

A Complete Backdown Made By Local Gas Company

THE ELEVENTH HOUR CANDIDACY OF WOOD MOST ASTONISHING

Never Served a Minute in City Council and Allied With Those Against Hydro---Foolish Now For Brantford to Imperil Gas and Street Railway Cases by Electing T. L. Wood.

For the first time in the history of the City of Brantford a man is seeking to vault into the Mayor's chair who has never had one minute's experience of City Council business, City Council procedure, or City Council anything else.

His name is T. L. Wood.

Every man previously aspiring to the highest office in the gift of his fellow-citizens has had enough sense of the fitness of things to first serve an apprenticeship as Alderman.

Not so T. L. Wood.

The late Dr. Digby, Mr. Robert Henry, Mr. C. H. Waterous, and all the rest of a long list, felt it only proper that they should have some civic experience and some civic schooling before attempting to get into the chair with Brantford's coat-of-arms on the back of it.

Not so T. L. Wood.

He seems to be a pupil or to go through any preparatory stage. No tutelage for him; he must be the "Boss" right off, or not at all.

Just where Mr. Wood got the idea that he is a heaven-born and ready-made Mayor for this city it is somewhat difficult to conceive.

There hasn't been any great yearning for him that anybody has noticed, no aching void because of his absence from the municipal arena, no mighty uprising of the people seeking for a deliverer from something or the other. At least, if there has been, only T. L. Wood has noticed the symptoms, and he didn't even bother to go to the nomination proceedings in order to tell about them.

Brantfordites have twice before had members of the Wood family in the Mayor's chair—D. B. Wood in 1901 and 1902 and W. B. Wood in 1909 and 1910. These two brothers, at any rate, did not assume to reach for the chair without first rendering service in the ranks. Probably Mr. T. L. Wood thinks that they were foolish in so doing. No service for him—not on your life!

Two members from one family as Mayor within a period of a few years is what may be termed "going some," and the idea that the Woods have a mortgage on the job needs to be checked.

Just at whose instigation T. L. Wood has appeared on the scene at the last minute is a matter for conjecture.

The Expositor evidently knew nothing of the game, for it commended its leading editorial of last evening as follows:

"Contrary to general expectation, there is to be a three-cornered fight for the Mayoralty of Brantford."

Two tried men were already in the field. Why, then, this sudden intrusion of a third candidate?

Is the rumor correct that one of the gentlemen identified with the Brantford Gas Company was one of those who urged Mr. Wood to stand?

Is it not also true that Mr. T. L. Wood, on more than one occasion, was allied with interests which voted and worked against the introduction of Hydro-Electric in Brantford—interests which tried to keep the throats of our citizens in the hands of a private electric company monopoly?

Where would the people of this community be to-day if these efforts had succeeded?

Just ask yourself that question?

Then as to the method of his entry into the field. Let us quote the Expositor again on that point:

"Ald. Spence and Ald. Suddaby both spoke on civic matters of interest, as did their nominators and seconders. Mr. Wood was not represented, however, his nominators having retired before the speech-making commenced, while he himself was not present at any time during the proceedings."

The people be hanged, eh?

Wouldn't even go to the bother of attending proceedings in the manner of all previous aspirants to the office. In effect, it was: "I, T. L. Wood, want the post, and that's all there is to it."

If the residents of this good burgh propose to stand for and endorse that kind of cavalier treatment of themselves, then this paper much underrates their spirit and proper resentment.

Brantford just now is in the thick of some serious matters, which have had very careful and successful handling up to date, and which need to be further closely looked after. It is no time to put an absolute green horn, municipally, on the job.

Hydro-Electric will be an established fact here within a few weeks. Would it be wise, or seemly, to have a man on that Commission who has not throughout fought for the same?

Then there is the matter of the gas supply. There should be no hesitancy in the demand for the furnishing of a pure article, in the interests of the health, the comfort and the property of the users. No American company should be allowed to come in here and do as they jolly well please with the residents. Is T. L. Wood the man to entrust with that situation?

