

## MAYOR TAYLOR'S TACTICS.

He Deires a Chance to "Re-deem His Prestige"

HIS WORSHIP WANTED MORE SALARY.

An Uncalled-for Slur on Old Age Resented.

MR. MINIHINICK'S ROUSING ADDRESS.

How He Saved the City \$30,000—Lively Meeting in Ward Six Last Night.

Trebilcock's Hall was crowded last night with a large representation of residents of Ward No. 6. Squire Fawcett was in the chair, and called upon the Ward's representatives at the Council Board first.

Ald. Shaw said that when he was elected, nine months ago, he pledged himself to do all that lay in his power for the advancement of the Ward, and he had done his very best, and had met with a great amount of success. Many water pipes had been laid, and the roads let in bad shape in consequence, necessitating considerable expenditure. The electric lights would be lit all over the Ward next week. There was a slight prospect of getting more than five alarm boxes for the Ward. He was again in their hands.

Ald. Loney was also a candidate. He had only a short experience as an Alderman, and if re-elected that experience would be valuable. He had done his best for Ward 6, and the city in general. He had been on the Finance Committee, and had not so great a chance of showing what he had done as the members who were on the other committees. He was not one of those who would stand up and bullyrag in the Council. It was the wrong policy. In the interests of the city the electric lights had not been obtained sooner—the Aldermen had a serious matter to decide, as to whether they would buy a plant or have the city lit by contract.

Ald. Thomas said any business man would know that, hurried and crowded in the Council, they sometimes gave a vote not knowing exactly how things were going to turn out. All things considered, the city had the cheapest all-night 2,000 candle-power electric lights in Canada. There was not enough money in the lights to grease any one's pocket, and it was absurd to say the Aldermen had got anything out of it. He believed the city would get cheaper lights if they owned their own wires and poles, and they could then use the poles for fire alarm purposes. He had moved to that effect three times. He had had plenty of work to do, and often in going over the Ward he had across Ald. Shaw and Ald. Jones, and wondered where they got so much time to attend to city business. Regarding the carrying out of the agreement, the city had given the Ward nearly \$2 for \$1, outside of any benefit received from the water. He was again in the field.

Mr. Ed. Parnell wanted to know if the city had grown in prosperity in the past as it should have? No. And the main causes were high taxation and lack of railway facilities preventing manufacturers from coming in here. He did not favor bonusing. He quoted from the FREE PRESS that Hamilton had the advantage of 55 cents on every ton of coal—a most unfair rate discrimination. How was it going to be remedied?

A Voice—Secure a line of boats. (Laughter.)

Mr. Parnell, continuing, said the extravagance of the City Council was mainly the result of the pernicious Ward system. The City Engineer should be made personally responsible for every cent that went through his hands. Again, the estimates ought to be drawn up before a dollar's worth of work was done. The city officials would be the better for overhauling. If elected he was in favor of having the L. & P. S. R. kept for the citizens.

Mr. J. C. Judd came so near being elected last time that his ambition had been fired. The electric light had been promised them by August 1, but for a reason, that the Aldermen said they did not know, the lights had not yet come. There had been a very great amount of wire-pulling going on on the question, and deputations sent here and there with no result. Would any business men have acted as the Council did? Three lights had at length been secured for each section of the Ward—illuminating the Aldermen's own places mainly, and if such was their judgment on a minor matter, what must it be on graver questions? In the by-law now before the people for the reduction of the licenses he would act just as the electors dictated. The L. & P. S. R. and the consolidation of the city debt required men of back bone, who sat at the Council Board only in the city's interests. Speaking personally, it had been urged that he was too young, but surely that was no crime. He was born and lived here, and it was not his fault that he was no older. (Laughter.) Let London show what one of her sons could do. Last year he had said he would bury his opponents this year, and so he would. (Applause.)

Ald. Shaw explained that he could not have placed the three lights differently than from what had been done.

A Voice—The Engineer told me you could put the lights where you wanted to. Ald. Shaw denied this, and presented a letter from the Royal Company to the same effect as he had stated.

Ald. Loney said the lights in his part of the Ward had been placed before he knew anything about them.

Mr. J. G. Pritchett—I have been informed that you were in the hack when the lights were located.

Ald. Loney—Well, I wasn't. Ald. Thomas bore out what Ald. Shaw had said. As to the License By-law he would, every time he honestly and fairly could, aid the cause of temperance. He believed in compensation, but not imaginary compensation. He did not believe in calling any man a blackleg because he sold liquor, and, further, he would not say that no man had a vested right or an equitable right.

Mayor Taylor said he was anxious to go back for a third term to redeem his prestige. Mr. Essery had laid him out in East London, but reminded him of

"Oh, I'm Mr. Tilley."

