

THE DAILY MAIL

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1918

TOO MANY TITLES.

The Toronto Saturday Night, a paper which has the habit of speaking out very plainly when it sees an abuse that needs correcting, thinks that there should be an enquiry into the title business in Canada. In discussing the subject, it says:

"A loud and insistent cry of protest has gone up from the people of Canada over the manner in which titles are being showered on the citizens of this country. With the exception of those immediately interested in being Sir Somebody-or-other, everybody objects. And indeed, it would not be overstating the case to say that had some of our knights foreseen that the shower was to become a deluge, they would have quietly intimated, as did John Galsworthy, the English writer, and our own John Ross Robertson, that they preferred to remain 'Mister,' plain and unadorned. Or, take the case of the Hon. W. S. Fielding, who declined a knighthood on three counts. First, that he was a politician, a profession which lacks stability—in today, out tomorrow. Second, that he was a newspaper man; and thirdly, that he was poor. And it is quite possible that our former Finance Minister might have said that he did not believe in such things.

"It is quite conceivable that a great philanthropist, a great educationalist, or scientist, or soldier, or statesman, might well in his declining years, when his life's work could be viewed in retrospect, be tendered a knighthood. Under these circumstances a decoration would possibly be a well deserved climax of a great career.

"In the good old days when one could go around the corner without stepping on the heels of a knight, a baronet or a baron, when knighthoods were conferred upon such men as Sir John A. Macdonald and Sir Hugh Allan, the country rejoiced that public recognition had been given to the Father of Confederation and the Father of Canadian shipping. These and other men of that generation equally honored, had stamped their personality on the country in such a manner that they will live for all time, but now, alas, the givers of knighthoods and like honors have grown so careless that one hesitates to write his butcher without first inquiring whether the Mr. Somebody of yesterday has not become a knight, a baron or something of that sort over night.

"It would be well if a public enquiry was held rétiles. Who recommends them? How they come to be granted? For instance, it is plain enough as to why Lord Shaughnessy, as the head of one of the greatest institutions in the British Empire, was made a baron. But it is not half so evident why Sir Hugh Graham became Lord Atholstan. What was the deal? How was it done?

"Then there is our bacon baronet who recommended him for an hereditary title? And did he in turn recommend the better part of the last batch of knights, etc.?" The people of Canada are entitled to this information. They are demanding that the whole business be investigated. If our Governor General has a hand in such matters, he should be cautioned to go slow, or better yet, to stop.

"There is a taint of commercialism and partizan politics about a great many of these imperial honors. If they are sometimes procured through a party boss, as is pretty well established already, or if they are given for generous contributions to campaign funds, the public should be told.

"In the meantime, our government might tell King George and his advisers that a decree should be issued governing imperial titles in Canada, to the effect that they terminate with the death of their present owners. King George should be informed that Canadians believe that every herring should hang by its own tail, and every tub stand on its own bottom."

There is no doubt that the title business has been much overdone in Canada during recent years. Many of those who have been honored no doubt have earned the honor, but it

cannot be denied that in many cases it was not merited. In connection with the matter it was interesting to note that all or nearly all of the Knighthoods, baronetcies, etc. go to politicians, railway magnates, bankers and bacon barons, living in the upper provinces. The maritime provinces seem scarcely to have got a look in. In the case of New Brunswick it has not at the present time a single resident knight. Of course there is Lord Beaverbrook, but he is not a resident of New Brunswick now, and is unlikely to ever be again. The last titles to come to this province were conferred upon Chief Justice Barker of the Supreme Court and Chief Justice Landry of the Court of King's Bench, both now deceased. In the good old days New Brunswick could usually boast a Knight or two but now it has none although it is not on record that any of our public men have declined the honor.

A proposal is on foot to make compulsory the use of meters in connection with the city water system. The council should look carefully into the matter before taking any definite action. The installation of meters will mean a considerable outlay and just at the present time the average householder is not anxious to shoulder any additional burden. There is no doubt that a large quantity of water is wasted here during the winter months, because of the fact that many householders in order to avoid a "freeze up" are obliged to leave water taps running during the night time. Under the present system the expense is borne by the city, but if meters were installed it would fall upon those who are unfortunate enough to dwell in cold houses.

The city council has decided to grant the concessions asked for by the Hartt Boot and Shoe Company, Limited. The concessions granted are not unreasonable and will enable the Company to greatly expand its business in the city. The need for new industries here is greater than ever before, and we believe the action of the council is decidedly in the public interests.

Through Our Sieve

For sale, one bottle of mosquito oil; or will exchange for a barrel of coal.

Peace prospects are about as conspicuous as signs of an early spring.

War serves also to discriminate between flyers and high flyers.

Seems that the Kaiser even had the moon all staked out in building lots.

