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The Weekly Post

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LINDSAY, FRIDAY, MAY 24th '07

TAKING UNTENABLE GROUND.

Evening Post of May 22

For some months past The Post has been publishing, under the very appropriate main heading, Some Remarks on Things in General," a series of racy comments on local matters and public affairs that have been looked looked forward to each week with pleasurable anticipation, and perused with profit and enjoyment by our many readers. The subjects chosen for comment are handled in an engaging style, and as a rule their treatment displays a fine breadth of view, considerable originality and a wealth of good common sense. The writer being a modest person—one of 8,000—prefers to remain unknown, and availing himself of a privilege nad a right always conceded to literary people, he signs himself, "The Stroller."

In his last letter our esteemed contributor had something to say about school matters, of which the following paragraph formed a part:

"The other evening we happened into a bunch of paters-familias talking school. Some of the things said were not very complimentary to some of the teachers, and the question was asked several times during the confab. "Why does the School Board permit these things?"—more especially the Chairman of the Board, and the Chairman of the Management Committee, to both of whose attention the matters in question have been brought several times."

Apparently the above rather commonplace bit of gossip has thrown our school board, if not our teachers, into a ferment, because it provoked a letter—published in these columns Saturday — in which Thos. Stewart, chairman of the Board, and J. W. Anderson, chairman of the Management committee, cited the paragraph in question and called upon us to furnish the Board with the names of the "bunch" of men referred to. Upon receipt of these they would ask the men for particulars of their complaints, and same would be investigated, etc., etc. Every complaint which had been brought to the attention of either of them had been dealt with on its merits, etc., etc. The writers also complained that another paragraph of the school matter charged some teacher or teachers with partiality and improper treatment of pupils, and the assertion was made that this reference was most unfair to the whole staff, inasmuch as the omission of the name or names left the innocent to suffer blame that should be the portion solely of the guilty. We were asked to proffer explanations and make amends, because—

"This purports to be from a correspondent who does not sign his name. We cannot deal with a man who conceals his identity and remains in ambush. We therefore decline to answer him. We can only treat the publication as your own—you are responsible for that which appears in your paper."

The Post contends in reply that our correspondent has a perfect right to adopt a "nom-de-plume," if he so pleases, and in doing so he but follows the example set by scores of newspaper writers. A few of our readers recognize in "Bystander" in The Weekly Sun no less a person thatt Prof. Goldwin Smith, the Sage of the Grange, but how many Mail and Empire readers who scan "The Flaneur's" racy but frequently biased comments on men and things would be able to call that gentleman by his name if taken to his sanctum? We might multiply instances, but what's the use? All we wish to do is to establish "The Stroller's" right to adopt a pseudonym, and we hope the instances given will be taken as establishing our case nor are the editors of the papers mentioned every called on to defend the miscellaneous opinions expressed weekly by the above writers in the columns set apart for their use.

Chairman Stewart, at least, must be well aware of the literary rules referred to, and for that and other reasons we object strongly to the tone of his letter. It is more than probable that "Stroller" states a fact when he declares he heard a number of parents discussing school affairs in a fashion not complimentary to the Board or a few of the primary teachers—as the chairman acknowledges near the close of his letter. "You could not but expect that "with eleven hundred pupils upon the "rolls and twenty-seven teachers on "the staff, there would be complaints, some of them reasonable "and some unreasonable." Just so —then what's all the row about? Because "Stroller" mentioned that some citizens had been heard muttering with heads together who have not as yet made up their minds to court publicity by making definite complaints to the Board. What! Are the parents of Lindsay to be given to understand that it has been decreed a serious offence by our Board of Education for them to indulge in a little grumbling about school matters in a tone above a whisper, and that those who dare to comment upon the actions of any member of the teaching staff are guilty of lese majestie! It would seem as if things were tending in that direction, and we submit that it is unfair and unjust. The man who pays has a constitutional right to grumble.

We would also beg to point out to the Chairman and the Board that The Post has at no time manifested in spirit which could be termed antagonistic to the betterment of education in Lindsay. In case we do have a crow to pick with the Board the question at issue will be discussed fairly and freely in our editoral columns, where this reply is made.

