

The Daily Examiner

MARCH 3, 1885.

City Taxation.

The active and earnest interest which our citizens are now taking in the affairs of the Corporation is in pleasing contrast with the apathy and supineness of former years.

Ways and Means are, properly, always a first consideration; and the City Council have, we think, done well to consult with their electors about this important matter.

This question has been ably discussed by several correspondents of THE EXAMINER. The first and perhaps the greatest difficulty about it is to lay down some equitable principle on which taxes may be exacted.

It is quite clear then that gross income is a very false and always an unreliable measure of a citizen's ability to pay taxes; and that net incomes, as a basis of taxation, will not do at all.

Indeed we are inclined to think that the question of a means ability to pay taxes should not be taken into consideration; or, to put it in another way, every man should be considered able to pay the taxes which are fairly levied.

But what would be a fair levy? One which would make every man pay taxes, not according to his ability, but according to the benefit he derives from the Corporation which the taxes are imposed to maintain.

It is on this principle that the City Council should, in our opinion, proceed when asking from the Legislature powers of taxation, and when making their levies. There are certain advantages which the Corporation gives to all citizens equally, and for which all should equally pay.

Street Lamps.....\$1,800 Police.....5,369 Streets.....7,500

For these and a few other things of general advantage levy a poll tax of (say) \$7.50, on (say) two thousand men, who live in the town.

Then there are certain advantages which belong particularly to property-holders. These include the Fire Department \$4,000; interest on the debt—represented largely by apparatus obtained for the Fire Department, \$6,755; and other items amounting to about \$13,000,—which could be covered by a levy of a half per cent. on real estate.

Again, those whose children attend the schools and receive the benefits, should certainly make up a large proportion of the amount required for their maintenance. The average attendance at the schools is about 900; and if parents and guardians were obliged to make up in some equitable way (say) \$6,000 of the \$9,000, they ought to feel well pleased.

When we obtain a supply of water for fire and dust purposes, some \$3,000 or \$4,000 a year will be required to pay for it; and the merchants, who will receive the largest advantage, will not, we are sure, object to a levy for that requirement of a personal property tax, which will bear most heavily upon them.

The remaining \$8,000 or \$10,000 required for miscellaneous expenditures can be obtained from miscellaneous services—market tolls and rents, wharves, licenses of various kinds, etc.

Thus, on the only just principle that can be practically applied—the principle of making people pay for what they get—the sum of \$44,000 a year can be ob-

tained without imposing the burden of taxation unduly or unjustly upon any class of citizens.

Holes in the Ice.

We should have stated yesterday that the duty and necessity of placing brush on the borders of holes made in the ice by mud diggers, was kept well in view when this matter was discussed in parliament.

"The Bill is one that looks reasonable, and I am loath to give it my opposition, but the remarks of my colleague prove that as regards our Province at least, in the creeks and bays of which the farmers are accustomed to keep holes in the ice open for the digging of mussels, it might work a hardship, and besides that it would hardly be necessary as these holes are guarded by putting up trees around them, and I never heard of an accident occurring. It is impossible that they could be protected in the manner provided by the Bill, because horses are used for a space of 20 or 30 feet from the holes, and to inclose these openings and the spaces which the horses occupy would prevent the farmers engaging in that work at all.

We quote these remarks for the satisfaction of our correspondent "Traveler;" and to show the requirement of brush at holes made in the ice, will probably be incorporated in the Bill before it becomes law.

—The Patriot says:—"Hon. Donald Ferguson has been pretty much absent from his office for the last two weeks on a lecturing tour." Had the Editor of the Patriot cared to be exact he would have found on enquiry that Mr. Ferguson has since the beginning of the present year been away from his office only two days. Even if he were absent for two weeks—inspiring our people with love for their country and taking an active part in the conventions of our farmers, few persons would be found to say that he was badly employed.

—It is reported that Earl Carnarvon implored Earl Derby to let nothing stand in the way of the acceptance by the government of the offers made by the colonies, which would enable the colonies to act in the field in one body with the Queen's army. It would, he says, be a great step in the direction of the federation of the colonies.

City Council

A special meeting of the City Council was held last evening—present, His Worship the Mayor, Councillors Crabbe, Koughan, Kelly, McLean, Davy, Haszard, McRae, Horne, Doussé and Morris, and Chief Engineer Large.

