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SALES OF THE TOWN.

*I must have liberty,
as large a charter as the wind—
blow on whom I please.*

Events have shown, Victo-
ria probably never had
an utterly useless Board of
Aldermen as at present. They
have patched and tinkered, and
tinkered and patched existing
regulations; and they have en-
deavored to devise and enact new
bylaws and assume new obliga-
tions; but when the public has
been invited to pass upon their
"works of art" they have with
but few exceptions signified their
disapproval of them.

One of the most recent produc-
tions of these Solons is a beauty.
Falling of some more important
subject with which they felt
themselves competent to deal,
they undertook, it is supposed, in
the interests of some of those par-
simonious proprietors who are too
stingily to fence in their vacant
lots, whose value they leave for
the enterprise of others to en-
hance, to pass a Pound bylaw
whose publication occupies nearly
two columns of the daily papers
and fills up a corresponding
amount of space in the Provincial
Gazette. In it they locate a public
pound and provide for a pound-
keeper and his assistants, the for-
mer being bound in the penal
sum of \$250 to well and faith-
fully discharge the duties of his
office and regularly pay over all
moneys to the city treasurer that
may come into his hands as such
poundkeeper.

Section 8 of this precious pro-
posal provides that "no horse, ass,
mule, ox, bull, cow, cattle, swine,
hog, sheep, goat, goose, duck or

dog (except such dogs as have
been duly registered) shall be
permitted to run at large or to
trespass in the city at any time, or
to graze, browse or feed upon any
unfenced lots or unfenced land
within the city limits" under cer-
tain specified penalties. Such
animals and birds as are men-
tioned it is said to be lawful to
take to the public pound, and for
their maintenance there until
claimed or disposed of so much
per day in addition to the fine is
to be collected. Besides, it is
rendered unlawful for people to
tie or tether any animal for the
purpose of allowing it to graze in
any street, lane, park, alley or
other public place.

I have no desire to see the
streets overrun with stray ani-
mals, but this bylaw is so oppres-
sive to the widow and the poor
man that it may be fitly alluded
to as a corporation method of
grinding the faces of the poor. In-
deed it is in many of its provi-
sions mischievous, malicious and
oppressive, and one against the
simplest of whose declarations
there are few of the present coun-
cil board who have not in the
past offended. Where were Ald.
Baker and Bragg and other repre-
sentatives of the workingmen
when this blow was aimed at
them and allowed to go into ef-
fect, save for any exceptions that
may be made to them in the
Court?

Twenty-five long drawn out sec-
tions are devoted to the pound
proper, following which come
three more devoted to an exposi-
tion of the dog tax which are
marvellous specimens of muni-
cipal legislation. Some day the
wise men who have wasted their

time and that of the City Council,
whose wages the owners of some
of the unlicensed dogs are forced
to pay may find that they have
gone beyond the bounds, and the
story of Mrs. Alauis' cow or Mr.
So and So's dog may be the sub-
ject of as much discussion, public
expense and of humiliation to the
Councillors as was Widow
Murphy's cow, which cost the
Dominion, through the Mackenzie
government so many thousands
of dollars. This beautiful bylaw
authorizes the dog-taker in chief,
alias the pound keeper, to em-
ploy an assistant or assist-
ants, who are to be paid for
their services in running in ani-
mals, in this way constituting a
service of thieves, for anyone who
will "take" a dog or any other
animal that is not interfering with
him or his properties is to all in-
tents and purposes one who will
steal anything, and is fit for im-
mediate graduation to the com-
mon gaol or penitentiary.

Another beautiful thing about
the by-law is that the Corporation
worthies fix the penalty for an in-
fracture of any provision of the by-
law at fifty dollars—no more; no
less. It may be asked where do
the cats come in? Should not
something be done, as the coun-
cillors are bent upon doing so
much, to put an end to the mid-
night meowings of family pets,
which are quite as objectionable
as even the most intractable dogs
can be. Their nightly concerts
cause far more profanity than all
the horses, asses, mules, oxen,
bulls, cows, cattle, swine, hogs,
goats, sheep, geese, ducks or dogs
combined can possibly occasion.
Had the members thought over
this subject, they might have dis-