

The Weekly Advertiser

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KITCHENER and WATERLOO

Every Thursday

COMMENT

Of course, everyone has noticed the large amount of "Front-Page" publicity which the "Record" blessed the meeting of the Taxpayers' Association on unlucky Friday the Thirteenth: enough said!

It is interesting to notice how dense the "Record" reporter becomes whenever Mr. Lippert makes any statements, and how this confusion appears in the garbled account which is published in the newspaper. The Association has been the butt of ridicule and unjust criticisms both in articles written by the staff and in cowardly anonymous letters. What can the reason be?

The following is an extract of a letter which we have received:

"As we all endorse, and will certainly uphold the 'Freedom of the Press' and all it means. We are amazed at a Press that deliberately suppresses important facts and figures concerning civic affairs—especially when these facts were given public utterance from the platforms of duly advertised public meetings.

"What possible reason can there be for such 'Censorship' of public information? Does the 'Freedom of the Press' also include 'Censorship'? If so, the Taxpayers' Association should be interested in knowing whether this is supposed to be 'British Fair-play', and why the public should not be kept informed, in the usual way, about public happenings of vital importance.

"This question should receive the attention of every right-thinking citizen, for it is apparent that this 'Censorship' should be lifted at once."

A white-faced Mr. Bezeau, after the meeting on Friday night, shook his fist in Mr. Lippert's face and shouted, "You got me to-night, but I will get you." It was not just clear what he was driving at. However, Mr. Lippert had severely criticized an anonymous letter-writer, and, if Mr. Bezeau had reason to believe that the criticism was applicable to himself, he was at perfect liberty to accept it.

Mr. Bezeau said that he would give Mr. Lippert more publicity in the newspaper than what he wanted. There can be no doubt that with the Press as his official organ and the editors of the Front Page and of the Point of View as his direct mouthpieces, Mr. Bezeau will be able to publish all his information about Mr. Lippert and let the public know everything uncomplimentary about that individual.

The only defense that Mr. Lippert can offer is that he is trying to reduce everybody's taxes. If he succeeds, no doubt the aforesaid Press will refuse to accept any reduction in its taxes.

A certain correspondent, seeking publication of his views, will keep one typewriter busy day and night, turning out letters under such fictitious signatures as: Mickey Mouse; Joe Doe; Fair Play; Discontented Taxpayers' Association Member; A Taxpayer; Common Sense; An Observer; Justice; Conscientious Observer; A Workingman; Home-owner; Businessman; Memoriabella; Bern; G.L.K.; I Forget; Common Humanity; The Man Who Couldn't Be Fired; and others too numerous to mention. When all the letters are received from this source, the local newspaper will find it necessary to add another page.

SIDELIGHTS

By WALT.

Student: "Professor how long could I live without brains?"
Professor: "That still remains to be seen."

"I'm looking for someone to lend me ten dollars—"
"Well, it's a nice day for it."

If you are interested in how to cut down overhead in the different departments, support the Taxpayers' Association.

Ed. Lippert deserves a pat on the back—and he's getting plenty of them too.

Somebody wants to know if it is true that the three people laid off in the Relief office and Miss Jackson were given two weeks' extra salary which they did not earn—under what authority it was done—and do the two governments regulate this—Do they pay the shot? Further is this customary with all city employees?

Did the 25 workmen also receive two weeks' additional salary?
Or does only the office staff deserve this?

It is also suggested that all Relief office employees should be treated as though on relief themselves, because after all it's relief, isn't it?

COMMENT

Rev. Taylor Munro was one of the principal speakers at the meeting of the Taxpayers' Association on Friday night. His address covered three major points.

He pointed out the immense advantages to any community from an organization in which the citizens could discuss and make constructive criticisms of municipal affairs. This, he said, was the only means, first, of enlightening the public upon the management of civic affairs by their public officials, and secondly, of placing before the public those facts necessary to exercise their franchise in a manner conducive to the greater public welfare.

