

# Municipal Candidates Talk to Hall full of People

Three Hours of Discussion of Civic Affairs in Edmonton Theatre Last Night. Many Promises Made by Prospective Aldermen. Alderman Bellamy Produces the Figures.

(Thursday's Daily)

Fourteen candidates for aldermanic honors, three candidates for mayor and at least 1,200 electors filled the Edmonton theatre last night to its capacity to hear the annual "greatest" which has become a part of the municipal scheme of government. It was a good-natured crowd, inclined to be humorously critical at times, but orderly and attentive and the speakers got a courteous and decorous hearing. The size of the audience knocked the bottom out of the oft-repeated statement that interest in flagging in municipal affairs and the occasional shafts of wit from the audience indicated that the men with the votes in Edmonton are thoroughly alive to the finer points of municipal administration and legislation.

John B. Walker easily carried off the belt as the speaker of the evening. For a man who has never been seen at the council chamber he showed a wonderful grasp of the situation and he made his points and drove them home and clinched them in such a forcible way as to leave no room to doubt that he understood what he was talking about.

Mr. Brenton's remarks provoked considerable amusement and while he made some very fair points, the effect was frequently lost amid the laughter.

John A. McDougall presided as chairman, Mayor May being out of town and Acting Mayor Picard being on the jury which was trying D'Amour.

The candidates for mayor speaking first, Mr. Bellamy second and Mr. Griesbach last. The aldermanic candidates were ranged in alphabetical order and given ten minutes each. It was close to midnight when the last speaker, W. S. Weeks, reached the floor, but the audience almost unanimously stayed for the certain and took every word with consideration.

John A. McDougall, who acted as chairman of the evening, asked for perfect order, as there was a long list of candidates to hear them even in very brief speeches. He regretted that the mayor was not present, and that the acting mayor was also prevented from acting mayor. He introduced Mr. Lawson as the first speaker in the majority race.

Mr. Dawson said he had no apology to offer for being a candidate except that many of his friends who would not have "No" for an answer, had persisted in him coming out.

He said that no matter what the result it was a clean election and an honest election and he hoped that he and his opponents would be good friends after the election as they have been before.

His opponents would claim, however, that they had the advantage of having served already in the council. He doubted it that was an advantage, in the present state of the city's affairs, the city council certainly must be the parties responsible. What was the condition. The water works, the electric light was past its load limit. The telephone was so loaded that another telephone could be had at the city hall for love or money. In fact, anyone who had a telephone could get \$50 for it at any moment.

The sewerage, of which so much had been said, was still almost altogether on paper. The typhoid epidemic which the city had followed was due largely to the fact that there were no sewers. Let us get hold of the fact, he said, that two years from today Edmonton was to be 25,000 people, and 15 years from now it would be 100,000 people. Let the council build on this understanding and let it not have to throw away work only recently completed.

He would say, let us get an expert, such a man as Willis Chipman, and let us tell him that we want a plant for 25,000 people, such a plant as could be added to so as to serve 100,000 people. This plant would have to be located away up the river to be free from contamination.

He also proposed that the city should build an immense electric plant and should mine its own coal so as to have a large supply of power to sell at a low price.

Regarding the telephone, he said that nothing could be done, as the work had been started too late, except that the telephone construction company should be hurried as much as possible.

Regarding the sewer he said that the construction should be pushed as fast as men and money could do it. He believed that the laterals should be put in in the east and streets first, so that they could be connected up as quickly as the trunk sewer was put past the end of the streets. In the meantime he would stop all work that was not absolutely necessary except the sewer. He promised if elected that the sewer would be built and if any employee of the city interfered with the work, off goes his head.

Ald. Bellamy said he would like to give a few figures. He quoted, as chairman of the finance commission to show the work done in the last year, the west end, also the statistics of the electric plant to show what extensions had been made within the year. He showed that \$250 incandescent lights

installed, twenty new art lamps put in, six hundred three-quarter mile pole line construction within the past year, which, he said, was not a bad showing on that franchise alone, considering that Mr. Dawson was of the opinion that the city had done nothing for the last year.

