

HOLE-IN-CORNER HYDRO MEETING.

Group of Aldermen Afraid of Public Discussion Caught In Secret Session Last Night.

Ald. Forth Throws Bomb In Camp—Intention Was to "Fix" Aldermen.

For some time past there have been hints of conspiracy and double dealing in connection with the power question in Hamilton, and last night and this morning the city was full of it when it became known that a party of aldermen were caught in secret session in the City Hall, following a regular session of the Power Committee, held in the afternoon.

There, behind closed doors, apparently afraid of the searchlight of publicity, preparing to hatch a scheme, the purpose of which undoubtedly was to thrust the entire Hydro contract down the city's throat on Monday night, sat men who will appeal to the electors in January to vote them into next year's Council and Board of Control.

Such a spectacle has not been witnessed since the days when Hamilton shook off the shackles of "machine" rule and gave the clique that ruled civic affairs for political purposes a jolt that it has not recovered from yet. Not since Ex-Mayor Stewart held his famous star chamber power session, when he placed a sentry on the door to keep reporters out, has there been an attempt to transact civic business by such methods. There have been secret sessions since then to discuss civic finances or other matters, which the newspapers readily agreed should not be given publicity, but the press has always been consulted first.

Aldermen Morris, Anderson and Cooper are charged with being the instigators of last night's star chamber session. None of those who were present seemed to know the exact purpose for which the meeting was held. None of them would admit that it was to railroad the contract through the Council, without reservation, on Monday night. That such was the case, though, seems a fair inference, in view of the jockeying that has been going on since the city conferred with the committee.

Only one man had the courage last night to stand up and denounce the practice of transacting city business, and keeping the public in the dark. He was Alderman Forth. After emphatically declaring that such a practice was rotten and challenging the right of those who were there to hold such a meeting, he refused to remain, and left the room.

HOW SCHEME WAS NIPPED.
The story of how the little scheme was nipped in the bud by the timely appearance of the newspapermen, is interesting. Immediately after the power meeting yesterday afternoon the instigators of the secret session got busy. They called up the aldermen they thought they could depend upon to fall in line with them, and carefully avoided giving Mayor McLaren, the aldermen whose views they did not like, or the newspapermen, any wind of the meeting.

While the reporters were around the City Hall they were rather surprised to see the favored few going down the corridor, mysteriously, one by one. Suddenly the lights in the Market Committee room were turned on. When on eight of the aldermen arrived, Alderman Forth, who was invited, but was not told that the meeting was for, began to make enquiries. He was engaged at that time when the reporters sauntered in.

As soon as they appeared the lid was clapped on and the meeting finally broke up in a huddle. There was some difference of opinion as to what had been accomplished. Ald. Cooper and Morris posed as being quite cheerful about it. Asked when their session would be resumed, they replied that they considered it was closed. Ald. Wright, however, was quite frank about it. He unhesitatingly admitted to the reporters that he was there to get information which would not be forthcoming while the series were present.

A SURPRISE PARTY.

The features of the aldermen presented an interesting study when the reporters suddenly opened the door, marched in unbidden, smiled pleasantly and made themselves at home just as though they had been invited, as is the custom with all civic meetings. Ald. Morris smiled as though he was the only one who enjoyed the situation. The others were astounded for a minute, although they quickly recovered their equilibrium, and assumed a free and easy air. Not for very long, though, for Ald. Forth started a display of fireworks which ended in his spectacular exit from the room. Some of the Hydro champions blushed very becomingly when surprised in such unexpected fashion.

Ald. Jutten, who was nearest the door, was the first to recover himself.

"This is just a little private meeting," he remarked, quietly.

The newspapermen, however, did not take the dodge to "sidoo." In fact, by this time they were seated as though they had every intention of staying, and another tack was tried.

"Is it your desire that the reporters shall remain?" inquired Ald. Jutten.

"Certainly!" thundered Ald. Forth, before anyone had time to volunteer an objection.

Ald. Jutten, however, apparently did not abandon hope of the aldermen being left alone to discuss matters among themselves.

"It is just a friendly little meeting, and we will give you all the news after," he said, coaxingly.

