THE MUNICIPAL BATTLE

The Mayoralty Candidates Face to Face.

Lively Mass Meeting of the City Electorate.

Taxation, Electric Lighting and the Doherty Bonus Discussed.

Another public meeting was held in the City Hall last evening for the purpose of listening to the various municipal candidates as to their prospectus and past work and discussions of the questions before the people in regard to the Doherty bonus. The attendance was large and much interest was manifested. Ald. Taylor was called to the chair, and after briefly stating the objects of the meeting, requested Mayor Taylor to address the meeting.

The Mayor expressed the wish to hear his opponent before he said anything.

Alderman Callard then came forward and reviewed much of the same matter that has composed his former speeches, claiming the right to be elected on the ground of having served two years in the Council, which was the same length of time that Mayor Taylor had served. His wish was strictly in accordance with British fair play. He said he was not brought out—as Mayor Taylor had said at the meeting of No. 2 ward on Tuesday evening—in the interest of the Doherty bonus, and not only did he repudiate it, but that Mayor Taylor had since acknowledged that when he said it he was mistaken. Mr. Callard claimed that the Mayor made the remark to discourage him in the election canvass. He reviewed his history in connection with the Council from the time he was elected till the present, remarking that when he first went into the Council it struck him that the city was paying too high a rate of discount at the bank, and by his individual efforts he secured a reduction of 1 per cent. and saved thereby for the city upwards of $2,000 annually. He challenged the Mayor to show in any single department where he had made such a saving. He calimed also that the recent reduction of taxes was largely due to him, for previous to his entering the Council Chamber the taxes were steadily increasing, but under the management of affairs by the present Council the rate had been reduced 2 mills. The $60,000 which was to be raised by debentures would be used to extend the waterworks and for school purposes, and the balance would doubtless effect a reduction in the rate of taxation by about 3 or 4 mills if it was so applied, but it was not likely it would be applied in such a manner. He then took up the electric light question and stated that $16,000 was paid for electric lighting. In the face of such charges, he said it would be in the interests of the city to purchase a plant of its own. They could not go astray in procuring one in the near future, because the greatest outlay was in the poles and wires, and any new improvements would only concern the smaller matters of the plant. It was said by some that he was brought out in the interest of the Ball Electric Light Company. This was false. He was not in the interest of any clique, party or anything else. Furthermore he was in favor of advertising for the plant when it was proposed to buy. The bonus question was next dealt with, the speaker referring to the rumors current about the financial standing of the Doherty Company, and disposed of it by calling attention to the fact that the company's books were open to the citizens for inspection.

Mayor Taylor then took the platform. He began by claiming that he had a perfect right to ask for a second term in the civic chair, and that only for a certain clique that wished to push him from his position he would have been returned by acclamation, and that if Alderman Callard allowed himself to be used like this he deserved to be sacrificed. Alderman Callard had claimed to have reduced the rate of interest, but in this matter he lost sight of ex-Mayor Cowan altogether and the part that he enacted in that direction. In preference to Ald. Callard's plan of lumping two years' taxes into one he would suggest that they jump 20 or 30 days each year for five or six years, getting the year ahead in this manner and an annual discount of $7,000 annually. He then went into the question of consolidating the city debt, and contended that instead they should petition the Provincial Legislature to reduce their interest to 3½ or 4 per cent. This, he thought, the Government would accede to. He estimated the cost of the new electric light plant to be about $35,000, but said that the question was one which should come up before the Council of 1890. He added, however, that he would see that the thing was properly advertised when the purchase was contemplated, and would advocate that a new plant be purchased. The Mayor then took up the exemption question. He claimed that he had always been opposed to all manner of exemptions including churches, schools, hospitals and everything else, and that it would be in the interest of every class to have all property assessed at its full value. A communication was received some time ago from the Sisters of St. Joseph asking for exemption on some property purchased by them on the plea that it was used for a hospital. He opposed the exemption on the ground that a public hospital was sufficient for London, and if it was not a public hospital it had no pretense to exemption. The matter was put to a vote and it was decided 8 to 7 against exemption. Ald. Callard was numbered among the seven that voted for exemption. He spoke of the poor quality of gravel used on the public streets, and suggested that in future nothing but unscreened gravel be used. The speaker was sorry to observe the tendency of aldermen to put all the improvements possible in their respective wards, and said the only way to remedy this was to appoint the aldermen in the same manner as the water commissioners were appointed, and then the best interests of the city would be served. He justified the action of the Council in the educational appropriations, and said if such matters had not been so arranged they could have come on the Council for $10,000 on the last year's assessment. He claimed that he had to be very careful how he acted, because the two political machines in the city were trying to effect his defeat. At a supper the other evening he was unfortunate enough to make some remarks of a political caste which were not in keeping with the nature of the company and for which he was sorry. (Applause.) While the editor of the ADVERTISER was writing up his editorial on the subject, the Conservative party were assembled in the Masonic Temple for the purpose of fixing up the thing for Ald. Callard to contest his candidature for the present year.

