

THE OUTGOING COUNCIL.

Judging from past experiences one would hardly have supposed that the retiring Board of Aldermen had enough go in them to actually transact the amount of business with which the minutes of the last few meetings accredit them. They actually worked and only found time to crack a few sorry jokes at the expense of a dozen miserable turkeys which were reported to have been plucked alive by denizens of Chinatown. Unless there was some special provision of the law relating to the suppression of cruelty it ought not to have mattered much under what classification the creatures came with which it is possible that some of the funny men may yet undertake to pack their capacious paunches. Their fun, however, in the instance referred to, was, to say the least of it, ghastly; still, except for the unmanliness of the affair, the city can well afford to allow them to call off for recreation considering the unwonted amount of labor they performed.

The Citizens' Committee have chosen their ticket. It is an improvement; it seems to us to give promise of a more business-like personnel on the floor of the council chamber. Taken as a whole it is one that will be more acceptable to many who not seldom have refrained from voting because the candidates did not come up to the standard which they had set up. As we have repeatedly insisted, Victoria is passing a critical juncture in its affairs and requires its very best men to do it real yeomen service. It wants men of enterprise, men of tact, men of common sense, and, moreover, men of sufficient independence to dare to call their souls their own, and not allow themselves to be browbeaten out of honest opinions legitimately and after due consideration arrived at. It wants, however, no cranks who are brazen and ignorant enough to run amuck of everything and everybody.

We want no more political Mayors. We cannot see, for our part, how it can be compatible with the true interests of any community to have as its chief magistrate an individual prominently identified with any political party in the Provincial Legislature. Other communities have suffered on this account. Municipalities not unfrequently are compelled to seek for special legislation, or for considerations of one kind or another, and although it may be said that having friends at Court is very useful, an independent demand upon the Legislature is more likely to meet with hearty concurrence than one which comes directly and almost solely through partizan channels. To-day, Victoria has in the House three out of its four members who almost invariably vote against the Government, while the present Mayor many a time went out of his way from the municipal chair to denounce the premier and the policy of his associates. It is true he polled a big vote when the elections took place; but there were special circumstances which favored his pretensions, and we are certain that, at the present time, he could not possibly receive anything like the same endorsement. Indeed, there are some who hold that he would be nowhere had he again to try his chances among the electors. Municipal representation and parliamentary mem-

bership are two different things. Mayor Beaven either forgot or wilfully ignored this and in consequence his actions have been such as we should not think were calculated to predispose the majority of the House in favor of anything he might be required to ask for his constituents.—*B. C. Commercial Journal.*

THE PATRONIZING MERCHANT.

There is nothing so ridiculous and so easily discernable in a merchant as an air of patronage towards customers. It is a species of vanity which is as ludicrous as it is disagreeable. This weakness is called bumptiousness, and is repelling to the general run of customers, who are quick to distinguish it from a pleasant presence. A pleasant presence in the store is one of the essentials towards the success of a merchant. This essential of a pleasant presence is made up of simplicity. Just that and nothing else. Simplicity is the most charming of all qualities and is and always has been possessed by the men and women that the world deems great. The simple man is natural and is possessed of a suavity which is real. Assumed suavity is generally made up of bumptiousness and is as different from the inherent quality as the sweet violet is different from the violet of the millinery counter.

The bumptious merchant in his vanity reckons himself somewhat of a philanthropist. His behavior towards his customers is offensive to those amongst them who are of a keen or sensitive nature. In his overweening vanity he reckons himself the patron and the customer the beneficiary. Every action of his conveys that expression. When he is sympathetic he is condescendingly so; heartiness is luring and often vulgar; his insincerity is apparent, for humanity is a distinctive judge of disposition and character. The patronizing merchant is a humbug.

THE pecuniary loss by the Homestead strike to the State, Allegheny County, Carnegie Steel Company and the workmen is estimated at between \$4,000,000 and \$5,000,000, which amount is considered by those in a position to know a very conservative estimate. The lockout took place on June 30th, and involved 4,000 men. The loss to the old employees has averaged \$125,000 per month, making the total for five months \$625,000. This loss is exclusive of the wages affected by the trouble at the other Carnegie plants. At least thirty-five deaths were directly or indirectly caused by the strike. Besides those killed in the battle of July 6th, many soldiers contracted fever which resulted fatally, one soldier was shot accidentally by a comrade, another was killed by the cars, one striker committed suicide, one was drowned, one was killed by the cars, several non-union men died from fever and several were killed in the mill and one was murdered by another non-unionist.

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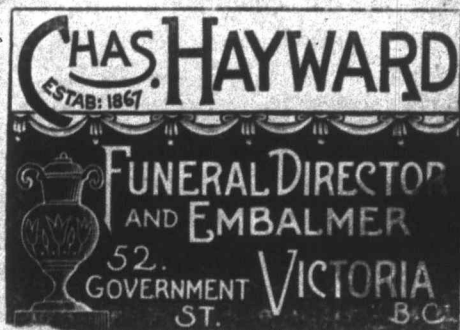
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