

## EYE OPENER

FORT ERIE, ONT., JANUARY 4, 1913.

## ELECTION EXTRA

For years we have heard nothing but Progressive, Progressive of the so-called Foster party. Progressive is a great word, but it is often misused. There was a time when a lot of citizens opposed the progressive movement, and you will remember the time of the waterworks campaign, when a certain statement to the ratepayers of Fort Erie was issued by the so-called Municipality Club and Board of Trade. Would like to state here that we in no way oppose a sound Board of Trade, but as a society that will put their name to promises of the following kind: "The system is to be thoroughly up to date and of sufficient capacity to supply a city of 60,000 inhabitants, thereby making ample provision for a rapid growth of the village, which we believe a water system will be largely instrumental in bringing out," and we do know today there are many good, responsible citizens, present members of the Board of Trade, who would not stand for this kind of dope now.

In regard to the platform for the re-election of the so-called ex-Reeve—the saving of \$400 in the construction of sidewalks. Certainly the sidewalks were well paid for. Every citizen by this time knows that the same sidewalks are inferior to any constructed by previous Councils.

Take a walk through the commons and look at them.

Now, Mr. Voter, do you remember the article, "Don't be Gold-Bricked," which is used by the same people?—where it reads as follows: "Remember that all you have heard about the tax-dodgers appealing and winning their appeals is absolutely wrong." Do you know, Mr. Voter, who are the officers of the Fairview Land Company? It is a funny story. Yes, they are the so-called ex-Reeve, the Town Clerk, the Town Solicitor, and, "maybe," some other fellow. Moreover, what do you think? They do not sell any yellow sand. They have an agent, our general teamster, and call it gravel. They do not receive money directly from the village, but indirectly, and that, of course, alters the case.

The Fairview Land Company are not tax-dodgers. They only do what they told the Doctor and Mr. Sherk and the other fellows years ago not to do. If you do not believe it, ask the fellow who attended the last Court of Revision, our retired Assessor, Gilbert.

About an electric fire system we would like to say that if we had a general alarm bell cases like the Flemming and the Gilbert Bakery Shop fire would

surely not be repeated, but if we had an electric fire system it would surely happen again. Citizens will sit at home and smoke their pipes and let their fellow-citizens burn out. Nobody but the firemen would be notified, and they might not be at home. Of course, that is a new way to pass a by-law and spend the village money.

In connection with the passing of the \$10,000 by-law, we will call your attention to the remarks of our present Town Clerk, at the meeting of the Board of Trade, in behalf of this bylaw, referring to the raising of the taxes, which remarks were published in the Fort Erie Times. It was a threat to the citizens to raise the taxes if the Council could not pass the by-law. We hate to repeat these words in print. If conditions of this kind exist, it is far from progressive. Even one of the present Council made a threat to mention his name in the paper, for the simple reason we did not agree with his public opinion. A man of this kind is not fit for public office. Any citizen or any taxpayer has a perfect right to discuss or publish his opinion in any municipality in a civilized country.

It was said years ago that the so-called "Old Guard" thought themselves to be the only ones capable of handling the village business, but the present Council seems to be affected with the same disease.

"South End"



elected there will be no more money wasted on fake gravel; the long-demanded change in the Town Clerk's office will be a fact; the Fort Erie Grove people will get their sidewalk; lights will be put through Amigari; everything done by the Council will be above board, and things suggested by the Board of Trade will be taken into consideration the same as those suggested by the Business Men and Taxpayers' Association. In all respects these gentlemen will do their utmost to satisfy the people, foster a better spirit and try to unite both parties.

In writing the above articles it isn't our intention to insult or try to destroy any one's character. We are sorry to state that our previous editor let his love for his home village run away with his head and published stuff which insulted citizens. We certainly know that it was not Mr. Ferguson's intention so to do. He certainly tried to do his best in behalf of this village. In all our dealings, personally, we always found Mr. Mathews fair and square, but we do not believe that any public office in a free country should be made a life job. In comparing the two tickets, we do believe that our candidates are fully as able, if not more so, to fill the offices, as the present Council. They are respectable citizens and they certainly deserve a chance.

Now that Fort Erie has had a genuine case of safe-blowing, it seems like a good time to suggest that the town could make good use of an able night watchman. Most of the drunken brawls and other undesirable happenings occur at an hour when the police-

man is off duty. It has occurred to some people's minds that Fort Erie should have night protection and satisfactory management of the street lighting system. If both jobs were in charge of a specially-appointed man, this man could also look after the Town Hall, and then the roadmaster could pay attention to roads, etc., and get some sleep occasionally. There can be no doubt that much money is spent for labor that could be made to cover more and better work if the roadmaster had more time to give to road matters.

Mr. Foster and his bodyguard celebrated nomination night as usual. (Bartender).

