THE BATTLE FOR BALLOTS

Lively Meeting at East End Town Hall.

Candidates Go Uver Considerable Beaten Ground.

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

"The brave days of old" were recalled In several respects 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 across 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.

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, again reading frequently from his manuscript. During Ald. Parnell's speech, Mr. Beck, apparently nettled by a reference to his connection with the hospital trust, interrupted Ald. Parnell several times, an action in marked contrast to Ald. Parnell's treatment of Mr. Beck while the latter was speaking. During this interrup-tion a funny scene was presented. Ald. 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 barber-shop minor in "The Old Oaken Bucket." After the audience had yelled its de-light at the scene, Ald. Parnell was allowed to proceed with his address.

teristic speeches. Mr. Bartram, as referred in uncomplimentary terms to the city engineer and the cided manner to ring rule and other abuses at the city hall, and promised to "let a little sunshine in" if elected. Ex-Ald. Douglass carefully avoided any reference to the Christie-Douglass scheme for the acquirement of valuable city property at the ratepayers' 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 fu-

The other candidates made charac-

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

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 mat-ter of civic works he considered 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 Mc-Clary bylaw, Ald. Cooper said he was prepared to support its passage. 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 put through that deal instead of the Port Stanley lease. on the previous evening, he based his claim for election upon the lack of re-presentation 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 lease 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 Walkers had last year backed up the present mayor, and as Those of the audience who had been he did not have money to fight such a corporation, he was defeated. Ex-Ald. Douglass added his quota of approval of the McClary assessment bylaw, and said that if the question of exemptions or bonuses again 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 gov-ernment. He would favor the McClary assessment.

ALD. SAM STEVELY.

Ald. Sam Stevely was 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 interests. Ald. Stevely quoted figures to show that, while on the basis of last year's rental the receipts for thirteen years would be only \$156,000, under the new lease the receipts will be \$227,500 for thirteen, and \$340,000 for seventeen additional years, a total of \$567.500 for 30 years. paralleling of the road by an electric line before the end of 30 years would depreciate the value of the road. reduction of freight rates by one-third was certainly a good thing for the citizens of London. Ald. Stevely said he did not believe in the taxpayers of present day paying inordinate taxes merely to relieve the ratepayers of 30 years hence from bearing their share of the burden. Some of the speakers who are now talking glibly of

giving away franchises were quite

thousands of dollars for a sewage

plant, which was absolutely unneeded.

While the ratepayers of London East

willing a few years ago to give away

Rae, 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 in 30 years be worth four times what it now is, 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 was when he came before the people in the East End when he was elected to the council there in 1875. He announced that he came before the people blased 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 was never more necessary than now. This was illustrated by the fact that the McClary Company had to come to the people asking for a fixed assessment. The tax rate was too high, and Mr. McMechan asked what were they going to do about it? They simply must have patience, he said; this suggested 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 them one better. If London had more economy in its public business, the tax rate would be lower and industries naturally would come here. Mr. McMechan then dealt with the details of his platform, as has been published, and presented his arguments in such forceful style that his hearers frequently interrupted him with applause. In one in-stance, while speaking of "milking contractors," he told of a certain shady money transaction, in which an official was involved with a contractor. It was a matter of a note for \$100. Mr. McMechan was interrupted by a cit-

izen, who shouted: "I don't believe it." Mr. McMechan replied that he could produce the man and the note.

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 this 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

DR. ZIEGLER. candidate for retion on the board of education, referred to his record on the board, and said he thought the work of the board as a whole had been creditable, and 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 previous meeting in the city hall on Thursday night, he read the major portion of his speech. Speaking to the workingmen in the audience, he told them that he was himself a mechanic. The practical experience gained during this portion of his career, Mr. Beck said, had stood him in good stead in would wish to give a vote to the rep- his later business life, and if elected as

whereby he said the city now effects a saving of about \$4,000 per year. This, he said, had been effected by securing power and light from the London Electric Company, by sinking wells and in-stalling a complete laundry plant. 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 water-works 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 the city would benefit immensely Speaking of the Port Stanley lease, Mr Beck said he did not believe in looking back too much and criticising what could not now 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 ALD. PARNELL. Ald. Parnell said that as he sat there he felt that he could hardly do justice, in such limited time to the important questions now before the public, but he asked for a considerate hearing. Upon his record of nine years in the council, he said, he again appealed to the electors for their votes. With the details of this record he dealt briefly, going over some of the more striking matters, such as payment for the telephone franchise, the construction of walks and roads, and attempts to reduce the cost of lighting-with which he had been connected most intimate-

He touched upon the question of tar macadam pavements, which he characterized as being of great importance, and concerning which he said that they should not be constructed unless the council was sure 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 the citizens got good value for the money spent.

Mr. Parnell dealt exhaustively with

the Lake Erie lease matter, and gave

a succinct account, similar to statement previously published, of the reasons why, in his opinion, he did right in voting for the extension. He replied to Mr. Beck's contention 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 simply could not put through the McClary bylaw without the expression of the people's opinion upon it. As to the other. the council represented the mortgagees of the road and was put there to attend to their business for them. That was the difference between the two. It was Ald. Parnell who moved the motion to submit the McClary proposition to the popular vote. He this because he believed that all citizens were interested in keeping Mc-Clary's here-owner and tenant alike. The latter paid taxes in an indirect way, and were as deeply concerned in the city's welfare as others, and for every man the right to express an opinion upon a matter that so immediately affected the prosperity The Port Stanlet matter, on the other hand, was largely technical. Those who understood it had not the time, nor had those who might have the inclination to study it, to go into it adequately; but, he said, the people had chosen a council to represent them, to do their business for them, and if anyone said that this council was not fit to vote upon a question placed before it, then it was an insult to the intelligence of London. plause.) To those who said. "Leave this lease business alone—the road will become more valuable," he said that he could not see why any man would say that they should not do what they ald to lessen the taxes of today Why, he asked, should the present generation suffer to the extent of \$5,000 a year for the questionable benefit of future generations, when the council could get this good for the people of the present without detriment to those of the future? It was in the people's interests that the lease had been extended; he had voted for it, he was confident that the good sense of the people living here now would approve of his action, and upon this action he

