

CITIZENS' COMMITTEE AT ENTHUSIASTIC MEETING DISCUSS NEW CHARTER

Election Returns Received by Delighted Gathering at Board of Trade Rooms Last Evening—Cheers for the Committee Leaders—The Plans as Outlined—A Permanent Body.

Wednesday, April 19.—After receiving the election returns with every evidence of satisfaction at the board of trade rooms last evening, the citizens committee decided to remain in existence until after the first commissioners are elected, at least, and complete the work it has so successfully undertaken of giving to St. John a better system of civic government. J. A. Belyea, as chairman of the charter committee, announced that he would call a meeting of the members of the committee early next week and consider the extension of their numbers in order to begin the work of preparing the act under which the city will be governed after the second Tuesday of April, 1912. The meeting broke up with cheers for the chairman and secretary and for that portion of the press which supported the movement.

Before the members of the committee had gone home to dinner they were assured from an early report of the count that commission was running nearly three to one and all doubt that the movement would carry was removed. Complete returns from the small wards indicated a big lead and the enthusiasm was increased when Brooks ward reported a comfortable majority for commission.

About 8:45 o'clock the meeting was called to order by Timothy Donovan, who suggested that in the absence of their feelings the committee should meet in formal session.

W. H. Barnaby, the chairman, then addressed the gathering, saying that the majority for commission had been very much greater than had been expected. A lead of 1,000 votes had been secured, he considered very satisfactory, but the hard work of the young men had resulted in an overwhelming victory. It was surprising to him to see the large number who had gathered to the polls. The thanks of the committee was due to the citizens who had given their automobiles for the day. The work of the citizens' committee was not finished. They must foster the child and see it prosper.

H. A. Powell, K. C., when called upon, said that he and his friend Mr. Thorne stood in good company as discredited Conservatives, but he did not worry about this. He congratulated the city on the honest and patriotic vote of the day which would have far-reaching results.

Mr. Powell then referred to the desirability of tax reform and the loss of money in the construction of the city water works. The man with common sense wished that the commission form of government had been inaugurated years ago. During the last year the cost of the winter port cost much more than at present, largely due to the neglect of the aldermen.

Mr. Powell spoke out very plainly concerning an attack on Walter Allison during the campaign by what he styled an "anonymous, scurrilous gentleman," writing in the Globe. He knew of no young man in the city more deserving of salutation than Mr. Allison.

W. H. Thorne, the chairman, then congratulated the chairman and members of the committee. He had been away for the greater part of the campaign and coming home in time to vote was surprised to find the overwhelming people had adopted commission. A great deal of unnecessary fuss had been made about the charter, but the committee felt that it was better to wait and see exactly what the people wanted before putting their time on the charter. It was now their duty to frame an act on the lines of the commission plan as worked out in other cities and suited to the somewhat peculiar conditions existing in St. John.

Walter Allison, president of the Trades and Labor Council, one of the lead-

ers for commission, came in at this point from Guy's ward and created much enthusiasm by announcing that the new plan had carried in his ward.

M. E. Agar.

Mr. Agar added his congratulations to those already expressed to the chairman. He thought the most credit was due the young men, who were members of the publicity committee. These gentlemen were the men who put the torpedoes under their feet when they lagged behind. As he looked at these young men at their meetings with the smart business-like air pervading the session, it occurred to him that they would not have far to look for commissioners who could govern the city properly. The matter of salary was not an important one. Surely the citizens who had so much at stake would be willing to give their representatives a respectable living.

The citizens would have the same control of their governing body as they always had, and he believed the citizens' committee should remain as a permanent body, ready to take the necessary steps if the commissioners failed in their duty.

Other Speakers.

Timothy Donovan said he had felt very much at home as a member of the citizens' committee from the very first, when Mr. Barnaby had called it a democratic institution. Notwithstanding the fact that the Standard had kept up a "gonilla" warfare from the very first, later sending all "envoy extraordinary" to Des Moines and Cedar Rapids, the verdict had been very pronounced.

Dr. W. F. Roberts spoke for the North End wards, expressing pleasure at the handsome majority in every ward.

