

# BROADCASTER

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Pages 1 to 16

## No Racket, Says McNair In Matter Of National Park

Most Suitable Site in New Brunswick Is Aim of Authorities.

Rackets in connection with the Provincial Government are not to be tolerated, Hon. J. B. McNair, Attorney-General, made clear in the Legislature last week. He was speaking particularly of the move for establishing a national park in New Brunswick and referred to offers of bribes, if a certain site were selected. He said that the Dominion Government should select a site which will best serve the interests of New Brunswick and the purchase of the site by the Province must be carried through on a business-like basis.

He told the Legislature there had been on foot for some time a move to work a racket in the purchase of a particular site for the national park, but he asserted there would be no racket. He asserted that there had been some talk about honorable members having been offered money to oppose the construction of the new Plaster Rock-Newcastle highway. Mr. McNair defended the projected road and said it should merit substantial federal assistance.

He said the construction of the highway might make possible the selection of the Mount Carleton area as the site for the national park. He pointed out that the selection of a site for any national park in New Brunswick is a matter for the federal authorities. While the Province must pay for the sit the Dominion Government chooses it.

So far as the Provincial Government is concerned Mr. McNair said it felt the Dominion should select a site which will best serve the interests of New Brunswick and that the Province should carry through the purchase on a business-like basis.

It is evident from the re-marks of Mr. McNair that the Government will do its utmost to have a national park in New Brunswick and the site will be that best suited for the purpose. The costs will be kept to a minimum and the best interests of the Province will be considered in all stages of the transaction.

## CIVIC EXPENDITURES WERE AUTHORIZED AT MEETING

At the Common Council meeting on Tuesday approval of a bond issue for \$130,408.54 was given. This was the accumulation since July. Besides that Commissioner Massie was authorized to increase the bond issue on the airport from \$20,200 to \$24,200. Commissioner Walsh got sanction for a bond issue not to exceed \$6,000 for work on the market. Commissioner Walsh also was authorized to place ten extra street lights at a cost of \$216. W. J. Crawford's bill for \$150.39 for work in the East Side Ferry House was ordered paid. Commissioner Massie was granted \$132.50 for expenses to Sportsmen's Shows in the United States.

The new street lights are to be placed on Goderich Street and other places where needed.

## Saint John's Biggest Problem Is The Collection Of Yearly Taxes

City Chamberlain Warns Against Spending Invested Funds—Comptroller Shows Indebtedness of the City.

The collection of taxes still remains the most serious problem of municipal affairs and although considerable improvement was made in this respect in Saint John during the last year, the unpaid levies for real estate on which revenue has been greatly reduced, has been mainly the cause for the city's inability to meet appropriation requirements. This was what the city chamberlain, A. G. McMullin, told the City Council in his annual report. He suggested that steps be taken to compel employers to deduct taxes from the wages of employees.

The comptroller, A. G. Burk, in his annual report, advised the elimination of all avoidable expenditures for the next few years.

The chamberlain showed that the current collections in 1935 were \$1,241,518.04 and the 1935 arrears collections \$334,516.45, compared with current collections of \$1,187,501.30 and arrears collections of \$296,206.92 in 1934.

The collection department had been encouraged in securing the co-operation of several business firms in the collection of employees' taxes and he said he believed that if legislation were secured making it obligatory for employers to deduct taxes from wages, the income tax collection problem would be solved, and many thousands of dollars would be saved on commissions paid.

The appointment of a supervisor of tax collections had proved of great value and a better showing can be confidently expected in the coming year.

The chamberlain pointed to the marked falling off in departmental revenue, which de-

crease must be made up by general revenue. He warned against the policy of paying yearly sinking fund and interest charges from the special investment account, realized through the sale of the harbor assets in 1927. This fund is fast being depleted.

Relief costs in the city last year had been \$102,000, an increase of \$40,000 over the previous year. The city's total outstanding debt for relief is \$272,000.

The report of the comptroller showed that appropriations for the civic and county purposes for 1935 were \$1,710,707.93. The amount of available tax collections for the liquidation of these appropriations was \$1,582,521.31, leaving a shortage of \$128,186.62.