Having established a record, winter will let up, if it has the instincts of a gentleman.

Snow on the magnolias in Houston! Flowers blooming in Alaska! 'Tis a mad world, my masters!

What's become of the old-fashioned spendthrift who used to throw coal ashes on the kids' slides?

There seems to be a general feeling among the Austrians that they might as well be licked as the way they are.

The war lord is going to be simply terrible for the Crown Prince of Germany for years to come. Papa has absorbed all the "glory" out of it.

We're mighty glad the Goeben and Breslau have been sunk again. Those two vessels can't be sunk any too often to please us. We hope they'll be sunk again next week.

St. George of England was martyred at Lydda, in Palestine in the year 303. When the English captured the place, they should have levied because of this outrage about a million pounds indemnity on the inhabitants, according to the German model.

LOCAL NEWS

Six Rinks Away. Six rinks of Fredericton curlers went to St. John this morning for matches with Carleton and the Thistles. On account of his wife's illness Skip F. P. Hatt could not go and his place was taken by Skip T. A. Belmore. Skip S. D. Simmons also was unable to go.

Was a Passenger. Mrs. F. B. Carvell of Woodstock, wife of the Minister of Public Works, was a passenger on the C.P.R. express wrecked near Sherbrooke last night. Fortunately she escaped without injury.

A BLACK RECORD. London, Feb. 6.—German U-boats, according to a reply given by Andrew Bonar Law, government leader in the House of Commons today, have done to death 14,120 non-combatant British men, women and children.

Mr. H. W. Frink of St. John, is a guest at the Barker House.

POOR FARM PROPOSED FOR MARYSVILLE

Town Council Believes That the Poor Would be Better Cared for Under a New System.

Marysville, Feb. 6. — The Town Council held its regular monthly meeting last evening with Mayor Gilbert presiding. The other members of the board present were Couns. M. V. Denison, Stephenson, Finnamore and Stafford. After the usual monthly accounts had been disposed of the reports of the different committees were received. The report of the Finance Committee delivered through the chairman, Coun. Stafford, showed the total expenditures to date amounting to \$9,395.42. A communication from Mr. Ralph P. Bell, chairman of the Halifax Relief Committee, was received, extending the thanks of the committee for the purchase of the wood on the limits of the road in the Purdy woods. Mr. Sanford Pond offered \$30 for the wood, but his offer was not accepted. Coun. Stafford, chairman of the Light Committee, reported that the extra lights ordered to be installed would be put into place as soon as the necessary material could be procured. An account of the Nashwaak Pulp & Paper Company for rent of a house on Water street was left with the chairman of the Finance Committee for investigation. An account for medical services was ordered compromised. The matter of ordering a new uniform for the town marshal was discussed but was allowed to stand temporarily. In accordance with the notice of motion of Coun. Stafford at the last meeting of the board, his motion to the effect that legislation be enacted to enable the town to issue bonds to the extent of \$5,000 for the installation of a new sewerage system was made at last evening's meeting but as there was no second the matter was given no consideration and no action was taken.

A check for \$550.32 was ordered to be issued in favor of the secretary-treasurer of the county which will wipe out the town's indebtedness for the present year, to the county. A resident of ward number one was relieved of his 1917 taxes owing to his advanced age. Coun. Denison suggested to the board the advisability of centralizing the dependents of the town in one building and threw out the intimation that there would be no difficulty in procuring a farm property with suitable dwelling where the poor could be kept with less expense than at present, which could be under the supervision of the town marshal and that light work could be performed by the inmates which would assist in their upkeep. No action was taken in the matter but as the scheme appears to be a very practical one there is no doubt that some action will be taken at a later date. Coun. Stephenson figured in some lively clashes with the mayor and Coun. Stafford which had the effect of breaking the monotony of an otherwise dull session. After the disposal of some other matters of routine nature the meeting adjourned.

The Women's Auxiliary of the Missionary Society of the Methodist church held a meeting at the residence of Mrs. John Gibson last evening. There was a large attendance and a very interesting program was carried out.

The gentlemen members of Dawson Club are planning on holding a dance and social evening at the club rooms on Friday evening.

Mr. E. R. Reynolds of Toronto, is a guest at the Barker House. Mr. H. G. Puffer of Montreal, is in the city.

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Notice of Legislation.

Public Notice is hereby given that application will be made at the next session of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick, for the passage of an Act authorizing and empowering the City Council of the City of Fredericton to grant further exemptions in respect of Free Water, Free Sewerage and Free Taxation on the site, plant, equipment, stock in trade and property generally of The Hartt Boot & Shoe Company, Limited. Dated at Fredericton, N. B., this 6th day of February, A. D. 1918.

MOSES MITCHELL, Mayor. G. R. PERKINS, City Clerk.

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