J. A. Belyea spoke as the chairman of the charter committee, saying that the commission vote would have relieved the committee of a great deal of work and responsibility, but he felt very well satisfied. He intended to call the committee early next week to receive and consider suggestions for the enlargement of their numbers. They would seek information as to the exact standing of the city—its assets and liabilities, so to speak. When they believed they were in possession of sufficient information they would report to the larger committee as an advisory board, always keeping open mind for suggestions. The committee realized that it would not be the charter but one for the citizens of St. John. Changes might even be made when the act was before the legislature.

Col. A. J. Armstrong said he had never worked so hard nor felt any better pleased in his life. There seemed no end to the votes he was sent after in Kings, and the record vote there was a great tribute to the chairman.

Dr. C. C. Wetmore was then called upon and claimed that Kings was the banner ward, the vote for commission standing about 312 for, to one against. They used the old-fashioned carriages and got after the electors.

On the motion of W. H. Thorne, the committee expressed appreciation of the work of their chairman, Mr. Barnaby, and the secretary, J. C. Belyea, and three cheers for these gentlemen were heartily given.

A resolution of thanks to the Telegraph and Times was then adopted, and when A. M. Belding, editor of the Times, rose to reply, he was greeted with such an ovation that he was unable to continue for some minutes. Mr. Belding praised the work of the advertising committee of the board of trade, and gave some attention to civic problems. He said that he thought Mr. Belyea would find it difficult to secure much information at city hall with regard to the affairs of the city.

Messrs. Agar and Belyea expressed their desire to have the citizens' committee remain as a permanent organization, and H. A. Powell moved "that the committee do not disband until its work is accomplished, meeting at the call of the chairman."

This was carried, and the meeting then adjourned.

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CIVIC REFORM SWEEPS EVERY WARD IN CITY AND VOTE IS RECORD ONE

Bad Day for the "Hidden Hand"—Ald. Scully's Harbor Bridge Has 895—Old Aldermen-at-Large Re-elected, Russell Leading the Poll—Vanwart, Willett and Sproul Among the Slain, Green, Codner and Keirstead Succeeding Them—The Detailed Figures—Incidents of the Day.

THE VOTE IN DETAIL

Wards	Brooks	St. John	Dukes	Queens	Kings	Wellington	Prince A to Z	Prince M to N	Victoria	Dufferin	Landseward	Johns	Stanley	Total
Aldermen-at-Large														
Frank L. Potts	150	78	168	263	367	199	314	100	168	230	308	304	275	70
James W. Russell	222	117	187	329	507	273	389	187	138	280	399	322	312	83
Rupert E. Wigmore	261	125	244	316	109	259	141	114	224	251	277	280	71	283
William E. Scully	203	147	294	407	265	373	104	191	220	229	291	223	68	339
William B. Wallace	132	89	73	184	308	104	201	88	77	127	180	157	140	31
George William Colwell	95	51	70	127	188	108	229	85	59	83	139	106	189	27
John H. Burley	248	108	85	153	222	101	183	96	79	148	196	199	103	35
Guy's Ward														
Harry G. Smith	275	127	118	229	282	201	282	144	128	212	297	289	249	54
James Frederick Belyea	129	89	130	217	356	178	288	148	128	157	224	184	202	56
Sidney Ward														
John B. Jones	240	116	196	269	359	226	344	168	144	214	339	280	273	64
Stephen B. Bustin	14	92	117	182	274	148	211	118	104	151	197	199	178	42
Dukes Ward														
John W. Vanwart	197	115	96	234	209	140	218	121	110	188	244	238	242	64
G. Herbert Green	189	94	153	235	374	223	345	164	143	181	288	232	220	44
Kings Ward														
Thomas J. Dean	207	129	123	160	235	177	211	151	137	173	238	219	215	89
Charles T. Jones	184	75	123	265	360	197	349	135	125	196	293	244	237	29
Prince Ward														
James Sproul	230	119	104	191	277	199	250	108	148	158	263	282	221	68
J. Whitfield Keirstead	159	92	144	263	365	216	325	134	111	183	269	191	233	44
Dufferin Ward														
John Willett	154	81	63	163	248	151	211	102	108	128	195	137	129	40
Howard E. Codner	154	81	63	163	248	151	211	102	108	128	195	137	129	40
George A. Chamberlain	77	28	93	106	143	115	163	57	56	114	157	117	158	33
Landseward Ward														
Allen A. McIntyre	152	76	87	194	282	155	263	99	91	114	188	134	113	15
A. O. Havelock Wilson	244	127	158	253	347	209	303	182	163	201	338	242	346	95
Lorne Ward														
Frank H. Elliott	167	87	153	228	275	191	302	172	166	180	216	277	241	89
George E. Day	222	125	95	219	368	182	262	119	84	182	216	192	231	23
For Commission	201	126	181	367	525	307	459	214	180	282	352	279	334	76
Against Commission	196	92	61	125	138	86	152	90	101	128	233	226	67	3078
For Bridge	312	175	142	211	314	217	320	180	145	166	241	233	226	67
Against Bridge	62	38	105	232	314	161	241	92	103	138	184	207	221	40
Total votes in wards	405	220	263	474	671	404	605	306	270	303	555	446	479	117
Qualified voters in wards	622	325	365	624	949	720	923	510	531	733	716	664	101	8101