Receipts from water assessments, water sold, permits, etc., were \$282,456.55. Current expenditures (of the water department maintenance were \$91,053.97, including sewer and hydrant maintenance were \$91,058.79. Debenture interest and sinking fund amounted to \$188,892.29.

### Debentures Retired

The comptroller's report shows that debentures amounting to \$444,228.33 were retired during 1935, including \$25,000 of harbor debentures paid by the Dominion Government and \$2,806.60 paid by the Provincial Government on account of housing debentures. Debentures amounting to \$180,700.11 were issued during the year, these bearing interest at 3½ per cent.

Mr. Burk's figures give the debenture debt of the city at December 31, 1935, as \$6,789,587.82 exclusive of school debt, and sinking fund at \$2,280,182.15.

## Court Orders The Reinstatement Of Police Officers

Police Matron Adams and Detective McBrien to Go Back On Duty.

Police Matron Annie Adams and Detective A. Earle McBrien, of the Saint John Police Force, have been ordered reinstated by the Appeal Division of the Supreme Court of New Brunswick. Judgment handed down on Monday by Chief Justice Baxter ordered the issue of a writ of mandamus directed to Chief Inspector Horace A. McLeese, acting chief, commanding him to restore Mrs. Adams and Detective McBrien to their positions on the police force, from which they were notified of their dismissal March 19, in a letter signed by Commissioner Walsh and read to them by Chief Inspector McLeese. The writ will be returnable at Fredericton on April 14.

The judgment was made as a result of an application by the dismissed officers for an order reinstating them to the force, made for them by C. F. Inches, K.C., and A. B. Gilbert. J. Starr Tait represented Commissioner Walsh and the city of Saint John.

The court took the stand that under section 19 of the Commission Government Act, non-elective heads of city departments have the sole power of appointment, dismissal and suspension of the subordinate employees of the department. The judgment commented . . . "it may be expedient to point out that the public policy of the city as expressed in legislation has been against political interference with its police force."

"A mandamus to restore," it states, "must only be directed to

(Continued on Page 6, Col. 3)

## Gossip from Far and Near

THERE are two polite gentlemen in City Hall. They are the chamberlain and the comptroller. They look after the finances of the city. In their reports to the council they diplomatically tell the members of the council that they should not spend the money till they get it. That is a wise admonition and the members of the City Council would be wise if they followed that advice. The city is not progressing any too well and the mortgage idea should be eliminated. We have pay-as-you-enter street cars, why not have a pay-as-you-go city?

