

## HERE'S A NICE THING, TOO!

## Strange Admissions Made by One of the City Engineer's Assistants.

He Was Supposed to Supervise the Work of Engineer Heat, But He Says He Knows Nothing About the Engine—He's Not a Mechanical Engineer—Depended Wholly Upon Heat's Reports—That Civic Investigation.

The Civic Investigating Committee resumed business yesterday morning and completed the hearing of evidence in respect to the alleged wrongful dismissal of an assistant engineer at the high level pumping station. Quite a little light was thrown on the methods pursued at that station, and another employee related how he too was sent on holidays that lasted for three years before the engineer in charge allowed him to come back. An important point brought out was that Engineer Heat has practically entire control and his word is law, as Mr. Keating's assistant, who is supposed to supervise the station, admitted that he is not a mechanical engineer, knew nothing about the practical operation of the plant, and had to rely upon Mr. Heat's reports.

As soon as the evidence is transcribed the members will be supplied with copies and the committee will meet on Thursday to prepare their report. From the discussion in reference to Aid. H. H. Graham's explanation, it developed that this enquiry will extend only to the Board of Works, and that the other departments will go free.

**THE "SUPERVISOR."**  
C. L. Pelow, the first witness, was called at the request of Aid. Saunders. He said that the high level pumping station had been under his supervision for some months. There was never any indication of quarrelling so far as he was concerned, until the trouble about the island matter. Mr. Heat spoke to him about Bain, first agreeing to go over to the island, and then next day altering his mind and saying that he thought it was a scheme to get him out of the station. He heard of what Heat complained that Bain was insolent to him. Since Mr. Heat, Jr. had been employed, the engines had been running satisfactorily as far as he knew. No incompetency or want of knowledge at all was made against Bain.

In reply to Aid. Boustead, Mr. Pelow said that he is not a mechanical engineer and has never had supervision or charge of any plant like that at the high level station before. He thought, however, that he could tell whether the plant was running properly or not, but as far as he was concerned personally he knew nothing about running the engines. He could not tell what was wrong; he had no knowledge of the workings of the machine, and the practical part of it was entirely new to him; he depended altogether on the reports of the assistant Engineer Heat. He was asked what duty the pumping engines at the high level station were guaranteed to give, but he could not tell.

In reply to Mr. DuVernet, he said he had no complaint whatever to make against Bain personally, who told him that he had tried every way he could to please Heat and expressed his regret that Heat seemed to be offended at him.

**AID. GRAHAM EXPLAINS.**  
Aid. R. H. Graham asked the privilege of being heard in consequence of a statement made by Aid. Gowanlock on Friday relative to the alleged employment of his brothers in the city service. He denied the truth of the statement and declared that he was not, and never had, two brothers employed at the western corporation yard. He has two brothers, one of whom he drove a cart last winter for a while, but when the spring came he dropped out. He complained that the Gowanlock in his absence neglected the committee to turn up the books to see whether his statement was true.

Aid. Gowanlock questioned the correctness of the statement that Aid. Graham's brother was not in the employ of the city.  
Aid. Graham: You saw him working last Friday night.  
Aid. Gowanlock: I saw him working last Friday night.  
Aid. Graham explained that the brother referred to had been employed in the Parks Department for the past 10 years, his service dated prior to the entrance of Aid. Graham into the council. That was a matter, however, which did not, he contended, come within the scope of this investigation, this committee having power only to deal with the Works Department.

## JEALOUSY OF HIS MEN.

Mr. William Hamilton some years ago, when superintendent of the city, authorized Mr. Heat's son to be placed on the pay sheet for a few hours occasionally, when his father or anyone else was sick. It was only for a few hours; he was never appointed to the staff. Three men are quite sufficient to run the station, and an engineer cannot run his eight hours, but he should get out. The trouble with Mr. Heat was that he was always jealous of his assistants, and he had frequently interfered between Mr. Heat and the assistant engineers in consequence. If there are now more than three men employed at the station, it is more than is necessary.

## AN INNOCENT WITNESS.

Fred Hunt, an employee, who was discharged from the station for insubordination several years ago, and was recently reinstated, was the next witness, and proved a rather unsatisfactory one. He displayed considerable skill in fencing with questions which were not apparently to his liking, so much so that Aid. Hubbard felt called upon to remark that he was either the most innocent or else the most ignorant man from the department that the committee had yet heard. When asked as to the cause of his discharge from the service, he admitted that it was for insubordination in refusing to do work which he did not understand; that was the impression he had, and he was told to take his holidays and never went back to work again. He was off work for nearly three years, and during that time he had received work in other branches of the department from Mr. Keating. He used all the influence he could to get back; spoke to some aldermen about it—ex-Ald. Shaw and he thought Aid. Bell. In reply to further questions, Mr. Hunt stated that he went on duty at various hours, sometimes 11 and sometimes 12 o'clock p.m. He often went to the station much earlier than the hour at which his watch commenced, just for his own convenience.

To Mr. DuVernet, he stated that he had never persistently refused to obey the orders of Mr. Heat. He denied that he was the man Bain had seen looking over the fence one night. Mr. Heat had never found fault with him for being at the station over an hour before the proper time, but he was usually got away sharp on time when his watch was over.

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**IS BROWN A BURGLAR?**  
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Aid. Gowanlock (laconically): "Sack them."

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The committee adjourned until Thursday at 4 p.m.

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When Mayor and Fleming's Controllers Meet in Secret Conclave in the Sweet Box, Look Out.

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The question arose in connection with the collection of taxes. In past times it has been the custom for the collectors to deposit the moneys collected to their own credit in the bank, and periodically pay their collections over to the treasurer by cheque. The new system of ratings, however, there is only one collector (with numerous assistants) and he pays the money as received into the bank to the city's credit. When counting up the cash turned over by his assistants, the recently Collector Patterson detected a cheque for a pretty tidy figure signed by his assistant's wife. He made enquiries and found that the good lady had been receiving moneys from her husband's absence and depositing it to the credit of her private account. The collector reported to the board for instructions.

The board decided that all moneys received by the collector should be paid directly to the credit of the city and that it must not go through the private accounts in the future. It is understood that the assistant collector will hand over the moneys collected by them every week, although there would appear to be no reason why daily returns should not be made to the collector at his office. Such is the outcome of the secret session of the Board of Control. In this case the Mayor did not follow his usual practice and inform the members of the press "in confidence" of the nature of the proceedings, but simply said that he was "in the morning" when asked if there was any news.

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