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DECREASED SURPLUS ASSETS

Mayor Riley is to be congratulated upon calling the public meeting of citizens on Monday night which gave the retiring council an opportunity of giving an account of their stewardship and the aspirants to office an opportunity of expressing their views on public questions.

As Finance Minister, Mr. Webster gave a full and explicit account of the financial transactions of the Council for the past year and stated that in future the current and capital expenditures would be kept separate. This is an improvement which will commend itself to citizens.

One of the drawbacks in discussing public accounts without the aid of a public accountants is that no one is in a position to make comparisons and to give information based thereon. For instance, if the big reform and our part is to be defined public accounts had been published we would have ascertained how the difference in the value of the real estate in the city was made up. In 1916 the total value of real estate was given as \$494,805. This included \$189,000 for macadam streets, concrete walks and surface drainage. The total value of real estate in 1921 is given as \$825,656 a difference of \$329,851. The difference, we presume is accounted for by the new permanent streets and drainage, but if that be so, we are at a loss to understand why there has been a decrease in the excess of assets over liabilities. In 1916 the excess of assets over liabilities was \$151,172.07; the excess in 1921 is set down at \$132,069.61 or a net decrease of assets as compared with liabilities of \$19,102.46. Probably had we the details before us this would be accounted for, but not having these it is rather alarming to find our permanent streets being added to our assets and the value thereof showing a substantial depreciation.

Mr. J. J. McKinnon who has so ably presided over the Streets Committee gave a very full and convincing account of the great work of improvement which he has so successfully carried through in our providing permanent streets for the city. Undoubtedly Mr. McKinnon deserves credit for the great improvement effected in Charlottetown's thoroughfares during the past four years. As he claimed, the difference between the cost of permanent streets and Macadam-ized streets was so comparatively insignificant that the Council was justified in following his advice in obtaining a plant of its own and proceeding to make our streets a credit to the capital of the province. We do not think any one begrudges the expense incurred in this work which as Mr. McKinnon pointed out, provided employment for our citizens and the circulation of money in the city itself.

The other speakers had not so much scope for their oratory, but did ample justice to their claims for support at the poll. Mr. R. H. Jenkins, made his usual good impression and outlined the work he had assisted in accomplishing, especially with regard to the safeguarding of the interests of the citizens, regarding the rate, an important clause in the contract having previously been left out. Mr. Miller, as Chairman of the Property Committee, gave a good account of his stewardship and mentioned in passing in connection with the delay in the publication of the City Reports, that there were two tenders for the same amount and that one of the tenderers, they knew, could not get the report out in time. As the ten-

derer in question has gone to the Great Beyond the allusion seemed to be unnecessary and in questionable taste. The election today will give citizens an opportunity of returning the men of their choice to rule over us for the next two years and we can unhesitatingly say that there is as fine a body of men to select from as could be desired. It matters not who be returned as Mayor, Councilors, or Commissioners, the city is assured of honest and efficient administration.

Notes By The Way

(From The Examiner.)

From one end of the Dominion to the other there is one loud and unceasing demand for the reduction of freight rates on our Canadian railways. Manufacturers in the Maritime Provinces complain that the rates on their products shipped to the central and western provinces are prohibitory. Nova Scotia mine owners protest that under exorbitant freight rates they cannot ship coal to Quebec and Ontario as in past years, thus restricting their markets to half their former area. The Prairie Provinces are almost in despair because of the greatly reduced market price for their grain the railway freight rates and other incidental charges consume almost the entire proceeds of their farm products and leave nothing for the farmer to repay him for his toil.

From this cause today throughout the prairie country there are thousands of stacks of wheat and oats exposed to the winter storms, because the owners are in doubt whether the crop is worth the cost of threshing! So serious is the condition that a general moratorium for the three grain-growing provinces has been proposed and would have been adopted but for the fact that it would be a confession of bankruptcy.

And why the ruinously high freight rates? The high cost of fuel and wages are of course contributory causes. But the real and main cause lies further back. It lies with the Laurier-Fielding policy of building and subsidizing and guaranteeing bonds for a vast railway mileage during their term of power. It rests largely upon the personal vanity of Laurier and the blundering financial recklessness of Fielding. Laurier must needs have a "Me, too" railway across the continent to match Sir John Macdonald's C.P.R., and Fielding made his followers believe that this could be done for thirteen million dollars.

With one voice the Liberal leaders and party had opposed the building of the C.P.R. Blake said it was impossible to get through the "Sea of Mountains" in British Columbia. Other prominent Liberals said it would not pay for the grease on the car axles, and it would bankrupt the country. Well, the C.P.R. had been built at a cost of \$25,000,000 in cash and 25,000,000 acres of land, the land being practically worth nothing till the railway was built, and then increased in value a thousand fold.

