

# ALDERMEN AFFIRM THAT THERE WAS NO

## Chair Deal Loomed Large at Meeting Last Night - Some Hot Moments in Discussion - Most Every Alderman Engaged in Debate - Mr. J. L. Tickell's Attitude - Ald. Robinson's Resolution Goes Over to Next Meeting.

"That charges having been made in the Belleville newspapers that the tender for chairs for the city hall appeared unfair treatment therefore that His Honor Judge Will be requested to investigate the same under the provisions of Section 248, Chapter 192, R.S.O., 1914, of the Municipal Act, providing that the cost of said investigation be not more than one hundred dollars."

This resolution moved by Ald. Robinson and seconded by Ald. Parks last night was the curtain raiser to the biggest sensation which has disturbed the quiet city council of Belleville for a long time. Suggestions of graft and irregularity were flung into the air and council battled with the city hall chair problem until 11.30 o'clock when the resolution was finally laid over for two weeks because of the absence of Mayor Ketcheson. Mr. Joseph L. Tickell, the writer of some letters which had appeared in the press, was present with a stenographer and was invited within the council hall. When vote was asked for permission to introduce the motion, Ald. Smith objected because he believed Mayor Ketcheson should be present when the fiery subject was to be discussed. But the vote was sufficient to allow the introduction of the motion and then discussion opened.

Ald. Parks said he had been insulted on the street by a citizen who asked him if he had been bought off with part of the "graft." "Why did not ex-Ald. Duckworth stay and explain four weeks ago when he was at council meeting?"

Acting Mayor Woodley said "I cannot answer for another man," and then read the following statement: "Neither Mayor Ketcheson nor Ald. Smith tried to influence improperly either directly or indirectly to the slightest extent, the action of the Market and City Property Committee in regard to the purchase of chairs for the city hall."

"The transaction was made in perfect good faith with a view to the best interests of the city. If an error was made which in our opinion is still open to question, it was due to ex-Ald. Duckworth's misinterpretation of the tender of Messrs. Tickell & Sons' Company who quoted four prices ranging from \$1.35 to

Ald. Smith "There was no committee on chairs."

Ald. Woodley "I think it foolish to spend \$100 to ferret out something where nothing wrong was done. If anything is amiss, it was done by mistake."

Mr. Tickell read a letter that the chairs were placed on order by the Dominion Bedding Company. He referred to the dispute between himself and the mayor on Bridge street, when he alleged the mayor got "hot under the collar." The mayor declared no one in the council made a cent. "If that was so, who did? asked Mr. Tickell. "I still ask, who got the profit on the chairs. Why were they bought at \$1.50. "I asked the mayor why he did not put the order through the Thompson Kanauch Cabinet Company at \$1.35. He said he did not care. The mayor suggested an investigation. "An investigation by whom, by you?" Mr. Tickell asked "What chance would I stand?"

"What would satisfy you?" asked Ald. Platt. Mr. Tickell—"The profit over and above our tender to be donated to charity and an admission of error. The other profit should be also turned over because of alleged irregularity."

Acting Mayor Woodley suggested that if any charges were to be made that they be put in writing by Mr. Tickell. "I have no cards to show," said Ald. Smith, "I did not see Mr. Tickell's tender until after the New Year. I did not endeavor to put any interpretation on the tender trusting to Ald. Duckworth who read it at \$1.55. I did not even read the tender, I believe no one else read it. We feel confident the transaction was made in perfect good faith."

Alderman Deacon declared it was a serious thing to accuse any of the council of graft. At the said committee meeting ex-Ald. Duckworth was heard to say "It would be quite a saving," He said about \$30. We did not pay much attention, as we were some distance from him. The purchase was left to Ald. Duckworth. Last year the council spent nearly \$300,000. This is the first accusation. The trouble started with talk of graft. An alderman knew there was going to be something wrong, yet the white wings did not want to be tarnished. What is an alderman for, but to look after the people's interest and stop anything that looks like graft instead of running away.

"I could not read that tender intelligently, without seeing a chair. Ald. Duckworth said we were going to save money. Mr. Tickell—"Is it not up to the aldermen to know what they are doing?" At this juncture a remark was made which resulted, after a few minutes in an apology, which Acting Mayor Woodley demanded on threat of closing the discussion.

Ald. Deacon said when furniture dealers disagreed over the values and descriptions of chairs, how about an alderman. Ald. Duckworth's experience was considered and the committee left the matter to him.

Mr. Tickell—"You know that chair, Ald. Smith, was bought from the North-American Bent Chair Company for 90c. Do you know it? The mayor is a member of the T. K. K. K. Company and if that company got \$32.00 it should be returned. Acting Mayor Woodley—"I believe the entire council is clear. If Ald. Duckworth made a mistake he did it without intent. He was the most watchful member of the council."

Ald. Parks moved an amendment that the proper authorities ask those who benefitted to present a cheque to the bank for the profit. The Mayor, said Ald. Woodley, is a member of the T. K. K. K. Co., Ltd. and this firm can deal with the city. "If you think you can, unseat the Mayor and Ald. Smith, you are much mistaken."

