

THE DAILY HERALD

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DAILY HERALD.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 1903.

A FOOLISH DECISION.

The York county council by refusing to pay the smallpox bills is running its head against a stone wall. It is attempting to take the law by the throat, and the result is not in doubt. The bills must be paid. The statute says so, and provides the means of enforcing payment. The councillors who voted to throw out the bills placed themselves in an unjustifiable position, and will be held accountable by the electors for the extra expense that may be saddled on the municipality by reason of their action.

When the Herald said Thursday that the bills were all passed unanimously by the Council in committee of the whole, it stated a fact, and was glad to be in a position to congratulate the councillors on complying with law. The bills had been reduced by the members of the health board as far as possible, and the report recommending payment was signed by all the members of that body, including Mr. George J. Colter. This report was agreed to by the Council on Wednesday, but on Thursday they turned around and undid that work, refusing absolutely to pay any of the bills until compelled to do so by law.

The legal adviser of the Council in the discharge of his duty, warned the members that they had no recourse but to pay the bills, but even that did not turn the councillors from their foolish course. They could not deny the Council's liability, but they could refuse to pay the bills for the present, put the county to needless law costs, and finally be compelled to pay up, but they would be able to go home and tell their constituents that they had resisted payment as long as possible, and this would be a good card to play before the parishes in the autumn municipal elections.

The ratepayers of York however will not be blinded by any such tactics. The bills must be met, and if the council's instructions are carried out, namely to resist payment as far as possible, a good sized bill of costs will be heaped up against the municipality.

The total amount of the accounts is \$2699.55 of which the government pays one half, leaving \$1349.77 for the county to pay. Let the matter get into law, and the amount for which the county will be liable will soon mount up to a much larger sum.

The statute compelling the municipality to pay board of health accounts is as clear as noonday.

Section 71 of the Public Health Act is as follows:

"Whenever the County Council of any County refuses or neglects, on the request of the Chairman of the Local Board of Health of any County, to pay the expenses of such Board of Health, as hereinbefore provided for, or to pay to such Local Board of Health the amount which it is entitled to receive under this Act, upon application made to a Judge of the Supreme Court, such Judge may, after notice to the warden of the County, and giving him an opportunity of being heard as to any objection which he may desire to urge against such payment, make an order for the payment of such amount, or any part thereof, by the County Treasurer of such County, and upon the service of a copy of the order of such Judge for payment upon the County Treasurer, it shall be the duty of the County Treasurer forthwith to pay the amount stated in such order to such Local Board of Health, and such payment shall be made by the County Treasurer out of any County monies in his hands. Any such order made by such Judge of the Supreme Court shall be final."

It is therefore open to any party having

a bill against the health board to at once invoke the aid of the law, and the judge who issues the process has the final authority in the matter, there being no appeal from his decision.

This then is the position in which the majority of the councillors have placed the municipality by their action of repudiating the board of health accounts, an action which cannot be justified from any standpoint, except that of political expediency,—a desire to make cheap political capital on the part of certain councillors who rather than seem to be sacrificing their chances for re-election, decided to stultify the county, and add to its financial burdens.

It must be said to the credit of a number of the councillors that they resisted the action of the board in refusing payment of the accounts, but their wise counsel could not prevail against the great majority who were determined to appear to the public as conservers of the municipal finances, while they were really increasing the liabilities.

When a member of the House of Representatives at Washington in twisting the British lion's tail, declared that Canada under certain conditions would join the United States against Great Britain, a Canadian girl in the gallery shouted "You lie," causing quite a sensation. The plucky lady hails from Toronto and her name is Grant. The House was quite broken up by the unexpected and forcible interruption, but the incident passed off amid the laughter of the representatives and the discomfiture of the fiery Democratic orator.

Mr. Foster is to have opposition in North Ontario, the Liberals of the riding have nominated George E. Grant, a popular barrister of Beaverton. The Moncton Times says that in writing to a Westmorland friend Mr. Foster says he "expects a warm contest."

Attorney General Pugsley has decided to apply to a Supreme court judge for an order to compel Mayor White of St. John to issue a warrant for the removal of Goodspeed to the reformatory, to which he was sentenced by the Chief Justice.

Fine Costumes Cleaned.

Opera cloaks and costumes of the most delicate fabric can be cleaned by R. Parker & Co., with agency for Fredericton at McCatherin's Piano, Organ and Ladies' Furnishing Store, without the slightest injury to the material.

COTTON GOODS UP.

(Special to Daily Herald.)

Montreal, Jan. 23.—Today the Canadian cotton combine made the announcement of an increase in price of from 2½ to 7½ per cent., to take effect at once. The increased cost of operating, owing to the price of coal, etc., and the increased price of raw cotton in the United States are given as reasons.

NO REASON GIVEN.

Berlin, Jan. 28.—First official report of the bombardment of fort San Carlos Venezuela received from Curaco, and merely describes what took place, without giving reasons of the action of the Germans.

CALL TO ARMS.

Maracabio, Venezuela, Jan. 23.—A decree was published here last night, calling to arms all citizens from 16 to 60 years, to prevent if possible, the landing of German forces. About 5,200 men answered the call.

THE COAL DUTY.

(Special to the Daily Herald.)

Ottawa, Jan. 23.—It is definitely stated here that the government has taken no action with regard to the proposal to give a rebate or reduction in duties on soft coal.

Miss Jennie Perkins is visiting friends in St. John.

Miss Charlotte Perley has returned from a visit to Toronto.

Willard Kitchen returned last evening from an extended business trip to Prince Edward Island.

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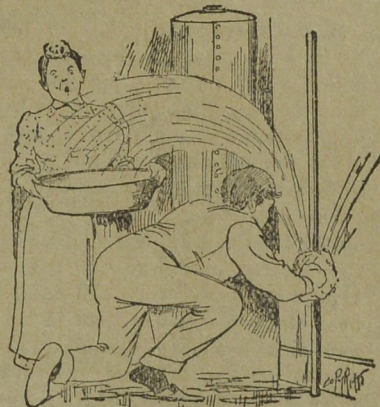
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Colored Dress Goods, former prices from 25c to 40c, reduced to 15c, and from 40c to 75c, reduced to 25c. Black Figured Dress Goods that were 75c to \$1.25 now 50c. All Prints at 6 and 8c, reduced to 5½c. Those that were 10c now 7½c. Heavy All-wool Hose at 19c per pair. 2 pairs Ladies' Cashmere Hose for 39c, and Ladies' Cashmere Hose, plain and ribbed, that were 30c and 35c now 24c. 20 per cent off all Furs. Ladies' Cloth Jackets \$1.50, former prices \$3.50 to \$5.00, and all Jackets from \$5.50 to \$12.00 now \$5.00. Men's All-wool Drawers 35c per pair. These Goods are for CASH only, and no goods allowed on approbation.

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