

CITY COUNCIL VOTED DOWN ANY LICENSE REDUCTION.

Voice of the People as Expressed at the Late Election Unheeded by Majority of the Aldermen.

Special Session of the Council This Evening to Consider the Power Question---To Ask For \$227,000 Debenture.

The City Council last night dealt with one of the most important matters to be faced this year, when it voted against cutting off any liquor licenses, forcing the temperance people to content themselves with having the number of licenses restricted to 68, the number issued at present. The Commissioners hitherto had power to issue 75.

It is doubtful if any question ever considered by any Council in Hamilton's history attracted more interest. Probably five thousand people would have crowded into the City Hall had there been accommodation. Both the temperance people and the hotel men had been told earlier in the day that each side was going to try and pack the Council chamber, and the result was a rush for seats an hour or more before the Council met. As early as 6.30 the different factions began to arrive. Clergymen rubbed shoulders with hotel men in the rush for seats, and at 7 o'clock the Council chamber was packed to capacity.

Uniformed policemen stood on the floor to keep the spectators from crowding into the space reserved for the aldermen. The platform in front of the Mayor's desk furnished seating accommodation for a large crowd. Every inch of standing room around the entire chamber was occupied, some of the spectators standing on top of the radiators to observe what was going on. The corridors were crowded, those in the rear being unable to get a glimpse inside, had to content themselves with the information furnished by those in front. At 7 o'clock people were being turned away by the score.

The aldermen, led by Mayor McLaren, had to jostle their way through the blocked doors. Their appearance was the signal for an outburst of applause and an indication of a stormy time later in the evening. Some doubted Mayor McLaren's ability to maintain order in such a gathering. "He certainly deserves credit if he can do it," said some of the aldermen, who did not envy him his job. They expected to see the crowd, which was pretty evenly divided, take the bit in their teeth and head in. Mayor McLaren held a tight rein throughout the evening, though, and it is doubtful if there ever was a Council meeting conducted with more order under such circumstances. With the exception of a slight stir while the Mayor was speaking, which caused His Worship to threaten to clear the Council chamber if it occurred again, perfect order was maintained.

MAYOR DEMANDS ORDER.

Mayor McLaren at the outset warned the crowd that order must be maintained. "I am glad to see so many here," he said. "Perfect order must be maintained. Make no demonstration of any kind on either side. The aldermen are here for the purpose of conducting the city's business. There must be no remarks or no applause on either side."

The Board of Health and Fire and Water Committee reports were quickly disposed of, and the Market Committee's report, with its recommendation that the number of licenses be reduced to fifty, was then presented. Chairman Gardner, seconded by Ald. Forth, moved its adoption. Ald. Allan was speaking the right to vote as he saw fit on any amendment that might be made.

SPRANG A SURPRISE.

The temperance people sprang a surprise right there. Realizing that there was little hope of carrying the reduction of eighteen, and not wishing to give the Council an opportunity of voting it down on the ground that the Mayor was drastic, they moved that the figures be inserted in place of 30 in the report, making a reduction of eight licenses. Ald. Morris, seconded by Ald. Milne, moved this as soon as the committee's report was in the Mayor's hands.

"I feel like apologizing to many good citizens of Hamilton for substituting sixty for fifty," said Ald. Morris. "I hope no one will think for a minute that our zeal for the cause is abating. I find in talking the matter over with some of the aldermen that they think the recommendation of the committee in limiting the number to fifty is too extreme. Personally, I think fifty very moderate, and I am satisfied that a large majority of the citizens are of the same opinion."

Mr. Morris then gave a comparative statement showing that Hamilton has one bar for every 985 population; Ottawa one for every 1,200; London one for every 1,223; and Toronto one for every 1,965. They had recently voted in Toronto to reduce the number from 150 to 110, which would give Hamilton three bars for every one in Toronto in ratio to population. Hamilton, he declared, was handicapped in its commercial and industrial growth by reason of this fact. "We do not want to restrict the hotel accommodation of Hamilton," he said, "but we do want to restrict the disreputable bar room."