The Mayor stated that he had in behalf of the city, and in connection with other owners of wharf property in the city, telegraphed to Dr. Jenkins and Mr. Davies, and also to the Recorder, who was then in Ottawa, and asked them to see that the city's rights be fully protected in the passage of Mr. Tupper's Bill. He then read replies from Messrs. Jenkins, Davies and the Recorder to the effect that they were alive to the city's interest in the matter and that the legislation would not affect it prejudicially.

Tenders for the repair of Queen's Wharf were submitted; and after some discussion, that of Mr. John Steele being the lowest, was accepted.

On motion of Councillor Crabbe, a load of coal was ordered to be sent to Mr. John Hatch.

Councillor Haszard called attention to the filthy state of the Market House and the necessity of having a janitor and messenger for the City Clerk's office, and moved that Mr. Robert J. Van Iderstine be appointed to that position under the orders of the Market Committee at a salary of \$300 per year.

Councillor Haszard gave notice that he would at the next meeting move for the passage of a bye-law requiring the removal of snow from the sidewalks so that all citizens shall be obliged to keep their sidewalks clear; and also of a bye-law requiring milk vendors and peddlers to take out licenses, and be subject to having the quality of their milk tested.

Council adjourned.

City Hospital

Mr. Howatt's foot was amputated at the instep this afternoon, in the presence of several surgeons.

Mr. Glidden and the other patients are doing well.

SCOTT ACT CONVICTION.—At Mount Stewart, on the 28th ult., before Jas. Ross and W. J. Logan, Esqs., J. P.'s, Patrick Doyle, painter, of Mount Stewart, was convicted and fined fifty dollars and costs, or two months imprisonment for selling spirituous and intoxicating liquors, contrary to and in violation of the Canada Temperance Act, 1878.

The attention of the Street Committee is directed to a pile of stones on the sidewalk, near West Kent Street School. A son of Mr. W. H. Harris, of the Post Office, had his leg broken by reason of one of the large stones there falling while he was passing.

The mails did not leave Cape Tormentine to-day till ten minutes past three, and will not arrive in this city till between 9 and 10 o'clock to-night.

AUCTION SALE of Molasses, Fish, Sugar, Oil and sundry other goods, by A. McNeill, to-morrow, Wednesday, March 4th, at his Auction Room. See advertisement.

J. B. MACDONALD is clearing his stock of men's and boys' Felt Hats at a great sacrifice

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

City Taxation.

SIR,—In your issue of the 24th ult. I notice an article from the pen of "Taxpayer," on civic matters. While I agree with "Taxpayer" in some things, there are others which I cannot support. It is admitted by all parties that we do require a good system of Waterworks for fire and general use, and until this system is introduced the city will be subject to great risks from fire and other causes; but before we attempt this great undertaking, I would suggest that some means be taken to equalize the taxes, and also to curtail the present working expenses of the city. In order to arrive at a proper solution of the taxes, all men of 21 years and upwards should be taxed—landlords by their incomes, tenants by their holdings, officials by their salaries, young men by their poll tax. I would have no furniture tax. I would give every man to understand that he must assist in paying for the improvements of the city, and also show to those officials that they must not look to the present taxpayers for the education of their children.

When we look around and see how many officials, both Local and Dominion, that are exempt from taxation, enjoying all the privileges, and getting their children educated, we come to the conclusion that there is something radically wrong in our city government. Now with respect to the government of the city. We have many officials who are not required. We have two clerks that are getting high salaries; one of these is quite sufficient for all the work to be done. Have one of these clerks dismissed and give the other an increase of salary, so that he may be paid for the extra work. Then there is the Tax Collector. Will some one say what this man does? Yes, he collects the taxes. How does he do it? By going around with the bills, and then getting the press and the court to do the rest. Why not dismiss this man, and send a policeman to deliver the tax-bills. Have the taxes paid in the City Clerk's office, and after due notice is given let the Court do the rest. Do away with the Assessors, they are not required. What is the use of employing these men year after year for going over the same work. Appoint a good City Surveyor for the purpose of superintending all the works of the city, and also make him an Assessor. Have him permanently employed, as long as he does his duty, and give him a good salary. Who is better able to do this work than Mr. J. Taylor, a good mechanic of long experience. When he gets this appointment you will find that both citizens and the city will be satisfied with the change. At the same time the citizens, if they think they are over-rated, have the same privilege of appealing from him as they now have from the Assessors, and their causes will be settled before the Magistrate.

Yours truly, CITIZEN.