They speak of so highly, and the rest of it. He confessed that the Council had been very dictatorial in handling the electric light matter, and continued, pleadingly, "What have I done that I should step down? The mayor is simply a chairman, and has but

one vote. The Council did the legislating." When Mr. Minihinnick had told the Council the Finance Committee had told the Aldermen that 22 mills was necessary, but they had raised a \$30,000 lien on Salter's Grove to keep the rate down. He (the Mayor) had noticed that the oil industry was going away, and though he did not know that Mr. Minihinnick was in the Council, why had not he (Mr. M.) said anything then?

Mr. Minihinnick—I told you last night. His Worship continued, and attacked Ald. Anderson, saying that he had made stock out of the city in his early railway transactions, when Ald. Anderson rose to his feet, and said emphatically,

"It's a lie! It's a lie!"

Mayor Taylor went on:—"My father is old, and I have great respect for age. But he sometimes hears of things, and then will turn them over in his mind until he really believes he saw them. And so I don't want to be harsh on Mr. Anderson because he is aged and infirm. I feel sorry for him."

After the Mayor had concluded, Ald. Anderson was called on, and said he was the "old man" Mayor Taylor had alluded to. It was upon his resolution that South London had come in. He was the first mayor of the city, and was not then the decrepit old man which this young man (pointing to Mayor Taylor) now called him. He had not come here to take up their time, because it was unwise when there were so many to speak, and he would not like to talk so long as Mayor Taylor had about matters that did not interest them at all—things that did not amount to a hill of beans.

The venerable Alderman was much affected, when he continued:—"Never before was I ridiculed on a public platform by a gentleman, whether young or old, and especially by one who ought to have known better."

Further, Mr. Anderson outlined his action in connection with the early railroad interests of the city, on which the Mayor had endeavored to cast a slur. He was willing that the Mayor should make all the capital he could out of his (Anderson's) action. The Mayor talked about submitting the question of the lease to the people, but the Act would not allow him to do anything else, and if His Worship knew what he was talking about he would not have stated such nonsense. What the Mayor had said about his making money out of the city in the L. & P. S. R. was without a shadow of foundation.

Mr. Minihinnick was well received. "To hear Mayor Taylor's speech," he said, "you would think he was a heaven-born mayor," but his attack on Ald. Anderson was shameful. As a gentleman, he would not have thought of treating any old gentleman as Mayor Taylor had acted toward his worthy old opponent. Speaking of his candidature Mr. Minihinnick said he had accepted his nomination because it came from all classes.

Happy Bob Spence—And the niggers.

Mr. M.—Now, look here, young man, you have before interrupted this meeting, and you'll have to stop.

The crowd showed their approval of what the speaker said by loud cries of "Put him out."

Mr. Minihinnick continued—He did not fear the result on Monday. He was a large employer of labor, and he had heard about his money in the building societies, but sent it out just as it came in—circulating among the people. He had done as much for the city's interests as any man, and was quite as able and competent as Mayor Taylor to control its destinies. To show that he had faith in his city he had last year spent \$40,000 in the erection of works in the city, and was running those works to-day, notwithstanding the slurs of Mayor Taylor. He had explained last night about the oil barrels, and if Mayor Taylor was a man he would not have brought the matter up again. But lest some of them had not heard his explanation, he repeated it, and instead of coopers going from here to the other side to get work, they had sent to the other side and brought coopers here. (Applause.) He had served his time at the plumbing. He had served the city before, and could point back with pride to the time when he had served as a Water Commissioner, when he could say to the Engineer, "Here's a practical point that has been overlooked." He defied anyone to point to a hack in his record. The estimate then made was over the amount required was that from suddenly took a drop, and they could buy their pipes cheaper. He would show them why Mr. Essery and Mr. Davis worked for a dollar a year. When the Water-works were introduced, a resolution was brought in that each of the Commissioners should be paid \$600 a year, making \$1,800 for the Mayor. But he objected, and his motion to make the salary \$1 per year was carried. Was that economy? Had the amount first proposed been decided on they would have been paying \$1,800 a year, when they pay \$3, and this with compound interest would have totalled up \$30,000. (Applause.) Had he been looking for his own interests, he would not have taken such a course. Mayor Taylor had brought in the resolutions, and he (the speaker) was told that the Mayor had approached certain Aldermen and said, "I want you to work this so I can get \$1,000 a year."

Mayor Taylor—Name him.

Mr. Minihinnick—Yes, I will. I'll do it before this is over.

Continuing, the people's commands, he said, would always be his commands. Why was \$60,000 asked for when it had been spent and paid for out of the taxes already? Were they never going to get out of debt? Why should they issue debentures again for that amount? Why should a fraud be perpetrated on the Legislature? After alluding to his part in discovering the frauds of the late treasurer, Mr. Minihinnick denied that he wanted to raise \$23,000 on Salter's Grove to reduce the debt.

