

THE BATTLE FOR BALLOTS

Lively Meeting at East End Town Hall.

Candidates Go Over Considerable Beaten Ground.

Addresses by Messrs. Parnell, Bartram, Beck, Stevely, McMechan, Wilkey and Others.

"The brave days of old" were recalled in several reports by the meeting held in the East End Town Hall last night for the discussion of municipal questions. In the first place, the lively interest manifested by the ratepayers in the coming election was shown by the large attendance, the seats, which filled the front half of the hall being filled, while a still larger crowd occupied positions around the rear end of the hall. In the second place, some of the characteristics of the old-time meetings were evidenced in the crowd's readiness to find amusement in the speakers' remarks, in a tendency to interrupt the speakers occasionally, and in one or two instances, in a momentary threatening of disorder. On the whole, however, the meeting was a well-behaved one, and none of the speakers had reason to complain of the hearing accorded them.

Those of the audience who had been present at the city hall meeting on the previous night, heard much of the same things gone over, the remarks of most of the speakers who appeared at both meetings being similar in their essentials. This was especially true in the case of Mr. Adam Beck, who introduced practically no new matter, but delivered the same speech that he had read on the previous evening, and the chairman stood up to read a manuscript. During Mr. Parnell's speech, Mr. Beck, apparently nettled by a reference to his connection with the hospital, interrupted Mr. Parnell several times, an action in marked contrast to Mr. Parnell's treatment of Mr. Beck while the latter was speaking. During this interruption a funny scene was presented. Mr. Parnell was speaking at the front of the stage. Mr. Beck came forward beside him to give his side of the dispute to the audience. Mr. Bartram rushed up with a protest that the hour was growing late and he wanted to speak, and the chairman stood up to make peace between the disputants. Standing thus in a row they looked like a village male quartet about to strike a heart-searching barbershop minor in "The Old Oakum Bucket."

After the audience had yelled its delight at the scene, Mr. Parnell was allowed to proceed with his address. The other candidates made characteristic speeches. Mr. Bartram, as usual, referred in uncompromising terms to the city engineer and his judges. Mr. McMechan spoke in a decided manner to ring rule and other abuses at the city hall, and promised to "let a little sunshine in" if elected. Ex-Ald. Douglas carefully avoided any reference to the Christie-Douglas scheme for the acquisition of valuable city property at the ratepayers' expense. Ald. Sam Stevely made one of the best addresses of the evening, giving a brief, clear-cut and straightforward resume of his course in the council and his intentions for the future.

Mr. George Burdick was an efficient chairman. He made a brief speech, and Messrs. Parnell, Bartram, Beck, Stevely, Wilkey, Douglas, Cooper, Mc-

Rae, Dreaney, Park and McMechan took seats upon the platform.

ALD. NEIL COOPER.

Ald. Cooper, on rising, thanked the ratepayers of East London for the support given him at the previous election. He said that any errors made by him during his municipal career had not been intentional. The giving of full control to the city engineer in the matter of civic works had been an unfortunate thing, as it made the election of representatives a farce. He hoped to see on Monday night a council elected who would change that condition of affairs. The council should have control of public works. Ald. Cooper gave instances of applications to the engineer for necessary work to be done, which were met with indifference. In the old days of "ward-grabbing" the citizens at least got something for their money. The hobby of laying permanent walks at great expense to the city had resulted in the sacrifice of good walks which would have lasted for years yet. The extension of the Port Stanley lease, Ald. Cooper considered a mistake. The council had no right to legislate 30 years ahead. In the matter of the city hall bylaw, Ald. Cooper said he was prepared to support its passage. He closed with a promise to do his duty to the city if re-elected.

EX-ALD. DREANEY.

Ex-Ald. Dreaney again presented himself before the electors, and spoke first of the McClary bylaw, saying that if elected he would support it. He believed that the council would have done better if it had passed that deal in the extension of the Port Stanley lease. As on the previous evening, he based his claims on the extension of the lease, and during the past year in the East End. If returned, he would do his best, as he had always done, in the past.

EX-ALD. DOUGLASS.

Ex-Ald. Douglass appeared before the electors for the first time since his defeat in the last mayoralty campaign. Speaking of the late extension, he said that the lease was not finally passed, and could yet be smashed if the right kind of council were elected. He claimed that the Walker had last year backed up the present mayor, and as he did not have money to fight such a corporation, he was defeated. Ex-Ald. Douglass added his quota of "ifs" and "buts" to the McClary assessment bylaw, and said that if the question of exemptions or bonuses came up, he would refer it to the people.

J. C. PARK.

Mr. J. C. Park made his announcement of candidature, and promised to use his vote in the best interests of the city, and would do what he could in the way of giving the city good government. He would favor the McClary assessment.