Wednesday, April 19.—The electors of St. John pronounced in no uncertain terms at the polls, yesterday, that they were dissatisfied with the present system of civic government when they voted for the adoption of the commission form of government by 5,540 votes to 1,047, a clear majority of 2,246. It was a great popular victory, and the men who have been working for months to educate the people on the merits of the commission plan were well gratified at such a splendid expression of approval of the plan. Every ward gave a majority, even to the alleged stronghold of the opposition in the north and west ends.

To the workers who had been feeling the pulse of the people on this question for some time the result was not surprising, but it was a genuine surprise to a great many people that the proposed form of government was adopted by a vote of 5,540 to 1,047.

Several Surprises.

The aldermanic contest furnished several surprises. The four present aldermen at large were re-elected, with Alderman J. W. Russell leading the poll in almost every ward. Queens ward gave a tie vote and Dukes and Victoria went against it by small margins.

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FINE WEATHER GREETED WORKERS FOR COMMISSION

Citizens Delighted With Magnificent Vote Against Aldermanic Influence and Inefficiency—Large Number of Ladies Went to the Polls—Merry Time in Board of Trade Rooms.

Wednesday, April 19.—Commission was born in St. John yesterday on as fine a day as could be wished for. Weather conditions could not have been more favorable and partly accounted

would protest against the leap in the dark" proved totally unjustified.

The aldermanic contest also furnished many surprises, and it was evident that the feeling in favor of commission extended to the opposition of certain aldermen at the board. Where the vote in favor of commission was the heaviest there was found the largest majority against the aldermen who were defeated.

Although the vote polled was very heavy the day was a very quiet one throughout the city, and the crowds about the polling booths was not large at any time. The workers began very early and a good percentage of the vote was cast by the hour. Teams and automobiles were kept very busy until the last minute in carrying the voters to the polls and in the city wards, particularly the proportion of the votes cast was very large. In Kings ward, for instance, 472 votes were cast out of 624 on the list, and in Queens ward 61 votes were brought out.

Many Ladies Voted.

A remarkable feature of the election was the number of ladies voting for commission. There were very few in these wards who were not asked to exercise their franchise and nearly all cheerfully responded. Lady Tilley voted for the commission, and in Queens ward 61 votes were brought out.

The ward boss and the last desperate defenders of clique rule made a determined stand and the workers for commission were impressed early in the day with the strength of the organization, but they, however, failed to capture the vote of the people.

In the North End powerful influences were used to retain the aldermanic system. A large majority for commission was the result, showing that the independent silent vote which could not be engaged, was almost solid for commission.

There were not many spoiled ballots, considering the two plebiscites. Some spoils were cast with a perverse sense of humor, did not put a mark on the ballot, being writing across the face "Socialism is the only thing for the working man." Another wrote "Socialism the only thing for the working man." The men who cast these votes must have been present at the farce!

For the record vote. The great majority rolled up for commission, however, was

MAJOR FRANK, WHO AT NOON YESTERDAY FELT SURE THE DEFEAT WERE VOTING OVERWHELMINGLY FOR COMMISSION—Courtesy of Nickel Theatre.

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