JOHN A. MCDOUGALL REFUTES CHARGES OF HIS OPPONENTS

East End Ratepayer's Association Meeting in Norwood School Enthusiastically Receives Mayoralty Candidate McDougall, and its Own Aldermanic Ticket—Mr. McDougall Incisively Meets Charges Made by His Opponents—Aldermanic Candidate Discusses Civic Questions.

From Wednesday's Bulletin.

Norwood school was packed to the doors last night with the sturdy electors of the East End, to hear the discussion and criticism of the civic administration of the city of Edmonton for the year 1907, and the declaration of the policy of each of the East End candidates for aldermanic honors in the approaching elections. The temper of the meeting was the finest and actuated by a strong enthusiasm for the policy as laid down in the East End platform. The speakers though moderate in their criticism, were clearly in earnest and were heartily applauded by the electors at every reference to the impotence of the present administration to meet the situation that has this year confronted them. ffl

Great interest was aroused by the speech of John A. McDougall, who handled his anonymous and avowed critics without gloves and completely won the sympathy of the audience. Mr. Picard was represented in the person of E. B. Williams, who was courteously but skeptically received by the audience.

J. Travis Barker was a splendid chairman, and by apt anecdote and stirring peroration directed the temper of a most intelligent and good natured meeting. "A lot," said the chairman, "with a sidewalk, a drain for water and sewers is more to a workingman than a palace in an unknown Utopia."

W. H. Clegg was the first speaker. He deplored the present condition of the civic administration. He reviewed and defended the platform of the East End ticket and declared for a more detailed financial statement and the extension of the franchise to tenants. Local improvements, he held, should be granted on a petition of the majority of the ratepayers of any portion of the city.

Mayor Has No Financial Instincts.

Mr. G. S. Armstreng gave a strong, practical address on a business-like conduct of municipal administration. He said there should be a better and more harmonious understanding among the heads of the different departments. (Applause.) In the conduct of the city's business one dollar was eating another. The staffs in charge of departments of the city's service could look after five times the business they did. He scored the city administration for its apathy and tardiness in extending the city's sewerage and water system. The present mayor had shown a want of financial instinct in being overtaken so deplorably by the financial stringency. He was surprised to find that in progressive Edmonton householders or tenants had no vote. The charter needed amendment in this respect.

Mr. McDougall Speaks.

Mr. McDougall was heartily received by the electers present. In opening his address he stated that he was not thrusting himself into the municipal field; but was asked to come out by a largely signed requisition and innumerable personal requests. He stood prepared to answer all charges that had been levelled at him, and deplored the fact that the campaign was not being conducted on the municipal issues that were before the people.

Mr. McDougall then took the general charges contained in Mayor Griesbach's letters and made a most effective reply to each in turn. It had been charged, he said, that his 'private business had been detrimental' to the city. It was charged that by collusion with the government at Regina that he had obtained exemption from taxation for the Norwood subdivision. He stated that Norwood and Hudson Bay reserve had been exempted some time before he acquired the property. During 1905 and 1906 only school taxes were assessed This year $210,000 was the total taxes of which Norwood was paying its fair share, but the Norwood section of the city was not getting an adequate expenditure on improvements in return.

He referred to a letter in the Bulletin by a man, he said, whose name was not on the voters' list. This man impudently asked what had Mr. McDougall done for Edmonton.

To this he replied that he had stood by Edmonton for 30 years, had invested a great amount of capital, as his many buildings on Jasper avenue abundantly proved.

The Exhibition Charges.

With respect to the exhibition grounds Mr. McDougall stated he went into the exhibition proposition in the early days as a scheme to advertise the resources of the city and Edmonton district. The exhibition was never a financial success and many of the small shareholders wanted to sell. When Mr. McDougall obtained a controlling interest in the exhibition park he offered it to the city at $40,000. The next year it went up to $60,000. "We could have kept it and divided it into lots and made double the money. They accuse us of making money on it. They could have done so, too, but they did not have the foresight nor the courage."