Ald. Robinson said the council was ready to wink at \$83 but grumbled at \$100 for an investigation, which would clear the air. "The zigzag course has not been shown up tonight."

Ald. Woodley thought he knew where the money was. Ald. Parks—"Are other people going to tender in future and be hoodwinked?" Ald. Marshall—"It is only a matter of \$22.50. The rest is legitimate profit."

Mr. Tickell—"If the city cannot afford the \$100, I'll pay it. But I wish to have the matter put before the public."

Ald. Deacon—"I don't like to see the council act without the Mayor. He will have something to say." Ald. Robinson—"The Mayor has not been accused."

Ald. Deacon—"He has not." It is not British fair play to accuse his worship. There is a lot of grand stand play here tonight by those gentlemen who could not be elected by the people. We do not want to

# PLANS FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Report on Overhead Bridge Plan Presented - Problem of Employing Water-works Manager.

At the City Council last evening the Special Committee re. the contract for horses for the fire department reported as follows: At present this contract calls for an expenditure of \$2,056.00 per annum for the use of six (6) horses only. The drivers in the fire department assume the duties of looking after the horses.

This committee would recommend that the city purchase at once four (4) horses at a price to be agreed upon. One (1) fully equipped motor fire truck, 1 1/2 tons capacity with chemical equipment, to cost not more than \$3,500.00.

We would also recommend that the auxiliary firemen be reduced from ten (10) to five (5) men, at an annual salary of \$75.00 each. That the duties of the fire chief and assistant fire chief be defined, and embodied in the bylaws employing them.

The purchase of the horses and motor fire truck will entail a capital expenditure of about \$4,000.00. The annual charges for same would be: Upkeep of four (4) horses 600.00 Interest 6 per cent. 240.00 Expense of maintaining truck 150.00

Annual saving over present contract for horses 1066.00 Saving in auxiliary firemen 825.00 Making a total of \$1891.00

The above recommendations have been arrived at after careful consideration and after consulting the fire chiefs of Peterborough and Lindsay. We feel the city would have a much improved equipment and without weakening the efficiency of the department.

A complaint was received regarding water backing up at No. 18 West Bridge Street.—Referred. The Special Committee to report on the proposed new overhead bridge over the G. T. R. tracks at North Front street reported that the plan calls for a 22 ft. 6 in. overhead way from the base of rail, being 3 ft. 1 in. above present overheadway. This will raise the grade 2 feet. The driveway will be 20 feet in the clear and the sidewalk 6 ft. in clear which would be in our judgment, ample room.

"What you want to consider is the raise and grade and the building of the approach to the bridge to the satisfaction of the city and also whether it will be advisable to build a walk on the west side of the bridge. If this side should build up north of the bridge, it will be very unhandy without one being placed there. The grading of the approach to the bridge on both sides shall be under the supervision of the street surveyor."

Ald. Parks suggested that the city at the time of the grading fill a pitch hole in which the snow drifts in winter over the sidewalk and have the sidewalk built on the same grade as the roadway.

Ald. Whelan—"How would the property adjacent be affected?" Ald. Woodley—"That can be considered when the bridge is built."

Ald. Whelan—"The bridge perhaps should be wider because of the increase in the grade, 5 per cent. on the north side and over 8 per cent. on the south."

Ald. Parks thought another sidewalk could be put on the west side. The extra expense would not be great.

It was finally decided to add to the report that on both sides of the bridge there be walks.

The report was filed. A complaint was read regarding water flooding Mr. Peter Cote's property. The chairman of public works said the water was undoubtedly unable to drain off because of the high water in the bay. Mr. Cote's premises are at 51 South George street.

Ald. Deacon and Ald. Marshall sponsored a motion to reappoint Mr. J. W. Evans as manager of water-works at the salary of \$50 per month. After discussion by Ald. Robinson the matter was laid over until Friday evening's special committee on salaries. Ald. Deacon said Mr. Evans had amended an account for \$150.00 to \$75.00. Ald. Deacon urged the great responsibility required to manage a \$300,000 plant like the water department.

Ald. St. Charles, Woodley and Parks were appointed a committee to secure prices on new suits for firemen. The committee reports were all adopted.

Ald. Woodley was acting mayor in the absence of Mayor Ketcheson.

# MARRIED.

JOHNSON—MORTON. In Belleville on March 3 by Rev. Canon Beamish Private James Johnson of 236th Battalion and Miss Gladys Morton were quietly married and will reside in Ottawa.

# CARD OF THANKS.

Mrs. J. M. Finkle and family wish to thank their many friends and neighbors for their many kindnesses shown and tokens of sincere sympathy extended them at the time of their sad bereavement.

# DEATH OF ROBT. STEVENSON, JR.

Mr. Robt. Stevenson, jr., son of Mr. Robert Stevenson, West Bridge street, died suddenly in Toronto on Sunday. He was born in Belleville. The remains will arrive here at 4.55 this afternoon.

