

year's discipline than he ought to make a better member than he did this year. He assumed a great portion of the blame of the Amherst engine business, and thought Mr. Gowdy an ill-used man. They had got through that matter without much cost to the town.

Mr. Stevenson—Thanks to the Herald.

Mr. Chase sat down after again thanking them for his election.

Mr. Davidson, who had been nominated for second deputy reeve, came forward, and said that he had not intended at first to run for any municipal office this year, as his time was fully occupied. He would, however, do what he could for Guelph's interest. There were some things which he had given some attention to which required looking after. One of these was the water works scheme. He had been one of those who spoke at the Saturday night meeting referred to by the mayor, and he could tell that gentleman that he did not tell any lies. He was not in the habit of doing that sort of thing. The mayor had said he was in favor of the present water works scheme, and was an advocate for commissioners who would carry it out. He took the other side, as he believed the scheme one of great extravagance, and one for which there was no necessity at the present time. He went into considerable detail to show that at least \$25,000 would be actually wasted, so far as Guelph's requirements went, if the scheme was carried out, and advocated a system which would centre in a stand pipe on the Catholic hill. He referred to the needless expenditure of keeping the engines going all the time, which would be necessitated by the present scheme, and argued that not more than \$20,000 would be expended in Guelph, out of the \$70,000, in labor. The present works estimates were based on the Guelph and London ones, but he could inform them that rock would be met with in Guelph before six feet depth had been reached, and this would be an extra in the cost of construction. The work, too, would be let by tender, and contractors could bring their workmen from where they liked, and therefore the Guelph laborer would not necessarily be benefited. This labor cry was a false one.

Mr. Howard explained that in London contractors were bound to use London labor, and so it would be in the case of Guelph.

Mr. Davidson then referred to the fact that that could only be done in the case of laboring men, and not where the contract was a mechanical one. With regard to insurance he could assure them, as an insurance agent for twenty five years, that water works would not be lower to any appreciable extent the rate of insurance in Guelph. In answer to Mr. Howard, Mr. Davidson said that fires had been so few in Guelph for some time that risk was rated as low as it was in many places which had water works. With respect to the county council he felt that a very erroneous feeling had got abroad in respect to the influence of town representatives had there. Town and village representation was small in that body when compared with the rural representation. Therefore the former were compelled to submit, as they could be voted down if the council chose. With regard to the question of separation from the county, it was a question with him whether it would be good policy to separate at the present time. He understood it cost Brantford \$2,000 or \$3,000 a year more to run the city since it was separated from the county. It became then to be in favor of economy, because he didn't think property could be assessed for anything like it was this year in Guelph in 1879, and it would have to be shown him that it would effect a saving of the town's revenue before he would support this separation and making Guelph a city scheme. If elected he would endeavor to best further Guelph's interests.

Mr. Hatch asked Mr. Davidson, just as he was about to retire, a string of questions so fast that the reporter couldn't catch them all. One of them was, are you in favor of erecting the town into a city? Mr. Davidson answered that he didn't know if it could be shown that that course was best for Guelph he would support it. Mr. Melvin and Mr. Bischoff then spoke together. From what they said it was gathered that Brantford had saved \$1,700 a year since coming a city. And as Brantford's county rate was only \$5,000 and ours was \$8,000 we ought in the nature of things to save more than it did.

A rather sharp dialogue then occurred between Mr. Hatch and Mr. Melvin. Then Mr. Hatch succeeded in getting a short hearing. He asserted that there was never before so many empty houses in Guelph as there were at the present time; that there never was so many men seeking work and finding it not; that many men who were ruling, or trying to rule Guelph, were not able to pay their debts and were trying to get the town into the same position; and that never before had municipal matters been run in such a reckless manner. He concluded by saying they were tired of allowing a dozen or 16 men to run the town affairs, and would now make a move to put in an efficient and economical council. He moved that the meeting adjourn till 7.30 o'clock. The returning officer declared the meeting adjourned till half-past seven o'clock.

THE MEETING IN THE EVENING.

At seven o'clock, the time when the adjourned nomination meeting was to begin there were only fifty-five persons present, including the returning officer, Town Clerk Harvey, who occupied the chair.

In the course of half an hour, however, there were added to the number a great many more, till before the close of the meeting there must have been at least five hundred present.

