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THE CITY ELECTIONS.

Municipal election day draws near, and

the interest in the selection of representa-

tives for the several wards and in the by-

laws then to be submitted is greater than

has been the case for years.

In the majority contest three candi-

dates are running—Mayor Taylor, Ald.

Anderson, the veteran municipal legislator,

and Mr. J. R. Minihick, who, for the

second time, aspires to the chief magis-

trate's chair. They are fighting it out

with much vigor, and the intelligent electors

who read the ADVERTISER will be able

to reach a conclusion as to their duty

without much further aid on our part. It

is to be regretted that there is an

inclination to indulge in personalities,

instead of sticking to the

questions of municipal policy before the

people. Calling names or giving currency

to ill-founded reports regarding an oppo-

nent make votes for no man.

We have taken strong grounds in favor

of the re-election of the present water

commissioners. They have done their duty

well, and as the work of extension is not

yet completed, it would be only fair to

send them back for another term.

Really the most important duty that the

electors have to perform on Monday lies

in voting for the best candidates for the office

of aldermen. A mayor can do a good

deal to keep up the prestige of the

city, and if he be a strict disciplinarian

he can do much to facilitate the

transaction of public business; but after

all, the greatest money-saving and tax-cut-

ting departments are under the control

of the aldermen. Aldermen can be spend-

thrifts, log-rollers, ward-grabbers, and

aid in giving unfair advantage to favorite

contractors, and a mayor can do little to

combat them. No taxpayer is warranted

in marking his ballot for any man who cannot

be trusted to be as careful of the interests

of the taxpayers as an honest business man

is of his own. All known log-rollers

contractors' go-homes should be left at

home. There are enough of reliable mem-

bers of the old Council and new blood offer-

ing to enable citizens to select a board of

aldermen for 1891 that will be a credit

to London and enable us to have better ser-

vice than we have had in the past as well

as reduced taxes.

The bylaws to be voted on are most

important. No elector can refuse

to vote on the question of whether or

not the license to sell liquor shall be re-

duced from 60 to 50. The reduction is

suggested by a very large number of citizens

of all classes and creeds in the community,

and is likely to be decreed by the elector-

ate. It proceeds on the ground that the

fewer licensed places there are the less

temptation there will be to drink and

the fewer evils will result from the sale

and consumption of intoxicating liquor.

The ADVERTISER has published the argu-

ments adduced in favor of the reduction,

which can be effected by cutting off the

privileges of dealers offending against the

law, and has been willing to give its

readers the arguments of those who advo-

cate that the present number of liquor places

be maintained. Though many public meet-

ings have been held, though ample oppor-

tunity has been given to the opponents of

license reduction to state their views, not

a voice has been raised against the proposed

curtailment of opportunities to drink. Only

one or two anonymous writers have unde-

taken to argue that the change would not

be in the public interest. Against this we

have the experience of Toronto, supported

by the unanswerable facts adduced by ex-

Mayor Howland, in a letter published in

another column. Even if we reduced our

liquor-dealing establishments to 50, we will

still have 1 for every 600 men, women and

children in the city, whereas Toronto has

only 1 for every 1,000. The argument, there-

fore, seems to be all on the side of those

who advocate a reduction. If they

poll their full strength, the bylaw will un-

doubtedly be sustained.

Citizens will also be privileged to vote on

a bylaw in favor of reducing the number of

wards to three, and the aldermen to nine.

The Board of Trade and citizens of all

classes have approved of the idea. It is re-

garded as the best antidote to the squan-

dering of the taxes which has brought us to

a rate of 22 4-10 mills on the dollar. But

feeble opposition has, so far, been raised

against this bylaw. It comes chiefly

from aldermen, or would-be

aldermen, who fear that, with a

reduced aldermanic board, they would

lose their usefulness generally. They say that

it is a policy of centralization. There is

no foundation for the allegation. They

say it is a political dodge. That is the

most absurd contention of all. Repre-

sentative public men of both political

parties, including such gentlemen of sub-

stance as President Marsh, of the Board of

Trade; Commissioner E. T. Easer, School

Trustee E. H. Johnston, W. J. Little, John

Marshall, W. J. Reid and many others,

in every ward of the city favor

it. As we have before pointed

out, we have one alderman for every 1,700

or 1,800 of the people, whereas Toronto,

which has one alderman to every 5,000,

thinks it has a much too large representa-

tion for the good of the people, and is likely

to vote that one alderman for every 8,000

will manage the business of the city with

greater dispatch and economy. If the Lon-

don taxpayers reduce the number of wards to

three, and the number of aldermen to nine,

there will still be an alderman for every

3,500 of the population, or a far fuller

representation, in point of numbers, than

the city of Toronto now has. There would

be no difficulty in equalizing the city into

three wards, each to embrace a fair propo-

rtion of suburban property as well as a sub-

stantial share of the central or business dis-

trict of the city. This is proved in the ap-

ended draft division, prepared by Assess-

ment-Commissioners Grant.