There was any amount of evidence of the lack of good hotel accommodation here. A traveller the other day walked all the way from the G. T. R. station to the Royal, trying every hotel on the way before he could get breakfast. Ex-Mayor Stewart, Mr. Morris said, told him of an experience he had, going to three hotels and being refused a meal, one day when he was in a rush. The fourth man only surrendered when His Worship threatened to bring the matter before the Commissioners.

PREDICTS A DELUGE.

"This is no scheme of a few rattle-brained fanatics," declared the speaker, as he read off a long list of names of prominent citizens and manufacturers who were supporting reductions. The churches were practically a unit on it. The newspapers since the election had given many indications of where they stood and only last night one of them had an extreme editorial advising reduction. Public sentiment was growing rapidly in favor of temperance, as shown by the fact that the bars in Ontario were going at the rate of two a week. Toronto, in 1874, had 309 licensed bars and Hamilton 127. In the United States the bars were going at the rate of thirty a day and saloons had been abolished

What the Aldermen Did

Voted against cutting off any hotel licenses.

Fixed the number of licenses at 68, as compared with 75 the Commissioners had power to issue.

Decided to appeal to the Legislature for permission to issue debentures for \$227,000 for the overdraft and road work.

Arranged for a special council meeting to-night to discuss power matters with the solicitors.

Appointed a committee to deal with the re-organization of the City Engineer's department.

Appointed another special committee on the power question.

From two-thirds of the territory of that country. The chief of police here was asking for fifteen new men to protect the city. If the Council voted the license reduction there would be no need of these extra men. The people of Hamilton had declared themselves. They wanted licenses reduced. With a better organization the temperance people would have had a majority of pledged candidates in the Council. With another hundred votes they would have had three more men in the Council. There were eight straight pledged aldermen there and five others, who, through their friends or themselves, had intimated that they would stand by reduction if it had a fair chance of being endorsed. To make it easy for these men, the temperance people had decided to ask for a reduction of only eight.

"In closing," said Ald. Morris, "I would like to give a little friendly advice. Some of you have read of Noah and the flood. Noah preached for 120 years telling people that the flood was coming and telling them that when he built his ark they had better go into it. Gentlemen, just take a hint from history. The flood is coming. Some of you may think it is a mere wave, but it is a deluge."

THE OTHER SIDE OF IT.

Alderman Allan, seconded by Alderman Jutten, moved in amendment to the amendment that the number of licenses to be issued be fixed at 68, the number now issued by the commissioners, although they have power to issue 75.

"In making this amendment," he said, "I do not make it so much because I am opposed to reduction as I am opposed to the number of licenses being fixed at 68. I am opposed to any man or any body of men going up to a man in a legitimate business and insisting on him giving it up without any recompensation or any warning, forcing him out on the street, perhaps in some cases when he was not at all in the wrong. I have gone to school with men who keep good hotels and who, I doubt, if they ever break the law. Some of these men have the savings of fifteen years invested there, and if you take this away from them you take away their living. If there is a public necessity that licenses at 68 be reduced, and if the public will pay compensation, I will vote for every reduction, to reduce them to fifty or reduce them to nothing. There is another way they can be reduced. The Commissioners have the power. The Commissioners were asked what was going on, or ought to be, and should have what hotels to cut off. Perhaps there were some hotels they could get along better without. I have it on good authority that some slight reduction will be made this year whether the Council passes this or not, but it will be reduced for cause. If the temperance people brought it up to the Council could, from time to time, restrict the number of licenses as the Commissioners cut them off."

CAUSED A DEMONSTRATION.

"I can't find it in my conscience, brought up in a good old Presbyterian way, to go out and rob a man that way."

This remark created a stir, and was greeted with hisses and applause. Mayor McLaren took hold of the situation with a strong hand. "Gentlemen, if that happens again," he said, "I will clear the Council of every man." There was no further cause for complaint after that.

"It may seem strange," continued Ald. Allan, when order was restored, "to find me here advocating this. It is not because I drink. Perhaps one in five or six years for medical purposes or for curiosity I take a drink. It is not because I drink that I don't want the licenses cut. If the Council and the temperance people have patience I believe we can reduce the licenses without harming anyone."

ALD. COOPER SPEAKS.

