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The Watchman.

THURSDAY, JAN. 26, 1893.

#### The New Warden.

Mr. Eustace Holmes Hopkins, reeve of Ops, was elected Warden of the County of Victoria, on Tuesday. Mr. Hopkins is the eldest son of Mr. James Holmes Hopkins, well known as one of our oldest and most respected citizens, and who was for many years manager of the Lindsay branch of the Bank of Upper Canada. He was born in England in the year 1849 and came to Canada when only eight years old, settling with his parents in the Township of Ops. He has had many years of municipal experience, having sat for three years as a member of the Lindsay council and twelve years in Ops, and he has represented his township, at the County council for a continuous period of five years and had the distinguished honor of being returned no less than ten times by acclamation. During that period he has occupied positions on some of the most important committees of the council, and many of the improvements in the county buildings were made under his direction as chairman of the property committee. He is one of our foremost and most prosperous farmers and we have no doubt that he will fill the Warden's chair with credit to himself and profit to the county.

#### Public Parks.

In his inaugural address to the members of the Town Council, His Worship Mayor Ray struck the right keynote, when he said that the citizens of Lindsay were badly in need of parks, breathing spots. They are and we are glad to see that the head of the corporation has lost no time in bringing this very important matter to the attention of the civic legislature. As is well known, the town has the free use of the Agricultural grounds at all times, except when the exhibition is in progress, a period of, say one week, each year, and by the expendi-

ture of a modest sum of money, they could be placed in a creditable condition and would serve as an excellent park.

At present the place is unsuitable and is little, if any, better than an open field. Shade trees could be set out to great advantage and in the course of a few years, if properly looked after, they would add materially to the beauty and utility of the grounds for park purposes. A few flower beds could be laid out and walks made, and little being done each year, until the whole was put in shape.

In some places the local Horticultural Societies take charge of the parks, the councils voting a sum of money for that purpose annually. In Lindsay, the society is a strong one and comprises among its members many of our most prominent citizens, and it is altogether probable that the council would not have any difficulty in inducing the society to undertake the work of laying out and looking after the grounds, if the necessary funds are provided.

Lindsay from its position is naturally a picnic centre and if we had proper grounds to place at the disposal of visitors, such events would be of frequent occurrence during the season and thus large numbers of outsiders would visit us, instead of passing by our doors to other towns, which cater for such trade and make money by it.

Arrangements could also be made with the citizens' band to play, say, one night each week and in a very short time our citizens would find it so pleasant that we have no doubt they would be prepared to support a grant of a tidy sum each year, for park purposes.

The whole matter is in the hands of the property committee, with Captain Crandell at the head, and we expect to hear from them in a short time.

#### Editorial Notes.

We notice that the Boards of Health, throughout the Province, have already commenced a crusade. There is no disguising the fact that our town is in a very unsanitary condition and this coupled with the absence of sewerage and the swampy nature of the soil, should cause us to bestir ourselves and that too without loss of time. A glimpse into the back yards, even in the centre of the town, will convince even the most skeptical that prompt action is necessary. A house to house inspection should be made, and notices served and if these are not complied with, an interview with the Police Magistrate will have the desired effect.

#### COMMUNICATIONS.

The Town of Lindsay and that Railway Bonus.

To the Editor of the Watchman: MR. EDITOR.—The railway fever is again upon us, and before it breaks out in its full force, let the ratepayers take time for reflection.

The chief draw-back to the growth of Lindsay, is the excessive amount of taxes paid by the citizens. If we paid 12 or 14 mills on the dollar instead of 23 mills or more, it would be a great relief to the ratepayers, and an inducement to new comers. High taxation has run down the value of real estate in Lindsay, to a ridiculously low figure, and many of the best properties could not be sold for the amount of the valuation put upon them by the assessors. How did this state of things come about? The town has injured itself by giving bonuses to railways, and the same railways are now drawing away from us a large portion of the trade formerly done here. The older citizens of the town are still speaking of the time when Lindsay was the distributing point for the trade of the surrounding country. Lindsay was then prosperous, and had well grounded hopes of outrivalling Peterborough.

Granted that the construction of the Victoria railway was all right for the town and township, through which it has been opened, and that it has been a benefit to them; then the people benefited by it, may have been wise in voting it a bonus. But the idea of Lindsay assuming such a heavy load of debt, with the result of paralyzing its own market does not appear to me business like.

The same class of financiers and the same influences are now endeavoring to add another \$25000 to the burthen of our heavy debt. What must be the result? It will surely increase our taxes, besides it will do away with the lake and river trade. Will the Bobcaygeon mill owners ship their lumber, shingles, flour, ties, etc., by water to Lindsay, when the railway is at hand? Not likely. Will not even a large quantity of cordwood be drawn to the stations along the line, instead of the water edge, as it is done now, to be shipped by boats to our docks in the spring? The question conveys its own answer. Our citizens in the East Ward will see trains of freight steaming by, but their work on the docks and the boats will be a thing of the

past. Bobcaygeon and Verulam may be benefited. Very well, if they think so, let them pay for the benefit. But that Lindsay should tax its resources, with the result of injuring its own business, but benefit Bobcaygeon would be anything but wise, chiefly in the light of past experience. Would Bobcaygeon tax itself for a scheme that would transfer its business to Lindsay? I do not believe it.

