

Took Seat at City Council; Was Ordered to Vacate It

Mr. Armstrong Not Allowed to Participate in Proceedings—Explains His Position.

Mr. George W. Armstrong took his seat at the meeting of the city council this morning, and he was ordered to vacate the seat by the mayor. He did so under protest.

When the meeting opened his worship, with the eleven declared elected aldermen occupied their seats, with Mr. Armstrong. They were Alds. Beattie, Storch, George Gillies, R. J. ...

Very Rev. Dean Davis, rector of St. James' Episcopal Church, South London, opened the proceedings with prayer. On motion of Ald. Gilleen, seconded by Ald. Scarlett, a vote of thanks was tendered the reverend gentlemen.

The the Armstrong-Garratt matter was taken up, when his worship said to Mr. Armstrong:

"Mr. Armstrong, the usual place for ex-aldermen is at the side of the mayor's chair, and

Mr. Armstrong's Contention.

"If you will excuse me, Mr. Mayor," Mr. Armstrong replied, "I would like to say a few words in explanation. I appear here today in a rather unique position. I am here to claim the seat to which I have been declared another has been elected. I do so because I have been legally advised that I am a mem-

ber of this council—not only by my own solicitor, but by fully a score of lawyers whom I have met, of both shades of politics. I heard the gentleman who has been declared to have been elected state before he left for the old country that he would be away for six months to England.

that after he had concluded his visits to friends in England he intended to go to Australia, and would be away a whole year. I am also told he has leased his residence in this city for twelve months. This is one reason why I claim the seat. Before he had

out a declaration of qualification which I am informed cannot be legally accepted, owing to the wording of the statute, and that though he occupied the twelfth position in the list of aldermen, he has not as yet legally qualified. With me it is not a question of sentiment. It is a matter of municipal law. If the law upholds my contention, then the seat is mine. If it does not, the seat is Mr. Garratt's. It has been said in one of the papers that the seat is a matter of legal right, and

a if I cannot get it as such I do not want it. As you have requested me to take a seat at your side, I will vacate my present seat under protest, as I believe it belongs to me."

The City Solicitor's Letter.

Mayor Judd then ordered City Clerk Baker to read a letter from City So-

licitor Meredith on the subject, and when the clerk had concluded, his worship read a letter from Mr. Meredith bearing on the same controversy. The latter was to the effect that the mayor could only allow such aldermen as the clerk had declared elected to sit at the council board.

Mr. Meredith's letter to the city clerk was in part as follows:

"In my opinion, Mr. Garratt's declaration having been filed with you, and his name having appeared upon the ballot as a candidate, you had no other

course open to you but to declare him elected in accordance with the return made by you. Your office has been declared by the courts to be ministerial and not judicial. You are to declare elected the candidate or candidates appearing from the statements signed by the deputy returning officers to have

the highest number of votes, and yet have no power to decide as to the qualification of any candidates to be elected. That must be left for the decision of a competent tribunal. The question of whether or not a statutory declaration

THE INSURANCE REPORT.

Ottawa, Jan. 13.—It is expected that within a week or ten days the report to Parliament of the insurance commission will be completed.

The commissioners since the end of November have had the matter under consideration and it was no easy task to go through the mass of evidence and voluminous documents adduced. The task is, however, now well advanced.

CATHOLIC PARISH FORMED IN NORTH EN

The rapid growth of the city in north and northeast has created need for a new parish and new church. The congregation of St. Peter's Cathedral has grown so that it has become unwieldy. St. Mary's Church also

It is realized, too, that as the grows north and east, many Catholics find it a hardship to walk a mile more through the snow or rain to attend mass, and to accommodate the centrally located edifice in the no-

There are now in London but parishes, which include St. Peter's Cathedral, St. Mary's Church, and the chapel, one of which is situated at Academy of the Sacred Heart, on Mount Hope, and one at Mount Joseph.