He then mentioned certain outstanding facts which had impressed him when he accompanied Mr. Edw. Lippert to Guelph, where they made inquiries into the relief conditions there. He was surprised by the intense personal interest which Mr. Smith, the Relief Officer, took in the administration and investigation of relief matters. Mr. Smith even made the rounds of Relief homes late at night to check unnecessary extravagance in the use of electricity at the cost of the city.

Mr. Smith, when asked what means the Board provided for his transportation, merely pulled out his pocket-book and showed a book of street car tickets.

Reverend Mr. Munro also stated that it was a great surprise to learn that Mr. Smith had carried on all his work since April with the help of only two girls and occasionally of volunteer workers.

Another commendable fact which he discovered was the co-operation which the Relief Officer had been successful in obtaining from the various merchants, who refused to supply any article but what was stipulated on the Relief order.

To his amazement, the expenditures for 548 families on relief,—the aggregate total, including 26 single men, being 2,494—was only \$8,450 for the month of September.

He also urged that proper consideration should be shown those who by their every action were fully worthy of relief. They should not be treated as slackers or inferiors but as intelligent human beings and equals.

Mr. Lippert then asked whether or not it was true that first, there was one and not three sections to the relief department of Guelph and secondly, that the cost for the month of May of \$11,989.73 included \$1,500.00 of old bills carried over from the defunct Central Relief Department, which when deducted left a total of \$10,989.73.

In Rev. Munro's answers to both these questions he definitely substantiated Mr. Lippert's statements made earlier in the evening.

IS YOUR NAME ON THE VOTERS' LIST

The Voters' List for the next Municipal Election is now ready, and a copy may be seen hanging in the City Hall, in the Post Office, in the Court House, and in each of the Separate and Public Schools.

Every householder should make sure that his and her name is on the list. Property owners and tenants and their wives are entitled to vote; but only if their names are on the Voters' List.

People who moved between April 1st and September 1st should give this special attention, as moving may have caused their names to be left off the list. Anyone whose name is not on the list should notify the City Clerk as soon as possible to have their name put on. November 1st is the last day for making application to have names put on the list; but the earlier it is done the better.

The contract for printing the 1933 Voters' List was given to the Daily Record at a price \$200. higher than the lowest tender submitted. Now that the lists are off the press and in the hands of the City Clerk will Ald. Shantz enlighten the public as to the amount of work done on these lists by the Merchants Printing Co., of which he is manager, and what his firm received for that work?

In his inaugural address to the council at the beginning of the year Mayor Sturm said he had no suggestions to offer at that time for the guidance of the council during the year ahead. The example he set for himself at that time has been strictly followed up to the present time.

It is said that Mayor Sturm has the honour of being Mayor of Kitchener; but that the power is divided between A. R. Kaufman and Bill Dunker.

OUR POLICY

The Weekly Advertiser is more than a mere newspaper. It is the desire of this paper to give the people the whole truth regarding municipal affairs. Too often the people have the truth hidden from them; too often the people are fed only half-truths which are as misleading as deliberate untruths. We believe the people are intelligent and capable of weighing matters for themselves if they have the truth fairly put before them; and the people are entitled to know the truth about their own business, which is the municipal business.

Not only is this paper an exponent of truth, it is an expression of public opinion. Our readers are invited to express their opinions in letters to the editor on any matter of municipal interest. The writer's name will not be published if so requested; but the name of the writer must accompany the letter.

The policy established for this paper may not meet with the approval of those whose public conduct cannot stand the light of day; but the splendid reception given the paper by both readers and advertisers is sufficient evidence that we are on the right track.

We believe that truth will ultimately prevail. In the final analysis all struggles are between truth and untruth, between justice and injustice, between righteousness and unrighteousness; and this paper has definitely allied itself with truth, justice and righteousness in all matters of a municipal character; and will continue the fight to ease the burdens of the taxpayers; and make this city a better place in which to live.