Mr. Bellamy also quoted a series of figures to show what public works had been done during the past year, and where.

Alderman Bellamy said that he noticed that all the aldermen with one accord advocated municipal ownership. He was in accord with this and he claimed some credit along that line.

When he came here fifteen years ago he and a few others advocated municipal ownership and were called fanatics. Now the city was almost universally in favor of municipal ownership and he thought that Edmonton was one of the most advanced cities in Canada.

He recalled the fact that three years ago there had been an agitation to sell the street car franchise, and that it was actually sold. He claimed that Mr. Lawson was one of the men who had advocated selling the franchise at that time, and if he were elected mayor he would be in the position of presiding over a council which was composed entirely of municipal ownership men.

Regarding the establishment of industries, he was opposed to the bonus system, but if the benefits to accrue from the industry to be bonus were sufficient, he would favor a small bonus.

The council, he said, had been reprimanded for submitting a bylaw for rails alone for the street railway. The fact was that the plan was not far enough advanced to submit a bylaw covering the whole cost and as rails were rising and had to be ordered six months ahead, it was necessary to order now to have the rails next summer.

The enlargement of the power plant was one of the propositions before the present time.

The commissioner system, he thought, was generally speaking, very satisfactory and he thought that the commissioners should be encouraged instead of hampered. There is room for improvement, but if there was not the city would be lost. He advocated turning over more of the details to the commissioners.

He said he was a candidate and if people thought he would be a good mayor he asked them to vote for him. Alderman Griesbach said he noticed an excellent article in the bulletin that said that the candidate who hoped for votes should be the man who would deal with the future and not with the past.

He was in accord with that. He went over what was proposed in the way of paving and what the city was going to do with the street railway project.

Mr. Dawson, he said, had elaborate schemes for the extension of the public franchises. Well, the city already had made arrangements for a water plant to be located up the river and the site had already been selected. If the city was to keep abreast of the times in the water supply, he would advise Mr. Dawson to employ some other engineer than Mr. Chipman.

Mr. Chipman did not see five years ago that the city would ever be as big as it was today.

Mr. Griesbach said the city was now arranging for a plant of two three million gallon pumps, to be built on the site, which was to be added to from time to time by the addition of other similar pumps. The city also proposed to operate the plant with electric power generated at a central station in the city. He mentioned that it was possible to add one turbine pump to a battery, but it was not possible to add one electric engine to another, as Mr. Dawson proposed to do.

On the establishment of industries, he was prepared to deal justly, and possibly generously, with any industries that proposed to come in. He was providing that the industries should be scrutinized carefully.

He advocated that an amendment be added to the charter providing that the council should have power to supervise the assessment. He said that the assessment in a sense ran away with them this year because the council had no such power. He did not believe a high assessment and a low tax rate would fool anyone—certainly not the men who buy the lands.

He advocated a permanent, efficient fire brigade, but at the same time deplored the fact that through a blunder the volunteer brigade had been disbanded. He also advocated a larger police force.

He was a candidate for the mayoralty. Between himself and Mr. Bellamy they had a choice to make on their records. But with Mr. Dawson the case was different. Was it wise to place the business in the hands of a man who had admitted that he knew nothing about the city's affairs? Was it wise to allow him to experiment with the city's enormous affairs until he got that experience. With all due modesty he claimed that he believed that he had the experience and knowledge necessary for the successful working out of the city's problems. On Monday the citizens would choose. If elected, he would do the best he knew how. But no matter who was elected he hoped they would have the fairest and most favorable criticism at the hands of the citizens.

Andrew H. Allen was the first of the prospective aldermen who was called upon. As a young man who had spent years in the metropolis of Canada, Montreal, he came before them, hoping to be selected to do a part of the work of making Edmonton the metropolis of Alberta and the west. He

depreciated the sectional cry which had arisen in the city, and he was an advocate of the rapid extension of water and sewerage, but he thought, with what he had heard tonight, that this work would be put forward as rapidly as possible.

He thought that the city council should get busy at once and get the city an electric railway.