Commissioner Essery was called upon, but declined to speak in deference to the candidates who had not been heard. He contented himself with asking Ald. Ander-

son to explain a statement credited him in one of the city papers reflecting on the management of the waterworks department. Anderson's explanation was to the effect that a statement referring principally to proceedings of the commissioners had been made by Mr. Essery's connection therewith.

Mr. Essery complained of his name being mentioned in this connection.

Mr. Campbell was the next speaker. He went into the bonus question at length and stated that the subject had been brought on the Council and that it was their duty to ask the electors to vote on it. The rumor about the financial standing of the Doherty Company was not to be discussed, because he was not in the business under any circumstances, but he would look at the matter for the benefit of those in favor of granting the bonus. Before he left that point, however, he would ask why it was that to consider what benefit the company had been to the locality they were at present situated. If it was of a great benefit, it would be a shame to the city to bonus them. It was said that they will will give a good wage and promise to employ 100 hands. He did not know a single good man who would engage to employ 100 men with the fluctuations in the market. He read a letter received by the Mayor of Clinton in reference to the Doherty Company.

Mr. Campbell—I want Mayor Taylor to write to the Mayor of Clinton about the matter.

Mr. Hodgens said he had not a dollar in the business or in the Dominion Savings Society, but that he would never allow an opportunity like the present to pass without endeavoring to better the city's prospects and his own as a ratepayer.

Ald. Boyd proposed that Ald. Callard, A. W. Porte and Mr. J. Campbell be appointed a committee to look over the books of the company and investigate the matter thoroughly.

Mr. Frank Glass moved that the committee be composed of Messrs. Essery, Jewell and Little.

Mr. Essery objected to having his name in the committee. Mr. Sherlock had insulted him by calling at his private house and asking him to come upon the platform in the cause of the bylaw.

Mr. Hodgens explained that it was because of the illness of their solicitor that they called on Mr. Essery.

Mr. Essery—It is as old as the Bible that you cannot serve God and the devil at the same time.

Mr. Hodgens said he thought it was the business of Mr. Essery to serve his clients.

Mr. Sherlock endeavored to explain the matter by stating that he did not ask Mr. Essery to go on the platform, but that he sought his advice as a solicitor.

Mr. Essery—You did not, and the truth is not in you.

The meeting broke up in disorder, with two or three motions before the chairman.

McMahon's Case.

OTTAWA, Jan. 3.—The Cabinet was in session yesterday from 3 to 6, Mr. Colby being present for the first time. The case of McMahon was under consideration, and it is understood his sentence will be commuted to imprisonment for life. The execution was fixed for Jan. 15 at Chatham.

Results of Mrs. Smith's Mistake.

BRANTFORD, Jan. 3.—Mrs. Smith, charged with bigamy, was tried before Judge Jones on Tuesday and sentenced to 6 months in the Mercer Reformatory. The sentence was light because of the worthlessness of her character of her first husband.

Scotland Skits.

SCOTLAND, Jan. 1.—The members of the Baptist Church held their annual tea-meeting New Year's eve, which was a great success. About $100 was realized. The tables were loaded with all the delicacies of the season, and those in charge of them spared no pains in seeing that all were supplied. The programme was well sustained by the following rev. gentlemen: Mr. Foot, Oakland; Mr. Cook, Burford; Mr. Hutchinson, Brantford; Mr. Blatherwick, Teeterville; Mr. Moore, Waterford; Mr. Shenson, editor of the Brantford Expositor. The musical portion was conducted by the Waterford Quartet Club, under the leadership of J. D. Barber, including Mrs. D. D. Baker, soprano; Miss Elly Teeter, alto; Mr. E. Grooms, tenor; Mr. J. B. Clifford, bass. Merely the mention of the quartet's name is sufficient guarantee that the audience was treated to a musical feast. Rev. Mr. Hastings, pastor of the church, occupied the chair.

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