

A SECRET COMPACT.

Councillor Stewart, upon whose over-zeal and frequent indiscretions in their behalf the D. P. Company would be prudent to keep a close watch, quite "let the cat out of the bag" at the Citizens' Meeting when he stated that before the purchase of the Park Factory the Council had agreed to grant them exemption from taxes. Without any public notice, even that the Council was to meet, without any public knowledge of the object of the meeting, in secret conference, behind the backs of the people, the Council agreed to grant this exemption. Such is the effect of Councillor Stewart's statement.

They met Messrs Pearson and Wiley. Whether any member of the Council had ever met either of these gentlemen before we are not told. We know at least that at that time there was no Dominion Packing Company. Messrs Pearson and Wiley met the City Fathers and at a single sere sitting made them the captives of their bow and spear. It mattered not that the Council had not the power to grant exemption. It mattered not that the public were quite unaware of what was going on. It mattered not that no notice of the application had been advertised as by law required. It mattered not that the Charter Act of the City forbade the Council to even "consider" such a proposal. In the language of the friendly report of Councillor Stewart's remarks as they appear in The Examiner "The Council had agreed to grant the exemption and on that consideration the Company closed with the Butebours."

Thus in secrecy, in defiance of law, in opposition to the well-understood wishes of the people, the City was pledged a transfer from the pockets of the citizens

to the coffers of a company not yet in existence, a sum equal to twenty-three thousand dollars. The law says that shall be nullity. The Council acted secretly. The law limits the Council's power of exemption to new industries. The Council pledged exemption to an old industry. And now this miserable, secret, illegal compact is put forward by Councillor Stewart and others as a reason why the miserable fiasco shall be played out to the end!

TAX EXEMPTIONS.

(St. John Globe.)

There is one fair, just and honest way to assess property and that is to assess it. The same principle of assessment should be applied to all property. It is the judgment of the community that property used for religious and similar purposes should be exempted. That may be advisable, but the same should be true of other exemptions. Cotton mills, rolling mills and all other undertakings should pay their fair share of taxation. It degrades an industry to treat it as if it were a pauper and to exempt it from taxation on the pretence that doing so benefits labor. These cheerful beggars who go up before parliamentary committees in fur lined cloaks, and quench their thirst and the thirst of legislators of whom they are seeking favor in sparkling champagne fifty years old, are a class that there should be a special Associated Charities organization to look after. Their case is ever peculiarly sad, because their poverty and their patriotism are so apparent. At the same time it is well to remember that to create privileged classes in taxation is to create injustice. Why should the city government of St. John, or why should any government, compel the people outside of a corporation to pay the taxes of that corporation? The specious plea that these corporations give employment to labor is no plea at all, for each laborer employed contributes something to the wealth of the corporation. He does at least quite as much for the corporation as it does for him. If the corporation is not profitable it is of no use to the community. It may employ fifty or five hundred or five thousand hands, but if this employment destroys capital instead of creating it, there is loss instead of gain. The man who chooses to so employ and lose his capital has a right to do as he pleases, but the community ought not to be compelled to contribute to his folly. It ought not to be forced to use up part of its capital in keeping alive a capital-destroying industry. This is aside from the unfairness of the matter. A company which pays out three thousand dollars a week in wages deserves no consideration which cannot be given to a company which pays out three hundred dollars a week or thirty dollars a week. Would any one say that ten companies paying three hundred dollars a week in wages ought to be exempt from taxation or ought to be favored, simply because their aggregate of wages is three thousand

and dollars a week? Perhaps there might be some reason in giving the preference to the smaller concerns, but nobody says that. It may be right or wise to exempt small incomes from taxation; but property should be treated on one basis, and the big fish ought not to be authorized by law to make meals of the small ones.

The Patriots are truly in a position stating that The Guardian "advocated that the R. S. Government of Ontario deal with the Gamey charges by a committee of the Legislature instead of a Commission of Judges." The Guardian advocated nothing of the sort. We pointed out the inconsistency of the Ross Government, in deviating from a policy to which the entire Liberal party had long been committed.

The Patriot ventures that The Guardian "will lead no one as a ray," a sentiment in which all our readers will concur we do. The Patriot adds, "because it (The Guardian) has no following." There seem to be a very large number in town and country who think as The Guardian does, and like to read what it says. Really the Patriot man ought to have attended the citizen's meeting!

