

## ALDERMANIC AMBIGUITIES.

Ald. Sam McBride, who recently got a lot of publicity by reason of his violent tongue-lashings of other Toronto aldermen, and his bumping of a smaller alderman's head against the Council Chamber wall for having referred to him as "a wind-bag," started off this year with a good resolution to behave and avoid personalities. He really meant it, but it is not in his nature to be peaceful. He loves a scrap. He is the original type that would rather fight than eat. So it is not to be wondered at that he broke out into belligerent speech and action ere the year was out.

No member of Toronto City Council is as active as Ald. McBride—they call him "Silent Sam." Council meetings are held on alternate Mondays. The Board of Control reports are delivered to the members on the previous Friday night or Saturday morning. His friends say that Ald. Sam is almost glued to his telephone from the time he gets his report until Council meets. calling up the members and directing them how they should vote on the various matters that are to be dealt with. He would probably deny that "directs" them, but nevertheless that is what it amounts to when one talks to "Silent Sam." He also gets in touch with a multitude of other people whose interests are affected by Board of Control recommendations, and when he comes into Council the alderman is loaded down with a mass of data which keeps him talking ad infinitum.

At the last Council session he made over a score of speeches, long and short, with innumerable smaller efforts and interjections, points of order, etc. He has come to regard it as his right, say his critics, to speak after every other member has spoken, offering evidence in rebuttal as it were, and in this way he speaks as often and as long as the other 24 members of Council combined. No chairman can hold him. He himself is permanent chairman of the Committee of the Whole, but he is constantly jumping out of the chair to make a speech, and the man he asks to take his place very often gives him free rein. Rules of order are the veriest trifles to "Silent Sam." He rides rough-shod over and through them. They were made to be broken.

His manner of speaking is amusing at first and then tiring. He frequently repeats himself. He uses some odd phrases and words. "Tain't fair!" is one of his commonest exclamations. "Let us deal with this matter in a business way," is another McBride bromide. "Exorbitant" is his version of "exorbitant." Once, when the City Council Manual was under discussion, he referred to it as the "ritual." He will take a fling with equal ease at the baldhead or the business methods of an opponent. He spares nobody when he can hit. But when the session is over and they file out he greets his foe of a few minutes before with a smile and a slap on the back. At the last meeting he had a wordy battle with Controller Cameron. Next morning he met the Controller with a cheery smile and a "Hello, Bob—how are you?" Controller Cameron regarded him with cold and calculating eye for a moment and then in a sentence sized up the McBride character: "I don't know what to think of you—you're a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde."

And no doubt "Silent Sam" went straight out to make inquiry as to the antecedents of the Jekyll and Hyde person. We may expect to hear more of this anon.

## Suggestion to the Huns.

The Huns are now declared to be in direful need of wood—Why not use up those princelings of The Hohenzollern brood?

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