

ALDERMANIC BUBBLES.



O debate on the question before 'em
The aldermen mustered a quorum.
The Mayor took his place
With his usual grace,
Said John Irwin, "The room is too
warrum."

As a matter of fact he didn't say so, but poetical exigencies require the rhyme. Surely if we can't always have reason from our representatives we may occasionally get rhyme. Besides, the room really was too warm. A larger number of citizens than usual were in attendance.

Ald. Saunders rose to a question of privilege in connection with the charge against the aldermen recently made by Col. Denison.

ALD. SCORE—"You must remember that Col. Denison is a soldier ardent for battle. Charges of this kind are the only ones he has a chance to make."

ALD. McMULLEN—"Except his charges for the time he is absent on holidays."

ALD. SAUNDERS—"The statement that any member of this Council has interfered with him is wholly unwarrantable."

ALD. LINDSAY—"He has misquoted my words. The means he has chosen to answer the accusation are false, cowardly, perfidious and unjust. If a dictionary were convenient I might employ a few more appropriate adjectives, but those will do in the meantime."

THE MAYOR—"We will now hear a deputation from the Nationalist Association on the Street Railway question."



ALD. FRANKLAND—"What benefit is the Council going to derive therefrom?"

THE MAYOR—"Oh, well, if you put it that way, what benefit is nine-tenths of the talk here, anyhow? Let's hear what they have to say."

PHILLIPS THOMPSON—"The city ought to run the Street Railway themselves. Why should any corporation

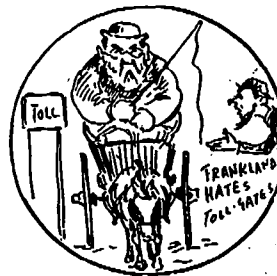


make money out of a public service? 'Aldermen would steal,' say some. If that's true, the best thing you can do is to resign and let out the contract of running the city. Anyhow, if Frank Smith gets it again there'll be the biggest kind of a kick from organized labor, and don't you forget it! Moreover, the *Labor Advocate* will be out before election—but this is irrelevant, excuse me."

THE MAYOR—"But is there any city where the street-railways are operated by the municipality?"

ARNOT HEPBURN—"Why, certainly. Huddersfield, for instance."

ALD. LENNOX—"I don't know how 'udders-fiel', but for my part—"



THE MAYOR—"Order!"
ARNOT HEPBURN—"And then Glasgow is going to adopt the system. It's also adopted by the Australian cities. We'll get you some further pointers on the way the thing works."

GEORGE HOWELL—"The Nationalist Association doesn't believe in allowing monopolies to grow rich at the expense of the public. Who put value into the road? Why, the people. Then why shouldn't they own it? Talk about leasing the tracks! Why don't you lease the water-pipes?"

THE MAYOR—"Your views shall be considered, and if you can only succeed in convincing the Council of their own honesty and capacity, possibly something may be done."

Ald. Frankland—

"On this Queen Street extension I would just like to mention, Oh, fain would I harrow up your souls,
In regard to its iniquity,
That relic of antiquity,
I needn't say I've reference to tolls.

"Long years ago we tried For to get them set aside,
But however we might agitate or talk,



It was uselessly we strove
In our labors with that drove,
The pig-headed County Councillors of York.

"On my feelings how it grates
When I'm passing through the gates,
Which them fellows in their ignorance controls,
To be halted on the trip
And go down into my dip
For the change to pay those execrable tolls.

"Well, we'll sue to them no more
For the change we sought before,
They can grant it or refuse it as they please,
But I'll tell 'em just one thing,
That we'll resolutely cling
To the system of imposing market fees."

ALD. E. A. MACDONALD—"I suppose you consider it feasible." (Groans.)

The Queen Street Extension scheme was carried.



Then the Crematory project came up.
ALD. LINDSAY—"The idea is one of classic origin, and recalls to my mind the beautiful lines which Dr. Bournot will probably quote in his lecture at the National Club this evening:

"The Roman gather'd in a stately urn
The dust he honor'd—while the sacred fire,
Nourish'd by vestal hands, was made to burn
From age to age."

ALD. PETER MACDONALD—"Just so. But we don't want it down our way."

ALD. LINDSAY (resuming quotation):

"Let the sounding lyre—"

