

THE BEE

R. S. PELTON, EDITOR.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2, 1891.

ELMA COUNCIL AND THE 14th CONCESSION DRAIN.

As will be seen elsewhere we are on the eye of another municipal election. We see no plausible reason why every member of the Board were not elected by acclamation to fill another term of office, except it be that the southern portion of the township have not a representative at the Board. We fully concur with our friends of the south in that they are justly entitled to at least one Councillor. But, apart from this we think it wholly unnecessary to put the township to the expense of a new election. The Council of 1890 have had difficult and embarrassing problems to solve, especially regarding the drainage question, and although accusations were brought forward on nomination day by certain ratepayers in the vicinity of the 14th con. drain to the effect that the construction and completion of this work is unsatisfactory on the whole and not in keeping with specifications and profile, we have reason to believe the majority of the ratepayers are of the opinion that the Board did their best in this regard. We do not say that the objections raised by these parties are altogether groundless and without provocation, to the contrary, it is quite evident that the drain in some places at least is too narrow by several inches and less by several inches in depth than the contract calls for. But, did you ever see a municipal or government contract completed exactly, to a hair's breadth, to specifications and profile? We venture to assert that seven out of ten contracts let by either corporations will be short of the specifications in some little particular, but identical in the main. Part of this drain was dug some two years ago, and the consequent washing away by the spring and fall freshets of the surface soil, or perhaps deposit debris in portions of the ditch, and otherwise obstructing and depreciating the general appearance of the work, would be highly probable, and to accuse the Council of breach of contract in this regard would be absurd in the extreme. Mr. Bray says he held the Engineer's staff while the latter took the measurements of the drain at given points and considered the depth of the ditch "a fair average," and was satisfied with the work on the whole. Now Mr. Bray expresses our views exactly when he says the measurements were a fair average, and in our mind it is all but an impossibility to get anything else than a fair average when everything is taken into consideration. It is simply an impossibility to dig a drain of uniform width and depth and keep it in that state one week with a current of water flowing through it continually. What does five or even ten inches signify in a ditch of from seven to ten feet across the top, and from four to six feet in depth? Hence we say that there can be no admissible objections raised to the 14th con. drain. But as regards the roadway these arguments will not hold good, in other words, there is no excuse for the road being from three to five feet less in width than the contract specifies. Where we do blame the Council was in not officially inspecting the work after the contractor had pronounced it finished and before they accepted of the Engineer's report. Of course members of the Council inspected the ditch sometime before it was completed, but a second and final visit should have been made, and compared the plans with the actual work done, and thus they could have easily decided whether the drain and roadway were completed in detail in accordance with them or not. Had this been done all possible wrongs would have been righted and the contractor would have been duty bound to complete the contract "to the entire satisfaction of the Council." The Council accepted Engineer Bolton's report which declared that the work was completed satisfactory to all intents and purposes, and doubtless seven Councils out of ten would have acted likewise under similar circumstances. Nevertheless we do not approve of any corporation accepting a report, reliable as the author of it may be, without having first inspected the work so reported and satisfied themselves. In conclusion, we would not charge the Council with short sightedness or rashness in this matter, but believe that they were conscientious in their action as in all other matters they have had the disposing of during the past year. We doubt very much if their places could be filled by men who will give more universal satisfaction to the people of Elma than they, who have managed the affairs of the Council of 1890, and who solicit your vote and influence next Monday.

I WISH ALL MY FRIENDS AND PATRONS The Compliments of the Season. DRUGS & BOOKS. M. E. NEADS,

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Atwood, Nov. 11, 1890. 42-1y

NOTICE.

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 1891,

At One o'clock p.m., in the factory to receive the Financial Report, elect Directors for the ensuing year, and transact any other business that may be considered necessary.

WM. LOCHHEAD, Secretary.

Elma, Dec. 29, 1890. 49-2in

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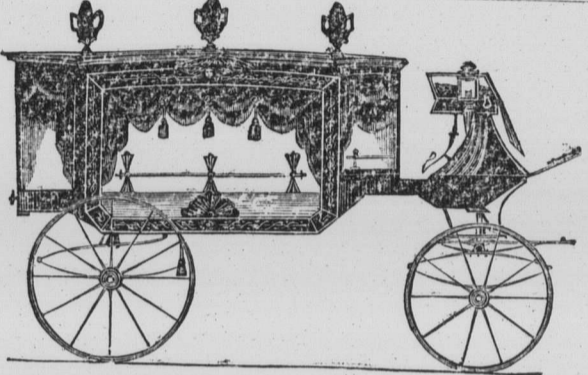
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