Again, there is the matter of the Street Railway. For years the company has inflicted an inadequate service and totally unfit cars upon this community, and now, led by Acting Mayor Spence, they have been brought to time in the courts, and the municipality has the chance to take over a franchise which was given for too long a period under too loose conditions in the first place, and which it would pay this city to get. What single move has Wood made in this matter, and is he the man at this juncture to be pitchedforked into proceedings with regard to which he has not been in the slightest touch?

To sum up in brief the reasons why T. L. Wood should not at this time be elected Mayor:

1. He is seeking to brush aside the good old rule and the safe rule of having a Mayoralty candidate first give service on the City Council.
2. He has been allied with interests fighting against Hydro-Electric and in favor of a private electric light and power monopoly.
3. He has given no earnest of his desire or his intention to demand that pure gas shall reach the homes of citizens.

(Continued on Page 4)

LIVELY INTEREST IS SHOWN IN TOWNSHIP AFFAIRS AT MEETING IN COURT HOUSE

Farmers Came in From All Parts to Hear an Account of Stewardship—Addresses of Candidates and Their Friends on Township Affairs Prove Interesting—Hot Election.

The problem of the 1914 Township Council will have to face will be to do or not to do considerable work which should be done in the Township. The electors and those aspiring for Township Council honors were forced to face the problems together at the nomination meeting held yesterday afternoon in the Court Room at the Court House. The financial statement was before the electors, and it was up to the would-be councillors to face the music and to those who helped to spend the money to explain the why of the deficit which from the statement was shown to be \$13,898.70, but later this was boiled down to \$6,000, \$3,400 of which was a deficit from last year, the balance being this year's deficit. The \$8,000 was not put in the statement. The overdraft this year was explained to be due to the work which was done last spring in the way of road work, such as building culverts and repairing the roads. In the spring the roads were in dreadful condition and something had to be done.

The court room was crowded, every available seat being taken, even the sheriff's seat, but no one tried the prisoner's or witness box. Township Clerk Smith was chosen chairman and after a few remarks proceeded to call upon the mayor and seconders of those who were nominated and the nominated party.

AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT

Regarding Britain's Showing at the Panama Exposition.

LONDON, Dec. 30.—The alleged threatened friction between Great Britain and the United States over the question of the British Government's decision not to participate officially in the Panama-Pacific exposition at San Francisco, is the subject of comment in today's Westminster Gazette which gives voice to the views of the Government. The newspaper points out that the prospect of making the British national exhibit a success rests with the merchants and manufacturers and it intimates that if these are prepared to say they will exhibit on a substantial scale worthy of the country, the question of a British Government subsidy will assume a new aspect and be open to reconsideration.

The Westminster Gazette hints that the British naval representation at the opening of the Panama canal will be on such a scale as to make the question whether or not we participate officially in the exhibition at San Francisco relatively unimportant.

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP.

NELSON, B. C., Dec. 30.—The people of Nelson yesterday again declared their adherence to the principle of municipal ownership when they voted 404 to 84 to purchase the Street Railway system which has been operated for some years by a private company. The city on Thursday takes over the gas plant which was recently purchased.

WILL ENQUIRE

WINNIPEG, Man., Dec. 30.—Full investigation into alleged irregularities at the recent civic elections was ordered by the city council last night and an appropriation of \$500 for the purpose of carrying on the investigation and prosecuting any cases discovered, was voted.

GERMANS ARRIVE

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, Man., Dec. 30.—The forerunner of a German colony of five hundred, who will settle west of Lake Manitoba in the spring arrived here last night.

AVIATOR KILLED

JOHANNESBURG, Germany, Dec. 30.—A young aviator named Remus, fell from his aeroplane last night and was killed. He was voliplanning and his machine turned over and crashed to the earth.

The List of Candidates For Municipal Honors Up Until 2.30 To-day

Candidates for Mayor and Aldermen and Commissioners have until 2 o'clock to-night to qualify for office. If qualifications are not given to the City Clerk by that hour, only the names of those who have qualified will go on the ballot paper. In the case of Trustees it is different. Trustees nominated and not desirous of running, must withdraw.

