

CHEAP FEED

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WILL SIR JAMES MOVE?

(By J. H. Burnham, Conservative M. P.)

This is the age of improvement in the conditions of life. Everywhere the absurdities of waste of material and energy are being corrected. Why not in the matter of taxation? We are prone to regard America as a bold continent, the home of new ideas and prompt action. As a matter of fact we are far behind the old land in this respect. Lloyd George would be impossible here. He would be slain by the interests or would join in with them. A new basis of taxation, or rather the adoption of a basis of taxation that has been forcing itself upon our attention year by year in the form of exemptions, etc., seems too big for James Whitney. We need an Adam Beck to ride into the arena. It is well known that Sir James grew pale at the thought of Mr. Beck's boldness in the hydro-electric scheme. But Mr. Beck forced the prime minister's hand, and we need some one to force his hand with respect to taxation. Our present system is admittedly bad. It is wasteful and unjust. The moneyed man escapes. The worker and the employer of workers bear the burden. All things are based on land. It is the one door to opportunity and enterprise. Let all values be summed up, in land values or in other words in that part of land values given by the community only, and therefore

the property of the community only, and the difficulty is solved. Will Sir James listen to the voice of reason in this respect or shall it be necessary that another prophet shall arise a new Beck in whose "lexicon" is no such word as "fail"? The day is rapidly coming when the people will take hold of this as of other matters, and then we may expect to see the politicians and office seekers hurrying to do the will of the people. It becomes a laughable and by no means edifying sight. But why can it not be done before it reaches this stage? At any rate let it be discussed. Let us show signs of life in this as well as other matters.

YOUNG PEOPLE HELD SESSION

The regular meeting of the Young People's Society of St. Andrew's was held last evening in the Sunday School room. The topic was taken by Rev. Jas. Wallace, who gave an excellent address. Mrs. D. A. MacKenzie delighted the audience with a vocal solo and Mr. Barkley Mason gave a well rendered piano solo.

In England there has been invented a process for printing textile fabrics and wall paper photographically.

SHOULD OPS CONTRIBUTE TO COST OF THE SUSSEX-ST. DRAIN REPAIRS?

At last night's session of the Board of Works an account for \$190.00 presented by Engineer Smith in connection with his work on the Sussex street drain was discussed. Last year's council engaged Mr. Smith to take the necessary surveys in order to ascertain the most feasible way of remedying the trouble in connection with this drain. Mr. Smith did so and presented his report to the council along with profiles, etc. He recommended that the course of the drain be diverted from Welling-

ton-st. to Peel-st. Ald. Smale said that the report was incomplete inasmuch as it did not refer to the liability of the municipality of Ops, from which a great part of the water comes. Reeve Babcock said if the town had not diverted the course of the drain to please different property owners, it would not have the present trouble. It was decided to have a conference with Engineer Smith and Town Solicitor at an early date in connection with the matter.

TORONTO'S BAD LIGHTING

Examiner: Even a good thing has to be efficiently administered if we are to get the best results. Toronto has long had the benefit of access to Hydro-Electric power for lighting, but its distribution seems to have suffered the blight of municipal incompetency. Peterboro has "monopoly" lighting, but we have well lighted homes and streets, and nothing like the gloom that Toronto gropes through, according to the following from Toronto Saturday Night

"There appears to be only one serious drawback to Toronto's new system of street lighting—there is no light. Aside from this, it seems to be all right. The poles of concrete are as slightly as poles can be, but the single incandescent light attached to the side of each of these monoliths is, in its feeble attempt to shine through the ground glass, unfortunately unequal to the task imposed upon it. Our residential streets were dark before. They are darker now. They are reminiscent of the street lighting of a country village. As an adjunct to the arc lights they might do, if we are to be dependent wholly upon them, there must be a vast improvement. As a matter of fact, our residential streets—those that do not pos-

sess the iron posts with five lights thereon—are dangerously dark, criminally dark. In the early days of the Hydro-Electric we were told by The Evening Telegram to the extent of columns—wide measure, double leaved—that with the Hydro-ence installed in Toronto there would be no further need for policemen on the beats; that the lights—the brilliant, shining lights—would drive away crime, and altogether make our city an earthly paradise. The "illumination" as it works out, should soften the heart of a footpad. No self-respecting midnight burglar would ask further protection from the argus-eyed "cop."

"The artistic value of a street lighting system that fails to give light fades away to a negligible quantity. Our lights are all right in the daytime, but unfortunately it is at night that we need them. The arc light may be ugly, but it at least throws out rays within its own prescribed zone. Our incandescents, poised upon their stately poles, do nothing of the sort.

"The Hydro-Electric must do better than this. Our lightning bug light won't do. "This may be lese majeste, but it's the painful truth."

