

Charlottetown Guardian

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CIVIC ACCOUNTS

On enquiry at the City officials with reference to the City Accounts, criticized by "Taxpayer" in our Saturday's issue, we find that his criticism is liable to leave a wrong impression.

He states (1) that the debentures issued amount to \$30,000 and that only \$26,500 is accounted for, leaving no record to show how the balance of \$3,500 was disposed of.

If Taxpayer will examine the accounts carefully he will find on page 35, Abstract E, Market House \$1,500 expended for chairs, etc., in Market Hall, for which debentures were issued. He will also find on page 67 a voucher for \$2,000 given to the Patriotic Fund for which debentures were issued. This accounts for the \$3,500 looked for by Taxpayer.

Taxpayer states (2) that "in the itemized statement of payments shown on page 7 the School Board is charged with \$15,430.27, whereas by the Report of the School Board at page 168 the amount received from the city is set down as \$13,970.27. There is a difference here of \$1,460." If Taxpayer will look at the itemized account with the School Board, page 16, he will find that the monthly payments amount to \$13,970.27, to which is added in the same column \$1,460 interest on school debentures, the latter also being set forth in Abstract H, page 37 Int. and Dis. This accounts for the \$1,460 difference referred to by Taxpayer. It accounts also by adding both amounts together for the total of \$15,430.27 "appropriated for City Schools."

Taxpayer finds (3) a difference of \$10,000 between the balance sheet on page 9, (total amount of debentures issued \$630,500) and Loans Account, page 11, total amount of debentures shown as \$649,500. If Taxpayer will look again he will find that he has added "Water Debentures Redeemed, \$10,000," to make up the discrepancy of \$10,000 he refers to. The balance plainly shows \$639,500, as given in the Balance Sheet, page 9.

Taxpayer states (4) "On page 6 the Water and Sewerage Tax fund is given as \$9,132.50, whilst on page 19 the amount is set down as \$11,654.98." The amount of Water and Sewerage Tax Fund, \$9,132.50, page 6, and the \$11,654.98 are entirely different items, the former being interest on Water and Sewerage Debentures as explained on page 19, one amount \$3,857.50 being interest on water debentures, and the other \$5,273 being interest on Sewerage Debentures. Both added will give \$9,132.50 as stated on page 6. The \$11,654.98 is simply the special Water and Sewerage Tax fund levied by the City Council as revenue for interest on debentures and for sinking fund.

The discrepancy (5) in the total expenditure for the year is the result of a typographical error. In the vouchers for July, page 78, the amount is given \$16,023.07. In carrying this amount to the recapitulation of vouchers, page 87, it is put down at \$16,032.07 (a transposition of the last two dollar figures). By inserting the correct figures in the recapitulation it will be found that the amount will be \$112,092.71, as stated on page 7.

These explanations are given in justice to all concerned and we feel assured that when Taxpayer re-examines the different entries in the light of these explanations he will find they are as stated above.

SHORT COURSE AT MT. HERBERT

The Short Course in Agriculture opens to-day in the Consolidated School at Mount Herbert. No better building could be found in the province and certainly no better use could be found for the building than the holding of an agricultural school. The location, too, is admirably suited for such a purpose, the building being centrally situated in the midst of one of the most progressive sections of the province.

It is especially gratifying to find that this magnificent building, erected as a school, a donation from one of the Island's most fortunate and philanthropic sons, Sir William McDonald, has been opened up even for this short period and it is hoped that it may still be used for something approaching the original intention, the benefit of the community educationally. Unused, the building will very soon get out of repair and become a waste and a ruin, a most unfortunate ending for such a magnificent building and such a magnificent purpose.

The people of Mount Herbert have been making extensive preparations for the Short Course and everything that could be devised to make it a success and a credit to the community has been or is being done, while the Department of Agriculture is also prepared to give every possible assistance. All that remains to make the course a success is the attendance of farmers and farmers' sons and we trust that this will be very much in evidence throughout the course.

NEW WAR PROBLEM

As a prize of war, says the Toronto News, the Ap-pam, with 300 passengers, has appeared at Newport for New Brunswick, 1,752 for Quebec, 1,779 for the Ontario, 2,280 for Manitoba, 2,394 for Saskatchewan, United States. Captured by a German ship near the

Canary Islands, and provided with a prize crew, she came westward by the unfrequented lanes of the Atlantic and dodged all Allied cruisers patrolling the coastal waters. It was feared that the vessel had been wrecked in a heavy gale of two weeks ago. The safety of the passengers will bring joy to many homes.