The Mayoralty contest in the city will be a three-cornered affair. Up to 2 o'clock p.m., Mr. Samuel Suddaby and Mr. T. L. Wood had qualified to run for the Mayoralty and

Figure This Out Mr. Ratepayer

While Mr. T. L. Wood objects to the introduction of the power issue in the present Mayoralty contest, it is still necessary to point out that:

- (1) Under the regime of Mr. Wood's brother, D. B. Wood, Brantford was linked with the Cataract Power Company and monopoly rates.
- (2) Under the regime of W. B. Wood, another brother of T. L. Wood, Brantford was reunited with Cataract power and monopoly rates for five years.

Brantford suffered in the above respects from both Wood regimes. If T. L. Wood is elected Mayor he will become ex-officio, a member of the Hydro-Electric Commission, which is the ghost of Cataract and is owned by the people.

Brantford's ratepayers, you who have \$115,000 of real cash invested, what do you think about T. L. Wood for Mayor? Does the line of succession look good to you?

CITY SCORES KNOCK-OUT

Sulphur Gas Will be Purified, is Announcement Made by Company.

The Brantford Gas company are now going ahead with a purifying plant which will, with the Onondaga source, give about 1,000,000 cubic feet of good gas per day. This statement was made in the Police Court to-day by a representative of the Company, who is attending to the installation of a purifying plant. On Friday last an order was despatched for tops and metal-work from Penawanda, which will arrive shortly and the plant is expected to be in operation in three weeks.

THE ANNIVERSARY AT CONGREGATIONAL

A Very Pleasant Time Spent by Scholars and Teachers Last Evening.

The lecture hall of the Congregational church was crowded to hear the annual concert by the children of the Sunday School, when the following excellent programme was given: Instrumental duet, Misses Ethel Dixon and Grace Adams; recitation, Bert Houghting; song, Girls of Miss Ash's class; recitation, Jack Finch; solo, Sophia Hoag; recitation, Donald Kerr; solo, Elizabeth Ismond; piano solo, Vera Styles; instrumental solo, Retta Dyckman; recitation, Russell Rhodes; song, girls of Miss Macklen's class; recitation, Dolly Kerr; address, Rev. Mr. Kelly; song, Primmary class; recitation, Audrey Quinn; recitation, Carrie Dixon; instrumental, Miss Minnie Berrows; recitation, Robt. Rhodes; duet, Harvey and Jack Finch; recitation, Pinkie Beney; solo, Ethel Dixon; reading, Cecil Humble; song, girls of Miss Macklen's class; chorus, boys of Miss Greiner's class; reading, Mr. Ward Foster.

At 6.30 a hot supper was served to all the scholars and teachers when about 150 sat down to the well filled and attractive tables. The hall was tastefully decorated for the occasion. A pleasing feature of the evening was the announcement by the superintendent that \$3,500 had been handed by the different classes to be distributed among the deserving needy ones of the church, together with a large quantity of provisions, which will be most acceptable at this season of the year—this being the outcome of teaching the scholars to give rather than receive at Christmas time.

This Looks Rather Peculiar

In all Brantford's civic history the first man who aspired to the honor of sitting in the Mayor's chair without a minute's experience in the City Council, and without having served under any previous Mayor, is T. L. Wood. However, Mr. Wood's two brothers were Mayor before him, and the argument of the medieval ages for the divine right of kings and the line of succession seems to be still put forth. It is against tradition, however, as far as municipal service in Brantford is concerned. Mr. Ratepayer, remembering former Wood regimes, what do you think about it? It is up to you.

VEDRINES MADE WONDERFUL FLIGHT

Paris to Cairo in an Aeroplane Without a Mishap.

Not a Wire of Machine Out of Place on His Arrival.

(Canadian Press Despatch) PARIS, Dec. 30.— Jules Vedrines who has just completed a flight from Paris to Cairo tells in a long despatch of his memorable journey. Not once during the trip did his engine misfire and not a wire of the aeroplane was out of place when he landed.