DENOUNCES IT AS ROTTEN.
Ald. Forth then resumed where he was interrupted when the reporters appeared. He was challenging the right of the instigators of the secret session to hold such a meeting.

The representative from Ward 3 appeared to be bubbling over with indignation, and he expressed his views and objections in no uncertain tone.

"Have the Mayor and all the aldermen been notified of this meeting, or what authority is there for holding it?" was the first question he fired.

Before Aldermen Cooper and Jutten had time to make their explanation Ald. Forth followed his question up with this remark: "I want to tell you now that we have no intention to use this room. The permission of the chairman was never asked. I want further to tell you that there is a nigger in the fence,

and this is rotten. When we met up in the spring behind closed doors to talk over the city's finances we were criticised, and I decided there would be no more of it for me. I asked before I came down here if it was to be a star chamber session, and I was told it was not. It is a star chamber meeting. It is not helping the Hydro cause any to meet here in secret. I believe in thrashing things out above board in the Council. It looks as though this meeting was held to put us on our mettle near the end of the year with an election approaching and to bulldoze us into accepting the contract. I must ask to withdraw. I cannot conscientiously sit at a meeting that is not legal and which there is no authority for holding."

ALD. FORTH DEPARTS.
With this, Ald. Forth, who was on his feet, stating his views, faced around the end of the table and reached for his hat.

"John, just wait a minute," said Ald. Wright, soothingly, as Ald. Forth was hustling into his coat. "I was asked to the meeting, and I take a different stand from you. I think it is perfectly legitimate. Any two or three aldermen can meet here to discuss a question."

"Why didn't you ever called this meeting?" asked Ald. Wright, as Ald. Forth, with a display of warmth, "I don't care what criticism there is. I am going to run for alderman again. I will not run as a Hydro or a Cataract alderman. I am willing to take a chance on being elected on my merits. I will be blamed if I stay here," he shouted, as he slapped his hat on his head, banged the door and went along the corridor with a rush.

BACKED UP FORTH.
"Why, they only told me a few minutes ago they were going to hold a meeting. I doubt if I will stay here," observed Ald. Robson.

When the excitement subsided the aldermen tumbled over themselves to make explanations as to how they came to be there.

"Did you ever hear anything like that?" inquired Ald. Wright, when he got his breath.

"He is right; he is right," was the rather unexpected remark of Ald. Robson. "I am in the same box. I came here to get information. I do not think this is a legitimate meeting."

Ald. Wright—Don't you think we can come here and discuss things?"

Ald. Robson—Perhaps we can. Several of the aldermen recovered themselves at this stage and agreed that of course they could.

Ald. Robson—I understand that the meeting was to get information.

Ald. Wright—It is not a meeting.

Ald. Anderson—Every day chairmen of the different committees come here and talk over matters.

Ald. Robson—Ald. Jutten said the power committee called this meeting.

Ald. Jutten—Not at all, not at all. All this time Ald. Wright had been observing the reporters making notes.

"Are you going to take all this down?" he asked a Times man.

"You bet," said the reporter. "It's good stuff."

It is only a friendly little chat," argued the alderman.

"By public men on a public question in which the people are very much interested," replied the reporter.

"Yes, it is a public matter," agreed Ald. Wright.

Ald. Robson—I don't think two reporters should stop the meeting from going on."

Ald. Jutten—It is not a public meeting.

Ald. Robson—It certainly is a public meeting. If two reporters are going to stop this meeting, I am surprised.

BUSY MAKING EXPLANATIONS.
Then the explanations began to pour forth.

Ald. Wright—I will tell you why I came here.

Ald. Robson—Yes, tell us all about it.

Ald. Wright—The power committee did a lot of work. I was rather curious to know the result before it went to the Council. At the same time I wanted to have a chat with those friendly to the Hydro.