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HEARD ON THE STREET By BYSTANDER

The Great Mogul may be satisfied with the esteem in which he holds himself, and may not give a rip for what others think of him; but I would rather be the poorest man accepting relief and have the respect to which that person is entitled, than to be the Great Mogul with all his wealth and have the people think of me what they think of him.

The power of the Great Mogul is dwindling. Rise up free men and free women, and smash the Great Mogul's power—at the next election.

Is a man who pays his employees minimum wages, and uses his profits to operate a birth-control clinic a safe man to shape the policy and guide the destiny of a great city from being the throne?

The man who hides behind his henchmen is a greater menace than the man who comes out in the open.

They say Hitler is a madman; If that is true what shall we say of the Great Mogul?

Why should Kaufman want to exclude the press from the recent conference between the relief board, the park board and the unemployed? Is he afraid to come out in the open, even in matters of that kind?

It was Talleyrand who said, "A statesman should have the courage to be unpopular." When it comes to doing the right thing and protecting the interests of the taxpayers, Ald. Gordon has the courage required of a true statesman. We need more men of his mental poise and calibre in council.

The man who discovered Ald. Gordon and induced him to stand for council builded better than he knew. When Gordon speaks in council he says something worthwhile—even his opponents admit that.

It is said that the mayor's speeches are prepared by a collegiate student. If that is true she should be mayor, for some of the speeches are fairly well written; but they would sound better if they were well read.

There has been an agitation for the raising of the property qualification of the mayor and aldermen; but the man on the street says the property qualification should be lowered, and the mental qualification raised, especially for those who would be mayor.

Some people judge a man's mental capacity by his ability to make money for himself; but many a Croesus is a dumbbell in every other respect. Even the Great Mogul hires people with more brains than he has to run his own business.

The Hospital Commission have been doing some pennywise and pound foolish things. As a result of using a poor grade of coal the retorts in the stoker furnace have been burned out, and they have had to use the second boiler with hand firing. We are wondering what the mayor has to say about it.

That high-pressure salesmanship of which Sturm talked so much during the last election must have been used with the Hospital Commission to induce them to buy coal which would burn the furnace out in so short a time.

The man on the corner says he cannot understand why the coal for the K-W Hospital is bought by the secretary instead of by tender.

Does the K-W Hospital Commission buy coal when they need it? Or do they buy it just when the dealer wants to sell it?

The man on the corner gets a lot of reliable information that is not obtainable from a certain newspaper. Some newspapers boast that what they say is the truth; but being only half the truth it is worse than deliberate untruth.

The Daily Record commended Mayor Sturm when he gave a permit to the rifle club to drive the starlings and blackbirds from one part of the city to another; but I have not seen any editorial comment on that round-up; nor on the mayor's statement that all the cattle, pigs and chickens at the House of Refuge had to be slaughtered because they were diseased.

The man on the corner says he knows that most of the cattle, and all the pigs and chickens were sold for human consumption. What has Mayor Sturm to say to that.

**For Advertising
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Taxpayers' Meeting

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The good attendance this evening shows that the people are becoming interested in this organization. I think that the increased support which we have received is due not to the publicity given by the local daily paper, but rather by a new and unbiased sheet, the Weekly Advertiser.

Our Daily Paper even refused to publish any report of our last meeting. Since that time, however, a small sheet has been distributed; namely, The Weekly Advertiser, of which two issues have already been published. There has been a large increase from the first to second edition. They are printing the views of the people and have been rewarded by an increase of advertisements from the merchants. If we may judge from this increase, by election time this paper will be twice the size of our present publication. Then we will have a paper that will serve the public by publishing the news which the public desires.

Some time ago the Relief Officer went to Guelph and stated on his return that the Relief Office of which I spoke, was only one of three divisions of the Relief Department. He also said that he was not able to procure a statement from them. I asked him to stop making such misrepresentations to the people. Regardless of this, he made the same statement to the press on October 5th.

