## E CITY'S CASE CLOSED

NDING UP THE PROSECUTION IN THE WATERWORKS E. QUIRY. Br. Foster Will Call But One More Witnes-Mr. Bigelow Beunards Time to Prepare His Defence-Adjourned Till Ma. 25, at 2 O'clock.

Mr. Foster has just about closed his case for the city in the Waterworks enquiry. When the Court adjourned at 5.30 last evening he said he had but one more witness, beside ex-Mayor Manning, to call. It was intimated that Mr. Manning would have to be "caught on the fix," or got to Court whenever a good opportunity presented itself. For half an hour before adjournment Mr. Bigelow, Mr. Foster and Judge McDougall had a three-cornered tussle as to how long Mr. Bigelow should be allowed to prepare his defence. Mr. Bigelow said he would require at least ton days, as the charges against his client, Mr. Venables, were so indefinite and mysterious that he could make neither head nor tail out of them. Mr. Bigelow glanced wistfully at the big tin-box which stood beside Ilis Honor; in this box wore 188 exhibits which had been put in during the enquiry.

"To prepare my defence," said Mr. Bigelow,
"I will have to send a man here to copy all
these documents"
Mr. Foster said matters were in such a
muddled condition in the Water Department
that it was absolutely necessary that the case
should close as speedily as possible. "If intended reforms are to be carried out in this
department," said Mr. Foster, "we cannot begin
the work too soon."

the work too soon."

Judge McDougall insisted on consuming at least three days of next week in the defence. "If you don't do that," said His Honor, "I will not be able to give any more time to the enquiry until the middle of June. Besides I want to make my report to the City Council before vacation. I will, therefore, adjourn the case

vacation. I will, therefore, adjourn the case until May 25 at 2 p.m."

No one who has listened to the evidence taken so far, and to the Judge's strictures on the various phases of the case as they presented themselves from day to day, can have any doubt of His Honor's finding. It is almost morally certain that he will condomn the entire system that has prevailed in the Waterworks Department for years; that he will recommend radical changes inseveral of the civic departments, and that he will probably recommend the election or appointment of a commission to administer the affairs of the department. As far as the guilt or innocence of Mr. Venables on the charge of malfeasance of office is concerned, His Honor will evidently have something pretty straight to say on the subject. Clarke Wallace, M.P., was in court

have something pretty straight to say on the subject.

Mr. N. Clarke Wallace, M.P., was in court costerday for about half an hour, and occupied a seat beside His Honor. Ex-Ald. David Walker was on the stand for two hours. Before Mr. Walker was called City Engineer Sproatt said that if the gauges on the new engines were correct his test was correct—that is, the figures were correct. He-did not hold himself responsible for the gauges (pressure gauges), as he depended upon other parties to see that they were correct. This was entirely in connection with the calculation of the duty of the new engine.

Mr. Walker went into an extensive account of his knowledge of the Waterworks Department during the two years that he was chairman of the committee which administers that depurtment. When Mr. Walker took the chairmanship of the committee in 1885 he found "The floors were dirty and torn." The floors were dirty and torn. department. When Mr. Walker took the chalrmanship of the committee in 1885 he found "the pumping-house looking as if it belonged to no one." The floors were dirty and torn up; the engines and bollers were oil stained and clorged up and things generally resembled a country sawmill. It succeeded," said Mr. walker. "in getting things in good order in a ghort time. I made daily visits to the pumping house and by this means compelled the attaches of the place to attend to their duties."

With regard to the purchase of the Inglis & Hunter engines. Mr. Walker thought that Mr. Vennbles was in no way, officially, responsible for the purchase of these engines. He did not think that No. 3 engine had a "comfortable capacity of more than 10,000,000 gallons per day." She might do 12,000,000 gallons, but underdistress. When he saw that the engines were consuming more coal than they should, or when he found out that more coal was being consumed their chould be yet a sworn weight.

consumed than it was understood by the contract that they should, he got a sworn weighmaster appointed and the handling of all coal for the pumping-house was taken out of Mr. Venables hands. After that, witness did not believe the city suffered any less.