To include No. 6 ward, that part of No.

1 ward south of Dundas street, west of

Richmond street, and that part of No. 2

ward north of Dundas street, west of Rich-

mond street and south of Albert street.

SECOND WARD.

To include that part of the city north of

Dundas street, east of Richmond street, and

west of Richmond street from and including

the north side of Albert street.

THIRD WARD.

To include all that part of the city south

of Dundas street and east of Richmond

street.

A division of this description would be

about as equal as any that could be struck.

The population respectively would be in

No. 1 ward, 7,800; No. 2, 12,085, and No.

3, 10,831, while the assessment would

amount in No. 1 ward, to \$5,371,975; in

No. 2 ward, \$5,053,807, and in No. 3,

\$4,861,722.

For the frontage tax bylaw, the ques-

tion was taken up too late to be considered

properly at this time.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

—The Quebec Legislature has adjourned,

after following the example of the Do-

minion Government by resolving to go it

"alone."

—The Hamilton Local election case will

be decided to-morrow. There is a general

impression that Mr. Stinson, the sitting

Tory member, will be unseated. The re-

velations made at the trial all point in that

direction.

—The original intention of the City Coun-

cil was to use the major portion of the

funds to be obtained from the water com-

missioners in buying an electric light plant.

And there are many citizens who believe

that if the money had been handed over a

plant would have been bought, increased or

no increase in taxes.

—Ald. Anderson has been called an "old

man." Old age is honorable if turned to

proper account. Ald. Anderson shows by

his address as a majority candidate that

he is still as fresh in making suggestions for

the benefit of the city as he was when first

mayor of London. If his proposal to con-

solidate the debt is carried out—

and there is no reason why it should

not be pushed to fruition—

a large yearly saving, between \$35,000 and

\$50,000, will go to the credit of the tax-

payers. Another action of Ald. Anderson's

is noteworthy. As an old manufacturer,

and knowing how much the property of the

city depends on its manufacturing indus-

tries, he strongly advocated in the Coun-

cil the proposition to give a term of years

to the manufacturers. The proposal was carried,

and though we believe that a better plan

would have been to abolish the assessment of

machinery, the new arrangement is reported

to be working well.

NEW BOOKS.

* Sidney. By Margaret Deland. (Toronto:

Wm. Byer.) The book begins with a love

and his last, and ends with four lovers

and their last. No. 1 is denounced by the

girl of his choice for depending on his

mother; he reforms, learns to earn his own

living, and peace reigns over them. No. 2

proposes to a manly pambly creature who

accepts him; he afterwards discovers that

she does not love her, and she leaves him.

No. 3 has much again in winning the affection of a

girl, who previously was heart-broken be-

cause No. 4 is a young gentleman

with heart disease, who weds the heroine

of the book, Sidney, in opposition to her

father, who believes that love in a world

where death follows love like its own

shadow, is nothing but mad folly. It is in

the pages of widowhood that Sidney learns

how much better it is to have loved and lost

than never to have loved at all. An end-

less amount of smart talk, feebly flavored

with the cynicism of her aunt makes up the bulk

of the volume.

The Scotch-Irish in America. Published

by order of the Scotch-Irish Society of

America (Cincinnati: Robert Clark & Co.).

This is the second volume in the series,

constituting the Scotch-Irish in America.

Part first contains all the proceedings of

the second great Scotch-Irish Congress,

held at Pittsburg, Pa., last May, including

a description of the visit paid the Congress

by President Harrison and his Cabinet,

with letters and telegrams from dis-

tinguished men all over the world. Part

second contains a number of addresses on

the subject of Scotch-Irish greatness, from

men occupying prominent positions in lead-

ing States of the Union. Some of these

men are not thoroughbred Scotch-Irish, but

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