Now, with reference to blame resting on innocent shoulders. The reasonableness of some of the complaints voiced by parents is admitted by the Chairman — possibly the fruits of mental introspection. He must by virtue of his office be well aware of complaints that have been "switched" and never reached the Board in an official form, and he likewise must be aware that the admitted usefulness of one or two of the teachers is greatly marred by a temper over which they seem to exercise very little control. We have no desire to aggravate matters by mentioning names, because in that case the citizens might take the matter into their own hands and insist that they would not continue to pay high salaries to persons hired to guide and control their sons and daughters when they gave proof of their incompetency in their inability to control themselves. Suppose we stated that two members of the Presbyterian or some other congregation had been guilty of an offence —would all the good members insist that they rested under an implication. Not at all—suspicion would rest upon some one of the half-dozen or so whose record was not quite spotless. Our teachers are sized up in much of the same fashion — the black sheep are known.

CHARGED WITH FAULT-FINDING.

(From last Friday's Evening Post.)

'Tis a parlous deed to comment upon or criticize the actions of a town functionary who happens to have a stake in a newspaper — the interests of the other partners are likely to made subservient to the proud one's desire to annihilate his supposed opponent. An incident which seems to bear out the above conclusions has just transpired in our midst, and at the same time the cause of the extreme torridity complained of by our citizens a few days ago has been explained to the satiatiation of a curious public. Twas due to a leakage from The Watchman-Warder strong room, where the new editor and his menton were inditing a RED HOT diatribe against The Post. The article is wonderfully and fearfully fashioned, and betrays in every line its dual authorship. It reads like a romance—like Mark Twain's favorite, in fact which, it might be well to explain, was written during a fit of delirium.

The Post is described in the article as The Wonderful Lindsay Knocker, a phrase with which the writer appears to have fallen in love, as it is made use of many times. It is charged that we are continually finding fault with town affairs, institutions and conditions, and that we call attention to trivial matters. We believe we understand the mission of a daily newspaper fully as well as anybody on the staff of our cotem, or at their beck and call, can have grasped it—indeed, a shade better, if the accusing article represents honest views. We HAVE found fault—in a town the size of Lindsay there naturally is room for an enterprising journal, anxious to remedy faults and build up a model community, to deal out mild blame and even harsh criticism at times. We have considered it our duty to do both occasionally, and have beyond doubt been instrumental in bringing about many desirable improvements. We have not been actuated by malice, nor unfairness — we have not made fish of one and flesh of another.

No, the head and front of our offending, we fear, in the eyes of The Watchman-Warder mentor, is that on several occasions we have deemed it is necessary to aim our shafts of criticism at the Mayor of Lindsay. This horrid offence is one of the first mentioned in the article. The gentleman occupying that exalted office made a fair parliamentary representative, and does not do badly as Chief Magistrate of Lindsay, but he is not perfect and so is liable to error. But he takes unkindly to criticism, and so we are subjected to an eruption of abuse, and unkind insinuations about dyspepsia and things. We stand ready to wager the Doctor or the Watchman-Warder editor that all the medical men in town cannot find a trace of that nasty trouble in our person. We'll make it a barrel of flour for the hospital if his Worship can show as clean a bill of health.

AN INTOLERABLE SITUTION.

The Public Health Act appears to be rather peculiar in some of its rulings. A man who thinks of conducting a soap-rendering business, for instance, is frankly told that that industry belongs to the nuisance class, and he must take it far afield. The man who desires to conduct a livery stable has the law's backing to establish such a business in Lindsay wherever he may buy a lot to build on. It doesn't matter one jot whether citizens whose homes the stable is likely to ruin lyle an objection with the Local Board, of Health—they are told that the Board is powerless in the matter until the stable shall have been erected, the adjoining dwellings befouled and made practically uninhabitable — then, and not until then, can action be taken.