ALD. SAM STEVELY.

Ald. Sam Stevely well received on coming to the front during his connection with municipal affairs, he said, he had endeavored to help conduct the city's business in an honest, economical and efficient manner. As chairman of No. 3 committee, he had with his colleagues so administered the affairs of that committee as to leave a surplus of \$600. (Applause.) He had no hesitation in saying he had voted for the extension of the Port Stanley lease, and he believed he had never given a vote more in the city's interest. He had no hesitation in saying that while on the basis of last year's rental the receipts for thirteen years would be only \$155,000, under the new lease receipts will be \$227,500 for thirteen, and \$340,000 for seventeen additional years, a total of \$667,500 for 30 years. The probable paralleling of the road by an extension of the Port Stanley lease would depreciate the value of the road. The reduction of freight rates by one-third was certainly a good thing. But the chairman of No. 3 committee said he did not believe in the taxpayers of the present day paying inordinate taxes merely to relieve the ratepayers of 20 years hence from bearing their share of the burden. Some of the speakers who are now talking glumly of giving away franchises were quite willing a few years ago to give away thousands of dollars for a sewage plant, which was absolutely uneeded. While the ratepayers of London East would wish to give a vote to the rep-

resentatives from their own district, the speaker thought they could still have a vote to spare for Sam Stevely. (Applause.)

MR. A. J. MCRAE.

The next speaker was Mr. A. J. McRae, who promised to work for the city as a whole and for no single portion of it. It was a serious situation that now confronted the electors. The tax rate was as high as it could go, and the electors should supply some remedy for it in the form of an independent council. The trouble had been that the council had given away too many of the public franchises. His opinion of the Port Stanley lease was that the city was growing and in the natural order of things the road would be needed. It was now and therefore he was opposed to the extension. If elected, he would endeavor to change the present system of conducting affairs.

MR. M. J. DONOHUE.

Mr. M. J. Donohue also spoke for the first time. He had nothing to say against the members of the present council, but was prepared to vote for the people's interests in a straightforward manner.

MR. J. H. MCMECHAN.

Mr. J. H. McMechan was well received. He drew attention to the difference between his present situation, and that in which he had been when he was elected to the council there in 1875. He announced that he came before the electors biased by no political or party influence, but while he polled a Liberal vote, he was simply an advocate of economy. Economy was always necessary, but the other fellow did it better than now. This was illustrated by the fact that the McClary Company had to come to the people asking for a fixed assessment. The other fellow, however, and Mr. McMechan asked what were they going to do about it? They simply must have patience, he said, and this suggestion to him the name of Job, and that Job's comforters, which he said, were always best when on the other fellow. The big people wanted the taxes on the other fellow. The trading stamp business, he said, was the same. Everybody knew that it was a humbug, but they had to use them because the other fellow did. It was the same with industries. London must be in a position to do what the other fellow did, and, perhaps, go the other way. If London had more economy in its public business, the tax rate would be lower and industries natural-ly would come here. Mr. McMechan then dealt with the details of his platform, as has been published, and presented his arguments in such forceful manner that he was interrupted by a citizen, who shouted:

"I don't believe it."

Mr. McMechan replied that he could produce the man and the money. Afterwards, when concluding, he expressed his dissatisfaction with the settlement of the lease extension question, and moved a resolution stating that in the opinion of the meeting the Port Stanley lease settlement should have been submitted to the people. Ex-Ald. Douglass seconded it, and upon being put, there was a large show of hands in its favor.

DR. ZIEGLER.

Dr. Ziegler, a candidate for re-election on the board of education, referred to the record on the board, and said he thought the work of the board as a whole had been creditable, and had placed the schools of London among the foremost in the province.

MR. ADAM BECK.

Mr. Beck was the first mayoralty candidate to be called upon. He was received with applause from a considerable portion of the audience. As at the meeting on the previous night, he being put, there was a large show of hands in its favor. Mr. Beck said that he had stood him in good stead in his later business life, and if elected as

mayor he knew it would still help him in that capacity. Mr. Beck then went over practically the same ground as he had touched upon at the city hall on the previous night, setting forth the reforms which he claimed to have brought about at the Victoria Hospital, whereby he said the city now effects a saving of about \$100,000 per year. This, he said, had been effected by securing power and light from the London Electric Company, by sinking wells and installing a complete water supply system. Continuing, Mr. Beck said he was in favor of the exercise of wise economy in the administration of city affairs. There would be no needless heavy expenditure incurred. A new city hall had been spoken of, but Mr. Beck said the present city hall was good enough for years to come. Speaking of the waterworks matter, Mr. Beck said that if he was elected mayor, he would take an active interest in the affairs of the commission. Water rates to manufacturers and householders were too high, and should be cut in half, from which Mr. Beck said he did not believe in looking back too much and criticizing what could not be undone. He thought, however, that the extension of the lease should have been submitted to the people. Mr. Beck declared himself in favor of the McClary bylaw, and in favor of encouraging manufacturers to come to London. Mr. Beck spoke also in behalf of Mr. Isaac Waterman, a candidate for election to the hospital trust.

