

BOARD OF TRADE WRITES MAJOR URGING THE CONSIDERATION OF OUTSIDE ENGINEERS FOR PLACE

President Foster Also Interviews Ald. Kelley—What Chairman of Reform Committee Has to Say—Belief in Many Quarters That Proposed Reforms Will Fizzle Out—Who the Different Aldermen Favored.

Speculation as to the probable end of the reform movement is rife with the opinion steadily becoming more general that nothing is to be accomplished of any magnitude and that the agitation will simmer down for the time at least to a re-statement of the old order of things. The debate is not without its interesting features.

BOARD OF TRADE WRITES.

Yesterday his worship the mayor was in receipt of a communication from the council of the Board of Trade urging that time be taken in the appointment of a city engineer and protesting that the outside applications be considered in the making of a final decision. It is also learned that W. Foster, president of the Board of Trade, interviewed Ald. Kelley, chairman of the reorganization committee in the matter. He was told that Ald. Kelley had advocated the appointment of Mr. Blanchard, assistant city engineer of Toronto, and that it was only that some decision in the matter might be arrived at that he had consented to give way.

To the Sun last night Ald. Kelley spoke of the now much maligned recommendation and of the Board of Trade's action of yesterday in communicating with the mayor. He stated that if the Board of Trade had wanted to accomplish anything they had only to uphold his hand in the matter of Blanchard's appointment. They knew of it, for he had discussed the application with members of the board on several occasions. As it was known that the Board of Trade had been in favor of the Halifax man, Johnson, Baxter of Eglar, Elkin of Wileston and Baskin of Eglar, and out of all this it had been impossible to arrive at anything definite. Had the Board of Trade been able to suggest a man, which they had not, which they urged the appointment of an outside man, instead of remaining apathetic and indifferent to the outcome, they might have approached the council with some sense in the advocacy of a man other than Eglar. As it was they had only succeeded in blocking the reform movement and it is to be expected that they will now to criticize the work of the committee chiefly active in its prosecution.

It is understood that the committee finally comes up for disposal at the director until the 1st of February next. The following important recommendation was also approved after considerable discussion. Ald. Prink stoutly opposing the proposition on the grounds that in the light of past experience the city could ill afford to lease its harbor holdings.

Your board has had under consideration a communication from Francis Kerr, asking that the city, in view of the opinion of the recorder that the city cannot grant a lease or portion of the Sydney Market wharf, as ordered by this council on the 6th day of January last, will grant him a lease of lots Nos. 3 and 4 in Block A, fronting on Charlotte street extension instead thereof, and they recommend that a lease be given to Mr. Kerr of the said wharf for a term of ten years from the first day of May next, the said lots having a front of 150 feet on the street extension and running back to a prolongation southerly of the western line of the Sydney Market wharf as recently widened, the rent to be the same as that offered in the order above mentioned and lease to be on the new form with covenant to renew by the term, and also to contain a special covenant that the city may purchase the improvements and buildings at any time at appraised value upon giving six months' previous notice.

The Board of Public Safety reported recommending that policemen be granted full pay during absence through sickness.

NOT IN FAVOR OF IT.

Ald. Vanwart stated that he was not in favor of this recommendation and it was sent back for further consideration. The matter of placing additional lights at Reed's Point and in Carleton was also referred back. The communication of John M. Jenkins asking for the appointment of chief of the fire department was ordered laid on the table.

MET AT 3 O'CLOCK.

The council met at 3 o'clock. The mayor and all the aldermen were present with the exception of Ald. Christie.

The first matter taken up was the report of the Treasury Board. In moving its adoption Ald. Baxter dwelt at length upon the showing of last year, a detailed account of which will be found elsewhere. The report was read section by section and adopted as read. In order that the work of the city might be carried out until the appropriations for the present year are expended in advance and to arrange for the necessary funds, namely:

Streets department.....\$15,000
Fire department.....14,000
Police department.....10,000
Lamp department.....10,000
Salvage corps department.....500

In all.....\$53,500

The Board of Public Works reported the appointment of Hurd Peters as

hands of the city council Ald. Prink will come out in favor of keeping intact the identity of the Water and Sewerage Board and that he will urge that it be not combined with the other departments. He will, moreover, advocate the retention of Wm. Murdoch's services as director.

This is thought will most likely result in the death of the reform movement for the present year and that the chief duties of the newly created city engineer will centre round about the administration of the Board of Public Works.

COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The following is the report of the reform committee to be submitted at Wednesday's meeting of the Common Council:

1. Your committee recommended that the Common Council appoint a city engineer who shall hold office during the pleasure of the council.
2. That such engineer when appointed have charge of the harbor, ferries, streets and water and sewerage services.
3. That such city engineer be also appointed city surveyor under the charter.
4. That such engineer have power of appointment, suspension and dismissal of the subordinate officials employed in the services supervised by him, and that he be held responsible for the efficient performance of all such appointments, suspensions and dismissals to the Common Council from time to time, together with his reasons therefor.
5. That such engineer shall not create any new office without having obtained the sanction of the Common Council therefor.
6. That such city engineer be required to report to the different boards and committees of the city.
7. That Wm. D. Eglar, C.E., be appointed city engineer at annual salary of \$2,500, to hold office during the pleasure of the Common Council.
8. Your committee recommend that he be granted further time to consider and report on the matter of reorganization, etc.