I wish to make clear that there are not three divisions as he has pointed out. The small office of which I spoke handles the entire distribution of relief and only uses a space in the Armories to store clothing, etc. There was another division early in the year, called the Central Relief Department. But this was abolished in April. However, all money transactions of that section went through the main office, as Mr. Hagedorn was distinctly told by the Relief Officer in Guelph.

My May statement of relief costs in Guelph of \$11,989.73 also included some \$1,500.00 transferred to the main account as old bills of the defunct Central Relief Department. Their total of actual expenses for May were only \$10,498.73. Again, if Mr. Hagedorn had asked the Guelph City Treasurer for a statement earlier than 5 o'clock, he would have received it. May I ask him if anyone can receive a report from him immediately if they make their request at this hour or at any other time.

However, I do not blame Mr. Hagedorn for the earlier extravagances of the Relief Department, but he has shown no desire to curb these unnecessary expenses. If he, or any other of our public officials or the Relief Board, had had this desire, they would either have gone over to Guelph by themselves or at my invitation to investigate the corrections of my statements. Instead, they have denied same without investigation.

When I went to Guelph a few days ago in order to be infallibly positive in refuting Mr. Hagedorn's statements, I was extremely fortunate in having Rev. Mr. Munro, a former member of the Relief Board, and Mr. Bucher accompanying me. Rev. Mr. Munro, who is present this evening, will bear out my statements and explain to you the system which he saw carried out in the relief office of Guelph.

Now to consider the actions of the Engineering Department. The engineer stated that as the work has been completed earlier this year, twenty-five working men have been laid off. On the other hand, certain office men have been periodically given two weeks' holidays. Some of the latter were hired eleven years ago to make a map, and now after a prolonged delay this map is completed. However, as one Alderman stated, we cannot lay off these men who have given the best part of their lives to the city's employ. Their condition reminds me of an incident in a factory in Grand Rapids. The boss regretfully laid off one of them due to lack of work. This man later said to me, "If the boss only knew how little it takes to keep me busy, he would not have let me go."

Did the Council show the same consideration to the low-paid workingmen as to the high-salaried office men? No. Why did they not return their services as well, and let them have eleven years employment to make a map that should have been completed in one year. Probably he fears that if he released their map-makers, he would not be able to secure their services again if they were required.

If the engineer has permitted all this laxity and sloth in his department, the council should seek a successor to his position. This mistake of this department will show for years to come in such city streets as Chestnut and Blucher.

I wish to point out to the Council that a man and a boy can do all the engineering that is required at present in the city of Kitchener. The only trouble would be that they would find it necessary to lay off these self-sacrificing employees of the city.

(Continued on Page 3)

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Editor Weekly Advertiser:

The accompanying letter is a copy of one handed to The Daily Record for publication several days before that paper ruled that all letters bearing on municipal matters would have to carry the name of the writer; but the Record declined to publish the letter on the ground that it is "an attack on a public man." I leave it to your readers to decide whether that is a good reason, or a mere excuse.

Letter to Record

To the Editor:

I notice in the report of council proceedings of September 18th that Mayor Sturm passed the buck to the county clerk for the neglect to consult the interested municipalities before making the capital expenditure in connection with changing the heating system at the Old People's Home from oil to coal.

Just how Mayor Sturm can reasonably lay the blame on the county clerk is difficult to understand. The mayor is a member of the Board of Management; and the work should not have been approved by the board until they had before them in writing the approval of the interested municipalities. In any event, as the head of this municipality Mayor Sturm must have known that Kitchener had not been consulted. That being the case we might ask, Why did he vote to make the change without the approval of the city council?

It was not thus when the matter of dismissing the late manager was before the board. Then the municipalities were consulted, though there was no need to do so, as it was a matter entirely in the hands of the board. In reviewing these two cases I am led to wonder why it is that some people never can do the right thing without asking everybody's advice about it; but if it is a matter about which there is an element of doubt they can get along without asking anybody's advice along without asking anybody's advice.