To all the charges of disobedience of orders, assubordination, drunkenness, etc., against Mr. Venables, Mr. Walker said he knew the company of the charges Mr. Venables, Mr. Walker said he knew nothing whatever about them. "If they existed," he said, "it was before my time. When I was chalfman of the committee Mn. Venables aever disobeyed any of my orders."

On several points which the winess could not remember with clearness, he referred Mr. Foster to Superintendent Hamilton.
The entire tenor of Mr. Walker's evidence was that there were no irregularities while he administered the department and that many discrepancies which existed before he took charge were corrected.

administered the depirtment and that discrepancies which existed before he took charge were corrected.

"What is your deduction from this enquiry, Mr.-Walker?" enquired His Honor. "Do you favor the appointment of a commission to administer the Waterworks Department?"

"Yes, I think I do. At all events, I am totally opposed to our present system of returning aldermen. The term of one year is too short. It a man is elected to the council and does good work in committee, makes himself acquainted with the details of municipal institutions, he does not knew whether he is coming back or not. I think a good deal of the Quebec system, where the aldermen are elected for three years, one retiring each year. Ontario is the only state or province I knew of where the aldermen are elected annually."

Judge McDougall: "In Detroit and Buffalo the Waterworks Department is administered by a commission. As far as I am able to learn, this system works well in those cities. The commissioners are appointed for six years by the Mayor. He names his men and sends the names to the Council for confirmation, just as the Presidentsends his nominations to the Senate for confirmation."

This was an additional proof that Judge Mcinfirmation."
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An erroneous impression having been created
by the evidence given by Charles Symons on
Thursday with regard to Mr. Walker's
private dealings with Mr. P. Burns,
the ex-alderman requested that Symons be recalled. This was agreed to. What Mr.
Walker wanted to adduce was this: That
Burns only received the contract for supplying
the Walker House with coal when he was the
successful tenderer, the lowest, when bids
were asked in midsummer; that Mr. Walker's
private residence in St. James'square was
supplied at the same rate as the hotel after the
contract for the Walker House was closed.
With regard to the rebate of \$19.30 mentioned
on Thursday, Mr. Symons said that if such a
rebate were credited on Mr. Walker's account
in Mr. Burns' books, it was after he left.

"I might remark," said Mr. Walker, that in
all ny transactions with coal men for the supply of the hotel, I got better value from Mr.
Burns than any other dealer. I have had five
different firms, but I always found Mr. Burns
the best man to deal with.

Supt. Hamilton was recalled and closely
questioned by Mr. Foster:

"To we was a supplication with coal men for the supply of the hotel, I got better value from Mr.
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"To we was a water of the supquestioned by Mr. Foster:

"To we water a water of the supplications will be held stric
confidential. Apply

Drawer 2699, Toronto. Hamilton was recalled and closely ned by Mr. Foster:

Supt. Hamilton was recalled and closely mestioned by Mr. Foster:

Mr. Foster: "Do you receilect an occasion where examyor Manning directed a letter to be written to Vendeles asking in pumping house?"

Mr. Foster: "Or you receilect an occasion where examyor Manning directed a letter to be written to Vendeles asking plen written."

Mr. Foster: "Vere you not present when 'Mayor Manning ordered such a letter to be written 'Yangor Mr. Hamilton is "Laever was present at any such conference with Mayor Manning. I never saw such a letter, nor never fleared of such a document."

Mr. Foster: "My information, Mr. Hamilton, is Mr. Foster: "My information, Mr. Hamilton is "Laever was present at any such conference with Mayor Manning. I never saw such a letter, nor never fleared of such a document."

Mr. Foster: "My information, Mr. Hamilton, is Mr. Foster: "My information, Mr. Hamilton: "I can't at such a control Alexander Man Mr. Hamilton: "I can't a tenever spoke to me about 'Venables' in any cense whatever."

Mr. Foster: "To the best of my recollection."

Mr. Foster: "To the best of my knowledge?"

Mr. Foster: "To t

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