

MOVING PICTURE LICENSE FEE CUT IN HALF BY COUNCIL

Figure is Now Sixty Cents Per Seat Per Year, Double Last Year's Rate---Change Was Made on Ald. Walker's Casting Vote---P. J. Hughes and David Richards Before Council.

The license fee for moving picture theatres in the city of Fredericton after May 1st will be five cents per month per seat or sixty cents per seat per year. This is double the fee charged last year, but only half that passed by the City Council at its last meeting when it adopted Ald. Lemont's suggestion that the fee be \$1.20 per seat per year. The City Council reconsidered the matter last night. Mayor Mitchell was absent and Ald. Walker was in the chair. The other eight aldermen divided equally on the question, and Ald. Walker gave the casting vote for a five cent tax per seat per month.

Mr. P. J. Hughes appeared on behalf of the proprietors of the picture houses and presented their views. Mr. David Richards also was heard by the Council.

Ald. Lemont, the prime mover in the matter of the taxation of moving picture theatres, did not retreat from his position, but advanced his arguments as before.

P. J. Hughes.

Mr. Hughes stated that evidently the Council did not have full information concerning the moving picture situation in Fredericton, or the resolution would not have been passed. It was a general opinion that the proprietors of the theatres were getting rich, and it might be a surprise for the aldermen to learn that the local picture theatres during a portion of the year were operated at a loss. It was true that money had been made in the picture business but it was by the producers of films and not by the exhibitors.

Mr. Hughes quoted from the report of the Wheeler Commission, which investigated the moving picture business in the state of New York, showing that proprietors of the picture houses there were making little or no profit. Conditions in New York state, he said, were much similar to those in New Brunswick. He did not believe that the City Council desired to put the picture houses out of business, but if the proposed tax were imposed prices of admission must be increased or the houses be closed. There also was the question of the power of a city council to place unlimited taxation on a business. Power to license did not mean power to tax out of existence.

In Other Towns.

Mr. Hughes then quoted the license fees charged annually in other towns, and cities, as follows:

Chatham	\$100
Newcastle	60
Truro	200

St. John	100
Moncton	\$150 to 200
Amherst	150
New Glasgow	\$100 to 150
Sydney	150
Dartmouth	nothing

Fredericton, under the recently passed resolution, would be charging \$480 per year on the average.

Mr. Hughes concluded by stating that he believed that enough had been placed before the committee to warrant asking for reconsideration of the resolution.

Ald. Lemont asked Mr. Hughes if he could say that a fifteen-cent admission fee could be charged.

Mr. Hughes said he could not reply but did not see why the picture theatres should be made an agency for collecting taxes.

To Ald. Reid, Mr. Hughes said the proprietors were of the opinion that the old licensee fee was as high as the business would stand. He also quoted figures of the receipts and expenses of one of the houses.

David Richards.

Mr. David Richards also made a statement explaining the heavy expenses under which the picture business was operated.

Reconsideration Moved.

Ald. Burnett, seconded by Ald. Shea, moved a reconsideration of the resolution by which the license fees of the picture houses had been increased.

Ald. Lemont objected that reconsideration was out of order unless a notice of motion had been given.

The rule of order on which his objection was based was suspended by unanimous vote, and Ald. Burnett's motion of reconsideration was carried.

Varying Opinion.

Ald. Shea said that he had been of the opinion that the moving picture houses were making money, but had come to the view that the taxation should remain as it was.

Ald. Lemont said that he had proposed to increase the taxation on moving picture houses because money must be provided to meet the demands of civic government. If money were raised from the picture shows it would not have to be raised from some other source, and vice versa. The consumer was the ultimate source of the money paid in taxation. The proprietors of the picture shows should increase admission fees and spread the increase over as many people as possible. Luxuries everywhere are recognized as the most ready source of taxation, and

TO RELEASE MEN FOR WORK ON FARMS

Montreal Branch of the Canadian Manufacturers Assoc. Makes Good Proposal.

Montreal, April 19.—Some thousands of men will be released from business activities in order to engage in agricultural work in the province if the recommendations made by the Montreal branch of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association to manufacturing and other business concerns are carried into effect.

The association, at a meeting held yesterday, in view of the serious lack of agricultural products and expressing the opinion that the farmers were restricting rather than increasing their plans for the coming season, owing to shortage of labor, unanimously adopted the following resolution, a copy of which has been forwarded to all members of the association in the city. That having regard to the great shortage of labor on farms in this province, due largely to the high prices being paid for labor by industries, this board recommend to its members that in order to assist in producing food this season, they contribute to the needs of the farmers by arranging to release one man of agricultural experience for every fifty men in their employ for one month and that they pay such men half pay on their return from actual work on the farms and that the co-operation of the national service board be obtained to assist in the proper distribution of these men.

moving pictures could be taxed for that reason. He had no desire to remove moving pictures. They were excellent as an amusement. Taxation on them, however, would be indirect and voluntary. He could not see why those operating the picture houses should think that the admission fee could be kept at the ante-bellum figure of ten cents. Fifteen cents was the price in other towns.

Ald. Baxter said he still was of the opinion that the taxation on picture shows could be increased. He had talked to the picture men and they had intimated that they could pay \$200 per year.

Ald. Barker believed that the picture business could not stand heavy taxation. He personally would be unwilling to pay a fifteen-cent admission fee.

