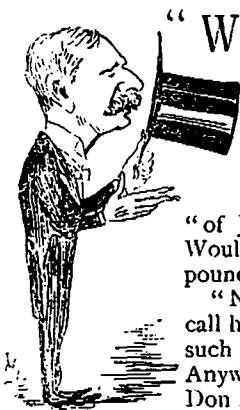


THE CIVIC CIRCUS.

No. IV.



"WHY thus pensive?" said Ald. G. S. Macdonald to Ald. Gowanlock, as the latter entered the Chamber immersed in deep cogitation. "What are you pondering over?"

"I was thinking," replied the representative of St. Alban's, "of Joe Hess, the reformed pugilist. Would you call him an eminent expounder?"

"No," replied G.S., "I would not call him anything of the kind. I leave such puerilities to the frivolous-minded. Anyway, it has nothing to do with the Don Agreement, which is to be the *piece de résistance*, if I may express myself bi-

lingually this evening."

"I'm glad of that," said Ald. Leslie. "It's a good question to talk on, because there's scarcely any fellow that understands it. That's the kind of a question I like to spread myself on. You see, when a fellow is speaking on the dog by-law or assessments, or anything of that sort, that comes within the grasp of the intellect of the average citizen; if he makes a fool of himself they're on to him right away, and anyway he's pretty sure to tread on somebody's toes and make enemies. But, on a mixed-up business like the Don agreement, you can say any blamed thing so as you don't make it too plain, and not one in a thousand knows enough about it to make any fuss. All you've got to do is to look as if you knew it all, and ring in lots of figures and it goes; and you get the credit of vigilantly attending to the interest of your dear constituents. Eh, Shaw?" and he winked slyly at the senior representative of St. Paul's.



Just then the conversation was interrupted by the entrance of the Mayor, whose re-appearance on the stage after his sickness was greeted with vigorous applause.

"Let's have a song from Ald. E. A. Macdonald," said His Worship, as he took the chair.

ALD. E. A. MACDONALD—"I'll sing an original ditty entitled—

THEY CAN'T GET ALONG WITHOUT ME."

'Twas a grievous mistake
For the Council to make
As regards the S. R. Commit-tee,
To shunt me off the track,
Let me now be called back,
For they can't get along without ME.



I make sure that since then,
As intelligent men,
You've repented of what you have done,
For the public all say
That deprived of E. A.
The Committee won't have any fun.

And I know you'll be pleased,
Though you may have malfleased,
When that motion to drop I agree,
Put me back on the list,
If you don't I'll persist—
For they can't get along without ME

And just bear it in mind,
When in future you find,
That everything's running sku-gee,
I'm the man without doubt
Who can straighten things out—
For they can't get along without ME.

THE MAYOR—"I see a delegation here from the Citizen's Association and other organizations. As it won't cost anything to let some of them talk awhile, and will probably relieve their feelings a little, and let them down easy on this Don agreement business, suppose we give them a hearing."

In pursuance of this invitation, Mr. D. E. Thomson and others availed themselves of the long-wished for opportunity. Boiled down, the argument which it took them half or three-quarters of an hour to elaborate amounts to this:

There is a Joint Committee to which all matters connected with the Esplanade should be referred.

The Don agreement is a matter connected with the Esplanade.

Therefore it should be referred to the Joint Committee. Q.E.D.

Then Ald. Dodds took up his parable in defence of the aldermen in general, and Ald. E. King Dodds in particular.

SONG BY ALD. DODDS.

I think it is most scandalous the way we've been assailed

In connection with our action in this case,
These folks are irresponsible, and if their views prevailed

It would cover our proceedings with disgrace;

When Thomson upon us makes a scurrilous attack

The record he has clearly falsified,
I never strike a man from behind his back—
But I wait until his hands are tied.

To the citizens I'm giving up my valuable time,

My motives are immaculately pure;
To be treated as a wrong-doer, accused of crime,

That is something which I won't endure,
I hurl it in his teeth, sir, as a slander foul and black,
I stand upon my record, sir, with pride;
I never strike a man from behind his back—
No—I wait until his hands are tied.

I wouldn't accuse Thomson of unfairness in this fight,
In his absence, no indeed, that's not my way;
I prefer to have him present as he's sitting here to-night,
But unable to reply to what I say;
So I tell him to his face he is a slanderer and quack,
Can my fairness, pluck and courage be denied?
For I never strike a man from behind his back—
But I wait until his hands are tied.