There certainly is an element of doubt as to the wisdom of changing the heating system in question from oil to coal; and it is very doubtful that the municipalities would have approved the change had they been consulted—at least not until the oil system had been given a fair trial under the new manager.

(Continued on Page 3)

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Taxpayers' Meeting
(Continued)

Another department which appears to require investigation is the Board of Health. There has been a great deal of discussion regarding the excessive number of nurses and other officials on this staff.

Also, according to the Board of Health Report, there is not a great amount of work for the Food and Sanitary Inspectors and it appears that these two positions could be readily filled by one man. These officers each have a car and an allowance for same. Judging from the statement of this department, there is very little work done outside the city and therefore one car should suffice.

It seems very odd that both in the aforesaid report, and in the statement made by Mayor Sturm to the Daily Record, no mention is made of the activities of the Doctors and Nurses. It would almost appear that Sanitary Inspector Rau has been reporting cases of illness in the city, and both placing and removing placards for contagious diseases. Is not this included in the duties of the Public Health Doctor? There has been considerable discussion as to sickness among pupils at the different schools. Are sick children sent home by the nurse to be examined by the Public Health Doctor or by their family doctor? Many people in this city would like to know the duties of the Doctor and his large staff of nurses.

A Mr. Bailiffe of London, who was present at our meeting in early summer at the Auditorium, stated that in this western city the Health Doctor endeavored to give medical aid to as many relief recipients as possible. Why could not the Public Health Board institute a clearing house for relief patients in the City Hall? In this manner these people could be referred to doctors to whom they owed bills or with whom they had doctored previously. This could be done only if necessary, thus saving doctor bills to the city. With this system and also by having the Sanitary Inspector visit the homes of these sick persons regarding sanitary conditions, they could remain at home instead of going to the hospitals. When these patients are treated at home, two-thirds of the doctor's bill is paid by the government and only one-third by the city. However, when they are at the hospital most of the expense is saddled upon the municipality.

An incident which brings out the manner in which some relief recipients abuse the free medical aid afforded them was brought to my attention by a certain doctor of this city. He was called in the middle of the night by a lady who stated that her children had pains in the stomach and she feared one had appendicitis. After questioning her for some time he told her to give them some castor oil. She replied that that was what she wished him to do. Would she have acted similarly if paying her own bills?

Many abuses such as these could be eliminated if the Public Health Officers and Nurses devoted some of their spare time to these relief patients.
EDWARD LIPPERT.

Public Opinion

Editor Weekly Advertiser:

A certain newspaper recently said, "Nero wasn't such a bad sort of chap. He only fiddled while Rome burned, whereas he might have played a saxophone." That reminds me of a man who tried to sell a run-down pile to John Public. He only tried, whereas he might have gotten away with it.

X. Y. Z.

It is said that two Toronto professors have discovered a new anaesthetic. A great many people have been longing for an anaesthetic to ease the pain caused by the last municipal election. Perhaps the Great Mogul and his henchmen will have something invented soon which he hopes will dim the sight and dull the hearing of the electors until after the next election.

No matter how blind electors may be when they go to vote, if they vote for the wrong candidate they soon get their eyes open and see their mistake' then they have a pain which no anaesthetic can ease. This has been quite evident since last election.

(Continued from Page 2)

The mayor compares the cost of heating the Old People's Home with that of the Collegiate, which is a ridiculous comparison. In the Old People's Home a uniform temperature must be maintained; and because of the age and inactivity of the inmates it must be a fairly high temperature; whereas the collegiate, filled with young people, does not require so high a temperature, and that only part of the time.

TAXPAYER.

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More Comment

The first time Mayor Sturm spoke on the matter he said the installation of the stoker at the House of Refuge was a capital expenditure; then later he said it was not a capital expenditure; still later he admitted it was a capital expenditure; but at the last meeting of the Board of Management he said it was not a capital expenditure he said it was not a capital expenditure. Where is he at?

