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POTATO PROBLEM ENDED—CITY HAS BALANCE, IN PLACE OF SHORTAGE

Ald. MacBride's Report, Submitted to Council Last Night, Refutes Rumors of Deficit—Food and Fuel Bylaw Again Up.

The long expected report upon the city's plunge into the potato market was submitted to the council last evening, in a manner which more than exonerated MacBride from any suspicion in connection with the transactions. A total credit balance, after the payment of all accounts, according to Ald. MacBride's statement, of \$4.85 will remain in the city's hands. Passage at arms were frequent during the evening, several members of the board finding ample room for criticism in the report submitted, but in the face of all Ald. MacBride came off with flying colors. The delay in collecting accounts he attributed to direct disregard of his instructions by A McAuley, market clerk, in allowing potatoes to be taken away without first being paid for, submitting evidence to prove this charge. Ald. MacBride also hotly resented a statement that R. J. Welsh, a local grocer and ex-member of the council, had any hand in the potato deal, characterizing such a claim by Mr. Welsh as an absolute falsehood and a contemptible piece of business. Ald. Wiley and Harp corroborated the fact that Welsh had made such a statement, although admitting that Ald. MacBride had no knowledge of his connection with the transaction.

Ald. MacBride's report in full, read as follows:—

To The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Brantford,

Gentlemen.—In presenting this report, I regret exceedingly the necessity of referring even briefly to the campaign of vilification and falsehood which has been conducted throughout our city, in connection with the purchase and sale of potatoes by the Municipality.

So far as the false insinuations which have been made against myself personally are concerned, I propose to pay no attention to them whatever. The matter was not a personal one in any sense, but was rather an honest effort to fulfill the duties of my position as an Alderman and to do something tangible in the interests of the people. The remarks have been aimed at me personally, but the object, in my opinion, was to discourage any future effort of this nature, by the Municipality. As to whether it has been successful in its purpose is a matter the people will have to settle for themselves. Certainly, if we are sincere in our desire to reduce the cost of living, something further along this line will have to be considered by the Council, as the opportunity arises.

Before proceeding further, it may be well to refer to a reply made by Ald. Bragg at the last Council meeting, wherein I stated that "if there was a shortage, Mr. McAuley's office would show that shortage." I took particular pains at that time to also state that I had the "highest honesty." When the question came up in Council so unexpectedly, I was at somewhat of a disadvantage, as I had not had an opportunity to check over the records, and being a new man at the Council Board, I was not aware that the Council proposed an adjournment for two months, else I would have

taken pains to have the report ready at that time. As to whether there was any shortage in Mr. McAuley's office, the Financial Statement herewith will show.

The Council will have no difficulty in remembering that at the time your Committee was appointed, potatoes were selling in the city at \$6.00 per bag. Great relief from this excessive charge was necessary if the gardens were to be planted. A motion was made, appointing Aids. Melten and Harp as a Committee, to secure potatoes. The motion was mine, as I believed they were best qualified for the work. However, both gentlemen having declined, I then suggested that Aids. MacBride and Bragg be named as a Committee.

We immediately made arrangements to purchase two cars, one from the West and one from New Brunswick. The Western car to cost \$3.65 per bag and the N. B. car to cost \$4.27 per bag. Here is where some unknown antagonistic influence began to work, with the result that this Western car never arrived in Brantford. The explanations given by the shipper were very unsatisfactory. A peculiar coincidence, this is the point where Ald. Bragg ceased to be an active member of the Committee. When pressed to continue and to endeavor to get another car, he refused, saying "he did not intend to run again anyway." He said that the merchants were very sore at the city for going into the potato market, and the people would not appreciate our work anyway.

I just wish to state in this connection that I believe the fears of the merchants were unfounded because all merchants to whom I have spoken were quite enthusiastic. The grocers, as a whole, felt that it was proper and right for the city to relieve the emergency. There may have been a few who objected, but you will always find some men who have a super-abundance of selfishness. In the final analysis, it was a benefit to the merchants to have the potatoes brought here, particularly for seedling, and all grocers with whom I had talked are glad the city rose to the occasion. The grocers were not making any money out of the high prices. The business was being handled by a few transient traders.

I afterwards got word of a car which was consigned to Hamilton and by paying \$3.75 per bag, succeeded in bringing them to Brantford. They arrived on Friday afternoon, and knowing Saturday to be a very busy day for Mr. McAuley, the first thought was to hold them over until Monday, but after consultation, we decided that, at the risk of some confusion, it would be good business to put them on sale Saturday, and thereby bring down the market price. How well we succeeded, is now a matter of history. The price promptly came down to \$4.20.