What are the effective measures then available for the relief of the suffering people of the neighborhood? The Board may instruct the Inspector to keep his eye on the premises and order the proprietor to have the foul-smelling manure piles removed every few days. But some manure is there always, and in summer the reek of the stalls is constantly escaping from the livery windows and tainting the breeze upon which the people of the neighborhood are depending for relief and health.

The situation described by Drs. Drs. Burrows and Simpson at the Board of Health meeting the other evening should appeal to every citizen, and if, as stated, their unpleasant and undesirable experiences and serious losses owing to property depreciation would have been rendered impossible if there had been a town by-law in existence regulating the erection of stables, then the sooner such a by-law is passed, the better.

We do not blame Mr. Fanning for selecting the most desirable location possible — that is business. But we must blame the Aldermen who granted the permit to create the nuisance if, instead, they might have passed a by-law preventing it.

PASSING OF THE YOUNG MEN.

Fast life—a day lengthened out unduly by its dissipations—is killing off the young men of the larger cities, says an exchange. The actuaries have been at work, and with latest data they have decided that there is more sickness among these between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five and fifty, and the morality is also very much higher. The conclusion is that something must be done to preserve life, and one eminent only safe course is to educate the masses upon the questions of sleep, diet, sanitation and hygiene.

The necessity for reasonable rest, for good food, for pure air and clean living should not need much demonstrating, and yet everywhere, and in the larger cities particularly, there are multitudes who are cutting a pace that the human system can't stand. Men are acting as if there were no limit to the strain they put on bone and sinew and nerve. Night is turned into day, and tired nature is deprived of its restorer. Life is being threatened and shortened by gross abuses in foods and drinks and narcotics. The young men of New York are going down in thousands from consumption, Bright's disease and heart failure, all of which are superinduced, in medical opinion, by the excesses of the times.

The larger cities have their attractions, but they have their disadvantages. It keeps one busy, amid the tumult and the rush, to maintain a comfortable demeanor, to pass the hours of day happily in business and profitable pursuits, and to use the time they have otherwise in seeking the rest or recreation that preserves the health. The report of the hour, that "reckless habits, overworks, bad food and housing are responsible for the awful slaughter of young men, many of them before they are twenty-five," is startling in its effects, and enough to make every thoughtful one sit up and reflect upon the meaning of it.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Montreal Gazette announces, on good authority that Mr. Armand Lavergne, the member of Montmagny, and the follower of Bourassa, will not seek re-election when the present Parliament is dissolved. It is understood that he will not again be nominated by the Liberal party, and without the nomination his chances of election would be slim indeed. By his alliance with Bourassa, Lavergne has apparently committed political suicide.

—The Manitoba W. C. T. U. say drunkenness is increasing in that Province and is "fostered and encouraged" by the Roblin Government.

Hamilton Times: Four more of the faithful have been given their reward. The Whitney Government has appointed four more "inspectors of apiaries." Whitney gives the boys honey, which is probably just as welcome as the party 'sugar.' And what does the name of the office matter? It's the salary that counts.

Globe: Sir Wilfrid Laurier has carried his Atlantic and Pacific fast service proposition, and has secured a promise that the cattle embargo question will be considered in a highly critical mood. If both are decided in our favor, or even one of them, the Imperial Conference was certainly worth while.

The New York Journal of Commerce pays a high tribute to Canada's banking system, and its advantages to business, its security, and its elasticity. It says; "Canadian bankers and financial writers have a right to congratulate themselves upon the superiority of their banking system, which is more nearly perfect than any other in the world, and puts to shame the clumsy and disordered national system of the United States."

The Brockville Recorder, the editor of which is the leader of the Opposition in the Ontario House, says the present Ontario Government having seen fit to deprive the voters of the privilege of getting their names on the list by simple registration, other means must now be adopted by those voters in self-defence. It adds:

It is the duty of every householder to give the assessors on their visits the name of every man, a British subject, 21 years and over, who resides under that roof. This will protect the voter and save him much annoyance and possible loss of time in getting his name on the list. Every man who is on the list and who who is not a householder should instruct those with whom he resides to hand his name to the assessors, and he should also see that his name has been put on. This is the surest and most convenient way to get your name on the list.

