They have a difficult task to perform, and mistakes are better corrected before, than after the votes are counted.

A NEW AND WOODERFUL DISCOVERY

One of the arguments put up in support of a civic building, is that it will prevent our young people from going west.

Now that the cause of the exodus has been so miraculously and providentially discovered let us give praise and be thankful, and erect a civic building on every vacant lot in the Township of Truro.

A PERTINENT QUESTION

Frank Stanfield, M.L.A., in the House of Assembly last Friday afternoon, asked the government who or what persons recommended the appointment of Robt. Taylor a stipendiary magistrate for Colchester and in and for the Town of Truro.

Keep at it, Frank.

THE NEW STATION

It is reported that excavation work in connection with the erection of the proposed new railway station in Truro, will commence in about two weeks.

THE PLACE

It is said the proposed new Pork Packing works will be located in the brick building lately occupied by the Maritime Engineering Company.

ON THE GROUND FLOOR

The up-to-date Tailoring firm of A. B. Cox & Co. will open up in The near Future in the Mills Building, Inglis Street. Watch their Window

A. B. COX & CO. - - TRURO

A1 Line of New Spring Goods.

Take Your First Look At The New Spring Clothes, Saturday

You can view the New Spring Styles here then. Large quantities of New Spring goods have already been received, and this store is first, as always, to show the new styles. Maybe you are not ready to buy yet, but we are ready to show you any time. Come.

See The
New Hats

Get your New Hat early
Be sure you see ours before
you buy. You'll be sorry if
you don't.

\$1. to \$3.

Elegant New Spring Suits
And Overcoats

Superbly made from smart new
fabrics of handsome patterns. Styles
are very neat. Priced very reason-
ably at

\$15., \$18 and \$20.

Boys' and . .
Mens' Shirts

Of exceptional value, in
very neat patterns and at
very attractive prices.

50c. to \$2.

Step in Soon
And See Our

NEW DRESS SHIRTS

Silk Hosiery, Gloves, Night
Robes. Just received.

FRASERS LIMITED
OAK HALL

The Home of Good Clothes.

Special Line of
New Spring Neckwear

Just received—great pat-
terns—plain colorings.

25c. to 50c.

\$2,500,000 Capital.

The Star has been informed that a reorganization meeting of the Expansion Rim and Tire Co., of which C. O. Doyle, lumberman, of Park street, Truro, is President, will be called in a few days, for the purpose of increasing the capital stock from \$500,000 to \$2,500,000.

The company has the sole manufacturing rights in the designs and patents of H. L. McNeil, a native of Great Village, and a brother-in-law of H. C. Bigelow, Truro.

It is expected that on the reorganization the company will be divided into three sections, Canadian, American and British.

The factory for Canada will be located in Truro and the building has already been selected for the business.

It is expected that the several gentlemen interested will control about 55 percent. of the stock.

The Truro men interested are Harry C. Bigelow, C. P.

Blanchard, R. T. Craig, Frank Hanson, Harry T. Walker, D. J. McNutt and R. A. Mingie.

A model of the invention is on exhibition at the office of manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia.

POLL IT.

If you have a vote poll it tonight early, one way or the other.

The place to vote is in the Academy Hall.

LAST MINUTE WIRES

Sir Charles Tupper has fully recovered from his recent illness.

A Russian steamship company is making Halifax a fortnightly port of call.

Hon. Senator Wood has been appointed Lieut-Governor of New Brunswick. Dr. Daniels goes to his place in the Senate.

A \$45,000 Civic Hall for a town of 6000 inhabitants, is like putting pants on a baby.