appealed to them to further support him. (Applause.) Ald. Parnell took exception to Mr. Beck arguing that he should be elected over Ald. Parnell because of the things that Mr. Beck said he had done in connection with Victoria Hospital, and drew attention to the fact that the souncil, which had handed over the hospital in an unfinished state, were responsible for that, not the trust, and it was he (Ald. Parnell) who had op-posed the man whose hobby the hospital was-the man who had built a as snuffs, powders and atomizers fail, because of the inabil- hospital that cost more than twice as much to maintain as the old one. It was not the men who took the hospital over, but the men who had handed the hospital over, whom the people should blame. Mr. Beck had said that any mechanic could have gone down there and discovered the flaws that existed, yet, having done only what any mechanic could have done, he claimed that upon his record there, he should be elected.

he asked him, as a gentleman, to be as courteous to him. Mr. Beck conwas in an uproar, and Mr. Bartram took advantage of the disorder to demand that Ald. Parnell quit, his fifteen minutes having expired. The chairman, Ald. Parnell, Mr. Beck and Mr. shouted lustily to their respective champions. It was beautifully warm in the hall for about two minutes, but waived his objections upon learning that Mr. Beck had spoken for half an hour, and the place once more resumed

its atmosphere of quiet.
"If Mr. Beck did justice to me," continued Ald. Parnell, "he would say that it was Ald. Parnell who got him the money that he needed to complete his schemes." (Applause from Mr. Beck.)

in case he was elected, it would be his duty to attend to all the meetings of that board; to endeavor to see if it was worked on a businesslike basis. and if there were wrongs, to see that they were righted. (Applause.) "I will not endeavor to make out, as Mr. Beck has done, that I am the only man on that board and that I am the only one who accomplished anything, when others were working just as hard," (Appleuse and laughter.)

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.

The next speaker was Mr. A. J. McRAE.

The next speaker was Mr. A. J. McRAE. down a man who had served them faithfully for nine years? turn down an old and tried servant for one who had jumped up and said, "I want the mayoralty"? He trusted that their sense of right and justice and prudence would forbid it.

Mr. Parnell touched briefly upon

other departments of municipal lifethe waterworks and public library— and said that if the people elected him mayor he would devote his energies to their best management. He added that, if the people thought

that Mr. Beck, with his inexperience of municipal knowledge and work, was but he asked for their support if they considered that his long and careful attention to the city's needs merited recognition. (Applause.)

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 condition of affairs among the officials of the city hall reflected no credit on any 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 en-tered on time. Mr. Bartram warned Ald. Parnell that if the latter gentleman were elected, he himself take steps to make him run the race over again. "The fact is, gentlemen," said Mr. Bartram, "you want a man like 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, resented 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 premised to do his best for the

city if elected. 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 definite platform on which he came forward was the advisability of submitting the Port Stanley railway 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 i yet to be obtained, and the new council should ask the legislature to withhold its sanction till the ratepayers had declared upon the lease. Mr. Chisholm said he was not opposing the Walkers, but he did not believe in their coming to London with any cut-and-dried agreement, getting all they asked. The lease should 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 ex-

The meeting then closed, having lasted from 8:15 till 10:45.

BOERS TOOK THE CONVOY

Burning the Wagons and Their

Stiff Fight Ensued in Which the Enem Lost Heavily—Worsted by Blockhouse Garrisons.

Bloemfontein, Jan. 3 .- Four hundred men of Driscoll's Scouts left Springfontein on December 20 with the object of clearing the country in the Philippolis district of armed Boers. On Christmas day the scouts sighted a SCHOOL OF DOMESTIC SCIENCE, number of burgers attached to Herzog's commando. When the Boers saw the scouts they took flight. Col. Driscoll, with the greater part of his com-

mand, gave chase. The rest of the scouts were left to guard the wagons. These were soon after attacked by another party of burgers from the rear and a stiff Mr. Beck, at this juncture, interrupt- fight ensued. Before Col. Driscoll's only the liquids. When Driscoll's main force returned the Boers scattered. The Boers had five killed and many

A commando of 400 men under Chas. Niewhoudt, Munik Hertzog, Pretorius, and Thaennissen, is now hovering in the Fauresmith district. This force is being looked after by Weston's, Hamilton's, and Driscoll's columns.

While a fight was proceeding Christmas day between the British, under Driscoll, and a Boer force, under Hertzog, Commandant Niewhoudt, with 250 men, watched the operations from the top of Henenweer's kop, near Fauresmith. His men shared in the capture of some liquor.

Col. Dumoulin recently captured 28 prisoners near Elenburg. Of this number 24, including Field Cornet Dutoit, arrived here on New Year's

Major Bolton, of the Wiltshires, has been appointed provost marshal of Bloemfontein to succeed Capt. Salmon, who has left for Cape Town. A force of Boers attempted to cross the railway line betwen Springfontein acres. and Kullfontein Monday night, but were repulsed by the blockhouse gar-rison. The Boers came from the di-

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Pacific land department estimates that the sales in 1901 will total 400,000 acres, representing \$2,750,000, an unprecedented figure in the history of the department. The Canada Northwest Company's sales have also been extremely high, and the annual statement will show that the company has disposed of one hundred thousand

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