

City Council Self-Satisfied

Discussion on the Subject of Ward-Grabbing and Reform.

Ald. Graham's Motion Bowled Out, This Time,

On a Division of Six Yeas to Ten Nays.

Several Amendments Put For- ward and Defeated.

Most of the Members Partici- pated in the Debate—The Council's Golden Opportunity to Blow Its Own Horn.

Municipal reform measures were tumultuously discussed by the city council last night. The stamped, began with the introduction of Ald. Graham's motion, which was vetoed at the previous meeting, lasted for a couple of hours, and resulted in nothing more material than unstinted praise for the present and past councils of the city of London. The council rejoiced to find itself so nearly perfect. It ostentatiously shook hands with itself and patted its own back in its exuberant expression of its self-admiration. Evils might exist in the councils of other cities under the ward system, but in London—never! Were they not the champions of the present system in London? To say anything against it was a direct insult to every alderman around the board. This was the key-note—the cadenza—sustained by the opposition.

Considering that the sole object of Ald. Graham's motion was merely to attain for the ratepayers the right to approve of the present system of the municipal government of the city or express themselves in favor of the reforms indicated, the personal affront seemed fancied. But fancied or not, the fact remains that the motion was voted down, the division being as follows:

Yeas—Ald. Winnett, Stevely, Graham, Hunt, McCallum and Greenlees—6.
Nays—Ald. Taylor, Belton, Douglass, Jolly, Carrothers, Cooper, Dreaney, Nutkins, O'Meara and Gerry—10.

Ald. Wilkey was absent, and Ald. McPhillips was in the chair, and the mayor was present, but did not vote. Some interesting amendments were offered and lost.

THE REFORM RESOLUTION.
Ald. Graham's motion in full was: "That in the opinion of this council the Municipal Act should be so amended as to allow ratepayers by their vote to determine whether the number of their representatives on the council should not be reduced to one for each 4,000 of the population; and also whether they should not be elected in like manner as the mayor and aldermen, by general vote, and not by sections or wards, as at present; and that the city solicitor be instructed to prepare a petition asking that the said act be amended accordingly."

"And further, that the city clerk be instructed to communicate with the city clerks of Hamilton, Ottawa and Kingston (the only cities, except London, debarred by the existing law from taking similar action towards municipal reform), for the purpose of securing co-operation in procuring the legislation asked for."

"As soon as it was read Ald. Nutkins claimed that it was out of order. A two-thirds vote would be required, said Ald. Taylor and O'Meara, as this would be a reconsideration of the motion."

The mayor said the council had been called to discuss, in a general way, municipal reform, and any motion could be brought in as new business."

Ald. Taylor strongly contended for a reconsideration.

"You will have to appeal against my ruling," said the mayor.

Ald. Taylor would not do that, but said it was a very strange ruling. The mayor again invited an appeal, but there was none, and he returned to the chair. Subsequently he asked Ald. McPhillips to relieve him.

PRO AND CON.
Ald. Graham stated his reasons for considering the reform advisable. Under the ward system an alderman was familiar with the needs of his own ward only, and in dealing with a claim from another part of the city did not consider whether or not the work was needed, but voted to please certain aldermen. The aldermen did not represent London, but little pieces of it. They should have the same in-

terest at large as they had voice. Under the reform system, he held, the outlying districts would be looked after more thoroughly, as the aldermen would be supported by the citizens generally. It had been said that the new system would tend to concentrate the interests of the aldermen in the center of the city. He did not think so. On that principle Ald. Hunt, for instance, would be expected to take particular interest in the lower end of No. 4 ward, where he lived, yet the speaker knew Ald. Hunt took just as much interest in the north end of the ward as the south. The principle of the ward system was one continual grab. Certain years one ward needed more money than some other wards, and to get it was just the matter of who had the biggest pull. The duty of the aldermen was to keep on grabbing. It was like one kingdom divided into a lot of little kingdoms. Men who paid \$2,000 or \$3,000 in taxes to the city had not the right to say who should expend it. The principle was wrong. No matter what a man's speaker was astonished that the system had run so long.

Ald. Graham's reasons for not moving to submit the question to the people in January were first, that it was advisable to await an agreement with the other cities as to whether the aldermen should be one for 4,000, 5,000 or 6,000, and also, because no matter how small the expense would be no funds were provided for it. Continuing, he said a like motion had been carried in every town and city where put. It was not surprising that a reduction of the ward system had been voted down, as there would necessarily be the same grabbing and concentration with four wards as with six. He felt confident that this movement would carry by a large majority, particularly in the outlying portions of the city.