# COUNCIL'S REGRET

Last evening the city council unanimously passed the following resolution of Ald. Smith and Ald. Platt:

"That this council having heard with deep regret that Lieut. D. V. Ketcheson has been severely wounded, hereby record its expression of sympathy with the Mayor and his family and hope for a speedy recovery of his valiant son."

# DIED.

STEVENSON—In Toronto on Sunday March 4th, 1917, Robert Stevenson, jr.

CHARLES BIRCH WOUNDED Charles Birch of Trenton is today reported wounded.

# DEATH OF MRS. MARY ELLIOTT

## Well Known Tweed Lady Passed Away This Morning After Two Weeks' Illness

Mrs. Mary Elliott widow of John Elliott, deceased, of Tweed, died this morning after an illness of about two weeks' duration. Mrs. Elliott before her marriage was Miss Mary Morton, daughter of the late Thos. Morton of Thomasburg, and was born in Huntingdon about 60 years ago. About 32 years ago she was united in marriage to Mr. John Elliott who predeceased her 5 years ago. She leaves two sons to mourn her loss, Clarence F. at home, and James E., of Humbolt, Sask. Four brothers and two sisters, also survive, Jas. Morton, of Moosomin, Saskatchewan, Wesley and R. A. Morton of Thomasburg and G. Allen Morton, Everett St., Belleville and Mrs. Jas. Brown and Miss Phoebe of Thomasburg.

Mrs. Elliott was of a particularly amiable disposition and was held in the highest esteem by all who knew her. She was a faithful member of the Methodist church and always took a deep interest in all religious activity. She will be greatly missed by a large circle of friends and neighbors who always found in her a kind and sincere friend.

The funeral will be held on Thursday afternoon at 2 p.m. from the family residence. The Ontario joins with a large circle of friends in extending sympathy to those who are left to mourn her loss.

**RITCHIE'S MEN'S STORE**

**RITCHIE'S FOR MEN'S TWEED TROUSERS**

We are now showing a large and complete stock of Men's Tweed and Worsted Trousers, the qualities that are very hard to obtain today. All sizes and some very special at

**\$3.50 & \$3.75**

Men's Fine striped and plain Grey Worsted Trousers, special at **\$4.50**

Men's plain Blue Serge Trousers, some extra special values at **\$4.50**

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The Store That Sells Society Brand Clothes

# FOUND DEAD BY RAILWAY TRACK

David Calvert of Crookston, C. P. R. Sectionman Perished in Yesterday's Storm

(Special to The Ontario) Crookston, March 6.—David Calvert, a well known resident of this village, a sectionman on the C.P.R. was found dead this morning along the track at Buller's siding, about midway between Crookston and Tweed. He left his home in Crookston yesterday morning at seven o'clock and was not afterwards seen alive. Apparently he went down along the track to see that everything was right, as was his custom. Last night he did not return but it was thought he had gone to spend the night at some friends owing to the storm. This morning a search party went out and discovered his body as related above. It is not as yet known whether death was due to heart failure, exhaustion in the storm or to being struck by a train. The body is being removed to the undertaking rooms at Tweed, where an inquest will be held.

Decased is survived by a wife and two children. He is a native of Huntingdon and was born in the Fuller neighborhood about forty years ago. He was greatly respected by all who knew him.

# BELLEVILLE CASUALTIES

No. 636,756 Acting Sergeant Chas. N. Aeselstein, 70 Great St. James street, Belleville, who was yesterday reported as having died of illness, is the first Belleville man of the 155th battalion about forty years ago. He was greatly respected by all who knew him.

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**RITCHIE'S LADIES' SUITS THAT ARE WONDERFUL VALUES AT \$20.00**

This special Suit Model is made up of fine Serge, in colors of Black, Brown and Navy. The Suit Coat is pleated at back with large sailor collar, belt and two patch pockets, back of belt and corners of collar being neatly Embroidered with Gold thread. Skirts pleated at sides, with belt at waist. Sizes 16, 18, 36, 38 and 40—exceptional values at \$20.00.

**WE SHOW LADIES' SUITS FROM \$11.95 to \$50.00**

At this low price we show all the latest pleated effects. Made of fine Serges in the Newest Style tendencies, narrow box pleats, collar and cuffs of Cream Flannel, belt and waist trimmed with white Buttons. The colors are Black Navy and Brown, very special at \$15.00.

**Ladies' Serge DRESSES \$15.00**

Others From \$10 to \$20

**Ladies' Black Taffeta SILK SKIRTS Special Value at \$10.50**

Being of Black Taffeta, plain flare style and shirred effect, at top with belt, shirred side pockets trimmed with neat buttons, extra special at \$10.50. Other prices \$10.50, \$12.50, \$13.50 and \$15.00.

Commencing today our Store will remain open until 6 p.m. during the spring months.

**The Ritchie Company Limited**