The Merchant's Bank of P. E. Island. SIR,—The annual meeting of this establishment takes place on Thursday next. It is gratifying to know that even one of our local banks still continues to exist. Thanks to its Stockholders who paid up a sum sufficient on their shares to cover losses, in most cases, the result of past extravagance. The Merchant's Bank is now on a fair footing, and with proper care in its management, promises to repay its stockholders the heavy losses they have sustained. The want of caution in allowing their funds to be vested in visionary speculations which proved so fatal to the banking institutions of this Province in the past should serve as a safe guard against similar results in the future. We trust the business public generally, will patronize the Merchant's Bank, and thereby help to sustain the only local institution of that kind now in existence in this community. Much, however, of the future success of this Bank will depend upon its Board of Directors, who should be chosen with due regard to the varied interests to be represented at the Board. There should be no favoritism shown, nor any undue advantage given to any one class of customers over another. To this end it would be well that the interests of artisans, agriculturists and others, should be represented at the Board, as well as those of the mercantile community. It is to be hoped that past experience in this direction will serve to convince stockholders, who desire to mete out even-handed justice to all classes of customers, the necessity of guarding against undue preferences. To accomplish this desirable object the Board of Directors should not be chosen in the special interest of any one class of the community. How often do we find the smallest favors denied some customers, whilst others of a more favored class can be accommodated to an almost unlimited extent. To prevent this let there be a greater variety of interests represented at the Board.

Yours, FAIR PLAY.

Holes in the Ice. SIR,—I see it reported in the Ottawa papers that a measure was introduced into Parliament to compel persons who made holes in the ice to fence the same round, and that its application to this Province was opposed by Messrs. A. C. MacDonald and L. H. Davies, on the ground that it would interfere with farmers who were raising mussel mud. If the loss of the lives of both man and beast is no object, then our representatives were right; if not, they were wrong.

Now I think it is held by our courts that a person who cuts a hole in the ice of any of our rivers, which are public highways in winter, for the purpose of raising mud, if he does not fence or bush such hole round with trees, would be held responsible for accidents that might occur in consequence of such negligence.

The usual practice with mud diggers is to put some spruce or fir trees round the holes they cut in the ice; this is not always done. When a hole is dug out, the mud digger is moved, trees and all, to a new place, and the old hole is exposed. I can say this, without fear of contradiction, that it is very dangerous for travellers to drive (say) on the West River, from this time until the ice breaks up. People who are near-sighted, short-sighted or tipsy are very apt to drive into such holes. Even a clear-sighted, skilful driver finds it difficult to avoid them, and therefore I think some

legislation was necessary for the safety of those who have occasion to travel by the ice, especially after dark or in stormy weather. Your obedient servant, TRAVELLER.

Ch'town, 3rd March, 1885.

CUSTOM TAILORING.—Fine Stock of Worsted, made to order in the latest styles. Gentlemen leave your orders at J. B. MacDonald's. (mar 3)

THE counties of Northumberland and Durham in Ontario, have accepted the Scott Act by a majority of about 3,000 votes.

HATS! Hats! You can buy a good Felt Hat for 50 cents. at J. B. MacDonald's. (mar 3)

No tobogganing to-night owing to soft ice.

SMALL MARKET to-day—prices unchanged.

ALLIANCE meeting to-night at 7.30.

P. E. Island Dairymen's Association.

THE Third public meeting of the above Association will be held in the Y. M. C. A. Hall, Thursday evening, March 12th. Papers will be read by Alexander McKee and Francis Bain, Esqs.

A full attendance of farmers, members of the House and citizens are respectfully requested, as a lively discussion is expected. Chair to be taken at 8 o'clock.

R. K. BRACE, Secretary. March 3, 1885—6,7,10,11 wklly li

Grand Trot at Souris.

THE Annual Trotting Races will take place on Souris Bay ice, on Tuesday, March 11th, commencing at 1 o'clock, p. m., sharp. Prizes to the amount of \$55 will be off red.

1st Race—Free to all, purse \$35.

2nd do—3 Minute class, purse \$20.

3rd do—3-year olds, purse \$10.

Horses to trot to harness. Heats best three in five.

Open to any horses on the Island.

DONALD MCKINNON, Secretary.

Souris, March 2, 1885—m 3 3i

Molasses, Sugar, Kerosene Oil, Apples, &c.

BY Auction, Wednesday, March 4th, at 11 o'clock, at my Auction Room:—

5 Puns. Molasses, 5 brls. Granulated Sugar, 10 casks Kerosene Oil, 25 brls. Apples, 4 brls. American Beans, 5 half-chests Tea, 4 brls. Crackers (assorted), 5 boxes Biscuits (assorted), 50 boxes Digby Herring, 3 crates Crockery, 25 brls. Labrador Herring (prime), Brooms, Wrapping Paper, Paper Bags, &c.