Ald. Cooper, one of the new members from Ward 7, in his maiden speech, made a strong plea on behalf of the Market Committee's recommendation for a cut to fifty. Public sentiment, he declared, overwhelmingly favored reduction, and the newspapers, which generally had their fingers on the public pulse, had swung around to the temperance side. Cutting off eighteen or even eight meant that less temptation in a boy's reach, and would help Hamilton to prosper that much more.

ALD. CRERAR'S VIEWS.

Although the hotel men supported him

Ald. Crerar declared that it was without consulting him. He was pledged to no one. He supposed he was supported as one of the men who would give the hotels a reasonable show in this matter. The Citizens' League contained a number of reasonable men, but on the other hand there were those in it who would cut off at one sweep all the hotels in the city, and throw the owners on the street if they had the power. Perhaps there were a number of these places they could get along without, but the question was how to get rid of them and get rid of them fairly. "I defy any license commissioner," he said, "to go out and cut off eight hotels and do it without discriminating."

The chief objection of some of the temperance aldermen was that the hotel men did not live up to the law. The commissioners were there to see that they did, and they had the power to make them. Would reduction lessen the evil? Would not men who took a drink occasionally go up on other nights and make a night of it? "I am willing to reduce the number of licenses and to go further," he said, "but only on two conditions. The first is to cut off licenses for breaking the law, including not having proper hotel accommodation, and the second compensation for the investment in the business. Consider the business they are conducting, just as you would any other man's business. It is a legal business."

STUFFED THEM WITH STATISTICS.

Alderman Lees stuffed the aldermen with statistics to show how much worse Hamilton is off with bars than other places in Canada. "I say that whatever business or institution abridges human life or degrades human character it should not be upheld by law," he said.

Insurance statistics in the United States, England and Canada showed that there was a difference in the license rate among drinkers and non-drinkers of from 22 to 30 per cent. The last license reduction in Hamilton was in 1894. Three years previous to that there were 5,900 arrests in Hamilton and three years after only 5,000. Three years before the convictions numbered 2,900, an immense reduction. The number of drunks arrested was 670, as compared with 576 after reduction, and the number of drunks and disorders 473, as compared with 257 after. Gambling cases were reduced from 35 to 19, non-support cases from 49 to 29; infraction of the liquor license law from 114 to 69, and places selling without a license from 22 to 13. It might be argued that this three-year period was not sufficient proof. The same applied to ten-year periods. The same licenses were issued in Hamilton and in 1894 nineteen of a reduction took place. The Commissioners cut off eight two or three years ago. For the ten years previous to 1889 the number of drunks were 3,500, and for ten years after that only 2,200, a little over one-third of the number of commitments for drunkenness of the number of cases for ten years before.

The vote showed clearly people wanted a reduction. A year ago a great many of the temperance people were fooled by a P. O. slate. This stood for 'People's' Popular and the P. O. knew ministers who took these cards and voted the slate, under the impression that this was really a slate of people's candidates and ignorant of the fact that it was the hotel men's slate. They had their eyes opened this time, however, and the vote showed the result. Personally, he thought the number of licenses should be cut down to 25. Winnipeg, with its large floating population, got along with one to every 1,500. Another striking illustration, he thought, of the fact that the cutting off of bars lessened drinking was the fact that Toronto on Christmas Day there were 80 arrests for drunkenness, as compared with four on New Year's Day, when the bars were closed for the elections. These four cases were the largest number for a New Year's Day in Toronto for ten years. Those interested directly in the liquor trade, declared Ald. Lees, should not have any opportunity of voting on the question. Leave them out, and the verdict was overwhelmingly temperance.

ALD. SWEENEY'S SCHEME.

Alderman Sweeney endorsed what Alderman Allan and Crerar said about reduction. He believed it was the only fair opinion he had heard during the discussion. A great deal was heard about the abuse of the liquor traffic, but it was legal, by the Provincial Government and recognized by the Dominion Government. It was only fair to those engaged in the business that they should be considered as well as the others. Discussing compensation, he suggested that the Government should establish a fund from the fees collected by placing aside each year \$200 of the \$700 license fee. With 68 hotels in Hamilton this would make \$14,000 a year, and would soon make enough to compensate the places cut off. He thought the council should call the attention of the Government to this scheme.

A MANDATE, SAYS PEREGRINE.