This new tenderness on the part of Germany indicates first, that the protests of the United States are beginning to be regarded seriously, and secondly, that the enemy is willing to take some trouble in order to embarrass Washington. Any warship may seek refuge in a neutral port for repairs or provisions, but must leave within a period specified by the neutral, or else submit to internment. The same rule applies to merchant ships pinned in harbor by enemy war-craft cruising outside. New York harbor is full of interned German vessels.

What is the status of a prize? Germany will say that, by capture, the Ap-pam becomes a German auxiliary cruiser, and as such can claim the hospitality of a neutral port until the end of the war. International Law, even in the days before the submarine, held that a prize must be taken to a home port and be officially condemned by a prize-court before it ceased to be enemy property. No German ports can be reached by an ordinary ship, owing to the close blockade of the Channel and the North Sea. Therefore the German Government utilizes a neutral port as a maritime savings bank, making a deposit of ships from time to time, and expecting to withdraw the balance at the end of the war.

It is a pretty scheme. Its weak point is that it makes the neutral position questionable. Washington cannot recognize the capture of a ship unless that capture has been legalized by the decision of a properly constituted prize-court. Further, prize-court proceedings cannot be instituted and continued in Bremen or Hamburg in the absence of the seized ship. Therefore, unless Washington is willing to stretch the law and recognize a fait accompli, the internment of the Ap-pam cannot be defended. It would be an unwarranted assistance to the Germans in damaging the interests of the Elder-Dempster Company, the owners of the ship. Legally the ownership of the vessel is unchanged. The Ap-pam is still a British vessel until a German prize-court, properly constituted, decides otherwise.

COST OF LIVING

The Labour Gazette, issued by the Department of Labour at Ottawa, gives some interesting figures on the cost of living in Canada. From one table, showing the cost per week of a family budget of staple goods, fuel, lighting and rent at average prices in sixty cities of Canada the following figures are given for the opening and closing months of 1915:—

	Jan.	Dec.
Sirloin	47.2	46.6
Chuck roast	32.8	32.2
Veal, roast	17.6	17.5
Mutton, roast	20.4	20.8
French pork	19	19.7
Salt pork	35.8	36.0
Bacon	25.1	26.2
Lard	35.6	36.2
Eggs, new	45.5	45.4
Eggs, packed	24.9	35.4
Milk	55.2	52.2
Butter, dry	61.8	65.4
Butter, creamery	35.0	37.4
Cheese, old	22.5	24.3
Cheese, new	20.5	22.0
Bread	67.5	66.0
Flour	30.0	35.0
Roller oats	24.5	23.5
Rice	12.2	12.2
Beans	13.2	16.6
Evap. apples	12.1	12.2
Prunes	12.9	12.7
Sugar, gran.	30.8	30.8
Sugar, yellow	14.0	14.2
Tea, black	9.6	9.7
Tea, green	9.6	10.0
Coffee	9.9	9.8
Potatoes	31.7	42.0
Vinegar	.8	.7
All foods	\$7.98	\$8.19
Starch	3.3	3.2
Anth. coal	54.1	53.0
Bit. coal	38.0	37.0
Wood	73.7	71.7
Coal oil	23.7	23.0
Rent	\$4.38	\$3.97
Grand total	\$14.26	\$13.98

The table shows a decline in rental from \$4.38 in January to \$3.97, which, in this province at least, did not materialize.

The cost per week, in the different provinces, of staple food, fuel, light and rent for the same two months, January and December 1915, are given as follows:—

	Jan.	Dec.
Nova Scotia	\$7.851	\$8.239
P. E. Island	6.806	6.933
New Brunswick	3.452	3.452
Quebec	7.444	7.760
Ontario	7.709	8.814
Manitoba	8.126	8.427
Saskatchewan	8.864	8.315
Alberta	8.566	8.350
British Columbia	8.975	8.649

Fuel and lighting in Nova Scotia for December is figured at 1.553 as against 1.548 for P. E. Island, 1.778 for New Brunswick, 1.752 for Quebec, 1.779 for the Ontario, 2.280 for Manitoba, 2.394 for Saskatchewan, 1.700 for Alberta and 2.180 for British Columbia.