The C.P.R. was paying its shareholders 10 per cent. The Dominion was bound together from ocean to ocean by bands of steel, where before there was but a union upon parchment. The Liberal leaders saw how vast and how successful a project the C.P.R. had become despite their continued opposition and they resolved to imitate it. They would parallel the C. P. R. from tidewater to tidewater, for 3,500 miles from Moncton to Prince Rupert! Blair was their Minister of Railways then, and by far the ablest, the most far-seeing and forceful man in the Laurier Cabinet. He refused to be a party to

originated in similar humility. Some day some enterprising woman who has learned the art of making jam or pickles or candy better than any of her neighbors will begin to manufacture for sale and her name on the label will be a guarantee of superiority and an invitation to the public to buy, and the public will buy them and she will become wealthy. This is risked as a prophecy; we guarantee its possibility while hoping for its fulfillment. We have many opportunities for industrial development but we must not look for full grown industries at the beginning; they must grow.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Vote early today and as often as the law and the returning officers will permit. When the returns are all in tonight and your man is out in the cold don't try to make anyone believe you voted for the successful candidate. When the election results are made known congratulate the winners whether you voted for them or not. It is going to be a good Council anyway.

the mad scheme of Laurier and Fielding, threw up his portfolio and denounced the project. Every word of his denunciation has proved true.

But the crazy scheme was carried through, and instead of the bagatelle of thirteen millions which Fielding figured out, the country became involved in this and other railway ventures of subsidizing and the guaranteeing of bonds for railways not needed, to the extent of fully \$500,000,000. Thus was the railway mileage of the Dominion almost doubled, before the war came on, and the war trebled the railway wages and trebled the cost of fuel. To save the Canadian Northern, the Laurier Transcontinental, the Laurier Grand Trunk Pacific and finally the Grand Trunk itself from bankruptcy these railways had to be taken over by the Canadian Government.

Out of all this due to the personal vanity of the amiable Sir Wilfrid and the blundering incapacity of the personally agreeable Mr. Fielding, came the Canadian National Railway system, loaded with annual deficits of forty millions to one hundred millions yearly. Out of these deficits came the high freight rates, under which the country is groaning. Truly an awful price to pay for the personal vanity and reckless imprudence of two men who were entirely wanting in business capacity.

Most unfortunately for the country, its destinies are now entrusted to the same party which mainly brought about the present appalling conditions of our inland transportation, a party led by Mackenzie King, who is apparently as vain as Laurier and as wanting in business knowledge, while lacking his personal charm. The financial executive of the party is the same Mr. Fielding who got the Dominion into the hole of threatened bankruptcy, of railway deficits and exorbitant freight rates. The country knows that he can never save his reputation. As easily might he hope to lift himself out of a 10-foot well by his own boot-strap! His reputation as a Finance Minister is gone forever. We must, however, hope and pray that he shall make the best possible efforts to save the country from the ruinous effects of his past folly and incompetence.

TRAVESTY OF JUSTICE

HAMILTON, Feb. 7.—Magistrate Jeffs said today that every few days he received communications from the Minister of Justice asking information about prisoners. His board had sentenced, who were seeking parole. "The parole board is a travesty of justice," said His Worship. "The members of the board have to earn their salaries, so they go out and dig up cases for consideration." Often prisoners secure release by their own unsupported request, he said. Police Magistrate Jeffs also stated that, though among the most deserving of public officials, police magistrates were not superannuated, and that in his case his salary of \$2,500 was not sufficient to live on. Magistrates should be adequately paid, as their position was one of frequent temptation and opportunity to make money dishonestly. "I could have made thousands of dollars that way since I have been on the Bench, but I have never made a cent," he added.

Daily Selections for Guardian Readers

From the collection of the late Mr. W. S. Louison

LEST WE FORGET
I cannot tell why there should come to me
A thought of some friends miles
anywhere away.
In swift insistence on the memory,
Unless there is a need that I
should pray.
They go their way, I mine; we seldom meet
To talk of plans or changes, day by day.
Of pain or pressure, triumph or defeat,
Of special reasons why 'tis time to pray.
We are too busy even to spare a thought,
For days together, of some friends
away.
Perhaps God does it for us, and we ought
To read his signal as a call to pray.
Perhaps, just then, my friend had fiercest fight,
A more appalling weakness, a decay of courage, darkness, some lost sense of right,
And so in case he needs my prayer I pray.
Dear, do the same for me! If I intrude
Unasked upon you, on some crowded day,
Give just a moment's prayer, as Interlude
Be very sure I need it, therefore pray.

