

CITY WILL SEEK TAXATION ON EXEMPTED PROPERTY

Council Decides to Ask for Legislation Imposing New Municipal Levy — Board of Education Discussed

By a vote of 15 to 6 the City Council yesterday decided to ask for legislation to impose a municipal tax, as a war measure, on all exempted property, or on land alone other than Dominion, Provincial, hospitals wholly or partly supported by the city, and civic property. This would include churches, private colleges and charitable institutions. The recommendation of the Board of Control, asking that the Government be petitioned to transfer the powers of the Advisory Committees of the Board of Education to the Board of Education, was struck out. After considerable discussion and a warm exchange between Controller McBride and Alderman Ball, an application for a gasoline service station at the corner of St. Clair avenue and Vaughan road was referred back to the Property Committee.

Controller McBride was opposed to the recommendation regarding the Board of Education and said that the powers of the Advisory Committees were subject to the Board of Education, which could refer matters back to the committee.

Technical Education.

Alderman Gibbons said the proposal was before Council last year and had been defeated by 23 to 2, and he expected it would meet the same fate this year. The Advisory Committee was made up of representatives of manufacturers and labor interests, as well as members of the Board of Education. When machinery or equipment was to be purchased the manufacturers and labor men knew more about the machinery than the members of the board. Another reason for the committee was the necessity of co-operation between employers and employees to make the institution a success.

"Technical education is something for which everyone in this country should hold up both hands," said Ald. Hiltz.

Ald. Ball said he was sympathetic toward the resolution, and felt that outside bodies should not be given the responsibility that should rest with a representative body.

Ald. Beamish thought the proper men to give information to the Board of Education were the members of the staff, who received salaries of \$177,000 a year.

Controller McBride said that since the Labor men inaugurated the Technical School in Toronto some fifty-six others had been established under similar committees. "If you want to put the Technical School on a paying basis it means that the drain-digger of to-day will have to bring his children up as drain-diggers," said the Controller.

Delegating Powers.

Reading from the act, Ald. Plewman said: "Under the management and control of the Advisory Committee! Do you call that democracy?" He was opposed to delegating powers to outside bodies, and said: "I object to an appointed Senate, and I would object to an appointed Board of Education, and I object to the powers of the Board of Education being handed over to an appointed body."

Mayor Church said the Technical School was the most extravagantly administered school in North America. He was not opposed to technical education, but held that the Government should contribute more largely than it was doing. The State of Michigan contributed over a million dollars per annum.

Controller McBride said that there was much talk about making outside scholars pay more, whereas out of 8,000 pupils only 71 came from outside the city. He would rather disband the whole Board of Education than the Advisory Committee, and his motion to strike out the recommendation carried.

Alien Motion Revised.

The alien motion was revised to mean alien enemies after a discus-

sion regarding an employee of the works department, who was receiving \$57 per week, whose nationality was doubted. Mr. Harris showed a statement from the military authorities, saying the man was a Russian Pole, and had been engaged in recruiting and patriotic work in connection with the Polish Legion in France.

Asked by Ald. Johnston of Ward One what he would do if the man were to die, Mr. Harris said he would engage the next best man.

After striking out the surtax clause, Council referred back to it in the legislation asking for permission to place a surtax on public service corporations using the streets, and carried the clause.

Tax on Church Property.

"I am not one to vote for taxation on Church property," said Ald. Hiltz, in considering the clause asking for taxation of exempted property.

In reporting a conference with the Cabinet, Finance Commissioner Bradshaw said that the surtax was held to open a big question, and the feeling of the Cabinet was that the Assessment Act should not be opened this year. They, however, seemed to favor the other clauses regarding exemptions.

Ald. Gibbons upheld the exemption of Church property, and said the present legislation would place a tax on charitable institutions.

Controller McBride showed that eighteen seminaries, if taxed, would pay on a total assessment of \$1,852,052, including business tax. Church lands had an assessed value of \$11,986,061, and on buildings of \$11,185,944, a total of \$23,174,005. It was not the purpose of taxing them at the regular rate, but any tax on them would help to relieve the poor man, who was paying on 95 per cent. of the value of his property.

Uplift Work.

Ald. Hiltz said if private schools could be induced to relieve the city of the cost of educating some of the children it was good business. The city was paying for recreation centres and similar work that was carried on in the Y. M. C. A. more extensively. Nothing should be done by the Council that would discourage uplift work. Ald. Plewman thought the ratepayers should vote on the question. Ald. Risk moved that the recommendation be struck out, and was defeated, while the motion, as amended by Controller McBride, so as to exempt hospitals, was carried, 15 to 6.

Ald. Ball moved that the recommendation of the Board of Control, which was directly against the decision of the Property Committee in regard to a permit for a gasoline station at St. Clair avenue and Vaughan road, be struck out. Controller Robbins stated that the applicants had bought the land and planned the erection of a \$13,900 building on the property, and as there was now a station on the property the board had thought it advisable to grant the permit.

Controller McBride and Ald. Ball.

Controller McBride asked Ald. Ball if he had told a representative of the company that it was hardly parliamentary to appear before the Board of Control. When Ald. Ball said he had not, the Controller asked that the representative be heard.

"I want to know if you said something that was not right," said the Controller.

Ald. Ball—I am not going to answer you. I am not going to be catechized by you.

Controller McBride—Then you don't want the truth to be heard?

Ald. Graham did not think the representative of the company should be heard, and this was endorsed by Controller O'Neill, Ald. McBrien and several others. Ald. Ball said his life had been harassed by people in connection with gasoline stations, as he was opposed to stations on prominent corners.

Ald. Blackburn said he thought the station, with its expensive building, was an acquisition to the district. Ald. Ball's motion was carried, and later the question was referred to the Property Committee.

Remove D. M. McIntyre.

Ald. Ball moved that the Legislature be requested to remove Mr. D. M. McIntyre from the Chairmanship of the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board on account of his display of temper against Mr. Harris.

Mayor Church thought it was out of order under the Manual as being disrespectful toward a Government official, and it was changed to a notice of motion.

A recommendation that the Government be petitioned to amend the legislation so that the teaching of German might be discontinued in the Toronto schools was carried.