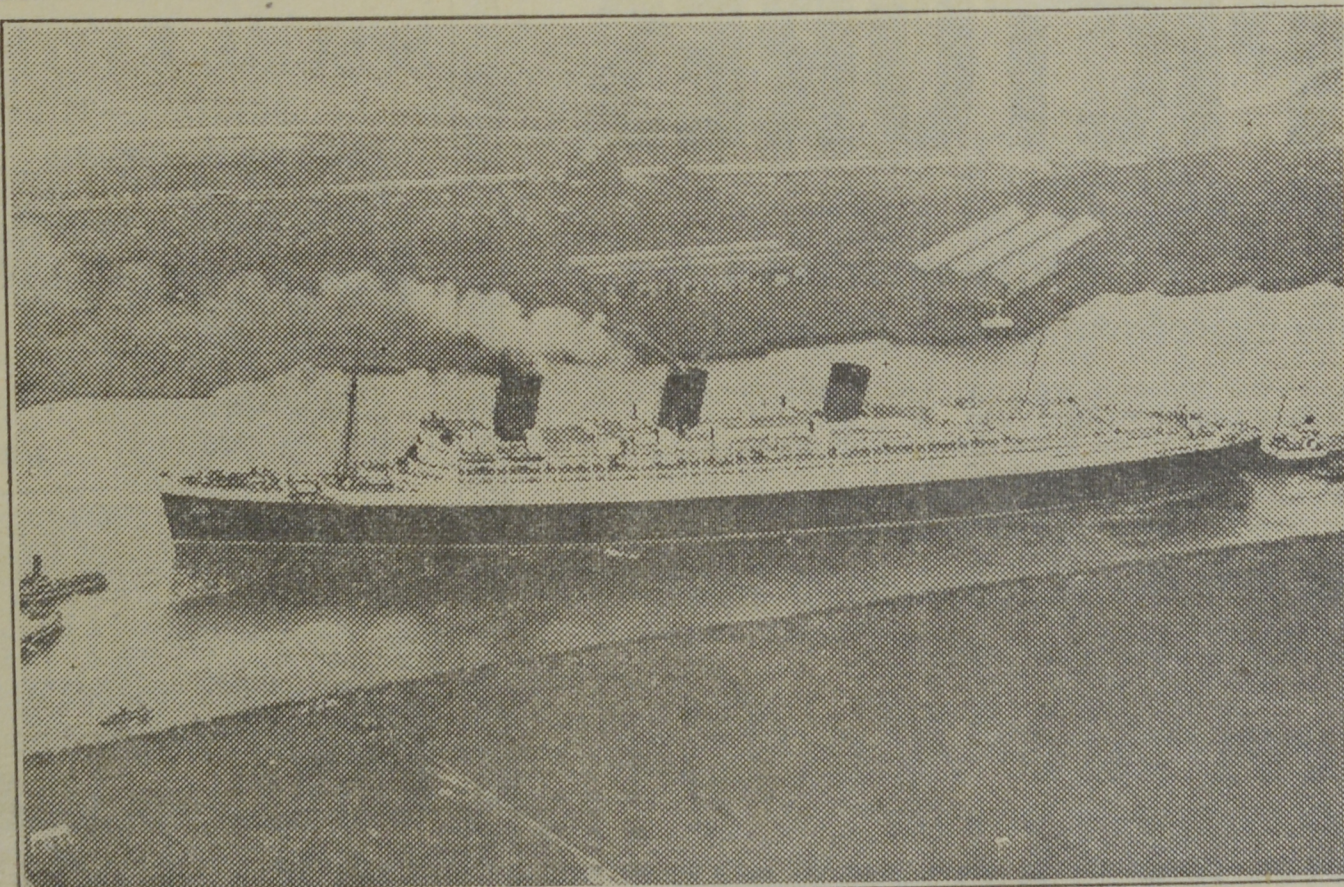
THE CITY chamberlain gives some praise in his annual report to the work done by the tax collectors under the new system. He says he looks for better results in the future. Why shouldn't he, for after all it is the hope of every citizen that the city will go ahead, that business will get better and that more money will be in circulation. Under such conditions tax collections would have to be better. So we all agree with the chamberlain.

IT IS hoped that every citizen of Saint John will vote wisely on Monday of the coming week. The mayor is already elected in the person of D. L. MacLaren, who was returned by acclamation. Two commissioners must be selected out of a field of ten. What the result will be, no one can tell. But citizens should realize that Saint John is in a critical state and the men who are placed in City Hall will have much to do with the future prosperity of the city. Choose wisely. Do not be influenced by sympathy for any individual, but let your sympathy be directed toward the citizens generally. Remember there are only some 7,600 of you voters and you must select commissioners for the rest of the citizens. We hope you will not fail your fellow citizens in this crisis.

HAS SOMEBODY blundered? Has there been some mistake made in setting the concrete cylinders for the new piers in West Saint John? Would it not have been better to have had engineers familiar with Atlantic conditions to say how the cylinders should have been placed? Salt water and tides are sometimes tricky and experience is necessary to combat them.

RESIDENTS of West Saint John have petitioned the Common Council to have the bandstand removed from Tilley Square to Queen Square as being more central in the modern West Saint John. The Commissioner of Public Works is to investigate. The petition asked that the stand be roofed and enlarged. Since the lower part of West Saint John has been taken over for harbor purposes the Tilley Square has become almost an outskirt of the residential section and it is the wish of the petitioners to have their music more convenient. Queen Square is said to be well situated for a bandstand and it is likely that the request will be granted.

## BRITAIN'S WONDER LINER PUTS OUT TO SEA



The 80,000-ton liner "QUEEN MARY" successfully left her fitting-out basin on the Clyde for her maiden voyage of fifteen miles to Greenock en route to Southampton for scrapping and finishing. Crowds lined the banks of the Clyde to watch the giant vessel gently manoeuvred by eight tugs into mid-stream, and this aerial view of the "Queen Mary" passing down the river shows some of the thousands of people stretched along the banks.