The people of Chicago are congratulating themselves upon having the services of a chief magistrate with a backbone—who "does things" when the public interests demands it, with decision and despatch. Already the political clique in the police force have been put out of business, some of them relegated to their native obscurity and others looking forward to the seclusion that Joliet grants. And the meddlers and muddlers whose pernicious activity have seriously menaced the usefulness of the public school system have their day coming.

It is a pity, though perhaps natural enough, that these Englishmen who claim to have been refused employment in Canada because they were English, should carry their tale of woe to their home papers rather than to some Canadian organ of opinion, and thereby delay investigation of their case for a fortnight or more and make it very probaoly impossible to accept their story exparte, without the reservation that there may have been some other or additional reason for the refusal. If there was not, they may rest assured that the public opinion of Canada is very strongly with them.

Laurier's scheme for an Imperial highway between Great Britain and Australia, with Canada as a link, and fast lines on both oceans, has been approved of by the Imperial Conference. The object is to lessen the time occupied in a voyage from one part of the Empire to the other, and to build up an all-British traffic. It is said that between Britain and Australia twenty to thirty days might be saved. It is a good subject for the consideration of the Conference, but it should be treated with disregard of business principles. No colony must be required to pay too much to make such a service profitable.

LUMBERMEN ARRAIGNED AT THE BAR.

A Haliburton Co. Assessor Charges That They Escape Proper Assessment Whilst Running Township Roads and Retarding Settlement.

The following letter, which appeared in last week's Minden Echo, deals with a matter in connection with which there is considerable feeling aroused in the entire north country. As will be acknowledged by most of our readers, the case is well presented from the settler's point of view by the writer, Mr. Remey, and some of the arguments seem unanswerable. We predict that the questions raised will in the near future occupy the attention of the legislature. The letter is as follows;

(To the Editor Minden Echo.)

Dear Sir,—Will you please publish the following, re assessing lumber camps, timber, dams, and slides.

What I speak of is the Court's decision re the townships of Sherbourne, McClintock, etc., and I wish to say that it has caused a deep feeling of dissatisfaction throughout the municipality, and I am sure if the honorable gentleman knew the real facts of the case, their decision would no doubt have been otherwise. But we are glad that their decision was not unanimous and that we still have hopes that it will only be a few months before a decision will be given contrary to this one. And we ask every gentleman, working man and farmer, to take up this subject and that it be made a general topic throughout the Province, and by this join forces to put into action the law as it is intended, or as it reads on least as we read it. We were aware that the interest of the Crown in the land was not assessable, but contend that the timber held under license is real property and is assessable. If timber is not real property, what is? It was not the land we assessed, but the timber growing up on the land and which has at value as it stands, five times what it was assessed at, as well as being under estimated. What business is there in the province to-day that can show as many well-to-do men as the lumbering trade? None. Who is it that is destroying our forests and devastating it of its wealth? The lumberman. Who is that has taken, as it were, the cream out of our forests, and are back now for the skim milk? The lumbermen; now they do not want to pay the small tax that is put on them in the municipality where the timber has grown. Who is that could not afford to pay $3 rent for 640 acres of timber, worth from $5,000 to $20,000? and if a settler wants a little timber he cannot get it. Why? Because the lumbermen have the country blanketed for a matter of a few dollars, and this act stops the country from being settled up; there are many places here that would make good farms and good homes for many if they had all the timber, "except the pine." But the lumbermen brought the pine, and because they did, they think they should have all the other timber thrown in. It's a case of buying a beef for its hide and after it is skinned, oh we ought to have the carcass for skinning it. The hemlock timber is worth more to-day than the pine was seven years ago, and yet the lumbermen do not pay anything for the privilege to cut it, so I am told—only pay the dues, which I understand are only 50c. per thousand. Just think, 22 logs to the thousand by measurement, and when cut makes two thousand feet of lumber and sometimes more. Just think, seven years ago pine was sold for $470 on the bank, and now they pay $8.35 for hemlock per thousand and every thousand feet per measurement in the log is calculated to turn out one cord of bark, which is worth here on the bank to any settler, $5.25, making the value of every thousand feet of hemlock worth $13.60 and yet they do not pay for the privilege to cut it, and more than this I understand that the lumberman gets about $2 or $3 more a cord for their bark than the settlers. How, is this? It seems that the fat hog is to be greased again, and out of six companies who have holdings in our municipality, there is only one who have placed any value at all upon hemlock, and they put it at $1.00 per thousand and again, gentlemen, I will appeal to you.; is it right that our municipality be skinned to build up another? Take it to home, you certainly will say no it's not. Then, how are we going to rectify this? Only one way, and that is to assess the lumbermen for their timber and holdings, and there are no reasons why they should not be assessed. Section 35 of the Act is very clear on this point. Make it still clearer, turn up clause 131 of the act S.S. (3). When the interest so sold of any person is that of a lessee, licensee, or locatee, the tax deed shall be valid without requiring the consent of the Commissioner of Crown Lands.