On motion of Ald. Baxter this was adopted, the matter of dates being left for the further consideration of the board.

Ald. Baskin moved that the date upon which the plebiscite be held be fixed as that of the civic election.

Ald. Holder seconded the motion.

Ald. McClelland thought that the recorder's opinion should be obtained in the matter. He held that certain legal technicalities were involved and he considered it unwise for the city to proceed without a clear conception of the act's meaning. Personally he was in favor of the plebiscite, but he did not think that the council should be asked to decide whether or not the city could fix the date of civic election as that upon which the plebiscite might be held.

SHOULD BE APPEALED TO.

Ald. Prink in seconding the amendment, stated that by reason of there being a legal question involved, the recorder should be appealed to. Again, he thought that it was up to no one to say that the recorder was so corrupt as to allow this to enter into any decision that he might make.

however, that a satisfactory opinion be obtained and that no one interested in the matter should move an amendment to the amendment that Mr. Teed be retained as assistant counsel.

Ald. Elkin held that the council was alone competent to deal in the matter. Ald. Pickett thought it was the duty of the city to stand by the recorder. He thought that it was up to no one to say that the recorder was so corrupt as to allow this to enter into any decision that he might make.

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The amendment was then put and carried. Ald. Elkin, Holder, McGowan, Kelley and Baskin voting against.

EXPECTED HAPPENS; COUNCIL REFERS IT TO THE RECORDER

Stuck on a Phrase in the Act, Council Dare Not Decide on Date for Holding Plebiscite and Refers the Ponderous Question to the Recorder—A Neat Way of Dodging Issue, Say Some.

As generally anticipated the Common Council, acting in the matter of determining a date for the holding of a local option plebiscite in certain of the wards of the city, has appealed to the recorder for light and guidance.

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The point at issue centres about the phrase "as early as may reasonably be fixed," referring to the date to be set for the holding of the plebiscite in the relation to the fixing of the date.

Yesterday's meeting had been in progress for some time, the adjournment was in sight and it was only a matter of time before the adjournment was in sight and it was only a matter of time before the adjournment was in sight.

Mayor Bullock stated the receipt of the petitions praying for a plebiscite and of the communications received from the temperance party and the Licensed Victuallers' Association.

GROWTH OF SENTIMENT.

Ald. Prink remarked the growth of temperance sentiment throughout the province and stated his belief in its final overthrow of all the obstacles lying within its path.

Ald. Kelley stated that as far as he was concerned his sentiments were all in favor of temperance. The Victuallers' Association had, however, raised a hue and cry, and as there was a legal point involved he did not think the council should be asked to decide whether or not the city could fix the date of civic election as that upon which the plebiscite might be held.

READ THE RESOLUTION.

The common clerk then read the formal resolution providing for the plebiscite, the dates of which, however, had been left to the recorder.

On motion of Ald. Baxter this was adopted, the matter of dates being left for the further consideration of the board.

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Ald. Holder seconded the motion.

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the liquor people possessed rights as citizens, he thought to quite the same extent as those enjoyed by the temperance workers and these should not be ignored much less trampled upon.

Ald. Baskin pointed out that the advantage in the campaign lay with the liquor men. A majority of the electors were required before the ends of the temperance party might be attained. In consequence of this the men who wished to support the liquor interests need only stay at home to accomplish his purpose. In the event of a date being fixed other than that upon which the civic elections were held, the result would be disastrous to the temperance party, as the necessary vote would be unable of being polled.

Ald. Lewis saw in the move to saddle the recorder with the onus of the issue an attempt to frustrate the objects of temperance. He did not know what the option was going to cost, but he did think that in the matter of temperance but one course lay before the council.

Ald. Baxter held that the matter of a secret ballot did not enter into the issue. A man who could not be relied upon to vote the temperance ticket in the event of any public display would find it as difficult to approach the Common Council as the liquor interests. Ald. Baxter thought that the remedy for the temperance people lay not so much in an appeal to the council as to the legislature. Personally he believed that the plebiscite under the terms of the Liquor License Act should be proceeded with at once. He would, however, favor the motion to refer the question to the recorder.

In bringing down the report of the Treasury Board at yesterday's meeting of the Common Council Ald. Baxter stated that but two-thirds of the tax levy was controlled by the Common Council. He also remarked that within 8-1/4 per cent. of the amount of the levy had been collected during the year.

much general satisfaction as it is possible to give in the distribution of a large levy over a small and comparatively poor city which has for years been devoting its energies to the development and equipment of a winter post—a work which I am glad to say is now apparently to cease so far as the local taxpayers are concerned.