It is to be expected that the present Council will publish platforms and promises as in years past. What about past promises, etc.? How many times must we be stung before we wake up? There is a rumor of one of their promises regarding the Town Clerk just now. But have we not already seen how a man who professes to be out of politics seems to hold a certain bunch of officials in the palm of his hand? It is necessary that a new bunch of men should be put in charge of Fort Erie matters—men whom the old managers cannot control. That is what the town needs, and needs badly.

It looks darned queer that a firm would make a survey for a sewer system free of charge, relying upon getting the contract for their remuneration. Just before that came to light we were given a tip that it is already cut and dried that the same firm are really billed to get the contract anyway. It's funny. It may be that this explains why certain

people want the old Council elected badly.

Shake hands, Lew! You're a good sport, anyway, but, Oh you Reeve! Set 'em up, Billy!

### REMEMBER, MR. VOTER, REMEMBER!

The Business Men and Taxpayers' Association candidates for municipal honors are not running for office just to get into the limelight. There is more than one good reason not only to satisfy the sentiment of the people and the demand for a change, but to elect men who are not only able to fill the bill but who live up to their promises.

This edition is not for sale. It has been secured by members of the Business Men and Taxpayers' Association to be distributed among citizens interested in this village.

### SORROW AND PAIN.

However well and happy and successful we may be, sorrow and pain are never far away, and the world pain is everywhere, and there is no peace or joy for us at any time if we cannot feel that in and through and over all the sickness, sorrow, pain and loss and shame and sin there is the eternal goodness.—  
John W. Chadwick.

### Cruel.

"Why do you encourage your husband to drink so much coffee?"

"It's the one thing that will keep him awake nights, and that's the only chance I get to tell him what I really think of him!"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

### With or Without.

"Does she sing?"

"Yes."

"With or without?"

"With or without what—her music?"

"No. With or without coaxing."—  
Detroit Free Press.



## FORT ERIE EYE OPENER.

Once more we would like to call your attention to the latest Power Company stunt, and would like to state that the majority of the present Council were in favor of the Power Company's proposal. Had it been possible to pass it without a by-law, the Power Company would certainly have got what they were looking for. Where, then, would the interests of the village come in?

Speaking in behalf of the prosperity of this village, we would like to say that our present Council are all good, reliable citizens, but their ability for public office is certainly not No. 1.

It really does appear that these gentlemen are not to blame for half that was stated in the previous, as well as the present edition, of The Eye Opener. Outside influence seems to be the cause.

They are talking about a sewer system now. We all know the promises given regarding our waterworks, and the sewer system will cost about twice the amount, and it certainly will take capable men to handle this proposition. The citizens of this village plainly showed their opinion of the present Council by defeating the last by-law. How can the very same men expect to pass a sewer by-law? Why not hands up and withdraw like men?

There is no truth in the report that C. E. Harris intends to present Reeve Douglas' goat to the Fort Erie Library. Mr. Harris will not be so unkind as to rub it in.

A man is no sooner elected to office than he begins kicking because it isn't more remunerative.

The Eye Opener can never speak ill of Reeve Douglas, for he is a very old friend and enjoys the good-will of all who know him, but the unhappy fact remains that his year of administration has been a failure. An administration can only ask for a renewal of public confidence on the ground of success, and the present administration cannot make that plea.

"Running for office" is too mild a term. The candidates are stampeding for office.

The reason The Eye Opener does not publish more blunders made by our recent administration is because it is only a small paper.

Another reciprocity man's head has fallen in the basket. The downfall of Laurier and Taft is followed by the resignation of Ambassador Bryce. For him, reciprocity was the peril of great Bryce. (Bartender).

If you ask any of the Council how they like the job, they always say they do not like it. Why? "There is nothing in it but abuse." It always seems strange to us to be a town's father and get no salary, not even one inch of graft. Therefore, every one of the previous Council will tell you the same. Why, then, hang on to it? Why fight for it? Is it sport? Is it jealousy? Or is it only to beat the other fellow out of it? It hardly can be to the benefit of this village. Conditions of this kind are absurd. Why not unite, and be Progressive, and carry out the real meaning of the word "Progress?" Don't have a grudge against the other fellow if he is of a different opinion about municipality business. Be

proud of your young men in this village; educate them to municipality affairs, and the more young men you can elect in your Council the more prosperity it means for the village.

Fort Erie is hard up. For what is it hard up? Not for grafters. There are none in the town—the emigration inspector keeps a good eye on them. If there is any one, he has to come from the race track, Ridgeway or somewhere else. Fort Erie is hard up! For what? A new tax collector. Sixty dollars a year given to an employe of the Michigan Central, for what the Sterling Bank could have done for nothing. Great country! Is it? No. They tell you it is progress.