ALD. PARNELL.

Ald. Parnell said that as he sat there he had a great deal to say in this limited time to the important questions now before the public, but he asked for a considerable hearing. He said that he had no objection to the council, he said, he again appealed to the electors for their votes. With the details of this record he dealt briefly. He said that the city was in a very bad way, and that the city council, he said, he again appealed to the electors for their votes. With the details of this record he dealt briefly. He said that the city was in a very bad way, and that the city council, he said, he again appealed to the electors for their votes. With the details of this record he dealt briefly.

He touched upon the question of far macadam payments which he characterized as being of great importance, and concerning which he said that they should not be constructed unless the council was satisfied that they were the right kind of roads. If he were elected it would become his duty to see, if these pavements were put down, that they were of good value for the money spent.

Mr. Parnell dealt exhaustively with the Lake Erie lease matter, and gave a detailed account, similar to his statement previously published, of the reasons why, in his opinion, he did right in voting for the extension. He said that if the city council could pass upon the Lake Erie matter, it could also pass upon the McClary question. The difference was that the council could not put through the McClary bylaw without the expression of the people's opinion upon it. As to the other, Mr. Parnell said that he was not in a position to say whether the motion to submit the McClary proposition to the popular vote. He did not believe that the electors had any right to interfere in the business of the city. He said that he was not in a position to say whether the motion to submit the McClary proposition to the popular vote. He did not believe that the electors had any right to interfere in the business of the city.

MR. A. G. CHISHOLM.

Mr. Chisholm, the last speaker, said he was again asking the electors for their votes to make him an alderman. He said the only valid platform on which he came forward was the advisability of submitting the Port Stanley lease to the electors. He thought no council in its dying days had a right to tie up the city's property for 30 years. The matter is not yet settled, for the legislature's sanction is yet to be obtained, and the new council should ask the legislature to withhold its sanction till the ratepayers had decided upon the lease. Mr. Chisholm said he was not opposing the Walker, but he did not believe in their coming to London with any cut-and-dried agreement, getting all they asked for, and then having the lease to be ripped up, and a bargain made more in the interests of the city. Mr. Chisholm asked for support on this platform, and promised to do his best to carry out the view he expressed. The meeting then closed, having lasted from 8:15 till 10:45.

Mr. Beck had said that the hospital was a jumbo on the city's hands. Who was responsible for this? he asked. Mr. Wilson, his opponent in 1898—who was like Mr. Beck, a wholly inexperienced man. Were the people going to repeat that mistake? he asked—and turn down a man who had served them faithfully for nine years? Would they turn down an old and tried servant for one who had jumped up and said, "want the majority"? He trusted that their sense of right and justice and prudence would forbid it.

MR. W. H. BARTRAM.

Mr. Parnell was followed by Mr. Bartram, who was greeted with cheers. He announced that he was an independent candidate, not put forward by any party, but coming forward as a British subject to represent British subjects. Mr. Bartram thought the alleged con- dition of affairs among the officials of the city hall reflected on the honor of aldermen of the city. Mr. Bartram repeated his claim of the previous evening, that Mr. Beck was disqualified from running because neither his nomination nor his qualification were entered on time. Mr. Bartram warned the electors that the latter gentleman would take steps to make him run the race over again. "The fact is, gentlemen," he said, "Mr. Beck or me to run this city. You need someone to control the city engineer, against whom I have nothing personal, though he has certainly acted in a stupid and absurd manner towards me. The only thing, in fact, I know against Mr. Beck in this campaign is the fact that the city engineer is supporting him." Mr. Bartram then went on to give the judges, the city council and the city officials their proper share of blame, dealing quite impartially with each in the measure of blame meted out. He admitted that he did not expect to "get there," as both "machines" were at work against him, but he thought that all citizens who desired to support an independent man would vote for him. The electors could not go wrong if they elected an entirely new set of men, and he was giving them a chance to elect at least a new mayor.

EX-ALD. J. W. WILKEY.

Ex-Ald. J. W. Wilkey, who followed, presented Ald. Parnell's remarks on the hospital building committee. He laid the blame for the extent of the expenditure on the new hospital on the council, which changed the plans adopted by the committee. Mr. Wilkey gave Mr. Beck credit for making a saving at the hospital, but said his reforms could not have been so easily effected had the hospital building committee not left things in good shape for them. Mr. Wilkey promised to do his best for the city if elected.

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