Alderman Peregrine declared that he came to the council unpledged to license reduction or anything else, but bent on serving the city's best interests, whether in a moral or material way. Every alderman should regard his office as a sacred trust. Answering the argument that hotel men were being dealt with unjustly when their license was cut off without warning he said the license was a privilege granted for one year, and no man had a guarantee that it would be renewed at any time. It cost the Street Railway Company half a million to change from horse cars to the electric system. Was it compensated? The advent of natural gas in Hamilton cut the coal companies' business down by a not compensation as just in these cases as in the liquor business. He was surprised that intelligent aldermen refused to discern the voice of the people as spoken in the vote. "It was a sure mandate," he declared, "from the people to cut off a certain number of licenses without count."

DISCUSSES COMPENSATION.

Ald. Anderson, replying to Ald. Crerar's argument, as to compensation, said he had been assured by men who were in a position to know that there were as many as twenty-five places in Hamilton with licenses that provided no accommodation for the general public. Ald. Sweeney had suggested setting aside \$200 from each license fee to compensate these hotelmen. Why not compensate the butcher, the grocer and baker, who ate the money or devote it to the wives and children of those who suffered.

ALD. FORTH HEARD.

A fair, square deal for every man, Ald. Forth declared, was his motto. He was elected to the council without being pledged to anyone, and was there to hear arguments as to why the licenses should exist. "I have failed so far to see why it should exist. I have heard why hotels should exist, and I admit the force of that. There are many of these hotels, a credit to the city, and some are a disgrace."

ALD. CLARK'S ARGUMENTS.

Ald. Clark charged Ald. Morris with using a threat that the aldermen who voted against reduction would be swept out of power for doing so. This was a reason why he got up to speak. Was that a reason why any man should vote against a principle fixed in his mind? At the Markets Committee meeting the other night Ald. Clark said that two clergymen sat near him. After the committee dealt with reduction, some one of these men, and remarked to one of these men, that the saloonkeepers had nothing to say. "No, they depended on whiskey money to speak for them," said one of these clergymen. This was another reason, said Ald. Clark, that caused him to speak.

The temperance people, he said, were using the same weapon against them that was used in the last election, only on another question. Ald. Clark declared that at that time, he had been defamed, ridiculed and slandered by a paper that declared that every man who voted that way would be swept out of the municipal arena.

Ald. Clark used this argument to show that license reduction did not lessen drinking. Toronto, last year, had a population of 200,000 and issued one license for every 1,995 people. Hamilton, with a population of 60,000 people, had 68 licenses, or one for every 880 people. The number of cases of intoxication before the Magistrate in Hamilton last year was 1,988 and in Toronto, \$730. Toronto, with its population five times as great as Hamilton, and with so many less hotels, recorded eight times as many convictions as Hamilton. Ald. Clark also declared that he entered the Council unpledged.

OTHER VIEWS.

Ald. Allan's argument to leave it to the Commissioners was answered by Ald. Milne, who said that the Commissioners had no right to reduce the temperance people that it was a privilege and the duty of the Council to reduce the number of licenses.

In Ward 5, Ald. Wright said the temperance question was not an issue, nor was it a mandate, because of the large number of licenses in the ward he represented. He had no assurance that some of these hotels would not be hit by a reduction. The Government licensed these places, and he could not see why the Commissioners had the responsibility or the duty of cutting them off. He emphatically denied that he was pledged to anybody.

Ald. Ellis is another new member who made his maiden speech on the temperance question. He did not want to accommodate Hamilton with hotel accommodation, as it was, and this was apparent at the time of the Carnival and again when the Sheffield Choir was here. He would make the hotel men keep hotels rather than cut them off. He would not believe that cutting fifteen or eighteen hotels off would stop drinking. "A man who wants a drink will walk a mile to get it."

ALD. MORRIS REPLIES.

Replying briefly to the arguments against reduction, Ald. Morris said that the Commissioners had time and time again told the temperance people that they would not reduce the licenses. They declared that it was not their policy to reduce the number of licenses. This, he thought, answered Ald. Crerar's argument. The police records showed that there had been persistent and flagrant lawbreakers here. The Commissioners, he thought, would be very glad of an opportunity to cut them out of the city. He would not believe that cutting fifteen or eighteen hotels off would stop drinking. "A man who wants a drink will walk a mile to get it."