Mayor Taylor—Yes, I have read over the minutes, and I find that Mr. Minihinnick did not vote for the motion, and I give him credit for it.

Mr. Minihinnick next spoke of the refusal of the Council to grant the request of a deputation on which he had acted re the laying of a pipe line from Petrolia, which would have been worth more to London than new railways. If elected, as he had no doubt he would be, he would favor not only the Council, but a body of city business men being called in to settle the matter of the Port Stanley lease, and then when a plan had matured to submit it to the people.

Mr. Alf. Westman—What do you mean by heaven-born mayor? Is it a slur on Christianity?

Voices—Sit down!

Mr. Minihinnick—No, certainly not. I meant it simply because the Mayor holds himself above us as the one person who can fill the Chief Magistrate's chair. (Applause.)

Concluding, the speaker said the cat had been let out of the bag at last night's meeting as to why Mayor Taylor was run-

ning for a third term. He aspired to a higher position.

Commissioner Davis had taken a somewhat prominent part in the construction of the new works, and for that reason desired to be again elected. It was true that the citizens had already paid the \$60,000—been taxed for that amount and had now a valuable asset. And if the City Council wanted \$60,000 they should go squarely to the Legislature and ask for it, and not charge the Commissioners with the burden of it. He was proud of the work at Springbank, and proud that he had given them pure water in Ward 6. It was a commendable thing for Ald. Jones to say that he was led around by anybody. The electors of Ward Six knew better than that.

"Glory Bob" Spence again made an interruption, and Mr. Essery leaned over his desk and asked,

"Are you here as an officer of the Salvation Army?"

The interrupter, amid much laughter, said something, and Mr. Essery continued, "Because if you are, you're a disgrace to the Army."

Mr. Essery, in referring to Mr. Taylor's remarks, said the only one of the Commissioners who was like "Mr. Riley, and you know the rest of it," was Mayor Taylor, who owned a hotel.

Mayor Taylor—That's a lie!

Mr. Essery—What! You don't own the block that the Avey House is in? Mayor Taylor denied this, and then Mr. Essery charged him with having last year, before the election, made a bid for the liquor vote, to which His Worship did not reply.

Mr. Essery continued:—Mr. W. R. Meredith is an honorable man, and he told the debenture deputation that they could not get the \$60,000. So His Worship said, "Just let me slide it in at the back door as Water-works debentures, and then I can get it from the Commissioners. I stand in with them." So things went on until the Mayor came to me and asked me to vote to hand over the \$60,000. "It will make you popular," he said.

Mayor Taylor—I deny that.

Mr. Essery—I know you deny it, but you would deny anything. You're as tricky as a circus mule, and, what's more, you were white with passion, and said "I will meet you in December." And here we are. (Cheers and laughter.)

Continuing, Mr. Essery said, had he been mayor he would have known what was coming in the first year, and not come up before them to-night and say, "Oh, I'm only one member of the Council, I have only one vote." Mr. Essery was before them again, and would continue to do his best if elected.

Ald. Jones said this was the third time he had been talked into midnight. Mr. Essery told them he knew about buildings because he was mixed up with them in law, but what was that to the knowledge of a practical man? Mr. Davis had accused him of being personal, but he was not. He had always given both of his opponents a fair hearing, and had never interrupted them, but they took every opportunity of interrupting him. Mr. Jones here repeated what he had before said about the Water-works estimates having been cut down, and a general racket ensued, in which Mr. Essery failed in his attempt to reply. Ald. Jones saying that he would not further stand any interruptions from the Commissioners. Continuing, he said his action in regard to the \$60,000 debenture was perfectly honest, and it was Mr. Essery's duty to have handed over the money to them. But in-

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Dated at London this 9th day of December, A. D. 1890.

ALEX. S. ABBOTT, City Clerk.

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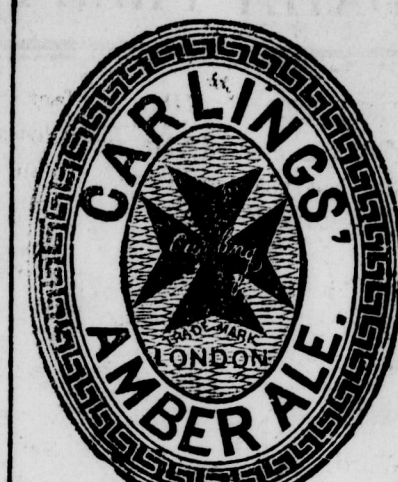
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stead he employed Bro. Judd to fight them. The meeting broke up while Mr. Essery was attempting to reply.

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Worth \$12, go for	6.50	Worth \$13, go for	7.00	Worth \$2.75, go for	2.00
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