Ald. Hopkins—I will tell you what I came here for. I understood a meeting of those favorable to the Hydro was to be held. The citizens of Hamilton have said by their votes that Hamilton shall enter into a contract with the Hydro Electric Commission, and we who were supposed to be in favor of the contract, but at several meetings of the power committee there has been a difference of opinion. I believe the majority are in favor of entering into a limited contract. I suppose the meeting was held to find out if we are in favor of entering into a limited contract or into the whole thing, and I suppose that is the reason we are here. It is necessary for us to be united. I myself am inclined to carry out the mandate of the people. The contracts were published and discussed during the campaign. The vote was taken and I feel it is our place to say whether we will or we won't. But if a majority of the special power committee, after its labors, recommends a limited contract, we are here to be consulted whether we are favorable.

Ald. Robson—I don't know who inspired the meeting and I came here to gather information. I take an exception. We should know if the commission has reasonable grounds for refusing to extend the time when we may enter into the whole contract until after 1910. I consider twelve months is reasonable.

Ald. Hopkins—I kind of had that idea too, but Lobb says they refuse to extend the time. We must take it or leave it. I suppose it is fair to ask you if you are favorable to making a contract at all.

WANTS TO KNOW REASONS.
Ald. Robson—If Mr. Lobb can show us any good reason for cutting down the time, yes.

Ald. Wright—Cutting down the time; why, they are extending it.

Ald. Robson—I asked Ald. Jutten the reason for cutting down the time, and he has not answered. I am willing to

take a thousand horse power on reasonable terms.

Alderman Morris then read Solicitor Lobb's letter, and undertook to explain things to Alderman Robson.

Ald. Robson—Every other city is looking after itself. Why is not Hamilton doing the same?

Ald. Wright—This contract has been printed?

Ald. Jutten—Yes.

Ald. Wright—Would it not be well to adjourn until we can wade into it?

Ald. Jutten—We have until the end of 1910 to say whether we will enter into the whole thing. If we do not, we must take a thousand horse power for thirty years, and it is up to the commission then whether we can get any more if we want it.

Ald. Robson—Do you think the extension of time is reasonable?

Ald. Jutten—I would like to have seen it longer, but the commission has said no.

Ald. Robson—Surely they will give us some reasonable ground.

Ald. Hopkins—Are you in favor of the Hydro contract at all?

Ald. Robson—I am in favor of taking a thousand horse power.

Ald. Hopkins—Then you have got the best terms you can get. You will have to say yes or no in the council.

Before there was time for further discussion Alderman Hopkins abruptly said, "I move we adjourn."

"Carried," said Ald. Wright.

"This is not a meeting at all," observed Ald. Anderson.

"We have not opened it yet," was the frank admission of Ald. Wright.

THOSE WHO WERE THERE.
"I don't know anything more about the meeting than you do," Alderman Wright confided to the reporters. "I came here to get information, and I guess I can't get it while you are here."

Just as the aldermen were leaving the room Alderman Lees wandered in. He had been asked by Alderman Morris to attend in the corridor Alderman Ellis was found talking matters over with Alderman Hopkins.

"Is there a Sewers Committee here to-night?" he asked innocently when he sighted the reporters. Those who were present when the meeting opened were Aldermen Jutten, Anderson, Cooper, Wright, Forth, Hopkins, Morris and Robson.

While an aldermanic group stood conversing on the steps Alderman Gardner came along. He had not been invited to the meeting, and he jollied the crowd.

"What is going on here to-night?" he asked. "A little hole-in-the-corner session."

Before Ald. Hopkins left he assured the newspapermen that he was of the opinion that they had a perfect right to be at the power meeting or any other session.

TRY TO JUSTIFY IT.
Ald. Morris and Cooper discussed the matter after the meeting and championed their right to hold such a meeting. Ald. Cooper said he had no part in calling it, but thought it was all right.

"I think the reason for the meeting," he said, when asked that question, "was to decide on some concerted plan, so that the aldermen would not be bolting in a hundred different directions when the matter came up in the Council."

"Is it any worse than a group of aldermen meeting in a private house?" asked Ald. Morris.

"I think we were justified in holding the meeting, and my conscience is perfectly free. In fact, we had the authority of the Chief Magistrate of the city. Mayor McLaren told us early in the year that we were welcome to meet here at any time to discuss public matters."

This Mayor McLaren very emphatically denied. His Worship says he never counselled star chamber sessions. "I told the aldermen," he said, "to call any time at the City Hall or my office and get information they desired."