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MAYOR McLAREN'S ADVICE.

This practically ended the discussion, but before the Council was divided Mayor McLaren offered a little advice. Said he: "I think it is about time someone was handing out good advice to the hotelkeepers of the city. I believe that the matter, to a large extent, rests in their own hands. It is not a question now of a man who takes a drink and one who does not, but of law-abiding citizens who believe that the law should be kept, and that a man when he gets a license should follow the terms of it, and keep the law. It is not a matter of catching a man for being five minutes late in closing his bar, or accommodating a guest, but the spirit of the law should be kept. I don't believe that this movement is entirely the work of the temperance people. The work has been made easy by a few men who have broken the law and kept the hotelkeepers in hot water. The hotel men stick to these men, because they are good fellows. If they just make up their minds, they will see the handwriting on the wall. In connection with this there comes up the old question, 'Am I my brother's keeper?' Every man who has a license should know that he is his brother's keeper, and that if a man who has a family depending on him applies for a drink when intoxicated he has no more right to take his money that he

would to take bread from his family. I am glad that we have some hotelkeepers who would not give a man a drink, whether drunk or sober, for this reason. The hotel men should remember that if they continue supporting men who defy the law, the handwriting is on the wall, and there is nothing else to it. If they keep hotels and obey the law, public sentiment will be with them."

HOW THEY LINED UP.

The Council was then divided. The amendment as moved by Ald. Morris to fix the number of licenses at 60 was first voted upon. It was defeated on a 13-8 division, as follows:

Yes (8)—Lees, Morris, Milne, Peregrine, Robson, Forth, Cooper, Anderson.

Nays (13)—Ellis, Wright, Crerar, Applegath, Clark, Gardner, Jutten, Hopkins, Sweeney, Ryan, Farmer, Allan, City.

The amendment, to the amendment, moved by Ald. Allan, to fix the number of licenses at 68, the number at present issued, carried on a 15-6 division, Ald. Lees and Milne voting with the majority, the other six temperance candidates voting against it.

The nays were: Morris, Peregrine, Robson, Forth, Cooper and Anderson.

POWER MATTERS.

It was after 11 o'clock when the Council settled down to talk power matters, and it was nearly midnight when the adjournment took place. Ald. Crerar started the ball rolling by enquiring about the secret meeting held recently in Mayor McLaren's office, when the Hydro-Electric aldermen discussed power matters with Engineer Rothman and Solicitor Leeb. He thought that perhaps there was some valuable information that all the aldermen should be in possession of.

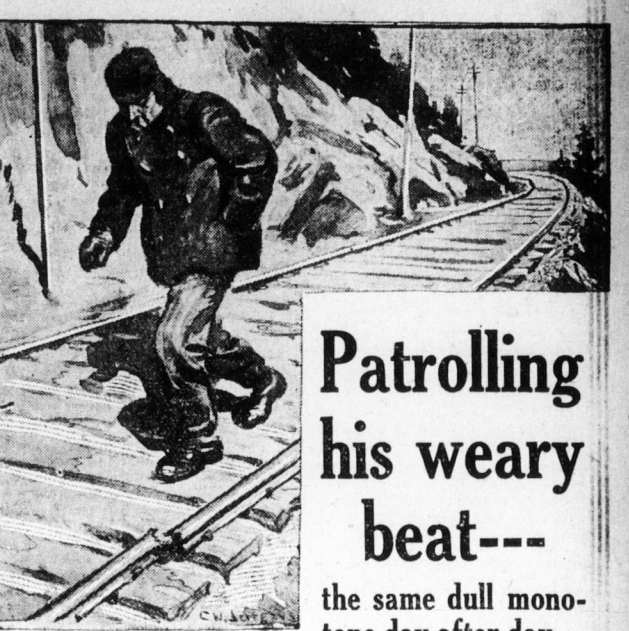
Mayor McLaren said there was nothing to prevent anyone from being there. Some of the aldermen wanted information, asked to use his office, and he granted permission. Any time any of the aldermen, no matter how few or how many, wanted to discuss city business, they were welcome to hold a meeting. That was what the offices were there for.