He proposed that a blanket motion be put through the council authorizing the commissioners to go ahead with the carrying out of local improvement petitions without taking up the time of the council.

He advocated a market for the buying and selling of agricultural products and an industries committee to look after the industries that wish to come to the city.

He hoped that the city would never again be so foolish as to endanger any of its franchises as it had already once done the street car franchise.

Cameron Anderson said that the business he followed was not such as would qualify a man as a public speaker and he was in favor of short speeches. He had been indicted on the charge of being a new comer. He was in Edmonton when the city was 4,000 population. He left it with the house to say whether he was with the minority or the majority.

He was one of the east enders of whom so much had been heard. He was out for election for the benefit of the whole city but they were not going to forget the east end.

The east enders were qualified as chronic kickers. Well, maybe they were kicking, but they were kicking not so much about what they got but about what they did not get. The city was building a trunk sewer. Some months ahead, it was necessary to order the east end—yet no provision was made for the sewerage of the east end while all provisions were made for the sewerage of the west end.

He thought the city council would have better judgment had they laid the laterals on Government, Ottawa, Syndicate, Kinsington, Namayo, Fraser, Queens and McDougall, so that when the big sewer was built, the ends of these streets that elated could be connected up and service given at once.

Mr. Anderson dealt briefly with the street car and industrial question which occupied him until the time limit.

Mr. J. B. Brenton said he was in harmony with the common street talk which found fault so much with the financial management of the city, to do his best for the whole city if elected.

He did not come forward as one of the Solid Five or on any other ticket, but as a man who promised to do his best for the whole city if elected.

Mr. Gariepy said he had voted 14 years ago, although then a very young man, that the city was not securing the proper number of lots for park sites. He was of the same opinion now and if elected he would try to get the park question settled at once.

He proposed that the street car line should be extended to the park sites purchased in the east and west end.

Mr. Gariepy had much more to say, but finding his time limit he concluded by hoping that a large portion of the electors could find reasons for giving him a vote for his council.

J. B. Walker said that the platform which he had published in the daily papers was one on which he had been working for two and one-half years, ever since he arrived in the city.

He was in favor of the ward system. He was unqualifiedly in favor of municipal ownership, pointing to the city of Glasgow as an instance of what might be done along these lines.

He advocated public parks in the city, breathing spaces, right in town, on property already owned by the city.

On the industrial proposition he said Edmonton was in a very happy position at the present time, as it had the railway facilities and owning its franchises could easily give the inducements to bring manufacturing concerns to the city.

He favored a public market. He deplored the fact that during the past year the city of Edmonton had become notorious as having a typhoid epidemic. Typhoid was a fifth disease. He advocated a health department and the rapid installation of the sewer and water system.

On the labor question he said that if the city was to get good work it would have to pay the wages. To his mind there was no doubt that a good deal of public money was being squandered on public works at the present time, for which there was no excuse as Edmonton had the experience of all other cities in Canada to go by.

He advocated that the three offices now held by Mr. Kinnaird, secretary, treasurer and commissioner, be divided and that three men be appointed to fill them.

He said he had found that the representative meeting in the east end had selected five men to run the council—the Solid Five. He was one of those candidates. The platform had been extensively published. The electors were acquainted with it. One of the clauses of the platform provided that if the five were elected they would reorganize the business management at the city hall. He pointed to the street railway as one of the instances of the style of business that emanates from the city hall. They had put up a rush bylaw for rails and trolley wire. They would probably follow this with another bylaw for the 18 foot strip, then one for equipment, and another for power plant, etc., etc. The defeat of any one of these would wreck the street railway proposition altogether.

He pointed out that the citizens were in the dark as to the state of affairs with regard to the telephone, the electric light and the water plants. He advocated that the commissioners should be required to make monthly reports to the people and the council. He claimed that the Solid Five had already made itself felt at the city hall, and that the Solid Five had introduced and their reports were already coming in. If the Solid Five could be elected in opposition he thought that they ought to be pretty good people to elect.

Mr. Lannic was very brief. He promised his best efforts to the city and asked for votes on that promise.

