

of the country, the townships and districts of the Province were sub-divided and rearranged. But for a considerable time few additional powers were given to the justices of the peace. In 1822 the magistrates in whose jurisdiction the police towns were situated were required to render an account annually of the receipt and expenditure of the special rates levied on the towns. In 1825 the magistrates in the police towns were required to fix the price of bread fortnightly, if necessary, the price to be regulated by the price of flour during the previous fortnight. In 1826 an Act brought into operation the suggestion made in Kingston before the war of 1812 with reference to fire companies. It provided for the establishment of volunteer fire companies in the several police towns, and the granting of certificates to the efficient members, exempting them from militia duties during peace, and from the necessity of serving on juries, or as constables, or in any other parish or town office.

Municipal Self-Government, Kingston.

Some experience of the police town system conclusively proved that it afforded no adequate executive machinery for carrying out the regulations of the magistrates. Hence in several towns the people once more began to agitate for a regular system of self-government under a separate municipal corporation. Kingston again took the lead, and, after a couple of years' discussion, a public meeting was held in the court house on December 26th, 1828. The meeting resulted in the adoption of eight resolutions pointing out the inconvenience of the existing system, and the necessity for the incorporation of the town with a council whose members should be elected by ballot, every householder paying a police tax to have a vote. A committee was appointed to prepare a petition to the Legislature to this effect. The petition, as presented, contained a sketch of the proposed constitution of the town, which embodied some rather interesting features among others of a more familiar type. Thus the system of double and even triple election was brought in. The ratepayers were to elect twenty-four electors, who in turn should elect seven of their number to be town councillors, and the councillors were to elect one of their number to be the chairman or mayor of the town.

Belleville.

However, another town of the Midland district, namely, Belleville, was the first actually to get a bill embodying the principle of self-government before the Legislature. This was not a bill to incorporate the town, but merely to establish a police board in it. Still it contained a new feature, that the police board should be elected by the inhabitant householders. The measure successfully passed the Assembly, but when it came to the council it was reported upon adversely. The grounds of opposition were adroitly though fallaciously chosen. If, it was said, the people themselves elect those who are to make and enforce the town regulations, then, since men do not like to be forced, they are pretty certain to elect only such persons as will not make effective rules or adequately enforce them; hence, in the interest of efficient civic administration, such innovations must be discouraged. The report was accepted and the people of Belleville saved from their own rashness. Such being the attitude of the council, it was inevitable that the more radical measure proposed for Kingston should be rejected. Accordingly, though also passed by the Assembly, it was rejected without argument by the council.

Brockville.

Notwithstanding these rebuffs, an increasing number of towns continued to send in petitions and to have bills introduced to authorize a certain measure of municipal self-government. In 1831 the people of Brockville managed to get a bill through the Assembly for the incorpora-

tion of the President and Board of Police of the town, and for the establishment of a market. During the same session the Assembly once more passed the Kingston bill for incorporation. Both measures, however, went down before the paternal vigilance of the council. The fact of the market being introduced into the Brockville bill was seized upon as a reason for rejecting it. The following session, 1831-32, Brockville, taking the council at its word, again had its bill introduced, purged of the objectionable market feature. This time, after passing the Assembly, it came before a committee of the council composed of the more liberal members who, in language as conciliatory as possible towards the prejudices of their fellow councillors, recommended that the bill be passed. The majority of the council, however, while apparently recognizing that they could not for ever stem the rising tide of democracy, yet endeavored to mitigate its evils. As the result of a conference between the two Houses, a bill with a less democratic title was sent up from the Assembly and finally passed. This Act marks a new departure in the municipal government of Upper Canada. It made the Brockville town board a distinctive body corporate under the name of the President and Board of Police of the Town of Brockville. The town was divided in two wards. The householders of each ward were to elect two members of the corporation, and the four were to elect a fifth, though in case of disagreement the town at large elected the fifth. The five members then appointed one of their number president. The powers of the corporation, though not materially extended beyond those previously granted to the police towns, were yet much more minutely specified, since it was now necessary to distinguish between the authority of the police board of the town and the general powers of the magistrates of the Quarter Sessions, who still retained such jurisdiction over the town as was not specifically granted to the police board. The matters placed within the authority of the new board in Brockville were almost identical with the new set of general police regulations appointed for the town of Kingston by the Quarter Sessions, in March, 1830. The funds for the town were to be provided by a special rate on its assessed property, the rate not to exceed 2d. in the pound. The various town officers were no longer to be elected by the people, but appointed by the corporation. The corporation was specially prohibited from interfering with the market, which was established by special Act the following session.

Hamilton.

The next year, session 1832-3, the town of Hamilton was granted a Board of Police and a market, by an Act which combined The Brockville Police Act of the former session and The Market Act of that session. In the case of Hamilton, the town was divided into four wards, instead of two, and each ward elected one member, the fifth being chosen as in Brockville. The rate of taxation also was extended to 4d. in the pound, being double the Brockville rate. The corporation was authorized to borrow £1,000 with which to build a market house, whose site, however, was to be chosen by the justices of the peace for the district of Gore. During the same session of 1832-3, bills to establish similar corporations in the towns of Prescott and Cornwall were passed by the Assembly, but strangled by a pocket veto in the council. A futile attempt was also made to obtain an Act of incorporation for the town of York.

The following year, 1834, the towns of Belleville, Cornwall, Port Hope and Prescott obtained Acts of incorporation of the same nature as that of Hamilton. This year also York was suddenly raised from the position of a police town, under the control of the district magistrates, to the dignity of a self-governing city, the