CIVIC ACCOUNTS

Sir—I was rather surprised that no City Councillor has felt it his duty to enlighten the citizens on the discrepancies in the City Accounts. What have the auditors or the City Clerk to say? Out of the \$30,000 debentures issued last year there is no record in the accounts to show how \$23,500 of the money was spent. I have an inkling that a portion of it went for a purpose not purely civic in its character and perhaps that is why the matter is kept obscure. Now as to sinking funds. There are on hand at present the following:—

Water Debentures Sinking Fund	\$26,973.85
Market House Sinking Fund	14,661.30
Permanent Works Sinking Fund	14,643.59
Fire Apparatus Sinking Fund	300.00
Total	\$56,578.74

The amount of Water Debentures payable in the next five years is only \$14,500, so that there is almost to meet the amount on hand now. Debentures to fall due is \$16,000 in December, 1917. There will be money enough on hand to meet this amount, but there will be another \$16,000 due in 1918 and \$9,000 in 1919 and provision must be made at once to provide for the record of these last two sums. The record of the Council for last year in setting aside fourteen hundred dollars is not sufficient. I would suggest that the Water Sinking Fund be only increased in future by the surplus handed over yearly by the Water Commissioners after payment of the interest due on the Debentures. This would increase the Water Sinking Fund by about \$9,000 a year which is quite ample for all purposes. Then I would devote the amount now raised by the Water or Sewerage Tax or at least \$9,000 of it to the Permanent Fund. The City Debentures is the mother of all the war demands that suitable action be taken in these matters at once. I have, Sir, carefully studied this question and see no reason why so large a sum as \$56,578.74 should be left on deposit in the Royal Bank of Canada bearing 4 per cent. interest. We could spare, say \$20,000 of this amount in the purchase of Debentures and the Council last year have secured some of the Dominion Bonds which were offered and thus gained fully \$400.00 in increased interest yearly for the City.

I am, Sir, etc.
TAX PAYER.
February 5, 1916.

A NEW INTOXICANT FOUND

One of the most honored citizens is that necessary to the mother of invention, and the war in Europe has given it additional credit. But that it should have led to the discovery of a new kind of intoxicating liquid is a circumstance calculated not only to put the prohibitionists, but to put the brewers and distillers in a panic. It appears that a farmer in one of the "dry" counties arrived in town thoroughly intoxicated. He was placed under arrest and an effort was made by the magistrate to induce him to betray the boot-legger who had supplied him. His story was an amazing one, and here it is: "I had formed the justice that he had partaken of too much 'silo whiskey,' which, he said, had the drug store brands 'beat a mile.' The silo stuff was a new one to the justice and the prosecutor, and Ellis was induced to explain. In the bottom of the silo, after the fermentation of the contents sets in, he stated, is to be found a clear white liquid which is fine stuff for those who have to travel many miles to get their foot on a grass rail. This is 'silo whiskey.' From three silos in his neighborhood, Ellis stated, he obtained sixteen quarts, and there is plenty left." Should this prove to be true, the silo industry is likely to receive a tremendous impetus, and the work of reducing the "wet" area might as well be abandoned. The silo is a recognized institution on the well regulated farm, and it is not clear how the State or Federal authority can interfere with it. The case presents many interesting possibilities.

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louson.

NEWS FROM THE GARDEN.

(By Canon Scott Holland.)

The bulbs are in. That is the news from the garden. They are hidden away there for the good day to come. We have turned the corner. Before the last red leaf, the last of its clan, has danced itself off its dead branch, with the heavy November skies still stooping over the sodden fields, with the bitterness of the winter still to come, nevertheless, we have swung ourselves round, and have taken pledges of the new year, and have secured it far ahead.