Dr. McCauley said he was one of the Solid Five. He was in the east end, but he was selected as a representative meeting and the Solid Five did not anywhere promise to confine their efforts to the east end or any other part of the city. All that they promised was that the east end would be made the dumping ground of the Solid Five must surely be a good one as it already had been. He said that every candidate had been seen on in the city hall.

One of their important clauses in the platform of the Solid Five was that a doctor had had the opportunity to see a good deal of the ill-health of the city and he promised if the five were elected that a proper health department should be inaugurated, and that the city property taken care of from a sanitary point of view. He asked for votes for the Solid Five, not for himself alone, and pointed out that it was necessary to elect the five in order to carry out their excellent platform.

W. G. West dealt with the public works of the city. He said that the work of the city was in the hands of the Solid Five. He was in the east end, but he was selected as a representative meeting and the Solid Five did not anywhere promise to confine their efforts to the east end or any other part of the city. All that they promised was that the east end would be made the dumping ground of the Solid Five must surely be a good one as it already had been. He said that every candidate had been seen on in the city hall.

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## WHAT THE FIGURES ACTUALLY SHOW

Alderman Bellamy's Statement to Last Night's Meeting

(Thursday's Daily)

At last night's meeting in the city hall Alderman Bellamy gave the following figures which show as briefly as possible what has been done during the past year by the city, and how it was done.

A careful study of the figures would not hurt some of the candidates.

CITY ELECTRICIAN'S REPORT covering increase of Light and Power from January 1st to December 31st, 1906.

January	50 equals 209 lights
February	32 " 171 "
March	26 " 251 "
April	54 " 681 "
May	41 " 256 "
June	44 " 556 "
July	42 " 757 "
August	68 " 775 "
September	65 " 764 "
October	76 " 1469 "
November	75 " 1488 "

Additional lights connected on Old Service	1023
Total	8350

Total increase of incandescent lights on a 16-candle power basis—8350—467 kilo watts.

ARC LAMPS—Total number of street arc lamps 74; increase for 1906—20.

LINE CONSTRUCTION—New extensions 62 miles. POLES—Total number of new poles erected, 305. POWER—Increase in motor power from January 1st to December 31st, 70 horse power.

Purposes which power is used for—Sash and door factories; elevators; bakers; harness-makers; breweries, etc.

REVENUE. Revenue received for motor power for January... \$142.45. Revenue received for motor power for November... \$50.00.

Increase over month of January... \$207.55. The amount of electric light used during the day in basements, etc., has greatly increased, but it is very hard to arrive at the amount of power being used for this purpose.

The total number of incandescent lights installed in city Dec. 1st, 1906, is 20,350.

CEMENT WALKS. East-end \$24,516.90 West-end \$12,382.65 Total \$36,899.55. GRADING AND BOULEVARDING. All in West-end \$12,871.50.

STREET GRADING. East-end \$1,741.20 West-end \$1,920.00 Total \$1,938.20. SEWER CONSTRUCTION. East-end \$25,632.40 West-end \$4,674.90 Total \$30,307.30 (Labour and material).

WATER CONSTRUCTION. East-end \$21,502.11 West-end \$16,796.79 Total \$38,298.90. WATER SERVICE CONNECTIONS. About equally divided between East and West. Total amounting to \$5,481.13. Labour, value of material not complete.

PLANK WALKS. East-end \$14,029.32 West-end \$10,572.92 Total \$24,602.24. FINANCE EXPENDITURE 1906.

Grants. To Exhibition Association, re deficit 1905... \$270.34. To Board of Trade... 5800.00. To H. K. Dow for loss of team... 75.00. To N. D. Beck, fees re G.T.P. agreement... 575.00. To Shield presented to S.S. "Edmonton"... 106.65.

Delegations. Expenses Mayor and Ald. Boyle to Chicago \$ 150.00. " and Ald. Griesbach and Solicitor to Montreal... 1077.75. \$1227.75.

Entertainments. Hire of rink (March and April)... \$ 800.00. Orchestra, decorations & exp. re rink... 202.80