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Editor.

DAILY HERALD

TUESDAY, MARCH 28 1905

THE CIVIC ASSESSMENT.

It appears that the civic assessment this year beats all former records by \$3,000, and that the addition is to pay debts contracted in the past rather than to provide for future improvements.

The assessment has grown steadily in recent years. Less than twenty years ago it was under \$40,000—one year the amount was only \$38,000.

The citizens have demanded improvements and must of course pay for them, but all the same they may entertain the opinion that their business in recent years has been loosely handled. It is, however, good policy to wipe out the floating indebtedness which this year reached \$18,000, borrowed from the banks to cover overexpenditure, and to start with a clean sheet.

Former mayors have declared that they would refuse to sign cheques for public services after the appropriation had been expended, but the rule has been more honored in the breach than in the observance, and the various departments have been permitted to go on overexpending.

And yet those who may grumble at the increase in the assessment cannot very well point out how the services can be properly sustained with a smaller amount. The greater portion of the assessment is already mortgaged by the fixed charges. The school trustees take \$16,000 of it, there are heavy interest charges, salaries, etc., that have the right of way and there is only a small proportion left subject to the control of the council.

There is no hope of reduction in the assessment, and we doubt if it will ever again be possible to drop it below the \$60,000 mark. New services must be provided, and they will cost money. The time, for instance, is near when the city will have to borrow in the vicinity of \$100,000 to construct a sewerage system.

The best the council can do is to exercise a wise economy over the items of controllable expenditure, get the very best service possible out of the votes passed, and insist on prompt collection of taxes to prevent the necessity of borrowing from the banks to provide money for current expenses.

THE LEGISLATURE.

The budget debate in the legislature is spinning out to quite a length. Yesterday's instalment included the finish of Hon. Mr. Jones' really excellent speech, some old time opposition arguments from Mr. Maxwell, and a well conceived and forcibly delivered speech from Mr. McLatchey and a clever address from Mr. Tweeddale. Mr. Hazen has the floor today, and it is anticipated that the attorney general will have something to say before the debate closes.

The house may be able to get through supply this week, and a couple more weeks after this should pretty well finish up the business of the session. Members who have plenty of business to engage their attention as spring opens will be anxious to get back to their homes by the middle of April.

Mr. Gibson, ex-M. P., is able to render good service to his former constituents. Notice how promptly the post office authorities responded to his request for a new letter box at the corner of Queen and York streets, a convenience that will be welcomed by a large number of people. Mr. Geo. Y. Dibblee is also entitled to credit for bringing the matter to Mr. Gibson's attention, and the latter's promptness in successfully pushing for the improvement is most commendable. Mr. Gibson is rendering splendid service whenever his influence is sought by his former constituents.

Mr. George Robertson, M. P. P., who is ever alive to the interests of St. John and the province generally, has just returned from Ottawa where with other influential gentlemen from the maritime provinces, he interviewed the government and pressed for a bonus to a proposed steel shipbuilding plant to be located at some point in New Brunswick or Nova Scotia. It is expected that a bonus for \$6 per ton will be given, and that legislation to provide for it will be passed this session.

COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATURE.

Provincial Hospital Accounts Considered—Amendments to Election Law.

The public accounts committee was engaged this morning with the Asylum accounts. Dr. Anglin and W. A. Quinton and Gordon Boyne were present. The latter explained the system of tendering for provisions, the tenderer whose prices were lowest in the aggregate getting the contract. There was some criticism on the prices paid to J. V. Russell for footwear. The steward stated that a considerable quantity of Queens Coal was being used in the institution. As a result of the forms made by the superintendent the bill for drugs was only about half the usual sum. The opinion was expressed by some of the members of the committee that it would be advantageous to bond the over-draft which could be done at 4 per cent.

MUNICIPALITIES COMMITTEE

The committee on municipalities discussed the bill to amend the act relating to rates and taxes in the several parishes of the city and county of St. John. Mr. Vincent appeared on behalf of the municipality. The principal feature of the bill is with respect to the property of married women. There was considerable discussion with regard to the section assessing the property in the name of her husband and this mat-

Hon. G. H. V. Bulyea, the former New Brunswicker who holds the position of commissioner of public works in the northwest territorial government, before leaving Ottawa yesterday, for his home, expressed himself as very well satisfied with the educational clauses of the autonomy bill as amended, declaring that the measure would prove satisfactory to the people of the new provinces.

The western Liberals are insisting on Mr. Sifton being taken back into the cabinet and Sir Wilfrid may yield to their request if Mr. Sifton himself is willing. If he returns before the end of the present month he need not seek reelection.

An officer of the Fredericton garrison says that only fifty men recruited at this station are to be sent to Halifax, and that 100 will remain here, and that the school of instruction will be continued as usual. We trust he is correct, but why so much secrecy about the barracks these days?

The Tory talk of the Liberals attempting to coerce the new provinces comes with poor grace from politicians who attempted to impose separate schools on Manitoba, and nearly drove Canada into civil war.

ARE NOT AS THEY SEEM.

English Place Names—Mysteries of Pronunciation That Puzzle Travelers—Not Explained in Guide Books.

If the amiable foreigner, says London Tit-Bits, is driven to the verge of distraction, by our vagaries in pronouncing words ending in "ough," and cannot for the life of him see why, if "ough" spells "kof," "though" should not be "thof" and "sough" "sof," what must he think of our phonetic eccentricities in the pronunciation of place-names, which is such a sore puzzle even to ourselves.