Adapted.

Handshaking Menaces Health Of Notables

A story comes from Lucknow about a veteran warrior with whom the Prince of Wales shook hands on the occasion of a review, the Indian exclaiming, "He shook my hand. This hand, if only my father could have lived to have known his son's honor." For royalty to shake hands would seem to the natives of India an unparalleled honor, but the young Prince delights in making innovations wherever he goes, and we know that on his various voyages he has as freely offered his hand as any commoner. Nevertheless, he found that one might go too far with this democratic salutation when he left this continent his right hand was almost out of commission as a result of the hearty and continual grips of his admirers. In a dissertation upon hand-shaking, Conliffe Owen suggests that for his own protection President Harding and other public men, unduly exposed to hand-shaking, should wear gloves as is the custom with royal personages in the old world.

Irksome and Dangerous.

One New Year's Day it is said that Mr. Harding shook hands with perhaps 6,000 men, women and children, and smiled through it all, though the physical strain must have been great. Not only was this a very fatiguing business, but Mr. Owen thinks it was running a risk, and he says that the National American Institute of healthists has indicated some thirty or forty distinct diseases which may be communicated by a handshake. Indeed this body, feeling that in exposing himself to indiscriminate and perhaps insanitary hand-clasps the President was risking his health, decided that when it waited upon him in a body, the members would simply bow. Later it was thought that this might seem rather an impertinence as suggesting to President Harding how his guests should be greeted, and so the members all shook hands. So far as is known no harm came of it.

The King's Way.

Though lack of geniality was never a characteristic of the late King Edward he did not freely offer his hand. When he did it was always gloved. A nod, sometimes accompanied by a brief smile, was considered sufficient greeting for those who attended his levees, both when he was Prince of Wales and King. When he extended his hand it was considered a mark of particular regard. Custom demands that those who grasp the hand of royalty shall remove their own glove for the purpose, but the fact that the King keeps his hand gloved for all prevents any exception being taken to royal etiquette in this regard. The glove serves to protect the Sovereign from any of the numerous diseases which might be transmitted by the touch of human flesh, especially if the pores of the skin are open, and again since the hand of one person is gloved the bare hand of the other can acquire no infection, nor even the well known King's evil.

Hand Kissing.

Hand kissing remains in vogue. It is the custom of English Cabinet Ministers on receiving their seals of office, ambassadors and plenipotentiaries, high dignitaries of the Court and Church on their appointment to office, and Archbishops and Bishops of the Established Church when kneeling to do homage on their nomination, to kiss the hand of the Sovereign. The kissing of the Pope's foot after death is an ancient observance, but for adequate reasons was omitted in the case of the late Pope Benedict. We admit that it is with some effort of the imagination that we see Lloyd George kissing the hand of King George, and suppose that for once he has done it he has shaken the royal hand fifty times. Nowadays the kiss is reserved for the most formal occasions and with the present royal families we presume the hand-shake is as common as with most other families in the realm.

The Queen and Gladstone.

It was not so with King Edward and still less in the days of Queen Victoria. The latter was extremely chary about permitting anyone to shake her hand. In Motley's "Life of Gladstone" he says that the Queen just once shook hands with him, although they were meeting each other for perhaps fifty years, whether he was leading the Government or the Opposition. Her Majesty was supposed not to be an admirer of the Grand Old Man, and it was only a few months before his death, after he had retired from public life and was searching for health in

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Others' View Points

The Greatest Obstacle to Peace.

(From The Churchman.)
The fatal difficulty in holding to the possibility of war as the solution of honor, the lesser of two evils, is that that conviction prevents any chance of abolishing war. It drains off the spiritual energy from the one channel which can prevent war. For, so long as statesmen know that war is a possibility, they will refuse to put capital into the real preventative of war; they will not invest in effectual preparedness for peace. So long as war is held to be respectable, the lesser of two evils, the way out, it is bound to be evoked as a solution, capitalized by ambitious governments and men. There is, indeed, risk in such a Christian faith, but not so perilous a risk as another war. If the Christian Church should preach that war is sin, would Mr. Hearst and his contemptible papers persist in their daily slander, their propaganda against Japan and Mexico? Hearst persists, because he knows that war is a possibility. He knows that it is conceivable that America should fight Japan and Mexico. If it were not a possibility, a thing to be imagined, he could no more stand up against public opinion and preach hate than Trotsky and Lenin could sail for New York and preach a Soviet Government in Union Square.

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