We purchased this lot at \$3.75 per bag. The car was said to contain 500 bags of 90 lbs. Instead of arriving in 90 lb. bags, as we expected, they were bagged in two bushel sacks. This necessitated our re-bagging the whole lot. Some of the bags on the bottom of the car were damp, and we were obliged to throw away a few. In two instances, customers complained of receiving a bad bag. Rather than have any controversy, we replaced the bad lots. In another instance, a widow lady had ordered a bag delivered to her home. Both Mr. McAuley and Mr. Hutton are quite sure they left the bag on her premises, but on her arrival home, it was gone. She had paid her money in good faith, and I was satisfied that someone had taken her potatoes between the time they were left and her return. In this instance, we also gave another bag. There were several other minor difficulties which are not necessary to enumerate. However, our delivery sheets showed a clear 495 bags, and from a car will agree that this was a remarkably good showing. There is usually a discrepancy much greater than that.

We sold these at \$3.85 when called for, and added 10c for delivery. The New Brunswick car contained 440 bags and we sold these at actual cost, \$4.27 per bag when called for, and added 10c for delivery. This car checked out, accurately as they were packed in 90 lb. bags. I felt that we should get these potatoes

(Continued on Page six.)

MARKETS

VEGETABLES

Cucumbers	.....0.05 to 0.10
Vegetable Marrow	.....0.10 to 0.15
Tomatoes per lb	.....0.10 to 0.25
Radishes, bunch	......56, 3 for 10c
Rhubarb	.....0.05 to 0.08
Lettuce, bunch	......3 for 10c
Beans, quart	......0.15 to 0.25
Potatoes, large basket	0.65 to 0.65
Potatoes, small basket	0.35 to 0.35
Potatoes, new, basket	0.60 to 1.00
Beets, 6 for	.....0.00 to 0.25
Carrots, 6 for	.....0.00 to 0.25
Peas, green, shelled, per quart	......0.20 to 0.20
Peas, peck	.....0.40 to 0.40
Celery	.....0.05 to 0.08
Turkeys, basket	.....0.30 to 0.30
Horseradish, bottle	.....0.10 to 0.15
Cabbage, each	.....0.05 to 0.15
Cabbage, doz	.....2.00 to 2.00
Onions, pk	.....0.15 to 0.15
Onions, bunch	.....0.05 to 0.05

FRUITS

Cherries, basket	.....0.75 to 1.00
Strawberries	.....0.25 to 0.25
Red Currants, box	......12 to .12
Black Currants, box	.....0.15 to 0.18
Black Raspberries, box	0.15 to 0.18
Red Raspberries, box	0.15 to 0.18
Gooseberries, box	.....0.12 to 0.13

DAIRY PRODUCTS

Butter, dairy, per lb	.....0.40 to 0.42
Butter, creamery	.....0.41 to 0.44
Eggs	.....\$4.00 to 4.42

MISCELLANEOUS

Old hay	.....\$12.00 to \$14.00
New Hay	.....\$9.00 to \$11.00

MEATS

Bacon, side	.....0.34 to 0.38
Bacon, back	.....0.36 to 0.40
Beef, per lb	.....0.18 to 0.24
Beef, hinds	.....0.14 to 0.18
Chickens, lb	.....0.16 to 0.19
Ducks	.....0.30 to 1.00
Dry salt pork	.....0.20 to 0.25
Dressed pork	.....0.22 to 0.27
Kidneys	.....0.10 to 0.12
Lamb	.....0.28 to 0.35
Live Hogs	.....18.00 to 0.00
Smoked shoulder	.....0.00 to 0.20
Chickens, each	.....0.90 to 1.00
Chickens, spring, pair	1.50 to 1.50

EAST BUFFALO

By Courier Leased Wire.
East Buffalo, Aug. 10.—Cattle receipts 200; good; 15 to 25 cents; common steady.
Veals—Receipts, 600; strong, \$5 to 16.75.
Hogs—Receipts 2,000; active and strong; heavy and mixed, \$17.50 to \$17.75; yorkers, \$17.25 to \$17.50; light yorkers \$15.50 to \$15.75; pigs, \$15.25 to \$15.50; stags \$12.50 to \$13.50.
Sheep and lambs—Receipts 400; active and strong; lambs \$10.00 to \$15.50; yearlings, \$9 to \$13; wethers \$10 to \$10.50; ewes \$5 to \$10; mixed, sheep, \$10 to \$10.25.

CHICAGO MARKETS

By Courier Leased Wire.
Chicago, Aug. 10.—Cattle receipts 2000; market steady; heifers \$7.90 to \$14.85; steers \$7 to \$12.25; stockers, feeders \$5.80 to \$9.25; cows, \$4.50 to \$12; calves \$8.75 to \$13.50; hogs, receipts 11,000; market strong; light \$15.25 to \$16.80; mixed \$15.50 to \$16.00; heavy \$15.25 to \$16.95; rough \$15.25 to \$15.50; pigs \$11.25 to \$14.25; bulk of sales \$16 to \$16.80; sheep, receipts 4,000; market strong, wethers \$7.60 to \$10.90; lambs, \$9.50 to \$14.90.

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TO USE NO INFLUENCE.
By Courier Leased Wire.
London, Aug. 9.—The Press Association says it understands the government will exercise no influence in either direction on the allied labor meetings to decide whether the laborites shall send delegates to the Stockholm conference.

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House No. 175 Drummond Street and extra lot. For sale at a bargain.
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