Mr. Davidson, who had not finished his address to the electors, was the first speaker. He said that he thought he had finished his speech, in the morning, but inasmuch as he had not fully replied to Mr. Hatch's questions he would occupy a short time now to do so. He would say he was not a supporter of the present scheme of water works, and with regard to the labor explanation of the mayor he would say it was a very doubtful thing whether Guelph labor could be forced on the contractors. He held that the large mains which were a portion of the present scheme were unnecessary at the present time. His opinion was that the two stand pipes erected on different hills in Guelph would do all that was really required by Guelph just now. These would be far more available in case of fire than would water works with an engine a mile and a half from the town. He considered the laying of pipe along Queen street from Ontario to the hospital a perfect waste of money, for who along it would buy water for household purposes when they had the river and springs not equalled even in Guelph at their very doors? He believed that for 50 years to come the well water supply would hold out good, and when that was the case no one would buy river water. The livery stables, the hotels, etc., might possibly require and would buy water, but these alone would be a very small item. He was in favor of postponing the carrying out of this scheme until better times, and then in two or three years after this began water works, which could be extended as required. He considered the present scheme a very extravagant one, in view of the financial condition of the town. With respect to erecting Guelph into a city, the financial portion as between town and county, would be settled by arbitrators; but still the scheme would have to be worked up by the town members of the county council, and that would entail a great deal of work. He dwelt on the impossibility of town members getting the rate in the county council cut down when their members were so few, and showed up the system of log-rolling which had to be pursued in order to get anything at all for the town. He considered the town had never received justice from the county, and gave the history of an attempt made some years ago that justice done in the courts. Farming land in Wellington was not assessed within \$20 per acre of its true value, while with town property in many cases the assessment was above its value. Legislation was the only remedy for this condition of things. If the Government would appoint assessors to assess all property, in town and county this year, for next year's taxes, there would be a more equitable assessment, for where the assessor held his office by the will of the township he tried to please his masters so that he could keep his situation. Thus they should not expect too much from their county councillors. He was in favor of making the town a city if it would lessen the assessment and tax rate, but would not the incidentals in city government total up about annual? He referred to the figures given by Mr. Davidson in the morning, relative to Brantford, and admitted that it was possible that his (Mr. D.'s) informant might have made a mistake, as the figures were nearly similar in amount but on different sides. He referred to the depreciation of property in Guelph, and said that if the ratepayers expected to build up Guelph they must give at least their moral support to railway schemes which would feed Guelph. If we had no manufacturing within us, we must induce people outside to trade with us. If we wanted to secure new and large manufacturing we must make our taxation as low as possible. Then he gave the history of Hamilton's bankruptcy, and held it up to the people as a warning. What he wanted was to hear the views of the commissioners as to whether they would, if elected, go on with the work or not. He thought the work should not be gone on with until the advent of more prosperous times.

John Thomas Cunningham asked Mr. Davidson a question relative to the criminality of assessors, and their punishment, if they didn't assess high enough, which was answered by quoting the law on the subject.

When Mr. MacMillan's name was called by the returning officer, Mr. Peterson wanted to know how many

(Continued on page four.)

GREAT CHRISTMAS SALE.

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The Cheapest stock of Fancy Goods ever offered for sale in Guelph.

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This Special Sale will commence on Monday, the 23rd inst., and continue till New Year's Eve.

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- Read these Prices:
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| <p>Towelling, 5c.
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 Fur Muffs, 75c
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 Millinery, Mantles, &c., &c., at cost price.</p> | <p>Wincey, 6c
 Brown Linen, 10c
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 A splendid Tweed 40c</p> |
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Such Big Reductions were never known before.

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\$2,000 TO LOAN ON FIRST-CLASS
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Northern Assurance Co'y

OF LONDON.

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Head office in Canada, Montreal; Taylor Bros. General Agents, No. 48 St. Francois-Xavier Street, 2052 d
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Fire Insurance Company

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Paid Up - - - 3,500,000
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CHARLES DAVIDSON,
 No. 3 Day's Block,
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David Burke, Manager; Wm. Smith, Secy.; Richard Bull, Superintendent of Agencies.

JAMES MASSIE,
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 LOCAL AGENTS.
 William Lamb, agent for Elora, Salem and Ferguson.
 W. H. Lowe, agent for Rothay, Drayton and Moorfield.
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 Walter Davidson, agent for Harriston and Clifford.
 2291 dw

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