

Herald March 7th 1918.

THURSDAY, MARCH 7.

The Social Service Council Still Urges the Necessity for Investigation Into the Charges Made Against the Conduct of Certain City Officials

(From The Evening Mail.)

THE Social Service Council have addressed three letters to the City Council. Up to to-day they have received no reply from that body, which is the proper organization to take action if this scandal is to be cleared up. The City Council have an excuse for not replying in that these letters of the Social Service Council have never yet been presented to that body. **WHY** have they not been presented? Are they held up by the Board of Control or by the city clerk? Are both the board and the clerk **AFRAID** to have the letter of the Social Service Council come before the City Council?

It is true that the minute of the Board of Control meeting held on February 21 ult., on motion of Controller Murphy, ordered that the letter addressed to the City Council be referred to that body. But up to to-day, March 5th, aldermen say they have seen or heard nothing of any of the three letters sent them by the Social Service Council. Aldermen know that these letters have been addressed to the council. **WHY** do they not demand that they be produced? **WHY** do they permit the suspicion of collusion on the part of all the city fathers to prevent a proper inquiry into the facts of the case?

HOW many of the city officials are there mixed up in this disgraceful thing, any way, if there are not found a sufficient number of them to demand an investigation? The good name of the city should be considered of more worth than the reputation of one or a dozen unworthy officials; and it is as much the business of the City Council to protect the good name of the city as to manage its affairs.

In reply to the last letter of the Social Service Council the city clerk was instructed to write that body and say, "that the Board of Control, with the assistance of the city solicitor, F. H. Bell, K. C., and R. H. Murray, K. C., have prosecuted as far as they are justifiable a searching (?) enquiry into such matters as have come to their notice, and that any finding on the result of the enquiry has not yet been arrived at. Without announcing it as their final decision, the board, in the meantime, deem the circumstances warrant them in considering it unnecessary to proceed further."

THE Social Service Council are of the opinion that the Board of Control have carefully **EVADED** the chief issue and have **TAKEN NO STEPS WHATEVER TO LIFT THE STIGMA** that rests upon the city and upon certain city officials charged with drunkenness, no matter whether the liquor was obtained surreptitiously from the inspector's office or from some other place.

Information which is in the possession of the Social Service Council makes this matter too serious a one for the City Council to evade. They are the responsible body. It is they who must ask for an investigation before a county court judge. On this account the following letter was ordered sent to the City Council:—

Halifax, February 28, 1918.

To the Members of the City Council:

Sirs,—At a meeting of the executive of this council held this afternoon, I was instructed to write the City Council requesting that they deal with the matter of our request for an investigation into the charges made publicly, and not yet disproven, that city officials were intoxicated during the awful days following the disaster of December 6th. I am also instructed to make request that opportunity be given representatives of the Social Service Council to support their request when it comes before the City Council.

F. E. BARRETT, Secretary.

IT is now up to the City Council to take the steps necessary to secure a proper investigation, such as the law provides for before a county judge. The council owe it to themselves and to the city. Men, who hesitate to do their duty in such a serious case, as this are **NOT** the men that the citizens of Halifax will want to trust with their interests and their good name when it comes time to select a new council and Board of Control.

See Board of Control Minutes - July 22/18 p 709 - Receipt acknowledged to F E Barrett. So far as I know Mr Barrett never sent resolution to City Council. This one addressed to B/C only.

B/C July 7 p 784. Acknowledged to Rev F E Barrett.

B/C July 21 p 827. Acknowledged to Rev F E Barrett. Ordered to go to Council.

B/C March 5th p 867. Ordered to go to Council.