Mr. McDougall finished his statement on this question by declaring that he would buy back tomorrow the exhibition grounds if the city would sell.

With respect to the charge that McDougall and Secord were blocking the C. P. R. Mr. McDougall said it was ludicrous to think so. He explained that they owned twenty-three lots in block 10. The C. P. R. bought fifteen of them. They then went to work and laid track on these lots, as well as on the remaining eight which they did not own, and "now the C. P. R. is holding us up." He was accused of blocking the C. P. R. at Jasper avenue when the C. P. R. were attempting to buy the right of way in that locality. The C. P. R. obtained some lots in block 9 and obtained an option on some other adjoining his at $20,000. Then they came to Mr. McDougall and wanted him to sell, which he would not agree to unless they paid $20,000. This they refused to do. "I offered them the property at their own valuation," said Mr. McDougall.

Later Mayor Griesbach told him the deal was off and asked him what terms he would give the city. He said he would do better for the city than for the C. P. R. With the C. P. R. he intended to force them into settlement with regard to the remaining eight lots in block 9, which the company had taken possession of, but if the city should take the deal in hand he would forego his intentions regarding the above lots.

He denied that he ever stated that he proposed to reduce the assessment or the taxes. He said the assessment would have to be reduced. Though he expected the taxes would in all probability go higher.

"There are all kinds of stories in circulation that if I am elected I will discharge a lot of officials," said Mr. McDougall.

"It would be a good thing if you did," said a man in the audience. "We hope you will," shouted another. (Applause.) "It's coming," aded another.

To this rumor Mr. McDougall gave an emphatic denial.

Want Utilities to Pay.

Dealing with the city's utilities he said he was in favor of an advanced and sane policy in this respect. But he wanted them to pay. At present, according to the city's methods of bookkeeping no one could tell whether our investments in our public utilities were paying or not, and he cited the financial statement of 1906 which was issued six months after the close of the financial year. Such methods were unbusiness-like and contrary to the practice of successful business men who knew within ten days their losses and gains, their resources and liabilities.

In conclusion Mr. McDougall referred his critics to his record as mayor in 1897. "At that time things were pretty bad," he said, "but even at that we built the E. Y. & P. bridge, for which I claim I can take considerable credit."

"We know that," said Dad Brenton.

Mr. McDougall related the history of the negotiations that led up to the construction of the bridge. It was due to the energetic, unselfish and timely action of the council under the leadership of the mayor, assisted by many of the public-spirited citizens of the town. The council and these citizens endorsed a joint note to pay the bonus required. "Is this true, or is it not true?" said the speaker, and the audience knew where the quotation came from.

The public debt, he charged, was too high and had increased too rapidly during the last two years. The debt of the city has increased $2,000,000 during the last two years.

"Yes, and what have we got for it?" said a voice in the audience.

He cited as bad business the filling up of the city yards with a great surplus of material for public works, thus tying up a large amount of capital.

Ald. Picard's Representative.

Mr. E. B. Williams appeared for Mr. Picard. He said that Mayor Griesbach was not running the election and he had authority to say so. He pointed out that Mr. Picard was one of the citizens who generously stood by the city's interests in 1897 and signed the $25,000 note to pay the bonus towards the E. Y. & P. bridge. Mr. McDougall was a gentleman of ability and honor and not one could throw a stone at his door; and the same was true of Mr. Picard. He pointed to Mr. Picard's twelve years at the council board and his record and commended it to the electors.

The Other Candidates.

D. R. Fraser spoke briefly on the need of a strong council board for 1908. Things had come to such a pass that the best men should come to the city's aid.

Dr. I. J. Lane stood for the interests of the whole city and stated that the East End platform was his platform. No less would suit him.