Ald. McLellan was of the opinion that increased taxation would prevent the erection of the modern picture house which was contemplated. He did not think that the Council should discourage development in the city. What should be done was to fix a license fee for a term of several years.

Ald. Burnett, seconded by Ald. Baxter, moved that the original motion increasing the license fee for moving pictures to ten cents per seat per month, be amended by making the license fee five cents per seat per month.

Ald. McLellan said he could not vote for the amendment. It had been shown that there was not sufficient surplus in the picture business to stand an increase in license fees. An increase in admission fee would not be justified and he could not agree that moving pictures were luxuries. Public opinion was opposed to increasing the license fee.

Ald. Reid was against increasing the license fee and so increasing the admission fee.

Amendment Carried.

The vote on the amendment was tied as follows:
Yea—Burnett, Wilkinson, Barker, Lemont.

Nay—McLellan, Reid, Shea, Baxter. Ald. Walker, the chairman, stated that when he had voted for the original motion he was unaware that the provincial government charged a license fee of \$100 on each picture house. He believed that that charge was excessive. However, in view of the statements made by Mr. Hughes and others in connection with this matter, he must vote with the affirmative.

The amendment was then declared carried and the original motion lost.

The planting of the backyard garden is a "home defence" against the high cost of living.

Will you encourage turning waste garden space into food this summer? Waste ground and spare time may be jointly used for the increased production of food.

Peter Vaughn, 2,134, in Ned McCarr's stable, is topped off as likely to be one of the real fast trotting stallions of the year.

Aaron Williams, a Grand Circuit regular, has sent the yearling by Peter the Great out of Zombrewer, 2,044, to Roy Miller.

Waiter Cox believes that the shortage of racing material is the most serious matter that concerns the sport.

Spring Skin Troubles

Every spring, for years, Mr. Amos Smith, of Port Hood, C.B., suffered from boils, until he used Zam-Buk. He writes:

"Each spring they would return and break out on my hands and arms. At times they were so bad that I could scarcely work. I tried various remedies without receiving any benefit. I consulted a doctor, but he was unable to cure me."

Then a friend recommended Zam-Buk. The improvement after using the first box was surprising. I continued until the boils had entirely disappeared, and I have never had any return since."

Zam-Buk is also unequalled for eczema, ulcers, abscesses, scalp sores, ringworm, blood-poisoning, piles, cuts, burns, scalds, etc. All druggists, or Zam-Buk Co., Toronto; 50c. box, 3 for \$1.25.

ZAM-BUK

A SECRET SESSION.

London, April 19.—Chancellor Bonar Law informed the House of Commons today that the government had decided to hold a secret session of the House, the date of which would be announced next week.

Board of Health Notice.

New Regulations relating to the Care and Disposal of Garbage, Manure, etc., enacted by the Fredericton Board of Health, District No. 1, Thursday 5th April, 1917.

No person shall remove swill, offal or other offensive matter within the limits of the City of Fredericton unless the same be removed in tight covered barrels or other containers only and unless he shall have first submitted the containers for such removal for inspection and approval of the Health Inspector of Board of Health.

Every Householder and every Hotel and Restaurant Keeper or other persons shall dispose of all garbage. For the disposal of which they are responsible by burning the same or by keeping it in proper tight covered receptacles which are to be frequently emptied and to be satisfactory to the Health Inspector of the Board of Health.

The Keeper, Owner or Tenant of any Livery or other Stable shall keep his stable and stable yard in a clean and sanitary condition. He shall not permit any manure to be thrown out and scattered around his premises, but it must be kept in tight shed or box provided with proper ventilators and said shed or box to be subject to the approval of the Health Inspector of the Board of Health.

The person owning the manure must remove it from the premises when directed so to do by the Health Inspector of the Board.

The above regulations are published by order of the Board of Health of the City of Fredericton, District No. 1.

GEORGE Y. DIBBLEE,
Acting Secretary.

J. M. WILEY,
Chairman

Board of Health Notice.

Amendments to the Regulations for Sale of Milk and Cream in the City of Fredericton, enacted by the Fredericton Board of Health, District No. 1, Thursday, fifth day of April, 1917.

Section I. is amended to read—No person shall sell or offer for sale Milk or Cream in the City of Fredericton without having first procured a license so to do from the local Board of Health, which license shall not extend beyond the first day of May next following the date of the license.

Section II of the present regulation is rescinded and the following inserted in lieu thereof.

Every licensed vendor of milk or cream shall have the number of his license conspicuously placed on the wagon or other vehicle from which the milk or cream is sold. All large supply cans or other containers from which milk or cream is delivered to milk or cream stores or from which milk or cream is taken to refill other containers, must have the number of the licensed vendor conspicuously placed on them.

No milk vendor is permitted to refill any milk bottle or other container and deliver it to any person, residence or place of abode without first having the said bottle or other container thoroughly washed with boiling water.

The inside of all milk wagons and other vehicles used in the sale and delivery of milk must be thoroughly clean and sanitary. All utensils of distribution shall be kept thoroughly clean and in a sanitary condition, and subject to the inspection and approval of the Board of Health Inspector, and they shall not be used for any other purpose whatsoever.

The above amended Regulations are published by order of the Board of Health of the City of Fredericton, District No. 1.

GEORGE Y. DIBBLEE,
Acting Secretary

J. M. WILEY,
Chairman.

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