

THE MARKET BY-LAW.

Those who are in the habit of reading the brilliant effusions of our local contemporary, can not have missed the perusal of Tuesday's issue, or such portions of it at least as referred to the council meeting of the previous evening.

It says there was quite a discussion on the market by-law, although nothing was done; no change made. It also says that the ventilation of the subject may do much good, and directs attention to reforms of our present market management.

But in the next paragraph it says plainly that a party in the council are in favor of revolutionizing the market by-laws; whatever that means. The matter is capable of explanation, however, as we happen to know.

According to the Mercury theory, the present market by-law was framed (this we all know) for the benefit of householders. But who was the means of framing this by-law? Was he ever a market man who bought or sold produce on the Guelph market? Or was he a man who was ever exposed to the inclemency of the weather at our market house corners, in the capacity of purchaser or dispenser of produce? If even

opine that such an infamous by-law would never have been put in force. The Mercury asks for an argument against the by-law, never having heard of any. We can merely say in this issue at least that there are several very strong arguments in favor of the repeal of the present properly termed odious market by-law.

To explain our remarks on this point we will just say that hucksters, as the Mercury calls some buyers, happen to be householders as well as the editor of the Mercury, the father of the so-called by-law, and have more weight, too. In some instances potatoes, butter, etc., can be purchased at a lower price in the stores than on the market. Then why not alter this by-law which alone is not very detrimental to our buyers' interests, who pay large taxes into our town treasury, but assist very materially in deterring numbers of farmers and their wives from coming to town at such hours as would allow them to dispose of their respective small goods to whoever will buy and allow them to return to their homes in good time, instead of holding them here for hours without the slightest necessity, only to satisfy the greed and covetousness of a few who could be at the market as early as any buyer.

But while on this matter we do not intend to go so far as some of the council, for we cannot see how the present by-law can be altered or done away with in toto all at once, therefore we would suggest that Saturday's rules be left as the law now stands, this being the only day in the week housekeepers appear to turn out in full force.

We are of opinion that a gross injustice has been perpetrated on our buyers, dealers and storekeepers, for the pleasure and luxury of a few individuals, who probably have never by either enterprise or industry assisted the town of Guelph to any great extent.

There are some points in our conference's argument that we can patiently ponder on. One of them is, that while it appears to favor the change in selling the market fees, those members of the council who think as the Mercury does on this particular matter, are the very gentlemen whom it referred to as being directly interested in the proposed changes of the market by-law. May we ask if one of the true party had been interested in the proposed change as was the originator of the present celebrated market by-law in this case, would Tuesday's article ever have been penned.

Again the Mercury says these are not the most important questions with regard to the prosperity of the town, as a much graver one has loomed up concerning the conduct and character of our buyers. The Mercury has lately published several letters on the subject of the thieving proclivities of the Guelph market men. We must say that in reading the Mercury correspondence on the subject we concluded that the letters in question clearly exonerated millers and their buyers; spoke almost similarly of grain buyers, and that pork buyers were exclusively pointed to as the guilty parties.

The Berlin Telegraph in its remarks upon the recent East Hastings election says "that Mr. White's narrow majority of 74 is virtually a defeat." Mr. Bowman would have appreciated such a defeat last September.

Of all our Canadian politicians the Hon. Edward Blake is the most prone to quote poetry in his speeches. At the meeting held in St. James' school house, Toronto, after the episcopal election he made a short address and concluded as follows:—"There had been no outbreak of unchristian feeling during the contest, and they parted better and truer friends, and his parting request was—

Let us then united bury  
At our feet our feuds is dust,  
And to us are equal our carry,  
Mutual faith and common trust,  
Always be to us most forgotten,  
In his brother, is most just.

ALLUING to the Ontario legislature, the National says: "The session is drawing near its close, but it cannot truthfully be said that the session has been either eventful or important. There appears to be a determination in some quarters to frown down all expression of opinion to the effect that the local legislatures might be profitably abolished or at least have their numbers greatly reduced, but a few barren, fruitless sessions like the one just closing will furnish an argument which no frowns can either answer or weaken. If the local legislatures are to be continued it must be shown that some practical good is accomplished by them."

The masterly inactivity and do-nothing policy which characterizes the Guelph government machine at Toronto is one of the things which the electors must not lose sight of. The local house has been in session for over six weeks, and what business has been transacted? A half dozen amendments, consisting only in the alteration of a few words of the municipal act, voting the supplies for the coming year, and drawing the nice little sum of \$600 each, is a summary of nearly all that has been transacted. To the opposition belongs the credit of saving the province the

sum of \$200 on each member's indemnity and \$500 on each minister's salary.—Halton News.

There will be seventy vacancies in the mounted police force in the spring, and for these eight hundred applications have been received.

The people of the maritime provinces are making vigorous efforts through their parliamentary representatives to secure the appropriation and distribution of the fishery award. There are, however, numerous objections to the sort of division which they are desirous to have made. They overlook the liabilities and responsibilities which Ontario and Quebec have accepted on their behalf.

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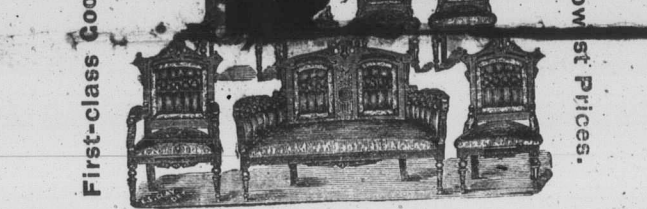
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