John Galbraith closed the meeting. He stated that he was in favor of systematizing the different branches of the city administration by placing competent men as heads of each and by a rigid selection of subordinate employees. He wanted a better financial statement. The new council for 1908 should ascertain at once the true state of the city finances. He advocated a saving clause in any agreement between the city and any corporation purchasing the street railway, that the city could repurchase after a term of years. He also made a plea for monthly meetings of the ratepayers to discuss municipal questions. "I feel," said Mr. Galbraith, in conclusion, "that the coming council are facing a monumental legacy of municipal complexities and it will require careful management to deal with the situation."

Big Labor Fight at Duluth.

Duluth, Minn., Nov. 28.—As a result of the dispute between the bricklayers and non-union iron workers on the new office building for the City National Bank, Duluth is threatened with a war for open shop between the contractors, and the union laborers. The union men refuse to work with the non-union iron workers employed by the American Bridge Company on the building. The contractors had a separate contract for brickwork, and had nothing to say regarding the iron workers. They felt they were unjustly treated by the union, and gave the men until this morning to return to work. They did not do so, and the fight will be to a finish.

SHIP SUBMERGED BY WAVE.

Sent Fathoms Deep By Tremendous Tidal Wave.

San Francisco, Nov. 26.—Advices from Honolulu state that the new Norwegian steamer Admiral Borrensen put in that port with her uper works swept clean from her decks and barely able to make port, as the result of encountering one of the most terrible tidal waves ever reported from the sub-tropical waters of the Pacific.

When the vessel arrived the firemen were feeding her furnaces with her cargo of lumber. She was carrying 3,300,000 feet of lumber from Portland to Taku, and while at Seattle loading her bunkers she had trouble keeping her firemen aboard. On her decks were 450,000 feet of lumber when she left.

The account says that while proceeding through a calm sea on Saturday, Nov. 2, and 2,500 miles northwest of Honolulu, the look-out suddenly descried in the distance an immense avalanche of water whirling down upon the vessel. It stretched across the horizon and was as though some mighty hand had turned the sea on edge and was rapidly pushing it down upon the ill fated craft. Human power could avail nothing and the crew fled below decks in a frenzy of terror, where they knelt or prostrated themselves face down upon the floors praying and cursing as the fit seized them.

The roar of the oncoming flood grew louder until it threatened to deafen their ears. With a sickening crash the immense wave struck the ship. The ocean liner was picked up as though she had been a racing shell and hurled through space for hundreds of yards. Then, as the top of the mountain wave curled down upon her, she was plunged down and down until it seemed that she must be at the very bottom of the sea. How long she was under the water none of the crew could tell, for to them the whole scene was like a nightmare of which they have no distinct remembrance. The waves evidently passed over them for the ship finally popped up to the surface of the sea, and trembling and staggering like a stricken being, at last settled quiet on her keel. When the crew went on deck the desolation was appalling. Not a timber of the deck cargo remained.

It was a wonderful trip and took seventeen days, every hour of which increased the hardship on the crew. Owing to the fact that Taku is an ice port it will be impossible for the Borreson to discharge her cargo there this year after the delay necessary for repairs.

The tidal wave is supposed to have been caused by a submarine earthquake.

MOUNTED POLICEMAN FIRED IN SELF DEFENCE

Robert Braithwaite was Killed in Resisting Arrest—Unlikely Action Will be Taken Against Mounted Constable.

Grenfell, Sask., November 23.—The inquest into the cause of the death of Robert Braithwaite, who was shot by Corporal Dann while resisting arrest, was opened last evening in Ellis Hall by A. W. Argue, coroner. Friends of the deceased were represented by B. P. Richardson; the attorney general's department by Levi Thompson, of Wolseley, and Corporal Dann by Norman McKenzie, K.C., of Regina. Lieut.-Colonel Saunders was also present in the interests of the mounted police.