The point has been raised whether or not the proposed exemption of the D. P. Company does or does not come within the provisions of the law regarding contracts. If, as Coun. Stewart affirms, an agreement was made pledging the exemption of the Packing Company's property for twenty years, that would seem to be quite the equivalent of a contract in which the sum of six thousand dollars is involved. And if so here again would come in the restriction imposed by the law that no such contract shall be entered into "unless and until a public meeting of the rate-payers of the City shall have been first called to take such contract into consideration and unless the same be approved by a majority of the rate-payers present at such meeting." And of such a meeting thirty day's notice is required to be given.

Some persons who have read in the newspapers about a committee of investigation being appointed by the House of Assembly are wondering what it is all about. The Guardian is equally in the dark. We are told in the language of the resolution passed by the House that certain articles in The Guardian "allege a breach of privilege of this House." We meet this charge with a firm denial. The Guardian has not charged any member of the House with committing a breach of privilege. We have not charged any member of the House with any unlawful act. And for that matter no thought of charging any member with a breach of privilege or an unlawful act had entered the mind of the writer of the articles of which Mr. Wear complains. We meet the charges made against us in the most confident and fearless way, and as we said before, we only hope and trust that the investigation may be as full and exhaustive as our opponents may choose to make it.

OUR SPRING MILLINERY OPENING!

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 9th.

The New Spring Millinery will get first showing Thursday, April the 9th. This event will doubtless, prove of the most absorbing interest to the Ladies. Active preparations are in progress to make it a more successful event than any previous opening.

At this opening we will show a larger number of imported Pattern Hats and Bonnets than we have shown at any previous opening.

Children's Trimmed Millinery—of which this store makes a special feature—will occupy a prominent part in the display.

Our showing of Ready to Wear and Outing Hats will eclipse all others.

Miss C. Helen Wallace

Will give her personal attention to your orders.

Come in Thursday afternoon and see the display of Millinery, the Trimmed, the Ready-to-Trip and the Material to trim it with. Don't forget the day.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 9th.

F. PERKINS & CO.,

THE MILLINERY LEADERS.

SUNNYSIDE.

Household Ammonia
(Extra Strong)
Antiseptic Soaps.
Sponges.
Chamois.
Gilt Paint.
Furniture Shine.
Royal Silver Polish,
etc., etc.
Call on us, we'll give you value for your money.
A. W. Reddin, Phm. B.
The Square Druggist.
Sunnyside.

Six Hundred and Twenty Cases Rolls and Bales New Spring Goods

The following is a correct list of the new goods we have received this spring, and more arriving every day at the rate of 25 to 45 cases per day

Ladies' Goods

- 1 Case Perrins guaranteed Gloves.
- 2 Cases American Zepher Gingham for Waists.
- 2 Cases White Wear.
- 6 Cases Shirt Waists and Wrappers.
- 5 Cases Black English Dress Goods.
- 4 Cases Colored " " "
- 1 Case Art Sateens.
- 3 Cases Oxford Suitings.
- 2 Cases Sheeting and Pillow Cotton.
- 2 Cases Ticking.
- 4 Cases Hosiery.
- 4 Cases Print Cottons (English and Canadian.)
- 11 Cases American, English and Canadian Millinery.
- 2 Cases Dress Ducks.
- 1 Case Silks and Sateens.
- 1 Case Velvets.

Gent's Goods

- 3 Cases New Ties in all, over 200 doz.
- 1 Case Perrins and Dents Gloves.
- 1 Case Dominion Suspender.
- 6 Cases Caps, American and English.
- 33 Cases Men's, Youths and Boys Clothing.
- 57 Cases American and Christy Hats.
- 4 Cases Summer Underwear (Stanfields)
- 1 Case Black Hosiery.
- 7 Cases Tweed and Worsted Suiting.
- 3 Cases Oil Clothing for Fishermen.
- 9 Cases Men's White and Colored Shirts.
- 3 Cases Overalls, all kinds

CARPET ROOM

- 50 Rolls Oilcloth.
- 210 Rolls Carpets.
- 67 Rolls Matting.
- 6 Bales Rugs and Matts.
- 10 Bales Art Squares.

GENERAL

500 Cases Bales and Rolls of New Spring Goods, this is probably more than has been received by all other dry good stores put together.

PROWSE BROS., THE WONDERFUL CHEAP MEN.

Drop in and see what's up in the new goods.