Why, for instance, in the name of all that's reasonable should he have to say Amesbury when we write and mean Almondsbury; and, when we are in Lancashire, inquire the way to Oost'n when it is Ulverstone we want? These are mysteries which are not even revealed, one would think, unto babes, and which certainly make the upgrown man feel foolish.

If you chance to be in Suffolk, and want to find your way to Waldringfield, near Ipswich, you must avoid at any cost pronouncing the word as it is written. You will be looked on as a freak or a foreigner; but ask for Wunnerf, and you will be sent on your way rejoicing. One may be prepared to find that Belvoir is pronounced Beaver, but who is to know that Aspatria in Cumberland is only recognized locally as Spethry? You may ask the native the nearest way to Aspatria till you are black in the face, and he will stare blankly at you for your pains; but breathe the word Spethry and you will get your direction quickly enough.

Little Urswick is a place unknown to thousands of Lancashire folk who are familiar enough with the village of that name; but call it Lilosick and their faces will brighten at once with intelligence. Pontefract is not unrecognizable to the southerner even as Pomfret; but why should Keighley be known locally as Keethley and not as Keeley, which is the obvious rendering?

But the north country has no monopoly of odd pronunciations. Go to Devonshire and ask for Brithenbottom; the odds are you will be told there is no such place. Brimbottom they know right well, and that is the place you really want. Thurlston, by a similar or worse perversion, becomes Drizzlecum, which may, or may not, be a tribute to

ter will be discussed in the house. The provisions in regard to the sale of property for taxes and the means of redeeming it also called forth many differences of opinion. The bill was reported and the various sections will be more fully discussed in the house.

THE ELECTION LAW.

A special committee appointed to discuss changes in the election law met this morning. The matter first dealt with was with regard to the establishment of new polling places. One was wanted for the Parish of Alnwick in Northumberland, another for St. Louis, in Kent, another at Dipper Harbor and another in the new parish which is to be created in Madawaska. There was much discussion with regard to the present system of adding names to the voters' list and Dr. Pugsley's suggestion that there should be a permanent list was adopted. Where names are to be removed or added notice must be given. There was also a discussion with regard to the length of time which a man had to be a resident before getting his name on the list. A sub-committee consisting of Messrs. Hill, Clarke and McLatchey was appointed to draft the necessary sections.

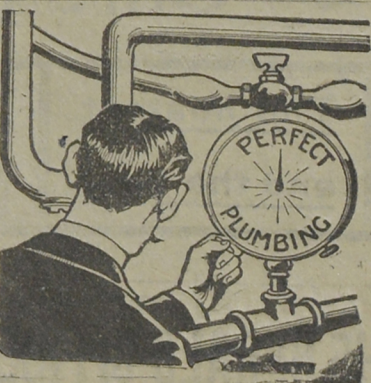
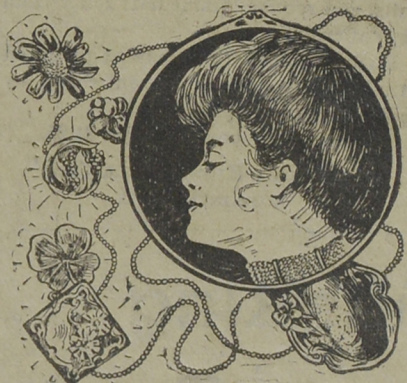
The dampness of its climate. There is in Gloucestershire a village called Churchdown, which for some inexplicable reason is always spoken of locally as Chosen. The good people of Churchdown appreciate the joke as much as anybody, and tell you how, when the trains were asked to stop there, some one said, "Make thy Chosen people joyful."

Congresbury, in Somersetshire, is known far and wide as Coombsbury, and shades of our Norman ancestors—Hurstmonceaux in Sussex has long degenerated into Horse-mouces. St. Osyth is a name that ought not to present any lingual difficulty, but its favorite form in the district seems to be Toosy; and, while the educated man has long been reconciled to call Greenwich "Grinnidge," there are many who still persist (and they are right, though it sounds strange to the ear) in pronouncing the name as it is spelled.

Chelmondiston, in Suffolk, has been cut down to the more convenient Chimestone; and Sandiacre, a small town in Derbyshire, is Sanjiker to those who know what they ought to say. Welsh names are a source of un-failing confusion to the Englishman, whose tongue refuses point blank to grapple with them; and yet some of them at least have been made simple enough, such as Rhugbaxton, in Pembrokeshire, which as Ribson is simplicity itself. In Hertfordshire the formidable Sawbridgeworth has been reduced to the handy compass of Sapsir; but what shall we say of Woodmancote, which to the good people of Gloucestershire is often known as Uddenmukat?

Martin Harvey's Joke.

Martin Harvey, the young English actor who vaulted into fame by his impersonation of Sydney Carton in "The Only Way," is an ardent devotee of Henry Irving, but he carefully eschews the mannerisms of that great English tragedian. Outside of his work as a member of the theatrical profession Mr. Harvey's chief hobby is painting and sketching. He is considered a clever painter, and also has some knowledge of sculpture. He is very fond of dogs and rarely is without one of his pets beside him when off the stage. When in London Mr. Harvey lives in a beautiful house in St. John's Wood. His holidays he spends at the seaside. During one of his visits to the ocean he boarded at a small hotel, where he did not fare to his liking. On going away he took his revenge on the landlady in a fashion of his own. His hostess as he was leaving asked him to write in her testimonial book. He complied. His entry comprised just four words—"I quote the raven." As the landlady had never read Edgar Allan Poe's poem, she was not "on," as we say in America. But guests who followed Harvey were.



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