

The Advocate.

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TWO OF A KIND.

MEN who are disposed to despise the value of a vote should reflect upon the fact that in a total vote of over twenty thousand, Mayor Kennedy, of Toronto, was re-elected by a majority of forty-five. Prohibitionists prize your franchise, your ballot may defeat a liquor candidate and elect a friend of the Home.

The above is from the *Templar*. We confess to an inability to understand the application thereof. Who was the liquor candidate in the late majority election? and who the special friend of the Home? Mayor Kennedy's temperance principles are of that austere and unbending character that he could not be even decent to a hotelkeepers' meeting, while ex Mayor Fleming cut off the heads of seventy-four of the Toronto license holders, was chairman of the convention a year ago that received Sir Oliver Mowat's pledge of Prohibition and was also chairman of the Montreal National Prohibition Convention held last summer.

TORONTO'S SECOND SCORCHING.

AGAIN Toronto has been swept with the besom of a terrible conflagration and another million dollars has been wasted. Perhaps not altogether "wasted," for the property will in a large measure have to be replaced, and the fire stands in the relation of forcing a loan from persons and corporations who can afford it, in favor of workmen to whom the loan is a god-send. But forced loans are not desirable and we will do better to consider the calamity in the light of its original misfortune. Therefore, a million dollars has been lost.

This fire was on the same level as the previous conflagration. It swept through a great business district and nothing but the terrific downpour of rain prevented untold disaster. We have made special inquiries into this case and find:

(1) The fire started at an early hour in the evening, when the protective service was in the best of working order.

(2) The pumping-house was in good shape, gave the highest possible or permitted pressure, and in no sense was deficient.

(3) The fire brigade were promptly on the ground, had a sufficiency of hose and hydrants, were well managed and did all that men under the circumstances could do.

And yet the flames swept on, practically at their own sweet will until the downpour of rain gave a check. With 100 pounds pressure at the pumping-house and 95 pounds pressure on Wellington street, the streams from the hose could not reach a height of the fourth story.

Why?

Look over the plan of the water mains and you will find that the water mains on Yonge, Melinda, Jordan and Bay streets are all six inch water mains and on King and Wellington streets twelve inch water mains. Now the firemen would naturally place the hose on the nearest hydrants and the trouble has been that they have placed too many lengths of hose on the six inch mains so reducing the pressure. These mains would supply six or eight branches but not the number they are said to have used from these six inch mains.

The Engineer's recommendation of a twenty-four inch main along Front street from Simcoe to Sherbourne will not remedy the trouble except we place the twelve inch main taken off Front street upon the following cross streets and connect these twelve inch cross mains to the twelve inch mains on Wellington, King and Queen streets, namely:—

York street from Front to King street.
Bay street from Front to Queen street.
Yonge street from Front to King street.
Church street from Front to Queen street.

Jarvis street from Front to King street.
The Engineer would then be able to give from eighty-five to ninety pounds pressure over the whole of these streets and keep up the pressure, no matter how many lengths of hose were being used at the same time.

Do we, then, need steam engines? Certainly! Under present circumstances, and the city council have been terribly remiss in their duty in that they did not order, on rental, half a dozen machines the morning after the *Globe* fire. These engines should have been in commission the following day, and if this had been done half a million dollars would have been saved. It appears to us that steam engines will always be needed upon such occasions, though a redistribution and enlargement of the mains will go a long way towards obviating their use. Still two or three machines should always be kept ready for use.

While it is stated that the pressure at the pumping-house was fully maintained, yet there must have been something wrong at the engine house. We understand that they could only use one well and that well could only be supplied by the old three-foot cast iron conduit. If so, that conduit would not supply the two new engines. This, however, can be ascertained by examining the recording gauge at the City Engineer's office, and the one at the main pumping station.

If they were only able to pump from

one well (the new well), that shows that the City Engineer made an error in putting down the last five-foot connection, connecting the old well to the new well, instead of connecting the new well to the new conduit direct. This cost over ten thousand dollars, and is only a very slight improvement on the water supply to the new engines; whereas, if the connection had been made direct to the new conduit they would have had two full, independent water supplies from the lake instead of the one depending upon the other, and that other the old well.

Altogether the Toronto water supply and fire protective service form a very interesting study at this juncture.

SOLAR TIME RULES.