Vedrines announces his intention to be the first aviator to fly to Australia. He will cross the intervening sea by way of the nearest island to the Australian continent, a distance of little more than 300 miles. The only difficult stretch of his Paris-Cairo journey was over the Taurus Mountains, compared to which the Pyrenees Mountains were the merest trifle. He took on 240 litres of gasoline and forty litres of oil and flew over the plateau at a height of nearly 16,000 feet. For two hours he was tossed about like a ship above the desolate peaks where, should he suffer a breakdown, help would be impossible. He also looped the loop, but not of his own violation, when he alighted on the sea shore. Never had he experienced such a terrible sensation.

METHUEN'S FINE GIFT TO SOLDIERS

Old Soldier Will Open Club House on Wednesday—Cost \$40,000.

(Canadian Press Despatch) NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—A cable to the New York American from Borden, Hampshire, says: Lord Methuen, the redoubtable old soldier who at one time commanded the London district has the welfare of "Tommy Atkins" at heart. A soldier's club is to be opened by him on Wednesday. It will be under the management of a committee of soldiers, non-commissioned officers and men. The building has cost about \$40,000. It is built in the old Georgian style, and is handsome and imposing. It stands on the high ground above the camp. Besides a good supper room, bar and other entertainment rooms, there are reading, billiard and tea rooms for wives and families of soldiers. It is felt that the inception of the club will lead to the erection of others.

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About Drawing Votes to Polls

The Municipal Election Act regarding the hiring of rigs seems to be bothering a lot of candidates and their friends just now. In Toronto, yesterday, it was announced, on the authority of the solicitor, that any one owning a conveyance could use it for his friend the candidate. A candidate himself may hire a conveyance and drive voters to the polls. As a matter of fact, the municipal law is just the same as the Dominion law has always been.

COLD WEATHER ARRIVES IN OLD LAND

Snow and Coast Storms Put End to Mild Weather.

Yorkshire Had Snowfall of Six Inches—Other Conditions.

(Canadian Press Despatch) NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—A cable from London to the Tribune says: The mild weather prevailing until Christmas was replaced yesterday afternoon with cold weather spreading over England, Wales, and Scotland, accompanied by snow and coast storms, one of which prevented the Lusitania landing her passengers at Fishguard, and she had to go to Liverpool. This is only the second time this year that the Channel Line has been prevented from landing at Fishguard because of bad weather. The boat train will probably reach London about noon to-day.

A few flakes of snow fell in London during the day and again last night. They soon turned to rain, but snow fell so heavily even as far south as Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight that it blinded navigators in the Solent, and fog horns were kept going continuously.

Yorkshire had a fall of six inches, and the roads are all blocked in North Wales. There is very severe weather in Derbyshire, South Shropshire and Radnorshire, with the snow 18 inches deep in some places. There were some degrees of frost in Kent this morning. The Scottish highlands are covered with a heavy blanket of snow, and ploughs were used to clear the railways of five and six foot drifts. One train got through.

Ulracon was visited by one of the fiercest gales in years, beginning Sunday morning. It veered to the northeast bringing hail and roof-ripping houses and uprooting trees.

Telegrams received from Swiss resorts say that there are forty inches at Andermatt, Klosters, and Arosa and twenty-seven inches at Davos.

Germany and France also had heavy snow.

QUEEN SOPHIA DIED TO-DAY

Was Queen Mother of Sweden and a Very Religious Woman.

(Canadian Press Despatch) STOCKHOLM, Sweden, Dec. 30.—Queen Mother Sophia of Sweden died here to-day in her 78th year. She had suffered acutely for several days and succumbed to an attack of inflammation of the lungs.

Her majesty had been practically an invalid for more than a quarter of a century. She was subject to melancholia which necessitated a constant watch being kept on her by medical attendants. She took very little part in court functions devoting herself whenever her malady permitted it to enterprises of religious nature. She was a great sympathizer with the Salvation Army whose operations in Scandinavia she followed with intense interest. At the same time she was a strong advocate of temperance.

STOCKHOLM, Dec. 30.—A bulletin issued at the palace says the palace says the queen mother's end was peaceful.

The city has assumed mourning, garb, most of the residents wearing black, while the flags over the public buildings are flying at half mast and all the theatres and places of amusement are closed.