

ALDERMANIC BUBBLES.



AT last, week's meeting "the following aldermen were present: Allen, Bailey, Bell, etc." (*Mail* report.) It would be incorrect to infer from this that the *leading* aldermen were absent. At a little after the appointed hour Mayor Clarke made his usual triumphal entry, aldermen, officials, ward politicians, reporters and promiscuous spectators rising to their feet and remaining standing until he assumed the civic throne. There is one thing lacking about the dignity and tone of this formal opening ceremony—or rather a thing and a man, viz., a mace and a sergeant-at-arms as the bearer thereof. Mayor Clarke in his official garb is always a pleasing spectacle and the embodiment of *savoir faire* and easy grace, but it is rather hard to expect him to be a whole procession in himself. It's a wonder that, considering the ingenuity and inventive genius devoted to the discovery of new and perfectly useless ways of spending the civic funds, no alderman with a gift for extravagance should have hit on the scheme of appointing a sergeant-at-arms, to add dignity to the opening function.

The minutes passed rapidly. Some were consumed in the reading of communications and others were taken as read. Then a pleasing episode occurred. Mayor Clarke, in a speech which would make about two sticks of solid nonpareil, presented the medal of the Royal Humane Society to Master Henry T. Pearson, as a recognition of his heroism in rescuing two boys from drowning. The little fellow looked modestly proud of the honor, and several of the aldermen shook hands with him as heartily as they would have done with a constituent the week before election. Ald. Saunders responded on behalf of Master Pearson in about half a stick of leaded brevier.



Ald. J. E. Verral—

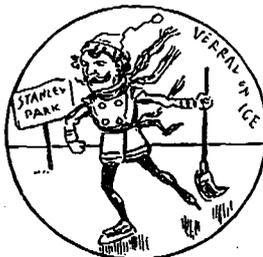
"Skating furnishes delights  
To the boys on winter nights.  
Scotia's sons more pleasure claim  
When they play the 'roarin' game.'  
That their needs may be supplied,  
I would move we set aside

Stanley Park for winter sports,  
Most delightful of resorts.  
Need I on this theme dilate,  
Or my views more fully state?"

The motion was carried unanimously.

Ald. Gibbs' bill to provide for the allocation of members' seats in the Council Chamber came up.

ALD. SCORE—"It's a mat-



ter of indifference to me, so long as I secure a location somewhere."

ALD. VOKES—"I think that those holding over from one term to another should not be disturbed."

ALD. E. A. MACDONALD—"Oh, no. Vested rights must be respected. I think we should have fixity of tenure or compensation for disturbance."

ALD. MOSES—"Fixity of ten year! Seems to me three year ought to be long enough."

THE MAYOR—"Order! Order!"

ALD. MOSES—"Your worship, please understand I'm not now alluding to the Mayor's seat."

ALD. GIBBS—"Well, of course the fitness of things will be regarded in the distribution of seats."

ALD. HALLAM—"I ope so. It would be absurd, for instance, to try to fit Ald. Lucas into Ald. Hewitt's seat."

The Committee rose and reported.

Then the big fight of the evening came on. Ald. Lindsay went in slashing style for the Mayor, claiming that he had broken faith with the Council in not having the names of the men appointed as examiners to pass upon the fitness of the candidates for the position of Medical Health Officer reported to the Council.



The Mayor defended himself, denying that he ever promised that the names of the examiners would be submitted. What he did say was that the names of the candidates passing the examination would be submitted.

ALD. VOKES—"The Board of Health should avoid, as the Street Railway Committee does, any suspicion. Am I to understand that the Medical Board will report on the relative merits of the candidates?"

ALD. LINDSAY—"The *relative* merits of one candidate have already secured him considerable support. It ought to be understood that the qualifications of a doctor are not sufficient."

ALD. HALLAM—"I guess the majority of the Council will be satisfied with the qualifications of a *heeler*."

ALD. SCORE—"Chestnut!"

ALD. HALLAM—"No, not that kind of a tree at all."

ALD. HILL—"Pine, perhaps."

ALD. BAILEY—"Now, don't let us be personal."

ALD. HILL—"I meant nothing personal. I didn't put a 'y' in it."

On motion of Ald. Macdougall, the name of Prof. Ellis was added to the Examining Board by a majority of one.

After this the Council went home.