The chief witness was Corporal Dann. From his evidence it appeared that he was accompanied by Constable Moses, of Grenfell and Constable Wilson, of Regina, with instructions to arrest Braithwaite on a bench warrant issued last June on the charge of shooting with intent to murder. When the officers reached Braithwaite's house he at once opened fire on them with a shot gun, and three shots were fired, one just missing Constable Moses by a few inches. Braithwaite then barricaded the door and had his gun levelled to fire the fourth shot from the window when Dann fired at him with his revolver.

The post-mortem examination, which was made by Dr. Coughlin, showed that death resulted from internal hemorrhage, caused by the wound. T. W. Wright, a neighbor, was also examined as to Braithwaite's disposition and corroborative evidence as to the shooting was given by Constables Moses and Wilson. The jury were only out a few minutes and they returned the verdict that Robert Braithwaite came to his death by a bullet fired from a revolver in the hands of Corporal Dann in self defence, while performing his duty. It is not likely that any action will be taken against Corporal Dann.

Fortifying Guam Island.

San Francisco, November 24.—Haste is being observed in fortifying the island of Guam by the United States against any possible foe, according to G. E. Rogers, a merchant of the island, and Edward Y. W. Keen, of the naval auxiliary service, both of whom arrived as passengers on the auxiliary cruiser just in. The vessel just off Dewey dry-dock at Olangaho, Phillipines has come to join the fleet of this coast. Ninety-six guns will constitute the defence of the harbor of San Luise De Apra, Nuam, and other points on the island now owned by the United States. Emplacements for guns have already been made, and little time will be lost in getting them in position. Transport Warren, on the last trip to the far east, landed submarine mines and a number of searchlights there for use in fortifying and defending the harbor and island.

Air Ship Went Thirty Miles an Hour.

Hammond's Port, N.Y., Nov. 27.—The world's record in aerial navigation was broken yesterday by Glen H. Curtis' ascent, when his dirigible balloon remained in the air four hours and showed a speed of thirty miles per hour. He was demonstrating a new brand of motors to a representative of the war department.

MAYOR GRIESBACH'S CHARGES ARE EFFECTIVELY ANSWERED

Mayoralty Candidate McDougall Takes up Charges and Dispees of Them. He Offers to Buy Back Exhibition Property for Price Paid for it. Brands as False, Statement that he Secured Legislation to Exempt Norwood from Taxation—Fully and LucidlyExplains C.P.R. Charge.

Mr. John A. McDougall, whose candidacy for the mayoralty is being opposed by the present incumbent of the mayor's chair, was interviewed by a Bulletin representative this morning for the purpose of securing an answer to the charges made against him in an open letter over the signature of W. A. Griesbach. Mr. McDougall evidenced no animus toward his opponents, who seek to discredit him as a public spirited citizen. He gave a lucid explanation of the business transactions which have been criticized, and in discussing the subjects did so dispassionately, taking up the charges in chronological order, and effectively setting forth the facts in each case with business-like precision.

"My private affairs," said Mr. McDougall, "should be the subject of discussion only in so far as my business capacity is concerned. Still I am prepared to answer every charge brought against me, and, if my explanation fails to convince the public of my interest in the city, and of my business ability, I can but accept their verdict at the polls.

Exhibition Grounds Allegation.

"When the Exhibition association was first organized in Edmonton, I was one of the promoters, and one of the largest subscribers of stock. The association was carried on for some years by the men who originally formed the company. The enterprise was not a success financially to the members of the company. No money was made, although the association assumed great responsibiliay and risk of loss. An appeal was made to the council for an annual grant to ensure the members from loss. The grant was made. The association realized that an exhibition was essentially a civic enterprise, the city and the whole of the surrounding country being benefited by it. Many of the shareholders wanted to sell their stock in the company, and our firm, being impressed with the possibilities of the town, undertook to buy up as much stock as was available. We secured a majority of the stock, and then offered the property to the city. I may say that my intention from the outset was to sell the property to the city.

"The following year I made an offer to the city to sell the property for $40,000. The council refused to consider the offer. Both Mayor Griesbach and Alderman Picard were members of the council at that time. The council apparently had not the faith in the city I had.