What is the difference between an hotel man and a lumberman? None. The only difference is that an hotelman has to pay the most money for his license, according to the business, and yet he is liable for all taxes, even if he rents the house and has to help repair the roads, and the lumberman destroying them. Out of the hotel license we get 50 per cent and nothing out of the lumbermen, and the 2 per cent. of the timber dues is not enough to repair the roads the lumbermen wear out, let alone build new ones. Now, as to the business assessment that was put on the lumbermen was for goods sold out of their vans or stores at a good profit, and which comprise the following; boots, shoes, shoe packs, footwear of all kinds, sox, mittens, coats, shirts, pants, patent medicines, pills, stationery, tobacco, and the tobacco account very often equals that of the flour account.

Take this for instance—out of the millions of dollars' worth of timber taken out of this municipality there is not in the township of Sherbourne alone more than two miles of good road (and it would be rated as third class.) but there are miles of wagon trails not fil to draw an empty wagon on, let alone a loaded one. The railroad companies have to pay a tax, and what better are the lumbermen? The R. R. opens up the country and makes our land and timber more valuable, and more than this, it is known for a fact that as fast as our timber goes out, so does our fish and game, why? Because the men employed often net and spear our fish and hunt and often trap on Sundays, and lots of companies buy all the moose meat and venison they can, and so the man who is a good hunter kills all he can. Now, gentlemen, you have heard the part of my story, and I am satisfied that with this short letter that you will agree with me that the lumbermen certainly should be assessed and none of their employees allowed to carry fire arms. The above are the earnest views of one who has the interests of the settler at heart and believes in equal rights of all, and that the man who makes the most money should pay the most taxes.—Yours truly,

JOHN A. REMEY,
Assessor, Sherbourne &c.
Dorset, May 4th.

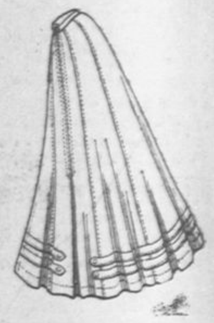
Dundas & Flavelles Limited

ESTABLISHED 1860

VICTORIA WEEK PRICES

This store will be closed all day next Friday, and we must do six day's work in five. To make these days busy ones we have decided to celebrate the week by offering special prices.

There will be offerings in Millinery, Dress Goods, Skirts, Suits, Jackets and all Ready-to-Wear Garments. One of the greatest features of the sale will be over one hundred Ladies' Cloth and Tweed Skirts that will be offered at Five Dollars each. Samples of these may be seen in our east window.



HOUSEFURNISHINGS

We've had a record season in this department, and we're as busy as bees, still we must keep pounding away and let you know just what is going on among the Carpets, Floor Cloths and Curtains. The prices of all of these lines will be much higher next fall and our advice to you is to buy now. If we had not made preparation for this spring's business many month's ago, the prices would have been higher now.

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SAY STABLE IS A NUISANCE

BOARD OF HEALTH DISCUSSED A RIPE QUESTION FRIDAY NIGHT.