Also—1 Large Fireproof Safe (Boston make.)

Sale Positive—To close consignments.

A. McNEILL, Auctioneer.

Ch'town, Feb 28, 1885—3i

Y. M. C. A. Lecture Course.

THE next Lecture of the winter course, before the Young Men's Christian Association, will be delivered by Mr. Leigh P. Gregor, B. A., in the Y. M. C. A. Hall, on Thursday evening, March 5th. Subject: "Means of Culture"

Chair to be taken at 8 o'clock. Admission, 10 Cents.

HENRY SMITH, Secretary.

Ch'town, Feb 28, '85—sat in w

DADOS.

THEO. L. CHAPPELLE, Diamond Book-store, 89 Queen St.

Ch'town, Feb. 28, 1885.

WANTS, LOST, FOUND, &c.

TO LET—A new house, fronting on Pownall Street. Enquire of Thos. W. Dodd mar3 pat

WANTED—A servant Girl for general work in a small family. Apply at this office. mar3

LOST—On Saturday (28th) a Pocket Book, containing a sum of money. The finder will be rewarded by leaving it at this office mar2

FOUND—In December last, at Georgetown, a silver hunting case Watch. The owner can have the same by proving property and paying for this advertisement. Enquire at the EXAMINER office. mar2 3i w4ly 1 p1

BOX JAUNTING SLEIGE and phaeton (reversible seat) for sale. Apply to Geo. Bremner. feb 27 tf

MONEY WANTED—Provided interest low good security. Apply at this office. feb27 tf

WANTED.—An experienced Salesman (liberal salary) at Dorsey Goff & Co. feb25

FOR SALE—A Wapser "C" Sewing Machine, nearly new, in first rate order; cost \$45, will be sold at a bargain. Enquire at this office. feb19 10i

FOR SALE—One very fine Berkshire Boar Pig, 12 months old. feb 11 tf

LOST On Friday, the 20th inst, a Plan. The finder will be rewarded by leaving it at the EXAMINER office. feb11 11

BLINDS, &c.

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TO CASH BUYERS!

SPECIAL LINES IN DRY GOODS

WILL BE OFFERED AT THE LONDON HOUSE

Until the opening of navigation, to make room for Spring Importations

Scotch, Brussels and Tapestry Carpets at very Low Prices.

SCOTCH CARPETS WORTH 95 Cents for 70 Cents

" " " 100 " " 78 "

" " " 118 " " 92 "

TAPESTRY CARPETS FROM 40 CENTS UPWARDS

BRUSSELS " " 85 " " "

Loom Table Linens at 16c., 18c., 20c., and upwards.

Special Lines in Cotton Towels at 3c, 4c, 5c, 6c, 8c, and upwards.

Special Lines in Linen Towels at 4c, 5c, 6c, 7c, and upwards.

BLEACHED AND UNBLEACHED SHEETINGS, PILLOW COTTONS, BEDTICKS, SHIRTINGS, ETC.

REMNANTS IN DRESS GOODS!

A LOT OF WINCEYS SELLING VERY CHEAP.

Black Cashmeres (42-inche) 28 Cents and Upwards.

REMNANTS IN TWEEDS, DOESKINS AND OTHER CLOTHS.

REMNANTS IN FLANNELS, &c.

The balance of the 3,000 pieces White and Grey Cottons advertised in December last, at the same prices then offered notwithstanding the market has advanced from 15 per cent. to 17½ per cent.

In Lots No. 1, 24 inches, at 3 Cents.

" " 2, 30 " 5 "

" " 3, 34 " 6 "

" " 4, 35 " 7 "

" " 5, 36 " 8 "

" " 6, 36 " 9 "

" " 7, 36 " 10 "

" " 8, 36 " 12 " to 25 Cents.

BALANCE OF MEN'S AND BOYS' OVERCOATS AND ULSTERS AT COST.

A LOT OF MEN'S UNDERCLOTHING AT A BARGAIN FROM 32 CENTS TO 65 CENTS.

WHITE AND COLORED COTTON WARPS, (BEST MAKES.)

Choice TEAS in half-chests and packages of 5, 10, 15, and 20 pounds—Wholesale and Retail.

Ch'town, Feb. 20—tau wklly 2mos