Before the meeting finally broke up some of the aldermen acted as though they had an inclination to sidetrack the reporters and resume their session. Ald. Anderson, however, was the first to leave for home, and what might have been a very interesting meeting was suddenly broken up, all because two newspapermen "budded in."

SCOTT NIGHT.

Story of Poet's Life and Some Good Scotch Music.

The young people of St. John Presbyterian Church had "a night w' Scott" last evening, and a large number were present. Not only was the life of the great poet described in the illustrated lecture, but a number of Scotch selections were given.

Rev. John Young, in telling of the work of the poet, said his purpose was to show how the larger portion of his life was responsible for his success in life. He admitted Scott inherited great ability, but it was awakened and set on fire by his early associations with the shepherds in the south of Scotland.

Three persons had done a great deal towards assisting him. They were Laidlaw, Ladens and James Hope, the shepherd. They had as much to do with the after life as all the school and college education he had received.

His popularity reached its zenith when he was about 34 years of age, after having written "The Lady of the Lake." He entered into partnership with James Ballantyne in a printing establishment in 1826, but the undertaking was an absolute failure, and the financial obligations amounted to over \$700,000. After the failure he continued writing more vigorously than ever, and succeeded in paying off the larger portion of his obligations before he died. So well satisfied were his creditors that they presented him with a library, some paintings and silver plate. The strain was too much and he broke down in 1830. The Government placed a man-of-war at his disposal, and he went for a trip to the Mediterranean. He never fully recovered and died in 1832. His poetry did not touch the heart of Scotland as did that of Burns, but it was exceedingly pleasing and descriptive. Although it was nearly a hundred years since Scott first became prominent as a writer he had lived in the minds of the people since, and would for many years to come.

The Scottish songs were: "Bonnie Dundee," Mr. George Richmond, and "Jock o' Hazel Dean," Miss E. Vanatter.

Mr. H. E. Vernon and Miss Maggie Campbell played a number of Scottish musical selections.

The Flight of Time.
"It's three months since I saw you last," the one who met her plainly states. Says she: "Can that be possible?" It's awful how time aviates."

The new reference library at Toronto was formally opened on Thursday.

THE LIGHTING ARBITRATION.

Judge Snider May Go to Cleveland to Examine Expert.

Expect to Close the Case by Thursday Next.

Witnesses Say Cost of Production Was Not Decreased.

When the street lighting arbitration was resumed yesterday afternoon before Judge Snider, the counsel for the Cataract Company endeavored to show that there had not been any advances in the electrical art since the year 1899, until the year 1904, which would materially lessen the cost of production while the counsel for the city endeavored to point out how the advances had been such that the cost had been less and the loss by transmission less. Only one witness was called, Percy C. Knight, a United States electrical engineer, and he showed by his evidence that the advances in the art had not been of such a nature as to lessen the cost of production. An adjournment was made at 4.15 because some of the witnesses had not been able to arrive.

Mr. Knight said although the cost of production had not been lessened, the loss by transmission was not so great on account of the insulation being better. The estimated loss by transmission at the present time was from 10 to 15 per cent. When the power was developed by water the loss by transmission was immaterial, providing the water for its production was not charged for by quantity. If on the other hand the power was obtained by the use of coal, the loss by transmission was a very important consideration. The improved insulation would not decrease the cost to the company, but would make the service more reliable, as it was a very important matter to have a reliable service when there was such competition between electric light and the gas. The machinery that was used for generating purposes had not been changed to any great extent during that time. If he was erecting a plant of the same capacity as that in Provo he would not consider it advisable to do so on the same plan. His reason for not doing so was because the open switches in use there were more dangerous than the improved oil switches now in use for high tension wires such as the wires of that plant. The old open switches had to be operated by means of ropes. The higher voltage was the means of reducing the loss by transmission, as the loss on the same quantity of power of double the voltage was only one-quarter that of the lower voltage. The cost of installing the machinery for the increased voltage was much greater than that for the lower voltage. Less water was required for the higher voltage, but as the water cost the same, no matter what the difference in the quantities consumed might be, that would not result in a saving in the production. When everything was taken into consideration the decrease in the loss by transmission caused an increase in the capital outlay. The cost of the higher voltage would be greater than that of the lower voltage on account of the greater cost for machinery, not taking into consideration, that the transmission lines would of necessity need to be changed for the higher voltage.