Ald. Taylor moved an amendment that the mayor, Ald. Douglass, Carrothers, Graham, Greenlees and Taylor be a deputation to meet deputations from Hamilton, Kingston and Ottawa, to discuss the matter, Toronto to be the place of meeting. London should consult the other municipalities before doing anything. The rate of 1 in 4,000 might not suit them. Continuing, Ald. Taylor attacked the movement on the ground that the ten members would be elected from the center of the city, and would therefore not look after the outside.

Ald. Dreaney agreed with Ald. Taylor that under the reform advocated the aldermen would be elected from the center of the city, and the outlying districts not be well looked after.

Ald. Winnett claimed that in the matter of the expenditure on the city streets alone, there would be a saving of 25 per cent under the innovation suggested. There could be no doubt the citizens were clamoring for municipal reform. The press indicated this clearly. In the past there were 36 aldermen, but the number was reduced, and now the people were desirous of a still further reduction. The deputation suggested by Ald. Taylor was unnecessary, he thought. The other cities could be communicated with by letter and the same end reached just as well.

The mayor said the reform was not needed in the city of London. All the aldermen had tried hard to do their duty. He did not know that it would be wise to do away with the ward system all at once. In his three years on the school board he had seen good effects from the ward system. There was the fact that not one of the three cities mentioned has as good streets as London, and they cost more money. The aldermen deserved great praise. He believed the city's interests were better served by dividing up the city into municipalities. His opinion was to reduce the number of aldermen to twelve, but retain the six wards. He could see many disadvantages in the election by the city at large. To eradicate politics would be the greatest possible benefit, but under this new system more politics would be brought into the council than in the past. This had been little or none of it this year.

Ald. O'Meara said the proposition of Ald. Graham was not a new one. Ald. Winnett's view that a saving would be effected in the expenditure on the city streets was a very narrow one. The fact of the matter was that the board of works got only \$2,500 to spend on 110 miles of streets and 230 miles of sidewalks, he said. When anybody tackled an alderman it was about the expenditure on the streets, the employment of some poor workman that did not get 40 days' work in the year, or some such picaresque matter. Ald. Graham's motion, he said, was a direct insult to every man around the board. It was as much as saying they were not capable. The rich man's council had mortgaged Salter's Grove, and the city had suffered ever since. Workmen made as good practical aldermen as the rich men. He had not

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seen much politics in the council this year, nor at any time when the city's interests were at stake. Under the new scheme it would be politics from start to finish, and that was the great trouble. Politics would never again bring him into the council. As for the slurs against aldermen by "rascal-mongers," he could say that in his eighteen years' experience at the council he knew nothing against an alderman.

Ald. Douglass also thought that under the new system the aldermen would be elected from the center of the city. If Ald. Graham and Winnett had been on the board of works this year they would have thought they represented quite a large enough part of the city. A better move for reform would be to cut the wards in two instead of doing away with them. There had been no ward-grabbing this year, he said.

Ald. McCallum—in the plan that you propose, do you allow the women to vote?

Ald. Douglass—Oh, yes.

Ald. Hunt said that fault was not found with the aldermen, but with the system. Ward-grabbing was an evil of the system, and had to exist to a certain extent. He saw no reason why the men elected from the center of the city would be debarred from taking an interest in the suburbs. There could be no doubt the citizens desired a change. Many had talked to the speaker, and there was not one but had condemned the ward system. Under no system would the workmen have so good a show of being elected.

Ald. Cooper had traveled as much as Ald. Hunt or Graham, and he had not heard one man say he wanted the number of aldermen reduced to ten. The only mistake made during the year was on hospital business, and that was all the fault he had heard found. He was charged as being the grabber of the council, but while a member of the council he would always see that No. 4 ward got its share. The argument that the discussion would be curtailed was no good. The more discussion the better. As for saying that an alderman was elected for only one ward, it was not true. He worked for the general interest of the city with just as much heart as for his own ward.

Ald. Stevely thought much could be said in favor of the several reforms which had been suggested. But since it was proposed to cut three other cities join with London in obtaining legislation, he believed it would be better for the clerk to communicate with these other cities, and get their views before any definite method of reform be decided upon.

Ald. Carrothers claimed that the board of works during the past year had not spent a cent unprofitably. He asked Ald. Winnett, as a former member, if he could lay sidewalks cheaper than had been done this year. Could ten men secure cheaper contracts than had been secured? The sewer contract system would still be the aldermen system from certain sections of the city. A reform in the way of shorter speeches might be well, but he did not think the people wanted a reduction in the number of aldermen. He had not heard any one ask for it.

Ald. Graham replied that he had not been running down the aldermen. No reflection on the present aldermen was intended. The objection was against the system. No business in the city was more laudably conducted than that of the waterworks board, with its three commissioners. What objection could there be to getting the legislation, so that the citizens could use it if they wanted to. It could be adopted only by a vote of the people in any event. Were the aldermen afraid that if legislation were obtained the citizens would clamor for the reform?

