

MR. LOCKHART'S TENDER.

AS A MEMBER OF THE FIRM OF A. C. SMITH & CO.

Should an Alderman do Business With the City?—The Hay and Straw Tenders—The Board in Regard to the Tender for Coal for the Caledonia Ferry.

The career of the reform council has been an uneventful one. The surface of affairs has been disturbed very little by the ruffling winds of discontent. They have not exactly followed "the primrose path of dalliance," for they have had much work to do and there is always the overshadowing fear of public disapproval. But they have had a very comfortable time and there has been scarcely any to find fault with them. Wherever there has been disaffection it has been over that always fruitful source of disturbance, public tenders. The latest cause of trouble in this line was over the tenders for hay and oats for the departments of public safety and public works. These were called for some time ago and PROGRESS at that time threw out some hints in regard to them. Now more information has been obtained and rumors that were stated resolve themselves into well defined complaints against an alderman.

The supply of hay and oats to the city departments has been a source of contention among the aldermen for the last three or four years and much trouble has arisen. It will be remembered that last year the board of public safety awarded the tender for part of the goods to W. F. Barnhill, of Fairville. C. H. Peters had tendered lower but the board claimed that goods he had supplied in previous years were not of the same quality they wanted and so they refused him the tender. But Mr. Peters appeared before the board and caused them to reverse their action. He claimed that he had supplied the best goods obtainable. The result was that his tender was accepted after all.

This year Mr. Peters tendered again and this time also he lost the tender. Again the board had good reason to refuse him. He had not fulfilled the conditions of the advertisements. The board called for delivery in such quantities and at such times as they should decide. He tendered to deliver en bloc and so his tender was not a proper one.

The tender for the hay and straw required by the two boards was given to Mr. Chas. Colwell, while B. F. Kearney will supply the city with 3000 bushels of oats at 38 1/2 cents a bushel. It is in regard to the acceptance of Mr. Kearney's tender that the tenderers who lost feel aggrieved. For one thing Mr. Kearney is a Carleton county man and is here only a few months during the year. He pays very little to the city in taxes whereas the others do considerable toward the maintenance of the city government.

Mr. Kearney's place is on Pond street. He has a small shop there and appearances would not indicate that he did sufficient business to handle 3000 bushels of oats. It is stated that Mr. Kearney obtains the goods from the well known Carleton firm of produce dealers, A. C. Smith & Co. Mr. C. H. Peters, whose tender was not accepted, however, declares that Mr. Kearney is really A. C. Smith & Co., that his tender was really their tender under cover. This is a serious charge to make and it is to be hoped that such is not the case. Ald. Lockhart is a member of the firm of A. C. Smith & Co., and for an alderman to tender for city supplies through another man is decidedly wrong from at least a moral and perhaps a legal point of view.

But this is not the whole complaint against the West side alderman. PROGRESS learns on good authority that during the last year and a half this firm has received from the city many hundred dollars for supplies. An alderman states that during the last civic year, under the regime of the old council, \$1300 worth of goods was furnished to the board of works by the firm. This year also there were several hundred dollars worth of stuff supplied. In November of last year tenders were called for supplying the board of safety, but there were no tenders for the board of works. Why none were called is not known. The director made a private contract with A. C. Smith & Co., and they have been supplying the board ever since. At a recent meeting of the treasury board a bill of theirs for \$165 was passed.

Of course there is nothing wrong from a legal point of view in an alderman doing business with the city. Municipal ethics differs from federal in that respect. But public sentiment is opposed to such courses and would be apt to call Ald. Lockhart's action an abuse of his authority. There should be tenders called wherever possible and that is what the present council propose to have in future.

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A SPLIT IN THE CHURCH.

REV. MR. SIBBALD HAS BEEN ASKED TO RESIGN.

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MR. LEAR AND HIS CASES.

HIS EVIDENCE IN THE PERJURY CHARGE AGAINST HIM.

How he Brought Colonel Domville In—What the Colonel has to say in the Matter—A Chance That he may try Criminal Libel.

The developments in the libel suits of Mr. Percy Lear against PROGRESS are somewhat slow. That gentleman has had some evidence to give in Halifax while on the stand in the case for perjury against him and it is about as remarkable for its incorrectness as the affidavit he swore to. Witnesses were placed upon the stand to prove that Mr. Lear had considerable evidence in his possession before the papers were out or before they were served that he had got the wrong man. Mr. Lear's anxiety to arrest an employe of PROGRESS and a brother of the proprietor was such that he did listen to the statements made by those who were in a position to know that Mr. F. B. Carter was not a proprietor of the paper.

When the easy going Percy was on the stand he stated that he had had a large experience with newspapers. This may cause a smile to flicker over the countenances of those who know the gentleman and his ways, for whatever his experience has been with the press he has had it considerably extended the past few weeks.

Mr. Lear was not unacquainted with the proprietor of PROGRESS. He stated that he called at this office to make arrangements or to make inquiries about advertising and he saw Mr. F. B. Carter. He omitted to state that the latter referred him to the proprietor, who took him into his private office and discussed the business with him. But that is neither here nor there, only serving to show that Mr. Lear's memory might have been better.

He was indiscreet enough to make a statement about Colonel Domville and to cite that gentleman as making a statement about the proprietor of PROGRESS that it was impossible for him to have made. Whatever differences Colonel Domville had with PROGRESS proprietor they were settled at the time and have been forgotten since. Mr. Lear swore that Col. Domville told him that he had paid ten dollars for having the proprietor horsewhipped. When the Colonel saw this statement he wrote out the following despatch and sent it to Halifax:

"I would not know Mr. Lear if I saw him. It is impossible I could have ever made such a statement to him and am surprised he should quote me." Colonel Domville could not have made such a statement because there is not a particle of truth in it but it all goes to show the truthfulness of the man who has been a party to this whole business. He was defended by Mr. Tremaine who was mainly anxious to find out something about PROGRESS correspondents in Halifax. Mr. Tremaine should go on the stand himself and give evidence.

But if all that is said to true Lear proposes to give PROGRESS a chance to prove what it said—a chance that he paper will be glad to have. He will, so the Halifax papers say, bring a suit for criminal libel against the editor and for this purpose has secured the services of Mr. C. A. Stockton of this city. Mr. Lear was at one time a student in Mr. Stockton's office and it is only natural that he should seek him now for advice.

If such a suit is brought the evidence will naturally favor of the divorce court. It will not be as good family reading as that which usually appears in the press but it may have the effect of preventing such wholesale blackmailing in the future.

HE WAS TOO CARELESS.

And Placed a Well Known Lady In a Distressing Position.

A lady well known in the city, and much esteemed and respected by all who know her, went to the Savings bank a few days ago to make a small deposit. She had her pass book with her and a single ten dollar bill of the Bank of New Brunswick. When her turn came—for there were quite a number ahead of her—she handed in her book with the money in it, but visible not only to the official who received it but to another lady beside her. At that moment there was some explanation going on and for the instant the lady's ten dollar bill was put in the drawer. Then when the clerk turned to her he asked for her money. When she told him that it was taken and put in the drawer by himself he refused to believe her or accept her statement, though the lady beside her corroborated it. But Mr. Cowan was obstinate and, humiliated beyond measure, the lady burst into tears. Her distress had no effect upon him beyond the statement that if at the end of the day his cash was over, her complaint would be attended to. At this moment when the lady was turning away, the head of the Savings bank, Mr. H. D. McLeod, entered and noting her distress inquired the cause. The clerk was directed at once to count his cash and make the matter right. He did so and the ten dollars was placed to the credit of the lady, who

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