"Notwithstanding the refusal of the council to purchase the property I continued to buy up stock in the association. The next year, when the company refused to carry on the exhibition, arguing that it was essentially a civic enterprise, the city leased the property for a year for $3,000, and took an option to purchase at $60,000.

"The property is worth to the city double the amount paid for it, and I'll give the city a marked cheque tomorrow for $60,000 for the property. I think I am well enough known, and my business word sufficiently above question, to be considered sincere when I make this offer.

"If I had been without public sentiment I would have sub-divided the exhibition property, and sold it in lots. If I had done this I could easily have realized twice the amount received from the city.

"As a matter of fact, instead of being criticized and condemned, I think I am entitled to credit for disposing of a piece of property to the city which to-day is worth double the amount paid for it.

The Norwood Exemption.

"The charge that I secured legislation exempting Norwood from taxation is false. There is no truth in it. I had no influence in securing this exemption, nor did I exert any. Together with other subdivisions, among these the Hudson's Bay, it was exempted by an act of the Northwest Legislature, extending the boundaries of the city. The act was similar to that passed by the Alberta Legislature extending the boundaries of Calgary, and exempting from taxation the addition. I had as much to do with one legislative act as with the other.

"The property in Norwood was exempted by the act of the Northwest Council for two years, 1905 and 1906. This year the property is taxable, and the property owners are paying their share of the $210,000 of municipal taxes collectable by the city. And Norwood is paying these taxes without having a single dollar expended on municipal improvements in the district. This, I may say, is manifestly an injustice to the residents of Norwood. As a result of the two years of exemption did the city lose anything, in view of the fact that no money was spent in improvements?

The C. P. R. Entrance.

"Not only am I credited with sphinx-like powers in controlling the acts of legislatures, but I am also credited with holding up a wealthy railway corporation. I am almost convinced I am a truly remarkable and wonderful individual, holding the destinies of cities and railways within the palm of my hand.

"I owned 23 lots in block 10, north of Jasper avenue. Two years ago the C.P.R. wanted these lots. We came to terms. Finally the railway company decided it wanted only 15 of the 23 lots. They paid for that number and got a deed. Subsequently the railway laid its tracks, not only on the 15 lots, but on the 8 others, which they had said they did not want, as well. Up to the present, I have been unable to get a settlement for these 8 lots. The C.P.R. is holding us up, not us the C.P.R.

"Last spring C. P. R. officials came to Edmonton and entered into negotiaeions with the city for the entrance block where I also hold property. The aption was for $40,000, and the company paid $500 for it. I learned this and was prepared for them when they came to me to negotiate the purchases of my lots. "Gentlemen," I said, "you have established a price for property you want in Block 9. The price is satisfactory to me, and I am willing to accept it. But there's an old deal hanging fire, namely those 8 lots in Block 10, for which you have not settled, and I want this disposed of at the same time." The C. P. R. officials considered the price too high. We discussed it for several hours. I refused to make a reduction and they went away. Later Mayor Griesbach came to see me on the matter. He said the company has placed the negotiations in the council's hands, and he wanted to know the best offer I would make. I told him that since the city had taken up the matter, I was prepared to do better with the city than with the C. P. R., and I offered the lots at the price at which they were offered to the C. P. R., leaving out of the question the settlement for the eight lots in Block 10.

"It is most absurd to charge me with holding up the C. P. R. Railway corporations are never held up. They are vested with powers which will permit of expropriation, and there is no possibility of any owner of property securing more for it than its value.

"Instead of laying upon the city the responsibility for the payment of unascertained damages, as the agreement with the C. P. R. calls for, and which may amount to more than the total bonuses granted the C. N. R. and G. T. P., with no return whatever, Mayor Griesbach and the council would have acted more in the city's interests were the C. P. R. called upon to go before the Railway Commission to secure the property it requires. The city would then not be saddled with damages. The C. P. R. has not come to Edmonton before it had to, and I can assure you that if the C. P. R. had been satisfied with what it could have legally got from the Railway Commission, it would not have come to the city. It was because the C.P.R. could get more from the city, that they have come to the council. Mayor Griesbach now wants to shift the responsibility from his own shoulders.