The bulbs are in. Spring is already alive in the womb of the earth. The bulbs are alive with prophecy. They cry from under the brown soil. They speak with tongues. They tell us that this blind and dumb world shall live again, and shall sing the new song of hope, and shall look out at us with bright eyes, as once again the buds swell, and the crocuses push their way through, and the thin spears of the snowdrops are suddenly disclosed, and a blue bell will laugh up at us, and a flaming tulip will leap to light, and all the birds will be shouting for joy. Let the bulbs lie there, under the ground, keeping their secret to them selves until the good hour strikes. We shall take heart; and go on; and endure; and believe; and pray; and hope; until the end. Then "cometh the end! There must be an end, at last; an end to the long night; an end to the heavy utopian winter; an end to the heavy branches, and the blinding tears; an end to the sickening strain of suspense; an end to wounds and slaughter, and savagery; and hate; an end to the wicked horrors of war. We shall laugh again, and we shall laugh up at us, and we shall once more the benediction of peace. We shall recover our souls. We shall love one another. It must be so.

Sick And Disabled Soldiers

ST. JOHN, N. B., Feb. 4.—The Allan Lines, S. S. Corinthian, arrived today with 12 mentally affected returned soldiers and 36 undesirable in charge of an escort of five officers and eighteen men. Major Young of Ottawa is in command of the party. He is to be married in Pictou, N. S., on next Wednesday to Miss Myrtle Gratton of Pictou. He was met at the boat by his fiancée and Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Young, his parents. Other officers are Lieut. Wheatley of Weyburn, Sask., Lieut. Grant Suttie, formerly of the regular forces at Halifax, Lieut. Chevalier of Montreal 14th Battalion wounded in leg, at Festubert and Capt. Cameron of Edmonton, Alta., Methodist chaplain, home on sick leave.

ETON'S ANTIQUITIES

Oak window shutters, on which boys have carved their names for 400 years, are among the most interesting things at Eton College. For old Etonians a mass of valuable information is contained in the work on Southwicks, in Hampshire, the issue of which by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments was recorded in yesterday's Standard. As both the church and college of the Blessed Mary of Eton were sufficiently completed during the reign, and under the direct superintendence of the founder, King Henry VI, most of the later work of builders has been in the nature of minor alterations and embellishments, or extensions to the original scheme. In addition to the original windows, the building accounts, which, with but few breaks, are continued down to the most recent date, are first celebrated in 1443, when the first celebration of the high altar in the new buildings, though these were not at the time completed. In the same year a contract was made for the joinery of ten chambers, the high altar, towers, and the choir, in the "quadrant," which is mentioned as then standing and must have been a part of the present cloister buildings. By the spring of 1448 preparations were made for completing the new choir building, to an extent of 32 feet in size, but in January of the next year Roger Keys, the clerk of the works, visited the cathedrals of Salisbury and Winchester, and conceived the ambitious design, the high altar, towers, and nave which he had seen elsewhere he spent three weeks in London arranging for further supplies of material and submitting to the king his proposals.

The result was a new design for a choir of 150 feet by 40 feet, with larger and more numerous windows, and this corresponds in all essential particulars with the present building. It is clear, therefore, that this part of the work, though it had been seven years in hand, was pulled down and begun again on a larger plan about 1449.

A PROBLEM IN PATRIOTISM

(Woodstock Sentinel Review)

A curious problem in patriotism has arisen in Toronto. Geraldine Farrar, the grand opera singer, has gone into the "Movies," as is well known, and has been featured in an elaborate production of Carmen. It seems she has not been able to keep herself out of the war controversy, but has been expressing herself in a pro-German way that has given offence in Canada. When it was proposed to produce the film version of Carmen in Toronto objection was raised and there was talk of putting the ban on the production. So far nothing has been done to give effect to the complaint; but



Spring, 1916!

This 64-page spring quarterly style review of Butterick contains authoritative Paris and New York fashions and advance information about style tendencies, materials, and dress accessories.

PATONS

There is nothing to prevent the public from applying the ban itself by remaining away. This would be quite as effective as official action, and would be so easily used as an advertisement elsewhere. It might be argued that Miss Farrar's opinions have nothing whatever to do with her performance before the camera; but these are war times and war-time conditions prevail, and if Miss Farrar is deriving a royalty from the productions, as she doubtless is, and if she is really on the side of the enemy, then to patronize her production might easily be construed as an improper act.

TOO MANY LOVERS

Of course, you imagine the girl with many admirers will marry soonest!

The hockey players and pleasure skaters that wish to have good sport and lots of it, should come here for their supplies.

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