

Silsby Manufacturing Co. vs. Ridgetown.

We observe that application has been made in Chambers at Osgoode Hall to set aside a judgment obtained by the Silsby Manufacturing Co., of Seneca Falls, N. Y. From a glance through the papers we find the following to be the facts of the case:

Before taking up the matter a few words of explanation will assist the reader in arriving at a correct view of the case. The council of the corporation of Ridgetown for 1879 consisted of Mr. Whyte, Reeve (a highly respectable gentleman and private banker in the village); and Messrs Tolmie, McDonald, Moody and Rocky; councillors Among the council previous to the submission of the By-law, a difference of opinion, as usual, existed as to the best means of protection, and the council, in order to obtain information, sent a deputation to Buffalo, and on their return two reports were submitted to the people. One report by the Reeve, favoring Chemical Engines, and another by Rocky, favoring Steamers, and as the public meeting favored steamers almost unanimously, a By-law was submitted for purchasing a Steamer.

A By-law was passed on the 23rd of Aug. to raise by way of loan \$5,000 for purchasing a Steamer and equipments.

A few days previous to the voting on the By-law a Ronald engine was sent down from Chatham (in the same county) and tested. Messrs. Rocky and Moody, who took great interest in the Ronald engine, were invited by their sympathizers to a supper and their course endorsed. This, however, did not secure the immediate order for the purchase of the Ronald engine.

A resolution to purchase was now introduced into the Council by Messrs. Moody and Rocky to purchase the Ronald engine, which was suddenly received by the opponents of this engine, but no contract was executed, or other action taken by the council to legally bind the corporation.

Immediately after this a petition was presented at the next meeting of the council, signed by 63 of the largest taxpayers, praying the council to stay completion of the purchase and invite manufacturers to bring steamers there to compete at their own expense, which was granted, and the clerk issued invitations as ordered by the council. To this the Silsby Co. replied that if the council would agree to take their engine if it did the best work, they would compete.

A deputation was now appointed consisting of Messrs. Whyte, Moody and McDonald to visit St. Catharines, which city had a second-hand Ronald engine for sale. The sympathizers of Ronald now got up a cry against a second hand engine, and subscribed a fund to pay the expenses of Rocky to accompany and watch the deputation which went to St. Catharines. The test of the St. Catharines engine being satisfactory to the deputation, they agreed to take it, but asked the matter to be held over till the committee reported, but the sympathizers gathered in

force, and it was decided a second hand engine was not the thing.

The council now agreed to the Messrs. Silsby's proposal, viz., to accept the engine which did the best work.

The Silsby Co. shortly after brought on their engine to test with the Ronald, and the result of the contest proved the superiority of the Silsby engine, and being at a less price than was asked for the Ronald, was purchased formally by the council under contract duly executed. A fire brigade was then formed and put in charge of the Silsby machine by the council.

The friends of the Ronald also formed an independent company, who took charge of the Ronald on their own account.

Ronald, on hearing of the action of the council, filed a bill in chancery to compel the council to hand over the debentures for the claimed purchase and delivery of his engine, some \$3,150.

And by resolution the council ordered the treasurer of the village, Mr. John A. Moody, who, by the way, is a son of Councillor Moody) to hand over to the Messrs. Silsby \$3,000, the price of the engine, and some \$800, for hose, etc. The treasurer refused to hand over the debentures. The council then, very properly, dismissed Moody and appointed one Thos. Brown, and as Moody now refused to deliver over the debentures to his successor, the council, as their year of office was fast closing, now ordered new debentures to be made out and handed to the Silsby people, and now follows one of the most extraordinary proceedings of the whole transaction.

When some eight of the debentures had been signed and sealed, Rocky snatched at the roll, and got hold of them before the new treasurer, Brown, could secure them. A struggle then ensued for the possession of the debentures, during which they were completely destroyed.

The Silsby Co., who had a short time previously commenced an action to recover the price of the engine and equipments, now pressed for judgment, which was obtained by default in the early part of January. The municipal election returned all Ronald men, who, when they took office, immediately instituted proceedings to set aside the Silsby judgment, and the matter is now pending.

Should the Silsby judgment be set aside, both questions will be tried at the spring sittings on the court, whether the village of Ridgetown will be compelled to pay for one engine of two.

Old Fire Department.

THE ELECTION—THE RESOURCES, AND A BELIEF THAT "CHARITY SHOULD BEGIN AT HOME."

Detroit, Jan 29

The Old Fire department, at its annual meeting last evening elected Alex. W. Copland, president, Henry W. Starkey, vice-president, Mark Flanagan Secretary, and a

board of Trustees comprising Oliver Bourke, Thos. S. Christie, Jas. Reid, Daniel Sullivan, Simon Cohen, William Shanahan (to fill vacancy), and William Sales. Mr. Copland went in upon a vote of 73 to 33 cast for Mr. Hinchman. The secretary's yearly report showed total assets of \$56,361.73, with no liabilities.

The trustees made a long report upon the condition of the association's property, and suggested that Firemen's hall on Jefferson avenue should be remodelled and renovated all through and have new new new fronts, and a general and thorough overhauling, at the expense of about \$8,000 or \$10,000. During the year \$6,732 has been paid to disabled and indigent firemen, their widows and orphans, under the recommendation of the relief committee and special cases acted on by the board. The board thought that worthy applicants should not be limited to the putative alms doled out to them, and that the clear duty of the association was to make the declining years of the helpless, sick and destitute as comfortable as possible. The members were fast thinking out, many of the old men, and old women and children suffering, while the coffers of the association were overflowing with money resulting from their labor and services rendered in their youth and vigor. In conclusion the board refers vaguely to the moral fight of last summer and says that "charity should begin at home," that the money earned by the members by toil and hardship, valorous and efficient service, loss of health, time, money clothing, want of rest, anxious watching night and day, and the many incidents of a fireman's life entitle them to their own property; that all contributions by citizens have been amply repaid by the protection of their lives and property; that all such donations were given to the voluntary organization for that purpose; that no claim has ever been preferred, nor can justly and equitably be maintained that a full equivalent has not been rendered for such donations. They are clearly very many old members are indigent, disabled and their families in need; that numerous widows and orphans of deceased firemen are suffering and that they should be liberally and generously provided for before making any magnificent donation to outside charities, which are numerous and well supported with all the public and private means they ask for.

A CORRESPONDENT writes: I am now having built a fire ladder, the invention of a New Yorker. It is 115 feet in length, with Truck and turntable complete. This ladder, when hoisted and on the Truck, is ten feet shorter than the Truck and Ladder now in use; will reach the eaves of the building to be extended to the roof of any building; is self-supporting; can be thrown up in any angle, is as firm and strong when perfectly perpendicular as at any angle, can be hoisted and operated by two men; when run to a fire can be fully extended to any angle in 25 minutes, and when fully extended will sustain at the extreme end, from ten to twenty men without leaning against the building. It will rescue people on both sides of the street without moving the Truck. We are in hopes to have a ladder and Truck finished by April, when we propose to take a person from the top of the Astor House, a second from the Post Office, and a third from the building on the upper corner of Barclay street, without moving the truck from its first position on Broadway. Our model has been examined by the fire commissioners and pronounced by them the ladder wanted. With this ladder in use in our fire department there need be no loss of life in burning buildings for want of means to escape when the person reaches a window or the roof.—R.R.