"In the anonymous words of Mayor Griesbach, 'What's this all about?' Is it not attempt to divert attention from the questions of large municipal interest by attacking me?"

Wheat Firm Suspends Payment.

Winnipeg, Nov. 27.—Bruce McBean, a prominent grain firm, suspended payment this morning. It was a member of the Chicago board of trade, Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce and the Winnipeg grain exchange. The business is principally that of grain brokers but do some buying on commission. McBean issued a statement this morning saying the suspension was only temporary and was due to a difficulty of the firm in getting money to carry on their business owing to the financial stringency. The firm is not to be suspended by the grain exchange and will pay up all debts in full.

Bandits Secure Plunder.

St. Petersburg, Nov. 28.—Bandits looted the government pawn shops at Tula and the Trans Caspian railway station at Samarakand, Russian Turkestan, carrying off seventy-five thousand dollars from the former and ten thousand from the latter.

A New Walking Record.

Chicago, Nov. 28—Weston reached the post office, the goal of his remarkable tramp from Portland, Maine, to Chicago, at 12.14 o'clock today, breaking his record made forty years ago by over 24 hours. ffl

(Continued from Page 1.)

against him. The reason he gave such an explanation to Mr. Davidson was that he was afraid.

Sensational Evidence.

Mr. Bennett wanted to show that witness could not profitably sell his lumber stock $2 to $3 below Calgary prices and have his supplies hauled a mile by teams from the railway yard to his retail yard, his company having no railway switch into their yards.

This was possibly the most sensation statement made in the progress of the trial. Mr. Bennett then wanted the books produced.

At this juncture it was proposed by the court to adjourn the trial to permit the witness to go to Calgary to secure the books required. It developed, however, that witness is not a retailer, but a manufacturers' agent, his brother being the retail dealer. The examination of the witness was in consequence continued.

Witness stated he conducts business as a wholesalers' agent. He bought his stocks on obsolete lists No. 14 and 15, and was able to sell below the present list prices. He has bought from the Otis Staples Co., and the Bowman Co. Witness promised to produce and submit the invoices if required.

Witness was asked by Mr. Bennett Mr. McMurphy, bookkeeper of the Staples Co. in Calgary, if he could get one hundred cars on the side. To this the witness said he gave a note for $250 in favor of Mr. McMurphy who told witness he would turn it over to the company. Mr. Bennett asked witness if he wrote a letter to McMurphy asking for the return of the note.

"I will look that up. If I wrote that letter I will have a copy. I didn't burn my letters," said Mr. Sereth, and looked hard at men charged with the conspiracy.

Mr. Bennett made a determined attack to undermine the credibility of the witness in the matter of witness' action regarding certain alleged shortages in cars of lumber that were shipped to him. Witness was closely questioned regarding the estimates furnished by his brother to Mr. Davidson when that gentlemen wished to find out if the Riverside Company was cutting prices. The estimates were $511 while those compiled according to list prices then in vogue would have been $560. Even at this reduced estimate the Riverside Company were making money according to the statement of the witness.

Brother Takes Stand.

A. M. Sereth was the last witness called. He said that he cut prices to meet opposition. He cut 12½ per cent below list prices. Even at this reduced price he was able to make a profit. He had little profit on the dimensions, but a good profit on the higher grades. He purchased a great deal when he started business on No. 15 list.

Witness produced a number of quotations at which he sold the various classes of lumber, a comparative list of quotations furnished by other firms, and a mass of other correspondence and documents.

"He has come loaded, my Lord," said Mr. Woods.

"He had a better idea of what was wanted than many others," said the Chief Justice.

The court adjourned at 5.15 o'clock.

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