Letter On Town Topics Ratepayer's Views Endosed

To the Editor:—There is a good deal of truth and sound wisdom in the remarks of your correspondent "Ratepayer," published in your issue of Saturday. The hankering that most of us have of trying to get something for nothing, is pretty hard to down, and permeates communities as well as individuals, and as your correspondent puts it, creates a growth that is only ephemeral. A great many people forget that wealth is, and can only be created by labor and accumulated wealth can only be got by saving, either individually or collectively. If a man uses a sixth or a third of his earnings to pander to an appetite that leaves him worse physically and mentally than he was at the beginning of the year, the community is the poorer by the amount he spends on that appetite, and if there are enough people in Lindsay to spend \$100,000 a year, which I am creditably informed there are, in that way, I take it that the town is that much poorer than it might be were the money not spent in that manner. It would take ten factories the size of the Beal factories to make a net revenue of that size. Would our industrial commission not jump a pretty good height, to gather in 10 institutions that would employ 600 men? And yet that is what our drink bill is costing the town of Lindsay. A penny saved is a penny earned, besides saving the labor—how would it do to try the saving process? It would be hard for some of us to go without our beer, but there are times when the individual must sacrifice himself for the good of the community. "Ratepayer's" second idea is also a good one, but I have hammered away so much through your columns for public ownership in years gone by that the people would be tired listening to me. I feel that this town made one of the biggest mistakes any community could have made when they turned down the purchase of the L. H. & P. plant and tied themselves up to the Seymour people. It was equivalent to presenting them with a gift of a quarter of a million, and we will pay for it some day. When we read every day of this, that and the other town showing such good returns from publicly owned utilities, it must give some of our citizens, who worked for the Seymour people, a very uneasy conscience. There is one consolation in it, and that is that we stand before the country as the one town that turned

down public ownership. Whether that will bring us any credit or not, remains to be seen.

"Ratepayer's" third point is an excellent one, too. We have several small factories here that require brains and money, and some of the people who are anxious for more factories have both as far as the outward eye can see. It would be much easier and safer to build up from a foundation already here than to plant something new, but it is the old saw over again, "a prophet is not without honor save in his own country." I don't know whether I am safe in expressing my views any more in print or not, as I was told that your co-tem gently hinted that no one now paid any attention to them—that I was too radical to be allowed to live in the town. Well, some day I may give the people a chance to say whether they think a radical can be of any use to them or not. In the meantime I would suggest that every citizen give serious attention to "Ratepayer's" suggestions.

Yours,
JAS. P. DONALD.
Mr. H. C. Hamilton went to Mari-posa station this morning.

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BAD AIR DISEASES

(Farm and Dairy.)
Such diseases as pneumonia and common colds that give so much trouble, and which we have come to regard as winter diseases and connected in some way with the cold weather are simply bad air diseases. One of the pressing needs in country homes at this season of the year is better ventilation.

In the summertime we keep our windows open and so escape pneumonia and other bad air infections. In the winter the windows are shut down tight, storm doors and storm windows are put on to keep out what little fresh air might find its way into the house, and as a result people die by thousands from these bad air diseases.

We would not think of washing our hands and our face in filthy water. But we are content continually to bathe our lungs in dirty air and thereby make welcome some of the worst diseases that flesh is heir to.

We are getting away from our fear of fresh air. More and more of us are finding out that we are more healthy and better able for our work when we sleep with the bedroom window as wide open as we have it in the summer, and insist on having the living

When we have all found the connection between bad air and "cold weather" diseases good ventilation will be considered a necessity in all country homes. Let those of us who now know the dangers that lurk in the air of close rooms set a good example to those who do not by ventilating our own homes. And let us not be backward in preaching the gospel of fresh air as well as practising its precepts.

DESTRUCTION OF MAINE

(From the Outlook, New York)
No light is thrown by the recent report of the board of naval experts on the perpetrators of the assault on the battleship Maine in Havana harbor; but the report confirms beyond question the findings of the board which investigated the disaster in 1898. As The Outlook said at that time, that first report, although based on the evidence of divers rather than upon direct examination, was so positive as to make it obligatory on intelligent citizens to accept it, unless it were shown by indisputable proof to be incorrect. Now the Maine has been so completely laid bare to examination that everything of significance has been exposed to view.

The report shows that as the Sampson board of 1908 declared, the first explosion was exterior to the ship, and that this explosion was followed by interior explosions of the forward magazines; the exact position of the exterior explosion is now found to be near but not exactly at the point indicated by the divers in 1898. The only important new point brought out by the report is the opinion expressed that a low form of explosive like powder, rather than a high form of explosive, like nitro-glycerine, was used in the mine which exploded under the Maine. Probably this is all that will ever be known about the matter. Whenever the subject comes up there are floating rumors as to knowledge possessed by some one or other about the perpetrators of the crime, but so far these rumors have turned out to be mere romance and gossip.