Of the tax rate of \$1.86 the following items are absolutely uncontrollable by the Common Council:

County percentage	\$0.38
Debt interest	0.85
Schools	0.38
Slaughter houses	0.05
Libraries	0.03
1907 and arrears	\$2,648.34
Partial balances	4,019.48
Total	\$53,505.48

A total of \$53,505.48 or within 8-1/4 per cent. of the amount of the levy, the best record ever made in the chamberlain's office. This, in the face of the lightness of the money market and the readiness of the pay as to slowness of collections, reflects the highest credit upon the chamberlain and his efficient staff. Credit also is due to the present mayor for his efforts while chairman of the Treasury Board to reorganize the system of collection, and I think, perhaps, a word may be said for the members of the Common Council, who at least have not hindered the chamberlain in his efforts to do his duty.

While I do not desire to go into the water and sewerage accounts today, the board may be gratified to learn that the receipts for the year have totalled \$118,575.35. The total receipts from the whole harbor have amounted to \$82,327.77. The ferry has been kept almost square with the assistance of about \$7,000 taxation, and the only accounts which show any falling off are the receipts from the police court and from licenses.

ROME, Jan. 11.—General Marza, the commander at Messina, in a dispatch to Premier Giolitti, said that another man had been extricated alive from the ruins and that he had ordered that the excavating be continued until hope no longer remained of saving the victims.

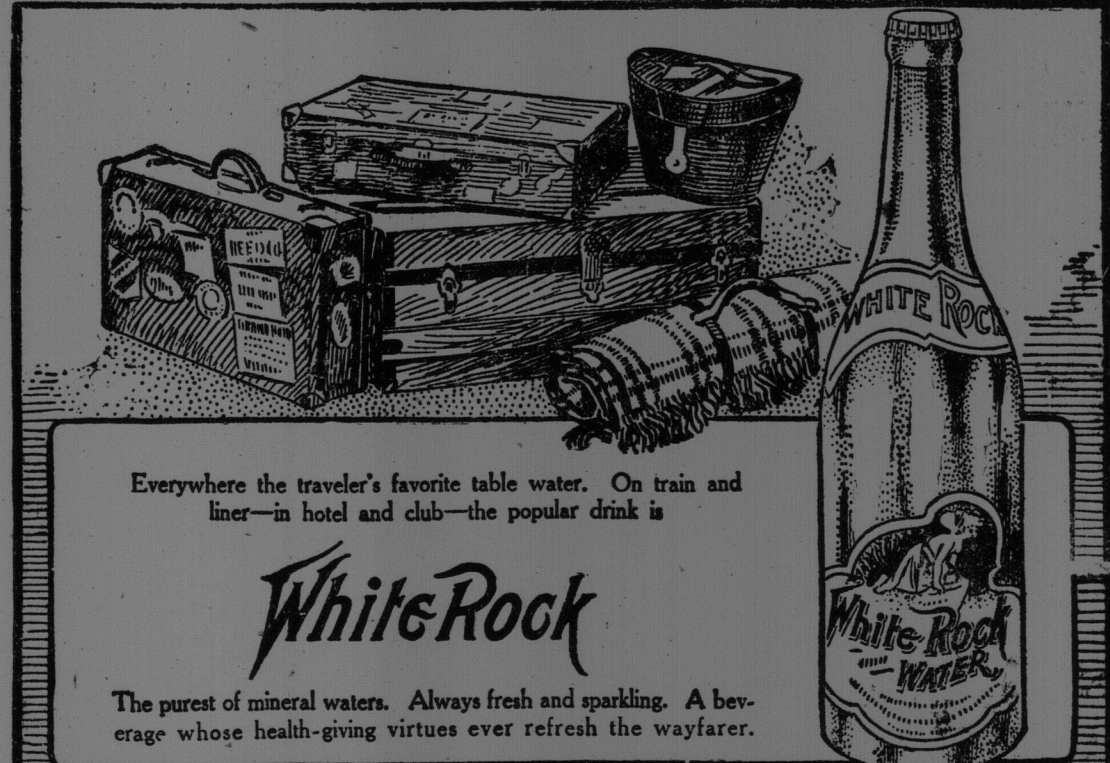
SEATTLE, Wn., Jan. 11.—Reports of a slight earthquake shock came to-night from Vancouver, Victoria, Tacoma, and Bellingham. The same shock was felt here at 3:44 o'clock and lasted several seconds. No damage was done, but persons rushed from buildings.

AT BELLINGHAM.

BELLINGHAM, Wn., Jan. 11.—Bellingham was shaken by an earthquake at 3:45 o'clock this afternoon. Buildings in all parts of the town were jarred, but no damage was done.

People rushed into the streets. The duration of the shock was about ten seconds. Brick buildings were so badly shaken that the plaster fell to the floor and there was a panic. Only one accident was put on foot.

VICTORIA, B. C., Jan. 11.—Considerable excitement was caused here at four o'clock this afternoon by a supposed shock of earthquake. Walls of buildings wavered and rocked. Excitement in the business section was keen.



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COUNCIL CONTROLS ONLY ONE-THIRD OF THE TAX LEVY

Statement Made at Meeting by Ald. Baxter—Within 8-3/4 Per Cent of Amount of Levy Collected During Year, Making Record for Chamberlain's Office.

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