

THE SUCCESSFUL ONES.

City Council Sustains the Fire Brigade Appointments.

The A. O. F. and Sons of England Get \$200 Each to Aid Their Demonstrations.

The Committee Reports and Communications—Minor Matters.

The city fathers met Monday night at the usual place and put in the usual time. Although the amount of business was not great, quite a crowd of spectators were present at the commencement, most of them being interested in the fire brigade appointments made. Mayor Taylor presided, and there were present: Aldermen Wray, Fitzgibbon, Taylor, O'Meara, Ivey, W. W. Fitzgibbon, Wynnott, Skinner, Gartshore, Spencer, Scarrow, F. J. Fitzgerald, Bartlett, Wilkey, Thomas, Judd and Shaw.

James A. Ross—Asking reduction of street watering taxes. No. 1.

H. A. Massey—Asking reduction of assessment on London premises. No. 1.

James Crawford—Re condition of sidewalk near his premises on Pall Mall street. No. 2.

James M. Logan, et al.—For sidewalk on north side Central avenue, Wellington to Waterloo streets. No. 2.

Hegler & Jackson—Re infringement of patent on artificial stone walks. No. 2.

Mrs. (Dr.) Hansen, et al.—For sidewalk on south side Mill street. No. 2.

W. J. Anderson—Re condition of South street in front of his premises. No. 2.

Thomas Mungall, et al.—For sidewalk on south side Marshall street. No. 2.

James Wright—To connect his premises on Dufferin avenue with adjacent sewer. No. 2.

R. Heston—Re damage to carriage by defective road, corner Hill and Wellington streets, claiming \$25. No. 2.

Thomas Tullett, et al.—For sidewalk on north side Eliza street, Adelaide to Elizabeth streets. No. 2.

R. H. McLaughlin, et al.—For reopening of Marshall street. No. 2.

R. Allen—For sewer for William street. No. 2.

J. A. Matthews—For walks and grading on Dufferin avenue. No. 2.

Robert McLean—Re classification of fire appliances in wards 5 and 6. No. 3.

L. W. Stevens, et al.—Against erection of small-pox hospital in south part of the city. Board of Health.

Richard Johnson, et al.—Against erection of coal oil sheds near his premises. Board of Health.

Geo. C. Robb—Report on inspection of City Hall boilers. No. 1.

NUMBER THREE COMMITTEE.

By Ald. F. J. Fitzgerald, chairman:

1. We recommend that John Aitken be appointed foreman of No. 3 fire station.

2. That James Fitzgerald, W. J. Brainer, George Taylor, Thomas Hardley, James Campbell and W. Smith be appointed firemen on the department staff.

Ald. O'Meara moved that the communications in reference to clause 1 be taken up and the names voted upon. He favored Mr. Aitken, but objected to the system.

The clause was adopted.

On clause 2, Ald. O'Meara moved again, seconded by Ald. Judd, that the 60 applicants' names be balloted. Lost.

Ald. Thomas hoped the committee would be supported. Its members had had hard work in the selection, as they had all been canvassed.

Ald. W. W. Fitzgerald reminded the Council that he opposed the system of balloting with call men. He moved it be referred back to the committee. Lost.

The original clause was adopted.

NUMBER TWO COMMITTEE.

By Ald. Connor, chairman:

1. We recommend the following communications be filed: S. H. Baker, re city engineer; Martin Mearns, re fire station; No. 1 ward.

2. We report progress on the following: R. Fisher, W. M. English, Geo. Scott and Jas. Moffatt, re sidewalks; J. J. Kessell, re Central avenue; T. H. Routledge, rental sewer; memo from Council re street railway on Richmond street.

3. We recommend that tenders be called for artificial stone walks on north side of Dundas street, from Waterloo to Colborne street, and on west side of Richmond street, from Fullarton street to the northern limit of Mr. James James property.

4. That the petition of Wm. Morris and others to construct a sewer on Becher street at their own expense be referred to the committee granted towards the cost, provided the parties allowed the city to connect any gullyholes desired.

5. Progress reported on the petition of Thos. E. White, et al., re sewer in Hamilton street.

In connection with clause 4, Ald. W. W. Fitzgerald asked if it were advisable to run the sewer into the river with the judgment of the courts hanging over the city.

Ald. Judd said it was a drain and not a sewer desired.

The whole report passed without amendment.

NUMBER ONE COMMITTEE.

By Ald. Spencer, chairman:

gentlemen around the Board to give an opinion.

Ald. Ivey's amendment carried and the rest of the report was adopted.