Some people who voted for a new mayor and council last election seem to be about as badly disappointed as was the man who drank two cans of corn syrup only to find that his corns grew worse instead of better.

Mayor Sturm, Ald. Smith and Berges, and Engineer Shupe went to Toronto to obtain approval of the relief-work program. Last year the mayor and one other could do a job of that kind. How much has the city saved by the change?

For what purpose did Mayor Sturm accompany Ald. Smith and Berges and Engineer Shupe when those Berges and Engineer Shupe when those three went to Toronto to obtain approval of the relief-work program?

The man on the corner says he thought he heard Sturm say he would cut out the joy rides; but we suggested that perhaps the "three musketeers" felt they needed a mascot.

Another man on the corner said—and he said it with a delightfully devilish grin, "Some mascots are more ornamental than useful; and some are neither one."

Now just what did the other man on the corner mean. Anyway it was a mean thing to say even though it were true.

The man on the corner should have remembered that "We are all brothers in that great fraternity."

The mayor should set the example for the brothers in that great fraternity. It is said that Brother Sturm would not even look at Brother Bezeau when they met in the City Hall recently.

We once heard it said that Sturm claimed to be a good sport. Perhaps he is sore at Bezeau for letting him take a job that is too big for him; but we think Kaufman had something to say about that.

Early in the year the Daily Record commended the mayor and council for reducing the mill rate; but as yet we have not seen and editorial comment about the huge deficit that could have been avoided had the council fixed the mill rate where it should have been.

"The man who pays the piper calls the tune." That is just as true in political life as it is in any other. The man who pays a candidate's election expenses has no difficulty in dictating the candidate's course after he is elected.

The reason why some people were so anxious to get rid of Bezeau was because they could not dictate to him. He stood for what he believed was right, and in the public interest.

Mayor Sturm, early last year, and early this year, fought against doing work as a relief measure that must be paid for by private interests; but he approves of works to the amount of \$145,000 for which the taxpayers must pay. Is that his way of safeguarding the taxpayers and keeping down taxes?

It is said that one reason for some of the strenuous opposition to Bezeau in the last election is that Bezeau put a stop to the Great Mogul using the relief department to promote a birth control clinic.

It took a long time to convince some people that the earth is round; and there are still a few people who believe the earth is flat. You can't convince everybody of anything.

Have we had any experience in Kitchener with conditions similar to those mentioned by Pro. Barker Waite?

"Never offend anyone or step on their toes" is the advice once given to a former mayor of Kitchener. That may be good politics, but not always good municipal business. In any event Mayor Sturm seems to have avoided stepping on the toes of the Great Mogul.

The expense of operating the swimming pool this summer was over \$1,000 greater than the revenue. That is not the way Kaufman runs his own business.

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Editor Weekly Advertiser:

I am attending the Collegiate; but my ambition does not run along the line of education, and I thought I would like to get into the municipal political game. One of my teachers told me that I have neither the brains nor the ambition to successfully pursue academic studies; but he believes I would make a good politician because I can turn a sharp corner with lightning-like speed.

I think I would like to be mayor. I have been paying special attention to the way things are being done this year; and I think I would make a good mayor. As I am writing this letter myself and without any assistance from any outsider I think you will agree that I could write my own inaugural address, which is something every mayor can't do. In writing my own address I would have one advantage over a mayor who has to get some other person to write it for him—I would make sure that I did not use words I could not pronounce. And that applies to addresses at public functions. I am a pretty good reader, and I could read my addresses and make myself heard, which is another advantage.

My mother says I take a good picture, and I have a strong desire to pose for a picture with the yo-yo champion if he comes to the city next year, and have the picture in the paper.

I was telling my teacher that a friend of my chum's uncle is a politician. They call him "Slippery Jim," (of course he does not live in Kitchener) and I told my teacher I thought I would have a talk with him on how to be a successful politician; but my teacher thinks I should first take a course in salesmanship and learn how to sell coal—or what some people call coal, as the first step toward being a success.
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