

ALDERMANIC BUBBLES.



HE proceedings at the last meeting of the Council Board were of more than usual interest, owing to the fact that the Street Railway matter was expected to come up, though it didn't. "Is the Street Railway report coming up to-night?" asked an anxious enquirer of Mayor Clarke.

"I really cannot say,"

was the answer.

"And suppose it does, how do you think it will go?"

"Well, said the Mayor, reflectively, "you see that very largely depends upon how the aldermen vote on the question."

"But suppose the vote were a tie?" persisted the questioner, with singular want of tact.

"Ah, a tie? Well, you see, a tie in voting is much different from any other kind of a tie."

"How so?"

"Because it doesn't bind anybody. — See? Excuse me." And he bowed with his customary affability and turned away to discuss municipal reorganization with Ald. Macdougall.

"I don't wonder Mayor Clarke is popular—he is so urbane," said a looker-on to John Armstrong, who was at his post representing the Trades and Labor Council.

"That's so," replied John. "He's the most urbane man I ever knew—excepting one."



"And who was that?"

"Who? Why, Urbain Lafontaine, President of the Dominion Labor Congress."

And then the City Clerk cried "Order! Order!" and the Mayor made his triumphal entry.

Ald. Macdougall introduced his scheme for civic reconstruction, according to which the city will be

divided into four districts in place of the present wards, and the number of aldermen will be reduced to twenty-four.

Ald. Macdougall—

"I've a little scheme for civic reconstruction, Which carefully I've thought over and planned,

It needs from me no lengthy introduction,

You can master all the points of it off-hand;

To save our civic system from debasement

And purify municipal affairs, We must some of us consent to self-effacement,

And relinquish quite contentedly our chairs.

"Don't gasp and look amazed as though I'd hurt you,—

Don't gaze at me in such a tone of voice!



I am sure we only seek the public good,
If to sacrifice ourselves we are requested,
It certainly appears to me we should.
The Council is too large there's no denying,
I merely state a long-admitted fact—
So on your public spirit I'm relying
To expedite the *hari-kari* act.

Ald. Saunders introduced a bill to regulate the planting of shade trees on boulevards, excluding the chestnut and mountain ash.

ALD. HALLAM—"I say, Mr. Mayor, that I can bring authority to prove that the tree question has been entirely misunderstood. The tulip tree and the Norway maple ought to be grown. William Cobbett, the great English writer, says—"

ALD. McMULLEN—"He ought to be good authority on trees. He was accused of treas-on, wasn't he?"

ALD. HALLAM—"Cobbett, the great authority, says that a tree—"

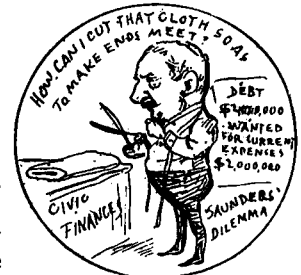


The by-law to set aside the alleged jail farm—the "alleged" applies to the farm, not to the jail—came up, and there was a long wrangle over it.

ALD. PETER MACDONALD—"Put it through. What do we make from the jail farm? Only a hundred dollars a year by growing potatoes. They are no good—they are all rotten. It is a small potato business, in fact. The people want the farm for a park. I claim, sir, that a park is paramount to potatoes. Man, sir, has higher ideals, nobler vistas of future glory and usefulness than potatoes, especially, sir, when those potatoes are a very inferior production. What, sir, is the cause of the misery and depression of my native—beg pardon, I forgot I

ALD. SHAW—"Cobbett don't go! We can't have the chestnuts. Why, the boys are always throwing up stones to bring down chestnuts, when they might get them far more easily by reading the *Telegram*."

Ald. Leslie put in a good word for the chestnuts and mountain ashes, and the clause excluding them was eliminated.



You know self-abnegation is a virtue,
For a chance to practise which you should rejoice.
And those who from these halls my scheme will banish,
While the rest will gather here and draw their pay,
Should serenely make their bow and promptly vanish,
For they'll serve the city's interests that way.

"I am sure that we are all disinterested,