Ald. Taylor asked why it was the market had not been cleared as per contract.

Ald. F. J. Fitzgerald said the contractor, Donohue, was doing his work all right.

Ald. Wynnott wanted to know when the extra lights were to begin operations.

Ald. Connor moved a drain be constructed, to take off the water in the South London fire hall. The building was being damaged. Referred to No. 2 to call for tenders.

A bylaw for street watering was passed, and another providing for the abolition of market huckstering laid over on account of Ald. O'Meara's objection.

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

Toronto, April 20.—The Attorney-General introduced a resolution, which was passed unanimously, in favor of paying to the widow of the late Mr. J. D. Hunter, member for South Grey, the full seasonal indemnity, to which he would have been entitled had he lived. This, the Attorney-General explained, was in accordance with many precedents at various times since Confederation.

Mr. Monk applied for a return showing the number of children said to be under the age of 15 tried before any court in the Province during the year, the number who were tried separately from other offenders as provided by the act for the protection of neglected children, and the number sent to the jail, industrial schools and the reformatory respectively. This motion was passed without comment.

Among the notices of motion allowed to stand was that of Mr. Campbell, of Durham, favoring an appeal to the throne for such amendments to the British North America Act as would place education absolutely under control of the Province. The object is understood to be to allow the Province to abolish Separate Schools should the people desire to do so.

Mr. Barr's bill providing for the printing and distribution of the accounts of each public school, was supported in a brief speech by the mover, but the Minister of Education pointed out that the present law provided for the publication of the accounts, but that the plan proposed would entail unnecessary expense. The measure was allowed to stand.

When Mr. Tait's bill to amend the assessment law was called there were cries of "explain," and, thus called upon, Toronto's junior member rose to say what the measure was about. The bill was perfectly plain to allow municipalities to assess improvements at 50 per cent. of their value instead of at their full value, as at present. The law is in force in British Columbia and had been adopted by Victoria, where it was said to work satisfactorily.

Mr. Hardy characterized the bill as a radical one, and said he did not think the country was ready to adopt the single tax idea or to go half way on the road to it. He saw disadvantages in breaking in upon the uniformity of the system, and thought, as no doubt the honorable member had accomplished his object in bringing the matter before the attention of the House, he would suggest its withdrawal.

Mr. Tait pointed out that under all assessment laws there were inequalities. At present the large buildings were apt to be assessed at less than their value, while the small dwelling was taxed to the full extent. He saw no reason why the municipalities should not have the power to decide each for itself in such matters as this, and added that he had no doubt that the principle of the measure would be one day receive the approval of the House, but in the meantime he would suggest its withdrawal.

Mr. Whitney made a strong speech for his bill to amend the Election Act. The general purpose of the bill is to make the punishment of corruption in elections more severe than at present. Instead of a fine or imprisonment for the offence of a fine, or both, the bill makes imprisonment a necessary consequence of conviction, the fine being inflicted also. It is provided also that the county crown attorney shall attend elections trials and prosecute guilty parties summarily, the present means of reaching corruptionists by trial in the ordinary way being still retained.

Mr. Mowat at once candidly stated that the bill could not be accepted by the Government, the reason being that they feared that it would be injurious rather than beneficial. Corrupt practices in elections could not be too strongly condemned; the Government stood ready to adopt any means which would put an end to them. The difficulty was in proving that there had been wrongdoing. Witnesses hesitated to give evidence to convict where they felt that the result would be a very severe punishment. Thus there was danger that the bill would defeat the very object it was intended to promote. The Government, he said, had done a good deal in giving the judges power to act in these cases without due into it some provision that may accomplish something more than the present laws do to prevent corrupt practices in the future, but so far as we can form a judgment from experience we do not think that the amendment of my honorable friend will have the effect he desires.

Mr. Meredith supported the bill in a vigorous speech, in the course of which he contended that there was not more corruption in Dominion than in Provincial affairs.

Mr. Hardy pointed to the comparative purity of the recent Provincial general election as shown by the few petitions and as very few cases of corruption proven, as rather weakening the argument in favor of the bill. He pointed to the danger of witness screening wrong-doers from severe punishment, and dwelt upon the fact that the very Dominion law to which Mr. Whitney had referred very few prosecutions had taken place. In reply to Mr. Meredith, he said there was no reason to suppose that merely making the punishment heavier would lead to the prosecution of bribers more than under the present law.

Mr. Wood (Hastings) was of the opinion that usually the candidate with the most money would be the winner.