In case L. Douglass should resign we will be without a fire chief and sheriff. The general blacksmith, of course, will remain. And if our honorable Town Clerk should join in this resignation, this great Fort Erie Village machinery will stand still. Mr. Buffalo will have to go somewhere else to perform one of those quick marriages. We could not expect that our idle gentleman would decide to get down to work and follow the footsteps of his great ancestor.

We often thought if we could get anyone to work for us for nothing, and a clerk for about a hundred dollars per year who would hang on to the job like a bulldog, we would certainly have an automobile in no time, a motor boat, a fur coat and a wise-looking face. That is about all that is required to keep some respectable citizens in this village out of your reach.

A few more remarks about the waterworks: It was claimed that after the installation of the waterworks the population of our village, inside of a year or two, would be increased to 2,000. Where are those two thousand? People are moving away instead of moving into the town.

There are only a few prosperous men in this town. Mr. Herbert Smith, whose houses are certainly an ornament to the village, is one of them. Speaking about the Old Guard, there is no doubt in our mind but that "Old Teddy," Old Dick Fergy and Old J. R. have made some mistakes when running this village, but they never built a sidewalk of the kind which now runs through Idlewild. They might have been too conservative, and we in no way defend the administration of the above men. We don't want them in the Council now. We want a young Council and young blood, but we do believe that any large property-holder in this village should have more or less to say about municipality affairs, and there is no reason whatever for our present administration having a grudge or showing any kind of party feeling against these old citizens. Therefore, once more we say—Unite and work together.

About the little fellow: Prosperity seems to be with him, and Billy seems to be anxious to get a new voter on our voters' list. Keep it up. Happy New Year.

#### MR. VOTER!!!

In order to foster a spirit of harmony in the community, and, by united effort to aid meritorious public enterprises and eradicate public strife, vote for candidates of the Fort Erie Business

Men and Taxpayers' Association of the Town of Fort Erie.

This association is established on a sound basis and its affairs are conducted by business men on business principles.

For Reeve:

MR. J. SHERK, Farmer.

For Council:

MR. W. REYNOLDS, Superintendent Beaver Co.

MR. ED LAPERE, Carpenter.

MR. J. MANN, Carpenter.

MR. C. E. HARRIS, Tinsmith.

#### PUBLISHER'S COMMENTS AND NOMINATION REMARKS

According to Mr. Foster's arguments—T. cannot call it a speech—in defense of the present administration, would like to say the statement made that the opposition's object was only to beat the present administration is false. Now, Mr. Foster knows better. These kind of arguments do not unite the two bodies; they only make bad matters worse. His remark that only the present Council are able to handle matters under consideration is also false. These remarks are not only selfish, but they are full of egotism. Words of this kind might affect an average man, but not a broad-minded citizen.

Always remember, Mr. Foster, you're not the only one who knows it all. Mr. Fite knows a little bit. The Eye Opener certainly gives credit to Mr. Dougall for his well-worded speech and the way he conducted the chairmanship.

Requested by the chairman not to be personal, our ex-Reeve certainly showed some class by interrupting the speech of a ratepayer and asking him if his property was paid for. Mr. Fite con-

ducted himself like a gentleman, and told the truth.

There is no doubt in our mind as to the fact that the present administration have had time and money enough during the last four years to give the Fort Erie Grove people their well-deserved sidewalk. About \$200 a year, or even half what was spent for yellow sand, would have paid for one.

Mr. Mabee has made several remarks about the men working on the other side not being as suitable for office as men staying in Fort Erie all the time. We would like to know, Mr. Mabee, how many days of the year you are in Fort Erie? Mr. Mabee held the office of School Trustee for years. This kind of nomination remarks do more than contradict themselves. The average nomination remark in behalf of the present Council for re-election was more than flat-footed.

