

TRACEY LIQUOR ENQUIRY.

City Hall, March 5th, 1918.

The City Council.

Gentlemen:-

The Board of Control submit herewith for the consideration of the City Council two letters dated respectively February 20th, 1918, and February 28th, 1918, addressed by the Social Service Council to the City Council.

Respectfully submitted ,

*L. B. Macgregor*

Secretary Board of Control.

# The Social Service Council of Nova Scotia

## Organizations Represented

Church of England Synod  
Presbyterian Synod  
Methodist Conference  
United Baptist Convention  
Lutheran Synod  
The Salvation Army  
The Young Men's Christian Association  
The Women's Christian Temperance Union  
The Society for Prevention of Cruelty  
The Nova Scotia Temperance Alliance  
Grand Division Sons of Temperance

Halifax, N. S.,

February 20th 1918

## Executive Committee

Rev. Cannon C. W. Vernon, *President*  
Rev. R. W. Ross, *Vice-President*  
Rev. F. E. Barrett, *Sec'y-Treasurer*  
Rev. H. R. Grant  
Rev. E. E. Daly  
Mr. E. D. King, K.C.  
Mr. Charles Bell  
Mr. D. M. Owen  
Mr. P. F. Moriarty  
Mr. R. H. Murray  
Mrs. C. Pentz  
Chancellor Halifax Div. Salvation Army

To The City Council

Halifax N.S.

Honorable Sirs;- It may be that we are not familiar as we should be with the method of procedure at City Hall, but we feel that common courtesy should have brought at least some reply from the Council to our communication of Jan. 21st ult. enclosing a resolution of the Social Service Council asking the City Council to take the necessary steps required by the City Charter for the investigation of serious charges which have been made in the public press against certain city officials.

These charges publicly made and widely circulated should be either *pt* proven or disproven before a competent court. Until this is done the whole City Council is under the shadow of a disgrace that though it may be denied is not disproved.

On a two thirds vote of the City Council supporting the resolution the case would be properly investigated before a County Court Judge. We earnestly urge upon the members of the City Council that for their own sakes and for the sake of the good name of the city they at once take the course we have indicated.

On behalf of the Social Service Council

*F. E. Barrett* Secretary.

THE SOCIAL SERVICE COUNCIL OF NOVA SCOTIA.

Halifax, N. S.

February 20th, 1918.

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Halifax, N.S.

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On behalf of the Social Service Council.

F. E. Barrett,

Secretary.

COPY.

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Mr. P. F. Moriarty  
Mr. R. H. Murray  
Mrs. C. Pentz  
Chancellor Halifax Div. Salvation Army

Halifax, N. S.,

Feb 28<sup>th</sup> 1918

To The Hon. Members of City Council  
Halifax N. S.

Dear Sirs:- At a meeting of the Executive  
of the Social Service 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 now yet disproven, that  
city officials were intoxicated during the awful  
days following the disaster of Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>.

I am also instructed to make request  
that the opportunity be given representatives  
of the Social Service Council to support  
their request when it comes before the City  
Council.

Yours truly

F. E. Barrett, Secretary



THE SOCIAL SERVICE COUNCIL OF NOVA SCOTIA.

Halifax, N. S.

February 28th, 1918.

To The Hon. Members of City Council,

Halifax, N. S.

Dear Sirs:-

At a meeting of the Executive of the Social Service 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 Dec. 6th.

I am also instructed to make request that the opportunity be given representatives of the Social Service Council to support their request when it comes before the City Council.

Yours truly,

F. E. Barrett,

Secretary.

COPY.

*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.)

**T**HE 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?

**H**OW 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."

**T**HE 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.

**I**T 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 Jan 22/18 p 709 - Receipt acknowledged to F E Barrett. So far as I know Mr Barrett never sent resolution to City Council. This is addressed to B/C only.*  
*B/C Feb 7 p 784. Acknowledged to Rev F E Barrett.*  
*B/C Feb 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.*