Mr. Whitney thought that if the clause imposing a penalty upon the person accepting a bribe were struck out it would help the proof of offences.

Mr. Connor said the worst sort of corrupt practice was intimidation. Mr. Meredith said that perhaps the leader of the remarked that perhaps the leader of the Opposition knew something about such methods. Mr. Meredith denied it, and Mr.

Connor asked him if during the last election he had not made a trip into Algonoma. Mr. Meredith protested it was not true, but when Mr. Connor asked him if he had not traveled to Rat Portage in Mr. Niblock's private car the Opposition leader replied in the affirmative, but denied that there was any significance in it. Mr. Connor said he did not mean to charge anything against Mr. Meredith, but he thought the honorable member might have heard of the open methods adopted by Superintendent Niblock before and on polling day as he traveled through that country in his private car.

The House was divided on the bill. The division resulted in the defeat of the bill in a depleted House by a vote of 22 to 25. Mr. Campbell, of Durham, voted for it, and on the Government's side Mr. Balfour stood up in its support.

Mr. Meredith moved the second reading of his bill extending to companies chartered under the Ontario Joint Stock Companies Letters Patent Act under Federal legislation or by any Provincial authority the power to act as trustees for the act respecting trustees and executors and the administration of estates. The Attorney-General declared that he and his colleagues were not prepared to take the responsibility which the bill sought to put upon them to keep out foreign companies.

The debate was adjourned.

Mr. Avey brought in an amendment to the General Road Companies Act to-day. The first clause gives the power to cut down underbrush. The second allows companies to mortgage their plant and stock for the construction of roads.

SARNIA ASSIZES.

An Interesting "Branch of Promise" Suit—No Prisoners in Jail.

SARNIA, April 20.—The Assizes opened here this afternoon, Hon. Justice Falconbridge presiding. There being no prisoners in jail, the sheriff, following the time-honored custom, presented his lordship with a pair of white kid gloves.

Early in the forenoon Mr. Wm. M. S. Chesney, an action for breach of promise of marriage, was the first case tried. The parties reside in the township of Adelaide, Middlesex. Plaintiff is a handsome, attractive young lady, and the defendant is a well-to-do young farmer. In 1888, Mr. Osler for the plaintiff stated, a young man in the neighborhood was paying attention to the plaintiff with a view to marriage when defendant began to be attentive to the plaintiff in such a way that his rival ceased to visit the plaintiff. Shortly after, under a promise of marriage, Mr. Osler alleged, defendant seduced the plaintiff, which seduction resulted in the birth of a child. Plaintiff's father then sued defendant for the seduction of his daughter, and received a judgment. The present action was for breach of promise and for the maintenance of the child.

The plaintiff in her evidence related her story substantially the same as set forth in Mr. Osler's opening address. She stated that the defendant had asked her to marry him two or three times before she consented. Defendant pictured to her a brilliant future and told her about the nice home they were going to have, and she began to prepare her trousseau.

On cross-examination Mr. Lester asked the plaintiff why it was she jilted her first lover, G. Munro, who was a very handsome, affable fellow, and why she took as her defendant, a man who was a poor, uneducated, and who had no money, and she added, "He told me he liked me so much." Plaintiff thought it was a good marriage, but never told anyone of her engagement but her father.

Duncan Hendricks, father of plaintiff, corroborated the evidence of his daughter. He said that she was a certain, and defendant apologized to witness for coming so often, but explained by saying that they were engaged to be married in the fall.

Gill Murray, the deceased lover, testified that he had been paying attentions to plaintiff for about a year, when he overheard a conversation between the plaintiff and defendant, and he dropped the plaintiff. Plaintiff said she would think about it, whereupon witness said, "No need of thinking about it at all. We were engaged to be married. I won't play second fiddle to any man." Witness added, "I did quit." On cross-examination, witness admitted that he had been paying attentions to plaintiff for about a year, had taken her out driving and took her to Stratford to see her aunt. Witness also stated that plaintiff was considered a good catch, and that her father was considered worth \$15,000. When asked if he did not want to get some of that \$15,000, witness replied that might be it.

Mr. Stephens, of Strathroy, plaintiff's aunt, testified that plaintiff and defendant had acted like lovers at her house. Plaintiff never told her of her engagement, but witness said, "I don't think it was necessary. I could see that for myself."

Defendant denied having ever promised to marry plaintiff and swore positively that he had never given plaintiff any promise of marriage. He said that he had never seen plaintiff since he had broken off the engagement, and that he had never seen her since.

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