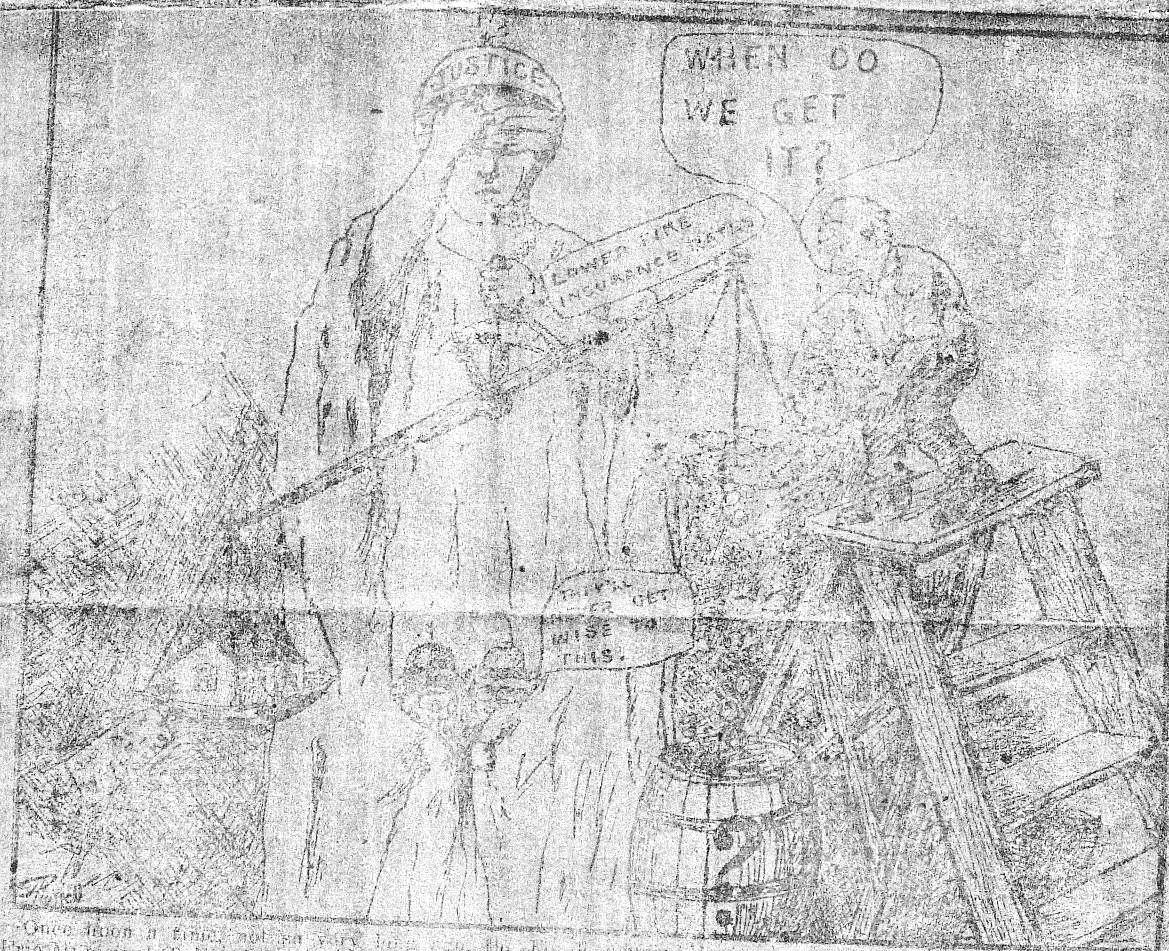
It is all right for the Board of Trade men to turn out in big majority, but it doesn't scare the members of the Fort Erie Business Men and Taxpayers' Association. Talking about qualification, in comparing the two tickets, it is a sure thing that every man on the Business Men's ticket can qualify for Reeve if necessary. But, take the old ticket, their men will have to look out. There might something happen. It seems to us that it takes more to qualify for membership in the Fort Erie Business Men and Taxpayers' Association than for Council.

In regard to the Business Men and Taxpayers' Association candidates, The Eye Opener has learned that if the full ticket is



# WATERWORKS SYSTEM

Reprinted - By Request



Once upon a time, not so very long ago, the Port Erie Municipal Council and Board of Trade issued a statement in connection with the waterworks campaign. We now quote some of the matter contained in that statement.

1. "The system is to be a thoroughly up-to-date one and of sufficient capacity to supply a city of 60,000 inhabitants, thereby making ample provision for the rapid growth of our village, which we believe the waterworks system will be largely instrumental in bringing about."

"All material used in the construction of the plant will be of the highest grade, and must bear the mark called for in every particular instance. No inferior materials will be allowed, and we hope that the people interested will not believe reports that are being circulated to the contrary."

2. "The feeling of security in having fire protection and its influence on insurance rates, was alone worth the investment."

The "Port Erie Times" issue of May 18, 1912, contained the following under the head of "Editorial state, which means just plain mud."

"In a few years time the property owners of Port Erie will have saved the cost of the waterworks in a result of the system."

Now, let us turn loose a few good, solid FACTS based upon a certain report which is the real AUTHORITY in the matter of Fire Insurance.

We must observe, in passing, that these facts have been carefully guarded by some whose duty it is to make them public. The result is that many Port Erieites do not know the truth in this connection.

1. Port Erie has no by-laws for fire limits or for storage of oils, powder or other dangerous substances, and because of other conditions which we will save in this article, such by-laws would cost five even if passed, unless the village should pay a great expense to correct those conditions.

2. Configuration hazard does not seem to be taken into account that due to general construction and occupancy.

3. Streets, except in business portion, are a natural state, which means just plain mud.