Mr. Stanton was then put in as evidence in the case of the loss by transmission caused an increase in the capital outlay. The cost of the higher voltage would be greater than that of the lower voltage on account of the greater cost for machinery, not taking into consideration, that the transmission lines would of necessity need to be changed for the higher voltage.

All wool Carpets, 36 inches wide, in pleasing colors for bedrooms. Six patterns to choose from. Inauguration Sale price a yard 75c

Linoleum, made in famous Kirkcaldy, Scotland, in floral, black and tile effects, all well-seasoned and printed linoleum. Inauguration Sale price a square yard 45c

3rd Floor.

Carpets
New English Brussels, in fawns, greens, reds and blues, in scroll, conventional and Oriental effects with 5% borders to match. For parlors, dining rooms, bedrooms, halls and stairs. Eight patterns to choose from. Inauguration Sale price per yard \$1.00

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The Right House

"HAMILTON'S FAVORITE SHOPPING PLACE"

Saturday is the Third day of
THE RIGHT HOUSE
Inauguration Sale

Ladies' Suits \$3.98
Ladies' Costumes in brown and black Venetian and Panama cloths, also self stripes. These are spring and fall costumes with short coats, pleated skirts and self braid and button trimming. Some are semi-fitting and some light fitting and all have ranged from \$12.50 to \$15.00 in price. They must go to make room for new stock and therefore the Inauguration Sale price is \$3.98

Right House Sale of Trimmings
Beautiful Trimmings in braided Persian and beaded effects in edgings, insertions and bands, in a great variety of shades and also in black. The regular value of these runs up to \$2.00. The Inauguration Sale price is 39c

Big Bargains in the Fur Dept.
Marmot Ties, regular \$10.00, now \$7.50
Marmot Stoles, regular \$3.50, now \$2.50
Marmot Muffs, regular \$5.00, now \$3.50
Western Sable Muffs, large size, now \$7.50
Alaska Sable Muffs, regular \$13.50, now \$9.95
Alaska Sable Ruffs, regular \$15.00, now \$11.50
Mink Ties, regular \$27.50, now \$20.00
Mink Ties, regular \$40.00, now \$30.00
Mink Ties, regular \$50.00, now \$35.00
Mink Muffs, regular \$30.00, now \$22.50
Mink Muffs, regular \$45.00, now \$37.50
Electric Seal Coat, regular \$50.00, now \$35.00
Astrakhan Coat, regular \$27.50, now \$20.00
Astrakhan Coat, regular \$35.00, now \$25.00
Persian Lamb Muffs, regular \$20.00, now \$15.00

Fur Lined Coats
Best shells and linings, with large storm collars; regular \$35.00, now \$27.50
Rat lined, with sable collar, now \$57.50

Lace Gowns at Half Price
Beautiful Lace and Sequin Gowns, in white, cream, sky, pink and black in handsome designs in Brussels and Toccoa, net grounds.
Regular \$15 value, Inauguration Sale \$7.50
Regular \$16.50 value, Inauguration Sale \$8.25
Regular \$22.00 value, Inauguration Sale \$11.00
Regular values up to \$75, now \$37.50

Ladies' Hats
Another big Inauguration Sale offer for Saturday. We have 25 pretty hats for ladies, handsomely trimmed and of regular \$6.50 and \$7.00 values, for \$4.50

Children's Hats
A nice assortment of Children's Hats for ages 6 to 16, regular \$5.00 and \$4.50 Hats, now going at \$2.50
Children's Tams, 50c and 60c qualities, on sale Saturday 39c

Lace Curtains
Made from cable yarn, plain centres with handsome borders; regular \$2.25, Inauguration Sale price \$1.59
Scotch made Lace Curtains, double bordered; regular \$3.75; 55 and 60 inches wide by 3 1/2 yards, now \$2.98
Cretonne Cushion Slips, with and without frills and in two sizes; regular \$1.00, now 59c

NEWS IN