Ald. Cooper asked Ald. Graham if he knew of the enormous debt of the waterworks board.

Ald. Winnett believed the reform would put an end to letting contractors fatten on city contracts.

Ald. Cooper—Mention one.

Ald. Winnett—You know as well as I.

Ald. O'Meara said the council of this and past years had been more saving than any of the boards or trusts in the city.

Ald. Greenlees engaged the attention of the council with an interesting mathematical calculation offered as an argument in favor of the reform. There was one member who had made fourteen speeches during the evening. That would be a total of 252 speeches, if every alderman chose to exercise the same right. If the aldermen behaved in this way they would only 140 speeches in one evening. (Laughter.)

DEFEATED.
Ald. O'Meara's amendment to refer the matter to next year's council was defeated by 6 to 8.

The amendment to appoint a deputation to consult with other cities was defeated 5 to 11.

Ald. Jolly moved a committee, consisting of Ald. McPhillips, Carrothers, Hunt, Greenlees, Dreaney and the mover, to bring in some recommendations along this line. Ald. Cooper seconded.

Ald. Belton also favored this. The vote was 6 to 11.

The original motion was then put with the result stated above, and the council adjourned.

OUR BUTTER IN ENGLAND

A Vast Market—How the Butter
Should Be Prepared for It.

The following table shows the quantity of butter imported to Great Britain in the year ending Dec. 31, 1897:

From—	Quantity.	Value.
Canada	12,253,024	\$ 2,164,995
United States	17,269,952	3,083,272
Denmark	149,489,312	32,841,060
Australasia	30,176,384	6,305,121
France	50,150,336	11,742,187
Sweden	33,511,968	7,378,431
Holland	31,206,672	6,586,269
Germany	5,797,232	1,280,408
Other countries	30,498,832	6,482,609
Total	360,393,712	77,462,300

The quantities of butter which the British consumers want in all markets are those having a fresh-made flavor, without any evidence of staleness. They want in most cases a mild-flavored butter, salted at the rate of one-half to five-eighths of an ounce per pound of butter. In some markets they will take butter salted at the rate of three-fourths of an ounce per pound of butter. In nearly all markets they prefer the butter to be of a pale straw color, and even lighter than that.

British merchants require butter to be put up in neat clean convenient packages. The package which takes best is the 56-pound box; and each box should be covered with a coarse canvas bag to keep it clean in transit. Each box should contain when packed 57 pounds net of butter. That allows for shrinkage and permits the butter to be turned out by the retailer when weighing 56 pound plump. I think the producers will obtain more money by putting in 57 pounds of butter and invoicing it at 56 pounds than they will by putting in 56 pound exactly and standing the claims for short weight, which usually bring dissatisfaction from the buyers. Each package should be lined inside with a good quality of parchment paper weighing not less than 40 pounds to the ream. A thicker quality is so much the better. When a thin and fragile quality of paper is used it sticks to the butter and tears when being taken off. When the thicker qualities of paper are being removed they leave the butter covered with a sparkling brine, and that improves its appearance.

The retail buyer in examining butter in the warehouse of the wholesale merchant, judges it at its worst points. He removes a small portion from the surface of the butter, or runs the butter prior down the side of the package. If he finds any staleness at these places he will deprecate the value of the whole package and of the whole lot. It is highly important that the butter intended for export should be kept at a low temperature from the day it is made. If it becomes slightly off flavor on the surface of the package it will fetch a relatively lower price.—Prof. Robertson.

A PECULIAR REMEDY.

Something About the New Discovery
for Curing Dyspepsia.

The Rev. F. I. Bell, a highly esteemed minister, residing in Westport, Cayuga county, N. Y., in a recent letter, writes as follows: "There has been nothing that I have taken since I have been relieved the dyspepsia from which I have suffered for ten years except the new remedy called Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets. Since taking them I have had no distress at all after eating, and again after several years CAN SLEEP WELL. Rev. F. I. Bell, Westport, N. Y., formerly Idaho, Colo."

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This is the secret of the success of this peculiar remedy. No matter how weak or how much disordered the digestion may be, Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets will DIGEST THE FOOD WHETHER THE STOMACH WORKS OR NOT. New life and energy is given, not only to the stomach but to every organ and nerve in the body. A trial of this splendid medicine will convince the most skeptical that Dyspepsia and all stomach troubles CAN BE CURED. The Tablets are prepared by the F. A. Stuart Co., of Montreal, but so popular has the remedy become that Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets can now be obtained at any drug store at 50 cents per package. Send for book on stomach diseases free. 89c zxy

During the siege of Paris no fewer than 22,000,000 letters sailed out of the city in the 54 balloons.

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