C. P. R. SURVEYING NEAR MILLBROOK

Reporter: A party of Canadian Pacific surveyors are here surveying for an extension of that railway from the junction at Kelly's through to Cobourg or Coborne, where it will join the new lakeshore line now in course of construction. This link is to complete the new grain route from Port McNichol, through Bethany to the lake front and when accomplished will give the best grade of any line in Canada. A four-tenths grade is to be maintained all the way through, so that we may expect to see trains of 60 to 80 cars going through. The initial survey crosses the middle road north of Hally Argue's house and the G.T.R. below the old Patterson farm, and the east gravel about the quarter line. Sorry we cannot have it into Millbrook, but nature humped up too many hills around us. The party consists of Mr. G. H. Garden, chief, and Messrs. F. H. Midgley, F. M. Barnes, H. V. Doherty, E. Wynn, G. Rayner, A. Odell, R. Sutherland, R. Wheery, W. Stevenson, Carver, Lister and Cooper.

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PO: T OFFICE

THE POWER QUESTION

In Saturday's and Monday's issue there appeared two communications from "Ratepayer" and Mr. J. P. Donald respectively dealing with town matters. The Post willingly gave space to these communications, believing that a free and full discussion of matters of local import should be encouraged, more especially when those taking part are imbued with a desire to advance the town's welfare.

In the two communications referred to the writers contended that the town had made a mistake in not allowing itself to be stamped by the public ownership cry into buying the local power plant. They did not advance any arguments in support of their contention, but simply pointed to the fact that Lindsay is the only town that turned down the Hydro-Electric policy. Orillia is also referred to as a centre where municipal ownership of the power plant has proved a blessing and has assisted materially in the town's expansion.

Now our citizens were asked by the Hydro-Electric Commission to spend \$230,000 in the purchase of the local plant to be followed up by the expenditure of some \$70,000 additional for improvements, etc. We were told by the Hydro engineers and also Hon. Adam Beck that the power capacity at Fenelon Falls was suf-

ficient to furnish the town with electrical energy for light and power with sufficient to spare for extra demand. The citizens very emphatically refused to bond the town by the expenditure of such an enormous sum and granted a franchise to the Seymour Power Co., who acquired the plant. The wisdom of this action on the part of the municipality was apparent to all. Lindsay narrowly escaped being saddled with a "white elephant," as the fact must now be cognizant to all that there is not the power at Fenelon Falls that the Hydro-Electric claimed. The local plant at present is overloaded, and the situation would be indeed serious had not the Seymour Company agreed to improve it and generate additional power from their distributing lines. The Seymour Co. is in the power business. They have power to sell and have an industrial bureau which is an important auxiliary to municipalities using their power.

Orillia's experience with a municipal plant has not been a happy one. Their plant has hung like the sword of Damocles over the town, and last year \$2,500 was lost on the venture. Lindsay's rate for electric energy can compare favorably with the lowest and the town has the great privilege of being the most important centre on the Seymour Company's system.

SOMETHING ABOUT PEAT PRODUCTION EXTENSIVE BOG AREA OF CANADA

About 10,000,000 tons of peat fuel are yearly produced in Europe.

Russia is the largest producer of peat fuel, her output in 1902 being 4,400,000 tons, which has increased 200,000 tons a year since then.

1,300 plants making peat are now in operation in Russia.

The United States exclusive of Alaska, is estimated to have 11,200 square miles of peat bogs, averaging 9 feet in depth, and containing nearly 13,000,000,000 tons worth at \$3.00 a ton, \$39,000,000,000.

Canada has 37,000 square miles (23,680,000 acres) of known peat bogs, but these form probably but a small fraction of the total, constituting a potential national asset of enormous value.

Some idea of the possibilities may be gained from the estimate that 28 acres of bog 9 feet deep should yield 50,000 tons; enough to supply 100 families for 25 years, allowing 20 tons per annum to each family, or enough to furnish a power plant of 100 h. p., using steam engines, with fuel of more than 25 years of 300 ten-hour days, allowing 12 lbs. of fuel per h. p. hour developed. The fuel, if used in a suitable gas producer would last the same plant about 100 years.

Four bogs within a few miles of Ottawa, examined by government experts, are estimated to contain over 25,000,000 tons of fuel.

The provinces of Ontario and Quebec send \$20,000,000 a year to the United States for coal. In 1909, we imported coal to the amount of nearly 10,000,000 tons, valued at \$26,831,853. The development of some of our extensive peat bogs will help to keep some of this money at home, and to furnish additional employment to Canadians in Canada.

In Northern Europe peat is being successfully converted into fuel and

gas and used for generation of electricity at the bog by means of gas producers and producer-gas engines, which are displacing the steam boiler their lower cost of fuel.

To re-establish confidence in the value of peat as a domestic and industrial fuel, and to stimulate development of our peat resources, the government has acquired 300 acres of peat bog at Alfred for the purpose of manufacturing peat fuel on a commercial scale by a method which has proved successful in Europe.

The capacity of the plant is 30 tons per day, and during part of the past summer, 1,600 tons of machine peat were produced.

Allowing 140 days for a season's operations, the cost of fuel on the field is \$1.40 per ton, under conditions existing at the government plant. By the use of larger plant, and using mechanical excavators to replace hand labor, the cost of production can be greatly reduced.

3600 lbs. of machine peat fuel is equal in caloric energy to a ton of anthracite coal.

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