As a member of the Council, Ald. Milne said he was very anxious to get information and would certainly have been there had he known there was to be a meeting.

Some of the aldermen thought it strange that, if the meeting was so open, only aldermen who were thought to be Hydro-Electric men knew about it.

Mayor McLaren said that he thought the best move the Council could make would be to get the best legal opinion possible on the power contract. There were a number of questions that should be definitely answered before the matter was voted on. Some of them were as follows:

1. In the event of the city of Hamilton in any year during the term of the contract, if the contract company, providing in its estimates for the expenditure necessary to pay for any electric energy from any other source than that of the Cataract company, for any purpose to be supplied in that year, and making no provision to pay for any energy from that company.
2. In the event of the city making no provision in its estimates for the year 1909 for the supply of electrical energy, would the position of the parties under by-law No. 775 be changed in any way?
3. We are authorized to issue debentures for \$50,000 to build a plant and buy pumps, motors, etc., for waterworks purposes. Are we compelled by Mr. Justice Anglin's decision to go on and purchase the plant and machinery and take power from the Cataract Power Company?
4. Both Aldermen Peregrine and Allan thought that whatever was done should be done without delay, and not a whole year wasted over it.



Patrolling his weary beat---

the same dull monotone day after day—

the Track-walker passes by a danger spot unwittingly—leaving behind a death trap—to be sprung on the first swift, heavy train to come thundering on.

Under the heavy strain the broken track spreads—the wheels strike the ties—the train tears up the track—topples off the road and rolls down the embankment.

What chance have the passengers—caught like rats in a trap—the comfortable cars changed to a shambles?

Tossed and thrown 'mongst seats—broken glass and wreckage—men fighting like demons—women struggling in despair—children helpless with fear—broken limbs—mangled bodies—lives crushed out—all because of no safeguards against rails that break.

The Price System of Automatic Stopping and Controlling for Railways—finds the breaks when they happen and stops all trains in safety regardless of human oversight.

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A VAMPIRE DEVIL.

Curious Australian Animal Terrifying South Jersey.

Philadelphia, Jan. 25.—All South Jersey is being terrorized by a curious Australian animal, a combination of a bat, kangaroo and pony. Reports are coming in from reputable people of blood-curdling encounters with the animal, and not a few stories are current of dogs run to pieces by the monster. J. E. Hope, an animal trainer, and dealer at 33 North Ninth street, issued a statement this afternoon saying that the strange bird beast is "an Australian vampire devil" which escaped from him ten days ago. He offers \$500 reward for its capture.

"I am very anxious to recover the vampire," he said. "There is only one like it in captivity, and that is in the Zoological Gardens in Berlin. I purchased the animal in Europe, and it arrived in this city ten days ago. I had it in a menagerie at Beach street, and Fairmount avenue, and it escaped from there."

"It can swim as well as fly, and after it had broken out of its cage it swam across the Delaware. I had no doubt that the animal which has been seen in Jersey is the one I lost."

"The animal is white, and belongs to the kangaroo family, for it travels by leaps and has the marsupial pouch under the breast with which the kangaroo is provided."

"The beast has the head of a horse, stands nearly three feet high and is covered with short, thick fur. On its back are two wings that measure four feet, so that when it is flying the stretch of the wings from tip to tip is almost ten feet."

TORONTO LICENSES.

City Council Gives Bill License Reduction Its Initial Reading.

Toronto, Jan. 26.—The Municipal Council of the Corporation of the city of Toronto enacted as follows: The number of tavern licenses to be issued in the city of Toronto for the ensuing license year, beginning on the first day of May, 1909, and for each subsequent license year until this by-law is altered or repealed, shall be limited to one hundred and ten.

The license reduction by-law, in the words quoted, was introduced and given one reading at the meeting of the City Council yesterday afternoon. It was introduced by Ald. Keeler, and was not discussed at all. Alderman Keeler suggested that the year and days be taken: "It is not necessary," said the Mayor. "It is carried unanimously." And it was.



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The London and Paris Exchange, one of the largest English outside brokerage firms, has been placed in the hands of a receiver.

The corner of Bloor and St. Catharines street, Montreal, has been sold for \$157,000, equivalent to \$14.50 per square foot.