Provincial Board's Inspector Will be Called in to Decide the Matter.

Chairman A. Horn and Messrs. Jas. Keith, Jos. Staples and Geo. Mills constituted the quorum of members present at Friday night's Board of Heath meeting. Medical Health Officer McAlpine and Sanitary Inspector Douglas were also on hand, and Drs. Burrows and Simpson were in attendance in the hope of being able to address the Board.

Right at the outset Mr. Staples found fault with the resolution passed at the previous meeting releasing the Sanitary Inspector from the necessity of securing the Board's endorsation of all action taken — he thought the inspector should at least report to the chairman.

Inspector Douglas—"I am acting in conformity with the Public Health Health Act."

Mr. Mills—"We cannot override the act.

Inspector Douglas—"I'm compelled to report to the Board all refusals to comply with notices served by me."

In a letter Miss F. A. Logan asked that the Board assume an account of $25, incurred during illness.—Laid on table.

In his report Sanitary Inspector Douglas said that on April 27th he had ordered Mr. W. F. Fanning to clean up his livery stable premises and remove manure, and not complying he had summoned Fanning before Magistrate Jackson, who dismissed the charge on a technicality.

The attention of the Board was directed to the unspeakably foul condition of the premises occupied by an aged woman named Jackson, in the east ward. It was stated that she kept her hens in the house, and that on her cow dying she had stored the body in the cellar and fed the decaying flesh to the fowls. A motion was passed asking Council to have the old person removed to the Home for the Aged and the house destroyed. It seems the old woman is being aided by the town, although she has an interest in the property occupied by her.

THEY'RE UP AGAINST IT.

On motion Drs. Simpson and Burrows whose residences adjoin the Fanning livery were heard regarding their experiences. Dr. Simpson the first speaker, said that last summer his houses had been invaded by swarms of flies and at times the wind carried an abominable stench that was almost unbearable. The drainage from the livery yard ran down his driveway. In winter he had frequently been awakened by the moaning of shivering cattle penned in the yard without shelter from the weather.

Inspector Douglas explained that Mr. Fanning received cattle to sell on commission, and used the livery yard as a byre. Cattle had been kept there from Friday till the following Monday for a long time, and the yard was in a filthy state.

Dr. Burrows pointed out that the blank end of the stable overlooked Dr. Simpson's property, while the open windows of the stalls were scarcely 20 feet from his (Dr. S.) dining room table. The condition of things was unbearable, and he had been forced to take steps to secure another home. He had been offered $3500 for his present home before the stable was erected, and now it was a question if he would be able to sell for more $2000. Negotiations were on foot to perpetuate the nuisance of livery stables in that locality by erecting another, and in that case the Montreal Bank property, as well as others, would suffer another depreciation. Dr. Burrows maintained that the Board of Health had power to act and submitted that the clauses of the Health Act, which he claimed covered their case.

Mr. McAlpine said the Act permitted the erection of stables anywhere but gave rules for their regulation in the way of cleanliness. The town might pass a by-law prohibiting the erection of stables in certain places but the Board had authority to act only when the stable had been pronounced injurious to the public health.

Moved by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Keith, that the south ward committee examine the premises complained of and report to this Board.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Keith, seconded by Mr. Staples, that Council be asked to pass a by-law making it illegal to keep more than one cattle beast in any stable within the fire limits.—Carried.

Dr. McAlpine—"Council should pass a by-law regulating all stables."

Chairman Horn—"Lindsay is like a small city now and people should not be allowed to erect stables where they like."

It was agreed that should the south ward committee pronounce Mr. Fanning's stable a nuisance, then the Provincial Board of Health will be invoked.

Before adjourning the Board with reference to the frog pond in the town park, but Town Clerk Kingston threw oil on the troubled waters by stating that Council was about to remedy the nuisance.

The House of Refuge.

Under the supervision of Keeper R. G. Robertson, the most of the planting and seeding at the House of Refuge farm has been done. There are ten women at the House of Refuge, and thirty-seven men, making a total of forty-eight. The garden is exceptionally large.