Another point. During the summer a number of visitors pass through the town, going from the station to the boats, and they spend money on the way. Will they do so with a railway open down to the lower lakes? Not likely. They will simply buy their tickets through to Bobcaygeon or other stations, and pass on the trains through the far end of the East Ward. It is clear that here again Lindsay will lose.

The disinterestedness of the promoters of this railway is very great. It is almost heroic. They spend their money, give their time to advance a scheme which will increase the taxation of the town where they pay taxes, all for the good of Bobcaygeon, and of themselves too, I imagine. But let our struggling ratepayers remember, that charity begins at home.

They tell us that the people will have a chance to get work on the line, while it is building. But what is the fact? The work would be let out by contract, and the contractors would get their labor as cheap as they could, bringing here a lot of Italians and such, whose presence would be a very doubtful benefit to our community. It has been the case with other railways and this would not be different. Free promises are cheap and freely given.

The Grand Trunk has done well for Lindsay, at least lately. The transfer of their round house and shops to Lindsay is the best lift that this town has got for many a day. Supposing that the Grand Trunk people took offence at this measure hostile to them, and took it into their heads to move the whole thing, say to Blackwater or Lorneville Junction, to pay the Lindsayites back in their own coin, how would that work? Either of these two places is centrally located for the purposes of the Midland system. Besides, the G. T. Co. could make money by establishing a new village or town, as has often been done in other places. Why should we ill treat our friends to please men with big speculations?

Competition sounds well, but in fact there is nothing in it now at any rate. The railway people are not children nowadays. As a matter of fact, the fare for every traveller, and the charge for every lb. of freight is the same from Peterboro' to Toronto, from Toronto to Montreal, or any other points where the two lines run in competition. It is a cast iron rule and no official dare break it. Anybody can ascertain it in this very town. When there is a general attraction or public celebration, the Grand Trunk gives Lindsay, as every other place, a very fair schedule of rates. Let us understand that if prices are at any time better in Peterborough than in Lindsay, it is not because the C.P.R. and the Grand Trunk cut down prices against each other. Their charges are the same to a cent.

Fellow ratepayers, let the speculators speculate, and the paid lawyers and promoters talk. They do not do it for nothing. But when they ask you to procure the cash, say to them you can't see it. The demand for a bonus of just \$25000, no more, no less, make me think of the Frenchman, very prim and very polite, who, with a most insinuating smile wanted to know whether madam ze hostess would let him have a little of ze butter to finish his bread.

Good wagon roads to bring farmers into town with ease and comfort at all seasons would be very much better. But the present venture, in my humble opinion, must surely result in a permanent injury to the town of Lindsay, and if a bonus were granted at all, it should be to defeat the scheme, not to promote it. Yours etc. RATEPAYER.

#### NORTH MANVERS.

Special to the WATCHMAN.

ABLE TO BE OUT.—Mr. W. J. Skuce of Mt. Horeb, is able to look after business again.

SPORTS.—Messrs Harry Henders, Thos. Magee and John Magee, of Janetville, passed through here in great speed after Mr. Reynolds, they captured him after a great hunt. They deserve praise for killing so many foxes, as this is 20 this season.

HOME FROM THE NORTH WEST.—Messrs. Geo. Syer and Archie Wilson, are home spending the winter.

BUYING POTATOES.—Mr. James Morrow of Fleetwood, is shipping a carload of potatoes a week. Go ahead Jim as there is another carload!

OBITUARY.—We record the death of Mr. John Magill, one of the oldest and wealthiest farmers in the township. Mr. Magill has always been a hard-working and an honest man, in which he gathered a large amount of wealth around him, being the owner of 900 acres of land and having \$17,000 on his life. The funeral was largely attended on Sunday at the Presbyterian burying ground North of Mount Pleasant.

#### MINDEN.

FIRE.—Mr. Joseph Clemens a farmer living near Bobcaygeon, was burned out on Tuesday night last. We have not learned whether he had any insurance or not.

ACCIDENT.—Mr. Norman Goodman, while chopping in the woods had the misfortune to drive the bit of his axe into his foot just below the ankle joint which laid him up, but he is now able to get around on crutches.

DISASTROUS FIRE.—On Monday night last the grist mill, saw mill and shingle the property of Mr. J. J. Hunter, Gooderham, were entirely destroyed by fire. The loss is a very heavy one upon Mr. Hunter who had only \$1000 insurance on the whole property, it will also be a serious disadvantage to the neighborhood, but we hope Mr. Hunter, who is a very energetic man will be able to rebuild. The origin of the fire seems involved in mystery.—Echo.

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