THE question of whether the Ruler of the Universe or the railway companies are responsible for the movements of this earth and incidentally for the times and divisions of time consequent thereupon was judicially decided in Hamilton a few days since. The judgment is of vast interest to the Trade. The proceedings leading up to it were as follows: Edward Gordon, hotelkeeper in the Ambitious City, was summoned for having sold liquor after seven o'clock on Saturday evening, was promptly convicted by the police magistrate and sentenced to pay a fine of \$20 and costs. Against this conviction Mr. Gordon appealed and Mr. Haverson, solicitor for the L. H. P. A., went over to look after the case.

Mr. Haverson took the appeal on the ground that solar, and not standard, time was the basis of the time clause of the License Act, supporting his contention with a strong argument. The evidence was clear that the offence charged was committed but a few minutes after seven o'clock standard time, whereas under solar time the limit would be extended to 7:20 of the ordinary time. Judge Muir decided in favor of Mr. Haverson's contention and as a result bars may be kept open until 7:20 standard time on Saturday nights and 11:20 on other week nights. The judgment was as follows:

"Of course, the well-known rule that the penal clauses of a statute must be construed strictly, has been invoked, and although the matter seems at first sight to be somewhat inconsequential, the parties are entitled in common with all persons to have the law interpreted upon fixed and settled principles. The question came up in England in 1808, where a motion for a new trial was applied for because a case at the Dorchester Assizes had been disposed of at ten o'clock by Greenwich time in the absence of counsel and some minutes before the true time at Dorchester. A new trial was granted, but the judgment most emphatically upholds the contention urged by the appellant. Chief Baron Pollock said, 'We are as much bound to take judicial notice that a particular place lies east or west of Greenwich and, consequently, has a different time from it as we are to know the days of the year. I cannot assent to the argument that the town council of any place may, by their resolution, declare that Greenwich or any other time shall be the time of the place, for I cannot help seeing the consequences.' * * * They may make a man born on a different day from

that on which he was really born. * *

* Neither can the time be altered by a railway company whose railway passes through the place."

And so the law remained in England until the Act of 43 and 44 Vic. was passed, by which it was enacted that: "Whenever any expression of time occurs in any Act of Parliament or other legal instrument, unless otherwise ordered, shall mean in Great Britain Greenwich time, and in Ireland Dublin time."

In the North Bruce election case a petition against the return of the sitting member was filed after the hour by standard, but within it by true time and was held good by Judge Justice MacLennan. Judge Muir concludes: "If these authorities are in point, as they undoubtedly are, I must follow them, although I do so with reluctance." The question was not raised before the Police Magistrate, and consequently it is not a case for costs. Conviction quashed without costs."

GOTHENBURG NO GOOD.

THE entry rise of the London Times has probably put a quietus upon the English agitation for a trial of the Gothenburg system and is well worthy of the closest attention here, where fads of any kind can always find supporters. The Times frankly doubted the efficacy of the Bishop of Chester's passions for the ills of the nation and the reliability of the information upon which his scheme was based. His Lordship rebuffed warmly, and the *Thunderer* quietly sent a commissioner to Gothenburg to report at first hand. This report knocks the system into a cocked hat. The correspondent finds Gothenburg to be a very drunken place. "I have," he says, "seen more drunkenness in a Scotch town on a Saturday night, but never in an English one." This reference to "Calcutta Drunk and Wild" may not be appreciated everywhere, but surely the criterion of success of a scheme of the Gothenburg kind must be found in reduced drunkenness. Palpably any good that is to result is to be found not in the reduction of a municipal tax rate, but in reduced drunkenness.

Viewing it by this test the Times correspondent finds the Gothenburg system a dismal failure. Under its operation, drunkenness has increased instead of diminished. In 1867, 76 convictions for drunkenness in Gothenburg were 2,070; in 1893 they were 4,096. Meanwhile, the population has, of course, increased, but not so rapidly as the convictions. The latter bore, in the first named year, a proportion of 21.1 to the population. In 1891 the proportion had risen to 22.5. On the other hand, in England, while the "drink bill" continues to mount up annually, the convictions for drunkenness are declining. This is also true in Ontario where the per capita consumption of liquor has increased if anything, while drunkenness has materially decreased. We shall have more to say on this subject when the full report in the Times reaches us.

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